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CRONJE HOLDS OUT

No News of His Surrender, Rumor of His Escape.

WAS AT PAARDEBERG THURSDAY

Buller Slowly But Surely Advancing Toward Ladysmith—Durban Collecting Relief Supplies.

LONDON, Feb. 25, 4:35 A. M.—Since 2:15 o'clock yesterday afternoon, nothing has been received from the scene of what the London papers call General Cronje's death struggle, the war officials announcing at midnight that they had nothing to give out. They stated that they believed it impossible for Cronje to escape from the grip of Lord Roberts.

The report circulated in Berlin that Cronje had succeeded in making his escape came from the Boer headquarters in Brussels, where it was stated that details were still lacking.

The only news from other parts of the seat of war received during the night is a special dispatch from Colenso, under date of February 24, stating that the British, in spite of strong opposition, were advancing slowly but surely, and driving the Boers from the kopjes between Grobler's Kloof and Hlangwane.

Ladysmith reported by heliograph Friday that the Boers were retiring northward in large numbers. Meanwhile the certainty of relief is so strong at Durban that the authorities are actively preparing trainloads of provisions, luxuries and medical comforts for dispatch to the beleaguered town as soon as communications are reopened.

Spencer Wilkinson, summing the week's events in the war for the Associated Press, said:

"The night of Thursday, February 15, General Cronje marched out from Magersfontein between General French, who had just entered Kimberley, and General Kelly-Kenny, then at Klip Drift, on the Modder River. The next day General Kelly-Kenny pursued him, attacked his rear guard and delayed him until the Highland Brigade, which was on its way to stop him on the south bank of the Modder, and General French could pass him on the north bank.

"After a three days' running fight, General Cronje was stopped at Koedoe's Rand near Paardeberg, where he was surrounded. His force was between the river bank, which gave him a defensive position facing either way, so that attacks on him involved heavy loss, but he was held until Tuesday, when Lord Roberts arranged to grip him with a girdle of infantry in his position, while cannonading him with 50 guns, enfilading the river bed.

"In the meantime, Lord Roberts, with a spare division or two beyond the three brigades holding Cronje, set himself to intercept and drive away any Boer reinforcements. This was the situation Wednesday, and it offered a reasonable possibility of the capture of Cronje's force and of the defeat of any reinforcements.

"We have little news beyond Wednesday. Thursday the shelling of Cronje was continued at intervals, continuous shelling probably involving a too lavish use of ammunition. The Boers have been giving themselves up by fifties a day. Tuesday Lord Roberts drove off reinforcements coming from Colesberg and Natal.

"A Berlin report declares that Cronje had forced his way through. This is improbable, but may refer to a small party which may have escaped in the night.

"Lord Roberts' advance has drawn away some of the Boer forces from Colesberg, Sterkstrom and Natal, as is seen from the diminished resistance to the British at all these points.

"General Buller, after taking Hlangwane Hill, has crossed the Tugela River, and, according to the latest telegrams, has been fighting continuously since Thursday morning. This looks like a decided attempt to relieve Ladysmith, wherein I expect General Buller will succeed if he does not, as before, interrupt his advance by stopping to count his losses and declaring that he has lost enough. A general has never lost enough to justify the giving up of the enterprise, so long as his troops are willing to go on with him. Ladysmith can probably hold out for several weeks longer, and in that time the effect of Lord Roberts' advance will probably be even more marked than it has yet been."

FIGHTING NORTH OF TUGELA.

Desperate Engagement Between a Large British Force and Boers.

BOER HEAD LAAGER, Natal, Friday.—Yesterday the British crossed the Tugela in large numbers, with cannon and over 60 wagons. They attacked the Ermelo and Middle Burghers' commandos, but were forced to retreat under heavy Mauser fire. A renewed attempt on the Ermelo men was made this morning, but the British were again driven off. The fighting continues.

The British losses were heavy. Eight ambulances were employed in collecting the dead and wounded. The generals report that the commandos are fighting bravely.

Ladysmith fired a few shots this morning at our outposts until silenced by the "Long Tom."

Thursday at Paardeberg.

PAARDEBERG, Thursday, Feb. 22.—There is still no change in the situation. There was intermittent shelling today and during the night a large supply column arrived. It is reported that 2000 Boers are operating northwards of this place. Yesterday evening, after the last gun had been fired, the Shropshires rushed forward 200 yards farther towards the head of the river and found a number of Boer dead. General French captured 75 more prisoners who had previously escaped the cordon, and a patrol on the westward side took 30 more.

Relief Agent Wants Money.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—John L. W. Pruin, chairman of the American Committee to aid the wounded belligerents within the Boer lines, has received the following cablegram, dated Durban, February 17, from Howard C. Hillegras, a member of the committee now at Durban:

"Medicines and instruments procurable at Durban are urgently needed. Suggest cabling me money immediately. Will deliver personally."

Cronje Reinforced.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—A cable dispatch from The Hague to a prominent Dutch resident of New York, printed in the Evening Journal, says:

"Dr. Leyds has received the following dispatch from President Kruger: 'Free State and Transvaal forces together south of Paardeburg. Reinforced and well entrenched.'"

Recruits for the Boer Army.

LOURENCO MARQUES, Feb. 24.—The German steamer Admiral, from Hamburg, January 26, has arrived here with 120 passengers on board. They are mostly German subjects, and are anxious to join the Boer forces.

THE PARIS CARNIVAL.

Season of Gayety for the Boulevards Began Last Night.

PARIS, Feb. 24.—Paris tonight entered upon the carnival season, which will bring a few days' gayety to the boulevards before the advent of Lent. The festivities opened with a masked ball at the Opera-House tonight. Great preparations had been made for this event, and the scene within the magnificent hall was one of exceptional brilliancy. Thousands of colored balloons and serpentines were distributed among the guests as weapons for the mimic battles among the merry throng Sunday at La Villette, where the famous abbattoirs of Paris are situated. Sunday evening the public will be en fete. An allegorical procession will traverse the district and in the evening public balls will take place in the open air in the chief squares, which will be especially illuminated with electric lights.

The usual Mardi Gras procession along the boulevards will take place Tuesday, and in the evening bands will be stationed in the squares for the benefit of the working classes, who will indulge in dancing in the open spaces about the bandstands.

The students have obtained from the Prefect of Police permission to introduce an innovation in the Mi-Careme celebration in the form of a grand nocturnal cavalcade, with flambeaux and illuminated cards representing the various schools.

In French eyes, the most interesting character in the Transvaal war is Colonel Villebois-Mareuil, the French military observer with the Boers, who is represented by the French press as the Von Moltke of the Boer army. He is popularly supposed to have been the directing spirit of most of the Boer victories. The unanimity with which the Nationalist press lauds him to the skies, however, has awakened serious doubts among thousands of Republicans of its disinterestedness, and in the fulsome praise of Villebois is seen an attempt to elevate him into a popular idol. In defeating the British, say the Nationalist organs, he is seeking to avenge Fashoda, but Republicans and Radicals retort, "You are trying to create another Boulanger and use him against the Republic on his return to France."

In spite of the repudiation by official circles and the Deputies for Martinique of any sympathy for or credence in the assertions that American political agitators are responsible for the troubles in Martinique, the newspaper which gave prominence originally to these statements has returned to the charge, publishing under the caption "American Intrigues," an interview with an anonymous Martinique planter, in which it reiterates the accusations against America, and says:

"The audacity of their agents is such that several times recently American corvettes visited Martinique waters and, under the very eyes of the colonial authorities, took soundings."

The article concludes by asking again what the Govtrnor of the island and the Cabinet are thinking of to permit these actions. These attacks in themselves might be of little importance, but an article in an influential journal such as the Figaro shows that suspicion of America exists in other political circles concerning Martinique. The Figaro's article said that the United States was following events with jealous eyes, and that the negroes of Martinique hope to imitate their brethren of Santa Domingo, and that the United States, which already exercises a dissimulated protectorate over Santo Domingo, would not be sorry to see them follow the same road, which would lead through suppression of Parliamentary representation to suppression as a colony.

As the time approaches for the opening of the Exposition, more interest apparently attaches to it. The crowds in the streets upon which the buildings face are continuously increasing, and the costumes of various nations indicate the presence of many strangers. The scaffoldings are being stripped from the structures and the latter begin to show their fine proportions, making the view one of great splendor.

SURVEY OF CABLE ROUTE.

Report of Commander Hodges, of the Nero.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Admiral Bradford, Chief of the Equipment Bureau, has received the report of Commander Hodges, of the Nero, upon the survey made by that vessel of the Pacific ocean, to find a practicable route for a submarine cable from California to Honolulu, Guam, Midway Island, Luzon and Yokohama. The officer reports that this survey developed a route for the cable eminently satisfactory and thoroughly practicable. His report, in brief, shows that he sailed from Manila on the Nero August 15 for Dingalan bay, on the East Coast of Luzon, which had been selected as the best larding for a Pacific cable. A run was made from this point to Guam, which portion of the line has already been outlined. September 9, the Nero sailed from Guam for Yokohama. The beach appeared to be favorable for landing on Japanese soil near the northeast corner of Sagami Kai.

Starting October 10, the ship returned to Guam, verifying the old route as she ran. Tarafofo was found to be the best place to land the cable on the island, though the conditions are not perfect. Otherwise, the cable would have to be taken around and landed on the southern side of the harbor of San Luis d'Apra.

After making some soundings around the island, Captain Hodges tried to find a southern route to connect with the direct line to Midway, but he struck what he calls the Nero deep, and was convinced that it could not be gotten around with a cable. Here, says Captain Hodges, the two deepest casts and the two deepest temperatures ever taken were recorded. The depths are 5160 fathoms and 5269 fathoms, and the temperatures are 35.5 at 5070 fathoms, and 36 at 5150 fathoms.

The Nero went back to Tarafofo and began to develop the direct route to Midway, which was reached January 3. The traverse was continued from Midway to Waimea Bay, Oahu Island, of the Hawaiian group. This was a fine sand beach and a good landing station.

From the date of sailing from San Francisco, April 22, 1899, to the date of return, February 11, 1900, the ship steamed 28,283 knots.

Colonel W. S. King Dead.

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 24.—Colonel W. S. King, ex-Congressman and a national character for the past 40 years, died at his home today. He started the Minneapolis Tribune, and was for several years on the St. Paul Pioneer-Press. While in Congress, King was the subject of a famous Congressional investigation in connection with the Pacific Mail subsidy bill, but the investigation entirely cleared him of any improper aim.

Bishop Sbaretti at Havana.

HAVANA, Feb. 24.—Mgr. Sbaretti, the newly appointed Bishop of Havana, arrived this morning and landed at 9 o'clock. A procession was formed, and the Bishop went to the Cathedral, where he was formally installed.

WEEK IN PARLIAMENT

Chamberlain's Defense of Himself the Feature.

PLANS OF OPPOSITION COLLAPSE

Boer Major a Candidate for a Seat—Inadequacy of the Navy—Remedy for Trusts.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—Apart from the dramatic condition that came over the situation in South Africa, the event of the week was Joseph Chamberlain's vigorous, almost vicious, self-defense in the House of Commons.

The Colonial Secretary met the accusations and demands with one of those terrible fighting speeches for, which he is noted. With venomous retort and scorn, he once more denied complicity in the Jameson raid, denied the so-called revelations of the Independence Belge, and with deft phrases resented the opposition's agitation as a personal attack upon his much-persecuted self.

In the heat of debate and with an overwhelming majority ready to cheer every bitter phrase, Mr. Chamberlain carried all before him. But after reflecting, many of those who thoroughly believe Mr. Chamberlain to be absolutely untainted and who place no importance upon the letters stolen from Mr. Hawkesley, counsel for the British South African Company, regretted that the Colonial Secretary took up the matter in such a personal spirit.

Voicing this feeling, the Saturday Review, strongly deprecating another raid inquiry at the present juncture, deplores Mr. Chamberlain's "undignified attitude," and reminds him that the good faith of a Secretary of State is not a personal, but a public matter. Continuing, the paper says it regrets that he did not court a resumption, but adds that obvious reasons of state prohibited such a procedure at the present crisis.

In the meanwhile, Dr. Gavin Brown Clark, Radical member of Parliament for Caithness, who was formerly Consul-General of the South African Republic, stands accused by Mr. Hawkesley of buying stolen property in the shape of letters in regard to the raid. Though Mr. Clark has denied the allegations printed in the St. James Gazette, he has not so far denied Mr. Hawkesley's charges. His fellow Commoners are much stirred up in regard to the matter, but Dr. Clark seems unlikely to take any steps, unless his constituents force an issue.

Rosebery's Banterings.

Lord Rosebery, the forsaken sole oracle of "lugubrious vaticinations," has been bantering the Lords of the Government this week in the lightest satire upon the fix they have got into by the unexpected change in the "Wemyss" resolution, which originally proposed to enforce the existing statute providing for conscription, but which, at the last moment, was altered to read that the statute be amended in order to make it available to be put in force, a change which upset Lord Lansdowne's and the Duke of Devonshire's carefully prepared speeches to such an extent that Lord Rosebery satirically moved an adjournment to enable them to prepare new speeches, and even Lord Salisbury laughed.

With the accomplishment of the Government's plans, the main objections regarding war legislation collapsed, and some attention was directed to home measures which, incidentally, were supremely uninteresting. The innocent methods of obstruction employed by Mr. Redmond and other Irish members have so far had no result.

The nomination of Major McBride, of the Irish Brigade in the service of the Boers, to contest South Mayo, vice Michael Davitt, resigned, has created no little outcry. Another Nationalist, John O'Donnell, opposes Major McBride. Consequently, February 26, when the voting is done, Mr. O'Donnell and the absentee candidate will fight it out between them.

The authorities pay so little attention to Irish disaffection that no steps have been taken to prevent Major McBride contesting the seat. The indulgence of the Government, of which this is an instance, follows the feeling that Irish advocacy of the Boer cause, and, in fact, the whole Irish movement is of no great importance. This, it is claimed, is as the Government desires it to be.

Inadequate Naval Estimates.

The condition of the navy and the alleged inadequacy of the new estimates are creating no end of discussion. The fact that the Government has ordered the reserve squadron to assemble at Portsmouth March 1 has relieved the fears of those who thought Continental interference was imminent, but they hail with no pleasure the accompanying announcement that the squadron will be scattered again April 1, after a month's exercise.

Nor is public confidence strengthened by such statements as are made editorially in the Naval and Military Record, which avers that there are eight or nine modern French battle-ships capable of sinking the reserve fleet, and, though France has now only six of such vessels with her Northern squadron, she could quickly get the two needed from the Mediterranean without attracting suspicion, while the amalgamation of her Northern squadron, with that of Russia's Baltic fleet, would altogether outclass Great Britain's reserve, which this service paper declares is a heterogenous and by no means a modern conglomeration, lacking in all the essentials of a trained battle fleet. As a remedy it is urged that new ships not included in the reserve be immediately commissioned and that a powerful modern fleet be assembled in home waters to await contingencies. The Army, or rather its General, has so disappointed the bulk of the British people that it has become a fad to criticise and underestimate everything British, and the Navy is coming in for its share. Events have yet to show that such criticism is justified.

Earl Grey on Trusts.

Earl Grey, who is a peer, and who votes with the Conservative party, but who is connected with many labor organizations, especially in the co-operation movement, of which he is the prime mover, recently, in addressing a co-operative meeting at Glasgow, referred at length to the colossal amalgamation of capital in the United States, and said the same tendency was apparent on this side of the Atlantic. He declared the disadvantage resulting from the consolidation of industries consisted in enabling those controlling the market to force up prices to the limit the consumer would bear. He added:

"The co-operative plan, restricting the rate of interest on share capital to 5 per cent, and prohibiting the transfer of shares to the open market, alone supplies the method by which consolidation can be affected without endangering the interests of the community."

India in a Bad Plight.

The plague in India continues virulent. There were 583 victims in Bombay City during the week ending February 16. With over 61,000,000 people affected by the famine and only about 4,000,000 in receipt of relief, India seems in a bad plight, though the death rate over the 550,000 square miles of the famine area is decreasing. The Indian Government has issued a resolution approving Professor Haffkin's anti-plague innoculation, and the Viceroy, Lord Curzon, is advocating its use throughout India, and is paying high tribute to the Professor.

The Cruiser Albany.

The United States cruiser Albany, purchased here just before the war with Spain, whose complement of men arrived on the United States ship Prairie, will probably sail in about a fortnight. Her officers are busy at Newcastle getting their command in shape.

England and the Canal.

The Spectator, which often voices the Government's views, claims it is to Great Britain's advantage to have the United States fortify the Nicaragua canal, saying the idea that Great Britain is against such action is a delusion. The Spectator adds:

"If America asks us to give up the clause forbidding the fortification, we ought to and most certainly should at once agree to do so."

The Spectator, however, points out that other powers might not be willing, for, though Great Britain, in effect, has acknowledged the validity of the Monroe doctrine, the rest of the world has not.

Honor for a Rabbi.

Chief Rabbi Adler has been elected a member of the Athenaeum Club, under the rule allowing the annual introduction of distinguished litterateurs. From this exclusive body Thackeray once suffered rejection. How much the British mind has broadened since then is evinced by this Hebrew election, and the fact that the Bishop of London, the Most Rev. Mandell Creighton, proposed him.

PAYMENT ANTICIPATED.

Southern Pacific Liquidated a $3,000,000 Note.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Nearly $3,000,000 was paid into the subtreasury here today by the Southern Pacific Company for the Central Pacific Railroad, in liquidation of a note of the latter company that does not fall due until August, 1901. The actual payment was $2,946,194 78. Checks for this amount were turned into the subtreasury, and their receipt gave that institution a credit balance of $2,346,770 at the clearing-house.

The note which was taken up is the fifth of a series of 20, bearing interest of 3 per cent, given to the government when the Central Pacific settlement was effected. It was secured by $3,000,000 Central Pacific 4 per cent bonds, which were today turned over to the Southern Pacific Company.

In Wall street it was said that the reason for the anticipation of the payment is that the Central Pacific bonds securing the note can be handled with more profit to the Southern Pacific than would be gained by allowing the obligations to run along until due.

THE CARSON & COLORADO.

Southern Pacific Buys Another Feeder.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—C. P. Huntington, President of the Southern Pacific, said last night that the Carson & Colorado Railroad had been acquired by the Southern Pacific, but that no fixed policy for the future operation of the road had been decided upon. The Carson & Colorado is 293 miles long, and runs between Mound House, Nev., and Keeler, Cal., with a junction of seven miles to Candelaria, Nev. The road, it is said, will be extended south to Mojave and north to some point on the Central Pacific.

Another Short Line Train.

OMAHA, Feb. 24.—Union Pacific officials are working on a new time-card, which, it is announced, will go into effect March 1. Among other changes, it is given out that the time of trains will be shortened up about an hour, owing to the shortening of the line 35 miles by opening to traffic the new cut-offs. It is also given out that on that date a daily train each way will be put on the Portland line via the Short Line, making two trains daily.

New Train and Fast Time.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24.—Tomorrow the Denver & Rio Grande and the Rio Grande Western will put on a new train from Ogden to Denver. The new schedule going into effect reduces the running time four hours between here and Denver.

Great Northern's Republic Branch.

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 24.—President J. J. Hill, of the Great Northern, has written to Republic, Wash., that he expects to commence work on the extension from Okanogan to Republic the coming season.

BULL PEN INVESTIGATION.

House Committee Hears More About the Wardner Riots.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The House committee on military affairs today continued its investigation of the Idaho labor riots. Stinson concluded his narrative begun yesterday on the treatment he received while under arrest, and R. V. Crozier, United States District Attorney for Idaho, testified as to the prosecution of the miners. He had prosecuted 13 and convicted 10 for interfering with mail trains. Beyond these legal proceedings he had no information on the subject. He said, however, that he had expressed the opinion that wholesale arrests by the military, without the formality of warrants, were illegal.

The committee decided to subpena General Corbin and Captain Brett, of the army, to get from them certain features of the action of the military authorities while on duty in Idaho.

Ramson Miller, night-watchman at one of the mines near the scene of the disturbance, testified that he was arrested without process and without charges, although he had been in the hospital at the time of the blowing up of the Bunker Hill. He detailed incidents in the "bull-pen." At one time, he said, a colored soldier had threatened to shoot him for a mere trifling infraction, and on another occasion a corporal of the guard announced, with obscene oaths and with a pistol in his hand, that he would shoot the first man he caught smoking. The witness described the arrangements of the prison and the vileness resulting from the inability of hundreds on the upper floor to get adequate sanitary appliances.

The committee adjourned until Monday, when the witness will continue his testimony.

Washington Supreme Court.

OLYMPIA, Feb. 24.—The Supreme Court has handed down an opinion in the case of the State of Washington ex rel. W. and L. J. Mitchell, Respondents, vs. J. E. Horan et al., Appellants, which appellants were trustees of the Kootenai Consolidated Mining Company. They were removed during their term of office, but refused to vacate to their successors, and this proceeding was brought for the purpose of ousting them from their positions. The Supreme Court holds that by the rules adopted by the Corporation the vote of removal was sufficient, and the judgment of the lower court of Snohomish County is affirmed.

TWO YEARS' LIMIT

Operation of Puerto Rican Tariff May Be Short.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS' CONFERENCE

Committee of Ten Appointed to Go Over the Ground and Report a Compromise.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The Republicans of the House of Representatives met in conference at 8 o'clock tonight, in the hall of the House, to consider the position on the Puerto Rican tariff bill. Unusual interest was attached to the meeting, owing to the division of sentiment which has developed on the bill. About 100 Republican members were present. The element in opposition to the bill was well represented, Representatives McCall, Littlefield, Powers, Lorimer and others prominently identified with the opposition being on hand. Cannon acted as chairman.

Speaker Henderson took an active part in the conference, and made the first speech of the evening. He spoke in a conciliatory spirit, urging that differences be reconciled by the exercise of toleration on both sides.

The first definite proposition came from Mr. Pearre, of Maryland, who suggested a compromise fixing two years as the limit for the operation of the proposed tariff. Pearre supported this in a speech indicating no purpose to make an issue against the bill, but rather a disposition to secure united action by compromise.

Powers of Vermont was the first to give voice to the opposition sentiment. He said, however, that he had come in the conference in the hope and expectation that differences would be adjusted. His remarks were regarded as tending toward a harmonious adjustment.

Chairman Payne, of the ways and means committee, spoke at considerable length, and manifested some feeling at times. He disavowed any pride in the bill, as he had not drawn it up, although, as chairman of the committee, it had fallen to his lot to present it. Members gathered from what Payne said that the Secretary of War and those War Department officials most familiar with Puerto Rican affairs had drawn up the bill. Payne also conveyed the impression that the President was not opposed to the bill, certainly not on the constitutional questions involved, although he carefully refrained from any direct statement as to the attitude or wishes of the President.

Grosvenor of Ohio was expected to make a statement more directly indicating the President's desires, but he carefully refrained from doing so. He said that he had recently attended a banquet where he was expected to "speak from the throne," but he had prepared a speech which wholly omitted any authoritative statements. So tonight, he said, he did not intend to "speak from the throne." He said that the proposition limiting the operation of the bill to two years was as far as the measure should be changed.

The speechmaking became general, Representatives Hill, Cannon, Sperry, McCall, Brown, Fletcher, Lacey, Tompkins and Littlefield succeeding each other. Lacey brought forward a compromise, giving to the President full authority to act. For a time the discussion turned on this proposition, but it failed to develop much strength.

The speeches of McCall and Littlefield attracted much interest, because of the positive attitude they have taken. McCall spoke calmly, but did not state any of his opposition to the measure as a whole, and showed a disposition to accept any of the compromises suggested. Littlefield was more vehement, declaring that he had not surrendered his views against the measure as a whole, although he felt disposed to turn the subject over to the President, as had been proposed. Littlefield also suggested that free trade be given to Puerto Rico, with a distinct declaration that this should not operate as a precedent applicable to other insular possessions.

This was met with a counter-proposition from Thropp of Pennsylvania, that the 25 per cent rate, as provided by the original bill, be retained with a declaration that this will not operate as a precedent. Neither proposition was favorably entertained, and they were not pressed.

Up to midnight none of the propositions had been voted upon, and members began leaving the hall. The feeling prevailed, however, that the two-year limitations would be agreed upon as a basis of compromise, and that with this change the bill would receive pretty general, although not unanimous, support. As the attendance was rapidly diminishing, it became apparent that no final action could be reached tonight, and the plan of a committee of 10, five from each side, to go over the subject and report some middle ground was unanimously accepted by all present.

Chairman Cannon was authorized to make public the report, and at 12:15 o'clock the conference adjourned until Monday night, when the report of the committee of 10 will be received.

POLICING THE PHILIPPINES

General Lawton's Plan May Be Put Into Operation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Before his death, and after giving much thought to the subject, General Lawton had worked out a plan for the maintenance of order in the Philippines after the close of actual war, which had been submitted to General Otis, and is presumably the plan which will commend itself to the War Department when the time comes to replace the regular troops by other forces competent to preserve order.

General Lawton's idea was to create a force of native police, whose officers, at first in all grades, and finally, as conditions improved, in the upper grades alone, shall all be Americans. Some such force as this is now successfully applied in Cuba by General Wood under the name of rural police. Owing to the racial differences among the inhabitants of the Philippines, it was General Lawton's idea that there would be no difficulty in securing police who should be proof against disloyalty in the districts apart from those of their nativity to which they might be assigned. That this theory was well founded is indicated by the successful use of the Macabebe tribe by General Lawton himself, and by General Young later in his chase after Aguinaldo in the north of Luzon. The natives by their acquaintance with the country and the inhabitants would be of great assistance in running down lawbreakers.

Because of the similarity of feature and figure of the Tagals, the American troops have had great difficulty in distinguishing one individual from another, from telling friend from foe. Indeed, there is a story in circulation among some of the Army officers who have just returned to Washington from Manila that the Army actually captured Aguinaldo in Cavite Province as a suspicious "amigo," and then released him, only to hear of his identity after he had gotten away. The ability of the Filipino leader to make up as a Chinaman is said to be remarkable, and only a fellow-native is able to penetrate such a disguise.

A LINER DOOMED.

Large Steamer Ashore in Portland Harbor.

PORTLAND, Me., Feb. 25.—A steamer believed to be the Californian, of the Allan Line, is ashore off Fort Williams, Portland Harbor. A telephone message from Fort Williams says the steamer is a large one and is about 2500 yards from shore, with all her lights out. The sea is rough. The Californian was heavily laden with grain, and was bound for Liverpool.

The life-saving crew at the Cape Elizabeth Light, about three miles from the scene of the wreck, were notified by telephone of the steamer's condition some time after midnight, and at 2:30 A. M. left with their boat. The wind at that time was constantly increasing from the southeast, the worst quarter for the steamer, which was exposed to the full force of the sea.

British Steamship Wrecked.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The British steamship Bath City, from New York February 9, for Bristol, struck the north end of Lundy Isle, in the British Channel, today. She backed off, and immediately sank in deep water. The master, three officers and 10 of the crew reached Lundy Roads in a lifeboat. The other lifeboat, with the remainder of the crew, is also believed to be safe.

NEW PHILIPPINE COMMISSION

Selection of Four Members Officially Announced.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—It was officially announced late this afternoon that four of the five members of the new Philippine Commission had been selected. They are: Judge Taft, of Ohio; Luke T. Wright, of Tennessee; H. C. Ide, of Vermont, and Dean Worcester, of Michigan. The fifth member will be announced later. It is generally believed he will be Bernard Moses, of California.

James Hamilton Lewis Turned Down.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Ex-Congressman James Hamilton Lewis, of Washington, had a final conference with the President today concerning his appointment as one of the Philippine Commissioners. The President had had the subject under consideration. Colonel Lewis frankly told the President that he was in accord with his Philippine policy. The President, equally frank, told Colonel Lewis that while he would be delighted to honor him because of his personal regard he could not appoint him. Colonel Lewis assured the President of his appreciation of the personal confidence expressed, and asked him to consider some other Pacific Coast man for the place.

POWDER MILLS WRECKED.

Three Men Were Killed and Another Badly Injured.

PLATTEVILLE, Wis., Feb. 24.—The Platteville Powder Mills were wrecked by an explosion this afternoon, killing three men and badly injuring another. The dead are: Thomas Bass, William Rottiger and Fred Genthe. H. S. Beck, machinist of Bethlehem, was badly hurt. The cylinder mill exploded first and this was followed by the two presses, the shock being heard four miles around. The mixing mill took fire and was burned to the ground. Several of the other buildings were badly wrecked.

Sawmill Boiler Exploded.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 24.—At 5 o'clock this afternoon the boiler of the Pullman Lumber Company's sawmill at Pullman, Ark., 40 miles north of Texarkana, exploded with terrible results. The following is a list of the known dead and seriously wounded: Hoover Thompson, fireman, killed; Al Hutton, trucker, mashed to death; J. W. Dicus, cut by flying iron, will die. It is believed three bodies are under the wreck yet, but it will be impossible to reach them tonight.

IN NEW HANDS.

Change in the Ownership of the Los Angeles Evening Express.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Feb. 24.—The Evening Express, of this City, today passed into the hands of a new company, at the head of which is John M. Miller, of the law firm of Miller & Brown, of this City. Mr. Miller was formerly connected with the Minneapolis Tribune. W. A. Kelsey, of Meriden, Conn., owner of the Meriden Record, is Vice-President and Managing Director; Richard G. Beebe, a capitalist, is Secretary and Treasurer; William F. Botsford, a local banker, is also on the directory, and E. B. Haskell, of the Boston Herald, is the fifth director. The present editor, H. W. Brundtage, is retained as editor and J. A. Abell is also to remain as manager.

Warrants for Bank Officers.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 24.—On the application of a committee representing 500 creditors, warrants were issued today for the arrest of several officers of the defunct Mullanphy Savings Bank. Among the officers named are President Rotterman, Cashier Kammerer, and six directors.

It is alleged in the warrant that the crime of grand larceny was committed by those bank officers in having accepted deposits after knowing the bank was insolvent.

Fierce Storm in Northern Ohio.

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 24.—One of the fiercest storms of winter prevailed throughout Northern Ohio today. A 40-mile gale from the northwest was accompanied by a heavy driving snow storm, causing big drifts. The temperature fell rapidly. Trains on the trunk lines, especially westbound, were delayed.

Diplomatic Appropriation Bill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The diplomatic appropriation bill was today reported to the Senate by the committee on appropriations. The appropriation made by the bill was increased $22,000, making a total of $1,755,768.

Semlin Given More Time.

VICTORIA, Feb. 24.—The Lieutenant-Governor has given Premier Semlin, whom the ministry defeated yesterday, until Monday to suggest a means by which the Government may be carried on without an appeal to the country.

Daily Treasury Statement.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Today's statement of the condition of the treasury shows:

Available cash balance	$265,256,590
Gold reserve	226,345,456

Japanese Minister Transferred.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The Japanese Minister to the United States, Jutaro Komura, has been notified by cable from Japan of his appointment as Minister to Russia.

ITS PARTY EFFECT

Influence on Republicans to Vote Against Puerto Rico Bill.

LEADERS MAKE A STRONG FIGHT

Senate Will Defeat the Tariff Proposition—Emergency Measure for Cape Nome.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The hardest kind of work has been done today by the Republican leaders in their efforts to get independent Republicans to vote for the Puerto Rican tariff. Nearly every man who does not believe in it and whose position has become known has been labored with by Senators and Representatives who want the bill to go through. Especial attention has been paid to Cushman and Jones, of Washington, but neither of them have been affected, and announce tonight their intention of voting against the bill in its present form. Telegrams have been coming in to other members of the House which have braced them considerably. A telegram from Kohlsatt, of the Chicago Times-Herald, to Littlefield, congratulates him, saying that he voiced the sentiment of every newspaper in Chicago, regardless of politics, and that 95 per cent of the people of the Mississippi Valley sustain his position. Littlefield also received a dispatch from ex-Senator Washburn, of Minnesota, saying that he voiced the almost unanimous sentiment of the Northwest.

These dispatches have had a good deal of effect in awakening the Republicans to the danger there is in passing the Puerto Rican tariff bill, and make those who are standing out more determined than ever to sustain the President's position.

The assertions are now made that the President desires the bill to pass, and suggestions are made to those who use the President's message for not voting for the bill that they should see him and they would find that he is not correctly reported as being for it. What the Republican leaders seem to fear is the effect it will have upon the party if the majority is defeated on the first measure it undertakes in the way of legislation for the islands.

On the Senate side there seems to be little doubt about the defeat of the tariff proposition now that the Republicans have found what the sentiment of the country is, and can easily refuse to sustain the Puerto Rican committee, which reported the 25-per-cent tariff.

Emergency Bill for Nome.

The House committee on public lands today appointed a special subcommittee to consider and prepare a bill to meet the emergency that will arise along the Cape Nome beach this coming summer. This committee comprises Chairman Lacey and Representatives Moody, Mondell, Burke, Shafroth, Wilson and Jones. The sentiment of the committee is to allow the placer mining laws of the United States now in force in Alaska to remain undisturbed, except at Cape Nome, where it is their intention to enact legislation which will permit the Miners' Association to assume charge and control of the claims, regulate the size and extent of the beach claims, and in fact legalize such acts of supervision as they performed during the past season without authority.

Several Oregon Bills.

There are quite a number of Oregon bills pending before the Senate committees on public land and Indian affairs, having been introduced by Senators Simon and McBride, and some of them have a favorable place on the calendar of the committees, and may be reached in a short time if the regular calendar is followed. Senator McBride's bill for the relief of General Charles F. Beebe of Portland, has eighth place in the public lands committee, and will soon be disposed of, while his bill for the relief of settlers on lands within the limits of certain railroad land grants has 23d place, and is the next Oregon bill in order. Then follow, in turn, his bill relating to the taking of proofs and filings in certain land cases, and for the relief of D. J. Holmes, of Portland. Senator Simon's bill, authorizing the purchase of certain lands in Alaska, has 27th place.

In the Indian committee, Senator McBride's bills for the relief of citizens of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, who served against the Nez Perces and Bannock and Shoshone Indians, providing for the payment of claims arising out of the Cayuse Indian war, and providing for the allotment of lands in severalty to the Indians of the various reservations, have 14th, 15th and 18th places, respectively. Senator Simon's bill providing for the sale of the unsold portion of the Umatilla reservation and confirming the title of mixed-blood Indians to certain lands, have 32d and 33d places, followed by McBride's bill for the relief of the Kathlamet band of Chinooks, and his amendment for the fulfilling of treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes, which he hopes to attach to the Indian appropriation bill.

Prosperity in the West.

Travelers from the West, meaning that portion of the country between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains, say that the people in that section are enjoying more prosperity and contentment than ever before. Upon this belief some think that there can be no doubt of Republican success in South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Wyoming, States that were carried for Bryan four years ago. A traveling man from Chicago said that he found that the people are as much engrossed in future politics as they ever were, and that the calamity-howler is talked off the road every time he raises his head. Many men who voted for Bryan in 1896 have declared their intention to support the Republican ticket this fall, so as to continue their present prosperity. He also remarks that the Philippine policy is very popular, and the Democrats are unable to defend their anti-expansion ideas.

Preacher Would Not Work.

NEW BRITAIN, Conn., Feb. 24.—William Menderlein, a well-known character of this town, was given until today by Judge Burr either to obtain a position by which he could support his family, or go to jail to continue his religious studies. Menderlein has a love for preaching which has entirely overcome his desire for ordinary labor, and in consequence he has not provided for his wife and four small children. He has spent his time expounding his religious doctrines on the street corners, and since October has provided nothing for his family. His wife complained to the court, and Menderlein was given until today to mend his ways.

Bishop Coadjutor Consecrated.

CHICAGO, Feb. 24.—Rev. Charles P. Anderson was consecrated Bishop Coadjutor of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago at Grace Church today. Bishop McLaren officiated as chief consecrator, and was assisted in the performance of the service by Bishop Edsall of North Dakota, Bishop Morrison of Iowa, Bishop White of Michigan City, Bishop Seymour of Springfield, Bishop Nicholson of Milwaukee, and Bishop Coadjutor Williams of Nebraska.