

The Dalles Chronicle.

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HURRY REINFORCEMENTS FORWARD

Boers Now Control All of Orange Free State East of the Railway And Are Active in North Natal.

SITUATION AT MAFEKING

Boers Are Continuing Their Fight Against Brabant at Wepener and Have Two Thousand Men on the Way to Springfontein.

LADYSMITH, April 10.—Heavy firing was heard this morning in the direction of Sunday River. It continued for a few hours. No details of engagement have been received.

PIETERMARITZBURG, April 10.—Heavy cannonading commenced this morning in the vicinity of Elandsplaag.

BETHULIE, Orange Free State, Monday, April 10.—It is expected the Boers will endeavor to retake and destroy the bridge over the Orange river. Consequently, extraordinary precautions have been taken. A force of Boers is located twelve miles east. As a matter of fact, the Boers practically again hold the Free State eastward of the railroad and are greatly encouraged by their successes at Reddersberg and Korn Spruit.

LONDON, April 10.—The Boer attack on General Brabant's force at Wepener was resumed at dawn today. The enemy's attack on two or three sides on Monday lasted until 2:30 in the afternoon, when firing ceased and it was believed the enemy had been beaten off, but it was announced this morning from Aliwal North that fighting had again begun.

Brabant's force, numbering from 2000 to 3000, holds positions in a rough country. It is not known what the numerical strength of the Boers is, but whatever it may be, it is being rapidly augmented. A body of 2000 is marching towards Springfontein from Smithfield, between Wepener and Springfontein. Events in the southeast portion of the Free State have caused the Eighth division, which had been ordered to Springfontein.

The mysterious movements of troops at Bloemfontein are proceeding. Newspapers' correspondents are not allowed to telegraph their destination, and the presumption is that Roberts is making a disposition of troops to cut off the raiding Boer forces when they try to withdraw to the northward from the pursuing British columns.

Reappearance of the Boers in the occupied country has caused a revival of the warlike feeling among the Free States of the Fauresmith and Philippolis districts. Federal agents are busy, getting details of surrendered Boers, and, owing to the Irish garrisons being withdrawn from these districts, the British residents are uneasy.

Boers are reported to have ventured south of Biggarsberg, and to be posting heavy guns four miles north of Elandsplaag. They are also said to be fortified in the vicinity of Wesselsnek.

General Garrington has reached Cape Town and is going to Beira, Portuguese East Africa, forthwith.

The war office proposes to land at Cape Town before the end of May 20,000 horses. They will be conveyed there in twenty-three steamers, sailing from New Orleans, Buenos Ayres and Australian ports.

Situation at Mafeking.

BULLWAGO, March 31.—Colonel Baden-Powell wires from Mafeking, March 31, confirming the report that the Boers had been pushed back so far that the town was comparatively out of range of the musketry. He concludes with saying: "All promises well for eventually cutting off this force of the enemy, if we can hold Shyman here."

Report of Plumer's Fight.

BULLWAGO, April 3.—Colonel Plumer engaged the Boers between Ramathlabama and Mafeking on March 31. The Boers appeared in considerable force six miles from Mafeking, and to prevent being outflanked on both sides, Plumer had to withdraw on Ramathlabama, subsequently retreating to his base camp. The engagement lasted three hours, and

the retirement was carried out in good order under a heavy fire.

The above dispatch is the British version of the defeat of Colonel Plumer's force, announced April 5, in a dispatch from Lourenco Marques. A dispatch from Gaborones, dated April 1, gives the British losses in the above engagement as killed, three officers and seven men; wounded, three officers and twenty-four men; missing, 11.

REVISING THE PENSION LAW

Important Legislation to Be Brought Before Congress.

WASHINGTON, April 9.—The most important piece of general pension legislation before congress, that of revising the pension act of June 27, 1890, and other general pension laws, was passed upon in a tentative manner today by the house committee on invalid pensions, and the sense of the committee taken on reporting the bill to the house and placing it on the house calendar for early consideration. The revision has been advocated by delegations of the chief officers of the G. A. R., and Pension Commissioner Evans has been heard at length on the subject. The committee decided today to take the bill of Senator Gallinger as a basis of action, and to make several amendments.

The details of the changes are not made public for the present, but it is understood the most important of these increases the age limit on which pensions are to be allowed and fixes a sliding scale between the ages of 62 and 70, viz: 16 at 62 years, \$8 at 65, \$10 at 68, and \$12 at 70. Another important amendment increases from \$96 to \$250 the amount of annual income which a widow may have without forfeiting the right to a pension. As amended, the bill is to be reported, but Chairman Suloway is given considerable latitude in the matter, in order that an opportune time may be chosen to secure practical results in the house.

Not a Wicked Place.

WASHINGTON, April 9.—A defense of the administration of affairs at Manila is contained in a report just made to the war department by Chaplain C. C. Pierce. This officer particularly antagonizes the ex-Chaplain of volunteers who has been severely criticizing the morals of the American troops in the Philippines, making charges of wholesale intoxication and telling of the enormous increase in the number of liquor drinking saloons in Manila. The Chaplain declares that the figures as to the number of saloons have been perverted; that the American saloons took the place of an untold number of native gin shacks which dispensed liquid poison with deplorable effect upon the American troops, and that the substitution of the regimental canteen has resulted in an improvement in the sobriety of the troops. Chaplain Pierce also speaks in terms of praise of the reformation of sanitary conditions in Manila, resulting in general improvement in health.

Child Scalded to Death.

ASHLAND, April 9.—A distressing fatality took place on Wagner creek, three miles south of Talent, Saturday, the victim being the 2½-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Low. Mrs. Low had been arranging to scrub the floor of her home, and placed a good-sized tub filled with scalding water and a pot of concentrated lye on the floor. She stepped outside the house to get a bucketful of cold water to cool the scalding water, and while so engaged the child, Fanny, who was playing in the room, approached the tub and fell headlong into the scalding water and lye. The agonizing cries of the child recalled the mother, but too late to save the child, who lingered in great agony for twenty-four hours before death came to her relief. The funeral took place today.

John R. McLean Changed His Mind. New York, April 10.—A Washington special to the Evening World says: It is asserted this afternoon, on what seems to be good authority, that Admiral Dewey has decided to withdraw as a candidate for the Presidency, and that within a few days he will formally announce his decision. His brother-in-law, John R. McLean, is alleged to be responsible for this latest move.

Within forty-eight hours, Dewey has been in consultation with Democratic leaders and others antagonistic to President McKinley, and the opinion they expressed, together with the unfavorable views voiced by the newspapers, decided him, it is asserted, to withdraw from the contest.

THE ALLEGED BRITISH REVERSES

Boers Report That They Have Killed, Wounded and Captured 1500.

REPORT IS NOT YET CONFIRMED

Battle is Said to Have Taken Place

North of Bloemfontein, Near Meekartsfontein. South of Brandfort, the Boers Killing and Wounding 600 and Capturing 800 or 900 and Twelve Wagons.

New York, April 11.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says: The seventh month of the war in South Africa opens with reports from Boer sources of another British disaster. If the news can be trusted, a terrible reverse has been inflicted upon the British arms. According to an official announcement in Pretoria, telegraphed by the News correspondent, a battle fought south of Brandfort in which the British suffered a loss of 600 killed and wounded, in addition to 800 captured by the Boers.

This intelligence is amply confirmed by the Mail's correspondent on the Boer side, who reports from Brandfort that General Dewet on Saturday defeated the British for the third time within a week, the scene of this last engagement being Meekartsfontein.

No confirmation has been received from British sources of the reverse and it would be advisable not at once to give to statements of British losses their face value.

Not Mentioned By Roberts.

LONDON, April 11.—Lord Roberts wires to the war office from Bloemfontein, under date of April 10, as follows:

"The enemy have been very active during the past few days. One commando is now on the north bank of the Orange River, not far from Aliwal North, while another is attacking Wepener. The garrison there holding out bravely and inflicting serious loss on the Boers. Major Spring, of the Cape Mounted Rifles, was killed. No other casualties have been reported as yet. The troops are being moved up rapidly. A patrol of seven men of the Seven Dragoons, under Lieutenant Letherby, who have been reported missing since April 7, have returned safely."

As the foregoing dispatch does not mention the alleged British reverses on Saturday at Meekartsfontein, the Boer telegrams are not credited at the war office.

FIGHT AGAINST THE SPECIAL ORDER

It is Adopted; However, by a Vote of 158 to 142—Sensational Speeches on Both Sides of the House.

WASHINGTON, April 11.—The closing struggle over the Puerto Rican tariff bill today in the house attracted great crowds to the galleries. As soon as the reading of the journal was concluded, Dalzell presented a special order under which the house was to operate today. Richardson, the minority leader, called attention to the fact that the rule would permit the house to vote only upon a single proposition. He further asserted that it was never the intention of the Republicans of the house in the first instance to enact any such measure, and drew a salvo of applause from his Democratic colleagues by characterizing the president in the language of ex-Speaker Reed as "the emperor of expediency." He also recalled the statement in a local newspaper that a Republican member of the house had said that in return for the passage of the bill a large contribution was to be made to the Republican campaign fund. Babeock, chairman of the Republican congressional campaign committee, challenged anyone to name a Republican responsible for the charge that the Republican campaign committee had received or was to receive a money consideration for the Puerto Rican tariff bill. Pierce tried to interrupt Babeock, but the latter waved him aside.

"He withdraws the challenge,"

shouted a voice on the Democratic side, amid a howl of derision.

Grosvenor followed with a speech that kept his side in almost continued applause. He said it was a glorious thing to witness the anxiety of the Democratic party and the mugwump press, lest the Republican party should destroy itself.

Dalzell concluded the debate on the rule. He recalled the rule brought in when the Democrats concurred in the senate amendments to the Wilson tariff bill, evoking frequent applause. "Scribes, Pharisees and hypocrites," he denominated the Democrats for prating on a change of base by the Republicans. The rule was adopted, 138 to 148.

The Bill Passed.

WASHINGTON, April 11.—The final vote, unofficial, on the Puerto Rico bill was 163 to 153.

Baker's Mining Congress.

BAKER CITY, April 11.—At the meeting of the chamber of commerce tonight the committee in charge reported in favor of raising \$1000 for the purpose of entertaining the visitors to the Mining Congress, to be held here in June. The Industrial Agent of the O. R. & N., R. C. Judson, is co-operating with the chamber, and it is proposed to make the meeting the best one of the kind ever held on the coast. The visitors will be given excursions to Sumpter and the different mining districts and will be afforded every opportunity to investigate this great camp.

Resolutions were also passed making the representatives of local newspapers and authorized representatives of the leading journals of Portland members of the chamber with the privileges of the new club rooms. Ladies of the families of members of the commerce will also be admitted to the rooms on stated days, and members have been given the privilege of listing visiting friends at the club.

Georgia Populists.

ATLANTA, Ga., April 10.—Two hundred delegates of the Populist organization of Georgia met at the state capitol here today for the nomination of a state ticket and the election of fifty-four delegates to the National convention in Cincinnati. Chairman W. L. Peek said Marion Butler, of North Carolina, was the "chief of all traitors," and the Democratic party had adopted the platform of the Populists, except that the former was opposed to a "free ballot and a fair count." Wharton Barker, of Philadelphia, also addressed the convention. At the conclusion of his address the convention unanimously endorsed him for the head of the National Populist ticket, and Ignatius Donnelly for Vice-President.

Dewey Has Not Withdrawn.

WASHINGTON, April 10.—Admiral Dewey said tonight that the report published in a New York afternoon newspaper to the effect that he intended to withdraw his candidacy for the Presidency was all a mistake, and that he had never given any one whatever any such information.

The New York story was to the effect that his brother-in-law, John R. McLean, was responsible for this latest move, and that within forty-eight hours Dewey had been in consultation with Democratic leaders and others antagonistic to President McKinley, and the opinions they expressed, together with the unfavorable views voiced by the newspaper, decided him to withdraw from the contest.

Congressional Convention.

McMILLVILLE, Or., April 10.—The first district congressional convention was called to order by R. J. Hendricks, chairman of the congressional committee. I. A. Macrom was made temporary chairman, and Harlbert, of Lane, secretary.

After appointment of the usual committees the convention adjourned till 1 o'clock.

On the reassembling of the convention Thomas H. Tongue was renominated for congress on the first ballot.

The convention nominated as delegates to the national Republican convention: J. B. David, of Yamhill county, and Geo. A. Steel of Clackamas county.

Decided Against Clark.

WASHINGTON, April 10.—The senate committee on privileges and elections today decided by a unanimous vote to recommend an option resolution declaring that Honorable W. A. Clark, of Montana, is not entitled to occupy his seat as Senator from Montana. The decision was reached after a two hour's sitting, at which all members of the committee were present except one. The absentee was Senator Caffery, and he wired his vote in opposition to Clark.

M. B. Smith, Butternut, Mich., says, "DeWitt's Little Early Risers are the very best pills I ever used for constiveness, liver and bowel troubles."

LAND MATTERS IN ALASKA

Special Privileges Denied—Status of Tide Lands—Effort to Legalize Miners Meetings—Mr. Hermann Predicts that the Next Mining Excitement Will Be on the Siberian Coast.

[Special to THE CHRONICLE.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 5.—So much interest attaches to Alaskan matters that information concerning the management of public lands there will be read for the public. Since the Cape Nome discovery of beach gold, the general land office has received continual applications from discoverers, inventors and schemers in general, for exclusive rights and privileges connected with beach mining and deep sea excavation, on claim that some method, process or invention had been perfected that would utilize what might be otherwise unavailable. Some have offered to build railways along the beach, if granted exclusive privileges. Commissioner Hermann, of the Land Bureau, has had many such propositions and has respectfully declined to entertain them. As for rights to mine on Cape Nome beach, all have been declined on the ground that there is no authority in existing law to dispose of beach mines. This question is not new to him, as there are extensive beach grounds off the Southern Oregon coast, near his home, where gold is mixed with tide sands. The Southern Oregon beach sands have black sand, or iron sands, mixed so that it is not easily separated from the gold. The Cape Nome beach has no black sand and the gold is easily separated.

As government holds all lands between low and high water in trust for future states, congress will legislate to grant temporary privileges, pending statehood and the relations miners meetings may establish. As for mining on the high seas, within the three mile limit, there is dispute in congress, as it is a serious question if it is in the power of the government to convey rights that can conflict with navigation and fisheries.

The commissioner of the general land office has declined to consider applications for beach or deep sea mining, but the secretary of war has granted such privileges. Within the last few weeks many such applications have been granted, on claim that the war department has a right to make these grants, but they will not be exclusive. As under the law any miner would be trespasser the government gives its sanction to legalize their work. The interior department and general land office recognize the rights of miners meetings and regulations passed there, as confirmed by past experience in mining districts.

Complaint is made that claims are often located by attorney, which has been greatly abused. For instance: A Boston man may have filed by attorney on valuable locations and hold for a long time. There have been instances where entire gulches have been thus appropriated, with no ownership visible or present. Commissioner Hermann decides against this as illegal, and congress is recommended to decide that personal presence is necessary to establish title. Mr. Hermann has been consulted by Judge Lacey, chairman of House Lands committee, as to legalizing miners' meetings for regulating claims along Nome beach, or elsewhere: which he strongly recommends.

There were three land offices in Alaska, but two were found to be practically useless as there was no business and expenses were enormous. Peavy, was discontinued, that was on the Koyukuk, 250 miles south of the Arctic Circle. Also Circle, that is near the international line. Esqupard, that was retained, is on the Yukon, and will assume the business done at Circle and Peavy. The new office is at St. Michael. Effort made to locate this at Cape Nome, but it is recognized that the Nome sands may be worked out and leave no place of importance while St. Michael is so situated as to be always an important location.

Commissioner Hermann predicts that the next mining excitement will pertain to the region to the northwest, on the coast of Siberia, across Behring sea northwest from the mouth of the Yukon. He estimates that \$2,000,000 has been sent to the mint from Cape Nome since its discovery not over a year ago. Add the dust taken by miners themselves and the total output should be \$4,000,000. S. A. CLARKE.

Puerto Rican Bill Passed.

WASHINGTON, April 11.—The long and bitter struggle over the Puerto Rican tariff bill ended today when the House

by a vote of 161 to 153 concurred in all the senate amendments. The bill now requires only the signature of the speaker of the House and the president of the senate before going to the president for his approval. These signatures will be attached tomorrow and before nightfall the bill probably will be a law. As the bill originally passed the house it was a simple bill, imposing 15 per cent of the Dingley rates on goods going into Puerto Rico from the United States and coming from Puerto Rico into the United States. As amended by the senate and today agreed to by the House, all the restrictions on goods into the United States from Puerto Rico are eliminated and certain foodstuffs and other articles which heretofore have gone into Puerto Rico free by executive order, are excluded from the operation of the 15 per cent duty imposed on goods entering the island from the United States.

A complete scheme of civil government for the island is also attached to the measure.

Boers Want to Fight.

BLOEMFONTEIN, April 11.—According to information received here, the Boer activity eastward of the railroad and in proximity to the border, is largely due to the fact that Presidents Kruger and Steyn have found they are unable to keep their forces together in inactivity, the burghers declaring they are unwilling to remain with their commandos, unless actively employed, as they are convinced the British game is a waiting one. It is believed the Boer movement was originally designed to oblige Lord Roberts to weaken his force at Bloemfontein, in order to protect the railroad, when the Boers would have attempted to recapture the capital. But the burghers are evidently ignorant of the enormous force Lord Roberts has at his disposal.

Advices from Karoo Siding say the Boers are busily entrenching their position east of Brandfort, running parallel with the railroad, while strongly holding the Waterval Drift waterworks.

Remarkable Cures of Rheumatism.

From the Vindicator, Rutherfordton, N. C. The editor of the Vindicator has had occasion to test the efficacy of Chamberlain's Pain Balm twice with the most remarkable results in each case. First, with rheumatism in the shoulder from which he suffered excruciating pain for ten days, which was relieved with two applications of Pain Balm, rubbing the parts afflicted and realizing instant benefit and entire relief in a very short time. Second, in rheumatism in thigh joint, almost prostrating him with severe pain, which was relieved by two applications, rubbing with the liniment on retiring at night, and getting up free from pain. For sale by Blakeley & Houghton.

American Plate-Glass Trust.

PITTSBURG, April 8.—The American Plate Mirror Company was chartered at Harrisburg Saturday, with a capital of \$50,000,000. This company is composed of well-known plate-glass men, and is looked upon as the beginning of a determined move on the part of the American plate-glass men to wrest the trade in this country for plate mirrors from foreign manufacturers.

A Good Cough Medicine for Children.

"I have no hesitancy in recommending Chamberlain's Cough Remedy," says F. P. Moran, a well known and popular baker, of Petersburg, Va. "We have given it to our children when troubled with bad coughs, also whooping cough, and it has always given perfect satisfaction. It was recommended to me by a druggist as the best cough medicine for children as it contained no opium or other harmful drug." Sold by Blakeley & Houghton.

Governor of Puerto Rico.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Charles H. Allen, assistant secretary of the navy, will be the first civil governor of Puerto Rico under the provisions of the bill passed yesterday.

No Right to Ugliness.

The woman who is lovely in face, form and temper will always have friends, but one who would be attractive must keep her health. If she is weak, sickly and all run down, she will be nervous and irritable. If she has constipation or kidney trouble, her impure blood will cause pimples, blotches, skin eruptions and a wretched complexion. Electric Bitters is the best medicine in the world to regulate stomach, liver and kidneys and to purify the blood. It gives strong nerves, bright eyes, smooth, velvety skin, rich complexion. It will make a good-looking, charming woman of a run-down invalid. Only 50 cents at Blakeley & Houghton's drugstore.

Clarke & Falk have received a carload of the celebrated James E. Patton strictly pure liquid paints