

The Dalles Chronicle.

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PRUNE INDUSTRY INVESTIGATION

Secretary Wilson Anxious to Send Prof. Lake to France to Gather Information About Prunes.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4.—Secretary Wilson, of the agricultural department, is very anxious to do everything possible to improve the prune industry of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and with that view in mind is endeavoring to have an appropriation made to send Professor Lake, of the Oregon Agricultural station, to be sent to France to gather information about the varieties of prunes used there, and the manner of picking and drying the fruit. It is a well-known fact that the three states named now have a prune industry worth \$1,500,000. The experience of the past two or three years indicates that this industry is in a precarious situation, and to obtain the best results some varieties of prunes will have to be found which will avoid the autumn rains, which are not subject to certain diseases, and which will withstand the cold season better. It is necessary also that the entire question of harvesting, drying and preparing the prunes for market be investigated, so as to secure uniform grades such as are demanded in the world's markets. Secretary Wilson thinks that if the contemplated investigation could have been made two years ago, the improvement in curing and marketing alone would have increased the value of the prune crop of Oregon, Washington and Idaho by several hundred thousand dollars. The item of loss from autumn rains is to be avoided chiefly by securing an earlier maturing variety. A difference of ten days in some seasons is said to mean a loss of perhaps 30 per cent of the entire crop. Not alone Secretary Wilson, but the delegations from the three states, are deeply interested in this provision of the bill, and will see their best efforts to have the appropriation passed.

Grazing on the Reserves.

WASHINGTON, May 4.—Gifford Pinchot, forester of the Department of Agriculture, and F. N. Coville, botanist of the same department, will leave Washington for the West about May 15th, to make a personal investigation of the problem of grazing in the forest reserves. The restriction of sheep grazing in these areas has raised a storm of protest from the wool growers, and public feeling in the West has become divided and intense. A plan for an exhaustive investigation by the government was published a few weeks ago; but the tour of these officials will be the first actual work in the field.

They will be met at Holbrook, Ariz., by a committee consisting of A. E. Potter, of that city, who is secretary of the Arizona Wool Growers' Association, and J. E. Bark, of Phoenix, who represent the cattle and irrigation interests. They will spend three weeks in the Black Mesa reserve and then visit others in Arizona. The examination will be extended to other Western reserves later in the summer.

Will Develop Philippine's Resources

CHICAGO, May 4.—A special to the Tribune from Charleston, W. Va., says: Articles of incorporation were obtained here today by the Philippine Lumber and Developing Company, of Chicago, with an authorized capital of \$5,000,000. The incorporators are J. A. T. Hull, Des Moines, Ia.; John Gibson, Creston, Ia.; J. S. Bradford, Grandville, Ill.; Stewart Spalding, Chicago, Frank Phillips, Creston, Ia. The object is to obtain concessions in the Philippines.

Boers Fall Back.

LONDON, May 7, 4:10 a. m.—Lord Roberts is making better progress than anyone had dared to hope, and is meeting with success at all points. The only news of the actual occupation of Winburg is the incidental reference to it in the dispatch from Vet River, describing General Pole-Carew's operations, but as the latest news of General Hamilton's operations, dated Sunday morning, was that he was then preparing to force the difficult passage over Little Vet River, on the Bloemfontein-Winburg road, there is no doubt that the news of the occupation is accurate.

The Boers, following their customary practice, had evacuated their positions on the Vet River during Saturday night. As Lord Roberts, advancing along the railway, and General Hamilton, twenty miles to the east, threatened the two wings of the Boer forces, it could not be surprising to hear that they had also evacuated Winburg. General Hamilton's

advance will prevent the Boer forces in the direction of Thabanchu joining their main army near Winburg. General Rundle on Saturday had arrived in pursuit of the Boers several miles north of the Thabanchu, compelling the Boers to retire in an easterly direction. A Boer account of the capture of Brandfort says: "The Federal forces, although weak in numbers, offered strong resistance, but they were forced by the overwhelming force opposed to them to evacuate the town."

BRITISH OCCUPY BRANDFORT

This is an Important Step in Roberts' Advance On Pretoria.

LONDON, May 4.—Lord Roberts reports to the war office as follows, under date of Bloemfontein, May 3:

"We occupied Brandfort today without much opposition and without, I hope, many casualties. The First brigade of mounted infantry covered the left flank of the Fourteenth brigade of the Seventh division, and the right flank was supported by the Fifteenth brigade. Pole-Carew's division advanced directly on Brandfort. The Boer army, which was under command of Delarey, retired in a northeasterly direction."

THABANCHU, May 4.—The Boers have evacuated Thabanchu Hill and are believed to be still trekking, though one gun has shelled the camp intermittently. Scouts report that some of the Boers retired from Wepener. They believe the Boers evacuated the position during the night, trekking northwardly in three directions.

General French left today. General Rundle is in command here. It is expected General Brabant will effect a junction at any moment.

ALIWAL, North Cape Colony, May 4.—Smithfield was occupied by General Hart's brigade. Out of 150 Boers in the town, 25 were captured and the rest decamped.

Ladybrand was recently full of Boers wounded, who have now been removed to Ficksburg.

LONDON, May 4.—News of the occupation of Brandfort was issued by the war office at 10 o'clock this morning, confirming the dispatch previously received by the Associated Press. This is considered the most important communication received from the front since the capture of General Cronje's force and the relief of Ladysmith.

The fact that the position gives the key to one of the main roads leading to the Drakensburg passes, which possibly may be the means of co-operating with General Buller later on, provides an advance base of supplies, etc., and at the same time menaces the Boers now southeast of Bloemfontein, is obviously the reason for the importance attached by all hands to the intelligence. The Boer army, which was at Brandfort, commanded by General Delarey, is presumably retreating on Winburg, which will possibly be the next immediate objective of the British.

Drops the Admiral.

WASHINGTON, May 5.—A special from Springfield, O., says:

W. S. Thomas, chairman of the Democratic state central committee, states that John R. McLean has deserted his brother-in-law, Admiral Dewey, and jumped into the front seat of Bryan's band wagon. McLean has authorized the state convention, and has abandoned all thought of having the time when it will best suit Dewey's interests. Chairman Thomas stated further that there was no possible room for misconception of McLean's action, declaring that it meant that the Dewey candidacy, which has fallen flat the country over, is to be gradually abandoned. The plan is to let the people gradually forget the matter.

Crossed the Vaal.

WARRENTON, May 5, evening.—The Vaal river has been successfully crossed at Windsorton by Barton's brigade, with whom is General Hunter, commanding the division. The Boers have evacuated Windsorton and Kildam. They are trekking northward and are fighting for all they are worth. Barton is hanging on to their rear and shielding them vigorously. Judging from the clouds of dust, the retreating Boers must be in very large numbers.

Ring up Faulkner, the junk man, before hauling your trash to the beach. He buys old worn out rubber boots and shoes, brass, copper, zinc, lead, sacks, rags, etc. Dalles' phone No. 214.

EVOLUTION OF REPUBLICANISM

Democratic Hodge-Podge and Inconsistencies Too Much for Him.

BALLSTON, Or., May 2.—(From the Oregonian.)—As a pronounced free-trader, my opposition to the Republican party has dated back some twenty-five years. But I have lived to see a far greater prospect of the ultimate adoption of free trade by the Republican party than by the Democracy. This is the logic of Mr. Blaine's reciprocity idea, and of the almost universal demand of the Republican masses for free trade with Porto Rico. I was one of several hundred who helped to loudly cheer the free-trade expressions of Hon. William L. Wilson in his speech in Portland some ten years ago. But the reign of Grover Cleveland and his congress was distinctly disappointing, for, as ex-Speaker Moores has well shown in your columns, the Wilson bill on a fair system of averages had a higher schedule of tariffs than the McKinley bill! Furthermore, as a follower of Peter Cooper I have lived to see a scheme almost identical with his inter-convertible bond theory advocated in your columns by as noted a Republican as ex-Senator Corbett.

This is the evolution of Republicanism; but what do we find in the Democratic party? A hodge-podge of every political theory under heaven that bears upon its forehead the label of discontent and disorder! A gathering of the clans of militarism and anti-militarism; of state socialism and thinly disguised anarchy; of Briton-haters and Boer-lovers; of those who glory in the suppression of negroes in the South (vide Tillman), and howl for the exaltation of Tagals in the Philippines, etc. You can find any of the newest brands of inconsistency you may ask for under Democratic banners. Tammany contractors calling in the soldiers to meet with the bayonet the just demands of the unfortunate Croton laborers, while the whole party howls itself hoarse against military interference in strikes, and "government by injunction." There are further howls and platform protests against "militarism," by a crowd whose whole course is in favor of picking a quarrel with the most powerful empire on earth—a quarrel which would call for such a display of "militarism" as the world perhaps never saw—a wanton quarrel with the only great power that has shown any real friendship for us of late, and a power which had only to lift her finger and we would have had all of Europe on our backs during the late squabble with Spain. State socialism, with all its inferno of evils in control of our internal affairs, would hardly be more paralyzing to the march of civilization than a dire conflict between the two great Anglo-Saxon nations, whose true interests lie on the same plane, and whose aim in the world's affairs should be identical. Yet the all-embracing octopus of Democracy, in its grab for votes, includes both of these giant evils—socialism and war with England—for the programme of its leaders involves every scheme for irritating our brethren across the water, until, with a high-spirited nation, war with all its untold evils will be unavoidable.

Can the American people afford to support such a party? And will my ancient factotums excuse me if I vote the straight Republican ticket?

WALLACE YATES.

No Plague in Honolulu.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 4.—The steamer Coptic, which has arrived from the Orient, via Honolulu, is in quarantine. Last Friday, when the vessel sailed from Honolulu, there had been no new cases of plague for twenty-five days, and the quarantine that has been on the ports since the middle of last December, was to have been raised last Monday by the Honolulu board of health, provided no more cases of plague appeared.

Boers Left 13 Dead on Field.

WARRENTON, Sunday, May 6.—Yesterday General Barton drove from 2000 to 3000 Boers from hilly positions at Roodan, where they awaited them. They retreated after stiff fighting, leaving a number of dead on the field. The British casualties were slight. General Barton is still pursuing.

Windsorton and Kildam have been evacuated. General Paget's brigade is attacking the Boer position at Warrenton.

The engagement yesterday was severe, and lasted from 9 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon. More than once the British infantry were obliged to engage the Boers at close quarters, and the Boers only retired when their retreat

was nearly cut off. The British losses were five killed and twenty-five wounded, mostly Welsh Fusiliers. The British took a batch of prisoners, including the Swedish ambulance, which they allowed to return. The Boers in their hurry left thirteen dead.

Today General Paget made a strong demonstration against the Boer position, east of the ridge, thereby preventing Boer reinforcements going to assist in checking General Barton's advance.

RELIEF OF MAFeking EXPECTED

Boers Still Holding Their Own in Thabanchu District.

LONDON, May 6, 4:20 a. m.—London has been confidently expecting to have news of the relief of Mafeking before midnight, but at that hour the war office stated that no further intelligence had been received of Hunter's column, to which the public believed had been assigned the word of relieving the town. Beyond further details of the occupation of Brandfort, little or no news has come during the night.

A dispatch from Thabanchu, dated May 4, says the situation is practically unchanged, the Boers holding their position and sending occasional shells into the British camp. From the top of Thabanchu Hill one can see over the Boer camp. The country, through which a number of Boers are trekking, is exceedingly difficult. It is learned that the Boers are trying to draw supplies from the Ladybrand district. The Seventeenth brigade has moved four miles south, presumably to assist General Brabant if necessary.

A dispatch from Aliwal North, dated May 5, says:

"Three hundred captured cattle and horses were brought in last night. The wounded are being gradually moved here from Hafeteng."

A dispatch from Cape Town says: "The general feeling here, in which official circles participate, is that Lord Roberts' advance toward Pretoria will be rapid. The Boer prisoners do not anticipate that any effective resistance will be encountered."

Anxiety is felt regarding the fate of Mr. Begbie, who has been arrested in connection with the blowing up of the shell factory. Consul Hay is watching the accused man's interests.

FRIEND OF THE BOERS

Teller Wants the Senate to Extend Its Sympathy.

WASHINGTON, May 7.—At today's session of the senate, Teller delivered a speech, in which he strongly urged the senate to extend its sympathy to the Boers in the contest with the British. The adoption of his resolution of sympathy, he maintained, could not be considered as an unfriendly act by the British government.

During the remainder of the session, the senate had under consideration the naval appropriation bill. Chandler's amendment to curtail the increase of the Marine Corps created some debate and was finally laid on the table, 30 to 14. The bill was not completed. Notice was given that the armor-plate provision would be considered in secret session, on account of certain facts that were to be called to the attention of the senate.

This was suspension day in the House, and quite a number of bills were passed. The most important was the senate bill to amend the general pension laws so as to provide for aggregating disabilities under the act of 1890 without regard to service, and to increase the net income a widow may have without destroying her right to a pension from \$95 to \$250. The purpose of the bill is to modify rulings of the pension office in accordance with the recommendations of the grand army of the republic. It was passed without a dissenting voice. The bill to increase the appropriation for the National Guard from \$400,000 to \$1,000,000 also was among those passed. Sulzer of New York attempted to secure action upon his resolution expressing sympathy with the Boers, but was cut off by the speaker.

Mrs. Harriet Evans, Hinsdale, Ill., writes, "I never fail to relieve my children from croup at once by using One Minute Cough Cure. I would not feel safe without it." Quickly cures coughs, colds, grippe and all throat and lung diseases.

ROBERTS HAS CROSSED THE VET

Hamilton Has Captured Winburg—This Puts the British Army Sixty-Three Miles North of Bloemfontein.

LONDON, May 7, 11 a. m.—Lord Roberts reports to the war office in a dispatch dated Smaldeal, May 6, afternoon, as follows:

"We crossed the Vet river this morning and are now camped at Smaldeal Junction. The enemy is in full retreat toward the Zand River and Kroonstadt. The turning movement was made by the mounted infantry just before dark yesterday. It was a very dashing affair. The Canadians, New South Wales, New Zealand Rifles and Queensland Mounted Infantry vie'd with each other in the determination to close with the enemy. Captain Anley, of the Essex Regiment, commanding the Third Infantry Battalion, behaved in a very gallant manner. The naval guns and the artillery made excellent practice, particularly two five-inch guns used for the first time with this force. We captured a Maxim and twenty-five prisoners. Our casualties are very few—only fifteen wounded, one killed and three missing.

"The British arrived here without opposition. The Boers' last train left last Saturday night. The Boer losses yesterday on the left flank were forty killed. Their rear guard remains behind kopjes, their miles distant. There is much railway forage and corn here. It is stated that the Boers are retreating towards Kroonstadt. The Zand river bridge is reported to have been destroyed."

LONDON, May 7.—The capture of Winburg by the British is confirmed and the main advance on Pretoria continues. By the occupation of Winburg, General Ian Hamilton puts himself nearly parallel with Lord Roberts and only twenty-nine miles eastward, while he has the additional advantage of being connected with his chief by means of the railroad that runs from Smaldeal or Winburg road station, as it is sometimes called at Winburg. Lord Roberts is now nine miles north of the Vet and sixty-three miles north of Bloemfontein. Evidently he is not letting grass grow under his feet, though the Boers are equally anxious to retreat towards Kroonstadt, and are so doing.

The critics of the newspapers view the situation with the greatest satisfaction.

A special dispatch from Smaldeal dated 9:45 p. m., May 6, gives details of the occupation of Winburg by the British. It says:

"The news has just come here that General Hamilton is giving the Boers no rest and that they are falling back hurriedly. He entered Winburg today after a brisk fight, in which the Boers fell back so quickly that one of their guns, in addition to a Maxim, was abandoned."

The same dispatch, describing the crossing of the Vet River by the British says the Boer force, entrenched on the opposite bank, prepared to contest the crossing. Our guns were brought into place and a terrific shell fire was directed on the Boer lines. At the same time the Queenslanders, under a heavy fire, dashed across the river and, advancing in the open, completely turned the Boer right. It was dusk, but nothing could stop the gallant Australians. They pushed on again, seized a commanding kopje and by brilliant movements and continuous rifle fire, drove off the enemy in the darkness.

The first gleam of day this morning found the enemy in full flight and our men after them, and by 9 o'clock this morning we entered the important strategic position.

A dispatch from Boshof, dated Friday, May 4, says:

"General Methuen made a reconnaissance from here Thursday to the neighborhood of Sjartkoppesfontein, locating the laager. A fairly strong force of Boers was seen moving northward. General Methuen then returned to Boshof."

Hepburn for McKinley's Running Mate.

LOS ANGELES, May 7.—The Times of this city, edited by Major-General H. G. Otis, editorially presents this morning the name of Congressman Wm. P. Hepburn, of Iowa, as a running mate for William McKinley, on the Republican ticket. General Otis has himself been mentioned as a vice-presidential possibility. He is a warm personal friend of President McKinley. The editorial says: "Mr. Hepburn is a veteran representative in congress, with years of experience and a good name; he is chairman of the house committee on the Nicaragua

canal. He was the leader in achieving the superb and far-reaching victory won by the national house only last week, when the canal bill was passed.

"Mr. Hepburn has had a large and powerful hand in the important initiatory work of pushing the canal bill through the house of representatives against all opposition; he has proved himself a stayer and statesman. Why, then, is he not first-class timber for vice-president?"

Too Many Japanese.

NEW YORK, May 7.—Addressing the Central Federated Union, President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, spoke of the importation of Japanese coolie labor. He declared that Japanese coolies were taking the place of the Chinese who had been excluded. "No restriction," he said, "is placed upon the Japanese and as a result they are coming into this country in droves. It is pretty near time something is done in this matter, as the first thing you know we will be overrun with cheap Japanese labor which will supplant yours, as the Chinese attempted to do."

Mr. Gompers will attend a meeting of the striking cigar-makers at Bohemia National Hall today and afterward he will place himself in a position in regard to the injunction to bring about his arrest.

Glorious News.

Comes from Dr. D. B. Cargile, of Washita, I. T. He writes:

"Four bottles of Electric Bitters has cured Mrs. Brewer of zecofula, which had caused her great suffering for years. Terrible sores would break out on her head and face, and the best doctors could give no help; but her cure is complete and her health is excellent." This shows what thousands have proved,—that Electric Bitters is the best blood purifier known. It's the supreme remedy for eczema, tetter, salt rheum, dncers, boils and running sores. It stimulates liver, kidneys and bowels, expels poisons, helps digestion and builds up the strength. Only 50 cents. Sold by Blakeley & Houghton, Druggists. Guaranteed.

Aguinaldo Again in the Field.

MANILA, May 7.—Telegrams received here from General Young report that Aguinaldo has rejoined the rebel General, Tino, in the north, and that they have reassembled a considerable force in the mountains. General Young desires to strike them before the rains, and asks for reinforcements. The tenor of the dispatch leads to the belief that General Young is confident Aguinaldo is with Tino, and it is presumed they are preparing to fight.

A detachment of the Forty-seventh Regiment met and routed a band of the enemy between Legaspi and Biago, Province of Albay, on April 15th. Two Americans were killed and five wounded, including two officers. The Filipinos lost heavily. The conditions around Legaspi and Sorosore are reported as considerably disturbed.

A Life And Death Fight.

Mr. W. A. Hines of Manchester, Ia., writing of his almost miraculous escape from death, says: "Exposure after measles induced serious lung trouble, which ended in Consumption. I had frequent hemorrhages and coughed night and day. All my doctors said I must soon die. Then I began to use Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, which completely cured me. I would not be without it even if it cost \$5.00 a bottle. Hundreds have used it on my recommendation and all say it never fails to cure Throat, Chest and Lung troubles." Regular size 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at Blakeley & Houghton's Drug Store.

California Oil Production.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 7.—The output of oil in California has increased from 1,245,123 barrels in 1895, to 2,292,123 barrels in 1899. The prospect is that the output for the present year will be much larger than that of 1899. California now ranks fourth among the states in the Union in petroleum production.

One significant feature of the oil discoveries in the state is that they will put California on an equality with other states in the Union as far as the fuel question goes. The estimate has been made that three and one-half barrels of California petroleum are equal to one ton of coal.

Free States Democratized.

LONDON, May 7.—The Laurence Marques correspondent of the Times, telegraphing Sunday, says:

"General Botha has been to the Free State to rouse the burghers, but has returned disheartened and disgusted. From an unimpeachable source I learn that he is openly stating to friends that the Free States are so completely democratized that it is hopeless to expect anything from them."

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