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Buller's Attack Shown Not to Have Been a Feint.

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OREGONIAN BUILDING

ASSIMILATION OF CHINA.

Master in The Great Speed—Chinese Pastmasters in Trade.

CHICAGO, Feb. 11.—The greatest question of our time is whether the assimilation of the commercial force of China by the world will be a quick or a slow process. Declared Benjamin I. Wheeler, president of the university of California, who used through Chicago today on his way east. "If the process be speedy," he continued, "there is likely to be a disastrous disturbance, but if it be gradual and unimpeded, a peaceful adjustment will be made. Therefore, the question, not so much of the Chinese as of China, is of paramount importance to Americans. The pressure of age has made of the Chinese pastmasters in commerce. Their work has been iron, and as the commercial development of this country has been unimpededly that of metals, they will be able, with their genius, to revolutionize the commerce of the globe."

CLAIM AGAINST MEXICO.

Will Be Presented by Woman Whose Husband Died in Prison.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 11.—The Times' special from Wichita, Kan., says Mrs. Edward Turner, of this city, has taken the initial steps toward presenting a claim against the republic of Mexico for damages for the death of her husband. Turner was, until three years ago, a railroad engineer here. He went to the Mexican Central railroad, and, being in a wreck in which three Mexicans were killed, was imprisoned at Orizaba. He could not get a hearing, it is alleged, and was transferred to Vera Cruz some time ago, on account of ill health, and there died the 25th of last month. Mrs. Turner's letters from her husband are said to contain evidence that he received very cruel treatment at the hands of the Mexican officials.

Inventor of Furnaces.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—Nathaniel A. Boynton, the inventor of heating apparatus, died last night, aged 77.

effort to relieve Ladysmith, the whole army, despite disappointments and retreat, regards General Buller with sympathy and trust such as are seldom seen even in fortunate circumstances.

"The security of Southern Natal is our important consideration. The necessity of obtaining control of Deonath is very apparent. The ingress of foreigners and war material is ceaseless. Surely a settlement with Portugal would be only a question of time."

Spence's Expected Numbers.

Spence Wilkinson in the Morning Post today dwells upon the upon the evidence of the unexpected activity and probable number of Boers near Colenso, where they are not enclosed, but only half surrounded on the south. He points out that the Boers' positions cover a front of 20 miles, and infers that there must be several thousand of the enemy on the ground. He expresses the hope that the rumor from Durban that Boer forces are advancing in the hope of outflanking General Buller is correct, for he considers that General Joubert would thus expose his own position to the same difficulties that he has to face against the fortified positions north of the Tugela.

The Pietermaritzburg correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing yesterday, says:

"The Boers have occupied Blof's farm, south of the Tugela, which is under an hour's ride from Colenso, and have turned the homestead into a hospital. On the farm are bills commanding both bridges over the Tugela, as well as Forts Wyle and Molynux, and from which a view of Bulwer's and Ladysmith is obtainable. There is much excitement here regarding the Boer movement, and the authorities are on the alert."

Situation in Australia.

The Daily Mail publishes the following dispatch from Sydney, N. S. W.:

"A considerable force of Boers has caused a great sensation here. Cardinal Moran, in a remarkable speech, has advocated conscription in Australia, in the event of a possible complication. He thinks it may soon become necessary to defend Australia, and therefore reverts the departure of the local troops."

BOERS OUTFLANKED BRITISH.

Imlekilling and Australians Were in a Tight Place.

RENSBERG, Saturday, Feb. 10.—The Boers outflanked the British yesterday. A considerable force of the enemy was threatening the British communications between Rensberg and Slingsfontein, 12 miles away, and, during a reconnaissance by some Imlekilling and 20 Australians, a number of Boers were discovered attempting to get a gun in position to shell the British camp.

The Australians, having come into very close contact with the Boers, took upon a hill about 400 yards from the camp. Thereupon the Boers took up a position with a view of preventing their retreat. Some burghers got within 200 yards of the Australians and called upon them to surrender. They replied by firing bayonets and shouting defiance.

Sergeant Edwards and two men made a dash, and, galloping under a hot fire, passed a number of Boers. The Boers took word that the Australians were safe and confident of holding the enemy at bay and of getting out after dark, which evening they were successful.

The Imlekilling prevented the enemy from getting their guns in position. The Australians lost one man killed and three wounded.

The Boers have been successfully fought to Slingsfontein today, the British escorts having had several brushes with parties of from 20 to 30 Boers infesting the district. A considerable number of a section of artillery and 120 horses, got on a large convey through by shelling the enemy out of the road. The Boers also outflanked the British on the west, placed a gun in position at Harten's neck and fired on one of the British outposts, driving off 1000 sheep.

In Wednesday's brush, two Australian companies, the 1st and 2nd, and a company who fell behind, were captured. The British took two prisoners.

ROBERTS AT MODDER RIVER.

Enthusiastically Received and Comforted the Soldiers.

MODDER RIVER, Feb. 10.—Lord Roberts is here. Upon appearing before the troops on Friday he was enthusiastically cheered. He visited the camp of the Highland brigade this morning, and commended the men for their gallant conduct on the steady conduct at Koodersberg drift.

The Highlanders returned last night. Before retiring they found the bodies of 12 Boers. The belief is that the enemy were heavier than those of the British, because it is known that in addition to the dead Boers found, several had been captured.

Apparently the Boers have brought all their big guns from Mafeking to shell Kimberley. British naval guns shelled Mafeking today, but the Boer guns were silent. It is supposed that the enemy have withdrawn their artillery. They are blowing up the permanent way beyond Moron adding. The Boers still man their trenches, but the number of men apparently reduced. The bulk of their force has gone to Kimberley or toward their flank.

British Newspaper Man Captured.

RENSBERG, Feb. 10.—A picket of five Victoria Rifles, after holding position some hours yesterday, was forced to retire, the Boers getting on a hill and firing down upon them. Three were slightly wounded, one is missing and one escaped unhurt.

In Wednesday's brush two correspondents, Mr. Hales, of the London Daily News, and Mr. Lambie, of the Melbourne Herald, were captured. Mr. Hales was slightly wounded, was captured by the Boers, and Mr. Lambie was killed. The British took two prisoners.

Soudanese Disaffection Trivial.

CAIRO, Feb. 11.—The official investigations show that only a few Egyptian officers, all of them young men, were involved in the trouble in the two Soudanese battalions, whom they advised to obey the British. The British believe the losses of at least two brigades must keep the door open behind us, too few would have remained to force the way to Ladysmith. Moreover, General Buller remembers his army is the only army for the defense of the rest of Natal. Therefore he decided to withdraw and try elsewhere.

"Another force attempt will be made to force the Tugela. Great Britain must realize the ugly fact that the relief of Ladysmith would strain an army of 50,000, and that 200,000 men would not be too many. The country therefore must be prepared for a heavy loss, and perhaps for discomfitment."

"Remembering that considerations of honor more than policy demands ceaseless

Board for South Africa.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Feb. 11.—A board of seven members of the Vancouver contingent of the Strathcona rough riders departed today for Calgary, where they will join the remainder of the Western troopers bound for South Africa.

Joubert to Outflank Buller.

DURBAN, Feb. 11.—It is rumored here that General Buller is marching with a column of 600 men to outflank General Joubert.

All Quiet at Free.

FREE CAMP, Feb. 11.—All is quiet here today. The British troops are resting, and the Boers are inactive.

STATUS OF HAWAII

Territorial Form of Government Recommended.

REPORT ON THE BILL IS READY

Discusses Every Phase of Hawaiian Situation—United States Customs Laws to Be Extended.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Representative W. S. Knox, of Massachusetts, chairman of the house committee on territories, has completed his report on the bill for the territorial form of government in Hawaii. The report is submitted to the house tomorrow. The report is a very voluminous document, going exhaustively into all the questions involved in the territory of Hawaii, and in many important respects there something like an interregnum in Hawaii.

Many doubtful questions of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction have arisen. It is uncertain whether there is a tribunal for the decision of important questions affecting property and any existing legal jurisdiction which may be held or method jurists empaneled for their trial.

There is also grave doubt concerning the power of the Hawaiian government to grant franchises for industrial and commercial enterprises, and for railways which have been projected. In many respects the business affairs of the territory are brought to a standstill. Many Americans have bought government land since annexation on which they have built residences and planted crops, but their land titles are now in dispute, and cannot be settled until the passage of this bill.

Meanwhile no Americans can settle in Hawaii on homesteads or other lands bought from the government, and a very desirable class of citizens is thereby shut out of this new territory. The local government is unable even to make public works over any part of the territory of Hawaii or carry out plans based on legislation prior to annexation for widening and straightening the streets of Honolulu. The present in the city of the bubonic plague is calling for drastic measures by the Hawaiian authorities, involving the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars. In order to provide for these expenses and to pay for the destruction of buildings, which have been burned in the effort to suppress the pestilence, it is proper and just that a territorial legislature be provided for by congress with no delay.

Since the adoption of the resolution of annexation, large numbers of Japanese contract laborers have been brought into the islands. Their number is uncertain, but there are at least 12,000, and probably more than 25,000, and delay in extending the laws of the United States to the islands will be taken advantage of to increase their number.

Territorial Form Proposed.

The form of government proposed by the bill for the Hawaiian islands is territorial in form, similar to that of the territories of the United States—a governor, a secretary, both appointed by the president; a treasurer, an attorney-general, a commissioner of public lands, a commissioner of agriculture and forestry, a superintendent of public works, a superintendent of public buildings, a surveyor and a high sheriff appointed by the governor.

The legislature is provided, consisting of a senate and house of representatives. The senate is to be composed of 12 members to be represented by a delegate in congress. The territory is to be made a judicial district of the United States, with a district court. The judicial power of the territory is to be vested in a supreme court and in superior courts, to be established by the legislature.

The constitution and laws of the United States locally applicable are to be extended to the islands with the exception of the laws of Hawaii, not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the United States, are to be continued in force. The territory is to be made a customs and revenue district, and will become subject to the tariff laws of the United States.

Chairman Knox says it needs no argument to convince that if it is possible to give to the Hawaiian islands a government of their own, it is equally possible to give to the Hawaiian islands a government which has met the approval of congress and the American people since the constitution was adopted, and has proved itself adapted to the needs of a free and progressive people—it is desirable to do so. The American idea of universal suffrage presupposes that the body of citizens who are to exercise it in a free and independent manner have, by inheritance or education, such knowledge and appreciation of the responsibilities of free suffrage and of a full participation in the sovereignty of the country as to be able to maintain a republican government. That by the test, he says, the Hawaiian people meet the requirements for the government proposed.

The report discusses the population of the islands, with a view to establishing the basis of representation. In 1896, 121,019 were Hawaiians, 8483 part Hawaiian, 3066 Americans, 250 British, 1423 Germans, 101 French, 233 Norwegians, 13,130 Portuguese, 24,497 Japanese, 15,511 Chinese, and 1,000 miscellaneous. The report says there has doubtless been some increase in the population since 1896 from American and European immigration, and a very considerable increase from the influx of Chinese and Japanese laborers since the passage of the annexation resolution, which may be taken at 20,000, so that the population of the Hawaiian islands at present may be placed at more than 130,000. Of this population the greater portion are Asiatics—Chinese and Japanese. With the passage of this bill, the Chinese will be excluded and the importation of Japanese contract laborers prohibited. Neither the Chinese nor Japanese have political power, and were not eligible to citizenship under the republic of Hawaii; neither could they obtain home land. The Chinese have come to Hawaii intending to return to their native land when possessed of what to them is a competence. The Japanese largely have the same purpose.

The Portuguese will furnish a part of the citizenship of Hawaii. They are orderly, peaceable and generous people. The free school, free church, free press and manhood suffrage have marked their progress. The government of the islands has shown the same progressive development. All the younger Hawaiians speak and write the English language. But perhaps the chief consideration as

to the fitness of the Hawaiian people for a territorial government is that the dominant class, both in politics and business, is American. The government and policy of Hawaii will be shaped in accordance with the American ideal. Associated with the Americans in Hawaii are the English and German, and it seems certain that the Hawaiian immigrants will be in the future will be from America and Western Europe.

The persons who were citizens of the republic of Hawaii on August 12, 1898, are defined in article 17 of the constitution of Hawaii, as follows:

"Article 17—All persons born or naturalized in the Hawaiian islands and subject to the jurisdiction of the republic are citizens thereof."

This includes all who were subjects under the monarchy, and all who became citizens of the republic.

The bill proposes to strike out the disqualifications made under the republic permanently to disfranchise many of the inhabitants, especially native supporters of the monarchy. Biennial sessions of the legislature are to be provided. The number of representatives is to be doubled to make it a more popular body. The total authorized indebtedness is to be limited to 7 per cent of the assessed valuation of property of the islands.

The report says the amendment striking out all property qualifications for electors of senators was made on account of great opposition to this provision, both in the committee and by other representatives. It appeared that such a qualification had heretofore existed in Hawaii, and this fact had been salutory, and it is hoped that this amendment will not affect unfavorably either the character of so important a body as the senate of Hawaii, or even be the means of vicious legislation.

Governor Must Be a Citizen.

The provision that the governor of the territory of Hawaii shall be a citizen of the territory was inserted for the reason that it was deemed inadvisable that the governor of a territory so remote, and where conditions were so different from those prevailing on the mainland, should have a greater familiarity with the needs of the territory be a citizen, than mere indefinite residence would assure.

The bill provides for continuing in force of the existing laws until congress shall otherwise provide, but it is provided that all land transactions shall receive the approval of the secretary of the interior, who may also reverse, modify, suspend or annul any of said transactions.

The report says it is wise and safe to provide for the organization of the territorial courts of the territory of Hawaii on the basis of the courts now existing under the republic of Hawaii. The amendment depriving the legislature of Hawaii of the power of impeaching the chief justice and justice of the supreme court is a desirable one, and it is provided in the method of their appointment, from the governor of the territory to the president of the United States, and it was deemed expedient to give this power to the president, and a further reason is that the power of removal is given to the president by the bill.

Our Tariff for Hawaii.

Provision is made for the administration of the revenue and tariff laws of the United States, which are the laws in force in Hawaii, when the present bill shall become a law. The extension of the customs laws and regulations of the United States to the islands will be of great advantage to the United States, in that it will increase the production of goods imported from the United States into Hawaii against foreign nations, and thus increase the amount of duties which will be received, and which go to the United States. The effect upon the products of Hawaii imported into the United States is minimized by the reciprocity treaty between Hawaii and the United States, admitting free into the United States a large proportion of the products of Hawaii.

The amendment providing for striking out the provisions of the constitution of Hawaii in the method of their appointment, from the governor of the territory to the president of the United States, and it was deemed expedient to give this power to the president, and a further reason is that the power of removal is given to the president by the bill.

Survey Completed by the Neo-Hispanic General.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 11.—The survey for a cable across the Pacific has been finished, all soundings have been made and the results have been mapped out, although they will not be given until the transit committee to Washington. The proposed route of the cable, however, as shown by the trip of the survey steamer Neru, which arrived here today, is no secret. The Neru sailed from this port on April 22 last, going to Honolulu. She left the latter port May 5, and steamed 100 miles to the Midway Island. From there she traveled 200 miles to Guam, then to Manila. She went to Yokohama for the purpose of returning from Guam on November 9. She arrived at Honolulu January 3. No landing was made at the intended port. She was out from Guam 23 days.

Return of the Siam.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 11.—The mule transport Siam, which lost 101 mules out of a cargo of 300, on her last voyage to Manila, arrived today from that port. She was in two typhoons on the outward voyage, during which the animals were killed. Captain Baisch resigned his command at Manila, and Captain Valentin was sent out from Manila to bring the vessel back to San Francisco. The Siam is in quarantine.

Funeral of Captain Stewart.

PUEBLO, Colo., Feb. 11.—With all the honors that state and city, Grand Army veterans, soldiers of the Spanish war, Masonic bodies and citizens could give, the body of Captain J. S. Stewart, of company A, First Colorado volunteers, was laid to rest in Elvewood cemetery this afternoon. Captain Stewart was killed in the Marquis valley, near Manila, March 25, 1899, while leading his company in a charge against a Filipino position.

Bleached in Colorado.

DENVER, Feb. 11.—A blizzard is sweeping over Colorado. The central and northern portions of the state are in the throes of the storm which is gradually moving southward. Snow has been falling in the mountains nearly all day, with no prospect of immediate abatement. As yet railroad traffic has not been affected to any great extent, but a continuance of the storm will seriously interfere with it. Reports from Southern Wyoming and Western Nebraska are to the effect that a blizzard has been raging in that vicinity today and is continuing.

INSURGENTS ANNOY

Albay Province Much Harassed by Them.

AMERICANS SUFFER SOME LOSSES

Bubonic Plague and Smallpox Among the Philippines—Operations of Bell and Beacon in Lesson.

MANILA, Feb. 11, 10:50 P. M.—Of late the insurgents in Albay province, Luzon, have adopted harassing tactics against the towns which the American have garrisoned. They camp in the hills and maintain a constant fire upon the American outposts. When the troops rally against them, they scatter, returning when the Americans retire.

They about burning arrows, and have thus burned a large part of the town of Albay. Indeed, most of the towns in that province are practically deserted, except by the garrison. Scarcely any of the inhabitants return to their homes. They are camping in the interior, and it is supposed that the insurgents are going back. It is reported that there is much suffering among them, owing to lack of food. As a result of these conditions, the hemp business in that section is seriously hindered, and ships going for cargoes are compelled to take gangs of coolies to do their loading. Hemp held in the interior is quite inaccessible.

General Bell is operating southwestward from Zamboanga province with a small force.

Another expedition is proceeding northward from Subig. It is reported that the general, Alejandro, has recovered from his wound and has assembled a large force in that district.

The plague continues. Eight cases were reported last week among the natives and Chinese. There is no statement, however, and business and social life are undisturbed.

Smallpox is prevalent among the natives along the railroad, and in the towns on the northern coast. Two officers of the Thirty-sixth infantry have died of the disease, and another officer and several soldiers have been stricken.

TOO MUCH WHISKY.

Complaint of a Chaplain Returned From the Philippines.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Captain Frank M. Wells, chaplain of the First regiment of volunteers, who has just returned from the Philippine islands, spoke in Garfield Memorial church today under the auspices of the W. O. T. U. on the liquor question in the Philippines. He stated that since the Americans took Manila 600 places where liquor is sold had sprung up in Manila, while before the Americans came there were only 100. Manila had only three saloons. The Philippines, he asserted, spoke well of the American soldiers, and that they said the Americans were bad people when they had drunk too much liquor. Whiskey, he said, was sold in the barracks at 10c a quart, over 15c in the headsquaters, until he put an end to it by compelling the colonel and provost marshal. The transportation of liquor is prohibited in the United States, he characterized as a "whisky transport," and he said that he had unsuccessfully attempted to have the sale of liquor on the transports stopped while in the Philippines.

ROUTE FOR THE CABLE.

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