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CRONJE GOT AWAY
Flavor Refined.
Mellow Rich.

Doubt About Capture of the British Wagons.
HOW ROBERTS' PLANS WORKED
Boers From Natal Are Reported to Be Moving to Assistance of the Free State Forces.

LONDON, Feb. 19, 4:50 A. M.—It is now amply confirmed that General Cronje has escaped. Every detail received, however, proves how admirable Lord Roberts' plans were conceived and how successful they were in the unexpected delay at Dinkel drift, which was almost impassable for wagons. The whole Boer force would have been surrounded. The delay of one day gave them their chance for a hasty retreat. All the other movements of Lord Roberts were executed exactly on time. Apparently General Cronje is retreating with the main army, and even if he shall escape altogether, he will probably lose all his baggage.

There is still something doubtful about the capture of the British convoy. According to a Daily Mail correspondent with the convoy, which consisted of 500 wagons, each loaded with 600 pounds of ration and of forage, and each drawn by 12 oxen, it was quite unexpectedly attacked by a commando supposed to come from Colenso. The escort, consisting of 80 of the Gordon Highlanders, 40 men of the 1st Natal corps, and a few of Kitchener's horse, maintained a defense until the arrival of reinforcements, sustaining insignificant casualties.

The Standard's correspondent at Jacobsdal, telegraphing Thursday, February 15, says: "An attack was made yesterday upon the rear guard of our main body by a force of 100 Boers, who were hurried up from Colenso. They succeeded in capturing some of our wagons, but Lord Roberts did not delay his march to retake these. There were few casualties on our side."

The last of our supply columns arrived from Honey Nest today, having met with no opposition on the way. Specials from Ladysmith report an apparent movement on the Boers toward the Free State, presumably with the object of assisting General Cronje. The news of General Buller is attempting another crossing of the Tugela east of Colenso, after the capture of Hlangwane hill, therefore, gives great satisfaction. Buller's losses so far have been about 30 in wounded. His entire army, with the exception of General Hart's brigade, is engaged in the operation.

show that the enemy has been fighting a good rear guard action and occupying successively higher ground, allowing the moving of the convoy, which, however, has been going at a very slow pace, the animals apparently being dejected.

The latest reports show that the Boers in the neighborhood of Kofffontein are undoubtedly disheartened. General French's magnificent march is still the subject of admiration, especially in view of the dust storms and thunder storms that attend his progress.

The work of shelling the Boers proceeds vigorously. Owing to the style of the action, the Boers are bound to show in the open whenever they are obliged to leave the kopjes.

REPORTS TO THE NEWSPAPERS.
Enemy Thrown Into Panic-Fighting Hard to Protect Retreat.
LONDON, Feb. 19.—The Daily News published the following dispatch, dated Sunday morning, February 15, from Modder River: "The Boer appearance seems to have astonished the enemy and thrown them into a panic. All their positions were hurriedly evacuated, and the big guns at Magerfontein and Kimberley were left behind at all expenses."

"General Cronje moved his transport, consisting of many hundred wagons, along a bank of kopjes north of Modder, toward Kofffontein. He past our mounted infantry, but owing to the darkness he did not stop. Thereupon, our artillery opened upon it. The main body of the Boer force kept up a running fight the whole day, and finally fled in a westerly direction. "Each time their advanced guard sought to move off, our mounted infantry galloped around and checked them. We never attempted to stop their main movement, contenting ourselves with trying to check them."

"Their position at Kofffontein is said to be very strong. They entertain a whole lot of confidence in their own strength, and quickly than they do themselves. We hope to be in Bloemfontein shortly."

MAY SWAY CONGRESS
President's Influence As to Our Insular Possessions.
PUERTO RICANS WANT FREE TRADE
They Thought They Would Have It When They Came Under Jurisdiction of United States.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The statement of the president's position relative to the insular possessions may have some effect upon the congressional action on the Puerto Rican bill, but unless there are more defections from the republicans than seem now to be apparent the prospects of the bill passing are very good. It is not the fear that the revenue from Puerto Rico as the principle involved, which makes the 25 per cent tariff so strong. There will be arguments made to show that Puerto Rico is much better off by reason of this 25 per cent tax than with free trade, because the revenue could not be raised to support the government of the island in a satisfactory manner. Direct taxation, it is to be argued, will bear heavily upon those least able to bear it, and the tax will make the richer people pay the tax.

It has, of course, been developed that the sugar and tobacco men of Puerto Rico are the most urgent for free trade, but they are not the only ones who are so. Men who are well informed regarding the conditions in Puerto Rico are free to say that the decision of congress to provide a tariff against Puerto Rico would result in a considerable hardship to the people of the island, and would also tend to make them dissatisfied with annexation. It is a well-known fact that the Puerto Ricans have a great deal of the American troops with a great deal of glee. Nobody interposed any objections to taking the island, save the Spanish troops, that were under orders to resist the advance of the American troops. The Puerto Ricans are well informed regarding the conditions in Puerto Rico, and they are free to say that the decision of congress to provide a tariff against Puerto Rico would result in a considerable hardship to the people of the island, and would also tend to make them dissatisfied with annexation.

Two New Executive Departments.
Although the house committee on mines and geology has reported the bill to create an executive department of mines and geology, there is really little hope entertained that the bill will become a law. This bill was introduced by Representative Barham, who seeks first of all to have a reorganization of affairs in the government departments. He, like many others in congress, believes that the various governmental duties as now apportioned are somewhat haphazardly and injudiciously assigned to the different departments. While he is perfectly willing that the matters relative to mines and geology shall remain under the control of the secretary of the interior, along with other matters, he thinks that the secretary is called upon to attend to too many and various duties, and that if a light is made on this one issue, a change may be ultimately made.

PHILADELPHIA AND PORTLAND.
The construction of an immense drydock at League Island, which is near the city of Philadelphia, ought to give the people of Portland a great deal of encouragement. There are a number of naval experts who say that when this dock is built it will be necessary to dredge a channel at least 40 feet deep down the Delaware river to the ocean in order that the naval vessels to be accommodated by the new dock can reach it. It is this necessary for Philadelphia, there is no reason why the same sort of work should not be done on the Columbia to Portland, especially as navigation extends far above Portland, both on the Columbia and the Willamette. The Philadelphia project of navigation on the Delaware. The probabilities are that this deep-water channel in the Delaware will be provided for in the next river and harbor bill, and Oregon will be the first to benefit by the deep-water channel on the Columbia.

Lodge for Convention Chairman.
Major Lodge is being put forward by the republicans of Massachusetts for chairman of the national convention. Lodge is a skilled parliamentarian of fine appearance, and with a voice that could be heard all over a convention hall. He would be a good man for the place.

erable length, and that many amendments will be offered to it, and it may be the basis of a long or less general talk on the question of the policy to be pursued towards the new possessions. Considerable time probably will be necessary to the final disposal of the bill.

All admit the urgency of legislation giving the Hawaiian islands a government, but there are some points on which there are radical differences of opinion. The most important of these is the question as to whether the commercial intercourse between the United States and the islands shall be under a tariff or under the free-trade system allowed between the states of the Union. The bill provides for free trade, but several of the senators, under the leadership of Senator Platt, of Connecticut, are making an effort to secure radical amendment in this respect. Senator Culom, in charge of the bill, will resist, and he will be supported by some republicans and nearly all the democratic members. Practically the same fight will be made on the Puerto Rico bill.

Puerto Rico in the House.
The house tomorrow will enter upon the consideration of the Puerto Rican tariff bill, and the debate upon it promises to be memorable. The vital question at issue is whether that clause of the constitution providing for equality of import and excise taxes throughout United States territory extends over the island of Puerto Rico, and in this is involved perhaps the determination of the status and government of our new possessions. The republicans in framing the bill have proceeded upon the theory that the constitution and its limitations do not extend over Puerto Rico. The democrats are solidly arrayed upon the other side, and in committee they were joined by one republican, McCall, of Massachusetts. Among the other republicans who take the same view is Littlefield of Maine, who succeeded the late Mr. Dingley. The support of these two prominent republicans has raised some hopes in the opposition that they may be able to defeat the bill, although this hardly seems probable at this writing. Both sides are preparing for a royal struggle. Payne, the floor leader of the majority, will open in support of the bill. He will be followed by Richardson, the minority leader. Bailey of Texas will close for the minority. The debate will continue throughout the week. The vote will be taken on the following Monday.

Macrum Tied Over His Senation.
PITTSBURGH, Feb. 18.—Charles E. Macrum, ex-consul to Pretoria, South Africa, left for Washington tonight, at 10 o'clock on the Baltimore & Ohio road. Before leaving he said: "I do not withdraw a word of my charges against the British officials in South Africa. If I am called upon, I am prepared at any time to testify to them and furnish evidence of their truthfulness."

Philippine Commission Not Selected.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The president has not yet selected all the members of the Philippine commission, of which Judge Taft is the head. The name of John J. Voorces, of Nashville, Tenn., has been mentioned to the president as a Southern representative on the commission, but the statement that he has been offered a place is erroneous.

THE SICK AND THE DEAD.
Captain of an Atlantic Liner Died at Sea.
NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—When the Prince line steamer Atlantic Prince arrived at quarantine this morning from Santos, Chief Officer Campe reported the death of the Captain Woodhouse, 52 years of age, who leaves a family at Liverpool. He was formerly captain of one of the steamers of the Anchor line Mediterranean fleet. The Atlantic Prince will be detained at quarantine for disinfection.

ALL FOR EXPANSION
Views of Western Senators and Representatives.
RETREAT WOULD BE A DISGRACE
A Great, Victorious War Would Be Necessary to Dispel the Effect of Withdrawal.

To test the expansion sentiment in the Western states, The Oregonian recently addressed a number of letters to senators and representatives from west of the Mississippi river. As Oregon's position on the question is well known, it was not deemed necessary to ask the congressmen from that state for opinions. Replies have been received from Senators Warren and Clark, of Wyoming; Perkins, of California; Hanabrough, of North Dakota; Nelson, of Minnesota; and Thurston, of Nebraska; and Representatives Waters and Kahn, of California; Bowersock, of Kansas; and McPherson, of Iowa. Senator Allison enclosed a copy of a speech delivered last October, in which he said: "These Philippine islands are rightfully ours, and the party that proposes to abandon them will be trodden down by the fiat of the American people." Speaker Henderson wrote that it has been his rule since he became speaker not to give interviews on any subject.

The replies show that the West is for expansion; that the United States, in retaining the Philippines, has entered upon a policy consistent with the constitution, from which there can be no retreat without disgrace. Senator Perkins says that to haul down the flag in the Philippines would be a "confession of weakness whose effect would never be dispelled except at the cost of a victorious war with England, Germany or France."

WYOMING AN EXAMPLE.
Why the People of That State Favor the Expansion Policy.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Wyoming is a striking example of the successful application by the government of the United States of the theory of expansion. The state, as it is now constituted, has been built up from numerous acquisitions of territory from other governments. The Louisiana purchase of 1803 furnished 220,000 acres; the treaty with Spain, whereby the Oregon country was acquired, furnished 732,630 acres; the Mexico cession of 1848 added 1,355,120 acres, and the area of the state was completed in 1850 by the Texas acquisition. Thus, if expansion had not been a settled principle of the government for the past 100 years, what is now the great state of Wyoming would be the province or colony of Spain, France or Mexico, or be divided among them all.

Hold the Islands.
North Dakota Anti-Expansionists Have No Political Influence.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—The great majority of people in North Dakota, regardless of party, are in favor of the expansion policy of this government, and I have yet to find any considerable number of them who are afraid that this country is in danger of changing from its republican form of government to an imperial system. I do not recall a fact that most of the men who are complaining and finding fault with the administration have not, in recent years, at least, been much interested in the politics of the majority of the people in North Dakota do not favor the policy of expansion from selfish motives, and yet they are opposed to doing the Philippines islands to any other power. I believe that good policy requires that we shall hold these islands for an indefinite period if necessary, or at any rate until some sort of a civilized government is established there and a complete understanding had with the natives, which will justify this country in standing sponsor for their independence, or at any rate until some sort of a civilized government is established there and a complete understanding had with the natives, which will justify this country in standing sponsor for their independence, or at any rate until some sort of a civilized government is established there and a complete understanding had with the natives, which will justify this country in standing sponsor for their independence.

WOOD'S ORDERS RECEIVED.
Prospect of Transfer From Military to Civic Causes Concerned.
SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Feb. 18.—Governor-General Wood's general orders specifying the prerogatives of military commanders and civil governors are creating a sensation here. The press, with the exception of the violently partisan local Cuban organ, comment favorably upon them, saying that they indicate an honest intention on the part of the intervening government to fulfill the pledge to establish the independence of Cuba. The provision transferring public works to the civil department on April 1 caused alarm among many American employees, as they expected dismissal when the transfer is made. The managers of American and foreign business enterprises are also somewhat concerned, as they have no confidence in the coming Cuban administration of public affairs. Thousands of Cuban politicians confidently expect recognition when the transfer is made.