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"EAST, WEST, HOME IS BEST," IF KEPT CLEAN WITH SAFOLIO. The Daily Mail has the following dis-

ALL AROUND CRONJE The Boer General Hopelessly Surrounded. BRITISH TRYING TO TRAP HIM. Buller Captures a Range of Hills South of the Tugela, Driving the Boers Across the River.

LONDON, Feb. 19, 3:45 A. M.—A member of the cabinet told H. W. Lucy tonight that the war office had received a telegram announcing that General Cronje was hopelessly surrounded. Mr. Wyndham was heard with anxious members of the house, but would only reply that the government's news was extremely satisfactory. The sole explanation of the government's withholding good news is that confirmation and more details are awaited.

The situation, as disclosed by correspondents over the Free State border, is tantamount to the public expectation. The elementary facts are that the Boers are trekking eastward toward Bloemfontein with slow moving baggage trains, and that they are pursued by Lord Kitchener with General Kelly-Kenny's division. General Macdonald, with the Highlanders, made a forced march to Koodoosrand and Sunday pushed 20 miles eastward. General French left Kimberley Saturday, going east along the Modder river. Lord Kitchener is trying to outmaneuver the Boers by either getting ahead of them or flanking the Boers by checking their retreat, if possible, and driving them back into the hands of Macdonald and French.

The war office communicated to Mr. Lucy means to indicate that Lord Kitchener has either got ahead of the Boers or is about to realize his plan, and the war office waits to announce a decisive result.

Meanwhile, Commandant Delarey, with the Boers from Colesberg, is hanging on the right flank of the British pursuing columns, seeking to delay their movement and so to assist the Boer wagon trains to escape. Students of topography think the Boers will hardly risk a fight until they get into the rough country.

A Daily Mail correspondent, who was with the British convoy attacked by the Boers at Riet river ford, wires: "Ultimately the British abandoned the convoy in order not to check the advance. Thus 200 wagons and 600 tons of stores fall into the hands of the Boers, though it is doubtful if they will be able to carry them away."

General Buller has achieved a real success seemingly in capturing the range of hills south of the Tugela. It makes more feasible another attempt to relieve Ladysmith.

The queen has sent a direct message to Lord Roberts, congratulating him and his troops. General French and Colonel Keke-ke-ke have been acquainted with their promotion.

Dr. Leyds, of Brumby, says the Free State troops, who were besieging Ladysmith, have withdrawn in order to defend their homes. In this way he accounts for General Buller's success against the weakened forces. He will forego his projected trip to Rome, he says, because "defensive events are now taking place in the theater of war."

Lord Roberts' generalship was conducted with such secrecy, says a telegram from Modder River, that even the senior officers who took the Sixth division through the preliminaries of the operation did not know what they would finally have to do.

DISPATCH FROM BULLER. Boers Driven Back by a Sharp Attack, Across the Tugela. LONDON, Feb. 19.—The war office has received the following dispatch from General Buller: "Chevelley camp, Feb. 19.—I yesterday moved across the enemy's flank. The Queens, who had bivouacked on the northern slope of Cingolo, crossed the nek, and supported by the rest of the division, advanced under the assault and took the southern end of Monte Cristo. The Fourth brigade, on the left or western slope, and the Welsh fusiliers, supported by the rest of the Sixth brigade, assaulted the eastern end of the position, while the Second brigade of cavalry, on the extreme right, watched the eastern slopes of Monte Cristo and drove back those of the enemy who attempted to escape there from our artillery fire."

"Assaulted by heavy artillery fire on their front and flank, and attacked on their flank and rear, the enemy made but slight resistance, abandoned their strong positions, and were driven across the Tugela. I have taken several camps, a wagonload of ammunition, several wagonloads of stores and supplies, and a few prisoners. The weather is intensely hot, and the ground traversed was exceedingly difficult, but the energy and dash of the troops has been very pleasant to see."

"The work of the regular cavalry, the Queens, the Scout and the light brigade was perhaps most noticeable, while the excellent practice of the artillery and naval guns and steadiness of the gunners, under all times, was remarkable. The cavalry fire of the naval guns from Chevelley was of great assistance. Our casualties are not, I think, many."

British Capture Monte Cristo. CHEVELLEY, Monday morning, Feb. 19.—The Boers' line of fortresses is broken. The British have achieved a decided success in capturing the enemy's position on Monte Cristo. The Boers, however, actively executed a retreat, removing their guns and convey wagons. The British had comparatively few casualties.

One Hundred Boers Captured. DUREAN, Feb. 19.—The bombardment of the Boer position on Hangawana hill was continuous yesterday, and fighting is still proceeding at 5 o'clock this evening. It is said the British have captured 100 prisoners.

Boer Description of the Fighting at Kimberley. LONDON, Feb. 20.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Lourenco Marques, dated Monday, says: "According to advices from Pretoria, the Boers are expecting a big battle on the Tugela. They claim that 70 of the Wilhelms were killed at Colesberg, and that 30 wagons with forage and provisions were captured, but no ammunition."

"They thus describe the fighting at Kimberley: The British came through Blaauwbank and attacked in two columns. While the Boers were busily engaged with Lord Roberts' General French, with 2000 cavalry and six guns, succeeded in breaking through the Boer lines. The Boers did not seriously oppose General French's advance, but confined their efforts to preventing the provisions getting through. In this they succeeded, capturing 200 head of cattle, 300 wagons of provisions and 300 men."

The Daily Mail has the following dis-

patch, dated Monday, from Pietermaritzburg: It is reported that Sir Redvers Buller has captured Hangawana hill. Large numbers of Free-States have left to meet Lord Roberts' force. It is believed that a number of the Boers' big guns have been taken across the Tugela.

The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily News, telegraphing Sunday, says: "Lord Methuen's force, I learn, has arrived at Kimberley, which the Boers evacuated last night."

CRONJE'S ARTILLERY. Much Speculation as to What Has Become of It. LONDON, Feb. 19.—Practically nothing is known of the progress of Lord Roberts' column during the last day or two, and speculation as to the ultimate gain from the recent movements is necessarily unsatisfactory. It is, however, generally believed that the Boers' heavy artillery is left behind at Magersfontein and Kimberley, but it is difficult to believe that it would not have mentioned a detail of such importance.

Again, the statement that a large Boer force was massing northward of Kimberley, and that the Boers were expertly the question whether General Cronje was really with the force retreating on Bloemfontein. It is suggested that the latter is really the Free State main body, and that the Boers are being led by a portion of the Magersfontein command, while the main body of the latter, under Cronje, is trying to secure the Vaal bridge at Fourteen Streams, thus barring the way to Macdonald.

It is difficult to measure the full importance of Buller's movements. If he manages to seize Hangawana hill, the way may be cleared for another crossing of the Tugela, and an attempt made to reach Ladysmith via the direct road north.

In Cape Colony, General Brabant seems to be successfully clearing the road for the advance of General Gatacre. A dispatch from Roberts, dated Jacobabad, Feb. 19, Sunday, contains the present announcements regarding General Brabant's movements.

Bugler Dunn, the 15-year-old member of the First Royal Dublin Fusiliers, who was the first to capture the Tugela river and who was shot in the right arm while running with the soldiers and sounding the advance, saw the queen at Osborne this morning. Her majesty presented him with a handkerchief and a medal, suitably inscribed. The queen gave the lad a motherly welcome and expressed hopes that he would have a successful career in the army.

An army order issued tonight invites the reservists to rejoin their colors for a year for home defense, and offers £22 bounty to those who do.

Rumor of Mafeking's Relief. CAPE TOWN, Feb. 19.—A dispatch from Mafeking, dated Feb. 19, says that the Free State is making desultory efforts to collect an army to face the British at Kofffontein. An official proclamation orders all male inhabitants between the ages of 15 and 50, and enthusiastic declare that every one up to the age of 60 must be ready to take arms. It is said to be playing havoc among the Boers at Colesberg. At Kimberley a report is current that Mafeking has been relieved, and that the Boers are trying to conceal the information.

The Captured British Convoy. LOURENCO MARQUES, Feb. 19.—It appears from advices received here that the loot captured by the burghers yesterday included 1000 mules, 1000 head of cattle and a number of wagons, 18 of which were loaded with provisions intended for the relief of Kimberley. A number of prisoners were also taken. Heavy fighting was reported around Tyndal's farm, where General Cronje is said to be holding his own.

Boer Prisoners Handed Over. ARUNDL, Sunday, Feb. 19.—Commandant Brabant, who was captured by the British at Eland's laagte, and three other Boer prisoners were handed over to the Boers from Arundel today. A messenger under a flag of truce had previously arranged the program. The prisoners had a cordial interview with General Clements, and were then taken in an ambulance half-way to the Boer camp.

British Enter Dordrecht. STERKSTROM CAMP, Sunday, Feb. 19.—The Boers are retiring, and General Brabant's forces are now entering Dordrecht.

Wyndham Announced That Colonial Opinion Would Be Invited. LONDON, Feb. 19.—Replying to a question in the house of commons today, Mr. Wyndham, parliamentary secretary of the foreign office, declared the government proposed to invite an expression of opinion from the colonial governments regarding the reorganization of the forces of the empire and the Indian questions.

Macrum's Allegations. No Action Taken by the British Government. LONDON, Feb. 19.—No action has been taken as yet by the British government in regard to the allegations made by Charles Macrum, ex-United States consul at Pretoria, that the British consul received instructions to make inquiries in connection with the matter. British officials declare it is extremely improbable the consular letters were opened at Durban, as alleged by Macrum.

Cable Rumors that Cronje might be recalled in order to show the United States government's resentment against the treatment received by Macrum at the hands of British officials are declared at the United States embassy to be utterly ridiculous.

The Latest Seizure. LONDON, Feb. 19.—No details have yet been received by the British government in reference to the seizure of the British steamer Sabine, from New York January 14, with a miscellaneous cargo, which, as reported from Fort Elizabeth yesterday, was captured by the British gunboat Thrush and brought to Delagoa bay on suspicion of having contraband of war on board.

SPLIT OVER FUSION Row in the Populist National Committee Meeting. MIDDLE-ROADERS WALKED OUT. The Result Will Be Two Separate Conventions and Two Tickets in the Field.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 19.—A split and a walk-out followed a turbulent meeting of the populist national committee tonight. The anti-fusionists, after having a number of their followers turned down by the credentials committee, organized a bolt and formed a new committee. The members favorable to fusion, however, were not so fortunate. The credentials committee, adjourned until tomorrow, when, in all likelihood, it will empower the chairman, or a committee of three, to call the national convention for the same city and the same time the democratic convention is held.

Caucuses and conferences this morning among the contending factions' tokened an inharmonious meeting of the full committee after Chairman Buller called the afternoon in representative hall of the state capitol, and the indications that breakers were ahead were emphasized 10 minutes after Chairman Buller called the committee to order and announced that it would at once go into executive session.

The difficulties of the members, of whom there were about 100 present, but holding proxies for nearly the full committee, hinged on the old question of fusion. The element led by Senator Allen, with apparently the strongest following, insisted on fusion, and the chairman, who was appointed with power to call the convention for the same day and place as the democrats. Senator Allen said: "I am not in favor of admitting to the committee members this afternoon or recognizing as members of the committee any man who participated in the Cincinnati convention that nominated Barker."

Doubtful for present and vice-proxies from such men, neither am I in favor of recognizing any such man who sends a proxy. I do not believe the committee should accept of a man who is supporting a ticket other than the one to be nominated in the convention this committee shall call. The committee should throw over the transom every member who has not participated in its deliberations, and I believe it will do it."

J. A. Parker, of Kentucky, replied on behalf of the middle-of-the-road or anti-fusion men. "The calling of the list of committeemen proceeded without incident to the end, when Mr. Parker asked why the proxy of his constituents, who had taken part in the Cincinnati convention, should be excluded. He said he would support a ticket other than the one to be nominated in the convention this committee shall call. The committee should throw over the transom every member who has not participated in its deliberations, and I believe it will do it."

When the committee reassembled at 8:45, the anti-fusionists presented the following resolution: "That the committee recognize only legal proxies, stamped with revenue stamps, according to law; that the roll of the meeting at Omaha in 1896 be accepted as the roll of the committee, except where subsequent state conventions have elected new members; except that cases of contests shall go before a committee of five members, two to be selected by the friends of Buller, two by friends of Parker, these four to select a fifth member, and that in settling these contests no votes are to be cast on these cases until the contest is settled."

This proposition represents 57 votes in this convention, which is a good majority of the members in attendance here, and which the anti-fusionists are making the name of the honest populists of this nation, who are opposed to racial politics."

This was signed by J. O. A. Barker, Kentucky; H. H. Wheeler, Ohio; New Gresham, Texas; J. B. Osborne, Georgia; J. T. Knott, Maine; Robert McReynolds, Arkansas, and D. C. Deaver, Nebraska, together with a number of others, not committeemen.

The proposition was ignored by the full committee, and the committee on credentials reported, excluding all but five of the anti-fusionists. The anti-fusionists, however, were not deterred, and a number of them, led by Parker of Kentucky, and Welles of Iowa, left the hall, engaged a room down town and organized a bolting meeting. The bolting party, however, were not without a meeting, and the bolting party called a national convention for Cincinnati Wednesday, May 3.

REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN ISSUES. Fight Will Be Made on the Line of the President's Policy. NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—The Herald quotes Senator Platt, of New York, as saying in an interview: "While the republican platform upon which we will make our next campaign has not been definitely decided upon, it is pretty well understood that we will make our fight on the line of policy of the present administration. The campaign is being shaped every day, and the democrats are entitled to all the comfort they are able to derive from what they seem delighted to call republican mistakes. The ridiculous exhibition of incapacity on the part of the democratic leaders while the financial bill was pending in congress was sufficient to convince all observing persons that they are hardly capable of conducting the business affairs of this great nation in a manner acceptable to the American people."

I understand the democratic leaders are declaring that we weakened on the silver question by adopting a bimetallic amendment to the financial bill in the senate, and they propose to make that one of their campaign issues. They also assert that they will draw heavily upon our forces if the retreating provision of the financial bill becomes a law. Some of my constituents are troubled about the bimetallic amendment, and I have received several letters on the subject, asking if the republicans had not lowered their colors to the silver hosts by the adoption of that amendment. My reply has invariably been that there was no lowering of colors to the silver forces, and no substantial deviation from the former policy of the republican party, relative to the subject of bimetallic. The senate amendment to the

financial bill which was offered by Senator Aldrich at the instance of the committee on finance was simply a declaration of a reaffirmation of the basic principles on that subject, as laid down in the last national platform of the republican party.

"As to our colonial policy, that is being fought out in a wide difference of opinion on the subject, it would be premature to attempt to build a party platform so far in advance of the meeting of the national convention."

"At the proper time President McKinley and Senator Hanna, chairman of the republican national committee, will call a conference of the party leaders, with a view to determining upon what lines it may be deemed advisable to make the campaign. I have not been consulted by either President McKinley or Mr. Hanna on the subject, and I don't know that I shall be any interest in the subject. The party induces me to try and keep posted as to what is going on within our lines, and when I get a chance I take a peep into the enemy's camp."

"I deprecate anything that savors of overconfidence in a political contest, and therefore I am not going to follow the example of the democratic leaders by making a lot of predictions as to the future. In my judgment, the majority of the people in this country are satisfied that their interests are better protected by the republican party than by the democrats. I rely upon the intelligence of the American people to choose between McKinley and Bryan."

ARMY RE-ORGANIZATION. New Bill Prepared by the War Department Introduced in the House.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The secretary of war has sent to the chairman of the senate and house military committees a draft of a bill, which the department claims greatly strengthens the military system and remedies defects developed during the Spanish-American war. The bill was introduced in the house today by Chairman Allen.

A chief feature of the legislation asked for provides for one-third of the promotions to be made by selection. This is to enable the president to reward specially gallant and meritorious services. It recognizes both length and special fitness of service, and the author claims that its provisions are so guarded that only the most deserving shall receive special recognition, and in no case be the creatures of personal or political favoritism.

The bill gives the president control of the tenure of the office of the heads of staff departments, and he can, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, make a new head of a department at any time when, in his judgment, the efficiency of the service would be increased thereby—the officer relieved being transferred to the retired list. This places the army staff on about the same footing as that of the navy and the army department. The only immediate result under this provision would be the probable retirement of General Egan, commissary-general, now undergoing a course of study as adjutant-general and inspector-general's departments there will be no further appointments but by detail from the next lower grade of the line for a term of four years. Officials say this will give a large number of experienced staff officers to meet future requirements and the emergencies of active service. These selections, too, are to be made on recommendations of boards of officers appointed to ascertain the records and fitness of officers for those details.

The quartermaster and subsistence departments, the ordnance and signal corps are also to be filled in like manner. None of these provisions for details in any way interfere with the tenure of officers now in the regular staff departments or with their promotion as now taken by law. They will, however, serve one year in five with such branch of the line as the secretary of war may designate.

The reorganization of the artillery, the only branch of the line which has not been largely in use in other countries, and is called for by the present system of operations, is also included in the bill. The office of post chaplain is abolished and the duties of that office are to be performed by the line of the army, regular and volunteer. The chaplain's rank and pay are made those of a captain mounted.

The proposed increase of the artillery and the number of regiments, and other arms of the service and will not increase the strength of the service.

THE EL PASO RIOT. Captain Longborough's Report of the Affair.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—General McKibbin, commanding the district of Texas, has forwarded to the adjutant-general a copy of the following telegram from Captain Longborough, commanding the troops at Fort Bliss, Texas, in regard to the trouble with the local authorities at El Paso, Texas, on the 17th: "Through negligence or connivance of noncommissioned officers in charge of the barracks, arm-racks were opened last night and a number of rifles taken out. One soldier was killed, and I learn one guard at the city jail, where two soldiers were held for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. Arm-racks are now locked and the keys are in my possession. All ammunition has been placed under lock and key. I have not permitted any one to leave the garrison. I am co-operating with the civil authorities, and will do everything in my power to bring the guilty parties to justice."

General McKibbin adds that he has ordered an additional force to Fort Bliss, and that he will make a thorough investigation. He says no further trouble is apprehended.

EDWIN MAYO DEAD. Suddenly Expired at Quebec Yesterday Afternoon.

QUEBEC, Feb. 19.—Edwin Mayo, of the "Pudd'nhead Wilson" company, dropped dead in the Chateau Frontenac today. Mr. Mayo and his wife were staying at the Frontenac. He was chatting with Edwin Varney, manager of the Academy, until about 2 o'clock. When Mr. Varney started to take his leave, Mr. Mayo arose to see him out, and suddenly fell back in his chair. He died profusely from the mouth, and was dead before a doctor, who was called, could get to the hotel.

No New Revolution in Venezuela. CARACAS, Venezuela, Feb. 19, via Haytian cable.—The government and press protest against reports published in the United States asserting that a new revolution had broken out in Venezuela. An indignation meeting was held here yesterday.

Daily Treasury Statement. WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Today's statement of the condition of the treasury shows: Available cash balance.....\$26,643,539. Gold reserve.....22,912,118.

MINT AT PORTLAND Simon Introduces a Bill Appropriating \$250,000. WILL COMPROMISE ON ASSAY OFFICE. Measure Introduced for the Influence It Will Have on the Bill of Moody and McBride.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Senator Simon today introduced a bill appropriating \$250,000 for the construction of a United States mint at Portland. The bill provides for the rental of a suitable building, until a special building for the mint can be constructed, and also carries the customary provision for the regular mint officials and regulations.

Senator Simon says he introduced his bill for the influence it will have upon the bill of Representative Moody and of Senator McBride for an assay office at Portland. He realizes that there is a great deal of opposition to establishing any more assay offices, and thinks that if he strikes out and insists upon a mint, the committee may be willing to compromise on an assay office. The senator does not expect his mint bill to pass this congress, but hopes to see the assay office established, although he feels that it will be impossible to pass that bill before the next session. He thinks that the assay office will meet present requirements, but in the future it will be possible to secure the mint. Representative Moody is going to work in a proper way to secure the appropriation of \$250,000 for a Portland building. He is reaching out in the direction where he has friends to get a large influence to bear upon members of the committee on public buildings and grounds to secure a favorable report on the bill and upon the managers of the house to secure its consideration afterwards. It really looks as if the appropriation might be put through.

Opposition to Puerto Rican Bill. The republican leaders of the house are having a very difficult time in whipping the men of their party, who oppose the tariff on Puerto Rican goods, into line for their bill. Besides those whose names have already been mentioned as against the bill, there has sprung up considerable opposition on the Pacific coast. Tongue of Oregon, Cushman and Jones of Washington, and Lord of California, are not likely to stand by the republican majority, but will probably vote against the bill. A great deal of pressure is being brought to bear upon these men, as well as upon Heatwole of Minnesota, Herndon and Ferris of Indiana, and Spalding of South Dakota, to bring them into line so as not to defeat the party. The pressure has been doubled since the statement of Richardson today that all the democrats would oppose the bill, as the republicans opposing it, with the solid democratic side of the house, would defeat it. The republicans who are opposing the bill meet every effort by saying that they are merely standing by their own convictions and the recommendations of the president in his message, and are, therefore, not opposing the republican party in any degree.

The republicans today find their heaviest guns, Payne and Dalzell, in support of the measure, believing that if these two recognized members and managers of the party in the house support the bill, the weak-kneed will be brought into line.

Philippines Behind It. Behind the whole question is the Philippines and its sugar. One republican is already anonymously quoted as saying if the supreme court should decide Puerto Rico a part of the United States and subject to equal rights and tariff laws, the republicans will drop the Philippines in some way, and the retention of the islands depends upon the constitutionality of the Puerto Rican bill.

Another republican, who opposes the bill, says: "The republican party is in a most unpleasant position. It is extremely unfortunate that this time was chosen to push this question. To win, the party must first pass the bill, next secure a favorable decision from the United States supreme court, and finally have its action ratified by the people at the polls. If the party loses in any one of these contests it will be ruined. We are putting into the hands of the democrats the most powerful weapon they could have against us. What answer are we to make when they charge us with attempting to replace Spain in her relations with her late colonies, and to grind them down and bleed them as Spain did?"

Early Democratic Convention. The outlook for the democratic convention is that it will be held at Milwaukee June 5, as there is a determination to have the convention in advance of the republican one, but it looks as if the race with the populists would be abandoned. The object of the democrats holding their convention earlier, is to have their platform proclaimed in advance of the republican declaration, as they fear that the republicans are going to make a strong declaration against trusts, which is to be the democratic slogan. The indications are that the Bryanites will control the populist convention, anyway, whether it is held before or after the democrats get together. Senator Turner holds the proxy for the democratic national committee from the state of Washington for the coming convention. Turner appears in the congressional directory as a fusionist, but this would indicate that he is a full-fledged democrat.

McKinley Coming West. If the president goes to San Francisco, as there is some intimation that he will do during the coming summer, he will probably go further north and visit Oregon and Washington. His Pacific coast trip depends entirely upon the possibility of an early adjournment of congress.

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Aimed at the Sugar Trust. WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Representative Richardson, of Tennessee, introduced today two house resolutions aiming at the sugar trust.