

Evening Oregonian

VOL. XL—NO. 12,240.

PORTLAND, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1900.

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New Styles One Price
\$3.50 \$3.50

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OREGONIAN BUILDING

CONGRESSMAN HARMER DEAD

The Father of the House of Representatives.
PHILADELPHIA, March 6.—Congressman Alfred C. Harmer (father of the House), the Representative from the Fifth Pennsylvania district, died at his home this morning, aged 75 years.

(Alfred C. Harmer was born in Germantown (now part of the City of Philadelphia), Pa. He was educated at public schools and at Germantown Academy, and engaged in mercantile pursuits, was identified with railroad enterprises and largely engaged in mining and land operations. He was elected to the City Council of Philadelphia in 1850 and served three years; was elected Recorder of Deeds for Philadelphia in 1850 and served three years; was elected to the 43d, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52d, 53d, 54th and 55th Congresses, and received 73,323 votes to 943 votes for Frank D. Wright, Democrat.)

CHICAGO'S UNEMPLOYED.

Are Added to the List.

CHICAGO, March 6.—Building material firms which supply the Chicago market today voted to close their plants until conditions in the building industry of the city shall have changed for the better. The reason given for this move was that because of the paralysis in building operations, brought on by labor troubles, they have been conducting their business at a loss since last October. By the closing, 10,000 men employed in the stone quarries, brickyards and the plants where lime, cement, public stone, coping, granite and other materials are handled are made idle. Added to the 30,000 idle in the building industry, the 7000 striking machinists and the 3000 in other lines, this makes the total number of unemployed in the city 43,000.

Result of Globe Bank Failure.
LOWELL, Mass., March 6.—The Howe Lumber Company has assigned, as a result of the failure of the Globe National Bank, in Lowell, to which the company owed a large amount of money. The assets and liabilities are not yet known.

SIMON MADE A HIT

Oregon Senator's Reply to Carter's Charges.

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE "HOLD UP"

Political Methods in This State Are Not to Be Judged by Practices in Montana.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—Senator Simon replied to Senator Carter today, defending the integrity of Henry W. Corbett. He read his speech in a modest way, and he was listened to attentively by the leading lawyers in the body, as well as by a very full Senate. He made a very good hit in the presentation of the defense of Corbett. Replying to the charges which Senator Carter made, Senator Simon said:

"I cannot permit this unjust and untrue charge, nor the assertion made by Senator Stewart, of Nevada, some days since, that Mr. Corbett was responsible for the demoralization of the Oregon legislature, to remain unchallenged. I was a member of that Legislature, and I believe that I am familiar with the circumstances and causes that led up to the failure of the House of Representatives to organize, and the failure of the Legislature to elect a Senator, and I desire to say now without qualification that Mr. Corbett was in no way responsible for the failure of the House to organize or the failure of the Legislature to elect a Senator. In connection with this statement, I wish to add that Mr. Corbett was not a candidate for election to the Senate, neither had he any inclination in that direction, nor had he any desire to prevent the organization of the House. On the contrary, as a citizen of that State, and largely interested in its affairs and in its material development and progress, he was particularly anxious that the Legislature should organize, and that certain legislation that was in contemplation of a remedial and economic character, then under discussion in the public press should be enacted, and also that a Senator in line with the policy of the incoming administration should be elected."

"The assertion of the Senator from Montana that Mr. Mitchell was the choice of the people of Oregon for re-election, and at the election for members of the Legislature in 1897, that Mr. Mitchell had succeeded in bringing about the election of a large majority of the members that were favorable to his return to the Senate, is not borne out by facts. The very best evidence of my assertion is the fact that at no meeting of the joint convention was there ever present a sufficient number of members to bring about its election. The failure of the house to organize is attributable to Mr. Mitchell and to him alone."

"The Legislative Hold-Up."

Senator Simon then gave some of the details of the legislative hold-up, during which he turned his attention to Mr. Mitchell, saying:

"Mr. Mitchell had been, up to the time of the election of President McKinley, an ardent advocate of the free coinage of silver. He spoke for free silver in season and out of season, and in Congress and out of Congress. Upon the adoption of the St. Louis platform and the consequent election of McKinley in Oregon, that was very largely in favor of the gold standard, Mr. Mitchell discovered that he was in a very peculiar and embarrassing position, and from the time of the November election of 1896 until the present hour, no one has ever been able to get a public expression from Mr. Mitchell as to how he stands upon the financial question."

Senator Simon, after describing the condition in the Oregon Legislature, continued:

"I deny the imputation that Mr. Corbett contributed money to bring about, or that he in any way brought about the conditions I have detailed. I have no hesitation in asserting that Mr. Corbett had no part whatever in bringing about the failure of the House to organize. Whatever demoralization there was in the Legislature was caused by Mr. Mitchell, and not by Mr. Corbett. I want also to assert in the most positive manner that if there were any improper or corrupt methods adopted or used in connection with the failure of the Legislature to organize or the failure to elect a Senator, Mr. Corbett was not directly or indirectly connected therewith or responsible therefore."

"I regret the necessity for discussing this case or making this statement; but I could not remain silent after hearing the charges against Mr. Corbett so earnestly made by Senators who, I have no doubt, believe them to be true, but have been misled and deceived. Mr. Corbett is one of the foremost men of the Northwest. He is a gentleman of high moral character and of the strictest integrity. He is conscientious in the discharge of every duty required of him. He is high-minded and honorable, and would scorn to do an unworthy act. No one in Oregon has done more toward the upbuilding and bringing about of the material development of the State than he. No one has contributed more to charitable and educational purposes than he, and no one stands higher in the estimation of the people of that State than does Mr. Corbett. No one knowing him will believe the charges that have been publicly made on the floor of the Senate against him."

Simon's Position on Quay Case.

Senator Simon then announced his position on the Quay case, saying, as Mr. Corbett had so much more right than Quay, but was rejected, he would stand by the precedent then established.

At its conclusion, Carter made a reply, in which he had read the letter of George C. Brownell, giving in detail the Mitchell side of the hold-up, and reasserted his charges against Corbett. Simon read the first part of his speech, but he replied extemporaneously and made a telling hit in the Senate. He said in part:

"I wish to answer some of the suggestions made by the Senator from Montana. My friend lives in a very peculiar country, and we have all heard more or less about the conditions in Montana, and about senatorial elections in that state, and I think many of his ideas are exaggerated and are obtained by reason of what is learned from Montana politics. It has been generally considered, and to some extent believed, that in an election called in that State not very long ago, not in ancient times, money was paid to corrupt the Legislature, and if reports do the successful candidate no injustice, he separated himself from about \$800,000. How true this is I do not know, but it is generally believed in the Western country, and there is more or less truth in the rumors that have become current on the subject. I do not say that with any desire to cast reflection upon any one. I have no knowledge upon the subject, and refer to this simply for the purpose of dictating how the views of the distinguished Senator from Montana may have been warped. He has been making exaggerated charges of corruption and bribery and laying them to the door of Mr. Corbett. I wish to deny again emphatically that Mr. Corbett was a candidate for the Senate. During the Legislature of 1897 he had no idea of becoming a candidate for the Senate. He had no desire to be a candidate. It was his purpose and his desire that some gold-standard Republican should be elected to the Senate in his place. I want to deny any and all charges of collusion or conspiracy between Mr. Corbett and the Governor of the State."

DELAYS THE BLOW

Roberts Giving the Boers Time to Congregate.

THE ARMIES ARE LINING UP

Eight to Ten Thousand Dutch Facing the British at Oostfontein—Annexation of the Republics.

LONDON, March 7, 4:30 A. M.—Lord Roberts still pauses in the neighborhood of Oostfontein, while stores, remounts and fresh troops stream toward him from the Cape. The British position also continues to improve in the minor spheres of the campaign. Natal is clear of Boers, and Cape Colony is nearly so.

The Boers assembly are pursuing the course commended by the strategists and are concentrating to resist the British main army. Various messages from correspondents with Lord Roberts report that the enemy are increasing continuously on his front, extending, as one correspondent writes, eight miles, and as another says, 15 miles. The lowest estimate of the numbers gives the Boers from 8000 to 10,000 men, with smaller bodies moving north and south of the British lines. Each army is on both sides of the Modder River.

Although the Boers have mounted eight guns on the tops of kopjes, and appear to be too far away for inspection, the British scouts report that they are actually using pick and shovel. Military opinion is that their present position merely screens more easily defended ones deeper in the region.

None of the military experts endeavor to fathom Lord Roberts' plans, but it is suggested that he is quite willing to give the Boers time to assemble all their men to deliver a smashing blow more effectively.

The round robin in favor of the annexation of the Transvaal and the Free State, which is being promoted among the supporters of the Government in the House of Commons, continues to receive signatures. The signers of the memorial to Mr. Balfour affirm that the time has arrived for plain speaking and that the annexation of the Transvaal and the Free State is a promise of a pledge against annexation, and Lord Roberts' proclamation a promise of a pledge against annexation. The Transvaal agency at Brussels threatens a raising of the Cape Dutch in the event of annexation, though why the Boers should rise then rather than now is not explained.

A. G. Hales, the Daily News correspondent, who was captured by the Boers February 7, was released at Bloemfontein, and put through the lines near Sterksburg. He telegraphs that the Boers are demoralized, but adds that they have been treating the British wounded splendidly.

WHY HE GAVE IN

President Still Believes in Free Trade for Puerto Rico.

HOUSE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHANGE

Yielded to the Judgment of Congress Hoping the Supreme Court Would Decide the Question Involved.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The Post tomorrow will say:

"President McKinley, in conversation with callers at the White House yesterday, reiterated his belief that the people of Puerto Rico were entitled to free trade with the United States. He made it clear that this view had undergone no change since he wrote his message to Congress. He still adheres to the sentiment therein expressed. At the same time, he said he was unable to subscribe to the theory that the Constitution followed the flag; that the Puerto Ricans must have free trade as a necessary legal right."

"When he found that the House deemed it the part of wisdom, the President explained, to impose a small tariff, upon condition that the revenues so collected be returned to the island, he had been constrained to yield to the judgment of the House. The tariff, under such conditions, would be no hardship to the Puerto Ricans. Moreover, he believed it advisable at the earliest moment to secure a decision of the Supreme Court on the constitutional question involved. Therefore, he had given the House the nominal tariff and agreed to sign such a bill."

"He left no doubt in the minds of his callers whom he questioned closely regarding the drift of public sentiment—that Congress, not the Executive, was responsible for the change of policy."

WOMEN AMONG BOER PRISONERS.

CAPE TOWN, March 6.—Many women who are reported to be good shots are among the Boer prisoners arriving here.

The Dutch Church has issued a manifesto in favor of the Boer Republics retaining complete independence.

Steenkamp, commanding the Boers, reported marching on Carnarvon. It is believed that Gordon and Victoria West will rise. It is thought that the total number of men in arms will exceed 3000. The general opinion of loyalists is that a strong force of British will be required, as a reverse would spread the rebellion.

OFFICERS OF STRATHCONA'S CORPS.

LONDON, March 6.—The following officers of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal's corps were gazetted tonight:

Samuel R. Steel, of the Northwest Mounted Police, to be a Lieutenant-Colonel, with the same temporary rank in the army, and Lieutenants R. C. A. Lauri, R. Belcher, A. M. Jarris and A. E. Snyder to be Majors.

CAPE DUTCH IN REBELLION.

CAPE TOWN, March 6.—Nearly the whole of the Dutch population of the Prieska and Kenhardt districts are in rebellion. Many of the Dutch from neighboring districts are reported to have joined them, notably, Piet Moolman, who will lead the rebels.

FEVER AT LADYSMITH.

LONDON, March 6.—Surgeon Trevelyan at Ladysmith that the condition of the town is most deplorable, and that there are 800 cases of typhoid fever. Lavish supplies of comforts are now in the place, however.

NO BOERS NEAR LADYSMITH.

LADYSMITH, March 6.—There are no Boers within 20 miles of here. Plenty of supplies are available, and the troops are quickly recovering their strength. Many of the volunteers have been granted furloughs.

JOUBERT IN SUPREME COMMAND.

LONDON, March 7.—A dispatch to the Standard from Oostfontein, dated Sunday, March 4, says:

"General Joubert is reported to be in supreme command of the Boer forces here."

LADY WHITE DECORATED.

LONDON, March 6.—Lady White, wife of General Sir George White, has been invested by the Queen with the Order of the Crown of India.

CLEMENTS' ADVANCE CAMP.

COLESBERG, March 6.—The British advance camp, now at Colesberg, is having several miles beyond Achtang.

PRINCE IMPERIAL'S WEDDING

Coming Event Absorbs the Attention of Japanese.

YOKOHAMA, Feb. 18, via Victoria, B. C., March 6.—The approaching marriage of the Prince Imperial is absorbing popular attention to the practical exclusion of other interests. The ceremonies will entail, it is said, an expenditure of nearly 500,000 yen. The date of the wedding is not yet fixed. According to the usual custom many prisoners who have been serving long sentences will be pardoned. The naval maneuvers, which are to come off during the last 10 days of March, are to be upon an extensive scale, and the whole available navy of the Empire, the strongest, with the exception of the British, in these waters, will be in evidence. It is reported that a naval battle, having for its object the capture of the island of Tushima, in the Straits of Korea, will be the leading feature. Much regret is felt that the battleship Shikishima, the most powerful war vessel now afloat of any nation will hardly reach here in time to take part in the display.

THIRTY-FIVE MILLION POUNDS.

House of Commons Authorized Loan for War Purposes.

LONDON, March 6.—In the House of Commons today, the Parliamentary Secretary of Foreign Office, William B. St. John Broderick, replying to a question in connection with the war, said no negotiations were proceeding between Great Britain and Portugal regarding the acquisition of Delagoa Bay or any other part of Portuguese Africa. The Boer prisoners at Cape Town, he added, numbered 62 men, exclusive of those captured at Paardeburg by Lord Roberts in other engagements.

Questioned in regard to the students' disturbances at Montreal, Mr. Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, said he regretted the unfortunate riots, and briefly recounted the occurrences, saying he was happy to add that a telegram yesterday evening showed their cessation.

The House, in committee of the whole, this evening adopted a resolution to authorize the making of a loan of \$5,000,000. The vote stood 101 to 25.

BOERS MOUNTING GUNS.

Busy Intrenching in Front of Roberts' Position.

LONDON, March 7.—A dispatch to the Daily News from Modder River, dated Monday, March 6, and describing the Boer position in front of Lord Roberts, says:

"The Boers seem to be busy intrenching. They have mounted eight guns on high kopjes. It is marvelous how they drag these weapons into such positions."

It is reported here that at a recent emergency meeting of the Free State Road, at Oostfontein, a radical difference of opinion developed, the majority favoring peace at any price, but the minority, including President Steyn, advocating a fight to the end."

EFFECT OF ROBERTS' VICTORIES.

ORANGE RIVER, March 6.—The recent British victories have had a wonderfully quieting effect upon the rebel Dutch, many of whom in the neighborhood of Douglas are reported disheartened and about returning to their homes.

The commands in the neighborhood of Britstown have been given carte blanche by President Steyn to raise as many recruits and to do as much damage as possible.

The rebels in the neighborhood of Kenhardt are particularly aggressive, acting on the supposition that the troops of Lord Roberts are fully occupied in the Free State.

BRABANT'S PROCLAMATION RECALLED.

CAPE TOWN, March 7.—An official notification has been issued that the Queen's recent proclamation of February 27, regarding certain terms offered the rebels by General Brabant in event of their surrender, has been withdrawn. But those in arms against England may return to their farms upon surrendering their weapons and receiving a pass, but they are liable to be called to account later.

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ELECTION IN OMAHA.

Nearly All the Republican Candidates Were Successful.

OMAHA, March 6.—With but one exception, all the Republican candidates for Mayor of Omaha by a majority of nearly 1000 over W. S. Poppleton, Fusion. The rest of the city ticket gave the Republicans, with the possible exception of Tax Commissioner. Of the nine Councilmen, two or three are in doubt, the rest being Republican. There is some talk of fusion with the Middle-of-the-Road Populists. It is believed Eugene V. Debs will be made the Presidential candidate.

Afternoon session, Frederick A. Strickland, of Chicago, was elected permanent secretary and Messrs. Putnam and Johnson assistants. It was shown that there were 32 delegates, with 185 votes, from the city of Omaha. Eugene V. Debs, a committee of three was appointed to receive the committee representing the Socialist Labor party, which will arrive tomorrow.

Eugene V. Debs said in an interview today:

"The Socialist Democratic party believes in trusts, but also believes in public ownership of them. We look upon them as blessings in disguise, and we also believe it is impossible to regulate them by legislation. The Government is to benefit to the laboring masses for the Government to own and control them."

TEXAS REPUBLICANS.

Fight for the Chairmanship of the State Convention.

WACO, Tex., March 6.—The Republican State Convention held today, with a large attendance. Before the convening of the convention, the State Executive Committee met in executive session in the Auditorium and agreed to recommend William McDonald, of Terrell, for temporary chairman. When the convention was called to order by Chairman E. H. R. Green, a motion was made to substitute the name of William McDonald, of Fort Bend County, for temporary chairman. A vote by districts was ordered, resulting in McDonald's election—49 to 34. It required four hours to complete the convention adjourned until 10:30 o'clock tomorrow morning.

GOEBEL'S ALLEGED ASSASSIN.

FRANKFURT, Ky., March 5.—The courthouse was packed today at the examining trial of Harlan Whitaker, on the charge of assassinating Governor Goebel. The prosecutor was assisted by Colonel L. C. Campbell, of New York. All the witnesses today were those participating in Whitaker's arrest, including the 45 testifies. The defense did not cross-examine any witnesses. At the conclusion of the evidence of the State, Whitaker's attorneys submitted the case. Judge Moore decided that Whitaker be taken to the April grand jury without bail.

REPUBLICANS CONTROL ELMIRA.

ELMIRA, N. Y., March 6.—Dr. Frank H. Flood, Republican, was elected Mayor today by 574 plurality over Frank E. Bundy, Democrat. The Republicans also elected 19 Aldermen, which gives them a majority in the Common Council. The city has been in control of the Democrats for more than 20 years.

AGAINST REPEAL OF GOEBEL LAW.

FRANKFURT, Ky., March 6.—The House, by a party vote, killed the bill introduced by Representative Hassell (Rep.), which proposed to repeal the Goebel election law.

NOMINATED FOR CONGRESS.

FREEMONT, Ill., March 6.—Robert R. Hill was renominated by acclamation for congress at the Republican congressional convention here today.

DAILY TREASURY STATEMENT.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—Today's statement of the condition of the Treasury shows:

Available cash balance.....\$25,043,693
Gold reserve.....237,529,738