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Has more QUALITY than anyone else can give you for \$75. Up to date in style and finish.

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This is positively your last chance, when everything will be offered and sold without reserve or limit.

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Special rates made to families and single gentlemen. The management will be pleased at all times to show rooms and give prices. A modern Turkish bath establishment in the hotel. H. C. BOWERS, Manager.

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There is a lost feeling when your glasses have been mislaid and you cannot see. You are greatly inconvenienced. What will you do when the imperfect glasses you are using impair your sight beyond recall? The eyes are not made of cast-iron. They are very delicate and require skilled attention. Careful examination is the leading feature of my business.

WALTER REED

Eye Specialist
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OREGONIAN BUILDING

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Oregonian Building.

MUST PAY DAMAGES

Boers Held Responsible for Loss of British Property.

THE FUTURE OF THE REPUBLICS

Dispatches from Natal Show That General Buller's Forward Movement is About to Begin.

LONDON, March 21. 4:50 A. M.—While there is a lull in the military operations, the present stage of the war shows interesting developments. The Colonial Office has telegraphed to Cape Town the text of the proclamation concerning the destruction of property. This will not be published in London until after the promulgation in South Africa, but it is known it will convey an intimation that any wanton destruction of British property during the war will be regarded as warranting a claim for compensation and as justifying a levy upon private property, should the resources of the Transvaal Republic prove inadequate.

The fact that the proclamation is issued by the Colonial Office is regarded as a significant indication that the Republics will be administered as crown colonies. In this connection it is understood that the leaders of the opposition in Parliament now admit that no other settlement is possible, since the Republics insist upon their demand for absolute independence. In view of this, the efforts of the Liberals will be confined to securing in Parliament the best treatment of the Dutch population, including security against their disfranchisement.

It is becoming regarded as quite a settled matter that the Republics, as is now hoped, before June, the government will dissolve Parliament and appeal to the country on the basis of a successful South African policy. Should the war drag on, dissolution will be postponed until next Spring. In any event, one of the foremost planks of the Government platform will be army reorganization.

There is no further information as to the movement of Sir Buller's force. It is regarded as certain, however, that he has gone to Bloemfontein to arrange for the temporary administration of the Free State.

Mr. Steyn's reply to Lord Roberts' charge of the misuse of funds of the Free State is now being published. It is regarded as a masterpiece of argument and is commended as a model of clear and logical reasoning. It shows that General Buller's forward movement will not be long delayed.

The Government has decided that Major-General Sir Frederick Carrington shall command a Colonial force of 3000, including the 2500 men Mr. Chamberlain asked for from Australia, which will be stationed on the Northern Transvaal border to prevent a Boer retreat or an incursion into Rhodesia.

A statement comes from Pretoria admitting that the Boer losses during the war exceed 700. No fresh news has been received from Mafeking, but a Pretoria dispatch dated Thursday, March 15, asserts that Colonel Plumer has not been able to advance south of Lobatse.

ADVICES FROM LORD ROBERTS.

Kitchener Occupies Prieska—Correspondence with Boer Presidents.

LONDON, March 20.—The War Office has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated Bloemfontein, Tuesday, March 20: "Kitchener occupied Prieska yesterday unopposed. The rebels surrendered their arms. The Transvaalers escaped across the river. Mr. Steyn is circulating a notice by means of dispatch-riders in reply to my proclamation of the 17th inst., in which I have declared that any burgher who signs a declaration that he will not fight against us again will be treated as a traitor and shot. The Bloemfontein people are affording every assistance in the matter of hospital accommodations. We have consequently been able to arrange for 500 beds. Thirty-three prisoners were taken at Prieska. 100 standards of arms and some supplies and explosives. The Boers have begun to surrender on the Basutoland frontier."

The following dispatch has been received at the War Office from Lord Roberts, dated Bloemfontein, Monday: "I have received the following reply to my telegram of March 11 to the Presidents of the Free State and the South African Republics: 'Your Excellency's telegram reached me yesterday. I assure you nothing would give me more than that my burghers should make themselves guilty of a deed such as that laid to their charge by you. I am, however, glad to say that you must have been mistaken. I have made personal inquiry of General De la Rey, who was in command of our burghers at the place mentioned by you. He denies entirely that our burghers acted as stated by you, but he says that on Saturday (the date being illegible) the British troops, when they were about 50 yards from our position, put up their hands, as well as the white flag, whilst at the same time your cannons bombarded said troops, with the result that Commandant De la Rey yesterday morning, head commandant, wrote in his account of the battle as follows: 'Soldiers hoisted the white flag, but we were then fired at by English cannons and compelled to charge.'"

"Perhaps it is not known to Your Excellency that the same thing happened at Spionkop, where a portion of the troops hoisted a white flag and put up their hands, and whilst our burghers were busy despoiling them, another portion of the troops fired on our burghers. But some of the British troops were killed."

"It has also been reported that at the last battle at Tugela, the English cannon fired on troops who had surrendered."

"With reference to the explosive bullets found in Cronje's magazine, I can give Your Excellency assurance that such bullets were not purchased or allowed by the Government. I, however, have no reason to doubt your statement, as I know many of the burghers of this state and of the South African Republic took large numbers of Lee-Enfield rifles and dum-dum and other bullets from British troops."

"May I request Your Excellency, as the cable is closed to me, to make my reply known to your Government and the neutral powers by cable."

"STATE PRESIDENT." The dispatch from Lord Roberts, concludes as follows: "As inquiry in the matter proves His Honor's allegations to be unfounded, and as I personally saw the holding up of hands which he denies, I have not thought it desirable to continue the correspondence."

IRELAND'S GRIEVANCES.

Cannot Be Mitigated, Redmond Says, by the Queen's Recent Favours.

LONDON, March 20.—At a Nationalist banquet at the Hotel Cecil, in London, this evening, John Redmond, leader of the Nationalist party in the House of Commons, who presided, said he regarded the last nine years of public life in Ireland as a hideous nightmare. "Our reunion is sincere," he continued, "and there is nothing, humanly speaking, which the 30 Irish members of Parliament cannot obtain from the exigencies of the British parties. It is incredible that English statesmen can be so blind to the teaching of history as to imagine that serious practical grievances can be mitigated by a royal visit to Ireland or by a British celebration of St. Patrick's day."

Mr. Redmond denounced the war as the "most damning of which there is any record in history," but he evoked tremendous enthusiasm when he referred to the gallantry of the Irish soldiers.

Edward Blake, member of Parliament for South Langford, who proposed the toast "Ireland, a Nation," was greeted with hostile cries. During Mr. Blake's speech, in consequence of the uproar, the stewards were sent for to secure quiet. A scuffle followed, and a blow was exchanged. After a sharp tussle, quiet was restored.

Later, while Edward McHugh, member of Parliament for South Armagh, was speaking, a small crowd renewed the interruptions, which developed into a free fight. Many ladies were present and became greatly alarmed. Ultimately the police overpowered the disturbers and ejected them.

Australasia's Loyalty.

WELLINGTON, March 20.—In bidding farewell today to the fourth contingent of New Zealand troops, now being sent to service in South Africa, Premier Seddon emphasized the determination of Australasia to uphold the imperial prestige of the country. He said they had 40,000 male adults, mostly drilled, prepared to defend the colonies, and, if emergencies arose, to send enough men to South Africa to release the imperial troops and deal with any power daring to meddle with the settlement.

British at Philippolis.

LONDON, March 21.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Bloemfontein, dated Monday, March 19, says: "A reconnaissance toward Philippolis, 25 miles west of Springfontein, found the farms all flying white flags. The British troops were cordially received. 'It is reported that Mr. Steyn is trying to rally the Boers, but the latter say they have had enough.'"

POLITICAL CAPITAL

Idaho Investigation Has Become a Fiasco.

EVIDENCE ALL AGAINST MINERS

Leads and Sulzer Seeking Cheap Notoriety—Tongue on Puerto Rico—Rumors of Cabinet Changes.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—The investigation into the Idaho riots before the House military committee has become a fiasco, and a prominent Democratic member of the committee said today that never did he witness such a farce and utterly ridiculous performance as has been conducted for several weeks past by Representative Leach and Sulzer in this Idaho case. He declared that the whole affair was prompted by these two men, who sought political capital and cheap notoriety. He said that the antics of these two Democrats were disgusting to the sensible Democrats of the House, and their position would not be sustained by the party.

The evidence so far taken shows very clearly that the miners' union sought to run that country, independent of the interests of the property-owners, and that it was their purpose to dictate entirely the affairs of that district or destroy the property. It has been shown that the military did not overturn the civil authority, but that it was open to aggrieved persons at all times, and the trials were free from any military interference. The necessity for arresting large numbers of men was shown by the testimony of the miners themselves.

Many of the Democratic papers of the country in recounting the proceedings of the committee have overdrawn the facts, with a view to producing in the people against the Administration and the military.

A Blow to the Protectionists.

The loss of Beveridge of Indiana to the protectionists has been quite a severe blow; that is, if he is lost when the final vote comes, which some doubt. The effect of his defection is just as bad as if he would finally vote against the bill, although it is said by the Senators favoring protection that he will vote with the party on the final round-up.

The Republican members of the Indiana delegation in the House have voted for the protective measure as extremely sorry at Beveridge, because he has placed them in a very serious predicament. Beveridge's vote is a general subject to save Indiana from the Democratic party, which favors that if the protection measure against Puerto Rico passes, Indiana will go Democratic, and he is working to secure free trade by the Republican party, which will save the state.

The Republican Senators who favor the tariff are also sore at Beveridge, because there was a general understanding that the Republicans should not discuss the tariff measure pending the attempt of the Democratic committee to secure some agreement which could be put forward as a party measure.

The Democratic Senators are very much afraid that the final result of the Puerto Rico bill will be the passage of the Government bill with the tariff features left out. The Democratic leaders would much prefer to vote against a tariff, and at the same time have it retained in the bill, because they believe it will be a great campaign document and worth many thousands of votes to them, not only in the Presidential but in the Congressional elections this fall.

Rumors of Cabinet Changes.

There are continual rumors of cabinet changes, and assertions are made that Hay, Gage and Hitchcock, and possibly Root, will go. It is well known that a number of Republicans are in the cabinet opposed to Gage, Hitchcock and Root, because they do not grant all the spoils that they might by evading the civil service law. Some of the weak-kneed want Hay taken out of the cabinet, because he has been, to a certain extent, responsible for the friendly relations existing between England and this Government, which certain Democrats wish to break up. There are no grounds for the removal of any of the cabinet officers at the present time, except for the tariff question, and it is not believed that the President thinks any situation has arisen which will make it necessary to remove these cabinet officers.

Work on Fortifications.

The appropriations in the fortifications bill are in a lump sum, and will be divided by the War Department in accordance with the needs of the various places where work is in progress. This means that the works now being constructed at the mouth of the Columbia and also the work on Puget Sound points will be continued, as those fortifications are under the general plan, which has been accepted by the Government, for which Congress annually make appropriations.

Tongue on Puerto Rico.

Representative Tongue said today: "The Washington dispatch published in The Oregonian of the 15th does not properly represent my attitude on the Puerto Rican bill. I voted in the caucus and in the House for the bill, and I will vote 15 to 15 per cent, and to limit the operation of the bill to two years. I was one of the most strenuous advocates of the latter amendment, and it is asserted by the opponents of the bill that this small group upon the necessary food products in Puerto Rico will be oppressive to the poor people of that island. I have said that if this is true, it might be well for the Senate to consider a proposition to admit such articles duty free, and increase the tariff to 25 per cent on sugar and tobacco, as the entire crop of these articles, it is said, has been bought by the trusts and speculators. This provision would relieve the people and place the tariff upon the most able to bear it, the trusts and speculators."

"The only reason that justifies the House bill or that secured the votes necessary to pass it, including my own, is the necessity of raising revenue to maintain government in Puerto Rico, temporarily, until the people can recover from their present distressed condition. With normal conditions restored, and other revenue measures enacted, commercial intercourse between Puerto Rico and the United States should and will be as free as between Oregon and California."

Democratic Opposition to Bryan.

The Democrats cannot forgive Bryan for having voted for and supported the Palmer and Buckner ticket, which practically meant the support of McKinley. In the campaign of 1896, they are determined to prevent his confirmation, and have announced that, although Bryan declares himself in favor of supporting the nomination of Bryan, that may be nominated and promulgated at Kansas City, he will not be considered a Democrat.

The Cabinet Meeting.

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ARKANSAS REPUBLICANS.

Administration of President McKinley Indorsed.

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LITTLE ROCK, Ark., March 20.—The Republican State Convention adjourned late tonight after electing delegates to the National Convention and declaring for the re-nomination of President McKinley. The platform indorsed the Administration of President McKinley, and says: "We favor the expansion policy of the Administration. We favor annexation of the Philippines as the most beneficial thing that could happen to the Philippines and as giving us command of the vast trade of the Orient not otherwise possible."

The platform further expresses trust and favors the Nicaragua Canal to be owned and controlled by the American Government, and indorses the protective tariff policy.

On the subject of suffrage the platform denounces the Goebel law in Kentucky, the Nesbit law in Arkansas, and similar laws in other states, and says: "We hereby extend our warmest sympathy to Governor Taylor, as at this period he is the champion of the fair ballot and we regard him and his associates as persecuted solely because they were elected by the people, and are Republicans."

Every mention of McKinley's name was cheered.

South Carolina Republicans.

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 20.—The State Republican Convention met here today to elect four delegates to the National Republican Convention. The following delegates were elected: E. A. Webster, R. H. Talbert, R. R. Small and E. H. Deas. The latter two are negroes.

The convention adopted a platform embracing the principles of the Republican party as set forth in St. Louis in 1896. The convention was composed of about 200 negroes and a dozen whites.

THE EARTH SUBSIDED.

Description of the Phenomenon at San Jacinto.

LOS ANGELES, March 20.—Regarding the marvelous upheavals created at San Jacinto last Christmas morning, Grant Taggart, Superintendent of the San Jacinto Forest Reserve, writes in a letter received here today by General B. F. Allen, Controller of the Forest Reserves: "I must say that it is beyond my powers of description to picture what is to be seen here. I do not care how vivid a description was made of it, it would have to be seen to be understood or appreciated. The whole of the mountain, within an area of 40 to 60 acres, has sunk in a body to a depth of 40 to 60 feet, and is broken into the most complete jumble imaginable. There are thousands of crevices from a few inches to four and six feet in width and many of them quite deep. There seems to have been several upheavals and blow-outs, which have the appearance of having been caused by escaping gas or air. The trees and brush are in heaps. The whole country seems to be composed of a volcanic ash, light and dry. It would well repay any of the learned scientists to come thousands of miles to see this. Should there come a rain, the conditions would be peculiarly favorable, as the soil is of such a light nature that many of the upheavals would dissolve and run into the crevices. The upheaval is 10 miles southeast of San Jacinto, and 2 1/2 miles south of Strawberry Road."

DEWEY IS ILL.

Programme for His Entertainment at Savannah Interrupted.

SAVANNAH, Ga., March 20.—The programme for the entertainment of Admiral Dewey at Savannah, which was interrupted by the illness of the Admiral. A public reception had been arranged for the hours between 9 and 11 o'clock, and the guests gathered at the De Soto Hotel to meet the distinguished visitor. But the Admiral was too ill to appear, and thus the function had to be called off. The Admiral's attack, which is of indigestion, occurred on the revenue cutter Hamilton, while the party was on a trip down the river and harbor. Surgeon-General Wyman, of the Marine Hospital Service, and Dr. St. J. B. Graham, who were aboard the cutter, administered to the Admiral, but his indisposition was so severe that it was deemed best to bring him back to the city. The Admiral is resting easily tonight, and his physicians say he will no doubt be able to go on with the programme of arrangements tomorrow.

DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Big Fire at Red Lodge.

BUTTE, Mont., March 20.—A special from Red Lodge, Carbon County, Mont., says: "A fire started in Hall's general store at 5 o'clock this morning in the rear corner of town, and burned to the ground the two-story brick block of the Red Lodge Improvement Company, containing three stories on the ground floor and the offices of the Red Lodge Picket and Carbon County Democrat and the Business Men's Club, besides a number of other offices on the second floor, also Freeman's brick block, with its large stock of dry goods and clothing. John Davis, a farmer from Roberts, was caught by a falling stair and burned in the burning building. The principal losers were Freeman, W. R. Hall, general merchandise; Fulton & Dalton, hardware; Red Lodge Picket printing plant, Larkin & Fleming, saloon; A. H. Davis, jewelry. The loss is about \$200,000."

The Piqua Fire.

PIQUA, O., March 20.—The fire which broke out last night destroyed the W. P. Orr trawled off mill, and the Piqua flouring mill. The old mill was the second largest in the country, and its destruction entails a loss of \$175,000. The loss on the flour mill is \$50,000.

White Lead Works Burned.

NEW YORK, March 20.—The Jewett White Lead Works, at Fort Richmond, suffered to the extent of \$100,000 by fire today. It is supposed the fire was caused by defective insulation of an electric light wire.

Wagon Works Burned.

PLINT, Mich., March 20.—The Flint wagon works were totally destroyed by fire tonight, causing a loss of over \$300,000. The plant was insured for \$250,000. Four hundred men are thrown out of work.

New Plague Cases at Sydney.

SYDNEY, N. S. W., March 20.—Two fresh cases of the bubonic plague have been officially reported today.

SIMON IS INDORSED

Chamber of Commerce Sustains His Puerto Rico Views.

UNANIMOUS VOTE OF TRUSTEES

Oregon's Outspoken Senator Encouraged to Stand Firm in the Position He Has Taken.

The trustees of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday unanimously indorsed United States Senator Joseph Simon's refusal to be whipped into line for the infamous Puerto Rico bill. At the close of a busy session, Trustee S. M. Mears called attention to the firm position of Senator Simon and suggested that inasmuch as the Senator's views seemed to meet the unqualified approval of all classes of people in Oregon, it would be proper to send him a letter of indorsement. "That suits me exactly," said President Taylor. "The idea is an excellent one. How do you feel about it, Mr. Ehrman?" Senator Simon's attitude has my approval," said Trustee Eganman.

Similar questions brought answers in kind from Trustees R. Livingston, J. T. Hatcher, S. M. Mears and I. N. Fleischner.

It was first proposed to send a letter to Senator Simon, but it was agreed that a telegram would be better. And this is the telegram that was sent:

"Hon. Joseph Simon, Washington: The trustees of the Chamber of Commerce unanimously indorse your stand on the Puerto Rico tariff bill. We hope you will maintain your ground."

"GEORGE TAYLOR, JR., President. I. N. FLEISCHNER, Secretary."

Senator Simon thus has the indorsement of the strongest commercial organization in the Northwest in his opposition to the scheme to rob Puerto Rico.

CONFEREES AGREED.

Accepted a Compromise on Puerto Rico Relief Bill.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—The conferees on the Puerto Rico Appropriation bill have agreed upon a compromise measure. The Senate conferees referred to the Senate amendment limiting the appropriation to the revenues collected on Puerto Rican importations until January 1, 1901, and restored the clause in the House bill applying to future revenues, reading as follows: "Together with any further customs revenues collected on importations from Puerto Rico since January 1, 1900, or that shall hereafter be collected under existing laws."

The provision in the Senate amendment specifying the purpose for which the money shall be used is retained, but an addition is made, declaring specifically that it shall be for the aid and relief of the Puerto Ricans. The bill, as agreed upon, reads as follows:

"That the sum of \$2,000,000, being the amount of customs revenue received on importations by the United States from Puerto Rico since the evacuation of Puerto Rico by the Spanish forces on the 15th of October, 1898, to the last of January, 1900, together with any further customs revenue collected on importations from Puerto Rico since the last of January, 1900, or that shall hereafter be collected under existing laws, shall be placed at the disposal of the President to be used for the government now existing, and which may hereafter be established in Puerto Rico, and the revenue herein referred to already collected and to be collected under existing law, are hereby appropriated for the purpose herein specified out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated."

Low Wallace Opposed to General.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 20.—General Low Wallace today wrote an open letter charging that the Administration is attempting to make Colombia a territory and the Philippines to be governed by the President as a colonial empire. General Wallace proposes a Constitutional amendment forbidding legislation for any territory or any island, territory or country now foreign, except with the consent of the people of the United States.

CONDITIONS IN CUBA.

Secretary Root Talks of the Possibilities of the People.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Secretary Root, this afternoon, gave to President McKinley the result of his observation of affairs in Cuba during his recent trip to the island. Subsequently, the Secretary consented to talk for publication as to the existing conditions in the island and the possibilities of the people in the direction of self-government. The Secretary pressed himself as satisfied on the whole with what he saw. Naturally, the question of the ultimate independence of the island came up for discussion during the Secretary's visit to the island. The Secretary prepared to say just when the United States Government would be willing that this should be a reality. Incidental to this matter, which is uppermost in the Cuban mind, are the formative steps that will bring it about. The first of these, viz, the holding of the municipal elections at an early date, was a subject that Secretary Root discussed freely, particularly with the United States officials on the island.

"These elections," said the Secretary, "will be Cuba's first effort towards popular government. Unaccustomed as they are to these things, they are as the babe unborn