

RENEWED ACTIVITY

Boers and British Fighting at Several Points.

WEPENER SIEGE NOT YET RAISED

Relief Column Engaged the Boers Near De Wet's Dorp—Artillery Duel in Natal.

LONDON, April 21.—Dispatches arriving from the seat of war, though meager and unsatisfactory, indicate renewed activity at all points where the British and Boer forces are in striking distance of each other. Interest for the moment centers about the siege of Wepener, where fighting evidently is in progress. A dispatch received from All-wal North, dated April 21, says that there was heavy firing in the previous day between De Wet's Dorp and Wepener, and around Wepener Saturday, but that no particulars have been received. A special from Maseru, dated Saturday, says: "The investment of Wepener continues. The Boers seem determined to do their utmost to capture the garrison before relief arrives. Severe fighting appears imminent."

CAUGHT IN BUSH FIRE.

Five Hundred Persons Trapped in Manitoba.

WINNIPEG, April 21.—The city tonight is in a fever of excitement, caused by the bush fire which has been burning in the Southeastern Railway. All the country from La Broquerie, about 50 miles down the line, to Warren, Minn., a distance of 75 miles, is known to be in a grasp of the fire, which is sweeping through the forest, fanned by a strong easterly wind. The number of human beings entrapped is estimated at fully 500, composed chiefly of scattered settlers and men employed in the lumber camps of J. A. Buchanan, Neil & Keith and J. Hyman, who has an aggregate of 300 men and 150 teams at work in the district near Vassar, a station about 30 miles out.

FIGHTING IN NATAL.

Boers and British Shelling Each Other Near Eland's Laagte.

ELAND'S LAAGTE, April 21.—A command of 100 Boers came through Weesop Nek this morning, and indicate renewed activity at all points where the British and Boer forces are in striking distance of each other. Interest for the moment centers about the siege of Wepener, where fighting evidently is in progress. A dispatch received from All-wal North, dated April 21, says that there was heavy firing in the previous day between De Wet's Dorp and Wepener, and around Wepener Saturday, but that no particulars have been received. A special from Maseru, dated Saturday, says: "The investment of Wepener continues. The Boers seem determined to do their utmost to capture the garrison before relief arrives. Severe fighting appears imminent."

COLSON ACQUITTED.

The Jury Was Out but Eighteen Minutes.

FRANKFORT, Ky., April 21.—Ex-Congressman David G. Colson, who has been on trial here for the last four days for the murder of Lieutenant Scott and Luther Demaree, was acquitted by the verdict of the jury, which was returned this evening. The jury was out only 18 minutes. The verdict was only returned after the jury had been in the courtroom waiting for a report from the jury. There was silence as the jury filed into the room, but there was no demonstration until Circuit Clerk Ford finished reading the verdict. "We, the jury, find the defendant not guilty."

PARIS EXPOSITION.

Much Work Yet to Be Done Before It is Complete.

PARIS, April 21.—Though work goes on incessantly night and day, the installation of exhibits at France's colossal exposition is still greatly retarded. The gates are closed to visitors at 6 o'clock in the evening, when freight cars and wagons loaded with exhibits are towed to enter the grounds, and from that time on the exhibition resembles a vast workshop, with its clanging hammers and swarms of French workmen busily engaged on the completion of the interior of the buildings and in arranging the exhibits. Even during visiting hours the work inside the palace goes steadily forward.

THE DEATH ROLL.

Rev. Charles Beecher.

HAVERHILL, Mass., April 21.—Rev. Charles Beecher, brother of the late Henry Ward Beecher, died today at his home in Georgetown, aged 84 years.

NEW YORK, April 21.—At the local offices of the American Steam & Wire Company, an employe confirmed the report that a reduction of 30 per cent had been ordered in the price of wire nails, barbed wire and galvanized wire, with an 18 per cent in annealed fence wire. This is equivalent to a reduction of 1 cent a pound in wire nails, making the price \$2 20 a keg. The price for barbed wire is \$2 50 a hundred pounds, and for galvanized fence nails \$2 25 a hundred pounds. The price for annealed fence wire is from \$3 00 to \$3 15 a hundred pounds.

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FOREIGN MISSIONS

Ecumenical Conference Opens in New York.

HARRISON AND MCKINLEY SPOKE

Delegates Present From All Quarters of the Globe—Two Sessions Were Held.

NEW YORK, April 21.—Nearly every nation in the world is represented at the Ecumenical Conference on Foreign Missions, which began its session here this afternoon. The conference, which will be the scene of the conference until May 1, was crowded to its greatest capacity. Ex-President Benjamin Harrison occupied the chair, as honorary president, at the opening session, and tonight the delegates were addressed by President McKinley and Governor Roosevelt.

PLAGUE AT MANILA.

Foul Breeding Places Discovered in the Heart of the City.

MANILA, April 21.—The sudden deaths of Filipinos and Chinese in Quiapo Market have led to an investigation showing in his word and deed that the plague is a foul breeding place discovered in the heart of the city. In a black, rotten, wooden building, every man, woman and child, including their families huddled together in a filthy, narrow, and unventilated space. Some of the victims were stricken and died within an hour. There have been several deaths in other sections of the city, and the epidemic has been traced to infection from the market.

PLAGUE IN AUSTRALIA.

No Hope for an Early Cessation of the Epidemic.

VANCOUVER, B. C., April 21.—It is the opinion of Dr. Thompson, president of the Sydney Board of Health, that there is no hope of an early cessation of the plague in Australia. He believes the epidemic will be suppressed under eight or nine months. The steamer Mowera from Sydney yesterday brought news of the spread of the plague in Australia, and of the ineffectual efforts of the colonial government to stamp it out. Thousands have been isolated, the Premier and members of his Cabinet presenting themselves for voluntary inoculation to make more easy the means of carrying out the necessary measures.

NEW YORK, April 21.—The World tomorrow will say:

"Mr. Taylor, Governor of Kentucky, is in New York in consequence of the finding of an indictment against him by the Grand Jury of Frankfort, charging him with being an accessory before the fact of the murder of William Goebel. He appealed to Governor Roosevelt yesterday morning, asking that any demand for extradition be denied."

NO LEGAL OBJECTION.

Extra Expenses of Army Officers in Cuba.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—Secretary Root made a brief statement at the War Department today in reference to the charge that extravagant allowances had been made to the principal Army officers in service in Cuba for the maintenance of their establishments on the revenues of the island. He said that about a year ago, before he came into office, representations were made that it was impossible for Army officers to live on their salaries in Cuba. The question of providing for their extra expenses out of the revenues of the island was suggested by Secretary Alger, and the Attorney-General was called upon for his opinion on the subject. The latter held that there was no legal objection to such procedure, and his opinion was approved by the then Secretary of War. Secretary Root said that allowances for extra expenses were made at that time, and have since been continued to four officers, namely the Military Governor of the island, the Military Collector of the Port of Havana, the Collector of the Port of Havana and the Treasurer of the island. The Secretary said altogether they did not exceed \$15,000 or \$16,000 a year. The Secretary was asked if similar allowances for extra expenses were made in the cases of officers in Puerto Rico or in the Philippines, and he replied most emphatically, "No."

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NEW YORK FINANCES.

Steady Addition to Surplus Despite Deposit Expansion.

NEW YORK, April 21.—The Financier says: "The New York banks are adding steadily to their surplus, despite the expansion in deposits, an operation that calls for additional reserve. The statement for the current week shows a gain of over \$6,000,000 in cash holdings, the result primarily of Treasury disbursements, although considerable cash came to this center from the interior. The increase in loans was \$5,800,000, and in deposits, \$3,500,000. The statement does not balance by the usual rules for proving, but the result, according to the published figures, was a gain of about \$4,000,000 in surplus reserve, bringing the total excess above \$14,000,000. The month of April so far has been

EX-PRESIDENT BENJAMIN HARRISON.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—The vote on the Quay case will be very close, and the friends of Quay are now being counted as they were a few weeks ago, when they were pressing so earnestly in favor of fixing either way it was expected to be more than two or three, and in view of the fact that eight or ten Senators are still untraced and have not made any declaration, the uncertainty is apparent. The appearance of Senator Aldrich here today and his conference with a number of those who are opposed to Quay is said to have resulted in an understanding, which means that, even if the Quay case is not postponed, enough votes cannot be mustered by his friends to carry him through. A number of Senators who are said to have been affected by the arguments made at Fairbanks, Kan., of New Jersey and Culberson of Texas, who were counted absolutely for Quay in the beginning. A short time ago Penrose, who is prominent in the Legislature, was named by a majority of seven at least. The three Senators named were on his list. Beveridge is another uncertain quantity, and the fact that Clark of Montana will not vote makes the result decidedly uncertain.

PRIMARIES HAVE BEEN HELD IN A NUMBER OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES, AND A NUMBER OF FORMER QUAY SENATORS HAVE BEEN CARRIED BY THE OPPOSITION, AND THIS, IN ITSELF, IS SAID TO HAVE HAD CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE UPON THE SITUATION IN THE SENATE. EVEN IF QUAY SHOULD SECURE A MAJORITY OF THE REPUBLICAN PROMINENT LEGISLATORS, THERE IS NO DOUBT A SUFFICIENT MINORITY AGAIN TO PREVENT HIS ELECTION, AS WAS THE CASE IN THE LAST LEGISLATURE, AND THE SENATE WOULD BE ABLE TO REPEAL THE QUAY CASE AS AN UNPOPULAR MEASURE. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT A SENATOR WOULD BE CONTINUED IN OFFICE WHERE A LEGISLATURE HAS TWICE REFUSED HIM AN ELECTION, AND THESE FACTS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE UNPOPULARITY OF QUAY AS A PERSONAL POLITICAL PAUSE. THE ARGUMENT FOR A POSTPONEMENT IS MADE ON THE GROUND THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO AVOID THE QUESTION OF ELECTIONS THIS FALL AND SEE WHETHER QUAY CAN CONTROL THE LEGISLATURE, AND IT IS LEAVING ITS EFFECT UPON THOSE WHO ARE DOUBTFUL ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION. QUAY'S FRIENDS STILL BELIEVE THAT HE HAS A SUFFICIENT MAJORITY, BUT THIS IS REGARDED BY THE OPPOSITION AS MERE BRAGGADOCCIO.

PUERTO RICANS ARE BITTER.

Chairman Cooper, of the Insular committee, received a visit today from C. E. Vrooman, a prominent legislator in Puerto Rico, who has just returned from Puerto Rico. This is what Vrooman says regarding the recent action of Congress on the Puerto Rico bill: "The Puerto Ricans are very bitter against the Americans on account of the tariff just enacted. The feeling of resentment is intense, and growing. It is a case of sentiment against the tariff. They don't mind so much the 15 per cent of the Dingley rates. The tariff itself is relatively low. But they feel aggrieved that they should be asked to pay taxes that way, and a discrimination made against them. It is not the treatment they expected. I think also that a mistake was made in assuming that they could not raise revenue from their own resources. They are able to raise revenue from internal revenue taxes."

INFLUX OF JAPANESE.

The Treasury Department has been urged to take some active steps to prevent the influx of Japanese immigrants into the United States. The department says that the only way to prevent the influx is to restrict the number of Japanese who come under the "contract labor" classification. The department will make an extended investigation all along the coast, and, if it is possible, by sending agents to Japan to see whether they are able to raise revenue from internal revenue taxes."

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The Senate bill granting American register to the steamer Garonne, lately used as a Government transport, and formerly of the Puget Sound Navigation Company, passed the House today.

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Senator Proctor Has Reported a Substitute.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—Senator Proctor, from the Senate committee on military affairs, today reported a substitute for the original Army reorganization bill. The bill provides that hereafter any vacancy in the staff officers, except in the position of Chief of Staff, shall be filled by details, which are to be for four years. Vacancies in the line, caused by transfers to the staff, are to be filled by promotion in the line, and officers are to be returned from staff to line duties with the actual rank held by them. With none of the present staff corps left to choose from, the President is authorized to select chiefs of staff corps from the officers of the Army, not below the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

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VOTE WILL BE CLOSE

Friends of Quay Are Not So Confident.

EFFECT OF PENNSYLVANIA ELECTION

Bitter Feeling in Puerto Rico Against Americans—Investigation of Japanese Immigration.

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