

UNNOISSANCE.

General Methuen, Who is in Robust Health, Personally Directed.

Rumor That Ladysmith Has Been Relieved.

BOER TRENCHES SHELLED.

General Lyttleton's Forces Supported by Artillery Fire Make An Advance.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—It was rumored on the stock exchange this morning that after 18 hours of fighting, Ladysmith had been relieved and that General Warren was killed. Nothing was obtainable, however, tending to verify the rumor and it had no appreciable effect on stocks.

SPEARMAN'S CAMP, Natal, Thursday Evening.—The Boer trenches have been persistently shelled by naval guns all day long. Small parties of Boers were seen in intervals, and a large force from the direction of Ladysmith was seen retreating to the northward of the British position. A balloon did good service in observing.

General Lyttleton's force made a demonstration in the direction of the Breakfontein key, four miles north of the British position, under cover of heavy artillery fire, to which the Boers did not respond.

On the left General Warren's troops are now in possession of two prominent kopjes behind Spinkop. There was some Boer sniping, but it was ineffective.

The Grandest Boers evacuated Prieska, Jan. 15, and returned northward across the river.

WILL MOVE QUICKLY.

No Long Delays Expected in Events at the Front.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—2:22 p. m.—Messages from the front appear to confirm the general impression that events in Natal will now move quickly, though hardly so rapidly as the tongues and pens of rumor-mongers. There is nothing up to the present to support the story that the relief of Ladysmith is an accomplished fact, but it is based on excellent authority that the situation is now regarded by the war office with entire confidence, and that the beleaguered town is considered practically relieved, although there is no attempt to understate the danger and difficulty of General Buller's task.

At suggested in these dispatches yesterday, General Warren was actually in the vicinity of Acton Homes Wednesday and a portion of his force, under Lord Dundonald, secured an important position westward of that place during the evening of January 17, on the Boers' right flank, threatening the Free States' communication with their own country by way of Van Rensselaer's pass. The British camp outside of Ladysmith should be visible from there, as the intervening country is open.

Sir Ellis Ashmead Bartlett, M. P., who has served at Fort Rensburg, Cape Colony, expressed satisfaction with the general French disposition of his troops. He visited Colenso yesterday while the shelling of the Boer camp was proceeding. The shelling was so successful, it is announced on good authority, that 38 Boers and 36 horses were killed.

Advices from Cape Town say that Webster Davis, secretary of the interior at Washington, sailed from Port Elizabeth Monday for Delagoa Bay.

It is understood that the imperial vanguard will be launched before that force goes to the front, with considerable detachments of experienced colonial troops acquainted with Boer tactics.

LORD DUNDONALD IN ACTION.

With Mounted Troops He Defeated the Boers Badly.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—General Buller has telegraphed the war office from Spearman's Camp, under date of last evening, as follows:

"Lord Dundonald, with a body of mounted troops, came into action this afternoon with a force of Boers west of Acton Homes. After the fight he occupied several kopjes, which he is still holding. Field Cornet Heilbrunn and 20 burghers were killed or wounded. Fifteen prisoners were taken. Two British soldiers were killed and two wounded."

WILL GO TO COURT.

Roberts Determined to Keep Up the Fight

LITTLE SHOW FOR HIM THERE

McBride's Bill, Refunding \$1.25 to Certain Oregon Settlers, Passed Senate—Assay Office Bills.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Roberts of Utah announces that he will fight his case in the courts if he is denied a seat as a member of the house. Roberts has been making his contention on the ground that the constitution prescribes certain qualifications for a member, but he ought to know that the same constitution allows the house to be the judge of its own members. No court will undertake to set aside a decision of the house on such a question, especially as it would have no power to enforce it.

DESIGNATION OF LORD STRATHCONA'S BODY OF MOUNTED RIFLES.

MONTREAL, Jan. 19.—The new body of mounted rifles to be raised in Canada at the expense of Lord Strathcona, the Canadian high commissioner at London, will be known as Strathcona's Horse. It will be got together by the militia department, and will be forwarded to South Africa from Halifax, but Lord Strathcona will meet the entire expense and furthermore will maintain the troop in South Africa during the continuance of the war. It will cost Lord Strathcona not less than a round million dollars. The troops will consist of three units of 125 men each, and will be drawn from the mounted police force and the cowboys and ranchers of the Canadian Northwest.

OREGON ASSAY OFFICE.

Representative Tongue says that, notwithstanding the unfavorable recommendations of Director Roberts, the coinage committee will report favorably for assay offices at Portland and Baker City. He has received such assurances from members of the committee, and believes that the bill has a fair opportunity to pass the house.

IDAHO FOREST RESERVES.

The Idaho delegation is much disturbed on account of the new proposals of the interior department to create forest reserves in that state. According to the lines drawn a reservation is proposed in Southern Idaho, next the Oregon line, which will take in most of Canyon county. It will run up to the suburbs of Boise City. The Idaho senators say that the proposed reserve will be all surveyed land, much of which has no timber and is a good farming country. In Northern Idaho it is proposed to enlarge the Priest River reserve by extending it from the Pand d'Oreille river, in Washington, to Kootenai river, in Idaho, but six towns of the present reserve are to be restored.

There is also a proposition in the war department to create a large military reservation at Snake river, to include positions of Lincoln and Cassia counties.

YANCOUVER MILITARY HOSPITAL.

Upon being asked what position he held relative to the proposed convalescent military hospital for the Northwest, Senator Foster said he had notified interested persons at Vancouver that the war department officials having in charge military hospital matters do not admit the necessity of establishing a convalescent military hospital at Vancouver. Besides if they did deem such hospital necessary, or find it desirable in future to establish one, they would favor Peget sound.

MCBRIDE'S REFUNDING BILL.

In the regular course of business today, the bill introduced and reported by Senator McBride, refunding \$1.25 an acre to settlers who paid \$2.50 an acre for lands within railroad limits, was reached on the calendar, and passed without opposition. This bill will be of great interest to the people of the Pacific coast states, as it affects those lands within the grants to the railroads where such grants were afterwards forfeited by reason of the failure to construct the road. Both Oregon and Washington will be benefited by the measure, if it can be passed through the house. Representative Moody intends to push it through although he will meet with considerable opposition.

IMPROVING UPPER WILLAMETTE.

Representative Tongue today introduced a bill appropriating \$25,000 for the construction of a retirement on the left bank of the Willamette river, one mile below Independence. This retirement is intended to prevent an overflow of the river at that point into the La Creole creek, which overflow threaten to interfere with navigation on the Willamette.

PONDERINGS OF PENNOVER.

Is Done With the Political Stump and Tired of Trying to Reform the American People.

"No, never again will I go on the stump."

Thus declares himself ex-Governor Sylvester Pennover, the sphynx of Oregon democracy. "I am out of politics and will henceforth confine myself to the highly exhilarating, though not very profitable, pastime of farming for pleasure. I have several acres of ground, some fruit trees and a few hens that I am endeavoring to reconcile to the accused gold standard. But it is no use. I have never yet made a dollar off my ranch, and don't expect to as long as the money barons of the country control its finances. Should we ever get back to a binnetal monetary base again, I am sure my hens would know it, and get down to business with a zeal born of emancipation.

"I have given up the idea of trying to educate the people on the political stump. What is the use? My efforts are as the voice of one howling in the wilderness. William Jennings Bryan, in my opinion, has seen his best days at a presidential possibility, and will have to retire. I do not think he will ever again grace either the head or the tail of the democratic ticket. The party can't afford to carry him."—Telegram.

Unless Count Boni de Castellano shall drop his habit of inciting riot, he will spend most of his visit in America as the guest of the commonwealth he happens to be in, with clothes and meals thrown in.

RELIC OF PREHISTORIC DAYS.

Piece of Neihalem Beeswax Now in the Portland Free Museum.

A valuable addition to the free city museum has been secured by Colonel Hawkins. It is a piece of the historic beeswax from Neihalem, which has puzzled scientists and geologists and opened a wide field for speculation. The block of wax Colonel Hawkins has secured has inscribed upon it Latin characters.

What puzzles those who have studied this subject is the vast quantity of the wax found scattered along the beach. There are tons of it in a distance of 50 miles. From the fact that it was found embedded in the sand above where the highest tides reach, the date of its deposit is judged to be several centuries back, probably before America was even known to the civilized world.

In the October number of the Native Sons' Journal, Samuel L. Clarke has a very interesting article regarding the Neihalem wax.

"When Lewis and Clark wintered at the mouth of the Columbia—not quite a century ago—they learned the first we know of seeing it in the hands of natives," says the writer. "In 1814, one Henry, connected with the fur trade, who traveled and wrote of what he saw, published to the British world that beeswax had been dug out of the sands and was found drifting on the ocean shore, to his great wonderment. It is thus evident that the memory of living man goes not back to the time when this beeswax was not known to the natives at the mouth of the great river.

"My personal acquaintance of it goes back to 1890, when, my family made a summer trip from the Willamette to Tillamook, 50 or 60 miles south of the Columbia, and brought back small pieces of the beeswax, as also various traditions concerning the ancient wrecks that might have left it there. The bones of two wrecks were then to be seen at the mouth of the Neihalem river, that enters the ocean a few miles north of Tillamook bay.

"The Indians then occupied their ancient fishing grounds and hunted in the Coast Range adjoining. Their story of historic wrecks varied. The sands of Neihalem seem to have rivalled Scylla and Charybdis in enticement to danger, for they rehearse the story of a Chinese junk that met its fate on one side of the entrance, from which a number were saved. These lamented their fate and wept bitter tears as they looked over the sunset seas toward the shores of the Orient, where the waves were chanting the anthem of the 'Nevermore,' as friends unavailingly awaited their home-coming. But in time they made homes and found wives, leaving descendants whose almond eyes tell of their Oriental origin to this day.

"Since returning from Astoria I have seen in possession of Mr. Adolph Dekum another block, also broken, with these same marks, also part of a capital, figure 9, same size; the block having broken off through this figure. Mr. Dekum also has the lower part of a great taper 2 1/2 inches at the base, 10 inches of length remaining; the top has been broken off. The wick in this is not all gone; usually the wicks have rotted and there is a cavity where the wick once was. He also has a 10-4-inch piece of a small taper.

The Indians have legends of several wrecks that occurred in the olden time. The identity of the one that had the beeswax is the important question. So long as only indistinct marks were found it was imagined that the Chinese junk would do; but as soon as other markings were discovered, then I knew that the Chinaman was not an interested party.

"Mr. Howell's story was, that seven years before 1895, there was a very high wind without rain, that blew away the loose sand on the ridge 300 yards from his ferry. That he saw something left exposed and found it to be the corner of a block of beeswax. He dug it out and found a large block, the same as had been washed on the shore by the tides. He dug and found more; kept digging and found several tons of it in all shapes and sizes. Some had been run into blocks or bars, but was in the great squares or parallelograms.

"A number were marked with large capital letters, H. S. with a cross, evidently standing for 'In hoc signo' (in this sign). Others had the letters 'H. N.' for the Latin, 'In hoc nomine' (in this name). Some had only the letter 'N' surrounded with a circle, which, with the perfect taper of different sizes, places it beyond doubt that the beeswax was intended for stores of the Catholic missions that were on the coast 150 years ago.

"A very clear story, of Indian descent traces an Indian family to a red-haired white man saved from a wreck about the year 1745. The traditions of wrecks say they occurred very long ago. The presence of that quantity of beeswax found in a sandbank that is at least 10 feet above the highest tides and 100 paces from the present shore, challenges the record of time as to how long it may have been since this high beach has risen out of the sea, and as to whether or not this wreck could have occurred. It is well known that this western coast is gradually rising from the sea, but that it could rise 15 or more feet before the cargo buried in the sands should be unearthed, must have required a term that spanned more than a century.

"The oldest of the Indians told a tradition handed down of a vessel lost very long ago; that all on board were lost, and the vessel went gradually to decay; then the beeswax began to come ashore. They did not know what use to put it to, some tried burning it and found it was good for fuel but wood was plenty, so it was not valuable. They had an idea it might be had medicine; at any rate, they quit burning it. This is the only tradition coming from Indian sources.

"Since 1806 white men have known of the Neihalem beeswax; geologists tell that the West coast is rising from the sea; that the Willamette valley was once a sound as Peget sound is today; that this wax was spread along the coast for 50 or more miles; therefore, it is not unreasonable to believe that the total quantity at the beginning was far more than we have knowledge of. But the most interesting question is: How came any such mission craft to be in this remote a century and a half ago?"—Telegram.

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

The Common Council of the city of Roseburg meets the first Monday in each month at 8 o'clock p. m.

COURT SESSIONS.

The Circuit Court for Douglas County meets three times a year at 10 o'clock a. m. on the 1st Monday in December, 1st Monday in January, and 1st Monday in March, the 6th Monday in June, and the 1st Monday in September.

The County Court meets the 1st Wednesday after the 1st Monday in January, March, May, July, September and November, the 1st Monday in February, the 1st Monday in April, the 1st Monday in June, the 1st Monday in August, and the 1st Monday in October.

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