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The Morning Astorian.

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LAST REPLY IS RECEIVED

Krugers Ultimatum in the Hands of the British Agent.

BELIEVED UNFAVORABLE

War, However, is Uncertain But Great Britain Must Take Aggressive Steps or Back Down.

(Copyrighted 1899 by Associated Press) LONDON, Sept. 16.—Sunday will be an anxious day for Great Britain. The reply to the Transvaal government, it is known tonight, has been formulated and is in the hands of the British agent at Pretoria. Furthermore, the wires at the foreign office are busy with a long dispatch from the British high commissioner in South Africa, Sir Alfred Milner, to the Secretary of State of the Colonies, Joseph Chamberlain, which is being rapidly repeated to the latter's Birmingham home, so the contents of the Boer reply will probably rest tonight with Great Britain's colonial secretary.

Unless South Africa is peopled with false prophets, the Boers have either evaded or defied what practically amounted to an ultimatum from the British cabinet. From the tenor of their recent communications to Chamberlain they could scarcely be expected to do otherwise. However, as frequently pointed out in these dispatches, this presumed action upon the part of the Boers does not make war a certainty, though it does place the British cabinet in a position where it must take steps so aggressive that war, or utter ignominious submission, will be the only alternative remaining to the Transvaal reply.

This new phase of the crisis also gravely increases the probability that the Boers will take time and diplomacy by the forelock and raid Natal, confiscate the mines, arrest the Uitlanders for high treason or otherwise resent their presence, while the British transports are in mid-ocean, for what they believe is an attempt to rob them of their independence. If the course of diplomacy is not foreshortened, the British cabinet will meet again and formulate specific demands far more sweeping than the last ones.

These will be transmitted to President Kruger in the shape of an ultimatum. As members of the cabinet are scattered throughout the country

It is improbable that a council could be gathered till Monday night at the earliest, and there is every reason to believe the British government will exhibit no undue haste in forcing President Kruger's hand, for it is palpably more important to have 15,000 reinforcements on the scene of action than gain the crying for immediate aggressive action. It is hardly conceivable that President Kruger will await the arrival of British reinforcements before taking the initiative. If he displays such hesitation, he will strengthen the belief at the very last moment that he intends to back down, an impression which has many supporters among the ultra conservatively inclined.

President Kruger's rumored refusal of the latest demands has lost him many friends in England. The reported formal alliance between the Transvaal and the Orange Free State has also done much to alienate the feeling of those Englishmen inclined to sympathize with the Transvaal, though it is scarcely believed the Orange Free State will take an active part, more likely confining itself to passive unorganized assistance, as in the war of 1880.

The departure of the troops from Southampton for Natal today was marked by such scenes as have not occurred in England for many years. Wives, daughters, sweethearts and friends crowded around the Northumberland fusiliers, or as they are better known "The Fighting Fifth," on the stations and at the docks crying, waving hats and handkerchiefs and cheering, mixing grief and patriotism as men and women do only when those dear to them go to war.

WAR IS EXPECTED.

Belief That the Transvaal Reply is Uncompromising.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—Indications from all sources point to extreme gravity in the Transvaal situation. Pretoria advices emanating from a Boer source say the Transvaal reply is uncompromising. Another Pretoria special, dated September 15, says the situation is now regarded as all but hopeless, unless Great Britain retreats from her position.

It is now definitely stated that the Orange Free State has agreed to unite with the Transvaal in resisting the British claims. Of all the numerous channels through which South African news reaches London, not one gives the faintest hope that the Boer reply will be favorable, the majority taking the view that war is extremely probable.

The First battalion of Northumberland fusiliers, 900 strong, and detachments of the army service corps sailed on the steamer Gaul at 2 p. m. today from Southampton, en route to Natal, amid great enthusiasm. The men appeared in splendid condition and openly anxious for fighting. General Sir George Stewart White, who is going to command the troops in Natal, satied with his staff on the Tantal Castle from Plymouth.

CARPENTERS GO OUT.

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.—As a result of receiving no satisfaction from contractors and builders in this city, through a circular sent them by the joint carpenters' organizations demanding wages of \$4 per day and Saturday half holiday, 10,000 carpenters laid down their tools today and quit work.

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SUBIG BAY BOMBARDED

Cruiser Charleston Attacks The Fort Doing Little Damage.

WILL BE CONTINUED

Monterey and Charleston Start For The Scene—Manila News By a Local Paper.

MANILA, Sept. 17.—11:30 a. m.—The cruiser Charleston began a heavy bombardment of the fort on Subig bay Thursday. Little or no injury was done. The monitor Monterey and gunboat Concord are returning to Subig bay to continue the bombardment.

PROGRESS OF EVENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Interesting News Which Has Been Omitted in the Press Dispatches—Manila Steadily Improving.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Eight copies of the American published at Manila received at the war department contain many interesting items regarding the progress of events in the Philippines which have been omitted from regular press dispatches. Although Cavite has been in the possession of the United States longer than any town in the islands, it is still practically under military rule, but the district commander and the provost marshal have given the people every concession which the exigencies of the service would permit. Natives are allowed to remain on the streets until half-past nine o'clock at night and in other ways they enjoy more liberty than do their brethren in Manila.

Simplexto Samaningo, a native of Cavite, has filed a claim with the United States authorities for prize money in connection with the capture of a filibustering expedition. It seems that he furnished the information which led to the seizure of the steamer Don Jose and a small schooner, both loaded with contraband articles last spring.

The "white man's burden" which has been carried by the volunteers in the Philippine islands for over a year, is now being shared by some of the black boys of the United States. A sergeant in the Twenty-fourth infantry said the other day when saluted with the question, "What are you boys doing here?" "Why boss, we are here to take up the white man's burden."

According to a special dispatch the people of Cebu are restless and threaten trouble. Although they seem to be peaceful, it is thought to be through fear alone.

The establishment of a public almshouse and a home for incurables at Manila is being strongly advocated, not only as a very necessary charity, but as a means of protection for the American and European population. It is also recommended that the jails be enlarged for the accommodation of vagrants who are able to work, but who will not do so.

Good results are shown in the Manila public schools system. The total number of pupils enrolled in the city during July was 4173. It is noteworthy that parents are expressing particular interest in the study of English and the progress being made by many pupils is a matter of great family pride.

OFFICIAL NEWS FROM GILMORE

Washington Officials in Receipt of Letters From Men of Yorktown.

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.—A special to the Journal and Advertiser says: News concerning Lieutenant Gilmore and 14 of the enlisted men of the Yorktown who were captured by the Filipinos at Baler, more than six months ago, has reached Washington in letters to officials and their fellow-officers in the islands. The latest information comes through a Spanish planter by the name of Garza. He described Lieutenant Gilmore and his companions to officers in Manila. He said that officer and 14 men at Baler, where they were subsisting off a meagre quantity of rice valued at not more than one peseta per man per day. He is quoted as saying that the captives could not stand such hardships and such fare much longer. Garza also described the extent of the force at Baler, where fully 8,000 Filipinos are under arms.

Some of the weapons are Mausers with which the men on the line are being equipped steadily. The sources of supply evidently amazed Garza, as it has those in authority at Manila. He said the old weapons were being distributed to the troops in the interior and that the armament of the in-

fantry goes on to an alarming extent.

Garza reports that the Filipinos in some instances were equipped with the uniform of Americans, including the cork helmet. These articles evidently came from the steamer Centennial, which went on the reef on the northwestern coast of Luzon and was promptly looted. Garza witnessed also the destruction of the Saturnus.

BATTLESHIP WISCONSIN

She is Now Completed and Ready for the Bullier's Trial.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 16.—The battleship Wisconsin will be ready for her bullier's trial trip in two weeks. On Monday her engines will be turned over for the first time and then as soon as her steering gear is ready she will make her run on the bay.

Should the government permit the use of weights instead of hoists she will be ready for her official test in Santa Barbara channel the first week in October. Had it not been for the delay in supplying the armor, the Wisconsin would have been ready to go into commission last July. The Union Iron Works had its part of the ship ready with the exception of the steering gear and that could not have been put in, because the conning tower had not arrived from the east.

All the gear for steering the fighting machine goes through the tower and until it arrives all work on the Wisconsin has to cease. The conning tower arrived a couple of days ago and is now being put in place. By Monday the work will be for enough advanced to allow of the engines being turned over and about October 1 the battleship will be seen in the bay for the first time under her own steam.

ANTI-TRUST CONFERENCE ABOUT TO BE FORMED.

Will Be Held in Chicago Under the Auspices of the Democratic National Executive Committee.

CHICAGO, Sept. 16.—The Chronicle says:

One of the immediate results of the trust conference will be that of the organization of a movement under democratic auspices to call an anti-trust conference in Chicago or Cincinnati about the middle of October. The new national executive committee may be urged to take the subject under advisement for future action.

Colonel Bryan was consulted upon his arrival in Chicago about the scheme and he is said to have given it his approval. The democratic members of the conference were in favor of it almost to a man. They said that their observation of the function called by the Civic Federation convinced them that the great mass of the people want a meeting that will deal with the trust question without equivocation.

Southern delegates, especially several from Texas, pointed out to Mr. Bryan the political advantage that would accrue to the democratic party if its managers should contrive to hold such a meeting. The effect upon campaigns pending in several western states, they argued, would be good, for it would serve to place the party in direct and unequivocal opposition to trusts. Ex-Governor Altgeld is said to be in sympathy with the plan.

WILL EMBARK AT PORTLAND.

Transports Will Carry Thirty-fifth Infantry From Inland Metropolis.

VANCOUVER, Sept. 16.—Lieutenant Plummer received official notice today from the war department that the Thirty-fifth infantry, United States volunteers, under his command, will take transports for the Philippines from Portland, Oregon.

No date was fixed in the advices for the departure of the regiment.

FORT STEVENS MAN WINE.

PORTLAND, Sept. 16.—Concluding the tennis match this afternoon between Lieutenant W. A. Bethel and W. A. Gross, for the state championship in singles and for a beautiful cup donated by Major W. L. Fisk, the best three out of five games was won by Lieutenant Bethel, of Fort Stevens, who holds the championship of Oregon and the privilege of holding the cup the year, by a score of 6-1, 6-3, 7-5. Bethel proved himself a phenomenal player.

PACING RECORD BROKEN.

CLEVELAND, Sept. 16.—At a weekly matinee of the Gentlemen's Driving club this afternoon, Sunland Belle broke the record for pacing to a wagon. She made a mile in 2:37 1/2, the last quarter being paced in 31 seconds.

THE OUTLOOK IS FAVORABLE

Hanna Predicts Republican Victory at Coming Election.

ISSUES OF THE CAMPAIGN

Present Era of Prosperity Should Not be Disturbed—Bryan and Cochran Debate Closes.

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.—Senator M. A. Hanna arrived here today on the St. Louis from Southampton. He said to a reporter that his health had improved somewhat while he was abroad and that he had had a good time.

"My observations of England," said he, "are that it is a country with a good political system. It is fully as good as ours and England has built up a government full of stability. I was delighted with the outdoor life in England. I suppose the English all have their opinion as to our Philippine policy, but I did not discuss the matter with any one. Of course I believe President McKinley will be re-elected, but then I have given my opinion on that matter so often that it has now become rather a chestnut. As to Roosevelt for vice-president I certainly will not discuss that possibility.

"I think that industrial conditions and the Philippine war will prove factors in the coming campaign. The Philippine war will be made the issue by the democratic party, but we have nothing to fear. I would as soon have the so-called anti-expansion made the issue as I would the silver question, for silver is the old man of the sea. I am not afraid of the outcome. I have reasoned out that the sound judgment of the people is that they do not want to bring about a change. They will not, I believe, by their own action, change the conditions of the country. The United States has entered on an era of prosperity. I am confident of a republican victory. I am of the belief that there will be some difficulty in making the trusts a political issue. The republican party is just as much opposed to the amassing of wealth in a manner to injure the public as is the democratic party."

CHICAGO, Sept. 16.—The conference on uses and abuses of trusts closed its sessions here today in a blaze of oratory, in which Colonel W. J. Bryan and W. Bourke Cochran were the central figures.

Cochran followed the noted Nebraskan, but disclaimed any intention of debating the conclusions of his immediate predecessor and claimed his complete concurrence in much that Bryan had said. The westerner had delivered the speech of the day during the forenoon amid frequent interruption of tumultuous applause.

Foote, of Indiana, commenting on the speech, made assertions which Bryan desired further to discuss. He was requested to take the stage and complied for the second time, facing the wildly enthusiastic house. At the conclusion, Cochran arose and observed: "Just a few words." The spectators wanted more and refused to subside until he had taken the platform. He agreed with Bryan, he said, but he wanted information.

AFTER AMERICAN MULES

British Government Buying Both Animals and Wagons in The United States.

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.—A Journal and Advertiser special from Washington says:

The war department has been approached by representatives of the British government who wanted to buy at once 1000 mules for shipment to South Africa for army uses. The department, however, had disposed of all its surplus stock. The Englishmen will buy the mules in open market in the south and ship them to South Africa as fast as they can be obtained. Great Britain has also recently let several large contracts for army wagons for South Africa to the principal wagon-makers in this country.

JELLOW-JACK AT KEY WEST.

KEY WEST, Sept. 16.—Thirty-eight cases of yellow fever were reported in the past 24 hours and one death.

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