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# The Morning Astorian.

VOL. L.

ASTORIA, OREGON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1899

NO. 165

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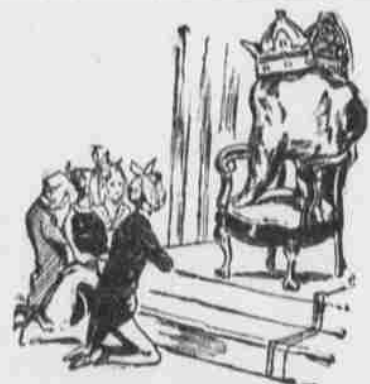
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## LORD METHUEN'S FORCES ACTIVE

Communication Has Been Re-  
stored With Modder River.

SITUATION IS YET CRITICAL

Boers Outnumber British, But Dis-  
sension Reported Among Them—  
Dispatch From Ladysmith.

LONDON, Dec. 4 6/8 a. m.—Lord Methuen's restoration of the railway while relieving a load of anxiety here, accentuates the dangers still threatening his force. It is gathered from a brief official dispatch that Commandant Fitz Lee's contingent was taken between the forces acting from Belmont and southward from Modder river. Reports continue to come from Ladysmith that dissension exists among the Boers, and especially that the Orange Free State troops are discontented. There are also all kinds of rumors of movements, but the fact is, little is known here regarding the actual position of the Boer forces. Moreover, rumors of a collapse of the Boer spirit have been heard so often as not to cause much satisfaction now.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—General Forester-Walker has sent the following dispatch, dated at 9 o'clock last (Friday) evening, to the war office from Cape Town.

Telegraph and every communication to Modder river has been reopened. A battery of field artillery and a battalion of infantry were despatched from the Modder river against Commandant Prins Loos and a force of 1,000 Boers with one gun, who had destroyed the railway. Our losses were 14 wounded.

Belmont has been strengthened by infantry and two guns and a cavalry regiment and the troops from Naauwpoort occupied Arandiel Tuesday.

The enemy's force near General Gatacre are reported as follows: At Dordrecht 300, marching from Jamestown to Dordrecht 700, with six guns; at Stormberg, 1500; at Waterfall, large forces; strength under Moutono about 400.

Lord Methuen reports his casualties of December 6th on patrol duty as follows: Missing, Lieutenant Treyston and four of the Twelfth Lancers; wounded, four men.

Some interesting light is thrown on the position of affairs along the western frontier by a dispatch issued by the Boer agency last evening in Berlin. The dispatch says:

"Commandant Prins Loos' force is near Jacobsdal, between Modder river and the Riet river. General Cronje is still on the north bank of the Modder river, his rear being protected by fortified positions at Spytfontein and those between Jacobsdal and Riet river are occupied by Boers. Commandant DeLarins' force is stationed between Graspan and Honey Nest Kloof."

If this Berlin dispatch be correct—and it is especially significant when judged in connection with General Forester-Walker's advice to the war office—there must be some 15,000 Boers around Lord Methuen who is believed to have only 11,000 men.

BRITISH ADVANCE ON COLENZO.

PRETORIA, Thursday, Dec. 7.—The following dispatch, dated today has been received from the head Laager near Ladysmith:

The British are advancing on Colenzo but last night passed without an attack. There was desultory cannonade this morning, the naval guns in Ladysmith replying vigorously to our fire.

SLIGHT BRITISH LOSSES.

Direct Dispatch From Ladysmith Giving Total Casualties Since November 1.

LADYSMITH, Thursday, Dec. 7.—Via Wesman.—The total British casualties here since November 1 are five officers and 26 men killed and 15 officers and 120 men wounded, with three missing. The Boer force is still around us in large numbers, but all within the town are well and cheerful.

CONFIDENCE IN BULLER.

He is Believed to Have Ample Men to Carry Out His Plans For Relieving Kimberley and Ladysmith.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London dated Dec. 8, says:

Two great battles are pending before Ladysmith and Kimberley, and the hotspurs are impatient to have them come. One leading English journal, impressed with the conviction that the situation of White's army is critical,

deprecates delay and well might raise a cry of "on to Ladysmith." It has also published evidence of large reinforcements which General Cronje has received from Natal and Maikling to enable him to make a strong stand at Spytfontein.

The war office, having allowed General Buller a free hand, is content to leave the campaign to his hands and devote its energies to the rapid dispatch of the fifth and sixth divisions and the arranging of the details of the mobilization of the seventh.

Military men outside of that office do not share the uneasy feeling of the Times that the garrison are in a critical condition and that the difficulties of the situation either on the Tugela or beyond the Modder are increased by the inaction of the British forces. They assert that both Generals Methuen and Clery, being in searchlight communication with the beleaguered garrisons know what is going on and precisely how urgent is the need of relief. They also maintain that the Dutch forces have less to gain by delay than the British, since concentration of forces is going on in both camps and the reserves of artillery and cavalry are a more important advantage for the two relief columns than the strengthening of the defenses of Colenso and Spytfontein is for the enemy.

The situation, when viewed comprehensively at midnight, was distinctly favorable to the British side and there was no apparent reason for hurrying, much less rushing the campaign. General Methuen, on resuming command on Wednesday, had an additional brigade of infantry, another regiment of lancers and an increased force of artillery as well as cavalry. He was in much better position for using his heavy-artillery and hammering the enemy's works with an artillery fire and manœuvring with cavalry.

There were ample compensations for the delay in moving the bridges and if General Cronje had been reinforced the Dutch allies were weaker in Natal and to Cuba, the membership of the committees on foreign affairs, mercantile, marine and fisheries, public lands, military affairs, naval affairs, and District of Columbia, from 15 to 17 members, and the committee on territories from 12 to 15.

The resolution for the appointment of an insular committee was adopted without division. Daisell then offered a resolution for the consideration of the currency bill and spoke in its favor. Richardson, on behalf of the minority, dissented emphatically from the proposition advanced by Daisell, that the bill contained nothing radically new. For the first time in the history of the country it was proposed by statutory provisions to fasten a gold standard upon the country.

Halley declared the proposed course of the majority was without precedent or defense. Daisell closed the debate for a special order, and the roll was called on its adoption. The special order was adopted by a strict party vote of 152 to 144. At 1:30 the house adjourned until Monday.

Cannon, (rep. Ill.), in response to a thrust of Richardson, frankly said that he had voted for the free coinage of silver in 1876, but he had done so because of the impending resumption of specie payments when the democratic party was howling for fiat money. But specie payments had been resumed without disaster, despite democratic howls. Since then the country had been on the gold standard.

Daisell closed the debate by recalling some of the rules under which democrats had forced through important bills in the Fifty-Second and Fifty-Third congresses. He referred particularly to the adoption of the conference report in the Fifty-Second congress upon the tariff bill, which "the greatest democrat since Andrew Jackson, Grover Cleveland," (derisive laughter on the democratic side) had pronounced a piece of party party and dishonesty. He described this procedure as a "rape of all precedents," and cited other cases where he said, "rag rule," had been employed.

Richardson, the leader of the minority, faulted some of the majority leaders with their change of front in coming out flat-footedly for the gold standard, but Grossman and Cannon goodnaturedly replied that they had learned something with the advancing years.

The former said the democratic party was the only living demonstration of the survival of a great organization which refused to learn anything. The special order was then adopted.

ROBERTS' ADDRESS ANSWERED.  
He is Disqualified for Congress by Criminal Practices and Lack of Citizenship.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The answer to E. H. Roberts' address to the American people was made today by the delegation representing the gentle element in Utah who are here to oppose Roberts. The answer says:

If at the time of the passage of the enabling act Roberts was, as he seems in his appeal to admit, disfranchised by act of congress and therefore not a full citizen of the United States as by the constitution he must be to become a member of congress, then he is still in the same condition, because the constitution of Utah could not restore him to federal citizenship and the enabling act did not do it.

Roberts says he has not been con-

## IS MADE A SPECIAL ORDER

Financial Bill Debate Commences  
Monday For One Week.

DECIDED BY A PARTY VOTE

Democrats Will Fight to Prevent Ful-  
fillment of the Republican Cur-  
rency Reform Pledge.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The committee on rules of the house today decided to bring in a rule for consideration of the finance bill, the general debate to begin next Monday and continue until Friday, and with debate under a five-minute rule on Saturday, with a provision for vote Monday, December 18, immediately after the reading of the journal. Twenty minutes on each side will be allowed for debating on the rule.

Roberts, the Mormon representative, elected from Utah, was not in the house when it convened today. It was agreed that when the house adjourned today it be to meet on Monday. Daisell (Pa.) on the committee on rules, then presented amendments to the rules agreed upon by the committee for the creation of a committee on insular affairs to consist of 17 members to have jurisdiction "over all matters excepting those affecting the revenues and appropriations," pertaining to the islands which came to the United States through the treaty of 1899 with Spain, and to Cuba, the membership of the committees on foreign affairs, mercantile, marine and fisheries, public lands, military affairs, naval affairs, and District of Columbia, from 15 to 17 members, and the committee on territories from 12 to 15.

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## TAYLOR GETS A CERTIFICATE

Kentucky Board Finds Entire Re-  
publican Ticket Was Elected.

ONLY ALTERNATIVE OPEN

Could Not Go Behind the County Re-  
turns—Taylor Will Be Inaug-  
urated Next Tuesday.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Dec. 8.—The state board of elections tonight gave out their official report.

The finding is that W. S. Taylor for governor and the rest of the republican ticket has been elected on the face of the returns. Commissioners Ellis and Pryor signed the majority report, in which they hold that as a board of canvassers, they have no right to go behind the returns as received by them from the counties which show the election of the republican state ticket. Accordingly, the report says, certificates of election were or-level issued to each candidate thereon.

Commissioner Poynitz presents the minority report which he closes by saying: "I am unwilling to certify to fraud and to turn Kentucky over to the control of the bayonet, gassing gun and fraudulent issue ballots."

Extensive preparations are being made to inaugurate Taylor next Tuesday.

BEEF FOR AFRICA.

Biggest Shipment of Canned Beef Ever Known Sent Yesterday to the British Army.

CHICAGO, Dec. 8.—Libby, Neal & Libby have shipped 750,000 pounds of canned beef to the British army in South Africa. Twenty-four cars were required to carry it. This is the largest shipment of canned beef ever made from this city.

THE BICYCLE RACE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—The leaders of the great six day bicycle race at Madison Square garden were 35 miles ahead of the record at midnight tonight. At 2 a. m. Miller and Walter had covered 254 miles. Walthour, the Southern champion, had a lead of several miles for the individual prize.

ELECTRIC LINE TO REPUBLIC.

SPOKANE, Dec. 8.—Ex-Senator Warner Miller, of New York, and Jas. F. McNaught, of Seattle, have taken an option on the water power at Kettle Falls on the Columbia river, north of Spokane, and contemplate building an electric railroad from the Spokane Falls and Northern road to Republic Camp.

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(Continued on page 4.)