

The Morning Astorian.

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THE DEMAND IS FOR TRANSPORTS

Plenty of Men Available For South African War.

COLONIES PROFFERING AID

The Cunard Steamers Likely to Be Pressed Into Service—Boer Loss at Magersfonten.

LONDON, Dec. 15, 4:45 a. m.—The war office is still without news from Ladysmith, other than that already reported. The general belief is that the large Boer forces Lord Methuen encountered at Magersfonten were mostly drawn from Natal, and that General Buller will strike a blow before these have time to return.

The newspapers are calling upon the government to employ the Cunarders as well as the White Star steamers as transports, seeing the urgent necessity for getting more men to the Cape as speedily as possible. Forty thousand men could still be sent from England without calling on the militia for foreign service. The militia effective is 100,000 and from this body 20,000 carefully selected men could be concentrated easily and be sent to the South Africa. Moreover, the colonies are again proffering assistance. The greatest need, therefore, is speedy transports.

Sir Charles Warren, who arrived at Cape Town yesterday, will possibly join Lord Methuen and take command of the combined forces.

COLLECTING THE WOUNDED

Circumstances Indicate That the Boer Losses Were Larger Than the British.

MODDER RIVER, Wednesday, Dec. 12.—The ambulances started out early yesterday morning under a flag of truce to collect the wounded and bury the dead who fell at Magersfonten.

Detachment General Wainwright, who led the Highland brigade, was found dead near the trenches, shot in the chest and flag. The side of the hill and immediate neighborhood of the trenches. The greatest need, therefore, is speedy transports.

A Boer informed the correspondent of the Associated Press that their loss was terrible. The whole sanitary contingent was destroyed. The Boer losses must exceed 300. All confess that it was their greatest loss during the war. The British troops have returned to Modder river owing to the lack of water near the position held yesterday.

ANOTHER SKIRMISH REPORTED

LONDON, Dec. 14.—The war office has received the following dispatch from General Forester-Walker at Cape Town:

"General French wires, under date of December 12, reporting a skirmish at 4 o'clock in the morning with 100 Boers who were advancing southward toward Nattupoot.

The skirmishing continued all the morning the Boers fighting on the front of 14 miles. The enemy retired with a loss of forty killed and wounded, our casualties were one killed, seven wounded, including one officer, and two missing."

ANOTHER ARTILLERY DUEL ON

PRENE CAMP, Wednesday, Dec. 12.—Firing can be heard this morning in the direction of Colons and an artillery duel is expected today.

LYDDITE AT MAGERSFONTEIN

Terrible Effect of the English Artillery Fire.

MODDER RIVER, Cape Colony, Dec. 14.—Details gathered here by a representative of the Associated Press among the wounded British and the Boers gave some idea of the desperate nature of the fight at Magersfonten. The Highlanders did all that the most gallant troops in the world could do, but it was impossible to face the terrible fire of the Boers. The British artillery again saved the situation and divided the honors of the day with the Scots. The batteries worked for hours under a galling rifle fire.

According to the Boer stories, it was impossible for the burghers to have escaped fearful loss. One Boer prisoner said a single Lyddite shell killed or wounded over 20 and that two others burst over two bodies of Boers encountered behind the range, doing fearful damage. All agree the Boers fought throughout with the utmost gallantry. Their sharpshooters seldom missed the mark.

A Seaforth Highlander says that while he was lying wounded on the field he saw a Boer, of typical German appearance, faultlessly dressed, with

polished top boots, a shirt with silk ruffles, and a cigar in his mouth, walking among the men, pecking off the British. He was quite alone and it was apparent from the frequent use he made of field glasses, that he was sighting out officers.

Another wounded Boer says that a Lyddite shell, fired on Sunday, fell in the midst of an open air prayer meeting, held to offer supplications for the success of the Boer arms.

ANOTHER LADYSMITH SORTIE

LONDON, Dec. 14.—A special dispatch from Weenen, Natal, dated Monday, Dec. 11, says that the Ladysmith garrison has made a sortie and destroyed Modderspruit bridge.

THE QUEEN'S DEEP BROW

She Frequently Gives Way to Tears Over the South African Situation.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—A dispatch to the Herald from London, says: It is stated by a person in a position to know that the queen's mental anxiety gives the gravest alarm to the royal household. The queen insists on receiving the minutest information from the war office as to the state of affairs. Yet she is completely overcome when the particulars of each engagement are related.

Even when discussing other matters and conducting ordinary correspondence the queen suddenly bursts into a flood of tears and makes pathetic reference to the misery and hardship entailed upon her soldiers, as well as upon the Boers themselves.

No matter where one went last night there was but one topic of discussion. Methuen's defeat and his probable losses. Later in the evening when it became known that General Wainwright and the Marquis of Winchester were among the killed the tension was increased. It is not an exaggeration to say that almost every mansion in the fashionable west and contains anxious and sleepless men and women this morning.

An undertone of condemnation of the inactivity of the war office before hostilities began, has found its way to the surface. This feeling was expressed in strong terms at the war office where crowds of anxious men and women congregated before the doors reading the bulletins all through the day and evening. Many women were unable to control their emotion.

JINGOS IN A PANIC

English Military Experts Recasting South African War Expenses.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—A dispatch to the World from London says: The decided check to General Methuen and the heavy British loss have added to the panic among the military authorities and the jingo war experts in London.

It is noted as significant that this was the first fight on the soil of a South African republic. As a consequence General Methuen reports that he is intending to hold his ground after a two day's fight.

The war office now is pushed to the extremity of its resources. Lord Roberts, commander in chief in Ireland, was hastily summoned last night from Dublin to London.

At its extra session parliament was told that \$50,000,000 would cover the expense of the war. It is now said, by the best informed that \$200,000,000 will not pay the bill.

Eighty thousand British troops are in South Africa now and 10,000 more are to be mobilized, or are on the way, while advance orders for a sixth division of 10,000 men are being executed and there are warnings that a seventh division of the same number will soon be collected for shipment to the Cape.

BLAMING THE AUTHORITIES

English Public Intensely Indignant Over the South Africa Reverses.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—While the outwardly calm attitude of the press and people here during the present crisis commands admiration, there is an undercurrent of intense indignation against the war office and the government which threatens to have serious addition in the blunders of generals and further evidences of the breaking down of the transport and intelligence department, which are daily coming to light. It was freely predicted this morning, even in high military circles that the South African campaign will last until June.

It is also expected that Methuen will have to retire south of Orange river, a retreat he could not hold out long at Modder river, where his ammunition and food supplies were not expected to last over a week. In fact it was said his line of communication was probably already cut, and it was claimed that Gatacre was similarly weakened by his reverses and the revolt of the colonists, and it was added he might have to choose between siege or retreat.

Scenes at the war office this morning when Methuen's casualties were posted were highly dramatic. The afternoon papers of all shades of politics follow the morning papers in facing the situation courageously and demanding immediate dispatch of reinforcements.

SIBLEY AGAIN CHANGES HEART

Pennsylvania Congressman Goes Back on His Free Silver Views.

DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS AT

Gets Leave to Print His Remarks on the Financial Bill and Disappoints the Gallery Rounders.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The debate on the currency bill in the house today was tame and prosaic, none of the speeches made attracted special attention. Sibley (dem.), of Pennsylvania, who had publicly announced his change of views on the money question and who it was thought might vote for the bill, stated that he would vote against it.

When Sibley rose to speak, much interest was manifested, but he disappointed his audience. He had only risen to say that he proposed to print his views in the record. He not entirely agreed, he said, with the views of the members of the minority side.

Thayer (dem.), Mass., was the only member of the opposition who made a speech for the bill today. Thayer said he regretted to differ from his colleagues, but his conscience compelled him to dissent. He spoke of the Chicago platform of 1896 as a great mistake made by a portion of the democratic party created by Jefferson, defended by Jackson and protected by the immortal Russell, of Massachusetts, at the sacrifice of himself.

He said he believed that if the question of silver at 16 to 1 could be left to the democratic voters unaccompanied by illustrious names they would reject it by an overwhelming majority.

The time had come, he said, when financial interests should be relieved from the continued agitation of the financial question which had been hanging over the country for the past eight years like a funeral pall.

Thayer declared the republicans would not have had the courage to bring in this bill if a little band of heroic democrats in 1896, in the spirit of self-sacrifice, had not declared for the gold standard.

Thayer was liberally applauded by republicans.

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

Much Strife Engendered by Rival Clites for the Honor.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Representatives of the rival cities which seek the honor of entertaining the next republican national convention, are actively at work. Chicago and Philadelphia, New York and St. Louis are represented by big delegations. The Philadelphians report that the most serious obstacle they have met is the charge that Pennsylvania is in favor of Mr. Payne's resolution basing the representation in the national convention on the republican votes cast, which would cut down the southern representation. The southern delegates say they have an idea that Pennsylvania is for the proposed change, and they have started out tonight to counteract this impression.

The statement is made that the southern national committee propose to act as a unit and cast their votes on the subject of the selection of the place of meeting in such a way as will win for them the most support in their fight against reappointment.

SPANISH PRISONERS ARRIVING

Mary Thousands Released by Rescue Operations Are Arriving at Manila.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—General Otis called today that 1,800 Spanish prisoners were received in Manila, and that over two thousand more are enroute. Thirteen hundred were shipped to Spain.

These prisoners are in much better physical condition than the Spanish prisoners captured when Manila capitulated.

ANOTHER STRONGHOLD TAKEN

Blancabato in Possession of Colonel Hayes' Cavalry.

MANILA, Dec. 14.—A detachment of Colonel Hayes' cavalry, under Lieut. Onant Arnold, has captured Blancabato, the mountain stronghold where the last insurrection was ended with a peace treaty. A large quantity of ammunition and arms was captured. Major Bachevalier's battalion of the Twenty-fourth infantry is making very slow progress in the Appari valley. The villagers are giving the colored troops banquets and balls everywhere.

SENATE COMMITTEES

McBride, the Oregon Senator, Obtains Good Recognition.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The republicans of the senate today adopted the changes made by the committee on committees. The members from Oregon, Washington and Idaho, who are added to the committees are as follows:

Judiciary, Simon; Agriculture, Foster; coast and insular survey (new) Foster, chairman; Hawley, McMillan, Perkins, Wellington; Forest reservations, McBride; Fisheries, Foster; Indian depredations, McBride; Inter-oceanic canals, McBride; Irrigation, Simon; Philippines (new) Lodge, chairman; Allison, Hale, Davis, Proctor, McBride, Beveridge; Revolutionary claims, Foster; Transportation routes, Shoup; Potomac river front, Foster; Women suffrage, Foster.

It is to be observed that Kyle (ind.) and Stewart (silver) are considered in the majority list of committees.

THE BOSTON WAY

A Falling Bank Rescued by Its Associates in the Clearing House—If It Had Been Astoria, Oh, My.

BOSTON, Dec. 14.—At a meeting of the Boston Clearing House, representing the national banks of this city, today, it was voted to issue \$2,500,000 in special clearing house certificates to enable the Globe National bank to tide over the difficulties in its finances which have existed for some time. It is announced at the clearing house that the bank will thereby be able to continue without further trouble. The finances of the institution have been in an unsatisfactory condition owing to unprofitable investments in oil and mining securities.

HOMESTEADS IN PHILIPPINES

Bill Introduced in the House Extending Land Laws to Our New Possessions.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Among the house measures introduced today were these:

By Wilson (Ariz.) admitting Arizona to statehood, and to give two months' extra pay to those serving in the war with Spain without the limitations of the present law. By Jones (Wash.) to extend the homestead law to the Philippines so that soldiers serving in the wars with Spain or the Philippines shall have the benefit of homestead settlement in these possessions.

WILL SAVE DAMPHOFFER

Senator Foster Has Procured a Mitigation of Death Sentence From the War Department.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 14.—A telegram received from United States Senator Foster by Representative E. C. Bellows, of this city, who is taking a personal interest in the case of Gen. Damphoffer, of the sixteenth infantry, reported to be under sentence of death for an alleged crime in Manila, was received today, stating that the senator had received assurance from the war department that the sentence of the court martial against Damphoffer would be mitigated.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.

AT THE MOUNT VERNON TOMB

The Centennial of Washington's Death Impressively Observed.

THOUSANDS IN ATTENDANCE

Elaborate Masonic and Red Men Services Conducted by Organizations From Many Different Sections.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Today's ceremonies on the centennial of the death of George Washington were elaborately planned and successfully carried to fruition. They were conducted by Masonic bodies and by the Red Men of the United States.

The movement for today's observance originated in 1893 with the grand lodge of Masons of the state of Colorado, the proposition being made by the most worshipful William D. Wright, grand master of Colorado, who was present to witness the carrying into effect of his long cherished idea.

The charges of the ceremonies incident to today's commemoration was placed in the hands of the Masons of Virginia, it being in the Old Dominion that Washington was obligated as a master Mason and there that he participated enthusiastically in Masonic work and observances.

The officers of the grand lodge of Virginia and the membership of Fredericksburg lodge, in which Washington was made a Mason, and of the Washington-Alexandria lodge, over which he presided as worshipful master, had the chief part in the duty of seeing that today's observances were appropriate.

Thousands of Masons were in attendance from all parts of the country.

WASHINGTON'S TOMB

Impressive Ceremonies at Mount Vernon Yesterday

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Mount Vernon was the scene today of the most unique and impressive ceremony in its rich and picturesque history. Masons of high degree from all over the United States and Canada met at the tomb of Washington in services commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death of the greatest American. President McKinley delivered an eloquent tribute to the memory of the first president, and senators and representatives in congress, high officials of the government and distinguished private citizens were participants and spectators of the solemn service.

Later in the day, when the Masonic ceremonies had been concluded, the Independent Order of Red Men succeeded them in honoring the memory of Washington with the rites of their order.

PIONEER SUICIDES

HILLSBORO, Or., Dec. 14.—Mrs. M. Dillaboy, a pioneer of 1851, died at her home near here this morning from a dose of paragon, taken with suicidal intent while mentally deranged. She was aged 53.

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