

# The Morning Astorian.

VOL. L.

ASTORIA, OREGON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1899

NO. 176

## Suggesting Christmas Gifts

### FOR BOYS.

This great store—large, airy and elegant—abounds with Holiday Novelties in Boys' and Young Men's Clothes. There is not a style in any article of Man's wear that is not shown here in miniature for Boys.

- |               |                  |                 |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Suits</b>  | <b>Underwear</b> | <b>Neckwear</b> |
| Reefers       | Hosiery          | Gloves          |
| Overcoats     | Shirts           | Leggins         |
| Hats and Caps | Sweaters         | Fancy Vests     |

CHRISTMAS TOYS GIVEN WITH SUITS, OVERCOATS OR REEFERS.

### A. B. STEINBACH & CO.

LARGEST CLOTHIERS IN THE NORTHWEST

Mail Orders Solicited

Corner Fourth and Morrison Sts., PORTLAND, OREGON

## Christmas Gifts!

We have over one hundred different styles of Fancy Rockers in Mahogany, Golden Oak and Birdseye Maple which are excellent values and choice goods. We have also a beautiful line of Pictures artistically framed, Ladies' Writing Desks, Parlor Tables, Tabourettes, Jardinierre Stands.

**Rugs!** A large assortment of Smyrnas, Axminsters and Wiltons.

Artistic Picture Framing.

### Charles Heilborn & Son.

## Leave Your Orders Now FOR XMAS

### Turkeys, Geese, Chickens,

Or Call and Inspect Our Stock, Which We Guarantee the Finest.

### Choice Apples, \$1 a Box AND UPWARDS.

Oranges, Bananas, Nuts, Candy, Plum Pudding, Etc.

### ROSS, HIGGINS & CO.

Largest and Best Equipped Offices in the Northwest

## PORTLAND DENTAL PARLORS

Top Floor Washington Building

Crown and Bridge Work, \$4.50 per tooth, guaranteed. Best set Teeth, \$5.00 fit guaranteed. Best Fillings, 50c up, guaranteed.

All Work Positively Guaranteed to give Perfect Satisfaction OR NO PAY.

Washington Building, Corner 4th and Washington Sts. Fifth Floor, Rooms—47, 48, 50, 51, 52.

Phone Oregon, Brown 493, Columbia 569

## NO LIGHT YET FROM AFRICA

Reports As to Probable Situation at Ladysmith Discredited.

## ENGLAND SOLELY AFFLICTED

Mortification of Her People Extreme and No Two Military Experts Agree in Their Opinions.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—A. M.—Belated South African dispatches throw no light on the present situation at the seat of war. There is no confirmation of the report that Ladysmith could hold out several weeks longer and it is feared that this was circulated by the Boers for their own purpose.

It is hoped that Winston Churchill having arrived safely at Delagoa Bay will soon be heard from regarding the conditions in the Transvaal as he must have obtained important information. A Cape Town dispatch of Friday, December 17, reports that Commandant Hendrich, of the Boer forces, was killed in a reconnaissance engagement.

A correspondent of the Associated Press at Mafeking under date of December 17, describing the changes in the art of warfare says:

"It would be impossible to take such position as Magerfontein by assault. Modern battle, owing to the length of rifle range will last six days, where formerly it would only last a few hours.

The Boer trenches, which are rather like underground dwellings than trenches, always present a safe means of retreat. They are very wide and deep and are excavated at intervals, allowing a concentration of the defenders at any given point without danger to themselves.

The British here are anxious that the Boers should attack them and the belief is prevalent that treachery is largely responsible for the underestimation placed on the Boer forces by cavalry scouts.

## MULTIPLICITY OF COUNSEL

Shelton Discouraged by the Advice From Different Quarters on the War Situation.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says:

A cold fit of scepticism and depression has followed the hot fit of patriotic ardor with which the country met the ministers' call to arms. The embargo upon news from the front leaves the newspapers under pressure for filling their columns with criticism, explanations of defeat, and strictures upon official shortcomings and general pessimism.

The daily Mail and other journals, by opening their columns to popular discussion of the methods of conducting the war are enabling all sorts and conditions of dissipated Britons to grumble aloud and sniff at the numerous Jonahs who ought to be thrown overboard. Amateur strategists are advising the withdrawal of Methuen's force from Modder river, the abandonment of the Kimberly garrison to a hopeless struggle against starvation, and even so desperate an expedition as an attempt by White to cut his way south with the bayonet, since the fiercest line of entrenchments is to strong to be attacked again in front. The croakers are stinging fault with every branch of the fighting services and are joining in a frantic hunt after a scapegoat.

More dismal and disheartening reading could hardly be invented by Dr. Leyds press bureau for the discouragement of recruiting than the English press, with a few notable exceptions, is supplying at a certain time, when the nation itself is pulsating with patriotism, when the militia battalions are volunteering for foreign service and the reservists are rallying to their colors and when new imperial forces are being organized from the yeomanry, cavalry, cross country riders and citizen soldiers.

One effect of this doleful reading may be salutary. There may be a relaxation of the press censorship in order to give the newspapers employment less harmful than wailing and gnashing of teeth. Rigorous as that censorship has been it has not prevented the publication of reports that Ladysmith was short of ammunition, while it has cut off daily news from the armies that would have interested the public without benefiting the enemy. It has rendered description of the chief battles of the war unintelligible. Buller's battle remains a mystery a week after it was fought with a mass of contradictions respecting the various features of the engagement and futile surmises regarding the responsibility for the loss of the guns.

Englishmen have been denied one of the most precious consolations for de-

feat, that of reading detailed accounts of the gallantry of their soldiers, and have been surfeited with generalizations upon the superior mobility of the Boers and their complete success in concealing their positions so that a frontal attack across exposed ground was doomed to failure whenever an order was received for an advance.

The opinion among military experts has become general that both Buller and Methuen have been tied to the railway by failure of other methods of transportation by rail train and wagons and they have been unable on the account to attempt a turning movement and compelled to attack in front precisely where the invisible enemy was prepared to meet them. General Buller and the Duke of Cambridge, rather than the men associated with him in India.

General Postyan was with him during the Afghan war and was an efficient staff officer during the march from Kabul to Kandahar. Viscount Towns has been the close friend of the Duke of Connaught and the Duke of Cambridge. Lord Stratford has been with Lord Roberts in Ireland and is heir after his father to the Duke of Richmond. The staff does not represent in any marked degree what is known as the Roberts school in Indian fighting. One or two appointments are understood to have been recommended by General Kitchener, who knows the details of every branch of the service.

Without Proper Equipment For Feeding the Troops.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—A dispatch to the World from London, says:

The Morning Post of today prints the following from its military expert:

"If it be true, as well informed persons assert, that the troops in South Africa are without transport, divisional brigade or regimental, except such ex transports as the generals have been able to get together, many things which at first sight appeared inexplicable become intelligible. Even the dispersal of a force becomes capable of explanation, at least an explanation. A general can do nothing with troops he cannot feed.

"The situation resulting from these conditions is not pleasant to contemplate. It led to attacks on prepared positions which every general would have preferred to flank or turn.

"The neglect in this case has been that of the political class of leaders of both parties. They have not for many years taken seriously the possibility of war as a conflict in which the nations existence or that of the empire might be staked.

"The movements so far do not bear out the idea that the military department of the war office is out of order, but there are many things which the military department cannot do of its own initiative, one being the spending of large sums of money not set down in the annual estimates."

## BOERS WERE WARNED.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—A dispatch to the World from Modder river, Dec. 16, says:

The Boer ambulances which came for the Boer wounded in British hands have just passed out to the Boer camp. The Boers thoroughly believe the story to which color was given by the firing of a naval gun by the British during Tuesday's (Dec. 12) armistice after Methuen's crushing defeat at Magerfontein. No doubt the Boers were warned of Monday morning's attack by spies, one of whom is being tried today.

## A DOUBTFUL ENDORSEMENT.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—The board of aldermen today adopted a resolution praying "the God of battle" to make the Boers successful in the war against England. The resolution now will go to the council and if that body concurs will come before Mayor Van Wyck for his approval.

## PRO-BOER PARTISANS.

PARIS, Dec. 22.—A pro-Boer demonstration convened this evening at Tivoli-vaux hall by the executive committee of Jeunesse Ryaliste, ended in a riot.

## M'GOVERN WINS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Terry McGovern of this city defeated Harry Forbes of Chicago, in the second round, before the New Broadway Athletic club tonight.

## THE ROCK FELL INTO THE SEA

Carrying With It Hotels, Monastery, Villas and Ships.

## TERRIBLE LOSS OF LIFE

Italy's Strange Disaster—Dreadful Accident During a Christmas Rehearsal at Quincy, Illinois.

ROME, Dec. 22.—A terrible disaster took place this afternoon at Anzio, a popular tourist resort on the Gulf of Salerno. About 2 o'clock an enormous rock upon which stood the Sappuceini hotel, slid bodily into the sea with a deafening crash and with a moment's warning carrying with it the hotel, the hotel Sante Caterina and several villas.

Many people were buried in the debris which crushed four vessels to the bottom of the sea, destroying their crews. The population is in a state of terror, fearing fresh calamities.

It is believed that the loss of life is heavy, including a number of monks and occupants of the hotel. It is impossible to ascertain the number killed at this hour.

## AN AWFUL TRAGEDY.

Children Burned to Death Rehearsing for Christmas.

QUINCY, ILL., Dec. 22.—An awful tragedy resulted from a rehearsal of one of the classes at St. Francis school, of the Christmas exercises this afternoon.

There were 24 little girls in the class and they were representing different characters. Two of these appeared as lambs and wore white fleeces on their garments. One of them caught fire from an open gas jet and in almost an instant the whole ring of little ones was in flames. The sisters of the school ran to the rescue and were badly burned. Six died almost instantly from burns and four of the survivors will die.

The dead are: Mary Waverling, Alma Middendorf, Bertha Freun, Jessie Rosewater, Miss Hickey, Irene Fretberg. The badly injured are Josephine John, Wilhelmina Gottendorf, Lena Ziegler, Laura Mecke, Miss Soebbing, Aleva Timpie, Jessie Werner, Father Andrew Butzkebon, Sister Ludwicus, Sister Kodelphina, Sister Theodor, and Sister Ephia.

## EVANGELIST MOODY DEAD.

The Famous Revivalist Passes Painfully Away.

EAST NORTHFIELD, Dec. 22.—Dwight L. Moody, the famous evangelist, died at noon today. It was not expected until yesterday by the members of Moody's family, and his immediate circle of friends that death would be the result of his illness. The cause of death was a general breaking down due to overwork. Moody's heart had been weak for a long time, and the exertions put forth in connection with the meetings in the West last month brought on a collapse from which he failed to rally.

This week the patient showed a steady gain until yesterday, when he showed symptoms of nervousness, accompanied by weakness which caused the family much anxiety. This morning weakness continued, and at 8 o'clock Mr. Moody called his wife and children, telling them that the end was not far off. The family remained close by the bedside all the forenoon. The evangelist was almost free from pain and occasionally talked with apparent ease. About the last words he was heard to utter were:

"I have always been an ambitious man, not to lay up wealth, but to find work to do."  
Just before 12 o'clock, the watchers saw that the end was approaching, and at exactly noon the gifted preacher passed away.  
Just as death came Mr. Moody awoke as if from a slumber and said with much joyousness:  
"I see the earth receding; heaven is opening; God is calling me."

## PANIC FROM PROSPERING.

Awakening and Expanding Industry Withdraws Capital From Stocks.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—R. G. Dun & Company will say tomorrow: "The worst day in Wall street in many years was in part the legitimate result of the best year in business ever known: Because the country had prospered so greatly and so expended its business that it could no longer afford to have many millions locked up in carrying stocks representing imaginary values."  
The question was not one of money

## THE PORTAGE RAILWAY PLAN

Backed by Men of Ample Means and High Standing.

## PROMPTED IN GOOD FAITH

One of the Greatest Schemes in Its Entirety Ever Undertaken on the Pacific Coast.

THE DALLES, Dec. 22.—Editor Astorian—I observe in your issue of the 19th instant an editorial on the proposed portage railway and tow boat and barge lines of the Central Navigation & Construction Co., which, as a mere statement of an individual, would not be at all damaging, but which, as an editorial article in a paper of the high rank of the Astorian, is likely to retard the prosecution of a work of so much importance to the public as ours. The leading points of the article in question are as follows:

First—That Mr. Mohr in the past has appeared in the role of the farmers' deliverer a little in advance of preparations for the election of a new legislature in Oregon, and that certain suspicions have been whispered about him, which would tend one to the belief that his intention of opening the Columbia river was a pretense intended to retard farmers from helping themselves through governmental or legislative means.

Second—That "it would be well" for the farmers of Eastern Oregon to relax none of their vigilance in guarding their primaries and convention against the manipulation of the sleek and cloven-footed gentry who derive their support from salaries, or travel about on passes contributed by the railroad companies.

Third—(Perhaps humorously intended). That Paul F. Mohr's scheme was for the liberation of the railroad farmers from the grasp of the railroad combination, but that the people of Astoria are inclined to be "just a little leery" about its good faith in the hands of its present managers.

In regard to the first specification, it is a fact easily proven that Mr. Mohr has never appeared before any legislative body in Oregon, Washington, or elsewhere in the role of a farmers' deliverer, or in any role whatever, either on the pretense of delivering the farmer from the grasp of the railroad combinations or to ask for concessions or benefits from such legislatures in behalf of his read. In short, this impression emanates altogether from our respected friends, the railroad lobbyists, who, crying before they were hurt, attempted by such statements to forestall the success of such expected action, by im-

(Continued on page 4)

## ROYAL BAKING POWDER

will aid the cook as no other agent will to make

- The dainty cake,
- The white and flaky tea biscuit,
- The sweet and tender hot griddle cake,
- The light and delicate crust,
- The finely flavored waffle and muffin,
- The crisp and delicious doughnut,
- The white, sweet, nutritious bread and roll,—
- Delightful to the taste and always wholesome.

Royal Baking Powder is made from PURE GRAPE CREAM OF TARTAR and is absolutely free from lime, alum and ammonia.

There are many imitation baking powders, made from alum, mostly sold cheap. Avoid them, as they make the food unwholesome.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.