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## THE DELAGOA TREATY SIGNED

### England Gains Many Needed Advantages in South Africa.

## CONSUL MACRUM DEPARTED

### Regarded With Satisfaction by Great Britain—His Successor Will Be Heartily Welcomed.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says: The announcement of the Berlin Local-Anzeiger that under the secret stipulations of the treaty Germany will take Portugal's Asiatic colonies and the territory north of the Zambesi and England Delagoa bay, is the most startling news of the day.

The authenticity is not official and the statement of concerted action by the two powers against French and Russian occupation must be accepted with reserve until the foreign office confirms it. The alleged payment of 25,000,000 marks for Germany's share in this territorial trade also seems doubtful. Some disclosure of this kind has been expected in diplomatic circles for several weeks, since the necessity for shutting off the supplies of arms and ammunition for the Transvaal has become apparent with the prolongation of the war.

While the Russian press foresees the occupation of Natal as the first consequence of their occupation of Delagoa bay, the French journals are anxious to know what the Washington government will do regarding the seizure of American vessels by the British navy. Whatever that action may be, reports that Mr. Choate has interfered in the matter are premature and unfounded. The French press courts will, without doubt, be allowed to do their work peacefully as the American press courts operated during the war with Spain, the questions of contraband of war and neutral rights will be argued in due course.

Russian and French rumors that all neutral powers will intervene if England takes effective measures for closing the back door against the entrance of a military force into the Transvaal are calmed by the general belief that there is a secret agreement with Germany relating to any emergency which may arise on the east coast. The war office has repeated the experiment of supplying the country with a brief summary of news from the seat of war aside from the actuality itself. While the situation is reported to be unchanged, General Buller's motives in occupying Dordrecht is disclosed as a desire to reopen communication with the Indian coast and General Methuen's force is shown to be vigorously searching the enemy and reconnoitering his lines with mounted infantry.

The Boer forces beyond the Modder river are also reported to be increasing and the queen's message has been received by the soldiers with great enthusiasm. This news is of greater value than the belated dispatches from both Gatacre and Methuen received from special correspondents.

From Buller's headquarters there is no official news, but there are lively accounts of outpost skirmishes in front of Colesburg, in which the Boers killed two men one day and the British two men the next day. The outpost affairs bring out the high utility of the Natal mounted force, the value of which has been at last appreciated by the British generals for the work of scouting. From Cape Town comes a report that battalions of infantry are going on to Durban and that a serious Dutch conspiracy has been discovered during the holidays.

Consul Macrum will not arrive in England until week after next. South Africans who are acquainted with him in Pretoria describe him as a man with little force who was unequal to the responsibilities of an important post in war times. He had few friends in either Pretoria or Johannesburg among the American or English residents.

When Conyngham Green retired from Pretoria Mr. Macrum had a fine opportunity for returning the useful and friendly services which British diplomats and consul officers had rendered to America during the previous year in Spain and Cuba. His abandonment of the post of duty when English friends were anxious to receive information from the hundreds of officers and soldiers imprisoned there is explained by South Africans as a result of his strong partisanship of the Boer cause and his dislike of everything English.

The unpleasant impression created in England by Mr. Macrum's inexplicable conduct has been effaced by the appointment of Mr. Hay as his successor.

It's a cold delay when a woman doesn't gossip over the back fence with her neighbor.

## CONTENTS OF THE TREATY.

The Forthright of English Diplomacy Aids an Important Crisis.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—A dispatch to the Herald from Berlin says: The Lokal-Anzeiger publishes the contents of the German-English-Portuguese secret treaty. This double treaty will have executive force as soon as the Swabian Jurist, Messrs. Bismarck-Hendley and Goldau have given a decision in the Delagoa bay arbitration. The decision, it is expected, will be given in January or February and will probably be in favor of England in which case Portugal must pay England and America an indemnity of 1,500,000 pounds sterling.

England obtained in 1891 from Portugal the right of pre-emption in Delagoa bay, the cession of Delagoa bay to England may therefore be expected in March next.

It is possible that President Kruger may now declare war on Portugal and attack Delagoa at once.

In order to prevent any interference by France or Russia, England concluded a secret treaty with Germany regarding the complete partition of Portuguese possessions in Asia with 20,000 square miles of territory and a million inhabitants.

Germany further receives in Africa all Portuguese territory north of the Zambezi, except a strip of land three miles wide for Mr. Cecil Rhodes' Transvaal railway. For this the German government will pay Portugal 25,000,000 marks.

The surprising part in the statement of the Lokal-Anzeiger is that it refers to Asia when it has repeatedly been asserted at the foreign office that the treaty only refers to Africa and did not refer to Asia. It must, however, be remembered that the Lokal-Anzeiger was in a position to publish the Siam treaty 24 hours before the official publication took place.

England receives the remaining African possessions of Portugal, which contain 2,000,000 square kilometers and 15,000,000 inhabitants.

The consent of Portugal to this arrangement has already been obtained in principle.

The Lokal-Anzeiger declares it has news from such a source that no demoralism is possible.

That Great Britain would ultimately become the possessor of Delagoa bay has long been expected. It has been known for some years that negotiations for the transfer have with more or less secrecy been carried on between Great Britain and Portugal for a long time. Domestic and political considerations have deterred Portugal from parting with one of her most valuable possessions. It would not be surprising if Great Britain, under the present stress of circumstances, acted upon the negotiations of the last few years and present for the execution of the understanding between the two countries.

The present town of Lorenzo Marques dates only from 1867. The harbor has been compared with two of the finest in the world, Rio and Sidney, and properly developed it would become the maritime port of the whole of the basin of the Limpopo river and of the states occupying the plateau of South Africa. Great Britain from 1872 onward disputed the claims of Portugal to the ownership of Delagoa bay and based its own claims upon an occupation of the Dutch, of which the river runs to her. Captain Owens carrying out the surveys in 1883 obtained a concession from the native chiefs concerned in its shores. The dispute was ultimately referred to the arbitration of the president of the French republic, Marshal MacMahon, whose award in 1875 was given in favor of Portugal. Great Britain, however, did not relinquish her claims and she consolidated herself for the loss of the actual ownership by obtaining a right of pre-emption under the Anglo-Portuguese agreement of 1891.

Under this instrument Great Britain and Portugal agreed that in event of "one of the two powers proposing to part with any of the territories to the south of the Zambesi, the other shall be recognized as possessing a preferential right to the territories in question or any portion of them."

This is held to give to Great Britain the right of pre-emption whenever Portugal is in such financial straits as to need to sell her rights in the bay. She was said to be in such difficulties last year and only domestic political considerations in Lisbon had prevented her acting upon the agreement.

## THE CASE OF MACRUM.

### Our Former Consul at Pretoria Must Explain His Actions.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The case of Consul Charles E. Macrum, United States representative at Pretoria, who insisted on being relieved at the time of the South African crisis became most acute, is assuming additional importance.

The understanding at the state department is that he is not coming by the way of English ports, but is on a German ship which comes through the Mediterranean and thence direct to this country.

In the present aspect of the case there is little doubt that unless the consul presents ample explanation for his course he will not continue in the consular service.

## LONDON FLOOD-GATES OPEN

### Government Inundated With Suggestions Concerning the War.

## THE TIMES' DOLEFUL WAIL

### Too Much Censorship and Concealment—Boers Said to Be Nervously Dreading British Advance.

LONDON, Dec. 28, 4.45 a. m.—During the continued lull in military operations in South Africa the papers are filled with letters and articles criticising the government and suggesting remedies and improvements in plans and the like. The Times complains of "needless censorship and concealment."

The dispatches from the front all represent the Boers as in a nervous condition and in constant dread of a British advance, but this is probably an exaggeration.

The Modder river correspondent of the Daily Chronicle gives an explanation of the sudden rife fire inexplicably opened from the Boer trenches.

"The Boers have wires stretched along the entire front of trenches and connected with lamps. If a wire is touched the lamp is extinguished, thus giving warning. One night a high wind extinguished a lamp which resulted in a false warning. The fire ceased when the Boers discovered that the alarm was false."

LONDON, Dec. 28.—It is now estimated that the war will cost at least \$200,000,000 (\$300,000,000). The British government now shows a marked change from its attitude in the early stages of the war and shows a disposition to accept assistance from any quarter.

The imperial yeomanry committee has issued a statement to the effect that the government consider the formation and dispatch of yeomanry as one of the most pressing needs of the situation and has indicated that it is now prepared to accept from 1,000 to 10,000 yeomanry instead of 3,000 as originally asked for.

## DEPARTMENT UNDISTURBED.

No Trouble Will Arise Over the British Flour Seizure.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: The tranquillity at the state department is not at all disturbed over the significance attached in legal and mercantile circles to the stopping by British warships of British and Dutch merchant vessels bound for Delagoa bay with cargoes exported from the United States.

The officials express confidence that the British government will take full reparation for any act committed by its naval agents if it is shown to have been illegal or unjustified and they profess a profound conviction that Englandmen are not taking any hazardous chances just at present of antagonizing any considerable popular element in America.

It is not known to the secretary of state whether the cargoes owned in this country have actually been confiscated, nor precisely what article Great Britain proposes to regard as contraband during the continuance of the South African war. It is said that every nation on becoming engaged in hostilities makes its own rules as rigid or as lax as the occasion seems to demand, and seldom takes other nations into its confidence on the subject.

This was the case when the war with Spain began. Neither nation having subscribed to the privateering clause of the treaty of Paris, a proclamation was issued by the president, announcing adherence to its provisions.

The queen regent issued a decree which, while reserving the right of privateering announced that letters of marque would not be granted. But Spain did not announce what course she intended to pursue in other matters nor did the United States except in confidential general orders to naval officers fix any definite policy as to seizures and contraband.

The supreme serenity of the state department regarding the flour seizure is perhaps best illustrated by the steps already taken to ascertain the facts of the case which are an essential preliminary to further action.

On the receipt of complaints from American exporters that their products had been detained and that their delivery at the neutral port of destination, Delagoa bay, had been refused the secretary of state immediately transmitted the complaints to Ambassador Choate at London and Consul Heilts at Pretoria for investigation and report. These notes went by mail and Mr. Choate has barely received his own by this time while that of Consul

Hellis will scarcely reach him before March 1, 1900.

An agent of the state department reply communications by the same means of transmissions as the original query, no official information is set to be in the possession of a authorities in Washington for weeks or months.

The reason there are no report to the cable to determine whether or not American interests have been seriously affected beyond in proceedings established over a year ago when notwithstanding the seizure of British and other steamers by American cruisers, European nations realized that this government in its admiralty courts would determine the merits of each case as rapidly as possible as well as equitable for the delay in the case of every mistake and that the greater mistake would be the delay, the greater would be the damage to be satisfied.

The consideration shown by foreigners whose vessels had been captured last year and sent under protest to an American port of detention was extremely gratifying to this government which would have been seriously embarrassed had neutral governments by a show of impotence forced the executive into the attitude of hastening the judiciary.

The point the officials make is that the British imperial authorities at London are not yet quite explained with all the facts in the possession of ships off the south coast of Africa than are American officials and as these ships admittedly did not fly the American flag there is no national affront involved calling for drastic measures, as when the Alliance was fired on or when Captain Sigsbee's boat was brought to the Resolute, in the latter case it is British government made no complaint whatever.

## THE FLOUR SEIZURE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The agreement of facts connected with the seizure of American flour by British warships off the coast of Portugal in East Africa has been notified to the United States consular agent at Lorenzo Marques. The department of state is determined to do everything in its power to maintain American rights in the matter of neutral trade in this case.

## CARE IN SELECTING.

All Troops Recently Arriving in Lisbon Are Well.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Adjutant General Corbin said that every regiment of infantry last recruited which has reached Manila has made the remarkable report of the safe arrival of every man who started. This is considered a very convincing proof of the care with which the men were selected.

These troops have traveled by both routes, the Suez canal and by way of San Francisco, and have been subjected to great changes of climate, and yet not one man has died of illness on the way.

## TRAINWRECK.

SAN BERNARDINO, Cal., Dec. 28.—As the west bound freight train over the Santa Fe route was crossing the Cajon creek bridge today about 12 miles north of this city, nine cars went through the bridge into the creek bottom. The cars caught fire and made a terrible conflagration. No one was killed.

## THE ARGENTINE TARIFF SYSTEM

### Reduction on Oregon Lumber Secured by United States.

## WOOL INCREASES PROPOSED

### Importers Deny Any Competition Between the Wool Producers of the Respective Countries.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The official statement of facts respecting the Argentine tariff system is given out. The Argentine tariff system involves not only a fixed and high rate of duties on imports but also provides for an aforo, or valuation which is to be fixed from time to time by executive authority.

The convention for example not only secured to United States exporters a reduction on Oregon pine lumber and Southern lumber, in fact all kinds of undressed lumber, but a fixed aforo, and on Oregon and yellow pine reduces it over 40 per cent.

The Argentine government demanded a reciprocal concession on wool and other articles. The American wool growers have expressed fear that this would prove injurious to the domestic interest. The total import of wool into the United States for 1899 from all countries was 76,672,000 pounds. Of this from Argentina came only 7,957,000 pounds. The proposed reduction for Argentine wools alone can have no effect on our market prices. A majority of the wool is of the coarsest class (for carpets etc.).

## CONGRESSMAN BOUTELLE.

The Brilliant Maine Representative Goes Insane.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—A special to the Tribune from Boston, says: Congressman Boutelle is now in the McLean hospital for insane at Waverly, seven miles out of Boston.

When he was brought to Boston last Monday night it was the intention of the attending doctors to place him in the (Shannon) sanitarium at Brookline, a private institution. He was refused admittance there, the inference being that his case was a more desperate one than the management cared to be responsible for.

From a thoroughly reliable source it was reported that the congressman is suffering from paranoia.

## GOVERNMENT DEPOSITORIES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The secretary of the treasury today designated several additional national banks as government depositories to receive international revenue receipts and, it is said, will continue to do so until the total sum so deposited will amount \$10,000,000 or \$10,000,000. Any national bank owning or controlling United States bonds willing to deposit the same in the treasury as security, including those now receiving deposits, is entitled to participate in this distribution of internal revenue receipts.

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