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Annual Clearance Sale

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BREAD NOT CONTRABAND.

It is Not Believed the Prize Courts at Durban Will Establish So Awkward a Precedent for England.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says the Anglo-German agreement remains a mystery, the Berlin Lokal-Anzeiger's version having been quashed by official denial. All well informed diplomatists are convinced, however, that Germany will enlarge her colonial possessions in some quarter at the end of the war and will have a free hand when she wants it in the future in Asia Minor or elsewhere.

It is not considered probable that Lord Salisbury has consented to the sale of Goa, Macao and Daman to Germany, but the future of the East African possessions of Portugal was discussed without doubt at the foreign office with the German ambassador a year ago. The German emperor and Mr. Chamberlain are known to have held a prolonged consultation at Windsor a few weeks ago, and by the process of exclusion the diplomats have reached the conclusion that East Africa was the subject which interested them.

It may be premature or unsafe to carry out these arrangements at present, in view of Russian reprisals in Herat and of French intrigues in Morocco, but the shrewdest observers in diplomatic circles forecast the ultimate occupation of Delagoa bay by Great Britain and the enlargement of German East Africa southward to the Zambezi. The Berlin disclosures are probably accurate to that extent, but has been overclouded with fiction respecting Portuguese possessions within the Indian sphere.

The British government is embarrassed without doubt by the Portuguese neutrality, which cloaks trading on a large scale with the Transvaal. While the British army does not have a free passage through Portuguese territory into the Transvaal on the shortest line of march to Pretoria, the Boers themselves are receiving European recruits and military stores through Lorenzo Marques.

This back door would be closed if Delagoa bay were either under British or Boer jurisdiction, but it remains open under a neutrality which is useful to trading and double dealing. It is evidently inconvenient for the British government to carry out any pre-arranged scheme with Portugal and Germany. The Boer arbitration award respecting the Delagoa bay railway can not be made for three months and that will be the base for financial dealing with Portugal. Moreover, Lord Salisbury can not be eager to challenge Russia to seize Herat by the occupation of Delagoa bay.

Meanwhile the right of search at sea is exercised and prize courts by condemning cargoes of breadstuffs may set awkward precedents for England hereafter, which is dependent upon impacted food supplies in peace and in war. The American proposal for ex-

empting private property from seizure was not adopted even by The Hague congress and neutral rights in war time are subject to the decision of prize courts as to what constitutes contraband of war. This is the theoretical English view of the case. But in practice the prize courts at Durban are not likely to rule that foodstuffs are contraband of war, although there is a warrant for it in British seizures and confiscation of rice during other periods of hostilities.

The war office continues to supply its daily bulletins of news from the front, Natal alone being excluded from its scope. The man in the street is spared the necessity of reading many columns of belated and confused dispatches from news agencies and special correspondents. He will see at a glance this morning that Baden-Powell was safe on December 12; that neither Gagneux nor French has met with any fresh adventures, and that Methuen holds his ground at Modder river, exchanging his gun fire with the enemy and constantly reconnoitering with his cavalry brigade.

The Boers have been challenging General Methuen to renew the fighting. The war office bulletins are also giving in variety. Today's includes reference to a heavy rainfall; this is a close approach to the weather report. There is also something like a market report. General Methuen has established a market at Modder river where tea and other dry groceries are exchanged for milk and vegetables.

This bulletin helps to dispel apprehension respecting General Methuen's ability to keep communications open behind him, for there is a direct reference to a reconnaissance north and west of Enslin.

There are few press dispatches from this quarter, but the war office supplies information that is indefinite and reassuring. Rumors of important news from General Methuen were current toward midnight.

In Natal the censorship is again operating closely and only minor camp incidents come through. The London press having at last discovered that General Warren is with General Buller is assuming that the battle will be speedily renewed on the Tugela. Every Ladysmith casualty list enforces the moral that a rescue can not come too quickly. Today's record includes seven deaths from typhoid fever. The gloomy views which several journals express today do not appear to be warranted by the comparative straits of the two armies.

General Buller, when reinforced by the bulk of Warren's division, will have certainly 28,000 men exclusive of General Buller's field force. There are more British soldiers than Boers on the Tugela, and now that a siege train has arrived at Cape Town, there is no lack of guns of long range. If the British generalship be equal to the crisis, the relief of Ladysmith ought to be the natural consequence of British superiority in numbers and artillery, bravely and warily as the Boers will contest the passage of the river and hold their scientific lines of defense.

Ex-Primer Escombe's death in Natal is greatly regretted by South Africans in London. He was a strong imperialist and ally of Cecil Rhodes. He was regarded as a practical statesman who was destined to work out the confederation scheme of South Africa after the war, and as Mr. Rhodes' natural successor in the English leadership.

THE MONTGOMERY'S MISSION.

Her Purpose on the African Coast to Look After American Interests.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: It developed today that the United States cruiser Montgomery has been on a secret mission to Liberia, Africa, performed, it is believed, with a view to displaying the American flag in Liberian waters and the location of a site for an American coaling station on the Liberian coast.

While officials of the navy department maintain that the cruise was of an ordinary character, it is significant that it has been kept a profound mystery up to this time, none of the vessel's movements having been recorded in the Daily Bulletin published by the bureau of navigation, while during her apparently long stay at Pernambuco it is stated on several occasions that the vessel was simply cruising up and down the South African coast looking out for American interests.

It is further regarded as significant that the Montgomery's cruise in Liberian waters was made at a time when reports were in circulation that Great Britain, Germany and Italy had designs on the territory of the little republic and these were so persistent that Secretary Hay deemed it

advisable to make inquiries of the powers named. Those inquiries resulted in an extent that it was not until late this afternoon that Secretary Long stated that after making inquiry of the bureau of navigation he had been informed that the Montgomery had visited Monrovia, the capital of Liberia and Free Town, the capital of the British colony of Sierra Leon.

While at the former port, Commander J. P. Merrill of the Montgomery called upon the American minister, it is understood, and met the president and his cabinet. It is no secret here the Liberia has long desired an active American protectorate and has made representations which lead the authorities to understand that she desires the establishment of an American coaling station on her shores, believing that it will give her additional reasons for protection from this government.

The reports which have been received at the navy department regarding the Liberian coast show it does not possess a satisfactory harbor for a coaling station. Many years ago the United States possessed a coal pile at Sierra Leon, which point, it is believed the Montgomery also visited, though simply for the purpose of taking coal on board.

Senator Mason, who has received a letter from an officer of the Montgomery, states that he proposes to introduce a resolution calling upon the secretary of the navy to inform the senate why the Montgomery was ordered to Sierra Leon, and if the mission was in pursuance of any understanding with Great Britain.

In the representations made by Secretary Hay he has given European powers to understand that the policy of the United States, with respect to the integrity of Liberia, has not been changed.

Naval officers decline to state positively when the Montgomery was in Liberian waters, intimating that she left Pernambuco for the African coast about November 1.

It is understood, on the other hand, that the cruiser arrived at Pernambuco about October 14, and after coaling proceeded directly to Freeport, where she coaled, and then went to Monrovia, returning to Pernambuco about November 1, and sailing for Rio on November 15, when she sailed for Buenos Ayres, where she arrived on December 1 and has been since.

There is no doubt that this government is seriously contemplating the establishing of a coaling station on the west coast of Africa and the observations made by Commander Merrill of the Montgomery will be considered in connection with the decision to be reached.

DELAGOYA BAY TREATY.

Portuguese Representative in This Country Have No Knowledge On the Subject.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Luis C. M. P. A. Taveira, Portuguese consul general, said that he had no knowledge of any agreement regarding the sale of Delagoa bay. "But," added Senhor Taveira, "this does not mean that such an agreement may not have been made. I would not be likely to hear of it before the general public. It would not be surprising if a treaty had been made or is going to be made."

The Portuguese charge d'affaires in the United States, Irmacio de Costa Duarte, is at present in this city. He declared in an interview what, in his opinion, it would be well for Portugal to dispose of Delagoa bay and the East African possessions. They had always been a source of trouble and were likely to remain so.

"But it is not credible," said Senhor Duarte, "that any treaty has been made by which Portugal has parted with all her colonial possessions. Any ministry that agreed to such a treaty would not remain in power a minute. If a treaty such as described in the German newspapers had been consummated, there would have been some hints of it published in Portugal to prepare the public mind."

A CURIOUS CONSTRUCTION.

Transports Owned and Sold by the Government Not Entitled to American Registry.

PORT TOWNSEND, Dec. 29.—The purchase of foreign vessels by the United States government for use as transports during the Spanish-American war and their subsequent sale by the government to private citizens has resulted in complicating matters for purchasers from the fact that after purchase of such vessels the government refuses to allow them to be documented in the United States as American vessels.

The case in point is the steamship Scotia which was recently sold by the navy department and was afterwards refused documentation. The purchaser applied to the secretary of the

treasury asking that if he should break the Scotia up, whether the material of which she was constructed would be subject to duty if sold in the United States.

Yesterday Collector Houtts received a circular letter covering the above case from the treasury department in which Acting Secretary Spaulding says that upon the sale of said vessel in a port of the United States, the material or materials taken therefrom would not be regarded as an importation within the meaning of the customs laws and would therefore be exempt from duty.

NOT WILL BE DISLOGED.

Transvaal Agent at Delagoa in a Curious Position.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—A Correspondent of the Standard at Lorenzo Marques says: Delagoa bay is the residence of Herr Pott, a Hollander who is consul general for the Transvaal and consul for the Netherlands. Pott is the principal medium between Pretoria and Dr. Leyds in Europe. He controls the Netherlands through the Transvaal and is the head of the Transvaal customs. He is also head of the Dutch East Africa company and has the honor of the Portuguese governor as well as the chief of each department.

It is openly asserted that Pott has a private wire to the frontier and knows 24 hours before others what is happening.

About him gather all the other consuls, the Portuguese officials and the German forwarding agents.

If Delagoa bay is closed the Boers will retaliate by raiding Portuguese territory.

COLE TAKEN TO BOSTON.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 29.—The warrant for the arrest of Charles H. Cole, formerly president of the Globe Bank of Boston, on the charge of embezzlement of \$96,000 arrived today. The United States marshal also received a telegram from the attorney general of the United States directing him to conduct Cole to Boston under guard. Cole waived a preliminary examination here and the start for Boston will be made tomorrow.

LADIES' TAILOR-MADE SUITS.

Ladies who go to Portland and desire something especially fine in the way of tailor-made suits will do well to remember that they can be well fitted at I. D. Boyer's 177 Fourth street, in the Y. M. C. A. building.

Not only does he keep a strictly first-class cutter for men's wear, but also one exclusively for ladies' work, and all can rest assured of getting not only good work, but the best of materials, as Mr. Boyer is an expert on woolen cloths.

A SUGGESTION TO THE LADIES.

If you are in doubt as to what to give HIM for Christmas or New Year, you will make no mistake by selecting something from the large stock of Theodor Becker, the pioneer tobacco merchant. Mr. Becker's stock comprises all the leading brands in foreign and domestic cigars, elegant meerschaum and briar pipes, cigar holders, in fact everything to delight the heart of the most fastidious smoker.

SOLIFINE.

The Greatest Discovery of the Age—No More Rubber Goods.

Solifine, a leather preservation, the meaning of the word is, you fill in the pores of your shoes and uppers of your shoes, and make them absolutely waterproof. Does a person need rubbers after shoes are treated with Solifine? No! You will also save expenses of patching and reworking. Invaluable to manufacturers for treating leather belts. For harness, buggy tops and working men's gloves. Buy your shoes of stores that have this Solifine leather preservation. They are up to date with superior improvements.

For sale by Peterson & Brown, and other shoe dealers, harness makers and grocers in general. If they can not supply you, send 25c to H. Miller & Co., 312 First street, Portland, Or., for a trial can.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Alaska Fishermen's Packing Company will be held at 2 o'clock on Monday, January 2, 1900, at Hawthorn hall. G. O. MOEN, President. Attest: JOHN NORDSTROM, Sec.

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Multnomah County. In the matter of the estate of Kenneth Macleay, deceased. Notice is hereby given that the undivided real property situated in the county of Clatsop and State of Oregon, to-wit: All of block No. 5 in the town of Upper Astoria in Clatsop County, Oregon, as laid out by John Adair, and also all and singular the tide land lying within and north of and in front of said block No. 5 in the town of Upper Astoria as laid out by John Adair, including all wharfing rights, privileges and easements north of the said block to the shipping channel of the Columbia River in Clatsop County, Oregon. The said sale will be made subject to the confirmation of the above entitled court. R. LIVINGSTONE, Administrator of the Estate of Kenneth Macleay, deceased. Dated December 27th, 1899.

EMPLOY 15,000 MEN.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 29.—A special from Hartford City, Ind., says: Tonight at midnight 44 window-glass factories, representing 1,700 pots capacity, of the American Window Glass Company, go into operation. The plants have been idle since last June and will furnish employment to 15,000 glass workers in this state.

DEFENSES OF FRANCE.

PARIS, Dec. 29.—The government will submit to the chamber of deputies at the beginning of January a bill providing for the defense of the French coasts and colonies and to increase the strength of the fleet. The cost of the defense of coasts and colonies is estimated at 129,500,000 francs.

PORT TOWNSEND, Dec. 29.—

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Many people burn the candle of life at both ends. Some men who need into vicious diseases use up their energies just as much by overwork or late hours, and nearly all women are compelled by circumstances to use up their vital powers beyond all reason. It may be in housework, or social demands, or the bearing and rearing of children. At any rate the candle of life is too rapidly consumed. Some people need to have their natural vigor constantly reinforced in the same proportion that it is used up. They need the fortifying help of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It is a powerful alternative and invigorant of the digestive functions and liver; it cleanses the blood, and makes fresh blood and healthy flesh. Nervous debilitated women should take it in conjunction with Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription which is designed for female weakness and all nervous troubles. Mrs. Sallie Kaufman of Virgil City, Cedar Co., Mo., writes: "I had suffered from displacement of internal organs and female weakness for one year. Had a burning sensation and very disagreeable feeling after my second child was born; I could be on my feet only a few minutes until he was six weeks old, then I commenced taking Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and 'Favorite Prescription.' I took seven bottles in all. After taking the first bottle I felt much better. I think I am entirely cured of all my troubles. I can do all my work and am on my feet all day. I am in much better health now than I have been in four years; am fleshy and gaining strength very fast."

By writing to Dr. Pierce who is chief consulting physician of the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y., careful professional advice will be obtained free of cost and specially adapted to the individual case. Dr. Pierce's great 1000-page Medical Adviser will be sent free for 25 cents; the cost of postage.

Santa Claus

Will find it to his interest to call on us before purchasing elsewhere. Our Holiday Goods are all new and will not be kept after New Year. Everything guaranteed as low as Portland prices.

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Steamers "R. P. Elmore," "W. H. Harrison" Only line—Astoria to Tillamook, Garibaldi, Bay City, Hobsonville. Connecting at Astoria with the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Co. and also the Astoria & Columbia River R. R. for San Francisco, Portland, and all points east. For freight and passenger rates apply to Samuel Elmore & Co., General Agents, ASTORIA, ORE. COHN & CO., Agents, Oregon Railroad & Navigation Co., TILLAMOOK, Ore. A. & C. R. Co., PORTLAND, Ore.

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