

The Morning Astorian.

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FINANCE DEBATE IN THE SENATE

Opened By Senator Aldrich With
a Carefully Prepared Speech.

SULZER RESOLUTION PASSED

Secretary Gage Ready to Furnish Full
Information Regarding Deposits
in New York Banks.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—In accordance with the notice previously given by him, Senator Aldrich today opened the discussion of the financial bill with an explanation of the substitute for the house bill.

The subject was carefully prepared and was read from manuscript. It was delivered in clear and distinct language, but without any effort at oratory. The senators present gave him careful attention but no one interrupted him with questions or otherwise during the delivery nor did any one manifest a disposition to reply after he had concluded.

After Aldrich concluded the senate adjourned until Monday for the purpose, it is understood, of giving those who may wish to reply to the Rhode Island senator an opportunity for a presentation of the subject.

The Pittsburg resolution concerning the Philippine war went over until Monday when it is understood some senators will be asked to be heard on the Philippine question. Senator Beveridge also gave notice of a speech for Tuesday on the Philippine question, prefacing his notice with a resolution declaring his own position on the subject.

IN THE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The house session was very brief again today the only incident being the adoption of the Sulzer resolution introduced yesterday calling upon Secretary Gage for information regarding the deposit of government funds in certain New York National banks.

The resolution as adopted was made more general in its scope and an amendment was added to cover information respecting transactions relating to the sale of the New York custom house site.

Secretary Gage's friends had been informed that he would be the fullest investigation and was prepared to submit all the facts to congress. Accordingly there was no friction over the passage of the resolution which was unanimously adopted.

THE ROBERTS TRIAL.

Schroeder Opens Argument Against Him.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Mr. Schroeder, head of the gentle delegation here to oppose granting Roberts, of Utah, a seat in the house, opened the argument against Roberts before the investigating committee. "The evidence clearly shows," proceeded Schroeder, "that in 1880 Roberts had been guilty of polygamy and the question is as to the effect of this statute."

He said that while Utah was a territory there was no doubt as to Roberts' disfranchisement under the Edmunds-Tucker act. And when Utah was admitted to statehood, Schroeder contended that Roberts' citizenship was still impaired. The status of polygamy was such that Roberts could not relieve himself from it without some affirmative act. As to the right of the house to exclude, Schroeder said:

"Suppose a raving maniac should present himself at the bar of the house and ask admission on proper credentials, could the house in self-protection deny him admission?"

Schroeder said Roberts had admitted his relationship with his plural wives. He had publicly said he would "be with them if he would give up his wives." This was an offense against public morals, and Roberts should be excluded from the seat.

THE QUAY CASE.

An Indirect Test Vote May be Taken Soon.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—A special to the Herald from Washington, says: An opportunity is to be offered to test the full strength of former Senator Quay in the senate without direct vote on the question of seating him.

This will come some time next week, when the committee on privileges and elections reports his case back to the senate. There will be two reports, one signed by Senators Burrows, Caffery, Pettus, Turley and Harris against seating Senator Quay, and another signed by Senators Chandler, Hoar, Pitchard and Spooner in his favor. When these reports are submitted a

motion will be made by Senator Chandler to proceed to the immediate consideration of the case. The question of the rights of a senator to a seat being one of the highest privileges, it is competent for Mr. Quay's friends to insist upon immediate consideration. They are anxious to have a test made of his full strength and believe the result can be accomplished by a vote on this question. Should a majority prefer to continue with the currency bill, it is not improbable that Senator Quay may conclude to have his appointment withdrawn.

SAMPSON AND SCHLEY.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—A special to the Herald from Washington, says: A result of the conference held at the White House between the president, Secretary Long and the captains of the Santiago fleet, no action will be taken contemplating the advancement of either Rear Admiral Sampson or Rear Admiral Schley. Nor will a court of inquiry be appointed unless an official request shall be received from Admiral Schley, who is now at Buenos Ayres.

AN INDICTMENT FOUND.

The Safety Deposit Box Party Confirmed Harrell's Story.

FRANKFORT, Jan. 4.—It is unofficially announced that the Franklin county grand jury has found an indictment against Colonel John H. Whallen and Charles Ryan, who it is alleged attempted to bribe Senator Harrell in the governorship contest.

The safety deposit box was found to contain four \$1,000 bills and five \$100 bills. The money was sealed up in plain white envelope without writing. This in part corroborates Harrell's story.

The democratic leaders in the legislature decided tonight to take a ballot for United States senator next Tuesday. There is a question as to whether the ballot should be taken next Tuesday or Tuesday week. Blackburn's friends decided as a matter of caution to have a ballot on both days so there may be no quibble over the legality of his election.

DEMOCRATS LUCKY.

The Drawing for Contest Committee Resulted in Their Favor.

FRANKFORT, Jan. 4.—The joint legislative committee which sit in the contests for governor and lieutenant governor were drawn by lot as provided by law today.

A lucky star presided over the destinies of the democrats, as the drawing resulted in giving them 10 out of the 11 members of the committee on the governor's contest and nine out of 11 on the lieutenant governor's contest.

It is probable that the joint committees will organize and get down to work taking evidence tomorrow.

In the drawing over the formation of the legislature contested election committee the resolution was somewhat more evenly divided. In the case of the two senatorial contests the republicans got only one member out of nine on each committee, but in the house they got majorities in 10 out of the 18 committees which try the contests.

KENTUCKY'S BRIBERY CASE.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Jan. 4.—The box said to contain four \$1,000 bills and five \$100 bills, which was to be passed in the alleged bribery transaction between Colonel J. H. Whallen and Senator Harrell, was delivered to the grand jury today to be opened. What the box contains is not known only to the grand jury.

RECRUITS FOR THE BOER ARMY.

BUTTE, Mont., Jan. 4.—Two hundred and sixty men have signed an agreement here to go to South Africa and serve in the Boer army. The men signing are Irish-Americans, German-Americans and French-Americans. They will leave as soon as an agent of the Transvaal government, now on his way here, arrives.

SEATTLE-TACOMA RAILWAY.

TACOMA, Jan. 4.—Actual operations in the work of constructing an electric railway to Seattle, 25 miles in length, commenced in this city this morning. The Tacoma terminus is at Eleventh street and Pacific avenue, the heart of the business center.

ESCAPED FROM LADYSMITH.

HOOFD LAAGER, Ladysmith, Jan. 2.—Six rascals made a dash from Ladysmith a few nights ago, and though pursued, they escaped. It is believed the party included Colonel Rhodes, brother of Cecil Rhodes, and Dr. Jameson.

ANOTHER REVERSE RUMORED.

PARIS, Jan. 4.—A report was current in the bourse today that Buller had met with another check in his efforts to relieve Ladysmith.

NO BIG BATTLE TILL NEXT WEEK

The Federal Troops Energetically
Strengthening Defenses.

FORTY MILES OF TRENCHES

Flanking the Boers Will Be Exceedingly Difficult—New Redoubts Being Built at Kimberly.

LONDON, Jan. 5, 5 A. M.—This morning's news throws no further light upon the war situation. The exact position at Moleto and Cyphergat is not yet clear, but in any case these little engagements are of small importance beyond proving that British forces are beginning to attack in a great degree of mobility.

It is fully expected that next week will see a heavy battle on Tugela river, which is now the real pivot of the campaign. The Boers appear to be working incessantly with shovel and pick. Lord Methuen's cavalry scouting has developed the fact that the Boer's entrenchments extend for some 40 miles, far overlapping the British positions and making flank attacks exceedingly difficult.

Military analysts affirm that the Boer's trenches confronting General Buller stretch away some 17 miles and that work upon them is pushed unrelentingly.

While the advance is delayed, flank movements are rendered most difficult because long marches are now done with celerity and it is hard to time an attack with certainty.

The extent of Dutch ridings may now be measured by taking a line from Prieska, on the west to Herchel or Barkly on the east. The country along the whole of this line, except at points actually occupied by a British population, seems for the most part hostile.

New redoubts are being built at Kimberly and 17 miles of works now encompass the town. The admiralty program embraces the stationing of small squadrons at Durban, Simon's bay, Port Elizabeth, Lorenzo Marques, St. Vincent, in Cape Verde islands and Cape Town and sending an additional ship or two to Aden. It is announced that Great Britain's aeroplanes and detectives are secretly watching all Italian ports.

BOERS AT COLESBURG.

French Unable to Drive Them From the Hills.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London, says:

The position at Colesburg is by no means clear, but it is apparent that without reinforcements Gen. French is finding considerable difficulty in driving the Boers from the hills surrounding the town.

From Ladysmith it is reported that all is well, though the statement must be taken in connection with the news that sickness is increasing, while the Times correspondent mentions that medical appliances are not too abundant.

The open door principle was the foundation of British policy in China during the protracted negotiations, which followed German and Russian acquisition of harbors and territory on the Chinese coast. Nothing came of it and the British government ended by taking possession of a harbor opposite Port Arthur.

When the Spanish war came on England was anxious to have the Americans retain the Philippine islands and co-operate with her in the maintenance of the open door principle in the far east. The first object was secured when the treaty of peace was negotiated in Paris and the second has been accomplished by the diplomacy of the cabinet at Washington.

The vigilant Washington correspondent of the Daily Chronicle and the Manchester Guardian announced the success of the McKinley government in securing pledges from Great Britain, Germany, France, Japan and Russia to a guarantee that America shall have equality of treatment in all portions of China under foreign influence with the exception of purely naval stations. The assent of Italy alone is lacking to render this collective guarantee of the open door principle operative.

West England was unable to bring about the United States government has virtually done and the British press is slowly awakening to a sense of England's obligations to America. Certainly if the Americans were under obligation to England for friendly services during the war with Spain the favor has been fully returned and in a characteristic American way.

While the state department has been working out the solution of the open door problem in the far east, British cruisers have been attempting to close a neutral port in South Africa against

American breadstuffs and establish a fatal precedent against England in the event of war with any great European power. The contrast between these two policies requires no comment.

The London press today is filled with contradictory dispatches from New York and Berlin respecting the disposition to be made of this question, but it is confidently assumed in diplomatic circles here that compensation will be made for the seizures and that foodstuffs will not be classed as contraband of war.

FEDDING THE BOERS.

Trucks Loaded With Breadstuffs Accidentally Sent to the Enemy.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—A dispatch to the Herald from Naamposet says: An extraordinary occurrence took place last night. A number of trucks loaded with food stuffs got loose and ran away from our lines down the Colesburg desfilade towards the Boers at great speed. Further down there was a broken culvert commanded by the Boer guns.

Three trucks crossed the culvert and remained on the line, marvellous to say. Others fell over, while some remained on this side. The engine driver of the train attempted to rescue it, but was shelled by the Boers and obliged to retreat. A train was then sent to rescue the goods in the wrecked train, escorted by a cavalry company of the Suffolks, but when it reached Pienansieiding it was subjected to a terrific shell fire from a Hotchkiss and a big gun and also rifle fire. The train and its escort had to hurry off. An attempt will probably be made to destroy the goods.

We command Norvalspont bridge with two guns and also the Colesburg road bridge. The Boers have no way of retreat except by way of Stormberg. Big developments are expected.

PITCHER GOES BACK.

Unable to Hold Douglas He Retreats With Loyal Residents.

BEAUMONT, Jan. 3.—Colonel Pitcher, it is officially announced, being only on a raiding expedition, and for military reasons being unable to occupy Douglas permanently, has evacuated the town, bringing off all the loyalists. He has now returned safely to a close proximity to Beaumont. When he announced the necessity of evacuating the place, the inhabitants declared their lives were not safe five minutes after the troops left. Pitcher therefore invited them to accompany him to Beaumont.

The vehicles of the town were totally inadequate to convey the refugees, so the troops gave up the transport wagons to the women and children. The Canadians, acting as an escort to the refugees, carried babies for women and kept everybody lively by singing as they marched along, in spite of the sore feet occasioned by the heavy sand which made marching extremely tiring. The force received Buller's congratulations on the success of the expedition with great satisfaction.

A LITTLE SKIRMISH.

ORANGE RIVER, Jan. 3.—There was a small skirmish near Belmont this morning. The British fired a few shells, but the Boers did not respond. Reinforcements of infantry and artillery have been dispatched to General French from De Aar.

TRAGIC DEATHS IN ALASKA

Several Men Found Frozen in the
Mountains.

DREADFUL NORTHERN COLD

One of the Victims Had a Check For
Eight Thousand Dollars
in His Belt.

SEATTLE, Jan. 4.—The steamer City of Topeka, from Alaskan ports, brings information of five recent tragic deaths in the north, four of which were due to freezing.

The bodies of two men were found frozen and were reported by telegraph on the day the Topeka sailed. They had on the summit of White pass apparently overcome by a blizzard. In the belt tied about the body of one man was found a check upon the Alaska Commercial Company for \$8,000. The check was issued in favor of L. C. Jennings.

The bodies were discovered by a party of snow shovelers working for the railroad. The men are believed to have been returned Klondikers.

D. B. Riebler, of San Francisco, is reported found frozen in his cabin near White pass. William Sumnerville, a well known Dawsonite, was picked up by a squad of Northwest mounted police just below White Horse. He had frozen during the night. Sumnerville was superintendent of the British-American corporation's extensive copper mines back of White Horse rapids.

IN THE BOER CAMP.

BOER CAMP, Colorado, Jan. 2.—The British naval guns at Chiveley camp continue their ineffective long-range firing night and day, in order to divert Boer attention from the movements of troops. Federal scouts yesterday penetrated into the British camp; when returning the British pickets discovered them and wounded one Boer. General Lucas Mayer resumes command of the division here. General Joubert denies he has ever penetrated against the use of lyddite. He avers that up to the present he has not lost a single man from lyddite.

MISSIONARY MURDERED.

PEKING, Jan. 4.—Rev. Mr. Brooks, of the church missionary society stationed at Ping Yin in the province of Shan Tung, was murdered December 3, by members of the sedition gang called "Boxers," who have been active lately in destroying many villages and killing native Christians.

SIX VILLAGES DESTROYED.

TIFLIS, Russian Caucasus, Jan. 4.—Altogether 13 villages in the Achalalak district of this government have experienced earthquake shocks. Six of these places have been completely destroyed, and 800 bodies have already been recovered.

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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.

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