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The Morning Astorian.

VOL. 1.

ASTORIA, OREGON, SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 1900

NO. 187

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THEIR WINTER OF DISCONTENT

London Making the Most of the Few Slight African Victories.

BULLER'S CHANCES RUINED

His Defeat at Colenso Has Deprived Him of All Opportunity for Advancement to the Rank of Commander-in-Chief.

(Copyrighted 1900 by the Associated Press.)

LONDON, Jan. 6.—The winter of discontent to which Great Britain has settled down, has been somewhat modified by the isolated successes which marked the past week, though the seizure of foreign ships and unfounded rumors regarding Delagoa bay threatened to bring out a crop of rumors of European interference.

The doings of General French and Colonel Pitcher have been made the most of by the correspondents and another magnified editorially by the British press. But anything is acceptable in these days.

The appointment of the Duke of Connaught to command the British forces in Ireland has led to a lot of speculation as to whether he will succeed Lord Wolseley, whose term expires in November, as commander in chief. Lord Roberts is his logical successor, but until he was chosen to command in South Africa the general impression was that he would be too old to be selected for the office when it became vacant.

General Buller was a hot favorite, but his defeat near Colenso seems to have irrevocably ruined his chances. It is more than probable that Roberts, if successful in South Africa, will fill the office of commander in chief for a short period and that he will then be succeeded by the Duke of Connaught, whose popularity and military knowledge are strong enough to overcome the prejudice against a member of the royal family holding that office.

The abuse of the war office and Lord Lansdowne, the secretary of state for war and Lord Wolseley continues unabated in the press and among the public. By the time parliament reassembles it promises to have gathered such force that it is more than likely that most stormy scenes will mark the debates, while many people declare unless Lord Lansdowne resigns or expiates himself, the conservative party will be considerably menaced.

So far the criticisms emanate chiefly from the patriotic Britisher whose pride is hurt at the reverses and from those whose heart strings have been touched by death. But, when the solid British taxpayer begins to be drained to support the war then, truly, the criticism of the military officials will begin to reach its true volume.

The Times which, with the rest of the British press, has been under the impression that America was unanimously supporting Great Britain, today prints a letter from Toronto, saying the anti-British press in the United States is enjoying itself over the reverses the empire is at present enduring, and adds:

"It screams its delight and it speaks sneeringly and tauntingly of Great Britain's decadence and the uselessness of her colonial sons."

The action of the English insurance companies in charging an extra 5 per cent for war risks, already referred to in these dispatches has created no little unfavorable comment and uncomplimentary comparison of their action with that of the American concern.

"Today" says: "In answer to the protests the companies say sentiment cannot enter into business transactions. The best answer to the British companies is that the American officers are making no such demand, and if the Americans see their way to dispense with an extra premium, it might be thought that the enormous wealthy English officers could easily do the same. Their refusal is short sighted from a business point of view as it is unpatriotic. Unfortunately, it is in keeping with the general trend of English insurance management."

Much interest is exhibited in the new Duke of Westminster, who has decided to remain at the Cape during the war. It appears that he has a keen taste for racing horses and his father's splendid stable is not likely to be broken up. "Ben D'Or," as the young duke is nicknamed, after the famous horse, though not yet 21, is said to have selected a wife, which disappoints society, for he is the most eligible party in the matrimonial market.

The decision of Mr. Edward Corrigan to bring over a great string of American horses is hailed here with interest and pleasure. One sporting authority writes that Mr. Corrigan never does things by halves, adding

that "it is safe betting that such a collection of racers as he will send has seldom, if ever, been gathered together by an American owner."

Some confusion has been caused by the various reports of the relief of Lieutenant-Commander Colwell, the United States naval attaché and the name of his successor. The press statements announcing Commander R. Clover's appointment, considerably antedated an issue of orders from Washington and in some unexplained way the admiralty went astray and Commander Clover's name was substituted for Lieutenant-Commander Colwell's on the list of attaches. The mail being arriving addressed to Commander Clover and it took no little trouble and explanation to extricate the present incumbent from the inconveniences. It is understood that Commander Clover will arrive here several months before he assumes his duties.

From Melbourne comes the news that Lord Brassey, on the eve of retiring from office as governor of Victoria, mounted an Episcopal pulpit and preached a sermon to the congregation. Lord Brassey is coming home on the famous old yacht Sunbeam.

Both the theatrical and book worlds are in a bad way on account of the war. Not more than three theaters in London are making money and the publishers are alarmed at the absolute stagnation of their business.

Berlin's Tree, Wednesday, replaces "King John" with "A Midsummer Night's Dream," which will be treated as a fairy play and beautifully staged. A feature of the production, which is awaited with the greatest curiosity and interest is the appearance of Love Freear as Puck. Miss Freear is the dapper and plain, but very clever actress whose greatest success was as "Slavery" in "The Gay Parisienne," and who is the creator of the song "Mary Jane's Topnot." She recently appeared in "The Man in the Moon" at the New York theater, New York city.

Charles Frohman has engaged Chas. Hawtry for a tour of America in 1900. Hawtry is considered the cleverest comedian in London, where he has long occupied a unique position.

Edna May sails for home on the St. Paul today.

De Wolf Hopper has engaged 20 of "The Helms of New York" chorus to remain in London in "The Mystical Mies."

Kyle Bellow is seriously ill and has been ordered abroad.

THE RELEASE OF GILMORE.

He and Other Prisoners Arrived in Manila Last Night.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Official confirmation has come from both General Otis and Admiral Watson of the release of American prisoners who have been held by Filipinos for many long months. Otis' dispatch reads as follows:

"Manila—The prisoners are now en route from Vigan. They arrive tonight, and a list of them will be telegraphed tomorrow. Lieutenant Gilmore is among the number."

That of Watson's follows: "Manila—Colonels Hare and Howitt have captured all American prisoners, including Gilmore, now at Vigan."

The sweeping statements made in dispatches to the effect that all American prisoners have been released has aroused a hope that in the list will appear the names of some officers and privates of the army who are set down on the army rolls as missing. Prominent among the missing army officers was Major Charles M. Rockefeller of the Ninth infantry. This officer advanced beyond the lines during the fierce fighting early last summer. He disappeared completely, and no trace of his body was ever found.

It is gathered from Otis' report that the released men have been sent by boat across Lingayon gulf to Dagupan, at the northern extremity of the railroad, and about a day's journey from Manila.

THE CAUSE.

The Carbonado Disaster Investigated by an Impartial Board.

OLYMPIA, Jan. 6.—The board of coal mine examiners today submitted to Governor Rodgers the report of their findings as to the cause of the Carbonado disaster.

It is the unanimous opinion of the board that the origin of the explosion occurred by the ignition of a small quantity of gas in some manner unknown, the force due to this raising a dust, which undoubtedly was the principal factor in the explosion. The ventilation is pronounced to be very efficient.

IN FAVOR OF MEXICO.

CHICAGO, Jan. 6.—A special to the Record from the City of Mexico says: Minister Mariscal has received a cablegram from Senor Manuel Aspiroz Mexican ambassador at Washington, that the United States court of claims has decided the Wolf case adversely to the claimant. This decision destroys one of the most celebrated claims against the government of Mexico.

WAR OFFICE IS RETICENT

No News Obtainable As to Latest Events in Africa.

PUBLIC ANXIETY EVIDENT

Belief Current That An Important Movement Is Imminent or Already in Progress Towards Ladysmith.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—General Buller's telegram to the war office stating that General White at Ladysmith reported that the enemy had attacked Cassars camp, caused many late calls at the war office. The officials stated at midnight, however, that nothing further would be issued during the night.

No news has been received from other sources, though the dispatches indicate that important events at the front are imminent, if not actually progressing at this time.

LONDON THEORIES.

Figuring on the Plan of Campaign, Roberts Will Adopt.

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London, says: While General French's adroit maneuvers and gallant repulse of the enemy's determined attack are of superior interest as incidents of actual warfare, public attention cannot be diverted from the impending battle at the Tugela.

Heavy fighting has been expected from hour to hour by military men, who could not be convinced that Sir Redvers Buller would wait for the single battery and the small force of Hussars which had been dispatched from Cape Town to Durban, but when the official bulletin dated yesterday from Frere camp and containing his thanks in the name of the army for the holiday remembrances from home was posted, the impression prevailed at the clubs that a decisive battle would be deferred until Monday, when he could command every available man, gun and horse.

The military writers for the press were divided in their forecasts of the plan of attack. One group held that the Nhlwale mountain would be the first objective point and that the southern bank would be cleared before any attempt was made to force the passage of the river.

The second group, undismayed by the failure of the previous forecasts, assumed that there would be a ranging movement a long distance away with a front attack at the other end of the line and a vigorous artillery fire at the center and they cited as proofs of their theory, he reports of systematic scouting on the upper Tugela near Springfield, the massing of Warren's division at Estcourt, whence it could be sent toward Weenan and the organization of the transport system on a large scale.

The last detail was certainly significant, since no turning movement of the lower Tugela could be made without mule transports, but an experienced veteran who managed the transport system in the previous campaign in South Africa said last night that this was no conclusive evidence, since the mule train would be required at once between Colenso and Ladysmith, after the passage of the river as the railway had probably been torn up by the Boers.

General Buller must have received yesterday strong cavalry reinforcements consisting of the South African light horse and the Eighteenth Hussars and when the last battery afloat with a small force of hussars arrives, he will be as strong as he can be expected to be and with nothing to gain by delay.

BRITISH CRITICS.

Newspapers Attack Every Official In Sight.

LONDON, Jan. 6.—The Morning Post's military critic discusses the details of General French's and General Gatacre's skirmishes and operations and declares that both need reinforcements. He adds: "Each side of Modder river (where Methuen is) wants to be attacked, but neither cares to attack."

"The consequence is likely to be a pause until the arrival of reinforcements. These will reach the British first if General Buller wins a battle in Natal. If not they may come first to the Boers who, in case of their second success at Tugela river, could spare men to go to Magersfontein."

Both the News and the Mail attack the ministry, submitting a series of questions, much alike, to be propounded in parliament when it assembles as

To the conduct of the war and the preparations. These questions are aimed at Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, the chancellor of the exchequer; Lord Lansdowne, the war secretary; Lord Wolseley, the commander of all her majesty's forces and all the members of the war office, both in the civil and the military branches.

ANOTHER SEIZURE.

DURBAN, Jan. 6.—The German steamer Herzog has been seized by a British warship and brought to this port.

MORE CANADIAN TROOPS

Will Offer to Furnish and Equip 250 Mounted Scouts.

VICTORIA, B. C., Jan. 5.—The British Columbia government and legislature unite in endorsing the decision to proffer a company of 200 mounted scouts, equipped and delivered a Halifax, or any other named place of embarkation for South African service. Each will be provided with a picked saddle horse, first class saddle, uniform, rifle and revolver, the outfit involved being \$250 per man, or \$50,000 for the corps.

At the reassembling of the legislature on Monday J. H. Turner, the opposition leader, will present a want of confidence motion upon which it is hoped to defeat the Semin ministry. All depends upon Prentice of Lillooet. If he votes with the opposition, as is generally anticipated, the government is doomed, as it is now carrying on business solely by the speaker's vote. Special precautions are being taken at William Head quarantine to prevent the introduction of bubonic plague, reported to be rife at both Honolulu and Hakodate. All steamers docking from an infected port hereafter will be required to use funnel guards over their hawsers to prevent rats from going ashore.

ON DANGEROUS GROUND.

France Making Trouble for One of Uncle Sam's Dependencies.

ST. THOMAS, D. W. I., Jan. 6.—The French flagship Cecille has gone to Santo Domingo to enforce the payment of \$20,000, the claim of the French government against Santo Domingo.

IOWA'S SENATORIAL FIGHT.

DES MOINES, Ia., Jan. 6.—This evening there ended one of the most exciting contests for speaker of the house of representatives in the Iowa legislature in the history of the state, when the friends of Senator Gear say practically settled the equally exciting contest for a United States senator to succeed John N. Gear. The speaker contest was decided in favor of Dr. D. H. Bowers of Waukeon, the candidate of the Gear forces, he receiving 42 votes against 28 for W. L. Eaton of Osage, the avowed candidate of the supporters of A. B. Cummins of Des Moines for United States senator.

SEATTLE WILL GET IT.

PORTLAND, Jan. 6.—Three Russian commissioners arrived here today for the purpose of examining the Pacific coast ports and recommending a terminus for a great steamship line between Vladivostock and the Pacific coast.

GERMANY IS MUCH EXCITED

Seizure of South African Steamers Becoming Unbearable.

ENGLAND MUST BACK DOWN

It Can Be Shown That Neutral Territory Has Been Invaded and the Interference With Germany's Commerce Is Unjustified.

(Copyrighted, 1899, Associated Press.) BERLIN, Jan. 6.—The excitement occasioned by the seizures of German steamers by British cruisers increases and overtops everything else.

Even the opening of the Prussian diet on the coming Tuesday is dwarfed thereby. In spite of the strongest current of popular anti-British sentiment the German government will honestly strive to continue its course of loyal neutrality, but anxiously awaits favorable British action regarding the seizures which the government and nation both regard as unjustified.

The government has ascertained without a shadow of doubt that the Bundesrath was seized on strictly neutral territory within a radius belonging by international law to the Portuguese colony. Thereby the action of the British cruiser Magiciene was clearly wrong, as here contended. The news that Great Britain has released the steamer General, seized at Aden, is here construed as Great Britain's backing down.

THE GOEBLE MACHINE.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Jan. 6.—The Senate today adopted the report of the joint committee on rules which provides that the speaker of the house and not the lieutenant governor shall preside at all joint sessions. This arrangement will make Speaker Trimble (dem.) the presiding officer when the governorship contest is heard. The house has not yet adopted its resolution.

THE PANTHER HUNTER.

W. J. B. Deserates Jackson Day in Chicago.

CHICAGO, Jan. 6.—Six hundred democrats gathered in the banquet hall at the Tremont House tonight to observe "Jackson Day" in an appropriate manner. William J. Bryan was the honored guest and the chief orator of the occasion.

BOER ATTACK REPULSED.

LONDON, Jan. 6.—The war office this evening issued the following: "From Buller, Frere's Camp, Jan. 6.—The following telegram was received from General White, January 5, 9 a. m.—Frere attacked Cassar's camp at 2.40 a. m. in considerable force, the enemy was everywhere repulsed, but the fighting still continues."

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