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The Morning Astorian.

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NO. 197

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HARDEST TASK YET TO COME

After the Relief of Ladysmith Johannesburg Must Be Taken.

AN IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS

Its Strong Defenses Greatly Aided by the Extensive Mining Operations Carried On.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—"Even if they are driven out," said Samuel Stockton of Johannesburg, who is in this country waiting for cessation of hostilities, last night at the Waldorf-Astoria. "I do not believe as yet that the Boers have fought the great battle of the war, or even that this battle will occur in the mountain passes into their country. Not even Laing's Nek is more impregnable than Johannesburg, or, rather, than Johannesburg can easily be made to be. I do not know that it would be strictly correct to say that Johannesburg is naturally defended, and yet her impregnable condition is not due to any effort or intent to make her so, but has come accidentally and as an incident to the mining that has been carried on there.

The Rand belt of mines stretches for a full thirty miles between Johannesburg and the invading force at intervals of between a quarter and a half mile apart. At each mine are talling heaps, that is, the mounds of ground-up rock and debris, from which the gold has been extracted. These tallings which are of tremendous height and breadth and much resemble in size and contour waste piles outside anthracite coal mines in Pennsylvania are each especially impregnable natural forts, while the short distance they lie apart, with cannon mounted on them, would make it absolutely impossible for the British to penetrate between. On the other hand, they cannot be battered down, and to attack them with artillery would be simply to waste ammunition, for the shells would be lost. Let them explode in any part of the mound, and the pile would be as before. Absolutely no advantage would accrue to the attacking party.

"Just to give you an idea of how great a quantity of these tallings there must be, take the following calculation:

"There are mills say 5,000 stamps in the Transvaal, which have been running steadily for five years. They, or a large part of them have really been running longer, but for the sake of argument we will put it at five years. That means there are sufficient tallings adjacent to Johannesburg to construct a fortification twenty feet wide by six feet in height from that point to Cape Town, and even further."

SAYS BOERS ARE COWARDS.

Old Transvaaler Speaks Plainly of the Dutchmen.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—Fritz Mosenthal, for 35 years a resident of South Africa, a member of the Johannesburg Relief Committee of fifty-eight, which was concerned in the Jameson raid, all of whom were apprehended and compelled to pay fines of \$2,000 each and who is also a gold mine director, has arrived in the city from Germany. Mr. Mosenthal, although a German, has a rather poor opinion of the Boers, and says they are cowards. Speaking of the Boer people, Mr. Mosenthal said:

"The Boer has no personal courage. He will fight when he is under cover, but in the open, man to man, he is no match for either the Briton or any other white antagonist.

"The Boers do not as a class possess any education and do not wish to possess any. The moment a Boer becomes changed from the simple farmer to the city resident and his financial condition is enhanced thereby he becomes a subject of Great Britain and renounces the Boer traditions.

"Personally, I believe that the war situation now centers in the district around Ladysmith, and I believe that

THE COLONEL HAS ARRIVED

Mr. Bryan Partakes of a Dollar Dinner in New York.

HIS MOUTH IS PADLOCKED

No Speech-Making Allowed, But the Evening Devoted to Inventing a "Policy" for the Campaign.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—There is a great stir in democratic circles over W. J. Bryan's visit to New York. Mr. Bryan, when he arrived this morning, went to the Hoffman house, the headquarters of the state democratic organization which is controlled by Tammany. The silver democratic leader had hoped to entertain the democratic leader, but the latter declined.

Mr. Bryan spent the day in consultation with the various leaders in the city, and tonight was the guest of O. H. P. Belmont at a dinner given in his honor. There were about 250 men at this feast and all factions of the party were represented. The day is to unite the warring clans and secure a harmonized and united delegation to the coming national convention to vote for Mr. Bryan. Among those who will be present are Frank Campbell, chairman of the democratic state committee; Elliot Danforth, chairman of the state executive committee; Robert Treat Paine, Jr. and George Fred Williams, of Boston; ex-Governor Hogg, of Texas; Norman E. Mack, of Buffalo; John W. Keller, president of the American Democratic Club; John F. Carroll, deputy leader of Tammany hall, and other state and city leaders.

Mr. Bryan will be the recipient of much attention from democrats of all factions while in the city. On Tuesday morning the members of the state committee of the Chicago platform democracy will wait upon him at the Hoffman house. They will place before him their plan for electing a contesting delegation to the coming national convention, and make a full statement of their grievances against the regular organization. They will try to enlist his support in their fight against Tammany and the regular state organization. After this he will see other callers, and in the evening he will visit the Democratic club as the guest of John W. Keller, president of the club. The Democratic club serves every night a table d'hote dinner at the price of \$1. Mr. Bryan has in the past shown a fondness for dollar dinners. Mr. Keller has invited Mr. Bryan to come to the club as his personal guest and will entertain him at dinner. He does not invite him as the president of the Democratic club, but in a purely personal and informal way. There will be no great dinner. Mr. Keller will invite only two or three friends to meet Mr. Bryan, and the meal will be the regular table d'hote. Other members of the club can come in and dine at the other tables. There will be no speech-making, but Mr. Bryan will be introduced to all who care to meet him after the table d'hote feast is over, and will give a short reception. Then he will be escorted back to his hotel.

On Wednesday, Mr. Bryan will receive friends and political associates at the Hoffman house. In the evening he will go to Jersey City, where Robert Davis, leader of the Jersey City democracy, and Congressman William Daly, will give him a great reception. It has been his intention to go to New England on Thursday, but it is said, on what seems to be good authority, that Mr. Bryan has determined to abandon this New England trip and will return immediately to Washington.

Ex-Governor James S. Hogg, of Texas, is quoted in an interview as saying: "I am not saying anything about the vice-presidential campaign, but O. H. P. Belmont, whose name I have heard mentioned in connection with the office, was in Texas and he made many friends there. So far as I know he is an able and good man and has many friends, and will doubtless have strong support for the place. Personally, I am not a candidate for the place, and I cannot say whom Texas will vote for.

RESULT NOT KNOWN.

Nothing Received to Indicate Success of British Force.

LONDON, Jan. 22.—2:30 P. M.—Nothing has been received thus far today to indicate that any conclusive result has been reached by the British forces in the region of the Upper Tugela, and the lack of information regarding the number of men and the munitions the Boers have in reserve prevents accurate determination of the measure of real success attendant the two days' hard fighting. All that can be said is that the British seem to be doggedly advancing in the face of equally stubborn resistance.

At the close of yesterday's fighting the republicans had merely evacuated their first line of defense to take up another semi-circular position a short distance in the rear, recalling the old burgher rise by which the Boers had previously managed to entice the British into fatal traps.

Dispatches from elsewhere in South Africa this morning give trivial details of minor happenings, and do not illuminate the situation.

The widow of General Wauchope, in an open letter, hotly denies the story that the general in any way criticized General Buller. She says that General Wauchope's last mention of General Methuen to her was contained in a letter from the Orange river, dated November 23, as follows:

"I expect that General Methuen will halt at Modder River for some days before pushing forward. He has had a hard time of it, and must be a real gallant soldier to shove along as he does."

Lord Wolseley has also issued a denial of the report that the war office is in possession of a letter from General Wauchope, written on the night before the battle of Magersfontein, saying it would be the last letter he would write, as he had been asked to perform an impossible task, and he had either to obey orders or surrender his sword.

FORMER PORTLANDER DEAD.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 22.—Captain Julius Friedman, a millionaire, was found dead in his bed at the Palace hotel tonight. Death was caused by heart disease. Captain Friedman leaves no close relatives. He formerly lived in Portland, Oregon.

DUNDONALD NOW IN LADYSMITH

Rumor That He Has Succeeded in Joining Forces With the Town.

BULLER'S CASUALTY LIST

No Report of Yesterday's Operations Had Reached London Up to Midnight—The Wires Down.

LONDON, Jan. 23.—Just before midnight the war office issued the following dispatch from General Buller:

"SPEARMAN'S CAMP, Jan. 22, 9 a. m.—The following casualties are reported in General Buller's brigade as a result of yesterday's fighting: Killed: Captain Ryall, Yorkshire regiment, and five men. Wounded: Second Lieutenant Andrews, Border regiment; Captain MacLaughlin, Inniskillings; Lieutenant Barlow, Yorkshire regiment, and 75 men. Missing: Eight men. Other casualties will be forwarded when received.

The foregoing was all the war office had issued up to midnight. Nothing is known here as yet regarding Monday's operations.

DUNDONALD AT LADYSMITH.

Report That That Part of the Relief Column Has Got Through.

FREE TRADE MEASURES.

Porto Rican Regulations to Come Up This Week.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: Representative Payne's bill to extend the customs and international revenue laws of the United States over the introduction of Porto Rico will be considered by the house committee on ways and means during the present week. All the republican members of the committee and probably Representative Newlands will probably vote on the bill favorably. It is not certain however, that the report will be made this week as both the majority and the minority will probably wish to prepare statements on the constitutional question involved. The bill extending the revenue laws over Hawaii is also to be advanced as rapidly as possible.

TO RUSH THE BILL.

No Delay in the Nicaragua Canal Project.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—According to the Herald's Washington correspondent the Hopturn-Morgan canal bill will be passed during the present session of congress. Speaker Henderson is in favor of the bill and of prompt action. Senator Frye, president pro tem of the senate, wants action by the senate and expresses the belief that the bill will be passed at an early date. The measure will receive the approval of the president. There is an overwhelming majority in both houses of congress in favor of the pending bill and in favor of passing it without awaiting the support of the Walker commission.

KILLED THE CHIEF.

Great Victory of Mexican Troops in Indian Uprising.

CHICAGO, Jan. 22.—A special to the Tribune from Nogales, Ariz., says:

A message from Ortiz a station on the Soñora railroad, reports that carriers from Macoyate confirm the account of the last stand of the Yaqui Indians against the Mexican general, Lorenzo Torres.

Official telegrams received in Nogales place the Mexican loss in killed and wounded at 89 and a message sent over the government wires last night, confirms the report of the killing of the Yaqui chief, Teteblate, along with 200 of his best fighters. The 500 Indians taken prisoners will be brought into Ortiz tomorrow and also Father Beitran and the Josephine sisters, who were rescued.

Governor Terral, at Hermosillo, wires all points in Sonora to be on guard and to look out for small bands of Indians.

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