

The Morning Astorian.

VOL. L. ASTORIA, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1900. NO. 212

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PAVING THE WAY FOR BAD NEWS

Boer "Strength" and Buller's "Difficulties" Emphasized.

ANOTHER PAINFUL SURPRISE

The Navy So Much Depended on Is One-Third Disabled by the Lack of Modern Guns—A Grievous Defect.

LONDON, Feb. 9, 4 a. m.—All messages from the observers with General Buller throw in a phrase or two about "the strength of the Boer positions," and "the difficulties of General Buller's work," but they do not carry events beyond Tuesday evening. Their last slender narratives leave the British advance on Vaal Krantz, in the center of the semi-circle, where the troops are exposed to the Boer artillery on both sides and in the center. The fighting continued until 9 o'clock Tuesday evening and almost without a doubt continued Wednesday, as the Boers certainly would not leave this wedge into their lines unmolested. It is also inferred that General Buller must either continue to advance or retire.

The heaviest fighting appears to have been on Tuesday. General Buller's 233 casualties are mentioned as having occurred before noon Tuesday. Large lists are consequently expected for the rest of the day. The casualties already reported brings the total British losses during the war up to 10,244 killed, wounded and captured.

The disposition here is rather to minimize the importance of the fighting in Natal upon the expected decisive engagements in Northern Cape Colony and upon the invasion of the Free State by Lord Roberts. At all events, this is the official view.

The public does not like these new waits, and there is a sharp anxiety for further news. In Cape Colony, General MacDonald has had a skirmish with a thousand Boers at Koofo-bogg. This was on Monday. The Boers have been taking the offensive against General French near Renburg, as well as against General Gatacre in the Stormberg hills.

Since the war has strained the resources of the military system, England has been troubled by the possibility that sea fighting might show naval defects which would weaken the first line of defense in which she has placed such complete trust. Public men have been painfully surprised to learn that sixteen battleships and eight armored cruisers depend upon muzzle-loaders.

This means that the smaller but faster ships with modern guns would be able to stay one thousand or two thousand yards out of range and disable about one-third of the vessels which appear in the naval list as "first-class."

The admiralty is understood to be preparing to remedy this defect.

COUNTING THE COST.

One Hundred Million Dollars Spent Up to Date.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The supplementary army estimate to March 31 was laid pro forma before the house of commons yesterday. It is reported that the call is for £20,000,000, which would make the cost of the war up to date £30,000,000.

The maintenance of 500,000 men at the front. It is estimated, costs between £5,000,000 and £10,000,000 per month.

BULLER'S RECENT CASUALTIES.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—Buller cabled the war office that the approximate British casualties in the fighting at Potgieter's drift, up to noon Tuesday, are: Officers—Two killed and 15 wounded; non-commissioned officers and men, 215 killed and wounded. The officers killed were Major Johnson-Smith and Lieutenant Shafter, both of the Durham Light Infantry. The officers wounded include Colonel Fitzgerald, of the Durham Light Infantry, and Colonel Montgomery of the Royal Artillery, and Lieutenant Sir Cunningham, of the Rifle brigade.

BULLER STILL FIGHTING.

But in View of Other Failures English Attempt No Forecast of Events.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—Presumably Buller is fighting again today, in his third attempt to relieve Ladysmith, and news of great importance may arrive at any time. Yet here there is more doubt than exultation, for even if the

recollection of Buller's two disastrous failures, after auspicious starts, were not keen in the minds of the public, the list of casualties published today would be a sufficient reminder of the tremendous difficulties of his task.

His occupation of Vaal Krantz, the key to the lower ridges, while a praiseworthy and gallant achievement, by no means signifies that General Buller will inevitably join hands with him. Before Buller are several days of hard fighting, and any attempt to forecast the result would be valueless. If based on precedent, which can hardly be done in warfare, it would be bound to be in favor of the Boers, for apparently the conditions have not materially altered since the last fruitless attempt.

On the other hand the British troops are smarting under defeat and will undoubtedly be nerved to more desperate efforts than ever before, and if furious gallantry can carry Buller over the kopjes that face him, Ladysmith will be relieved within a week. But so far British bravery has been in the main woefully misguided. It is more than likely that General Harton, at Chevely, may be strong enough to advance upon the Tugela and render valuable assistance from the southeast, while the beleaguered garrison itself, according to latest dispatches, should be able to create a potential diversion when Buller has overcome the initial difficulties which lie in the kopjes, immediately north of the Tugela.

Turning from the transcendent interest in Ladysmith, the whole war area represents a scene of important activity. The Boer attack on General Gatacre's forces, reported February 7, fazed out the artillery of the Boers, after shelling the camp, retiring upon the arrival of British reinforcements. The affair scarcely warrants being called a skirmish. The British casualties were one man killed and four men wounded.

Late advices from Sterkstroom announce that Gatacre's cavalry is in hot pursuit of the Boers. While nothing has resulted from the affair, it indicates that the burghers are fully alive to the importance of the concentration which is on the verge of occurring between the forces of Gatacre, Kelley-Kinney and French, and they do not hesitate to take the aggressive in an effort against an established position, though it is believed a sufficient large body of troops will soon be massed at Colesburg to insure the unopposed advance of the invading army when it is ready to start.

That it is not prepared for this move at present, and that all this activity is but merely preliminary to what is now known as Lord Roberts' main movement, is evidenced by dispatches from Cape Town under date of February 7, announcing that the director of the transport service was advertising for ox wagons and drivers. Without these it will be useless to think of carrying on an invasion, and it must be a month more before they are ready. Another preliminary is that Roberts has just sanctioned the formation of a colonial yeomanry, consisting of a troop of 100 men for the east district of the colony to protect local farmers. This force will be officered from among the local yeomanry. Opinion is divided as to whether Roberts and Kitchener have gone to Modder river or to Sterkstroom. General MacDonald's activity in former localities, combined with the belief that the Colesburg movement is to draw off a portion of the Free State, has given rise to the hope that Methuen will shortly be enabled to make a successful attack to relieve Kimberley, while the gradually thinning forces surrounding Mafeking will altogether melt away.

LEARNING BY EXPERIENCE.

England Will Not Be Caught Napping Again in Military Experience.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The Times says this morning:

"In critical times friendly relations with foreign states are only too easily disturbed and therefore it behooves us not to rely with unthinking optimism on their continued maintenance.

"The country should take a lesson from our military experience and do everything possible to insure the maintenance of the navy in the highest state of efficiency. To wait for a war to break out before we being to improve appliances which by proper foresight can be better and more economically provided beforehand, is to court disaster."

The Standard says: "It appears from official correspondence that in December, 1884, the chief engineer official of Natal proposed that a survey should be quietly made over the Drakensburg range but the general commanding replied in effect that for political reasons it was undesirable to move in the matter."

EXTREME HEATED TERM.

Numerous Deaths From Sunstroke in Buenos Ayres.

BUENOS AYRES, Feb. 8.—The terrible heat continues. There were 287 sunstrokes on Monday and 187 Tuesday. The fatal cases show a diminution, but numerous bodies are decomposing at the cemetery, owing to the strike of the grave diggers for higher wages.

THE BURIAL OF USURPER GOEBEL

Windy Joe Blackburn Delivers a Frenzied Harangue.

LARGE CROWDS PRESENT

"Justice" Goebel Calls Upon the People to Maintain the "Principles" for Which His Brother Died.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 8.—Governor Taylor announced this morning that he had, as yet, taken no action regarding the Louisville agreement and did not know whether he would do so today or not. He said there were some things he desired to consider before he made up his mind as to the best thing to do.

As early as 5 o'clock people began to arrive from the country for the purpose of attending Goebel's funeral, and by 7 o'clock there was a string of them pouring through the room in which the body lay, so great that the police had great difficulty in handling it. The crowd grew rapidly and, judging from the number that came early in the forenoon, there were no less than 10,000 people at the funeral.

The formation of the parade began at 11 o'clock. It was headed by a battalion of police and members of the city council, numerous local societies and organizations, citizens on foot in great numbers, and hundreds of men on horseback made up the procession. The services at the hotel were short and simple, but at the cemetery they were elaborate and were witnessed by 7,000 people. The oration of the day was delivered by Senator Blackburn.

BLACKBURN'S ORATION.

Kentucky's New Senator Works Up a Sensation at Goebel's Funeral.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 8.—In an oration at the funeral of Governor Goebel today Senator Blackburn said: "Goebel is dead, but that which he stood for, and that which he died for, still lives. Some men, in their death, render greater service to the cause they advocate than it were possible to do in life."

As Senator Blackburn continued and his stentorian voice rang out in his denunciation of the shooting of Governor Goebel, and as he stated that it was not the work of a crank or a crazed assassin, murmurs of "no" and "that's right" came from the closely packed crowd, while tears stood in the eyes of many of the grim-faced men within hearing of his voice.

JUSTUS GOEBEL'S STATEMENT.

He Wants the Principles for Which the Dead Man Stood Maintained by the People.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 8.—Justus Goebel tonight issued an open letter in which he says:

"Your friend—my brother—lies dead before you, murdered for his devotion to the cause of the people.

"Should not Kentucky, now and here, swear by his blood that her sons will see justice done to those concerned in his foul taking off?

"Will designing men of high station be permitted to use an ignorant outlaw to further their ambitions and when that ambition is disappointed turn a red-handed murderer loose under the very roof of the executive mansion?"

"The grandest tribute possible to be paid him is to fight for the principles for which he laid down his life as he fought for them."

RESTRAINING ORDER ASKED.

Taylor's Attorneys Institute Proceeding in the Cincinnati Federal Court.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 8.—Former Governor Bradley and Attorney MacKay, attorneys for Governor Taylor, and others appeared before Federal Judge Taft at noon today and were given a hearing in the chambers on a petition for a restraining order, the exact nature of which was not made public. It is not denied, however, that the defendants in the petition are Governor Beckham et al. After hearing former Governor Bradley and MacKay, Judge Taft announced to them they should at once make copies of their petitions for the defendants and furnish them with the would be heard in the United States court of appeals at Cincinnati on February 12.

Bradley and MacKay would not say anything about the nature of their proceedings or the plans of their clients.

GOEBEL'S ASSASSIN.

PEORIA, Ill., Feb. 8.—The police of Peoria have unearthed what they think

is a clew to the assassin of Governor Goebel of Kentucky. A young man arrived in the city last fall whose name was George F. Ahlers, claiming that his father was a member of the firm of Hoffman & Ahlers, of Cincinnati. He claimed the state of Kentucky as his home and when under the influence of drink was easily excited and would work himself into a violent passion while discussing politics. He said repeatedly that it was his evidence that acquitted Mr. Goebel of the charge of murder. He was very bitter in his denunciation of Goebel and offered to bet large sums of money that Goebel would be assassinated before he reached the gubernatorial chair. He said a relative of Goebel's victim was pledged to kill the governor, but in case he failed to keep his word (there would not fail. He had left Peoria sometime before the Kentucky tragedy and his present whereabouts are not known.

THE MONTANA DISGRACE.

Former Governor Hauser Explains Some of the Peculiarities of Political Campaigns in the State.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Former Governor S. T. Hauser, of Montana, was a witness before the senate committee on privileges and elections in the contest case against Senator Clark today. He said he thought he could take "the credit, or discredit, of inducing Clark to assist us in the campaign and afterward to become a candidate for the senate."

"I also told him," said the governor, "that we wanted him to help stand the boss Irishman off."

"Assist how?" a member of the commission asked.

"By the use of his brains, his money and his following," was the reply.

Clark objected to entering the contest on account of the expense. He (the witness) had assured him that the primaries would not cost to exceed \$20,000 or \$40,000 and after that the campaign for the senate would not go beyond \$50,000 or \$60,000. This amount would, he thought, cover all the legitimate expenses and, speaking of legitimate expenses, Hauser said his idea of legitimate expenses in a campaign in Montana was very different from what it was in the Eastern states.

"We have to have money to fix the workers and saloon men," he said, "but I do not include the purchase of votes, either in the legislature or out of it. That certainly is not proper."

He then gave some figures of the expenditures in former campaigns, saying that in the capitol contest at least a million dollars was spent, and "in the first state election," he added, "the big-four, so-called, put up \$15,000 or \$30,000 or \$40,000 each, to begin with, to say nothing of their subsequent expenses."

Asked who constituted the "big four," the witness replied, "Colonel Broadwater, Clark, Daly and a gentleman named Hauser," (meaning himself).

CYCLONE IN ILLINOIS.

Many Dwellings and Business Houses Badly Wrecked.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 8.—A cyclone is reported to have struck near Collinsville, Ill. Several houses are reported destroyed. Doctors have left Collinsville for the scene. Collinsville is on the Vandalia road, about four miles east of here.

About 2:30 a. m. the storm was first felt at a point one mile south of Collinsville. The first house demolished was that occupied by Frank Kobart. He, his son and daughter were buried in the debris and it was some time before they were rescued, bruised and bleeding from the wreckage. After the Kobart house, a group of three dwellings was felled by the wind.

The Hightsville Coal Company building was next attacked, the immense smokestack being levelled to the ground. From there the wind reached the Vandalia tracks, laying waste to the telegraph poles for a distance of a quarter of a mile. Beyond the Vandalia tracks stood a group of large frame houses occupied by the Lawrence, Oelderhole and Fix families. The storm levelled them and nothing is left save a mass of tangled wreckage. Two people were seriously injured.

THE NEW COMMISSION.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—A special to the Herald from Washington says:

Now that the president has received the report of the Philippine commission prepared by President Schurman, active consideration is being given to the membership of the proposed commission to establish civil government in the island.

It seems certain that Colonel Charles Denby, if he finds he can go, and Professor Worcester will be two members. Judge M. E. Taft, of West Virginia, is under consideration, and it is thought he can be induced to accept the appointment. James B. Angell and Judge Thayer, of Massachusetts, have also been mentioned, but it is not believed the latter will accept.

While Mr. McKinley would like President Schurman to return to Manila, Mr. Schurman thinks he cannot go back, and his name has not been considered in connection with the new commission.

ANOTHER BAD TRAIN WRECK

Rear-End Collision in Michigan on the Northwestern.

NINE PASSENGERS KILLED

Fast Freight Train in Blinding Snow Storm Crashes Through Three Passenger Coaches.

ESCANABA, Mich., Feb. 8.—The Chicago and Northwestern passenger train, known as the "Felix Mountain accommodation," which runs between this city and Metropolitan, was wrecked in a rear-end collision at the Ford river switch at 6:30 tonight. Nine persons were killed, three are reported missing, five seriously and four slightly injured.

The dead are: W. R. Hill, Escanaba, baggageman of the accommodation train; William Dillon, Escanaba, brakeman on the accommodation train; Miss Seymour, Delta county, Michigan; Charles Martin, Escanaba, civil engineer; George R. Black, Escanaba, agent for the accommodation train; Sam Green, Negaunee, agent for the Upper Peninsula Brewing Co.; two unknown men; an unknown woman, the body charred beyond recognition.

The injured include B. W. Brown, Escanaba, cedar merchant, believed to be fatal; Mrs. Seymour, burned and internally injured; Theo. Deford, Hardwood, Mich., fatally injured; Richard Roberts, Escanaba, conductor of the accommodation, leg smashed. Three passengers are reported to be missing and their bodies are supposed to be under the burning wreckage, but their names could not be ascertained.

The fast freight train was making about 50 miles an hour, forging ahead through a blinding snow storm, which made it impossible to see the signal lights ahead. When within 100 yards of the switch at Ford river, Engineer Green saw the rear lights of the train directly ahead and, with a warning cry to his fireman, jumped. The next instant the fast freight struck the passenger train and telescoped three of the coaches.

MURDER NEAR WALLA WALLA.

Prominent Farmer Shot by His Grandson While Under the Influence of Whiskey.

WALLA WALLA, Feb. 8.—B. F. Royce, a well-known farmer, was shot and killed this evening at his home 12 miles from here, by his grandson, Frank Royce. Frank Royce left the city this afternoon in a drunken condition. When he reached Dixie he became involved in a fight with Rufus Woods, biting his nose nearly off. Royce then proceeded to the home of his grandfather, B. F. Royce, with whom he has been living, about two miles above Dixie. Woods followed in pursuit of Royce and the two men repeated their struggles in the presence of the elder Royce. Frank Royce pulled a gun, shot at Woods but missed him and killed his grandfather.

Young Royce then fired several shots at Woods but without effect. After Royce saw what he had done he set fire to the house, which burned to the ground and the old gentleman's body was consumed. During the trouble Mrs. B. F. Royce fled to the barn and found safety by hiding.

Frank Royce shot four times at F. M. Skinner, a railroad employe who was at work a short distance from the scene. Fortunately Skinner was unharmed.

Royce then proceeded down the road with a Winchester in hand and coming to the place of Ben Bleckir fired three shots through the house and then fled.

The sheriff and a posse are in pursuit of Royce. Young Royce had been farming his grandfather's place. It is said that they had difficulty over several matters. Royce is about 30 years old and has a wife and several children.

B. F. Royce was a wealthy pioneer of this county. He was uncoined out of \$5,000 last spring by "Crooked Mouth" Green.

The community is aroused and Royce will probably be lynched if caught.

LATER—It is believed tonight that Frank Royce, after setting fire to the house and firing several shots, threw himself into the flames and was cremated with his grandfather.

LX-SECRETARY THOMPSON DEAD.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 8.—A special from Terre Haute says: Colonel Richard Thompson, ex-secretary of the navy, died at 1 o'clock this morning.