

The Morning Astorian.

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The Bridge & Beach Manufacturing Co. have always combined every known improvement for increasing the utility, operation and cooking qualities of their ranges. Their latest can be seen in the window of the

Eclipse Hardware Co.

The best range in the world. You can buy one. The price is not out of sight.

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Chainless, model 1900, \$75.00
Chainless, model 1899, \$60.00
Columbia, model 1900, \$50.00
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Hartford, model 1900, \$35.00 Pennant, model 1900, \$25.00

Foard & Stokes Co., Agts.

SOME EXTRA FINE RIPE MISSION OLIVES JUST OPENED

"HEINTZ" FAMOUS PICKLES, RELISHES, AND CATSUPS

GORDON DILWORTH'S JELLIES AND PRESERVES

FINE TEAS AND COFFEES CHASE & SANBORN'S

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OUR NEW GOODS

Just arrived from the East and now ready for our 1900 customers are:

Combination Book Cases, Writing Desks, China Closets, Music Cabinets, Library Cases, in Golden Oak and Mahogany.

These goods were bought before the rise in prices and will be sold accordingly.

Charles Hellborn & Son

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ORDERS SOLICITED

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ROBERTS IS NOW READY TO MOVE

Invasion of the Free States Will Begin Without Delay.

KIMBERLEY IN SORE STRAITS

Death Rate Has Increased to Alarming Proportions and the Town May Fall Before Roberts Arrives.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—Lord Roberts has gathered 35,000 men with whom, according to the best military opinion in London, he purposes turning the left of the Magersfontein lines near Jacobsdal, entering the Free State, compelling General Cronje to raise the siege of Kimberley, and thus making his first step toward Bloemfontein.

Yesterday Lord Roberts announced the appointment of Sir Henry Colville, hitherto commander of the Guard's brigade, to the command of the Ninth Division, which is being formed and will consist probably to a great extent of colonial troops. General Colville will be succeeded by General Reginald Pole-Carew.

Lord Roberts tells the correspondents that when he gets down to business they will have ample opportunities to send news. His chief press censor yesterday issued new rules, and in the future all written communications are to go unchecked. Only telegrams will be censored. For the next few days little news is likely to get through, but later there will be more freedom. Thus says the censor, and the last clause may be interpreted to mean that something is about to happen.

Kimberley, 20 miles away from the Modder river position, is in sore straits. The details of the December death rate show that in a population of 14,000 whites and 19,000 blacks, the mortality was 60 whites and 28 blacks per thousand. The infantile death rate was 67 per thousand among the whites, and 91 per thousand among the blacks. Enteric fever was prevalent.

This frightful state of things in December cannot have improved much if at all since, and the fighting power of the garrison must have been greatly diminished.

Meanwhile, the bombardment by the Boers has increased and there is imminent danger of the town falling under the very eyes of Lord Roberts. It is believed in circles close to the war office that he will move at once.

Scouts have approached within one thousand yards of the Boer entrenchments at Magersfontein. They have found these very strong.

THE ARMY INCREASE.

Secretary Wyndham Says England Will Soon Have 600,000 Men Under Arms.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The house of commons was crowded today in anticipation of a statement from George Wyndham, the parliamentary secretary of the war office, in regard to army measures.

The government, he said, had not even considered the question of compulsory service, which was entirely unnecessary in view of the active recruiting for the auxiliary forces. During the spring and summer the volunteer artillery will be reformed. The mounted infantry in the volunteer corps would be formed. The artillery services and corps of engineers necessary for two additional army corps would be raised forthwith, namely, 35 field batteries and seven horse batteries.

The speaker also said it had been decided to raise twelve additional infantry battalions. Wyndham said the existing forces would also be expanded by several regiments and that commissions would be offered to militia officers of the colonies and to the universities. At present, the speaker further pointed out, there were 199,000 regulars in the country and the increase anticipated was to be 30,000. There were now 328,000 men in the auxiliary forces and it was estimated the increase would be 60,000 men.

So, altogether, the country would soon have at least 517,000 men and Wyndham anticipated that the number would be nearer 600,000 than half a million.

BOERS ASSUME THE OFFENSIVE.

They Have Crossed the Tugela and Will Attempt to Cut Off Buller.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—The news printed in London today throws a great light on the war situation. Lord Roberts is not engaged in a movement against Bloemfontein, as had been hoped, but is at Modder river, and it is believed that he means to attack General Cronje for the purpose of relieving Cecil Rhodes and the besieged city of Kimberley whose inhabitants have been eating horse meat for five weeks and whose death rate has grown alarmingly. General Cronje has strengthened his position in expectation of an attack.

At Rensberg the Boers are strong enough to take the offensive. The most depressing news, however, comes from Natal. The Boers have occupied a farm south of the Tugela near Chelvey, which is studded with hills from which the country can be commanded for miles around. It is reported from Durban that General Joubert is marching with a column of 6,000 men to outflank General Buller. A Boer column is operating in Zululand and there seems to be alarm in Natal and a fear that General Buller's line of communication will be attacked. Although Winston Churchill telegraphs that General Buller is about to make a fourth attack on the Boer front, the London papers call attention to the fact that the general has removed his headquarters from Spearman's camp to Springfield and apparently do not believe that General Buller will attack again. As for Ladysmith the military experts have given up hope. It is agreed that a sortie from the beleaguered town would result in the British being cut to pieces.

The Morning Leader's expert says: "General Buller felt that it would be useless to persevere in his attempt to relieve Ladysmith, which would have cost more loss than the number of men remaining at Ladysmith.

"We hear now of two attempts to turn General Buller himself, one by a Boer column marching through Zululand and another with 5,000 men in Natal under the redoubtable Joubert himself.

"It is quite possible that General Buller was held on the Upper Tugela as much by the ruggedness of nature as by the enemy's artillery. He may be so weak on the Lower Tugela as to leave his right flank and his communications with the sea open to a strong attack.

"But he must make the best of his forces. All the reinforcements within reach for a fortnight to come are earmarked for an attempt to force a passage of the Orange river, which we have got at a point where it is of little use to us save for the relief of Kimberley."

The expert notes with alarm the appearance of enteric fever in General Gatacre's and other forces.

He says Lord Kitchener has not got to the front yet, and that Lord Roberts is not likely to order a general advance until his chief of staff arrives. Winston Churchill's dispatch from Preter Camp, Sunday noon, sent with General Buller's approval, in which he wishes the British people that there may be heavy loss and possibly displacement from Buller's fourth attack, says, describing the last fight:

"A Maxim-Vickor's gun, abandoned by the Boers in a douga, was about to fall into the hands of the British when that notorious ruffian, the fearless Viljoen himself, brought back a team of horses and escaped with the gun.

"It was a splendid feat of arms.

"During the fight General Hildyard fortified himself continually with much skill, building traverses and head covers. Consequently, though exposed to a terrible shell fire during all of the night, he only lost 41 men. In twelve minutes, 43 shells exploded on the hill and 346 were counted in two hours, besides smaller shells from Maxim-Vickor guns, which were innumerable.

"Prince Christian Victor, aide-de-camp to General Hildyard, was knocked down by the concussion of a 100-pound shell bursting on a rock by which he was sitting. The prince behaved throughout with the most extreme composure.

"The Boer prisoners admit heavy loss, but declare an unflinching determination to resist to the uttermost."

The fifth month of the war opens with the Boers apparently about to take the offensive with their armies apparently intact and well supplied with ammunition and, according to Winston Churchill, foreigners and war material pouring into the Transvaal through Delagoa bay.

GOLF CHAMPION DEAD.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—F. O. Taft, amateur golf champion of Great Britain in 1886 and 1888, was killed during General Macdonald's reconnaissance at Koodosberg, being shot through the body. He had previously been wounded at Magersfontein.

MAFEKING IN STRAITS.

The Boers Are Slowly But Surely Closing in on the Unfortunate Town.

LONDON, Jan. 30.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—From Mafeking the Times' correspondent, under date of December 29, writes:

"The straits of a beleaguered city are only just beginning to come to Mafeking. It is now nearly six weeks since Mafeking was proclaimed as being in a state of siege and, although there has been no single opportunity of any commercial reciprocity between ourselves and the outside world, the rilling prices are at present but very little above normal. Distress is wholly absent, danger is purely incidental, and, indeed, it would seem, as Colonel Baden-Powell said in a recent order that 'everything in the garden was lovely.'"

"From time to time Colonel Baden-Powell has issued orders congratulating the townspeople upon their spirit

TAFT'S DECISION NOW AWAITED

Frankfort Assembly Meets and Adjourns Without Developments

SITUATION CONTINUES CALM

Case Argued and Submitted at Cincinnati and Will Be Decided Tomorrow.

FRANKFORD, Ky., Feb. 12.—This was another day of unbroken calm in Frankfort. The republican members of the legislature met at noon and after appointing committees to inform Governor Taylor that, pursuant to the terms of his proclamation adjourning the legislature at London and calling it to Frankfort, they had come to this city and were prepared to transact such business as might come before them.

The governor acknowledged the message and both houses adjourned until tomorrow. There were nine members in the senate and twenty-eight in the house.

The committee which was expected to come from the democratic members at Louisville to report whether it is safe for them to come to Frankfort did not put in an appearance during the day. Republican leaders say that they expect nothing new to transpire until after Judge Taft in Cincinnati has rendered his decision Wednesday.

At one time today Governor Taylor decided to order away all of the soldiers now here, with the exception of a few for a personal body guard. He sent for Colonel Williams and gave orders for the moving of the troops but several of his friends urged so strongly that the soldiers be permitted to remain that the governor changed his intention and said that for the present at least he would not have any more of them returned to their homes.

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE TAFT.

Arguments Completed and the Court's Decision Expected Tomorrow Morning.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 12.—After hearing the arguments, Judge Taft reserved his decision in the Kentucky injunction cases until Wednesday afternoon.

The application was for an injunction against the Kentucky state board of election commissioners and contestants for state officers other than that of governor and lieutenant-governor.

Ex-Governor Bradley, in stating the case, after reciting the provisions by which the state board of election is converted into a board of contest, declared that they were entirely repugnant to a republican form of government which provides for three distinct departments.

He asserted that this board of contest had been made a judicial body by the Goebel law. Going into the arguments for the jurisdiction of the court, he said that this action had its basis on the provisions of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States.

Lawrence Maxwell, Jr., on behalf of the defendants, made a brief argument on the two propositions that the court had no jurisdiction, because the petition do not present a case of equity, and do not fall under the provisions of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States.

He said the situation was one in which the position of these complainants is in course of settlement by a state tribunal. The contest proceedings in these cases are pending. This condition presents none of the features of an equity case.

IMPORTANT BILL PASSED.

But It Relates to Oriental Commerce and Has No Interest for Oregon.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—An important bill was passed by the house today which makes universally applicable the law that now permits the transit in bond of goods through the United States.

Goods in bond can be shipped through any portion of the territory of the United States to foreign ports. It is principally designed to give the transportation companies of the United States any portion of the transcontinental trade to the Orient.

The bill also repeals the law of '85, prohibiting the shipment of goods in bond to the Mexican free zone.

TO FIGHT FOREIGN INVASION.

Import Decree of the Empress Dowager of China.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: Decrees issued by the empress dowager of China, which have just reached the state department, show that a new policy of defence against foreign terri-

ROOSEVELT NOT A CANDIDATE

Does Not Want Office of Vice-President at This Time.

WILL BE NEEDED AT HOME

His Work in New York Is Just Begun and He Hopes for the Honor to Carry It to Completion.

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 12.—Governor Roosevelt today gave out a statement relative to the vice-presidency, in which he declares that he will not accept the honor under any circumstances. His statement follows:

"In view of the continued statements in the press that I may be urged as a candidate for vice-president and in view of many letters that reach me advising for and against such a course, it is proper for me to state definitely that under no circumstances could I or would I accept the nomination for vice-president.

"It is needless to say how deeply I appreciate the honor conferred upon me by the mere desire to place me in so high and dignified a position. But it seems to me clear that at the present time my duty is here in the state where people choose me for their governor. Great problems have been faced and are being partly solved in this state at this time and, if the people so desire, I hope that the work thus begun I may help carry to a successful conclusion.

"The governor, in giving out his statement, said: 'And I am happy to state that Senator Platt cordially acquiesces in my views in the matter.'"

ROOSEVELT TO RUN AGAIN.

Governorship, Not Vice-Presidency Still His Ambition.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: Governor Roosevelt will not accept the nomination for the vice-presidency on the republican ticket. He will be a candidate for a second term in the executive mansion at Albany.

This substance of a communication received by Senator Lodge of Massachusetts from the governor, was conveyed to the president. Senator Lodge did not consider the message he received from Governor Roosevelt confidential. He accordingly distributed the information freely among republican leaders here.

Governor Roosevelt's positive declaration to accept second place on the presidential ticket is the leading topic of discussion tonight among republican leaders in Washington. Thus putting himself out of the race, Governor Roosevelt has reopened the field of speculation as to who will be President McKinley's running mate. Senator Scott of West Virginia, a member of the national committee, said he received information which came direct from Governor Roosevelt announcing positively that he would not accept the nomination for the vice-presidency, even if it should be tendered to him by the unanimous vote of the national convention.

"There are some of us," added Senator Scott, "who are inclined to look to the Far West for a running mate for President McKinley in the next campaign. I hear the names of Senator Spooner of Wisconsin; Senator Fairbanks of Indiana, and General Harrison Gray Otis of California, frequently mentioned in the event of New York failing to present an acceptable candidate."

Joseph H. Manley, the veteran national committee man from Maine thinks Cornelius N. Bliss would make an admirable candidate.

"He would be acceptable not only to the president," said Mr. Manley, "but to all factions in the republican party."

BLOCKADE ON FIREARMS.

Mexicans Strip Americans of Guns and Ammunition at Sonora.

CHICAGO, Feb. 12.—A special to the Chronicle from El Paso, Tex., says: The Mexican government now prohibits the entrance of arms and ammunition to the state of Sonora, owing to the revolution now in progress there.

American miners who have heretofore been permitted to carry rifles and six-shooters and belts full of cartridges into Sonora are now prevented from carrying any arms whatever and are stripped of ammunition at Nogales and Naco. This order was issued because it was reported that Americans were pouring into Sonora in the guise of miners, while their real object was to assist the rebellious Yaquis in gaining their freedom. The new orders are enforced by Mexico only at Arizona ports of entry and persons entering Sonora via El Paso and Casa Grandes are permitted to carry all the arms and ammunition desired. Many persons have taken advantage of this to convey these contraband goods into the hostile country.

KILLING THE GOLDEN GOOSE.

CHICAGO, Feb. 12.—The building material trades council, with a membership of 20,000, has announced that it will support the building trades council. No material will be furnished the contractors employing non-union labor.

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 12.—The anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln was observed as a legal holiday for the first time in this city today.

(Continued on page 4.)