

The Morning Astorian.

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For 63 Years

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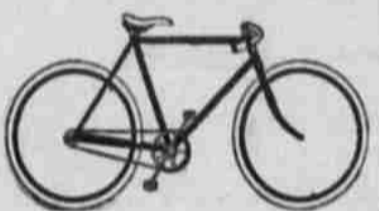
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Just arrived from the East and now ready for our 1900 customers are:

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.

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ASTORIA, OREGON
Agent, W. F. & Co., and Pacific Express Co's.

ENGLAND STILL RAISING TROOPS

Twenty-one New Batteries and Three Battalions of Infantry.

NO NEWS FROM ROBERTS

His Correspondents Allowed to Telegraph No News—No Movements Given Out by War Office.

LONDON, Feb. 16, 9:50 a. m.—The war office announces that General French reached Kimberley Thursday evening.

LONDON, Feb. 16, 4:20 a. m.—As the wires are closed to all correspondents with Lord Roberts and as nothing further from him has been communicated to the public, military adepts spend their time in studying the maps, and figuring out the possibilities of Lord Roberts' communication and what there is left for the Boers to do.

The war office has issued orders for the formation of 21 new batteries and three battalions of infantry.

OTHER DIVISIONS PROPOSED.

England Advised to Continue Raising More Troops.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—Spencer Wilkinson in the Morning Post today advocates the advisability of forming the Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth divisions and sending them to the Cape to be ready for any emergency, as well as the forming and training at home of as many additional battalions as possible.

RENSBERG ABANDONED.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—A Cape Town correspondent of the Daily Chronicle, telegraphing Wednesday, says:

"It is reported here that the British have evacuated Rensberg and retired to Arundel."

BRITISH LANCERS KILLED.

British Prisoner Sent to Tell of the Slaughter of His Comrades.

BOER LAAGER (near Ladysmith), Tuesday, Feb. 12.—Yesterday General Botha, with a small force crossed the Tugela to the deserted British camp, where he encountered 50 laagers, of whom 11 were killed, five wounded and nine taken prisoners. One of the prisoners was sent to tell the British to fetch their wounded.

DELGOA BAY YET OPEN.

The Boers Continue to Receive Provisions and Munitions Through This Route.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—A correspondent of the Times at Lourenco Marques, telegraphing Wednesday, says:

"The republicans are now obtaining substantial supplies of sugar, coffee and flour through Delagoa bay. It is believed also that munitions are still passing."

A prominent Pretoria citizen just from Ladysmith informs me that the Boers are rapidly damming the Kilip river."

GOVERNMENT WINS.

Its Military Scheme Adopted in the House of Commons.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—The house of commons this evening adopted the government's military scheme by a vote of 239 against 34, the minority consisting chiefly of Irish members.

ROBERTS' MOVEMENT A SUCCESS.

His Invasion of the Free State Has Produced Brilliant Results.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says: "The silence at the front has been broken and whatever occurs anywhere else is of little account. General Roberts and General Kitchener, having concentrated a full army corps, with a cavalry brigade and artillery, could be trusted to find better employment for it than that of lining the railway between Orange and Modder rivers. They have done so and their secret is at last out. General French's cavalry brigade which has been maneuvering around Coleburg, seized on Monday the crossing of Riet river at Dekil's drift and the sixth and seventh divisions are now encamped on the east bank of that river.

The Sixth division is Kelly-Kennya, which has been reported to be co-operating with French and Gatacre for the clearance of the country south of the Orange river. His division is now officially reported on the Riet river with the seventh division, Tuckers, which has been believed to be at Modder river.

These two divisions, with French's cavalry brigade and the new infantry brigade made up from battalions lining the railway from De Aar Junction, are co-operating with General Methuen's army in a great flanking movement on the Riet below Kimberley.

It is a concentration of British forces on a large scale in an unexpected quarter, and the whole movement has been so cleverly concealed that no military writer in London has been able to forecast the precise direction of Lord Roberts' advance. What is more important, the Dutch themselves have apparently been misled for they have weakened their forces in a quarter where the attack will be made and strengthened them where the British will remain on the defensive.

This general flanking movement has been supported by a movement of mounted infantry from the Orange river railway crossing to Ramah. This was a strong column, described as a mounted infantry brigade and Colonel Hanney, who commanded it, had an engagement with the Boers on the hills and finally pushed his force through to its destination Tuesday with comparatively slight losses, the casualty list amounting to 29. This entire movement with its concentration of nearly all the British battalions outside of Natal and slender columns left under Gatacre and Clements, has been brought about by scientific strategy under a rigorous operation of the censorship, the utility of which has been demonstrated at last.

An army corps and strong auxiliary forces have been massed where the enemy are the weakest, and the previous balance of forces in the military column has been suddenly upset. This column on the Riet has a promise of potency for the relief of Kimberley and a subsequent advance upon Bloemfontein is so great a diversion of military resources that Ladysmith may yet be rescued.

At midnight a report from Lord Roberts described a brilliant cavalry raid by General French with three brigades of cavalry and a strong force of horse artillery in which three Boer laagers were captured and a supporting movement, conducted by General Gordon by which two laagers were taken. These dashing movements which recall the best work of cavalry raids in the American civil war are proofs that the British campaign has entered upon an entirely new phase. The relief of Kimberley will evidently be the first work of Lord Roberts and a march upon Bloemfontein, the sequel of it.

OVERTURES NEGLECTED.

Government Advised Against Allowing South African Affairs to Absorb Attention.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—In the house of lords today, the Earl of Rosebery, discussing the government's military proposals, said:

"The crisis in South Africa is urgent, but we must not keep our eyes on South Africa alone. Last December the government made earnest overtures to the great powers, including Germany and the United States, for an alliance, but those overtures were not received with such cordiality as to encourage the government to pursue them.

It does not appear that the friendship of France would bear any great strain, and as to Russia, events have been recently witnessed in Persia which England formerly would have had something to say about, but which she now passes unnoticed.

"It becomes the government to take a large grasp of the situation and to make adequate proposals."

THE EARL MISTAKEN.

State Department Officials Deny That England Made Any Overtures for an Alliance.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The statement of the Earl of Rosebery that in December overtures were made to the United States for an alliance is not substantiated here. Officials of the administration are at a loss to understand the report and express the opinion that some mistake has occurred.

So far as the United States is concerned they declare no offer of alliance has been made.

THE SOLDIER DEAD.

Bodies of Northwestern Troops Now Sent to Their Native Soil.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 15.—The remains of 61 soldiers have been sent from the Presidio to various points on the coast and in the east. The bodies of the following were shipped to northern and Rocky mountain states:

Second Oregon—Fred J. Norton, company F; Fred J. Chandler, company C; Herbert R. Adams, company B; William Cooke, company D; Guy Millard, company L.

First Washington—Harry R. S. Stroud, company L; Wm. C. Courtney, company E; Ralph E. Shearer, company F; Wm. C. Hopwood, company D. First Idaho—Henry McClure, company H.

ROLAND REED BETTER.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Roland Reed, the actor, who yesterday submitted to a second operation, was reported today to be resting comfortably.

STILL EXPOSING MONTANA SHAME

The Price of Supreme Justices Now Being Inquired Into.

THEY COME AT \$100,000

Clark Charged With Offering That Sum in the Welcome Disbarment Proceedings.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—When the senate committee investigating the election of Clark to the senate met today, it developed that at least two justices of the Montana supreme court were present. The first witness this morning was Judge Coyne, county judge of Livingston county, New York. He testified concerning a conversation he had in New York city last October with Mark Hewitt, a witness for the prosecution in this case.

Hewitt said, according to the witness, "that Welcome did not stand a ghost of a show" in the disbarment proceedings, whether guilty or not, as Daly owned the court and the case was being conducted with a view to getting testimony in the Clark case that was to come before the United States senate. The Daly people, Hewitt was represented to have said, "are determined to defeat Clark and would not stop at anything to accomplish the result." Coyne was excused temporarily in order to permit the justices of the Montana supreme court to testify, in order not to detain them.

Justice Hunt's testimony created a profound impression. He detailed four different conversations with his family physician, Dr. Tracy, of Helena. In two of these he believed the doctor attempted to lay before him a proposition to bribe him in the Welcome case. In one of these cases Hunt related the doctor had said:

"There is a party here who has \$100,000 who wants to put it up if that case can be thrown out of court."

The witness said he replied to this that all the money in the United States could not induce him to sacrifice his conscience to the extent of granting additional time in the Welcome or any other case. Continuing, the witness said that after this, Tracey made an appeal to him to get off the bench on account of his health, he (witness), having been threatened with lung trouble. Tracey said if he continued he was sure to break down, as the position was very laborious. If he would accept the proposition, he could take a rest, go abroad, visit the Paris exposition, have nothing to worry about and thus indefinitely prolong his life.

Hunt said he appreciated what the doctor said about going off the bench, but he could not see his way clear to accept the proposition. The doctor then went away, the witness testified, saying he would not have Justice Hunt do anything he did not think was right. At the close of the direct examination, conducted almost entirely by Chandler, Faulkner, on behalf of Clark, made a formal motion to strike out Hunt's testimony because he failed to connect Clark's name with the proceedings and was entirely collateral. The motion was over-ruled and the cross-examination proceeded.

Hunt said that before Tracey made the proposition to him he had considered him a man of pre-eminently good character. He did not believe the doctor realized the enormity of the proposition. Asked why he did not bring the matter to the attention of the public prosecutor, the witness replied he was so humiliated that he preferred not to disclose it.

"You preferred to allow an attempt to perpetrate such a crime go unpunished?"

"It would have been embarrassing to me as a judge."

"It was contemptful."

"I did not take notice of it," answered Hunt.

After further examination Hunt was excused and the committee adjourned until 2:30.

The committee held a night session at which Justice Piggott, of the Montana supreme court, testified concerning the remarks made to him on the two days when Dr. Tracey had interviews with Justice Hunt.

Justice Piggott's statement was that Mr. Clark's leading counsel had come to him and while apparently under great excitement said he had just been advised by Mr. Neill of Helena that the supreme court could be unduly influenced in the Welcome disbarment proceedings; he wanted to know if it were true and spoke of denouncing any such attempt.

The witness had informed the counsel that he would never hear of such an attempt from him (Piggott) for he would kill any one coming to him with a bribe offer.

Justice Piggott said he concluded that Corbett and Dr. Tracey had conspired to make an assault upon the supreme court with their \$100,000.

Attorney-General Nolan, of Montana, who conducted the prosecution in the

Welcome disbarment case, testified that Dr. Tracey, who was also his physician, had come to him at three different times suggesting that he (Nolan) could get money out of the case for Clark.

"I replied," said the witness, "if I should lend myself to such a scheme, I think I ought to be entitled to \$100,000." The doctor said he thought that sum reasonable.

Later, on the same occasion, Nolan said he told the doctor to tell Clark that if his body were a skeleton and filled with gold it would not be sufficient to buy him.

WILL BE RATIFIED.

The Hay-Fauncetote Treaty and Canal Bill Both to Be Passed.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—A special to the Herald from Washington says:

Prompt action by the senate on the Hay-Fauncetote treaty and the Nicaragua canal bill, need not be expected. Nor is it fair to assume, as those who oppose both measures seem to, that delay means the defeat of either measure.

On the contrary the best judgment of the conservative men in both houses who are influential in shaping the course of legislation is that the treaty will be ratified and the bill passed before the close of the present session.

These same men predict that the session will last well into mid-summer, because of the length of time that will be required for debate upon these and other important measures which the republican leaders are anxious to dispose of before the session closes.

No progress has been made with the treaty. The subject was only incidentally mentioned at the recent republican caucus and this meeting of the republicans necessitated a short session of the foreign relations committee, which prevented consideration of the treaty by that body as had been contemplated.

The fact is, the foreign relations committee can see no reason for expediting action of the treaty as it is realized the pressure of other business before the senate will delay the consideration of the treaty for some weeks.

Despite reports to the contrary, it can be stated after a careful canvass of the committee that when the treaty is reported it will have the endorsement of all the republican members and several of the democrats. Indeed, Senator Money is the only one who has thus far expressed his intention of insisting upon an amendment providing for fortifications.

With a practically unanimous report from the committee, and with the pressure the administration will bring to bear upon those senators who are now inclined to insist upon an amendment, it is the confident belief of such men as Senators Hanna, Davis, Foraker, Morgan and Frye that the necessary two-thirds vote will be obtained to accomplish ratification.

PLAYING TIT FOR TAT.

Kentucky's Dual Officers Still Filing Suits Against Each Other.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Feb. 15.—Following the lead of Governor Taylor, who yesterday brought suit for injunction against Governor Beckham, claiming to be governor of Kentucky, and General John E. Castleman, claiming to be adjutant-general of Kentucky, Lieutenant-Governor John Marshall this afternoon filed suit for injunction against Governor Beckham and against Lillard H. Carter, president pro-tem of the senate now meeting in this city.

These suits are similar in general averments to that of Governor Taylor.

BECKHAM PARDONS CRIMINAL.

His Man Controls Penitentiary and Lets His Voters Out but Deceitfully Taylor's.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 15.—The clash between the democratic and republican branches of the state government was emphasized tonight by the prison officials releasing John Seals, a Louisville convict, on a pardon issued by Governor Beckham. Deputy Warden Punch was acting warden tonight and when the pardon papers were presented to him he ordered Seals released and the latter left the city tonight.

Douglas Hays, recently pardoned by Governor Taylor, is still in confinement, the prison officials refusing to recognize Taylor as governor.

VANDEBILT INHERITANCE TAX.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Surrogate Fitzgerald today handed down a decision holding that the trust fund of \$5,000,000 created by the will of the late Wm. H. Vanderbilt is subject to an inheritance tax. Under the will of Wm. H. Vanderbilt, a trust fund of \$5,000,000 was created for the benefit of his grand children, the children of Cornelius Vanderbilt.

COPTIC IN FROM HONOLULU.

Plague Still Continues in the Ill-Fated City.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 15.—The steamer Coptic arrived from the Orient via Honolulu today. She reports that from February 2 to February 8, four cases of the plague occurred at Honolulu and of these three died.

REDEEMING THE ST. LOUIS PLEDGE

Republicans of the Senate Pass the Gold Standard Bill.

CHANDLER ONLY RECREANT

Two Democrats Vote With Republicans to Set Their Country Right With the Financial World.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The senate substitute for the house currency bill was passed by the senate today by the decisive majority of 46 to 28. Prior to the final passage of the bill, amendments were considered under the 15-minute rule. Only two of these amendments were adopted, viz:

"The one offered by the financial committee keeping open the door to international bimetalism and one by Nelson (rep.), of Minnesota, providing for national banks with \$25,000 capital in towns of not more than 4,000 inhabitants.

The vote taken on the various amendments offered were practically along party lines. Chandler (rep.), of New Hampshire, voted for the bimetallic amendment, but against the bill.

Caffery (dem.), of Louisiana, and Lindsay (dem.), of Kentucky, voted against the committee amendment but for the bill. Kyle, of South Dakota, was the only senator who did not vote and was not paired. A free silver substitute offered by Jones, the leader of the democratic side, was defeated by a majority of 19, the vote being 37 to 23. The bill as passed consists of ten sections.

It provides that a dollar of 25 3-16 of gold, nine-tenths fine, shall be the standard unit of value and that all forms of United States money shall be maintained at parity with it, and that treasury notes and greenbacks shall be redeemable in gold.

The secretary of the treasury is to set apart a fund of \$10,000,000 in gold for the redemption of these notes and to maintain these funds at a figure not below \$10,000,000. He is also empowered to sell bonds of the United States bearing interest at not exceeding three per cent.

It shall also be the duties of the secretary of the treasury as fast as standard silver dollars are coined to retire an equal amount of treasury notes and to issue silver certificates against the silver so coined. Under certain provisions, too, gold certificates shall be issued against the gold held in the treasury.

No United States notes or treasury notes shall be issued in a denomination of less than ten dollars and no silver certificates in denominations of more than ten dollars. The secretary of the treasury is also authorized to refund the bonded debt of the United States in thirty-year bonds, bearing 2 per cent interest, the principal and interest of these bonds to be paid in gold.

Two per cent bonds shall be issued at no less than par. Any national bank by depositing with the United States the bonds of the country shall be permitted to issue circulating notes to the face value of the bonds deposited, no bank being allowed to issue circulating notes in excess of the amount of paid-in capital stock of the bank.

After the passage of the financial bill, the senate made the Hawaiian government bill the next order of unfinished business.

Following is the vote in detail:

Yeas—Aldrich, Allison, Beveridge, Burrows, Caffery, Carter, Clark (Wyo.), Cullum, Davis, Deboe, Depew, Elkins, Fairbanks, Foraker, Foster, Frye, Gear, Hale, Hanna, Hansbrough, Hawley, Hoar, Keen, Lindsay, Lodge, McBride, McComas, McCumber, McMillan, Mason, Nelson, Penrose, Perkins, Platt (Conn.), Platt (N. Y.), Pritchard, Ross, Quarles, Scott, Sewell, Shoup, Simon, Spooner, Thurston, Wetmore, Wolcott—44.

Nays—Bate, Berry, Butler, Chandler, Chilton, Clark (Mont.), Clay, Cockerell, Culberson, Daniel, Harris, Helfield, Jones (Ark.), Jones (Nev.), Kenney, McEnery, McLaurin, Martin, Money, Morgan, Pettus, Rawlins, Stewart, Sullivan, Tallfure, Teller, Tillman, Turley, Vest—28.

REMEMBERING THE MAINE.

HAYANA, Feb. 15.—The second anniversary of the destruction of the United States battleship Maine in this harbor was suitably observed here today. Several hundred Americans went out to the wreck of the Maine, over which a United States flag was flying at half mast.

IRISH-AMERICAN (?) RECRUITS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Fifty-seven men, nearly all young and stalwart, sailed today on the French line steamer Lagascione on their way to the Boer lines in South Africa. Most of them were Irish-Americans.