

# The Morning Astorian.

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

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

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**CRONJE MAKING HIS LAST STAND**

**Hemmed In by British Infantry and Showered With Shells.**

**REINFORCEMENTS SCATTERED**

**An Armistice Refused—Must Fight to a Finish or Surrender Unconditionally, Lord Roberts Says.**

LONDON, Feb. 23, 4 a. m.—General Cronje is seemingly making his last stand. He is dying hard, hemmed in by British infantry, and with shells from sixty guns falling into his camp. On the third day of the fight the Boer chief asked for an armistice to bury his dead.

"Fight to a finish or surrender unconditionally," was Lord Roberts's reply.

General Cronje immediately sent back word that his request for a truce had been misunderstood and that his determination then, as before, was to fight to death. The battle went on.

This was the situation of General Cronje on Tuesday evening, as sketched in the scanty telegrams that have emerged from the semi-silence of South Africa.

Officially, Lord Roberts wires that he has scattered the advance commandos of reinforcements that were striving to reach General Cronje. It is regarded as singular that Lord Roberts, in wiring Wednesday, should not have mentioned the appeal for an armistice on the previous day, and also that the war office should withhold good news, if it has any.

Without trying to reconcile even the scanty materials at hand, it seems plain that General Cronje is in a bad and even desperate situation and that the British are pressing their advance.

While the attack on General Cronje proceeds, there is a race for concentration between the Boers and the British. The engagement with General Cronje's five to eight thousand entrenched men is likely to become an incident in the battle between the masses. The separate fractions of the Boer power are rapidly drawing together to attack Lord Roberts.

Will General Cronje be able to hold out until the Boer masses appear? or if he does, will they then be able to succor him? The British are facing the Boers on a ground where the arms, tactics and training of the British are expected to give them an advantage.

General Buller, according to a dispatch from Chely, dated Wednesday, finds the Boers in a position north of the Tugela largely reinforced.

The war office, for the first time, has given out an official compilation of the British losses. The total is 11,280 to February 17. This does not include, therefore, Lord Roberts's recent losses.

**SUPPLIES GOING FORWARD.**

The Mines in Kimberley Now Have Coal and Will Commence Operations.

LONDON, Feb. 23, 1:30 a. m.—The war office has issued the following from Lord Roberts:

Paardeberg, Feb. 22.—Methuen reports from Kimberley that supplies of food and forage are being pushed on as fast as possible. There will be enough coal to start the De Beers mine in ten days. By this means great misery will be alleviated. The hospital arrangements there are reported perfect.

He hopes Prieska and the adjoining country will soon be settled.

At the same time the war office announced that nothing further would be issued tonight.

**CRONJE'S DEATH TRAP.**

Details of the Movement by Which He Was Surrounded and Terrible Effect of the British Fire.

**PAARDEBERG DRIFT.** Orange Free State, Tuesday, Feb. 20.—General Cronje's magnificent night march from Magersfontein now appears likely to end in disaster. The main body of the Boers is enclosed in a terrible death trap. The enemy hiding in the bed of the Modder river, commanded by the British artillery and enclosed on the east and west by the British infantry, Sunday witnessed a gallant stand on the part of the retreating foe.

Tired and harassed, they still maintained a bold front. The whole British line was ordered to envelop the Boers who lined both banks of the river. The firing soon became heavy. The Boers, holding a splendid position, covered the left of the Highland brigade, which advanced partly up the river bed and partly in the open, while the rest of the brigade, with the other regiments swung around the front of the Highland brigade on the level ground, exposed to a terrible fire which obliged the men to lie upon the ground all day.

Through the dreadful heat and a

terrible thunder storm, our men hung to the position, answering the Boer fire and shooting steadily.

In the meanwhile, the rest of the infantry completed the enveloping movement, the Welsh regiment having succeeded in securing the drift, thus closing in the Boers, who had fought throughout with splendid courage.

Toward evening a battery on the south side opened co-operating with a battery on the north. A wonderful sight followed. The shells fell with amazing precision along the river bed, opposite the laager, which was shelled thoroughly, galling everything it contained. One shell set fire to the ammunition wagons, which burned nearly all day. The glare was visible a considerable distance far into the night.

The scene toward nightfall was terribly picturesque, with blazing wagons, roaring artillery and the crackling of the rifle fire.

**OLD ELEMENT AGAIN RULES**

**Democratic Party Going Back to Its Time-Tried Moorings.**

**CONVENTION JULY FOURTH**

**Will Wait Until Republican Party Meets and Then Deny Whatever It Affirms.**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The next national democratic national convention will be held at Kansas City, July 4th. This was the decision of the democratic national committee which met today. The vote was:

Kansas City, 40.  
Milwaukee, 2.  
In favor of July 4, 27; June 14, 21, May 3, 1.

The speech which had a great deal of influence in fixing the date was made by ex-Senator Gorman. He said that four years ago it might have been well to hold the convention earlier as the party then took a new position, one which drove many of the leaders out of the party or into temporary retirement.

The temporary organization then went into the hands of able men, but many of whom had not been active in the control of the party affairs. It took them some time to organize. Now there was a good organization. This party was ready and equipped to enter upon the campaign.

The party in power should be allowed to hold its convention and the indictment of that party could be made as it had been made in times past.

Chairman Jones was authorized to appoint a sub-committee of seven to make arrangements for the convention.

The call issued by the committee says:

"Each state is entitled to representation in the convention equal to double the number of its senators and each territory, Alaska, Indian Territory and the District of Columbia, shall have six delegates.

"All democratic conservative reform citizens of the United States, irrespective of past political associations and differences, who can unite with us in the effort for a pure, economical and constitutional government, and who favor the republic and oppose the empire, are cordially invited to join us in sending delegates to the convention.

**THEY WANT TO FUSE.**

Populist Convention to Meet in Portland on the Same Day as the Democrats.

PORTLAND, Feb. 22.—The populist state committee met in this city today and decided to hold their state convention in Portland, April 12, the same date on which the republican and democratic state conventions will meet in this city. A majority of the populist committee favored fusion with the democrats at the coming state election.

The apportionment of delegates is one delegate at large and one for every 1200 votes cast for King for governor in 1898.

**MASHONA INCIDENT CLOSED.**

British Government Releases and Buys the Breadstuffs at an Increased Price.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—United States Consul Stowe, at Cape Town, under date of today, cables the state department as follows:

"Mashona foodstuffs released. The government buys. Consignors should send invoices."

The steamer Mashona was seized with breadstuffs, supposed to be consigned to the Boers. The owners of the cargo are satisfied as the price of foodstuffs has greatly risen since the seizure.

**THE OREGONIAN DISAPPOINTED.**

Senate Committee to Report Shipping Bill With All Amendments Incorporated.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The senate committee on commerce today agreed on all the amendments to be made to the shipping bill.

**RECEIVER MULTA DEAD.**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—General John McNulta, of Chicago, well known throughout the West because of his identification with the re-creation of railroads and other great corporations, died suddenly here tonight of angina pectoris, aged about 49 years.

**THE NEW YORK TO BE RETIRED.**

Kearage to Be the Flagship of the North Atlantic Squadron.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—It is said at the Brooklyn navy yard that the navy

**THE DEBATE ON PUERTO RICO BILL**

**Several Strong Speeches Delivered Yesterday on Both Sides.**

**ITS CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECT**

**Conflict With Supreme Court Decisions Clearly Shown by Republican Opponents.**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The debate on the Puerto Rican tariff bill brought out several notable speeches in the house today, including one by Representative Grosvenor, of Ohio, who answered a number of questions as to the attitude of the president; another by Representative McCall, of Massachusetts, a republican member of the ways and means committee, who dissented from the majority report, and Representative Moody, another Massachusetts republican who sharply criticized the position of his colleague.

McClellan, of New York, and Drantley, of Georgia, also spoke against the bill and Parker, of New Jersey, in support of it.

The debate was continued at the night session. McCall said he regretted greatly that he could not agree with his colleagues as to the pending bill, but he was compelled to dissent, because it involved nothing less than the proposition that congress in dealing with territories of the United States had absolute power, unfettered by any limitations of the constitution.

John Marshall, as great a jurist as ever sat upon the bench, declared in Loughborough vs. Blake that the rule of uniformity in the imposition of duties extended to the territories. A third of a century after the Loughborough case the supreme court again, when California became a territory, decided that the rule of uniformity would apply to it.

"If congress is not bound by those limitations against taxing unequally, it is not bound by any limitation upon its power in the constitution," said McCall.

**WU TING FANG'S ADVICE.**

Thinks Local Conditions in the Philippines Should Be Considered in the Enactment of Laws.

**PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 22.**—The exercises attending the dedication of the new law school university of Pennsylvania were continued today at the Academy of Music, in conjunction with the regular Washington's birthday ceremonies of the university.

The principal guest of honor and orator of the day was Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese minister, who was on the program to deliver an address on "proper relations of the United States to the Orient."

Regarding the government of the Philippines, he said:

"The policy of the wise statesman would be not to enact laws for the newly acquired possessions without thoroughly studying the local requirements and peculiar circumstances, or to extend the laws of the mother country, which might be unsuited to the conditions of the new territories."

**SENATOR CLARK'S SON.**

Has a Fair Income of \$250,000 a Year and Denies Any Dependence on the Old Man.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—C. W. Clark, son of Senator Clark, of Montana, told the senate committee on elections today that he had an independent income of \$250,000 a year and that he was in business for himself.

He denied in detail the assertions of witnesses Witsiede, Hewitt, State Senator Myers and others, Clark submitted what he said was a detailed statement of his receipts and expenditures for political purposes during the Montana campaign.

The aggregate footed up \$118,000.

**FINANCIAL CONFEREES AGREE.**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—When the republican conferees of the two houses of congress on the currency bill adjourned tonight their work had been practically completed. There were still some slight differences in the phraseology.

**HELPING OTIS OUT.**

Carl "Shirts" and Other Aunties Met to Put an End to Philippine War.

**PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 22.**—An "Eastern conference" of anti-imperialists began here today. The conference is said by its promoters to be another step in the movement to bring the war in the Philippines to an end. Ex-Senator Edmunds is honorary president. The principal speaker of the occasion will be Hon. Carl Schurz.

**INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 22.**—Jesse Overstreet, the author of the house financial bill, was renominated for congress from the Seventh district by the republican convention this afternoon.

**ANOTHER OLD SETTLER DEAD.**

Washakie, Chief of the Shoshones, Gathered to His Fathers.

CHICAGO, Feb. 22.—A special to the Tribune from Cheyenne, Wyo., says: Washakie, chief of the Shoshone Indians, died in his tepee on the Wind River reservation in Central Wyoming last evening, after a lingering illness of several months. He was 92 years old. For 53 years he was at the head of his tribe. He was ever the friend of the white man and rendered valuable aid to the early settlers of the West. He was a devoted Christian and by his example and teachings he brought the Shoshones up to a high standard of intelligence.

**NO MORE JOHNNY BULL.**

Ancient Foresters of Brooklyn Withdraw from the Mother Court.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—At the last meeting of the Court Unique, Ancient Order of Foresters, of Brooklyn, the court withdrew from the British order and joined the Foresters of America. The Boer flag was unfurled and greeted with much applause. Court Unique had a membership of 111 and each one of the members was obliged to pay the per capita tax of thirty cents each year to the grand lodge in England. This tax was increased to fifty cents a head some time ago. It was said that the increase was in a measure a tax upon the order for the Boer war. The members refused to pay and were suspended. An application was made to the American order of Foresters for admission, which was granted.

Inside the hall of the assembly rooms is a glass contribution box to receive funds for the Netherlands Red Cross in aid of the Boers.