

The Morning Astorian.

VOL. 1.

ASTORIA, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1900

NO. 228

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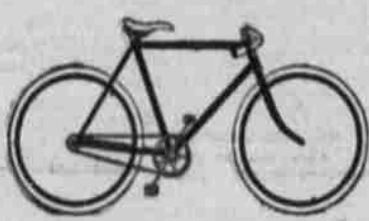
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Agent W. F. & Co., and Pacific Express Co.

JOHN O'GROATS TO LANDS END

Cheering for the Queen and Singing the National Anthem.

PREPARATIONS WILL GO ON

No Disposition to Over-Estimate the Victory and Additional Troops Will be Despatched at Once.

LONDON, Feb. 28, 4.30 a. m.—From John O'Groats to Lands End there has been cheering for the queen and universal singing of the national anthem. This mutual congratulation is the British way of celebrating the most cheerful day of the war.

Already he is taking stock of the situation and measuring the future. There is no disposition to overestimate the success. The government entertains no illusion. As announced in the house of commons, 10,000 additional troops will immediately go out and the effective will be kept near 200,000.

Lord Roberts has done more than to capture four thousand Boers and a few guns. He has given a shock to Boer confidence and immeasurably restored the spirit of his own troops. In capturing Cronje he has taken a leader whose presence alone was worth thousands to the Boer cause.

The best opinion here is that the Transvaalers are certain to continue the fight with undiminished valor, but it is not certain about the Free State.

Lord Roberts has not allowed the corps of descriptive writers with him to supplement his plain narrative as yet, and there are some points in doubt. It is not clear whether the 4,000 prisoners include those taken in small parties before capitulation. What has become of the rest of the Boers who held the Magerfontein lines and who are armed with big guns? The smallness of Cronje's force causes some wonderment. The morning papers, without exception, comment on the achievement of the Boer leader and men in holding off for ten days a force from six to eight times as large as their own.

British opinion is far more generous in victory than in defeat. Sir Redvers Buller is having a hard time in Natal. It is evident now, after a fortnight's fighting, that he was misled when he wired that there was only a weak rear guard between him and Ladysmith. Apparently some of the hardest fighting of the war took place at the end of last week, as an armistice was agreed upon to allow attendance upon the wounded and the burial of the dead. Both sides must have lost heavily.

At any moment, however, news may come of General Buller's success. Friday will begin the fourth month of the siege of the garrison which is seemingly in a position where it is unable to do anything to help General Buller.

THE GUNS AND PRISONERS.

LONDON, Feb. 27, 6.25 p. m.—It is now announced that Roberts has notified the war office that the number of Boer prisoners approximates 4,000, of which about 1,500 are citizens of the Orange Free State. The remainder are citizens of the Transvaal. Twenty-nine Transvaal officers were captured and eighteen Free State officers were made prisoners. The guns captured from the Transvaal forces were three 75-centimeter Krupp, nine one-pounders and one Maxim gun. From the Free State the British captured one 75-centimeter Krupp and one Maxim gun.

ROBERTS' OFFICIAL REPORT.

Modest and Moderate Statement of the Circumstances of Cronje's Surrender.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

"Paardeberg, Feb. 27.—11 o'clock Tuesday morning.—From information furnished daily to me by the intelligence department, it became apparent that Cronje's force was becoming more depressed, and that the discontent of the troops and discord among the leaders was rapidly increasing. This feeling was doubtless accentuated by the disappointment caused when the Boer reinforcements which tried to relieve Cronje were defeated by our troops on February 25. I resolved, therefore, to bring pressure to bear upon the enemy.

Each night the trenches were pushed forward toward the enemy's larger so as to gradually contract his position, and at the same time I bombarded him heavily with artillery, which was yesterday materially aided by the arrival of four six-inch howitzers which I had ordered up from DeAar. In carrying out these measures a captive balloon gave great assistance by keeping us informed of the dispositions and movements of the enemy.

"At 3 A. M. today a most dashing advance was made by the Canadian regiment and some of the engineers, supported by the First Gordon Highlanders and the Second Shropshires, resulting in our gaining a point some 600 yards nearer the enemy and within about 50 yards of his trenches, where our men entrenched themselves and maintained their positions until morning, a gallant deed worthy of our colonial comrades, and which I am glad to say was attended by a comparatively slight loss.

"This apparently clinched matters, for at daylight a letter signed by Cronje, in which he stated that he surrendered unconditionally was brought to our outposts under a flag of truce. In my reply I told Cronje that he must present himself at my camp, and that his forces must come out of their laager after laying down their arms. By 7 A. M. I received Cronje and dispatched a telegram to you announcing the fact.

"In the course of conversation Cronje asked for kind treatment at our hands, and also that his wife, grandson, private secretary, adjutant and servants might accompany him wherever he might be sent. I reassured him, and told him his request would be complied with. I informed him that a general officer would be sent with him to Cape Town to insure his being treated with proper respect en route. He will start this afternoon under charge of Major-General Pretorius, who will hand him over to the general commanding at Cape Town.

"The prisoners, who numbered about 3,000, will be formed into commands under our own officers. They will also leave here today, reaching Modder river tomorrow, whence they will be taken to Cape Town in detachments."

The above dispatch was read in both the house of lords and the house of commons today. The reference to the Canadians evoked immense and prolonged cheering. Balfour, government leader in the house of commons, said he had no information relative to the Boer guns.

HOW IT WAS TAKEN.

London Bore the News of Cronje's Surrender With Dignity.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—No one who did not know of General Cronje's surrender would suspect from the appearance of the town that London was today celebrating the chief victory of the war.

Not a flag is flying, and in front of the places where bulletins are displayed to the public scarcely more than a dozen people stop at a time to read the news. Outside of the war office there is the same absence of enthusiasm which is due doubtless to the drizzling rain.

In the war office lobbies, when a clerk posted the news of the surrender, quite a crowd was waiting. Here the tidings were hailed with considerable enthusiasm and in an incredibly short space of time the news had spread to all parts of London. At the Mansion House, when the news was posted, it was received with great excitement by the crowds of business men hurrying to their offices, and cries of "Brave Roberts," and "Majuba" were heard.

The Lord Mayor of London said to the correspondent of the Associated Press that while the surrender of General Cronje was a foregone conclusion, the news was received with a great sense of relief and the result of the capitulation, he thought, would be the rapid conclusion of hostilities.

At the stock exchange there was much excitement and cheering, but this quickly subsided when the house opened. Stocks opened with an upward tendency, but with no material improvement in prices, and consols, strangely, were slightly weaker.

PIETERS HILL BATTLE.

Brave Attempt of the Irish Troops to Take and Hold the Boer Positions.

COLENSO, Sunday, Feb. 25.—In an attempt of the Inniskillings Friday evening to rush the Boer position on Pieters hill, the Boer fire was so terrible when the infantry emerged from the cover of the trees, that almost every man in the leading half of the company fell wounded.

The advance line of the British reached the donga in front of the first Boer trench, which was not apparent until they were actually in it. The Boers retired to the crest and then returned on either flank of the Inniskillings, enfilading the captured donga with a terrible cross-fire.

Finding it impossible to advance or to hold their position, the British fell back and entrenched themselves half way up the hill. The Boers maintained a heavy fire.

In the course of the night the Dublin Fusiliers and Connaughts, arriving to the support of the Inniskillings, a determined effort was made to take the Boer positions. This also failed. A heavy fire continued throughout the night. The Inniskillings lost 14 out of 17 officers killed and wounded and about 250 non-commissioned officers and men killed and wounded.

Today an armistice was agreed upon to enable both sides to collect their dead and wounded, the Boer army having had very heavy losses, but they scout the idea that the British will compel them to raise the siege of Ladysmith.

TRANSPORT GOT TO LADYSMITH

Surprising News Conveyed to London by a Private Letter.

DURING SPIONKOP BATTLE

Buller Said to Have Safely Dispatched Supplies to the Garrison—Rejoicing Over Roberts Success.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—"Majuba avenged," "Cronje surrendered," "great victory." These are the expressions being shouted all over London today. Yet there are few outward signs of the natural joy that Lord Roberts' dispatch has really caused. The capitulation of Cronje had been looked upon for almost as a certainty for a week past, and now that it has come, enthusiasm finds itself disappointed by the anticipation. The magnitude of the success of "Little Boats" is almost overlooked in the fact that it is synchronous with the anniversary of Majuba hill and has wiped out a dishonor of 19 years' standing. While the afternoon papers all comment upon the happy coincidence, they do not forget the splendid bravery of the enemy.

The St. James Gazette says: "The splendid courage of the Boers has not been able to withstand any longer the bombardment which few modern soldiers have supported for so many hours as they have today. The influence of the surrender, not only upon the situation of Ladysmith, but on the whole conduct of the war, will be immense. If the news of the relief of Ladysmith only reaches England, and it is quite possible this may be the case, the cup of national happiness will be full."

Further details of the dramatic surrender of Cronje at Paardeberg are eagerly awaited. Speculation is rife as to how soon Roberts will be able to press on to Bloemfontein, but before he enters the capital of the Free State, he will undoubtedly have to overcome a powerful force and take strong entrenchments. The news of Cronje's surrender was received with unbounded satisfaction at Windsor. The queen immediately telegraphed her congratulations to Roberts and the troops.

There was much more outward display of rejoicing in the provinces than in London. The Glasgow and Liverpool stock exchanges were greatly excited. The members sang "God Save the Queen" repeatedly, and cheered for "Little Boats." Flags were liberally displayed on the municipal and public buildings in all the large towns.

Windsor was very jubilant at the news, which the queen disseminated immediately after it reached her, and the inhabitants seized the occasion of her majesty driving on her way to take a train for a visit to the wounded South African soldiers at the Netley hospital, to give vent to their delight. The queen, who was looking remarkably well, showed evident signs of deep satisfaction, smiling coolly and bowing in response to the congratulations and cheers greeting her on all sides. Her majesty took quantities of flowers to distribute to the wounded. All the garrison towns and naval ports received the news with the liveliest satisfaction, soldiers and sailors vying with each other in the display of delight.

A letter has been received from a man in the First Dragoons, now in South Africa, confirming the report that a supply transport reached Ladysmith during the engagement at Spionkop. He says the Dragoons were the escort of the transport, which was several miles long, and adds: "That is why Buller engaged the enemy at Spionkop. Old Buller knows what he is doing and all are willing to follow him in spite of his reverses."

STILL FIGHTING AT COLENSO.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—A special dispatch from Colenso, dated Tuesday, February 27, says: "The Boers are endeavoring to outflank us and severe fighting continues."

THE PHILIPPINES.

Senator Dewey Says We Are There to Stay by Conquest and Treaty.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The previous announcement that Dewey would address the senate today drew a large attendance of spectators in the galleries. Turpie was entitled to the floor at the conclusion of routine business to conclude his speech on the Quay case, but he yielded to Dewey, saying that if time allowed he would finish his speech after the New York senator had concluded: if not, he would go on tomorrow.

Dewey addressed himself to the resolutions offered on the Philippine question, particularly that proposed by Beveridge, declaratory of the policy of

the United States towards the Philippines.

Mr. Dewey declared that most of the questions regarding the American occupancy of the Philippines which are now being discussed are purely academic. He said:

"We are in the Philippines; we are there to stay by conquest and by treaty rights. All which precedes the ratification of the treaty by the senate of the United States is an academic question."

No one denied, he said, that the natives of the Philippine islands had been used to help conquer the Spanish, but he denied that any treaty had been made with them. Said he:

"Only the president of the United States could bind the country and he only with the subsequent assent of the senate. Only when war is progressing can the commander-in-chief of the army or the admiral of the navy make a commitment which the president would be bound in any form to consider or respect. Admiral Dewey alone had that power and he most emphatically denies any commitment whatever to Aguinaldo for the independence of his so-called government. President Schurman also emphatically denies any commitment on the subject on the part of the Philippine commission. The various generals of the army made no commitments on their part. All the consuls concerned positively denied having made any such suggestions."

Senator Dewey reviewed at some length the various eras of expansion by which the United States has grown from the original thirteen colonies to the present vast empire, saying:

"Whether our territories have come by conquest or treaty, by purchase, annexation or discovery, the people, congress and the country are unanimous in the affirmation of our title. The time will be brief until by unanimity Puerto Rico and Hawaii, Guam and the Philippines are held to be equally and sacredly territory of the United States."

Regarding the plea, "that the consent of the governed" is necessary, he said:

"The government which we organized for the territory of Louisiana had every element which has been denounced as despotism in the Philippines."

The act of October 31, 1803, passed by congress and signed by Jefferson, vested:

"All military, civil and judicial powers in such person or persons and to be exercised in such manner as the president of the United States should direct."

"There was no consultation with the inhabitants, no participation in their government accorded them, and no rights assured to them, except the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion." It is no answer to this precedent to say that because there were only 30,000 white people in the territory it was unnecessary to gain their consent. The constitutional rights of 30,000 are as precious and as sacred as the rights of 30,000,000.

"It has been repeatedly said here that government by the United States in these islands will be a despotism. Such a belief shows a singular ignorance or misapprehension of the constitutional limitations upon our powers and the spirit of our institutions. While the constitution does not extend over the territories of its own force and without legislation, its provisions are binding on congress. On these prohibitions, which are also privileges enjoyed by the people wherever our jurisdiction extends, is a complete charter of rights which congress can neither limit or impair. All personal privileges and immunities, such as religious freedom, property rights, freedom of speech and the press, and equality before the laws prevail wherever our flag floats. But outside of the constitution and laws is an unwritten law created by the genius of the institution of the paramount power and controlling its acts and officials in all colonial governments."

RETURNS TO PLAGUE HIM.

Quay's Attitude on the Corbett Case Now Cited Against His Own Admission.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—In a speech in the senate today on the resolution against seating Quay, Turpie said: "Are we to say in 1898, when Corbett was knocking at the doors of the senate, one thing and in 1900, when Quay is knocking at the doors, another thing?"

VOTE ON HAWAII TODAY.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The senate today agreed to take a final vote on the Hawaiian government bill tomorrow.

OREGON MAN'S LUCK.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The president has nominated Henry B. Miller, of Oregon, to be consul at Chung King, China.

ORDERED TO MANILA.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 27.—Major Wm. Monaghan, additional postmaster, U. S. V., and Major Wm. W. Gilbert, paymaster, U. S. A., have been ordered to proceed on the transport Thomas to Manila for duty there.

TRAIN WRECK IN MISSOURI

Two Passengers Killed and Many Frightfully Injured.

A BLINDING SNOW STORM

Train Takes Fire Roasting and Scalding the Unfortunates Buried in the Horrible Confusion.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 27.—The fast St. Louis day express, due to arrive in Kansas City at 5:45 this evening, was delayed by a freight train which stuck in a snow drift two miles south of Independence, Mo., about 12 miles out of Kansas City.

The St. Louis local passenger train, which was running 40 minutes behind the fast express, came on through the blinding snow storm and crashed into the express train ahead, the engineer having failed, in the driving snow, to see the danger signal which the fast train had sent back.

The parlor car in the rear of the first train was literally cut in two. Fire added to the horrors of the wreck, coming from the furnace from the shattered engine having fallen among the debris of the splintered coach and soon the whole wreck was ablaze. Two or more persons, it is believed, were burned.

The lists of dead and seriously injured, so far as known, are as follows: Mrs. J. G. Schmidlapp, a banker's wife, Cincinnati, instantly killed; unknown woman, body consumed in the wreck.

The injured are: J. G. Schmidlapp, Cincinnati, will recover; Miss Schmidlapp, Cincinnati, scalded, will lose the sight of both eyes; Mrs. J. Baleske, Cincinnati; the mother of Mrs. Schmidlapp, badly scalded; eyesight lost, may recover; W. A. Vaughan, Cincinnati, a newspaper reporter, scalded and right arm crushed, amputation necessary; L. F. Sheldon, Sedalia, assistant superintendent of telegraph of the Missouri Pacific, painfully scalded; Brakenman Frank McAfee, St. Louis, badly bruised; Mrs. Elizabeth Peters, Kansas City, scalded; Mrs. Elizabeth Lee, Cincinnati, scalded.

All of the injured have been brought to the University hospital in Kansas City.

THE MILITARY BILL.

Immense Improvement in Army Organization and System of Promotion.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The house committee on military affairs today acted favorably on the bill giving a chaplain for each regiment and giving the adjutant general of the army the rank of major general.

The bill is limited to three subjects: 1.—Promotion in the line. 2.—Tenure of staff appointments and the relations between the staff and line. 3.—Reorganization of the artillery.

It is carefully framed to avoid the raising of the question of the size of the army, which it is understood congress is not now ready to discuss, and its provisions are made applicable to any army of whatever size congress may determine upon.

The provisions as to the line promotion is that every third promotion to the office of major, lieutenant colonel and colonel shall be by selection, leaving the other two-thirds to be as at present, by seniority. This is designed to afford some slight opportunity for the recognition of exceptional ability and gallantry.

Under the present law, which permits promotion only by seniority, the president is prohibited from recognizing meritorious or gallant conduct. The most effective and brilliant service must go unrewarded; the thoughtful, devoted and ambitious young man is precluded from advancing himself by his own exertion a hair's breadth beyond the indolent, dull and inefficient man who is just able to perform the duty to keep from being turned out of the service.

The only objections to the proposed measure are that there may be favoritism in the selection. The impartiality of selection is safeguarded by a provision of the bill that promotion shall be made from a list of three officers selected from the grade from which promotion is to be made by a board of officers of superior rank, convened for that purpose, and sworn to selections according to their merits and fitness of the candidate as shown by his service record.

The sections relating to the staff organizations provide for the abolition of the present system of permanent staff appointments and for the substitution of details from the line or staff of periods of four years, unless sooner terminated by the president.