

The Morning Astorian.

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BOERS ARE CLOSE TO BLOEMFONTEIN

**Roberts Obligated to Increase His
Force at Glen.**

AN ATTACK IS THREATENED

**The Country is Being Severely Raided.
Farmers Are Harassed and Their Cattle
Are Driven Off by the Johannesburg Mounted Police.**

LONDON, March 20, 4 a. m.—The Boers are concentrating in force about 15 miles north of Bloemfontein in the rear of Glen, and Lord Roberts is sending forward troops to engage them. The Seventh infantry division and part of General French's cavalry have been sent up to join the Fourteenth brigade and two cavalry regiments that are holding Glen and its environs.

It does not seem probable that the Boers will give serious battle in the fairly open country north of Glen. Still their evident strength indicates more than a corps of observation. In small affairs the Boers are daringly aggressive in all parts of the field of war.

The Johannesburg mounted police, esteemed by the Boers to be their best mounted commando, are raiding the country near Bloemfontein, harassing farmers who have given up their arms to the British and carrying off cattle. Boers have reoccupied Campbell and are in strength near Taungs and Barkley West.

Lord Methuen and the forces that had been operating in the Barkley district have been recalled to Kimberley by Lord Roberts. No explanation has been given for this, but the mounted troops are dissatisfied at having been ordered back.

According to Pretoria advices, Mafeking was bombarded for seven hours on Tuesday.

It is reported in London in a well-informed quarter, that Lord Kitchener will be offered the post commander in chief in India, succeeding the late Sir William Lockhart, so soon as a decisive success has been obtained in the Transvaal, and that Sir General Archibald Hunter will succeed him as Lord Roberts' chief of staff.

KRUGER'S LATEST BOAST.

He Says Bloemfontein Will Be Retaken in a Week.

LONDON, March 20.—A Bloemfontein correspondent of the Morning Post, telegraphing Wednesday, says:

"President Kruger boasts his intention to retake Bloemfontein within a week and it appears probable that the Boers are advancing in force southward."

KRUGER ON THE WAR.

Interview With a World Correspondent on His Prediction as to How His Losses Would Affect Humanity.

NEW YORK, March 20.—The World publishes a long interview with President Kruger, under date of Pretoria, February 7. President Kruger said:

"I sent a message to the World saying that the losses in a war would stagger humanity. The British laughed at me and said they would only take a month to conquer us. Did those six hundred and fifty dead at Spionkop and those hundreds who were killed in other battles please the British? Are they laughing now? When you came through London did you see much laughing?"

The correspondent told him of the scenes in front of the London war bulletin boards, the weeping relatives and the sorrowing friends. Mr. Kruger went on:

"Yes, that is only one side of the picture. Here we have the same scenes, only our casualties are not so great."

"Every home in South Africa has been desolated and the war has only begun. Wait until the war is ended and those who will suffer on account of it will be numbered by the hundreds of thousands."

"Did Chamberlain and Milner and the capitalists who were back of them think of those things before they drove us to the wall? Are the tears of the widows and orphans to pay for the goldfields? Tell the Americans that I appreciate their expressions of sympathy and that I will inform my burghers of it. I am greatly pleased to hear that committees have been formed to raise funds for our Red Cross."

"We need medicines and supplies for the wounded—not so much for our own wounded, but for the many poor British soldiers who come into our hands."

"It makes my heart bleed to see that they suffer, we cannot help them as much as we would like to do because

the British authorities will not let us bring medicines or supplies for our local Red Cross through Delagoa bay."

President Kruger said that the Boers looked for no assistance from any nation. He declared that the Boers would not destroy the mines in any event. He said before the war closed he believed that the United States would offer to act as arbitrator of the differences between the two countries and that he was perfectly content to accept the decision that would have been made but Great Britain refused to arbitrate.

ROBERTS' PLANS UNKNOWN.

Various Conjectures as to the Length and Object of His Halt at Bloemfontein.

LONDON, March 20.—Conjecture as to Lord Roberts' advance from Bloemfontein is the topic of the day and is likely to continue so if the British commander-in-chief in South Africa conceals his movements as carefully as he has done in the past. April 20 is set by various critics as the probable date of the departure of the main army from Bloemfontein. It is pointed out that there will then be over a week's hard marching before Kroonstadt is reached, though there seems no certainty that Kroonstadt will entirely occupy Roberts' attention. The advance, when it does occur, will probably be made by parallel columns along a broad front.

The movement of the cavalry force and part of the infantry towards Glen can scarcely be construed as an actual advance, although they undoubtedly point to imminence of such a step. But only a small part of General Buller's forces have yet arrived at Bloemfontein and until that movement is completed, it is not likely Roberts will start for Pretoria.

The latest news from Bloemfontein, contained in a dispatch published in the second edition of the Times and dated Wednesday, again dwells upon the necessity for not making a premature advance.

CLEMENTS IN FAURESMTIH.

Several Guns and a Large Quantity of Ammunition Captured.

LONDON, March 20.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated Bloemfontein, March 20:

"General Clements captured Fauresmuth without opposition. One nine-pounder and one Martini-Maxim were discovered in a prospecting shaft of a mine, where a large quantity of ammunition was buried.

"Arms are being surrendered gradually and the inhabitants are settling down."

"Colonel Pileher visited Ladybrand on March 20. On leaving the town he was attacked by a party of the enemy, and one of his force was wounded and five are missing."

"During the skirmish north of Modder river on March 25, five men were wounded. Three are reported to be missing. Captain Sloan Stanley, of the Sixteenth Lancers and five men of that regiment were taken prisoners."

DROUGHT IN INDIA.

Enormous Loss Due to Shortage in Wheat, Cotton and Other Crops.

CALCUTTA, March 20.—In the course of his remarks, in addressing the council budget yesterday, the viceroy, Lord Curzon, said the loss to the wheat crop caused by the drought during the present year was 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 pounds sterling, the loss to the cotton crop was seven million pounds, while the oil seed crop, usually covering 18,000,000 acres, was non-existent outside of Bengal and the northwest provinces. The loss to cultivators in Bombay alone in the food crops was £15,000,000 and in cotton £4,000,000.

FATAL DYNAMITE EXPLOSION.

Several Workmen Killed and Maimed at Spokane Yesterday.

SPOKANE, March 20.—By a premature explosion of sixty sticks of dynamite five workmen were buried under a mass of rock today.

Salvatore Bruzino is dead, Michael Herman will die, and Andrew Hadberg will be blind for life. Ferdinando Grego and Ole Oleson will recover. About two hundred men were working on the Great Northern right of way through this city.

Hadberg was tamping in the dynamite when it exploded.

BRYAN AT PENDLETON.

Speaks in an Octopus Warehouse and Accepts the Courtesy of the Monaster's Special Train.

PENDELTON, March 20.—William J. Bryan spoke in this place this morning to an audience of thirty-five hundred people in the large double warehouse of the O. R. & N. tracks. Immediately upon the close of his speech he was taken on a special train to Walla, for a tour through Washington.

VIOLATING THE RULES OF WAR

**Severe Arraignment of the Methods
of the Boers.**

AN AMERICAN'S OBSERVATION

Julian Ralph Says in Every Battle the White Flag and Geneva Cross Are Abused and Ambulances Frequently Fired Upon.

LONDON, March 20.—The most serious indictments of the Boer methods of warfare which has yet appeared in England comes from Julian Ralph, the American war correspondent, in a letter from Kimberley, published in this morning's Daily Mail. Ralph says: "There has hardly been a battle in which the Boers have not abused the white flag or Geneva Cross or both."

MARINES AS GUNNERS.

Decision of the department to Retain Them as a Part of Gun Batteries.

NEW YORK, March 20.—A special to the Herald from Washington says:

Marines will continue to serve the batteries of American men of war. This decision has been made by Assistant Secretary Allen as a result of consideration given to a provision inserted in the naval regulations by the board which has revised them, practically prohibiting the further employment of marines as gun crews.

The board's action is a renewal of the effort made several years ago by line officers, notably, Captain R. D. Evans, to induce Mr. Herbert, then secretary of the navy, to have the gun crews made up of bluejackets.

It is understood, however, that the new regulations will contain a provision requiring the marine guard on board ship to be thoroughly drilled and instructed at the guns of the main and secondary batteries and permitting their station, under their own officers, at either or both batteries, as the commanding officers may direct.

DUAL HONDURAS SYNDICATES.

Quarreling Over the Question of Which Is the True One.

TRENTON, N. J., March 20.—There was filed here Wednesday in the United States court, third district, a bill of complaint by the Honduras Company, a corporation of the state of Georgia, complainant, against the Honduras Syndicate, a corporation of the state of New Jersey.

The bill sets up that the Honduras Company was incorporated in Georgia on December 4, 1885, and that the Honduras Syndicate was incorporated in New Jersey on December 20, 1896. The bill affirms that, warranted by assurances from ultimate officials in Honduras, the Honduras Company was incorporated as stated, to acquire estate, real and personal, in Honduras, to possess and enjoy all the rights, power, franchises and provisions necessary to enable the company to manufacture or construct public or private developments for the development of its properties and in fulfillment of its obligations with the Honduras government.

The bill affirms that as a part of the plans of the Honduras Company, it was designed to organize a bank to finance the projects referred to, fund the large public indebtedness of Honduras, and that, pursuant to the design, the Commercial bank of Honduras was organized in August, 1896.

The bill further sets forth that pursuing its plans and in a line with an understanding set up with the officials of Honduras there were organized under the laws of the state of Georgia eight subsidiary companies for the promotion of homestead and land rights for the development of lumber, for the prosecution of metal mining for the extension of railways, for the establishment of a sinking fund and for the improvement of harbors.

Under these subsidiary companies the bill sets forth that the public debt of Honduras, amounting to more than eighty millions of dollars was designed to be refunded; that the Intercoastal railway of Honduras, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Bay of Fonseca, was to be completed over a distance of more than 200 miles at an estimated cost of eight million dollars; that, co-operating with the government of Honduras, the Honduras Company would have part in the collection of the customs revenues and that several hundred thousand immigrants were to be brought into Honduras.

The gravamen of the bill rests in allegations made therein in effect that persons to whom, in the prosecution of

its purposes the Honduras Company has confided its plans and possibilities had, it is affirmed, in the bill, have taken advantage of this knowledge and information and had sent persons of their own selection to Honduras to procure a contract from its government in their own interests and in the interest of the Honduras Syndicate, which is made defendant by this bill. Allegation is made in the bill that these persons so sent to Honduras did, in April, 1897, procure and enter into a contract for the Honduras Syndicate with the government of Honduras to perfect plans and accomplish purposes inaugurated and aimed at by the Honduras Company and that the Honduras Syndicate, incorporated with a capital of \$500,000 substituted itself for the Honduras Company to achieve and secure the advantages and emoluments designed by the Honduras Company to be enjoyed by itself.

The bill sets up a claim by the Honduras Company that the contract made by the Honduras Syndicate belongs of right to the Honduras Company and that the syndicate has no right thereto or therein except as an equitable trustee for the Honduras Company.

The Honduras Company, therefore, in this bill, asks that the Honduras Syndicate may be directed by the court to hold said contract between itself and the government of Honduras for the benefit of, and as trustee for the Honduras Company and the bill asks that the syndicate may likewise be decreed to account to the Honduras Company for any profits or advantages that it may have received under and by virtue thereof, and that it may be directed to transfer to the Honduras Company every beneficial interest of the Honduras Syndicate in such contract; the bill affirming the readiness of the Honduras Company to take over and perform everything on its part in the promises that equity requires.

THE ARMY BILL PASSED.

Will Become a Law Practically in the Form Recommended by the Committee.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—After four days' stormy debate, the house passed the army appropriation bill today. As passed the bill is only slightly modified from the form in which it came from the committee.

One of the last amendments adopted opens the soldiers' homes to officers and men of both volunteer and regular armies incapacitated by service during or since the Spanish war.

Without opposition the house confirmed Roring's title to his seat. His seat was contested by White, another republican, and the report of the committee that investigated the case was unanimously in favor of the sitting member.

THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION.

Conferring With Secretary Root on the Scope of Its Future Work.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—The Philippine commission this afternoon spent three hours in conference with Secretary Root.

The secretary said the discussion had covered the probable scope of the work of the commission for the next two years. The secretary also said that the new commission would have much broader powers in dealing with the problems arising in the Philippines than had its predecessor.

The primary purpose was the establishment of local civil government throughout the island. In the selection of civil officers, the commission would have a free hand.

MORE TIME ALLOWED.

Spaniards in Philippines Will Have Six Months Longer to Become American Citizens.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Secretary Hay and the Duke of Arcoas, the Spanish minister, today signed a protocol extending for six months from April 4, the period allowed Spanish residents in the Philippine islands to elect whether they shall remain Spanish subjects or surrender their allegiance and adopt the nationality of the territory in which they resided.

LILY WON'T APPEAR.

Mrs. Langtry Will Not Be Permitted to Corrupt the Morals of Pittsburg.

PITTSBURG, March 20.—Mrs. Lily Langtry, who is booked to appear in this city next Monday week, will not be permitted to produce her play "The Degenerates."

This was decided today by Mayor Wm. J. Diehl, who has received protests from the Presbyterian ministers association and numerous citizens against the production of the play, on the ground that it is immoral.

PROF. PRICHETT RESIGNED.

NEW YORK, March 20.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: Prof. Henry S. Pritchett, superintendent of the coast and geodetic survey, has resigned his place to accept the presidency of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at Boston.

FIRST VOTE TAKEN ON PUERTO RICO

Senate Rejects Amendment Striking Out the Tariff Provision.

SIMON FOLLOWS OREGONIAN

Deserts His Party Associates and Pairs in Opposition to His Colleague and the Policy of the Majority as Agreed to by the Administration.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—A direct vote taken by the senate today on the proposition to strike from the Puerto Rico measure the provision laying 15 per cent of the Dingley law duties on Puerto Rican products. The proposition was defeated by a vote of 15 to 23.

While the vote is regarded as presaging the passage of the pending measure, it is not regarded as indicating the final vote on the bill.

The feature of the debate was the speech of Beveridge, of Indiana. While he advocated reciprocity between the United States and Puerto Rico, he announced that if all efforts to secure free trade should fail, he would support the pending bill. The bill was under discussion throughout the session, several important amendments being agreed to.

The motion of Pettus was defeated, as follows:

Yeas—Bacon, Bate, Berry, Clark, Clay, Cokerell, Culbertson, Harris, Jones (Ark.), Lindsay, Kenny, Morgan, Pettus, Sullivan, Turley, Wellington—16.

Noes—Allison, Baker, Bard, Carter, Chandler, Clark (Wyo.), Cullom, Deboe, Fairbanks, Foraker, Foster, Frye, Gallinger, Gear, Hale, Hanna, Hansbrough, Hawley, Keen, Kyle, Lodge, McBride, McComas, McMillan, Perkins, Quarles, Ross, Scott, Sewell, Shoup, Spooner, Warren, Wetmore—23.

The following pairs were announced, the last named being opposed to the amendment: Martin-Jones, of Nevada; Daniel-Penrose; McLaurin-Pritchard; Hoar-Teller; Caffery-Burrows; Pettigrew-Platt, of Connecticut; Simon-Depeue; Chilton-Elkins; Hettfield-Platt, of New York; Butler-Beveridge.

No announcement of pairs was made of the following senators, who were absent from the chamber when their names were called:

Allen, Davis, McCumber, Mallory, Nelson, Proctor, Stewart, Thurston, Tillman and Vest.

Morgan offered an amendment to the section of the bill which proposes to redeem Puerto Rican silver coins in United States money, giving 60 cents of American money for the Puerto Rican peso. The amendment proposed to pay 100 cents for the peso. Morgan held that in the proposed exchange of coins the United States was taking advantage of the Puerto Ricans because the peso contained the same amount of silver as the American dollar.

There was no intention to deprive the Puerto Ricans of any value, as the American dollar now was worth in debt-paying power practically two pesos in Puerto Rico. The amendment went over.

TRANSPORT SERVICE COST.

Detailed Statement of Moneys Expended in Buying, Chartering and Fitting Out Ships.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Acting Secretary Melickoff has sent to the senate a list of all the transport ships and other vessels purchased or chartered by the war department since March 4, 1897, together with the cost of purchase or charter and the cost of fitting up or repair.

Forty-nine vessels of all classes were purchased for the army transport service during and since the Spanish war, the total purchase price of these vessels was \$8,074,455, and the total cost of refitting and repairing was \$5,153,092.

There were 14 vessels chartered at a total cost of \$10,577,519 for services rendered and a total cost of \$1,584,543, in restoring them to their original condition on the cancellation of their charters.

DEMOCRATIC GUNS SPIKED.

Populist Governor of Idaho Denies Correspondence With Republican National Committee on the Wadner Strike.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Governor Steunenburg of Idaho took occasion during the Coeur d'Alene investigation today to deny the statement published during the Idaho disorder last fall to the effect that in October last he wrote to a representative of the republican national executive committee assuming complete responsibility for the conditions in Idaho and relieving the federal authorities from all connection with the affair.

Governor Steunenburg also denied he had had any correspondence with Senator Hanna.