

The Morning Astorian.

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THE SITUATION IS UNCHANGED

Roberts Has Made No Start On the Forward Movement.

SLIGHT BRITISH VICTORIES

Lord Roberts Has Again Found It Necessary to Complain to President Kruger of Boer Mistreatment of Sick and Wounded Prisoners.

LONDON, April 15, 5 a. m.—There has been the usual Saturday's absence of news, both from the war office and other sources of information. The situation in its chief points is apparently unchanged.

The natives report at Kimberley that Colonel Douglas engaged the Boers near Zwakop on Wednesday and succeeded in driving them back. The British casualties were slight. Elandsbaag last evening reported that there had been no traces of the Boers in that neighborhood for the past two days. Their progress southward has been effectively barred by the British occupation of Jonenskop, on the left, and Umbutani, on the right.

The belief that the Boers' action on Tuesday was due to restlessness and dissatisfaction in the ranks is confirmed by natives, who say that the Boers have been ready for some time and wanted the British to attack them. In order to force this, the Boers commenced shelling, at the same time sending a force to make a flank movement on the left. Natives also confirm the statement that one of the Boers' heavy guns was put out of action and the gunners driven off.

The scouts on Saturday located the Boers in a strong position 11 miles northeast of the British advanced position at Bloemfontein. Lord Roberts has strongly protested to President Kruger against the treatment of prisoners and the sick and wounded in the hands of the Boers and has formally demanded the observance of the Geneva convention.

It appears from every indication that the Boers are preparing, in the event of Pretoria being captured, to make a last stand along the line reaching from Leydenberg along the mountains into Swaziland.

LORD ROSSLYN CAPTURED.

LONDON, April 14.—A special dispatch from Bloemfontein says: "A patrol of the Royal Irish, with whom was Lord Rosslyn, has been captured. Lord Rosslyn has been sent to Kroonstad."

MAKING THE WEAK POINT.

Otherwise Roberts' Campaign Is Progressing Most Favorably.

NEW YORK, April 14.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says: "There has been a complete shrinkage in war news during the last twenty-four hours. There are no further details of Botha's reconnaissance of Cler's position, which has dwindled into an outpost affair with artillery practice on both sides. The extent to which General Buller's army has been reduced by the withdrawal of troops under General Hunter is not yet known but the strength of his force is probably three times as great as Botha's, and it needs to be, since the Boers will be operating on the defensive under most favorable conditions."

No further results of the change of Boer tactics in the Free State are reported. General Roberts holds the railway line in great strength from Norval's to the Modder river and is not diverted eastward or westward by the Dutch strategy. He is saving his horses for a march northward and allows the raiders to hang upon his eastern flank from Wepener and Smithfield to Thabanchu and Winberg. Wepener still remains in possession of the colonial garrison and no additional advantage has been gained by the Dutch.

They have taken seven guns and one thousand prisoners during the fortnight, but otherwise their counter-attack has failed, since General Roberts' forces are massed for the march to the Vaal river in overwhelming strength and cannot be diverted to the hills in the east. General Roberts' last reports are cheerful. The Boer movement having been checked and Wepener holding out well.

Much has been telegraphed about General Roberts' heavy losses in horses and transport animals during the march across the country to Bloemfontein, but nothing has been said about similar losses on the Boer side. It is continually asserted among military men that there were three horses for every Boer at the opening of the

war, whereas, only a portion of their force can now be mounted at all. The Dutch have also lost an immense number of oxen, and are crippled in transport service. Their raiding operations have exhausted their horses, whereas, French's cavalry brigades will be fresh for service when marching orders are issued.

The only weak point in the British campaign is Mafeking. Veterans here are anxious about the fate of the garrison and are unable to perceive how General Buller can relieve it within a march of 50 miles, which will take up many weeks. The closest observers are not convinced that this attempt will be made, but are disposed to believe that his force will be employed eventually in the northern frontier of the Transvaal.

THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

United States Ranks Higher in Number of Exhibitors to Any Other Country.

PARIS, April 14.—Americans especially will be proud of their country's display at the world's fair, for the United States stands second only to France herself in the number of exhibitors, which treble those of any foreign country.

Following is a table of exhibitors which speaks eloquently of American enterprise:

France, 30,000.
United States, 5,516.
Belgium, 2,900.
Germany, 2,900.
Italy, 2,900.
Russia, 1,500.
Scandinavia, 1,400.
Austria, 1,000.
Great Britain, 600.
British Colonies, 600.

America has three times the number of exhibitors that France had at the world's fair at Chicago. She occupies 329,862 square feet with her 47 distinct exhibition spaces. American enterprise, however, is not only shown in the size of her representation, but also in the preparation of her installation as compared with that of most of the other countries, and it can be safely said that but for the dilatoriness of French workmen and methods, the United States exhibition would have been exposed in their showcases to today's visitors. Unfortunately much tardiness has hampered all American efforts to rush matters.

In comparing the state of progress of the installation of various nations, the commissioner general of the exposition said to Commissioner General Peck:

"It is an object lesson to us all to see the American people at work. I thank you for your promptitude and the advanced condition of the work in the United States section."

To many visiting our national pavilion is a distinct disappointment. It is, in pretentious, almost over-powering with its big dome and startling frescoes over the entrance, but it compares unfavorably with the beautiful buildings of even smaller powers like Italy, Spain and Austria.

SPAIN'S CLAIM DENIED.

Secretary Hay Insists Upon Our Ownership of the Whole Philippine Group.

NEW YORK, April 14.—A special to the Herald from Washington, says: "Secretary Hay has formally notified the Madrid government that the United States cannot accede to its claim that Sibutu Island and Cagayan Sulu, of the Philippine archipelago, belong to Spain. This section was taken in the light of information in the possession of the authorities, showing that Germany is taking a deep interest in the controversy."

It is likely that the Spanish government will endeavor to answer the American note and perhaps, will go so far as to suggest arbitration of the claims. It is altogether unlikely that the administration will consider any propositions of this character.

PUGET SOUND COLLISION.

Steamer Lakme Runs Into the Ship Queen Elizabeth.

SEATTLE, April 14.—The steamer Lakme and the British ship Queen Elizabeth collided early this morning between Seattle and Port Townsend. The total damage is estimated at \$3,000. Both ships were about equally injured. The Lakme was outward bound with a load of lumber for San Francisco and the Queen Elizabeth was going to Fort Blakeley, towed by tug Tye.

The accident was probably due to a mistake in signals. The vessels came together with great force. The Lakme is now at Seattle and the Queen Elizabeth on the way to Port Blakeley.

NEW S. P. OFFICERS.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 14.—The directory of the Southern Pacific Coast railroad has elected the following officers: President, Thomas H. Hubbard; vice-president, H. F. Huntington; treasurer, N. T. Smith; secretary, J. L. Wilcutt.

The Market Street railroad directors have re-elected H. E. Huntington president; Charles Holbrook and Alvina Hayward, first and second vice-presidents respectively, and N. T. Smith treasurer. George B. Wilcutt was made secretary in place of his father, J. L. Wilcutt, who will devote himself to other of Huntington's interests.

FRESH DISASTER IS IMPENDING

One Thousand British Troops Hopelessly Surrounded.

PART OF BRABANT'S HORSE

Scathing Comments of English Press on Inefficiency of Officers in Command—Pronounced Brave but Careless, and Inclined to Be Stupid.

LONDON, April 15.—A dispatch, dated Leemokop, Southeast of Bloemfontein, April 9, says:

News received here from Johannesburg drift says a British force of about 1,000 men, composed of Brabant's horse with General Brabant commanding, is surrounded at Robertson's mills, with remote chance of relief or effective resistance.

The British force reported in the dispatch above to be surrounded at Robertson's Mills is probably the force of Colonial troops previously referred to as surrounded by Boers near Wepener. These British troops are not commanded by General Brabant in person. General Brabant was last reported at Allwal North, with General Kitchener.

LONDON, April 14.—Copyrighted, 1900, Associated Press.—The unsatisfactory turn that has recently marked the campaign against the Boers is resulting in astonishing and sweeping criticisms by the English papers of their own army methods. There is a widespread, deeply rooted conviction that the method of selecting British army officers is altogether wrong. About this conviction there is no bitterness, nor is it based upon conclusions rapidly arrived at. "Our officers," says a conservative, common sense, outlook, "are as brave as lions, but as a rule they are stupid."

The foremost champions of our regimental officers," says Saturday's Review, "are beginning sorrowfully to admit that their courage often makes them careless, and when not negligent they sometimes show themselves ignorant of their business."

Vanity Fair, which formerly denounced vigorously any such forms of criticism, admits sorrowfully "that our officers seem to play at war rather than to carry on war. It is all wrong."

GENERAL WHITE IN LONDON.

LONDON, April 14.—General Sir George White, the hero of Ladysmith, who arrived at Southampton today, received a rousing ovation.

MRS. KRUGER'S VIEWS.

Says God Must Stop the War, as the Boers Have No Intentions of Doing So.

LONDON, April 14.—A special from Pretoria says:

Mrs. Kruger, on being interviewed, said that she trusted God would soon stop the merciless bloodshed, but that the republic would be victoriously defended, even if Pretoria were finally taken.

She added that she had had in the field 33 grandsons, two of whom were killed; four sons, six sons-in-law, and numerous other relatives.

MORE ST. HELENA CAPTIVES.

CAPE TOWN, April 14.—The Transport Lake Erie, with upwards of 500 transvaal prisoners, sailed for St. Helena today.

THE BRITISH IN BATTLE.

Officers Still Decline to Avail Themselves of Cover Like Privates.

(Correspondence of Associated Press.)

LONDON, April 15.—Though British officers dress like privates when under fire, they won't take to cover. So a Telegraph correspondent writing from Natal says:

"The minute fighting begins," he says, "the men lie down, but the officers stalk about giving signals, waving their arms, smoking cigars and generally behave as if they were in Piccadilly."

"I watched a young gentleman carrying his rifle under his arm, as one does one's gun when walking between the beats of a covert shoot. In his other hand he had a walking stick with which he was pointing out where his men were to fire. The soldiers were carefully hidden and he was under a merciless fire, but I saw him the next morning trudging to Ladysmith, none the worse for his day's fighting."

"Indeed, it does not much matter if you are going to be hit you'll catch it whether or not you disguise yourself as a private. Habit is a strong thing, hard to get rid of. You may dress a British subaltern or captain of the infantry of the line how you like, but if he is the right sort you can 'spot' him soon as you can see him."

"Certainly, at close range the Boers have made a dead set at our officers; an officer of my old regiment got two in his thigh, one through his head, three through the helmet and his right arm was shot off. This is certainly business-like shooting, but the damage was done at about 300 yards, when all men shoot fairly well. On the other hand, the Boers blaze away an alarming amount of bullets which hit nothing at longer distances."

"Twice I have seen the South African Light Horse under heavy rifle fire,

as harmless as it was heavy, three or four men hit out of three or four hundred. Compare this with the shooting of the fasteners in our Zambesi at Gubat where they wiped out every man who stood on his feet. I have already told you how I was missed at close range by twenty of thirty riflemen and, on the whole, I do not think the Boer army is above our average in shooting."

"Where they are facile principals at mounted infantry work, at seizing and abandoning, or reinforcing, a position, as necessity may compel, their cautious clinging to a place they know to be necessary to their safety and their sure eye for such a position."

"Indeed, against a slow moving army like ours, whose precise tactics compel it to shift in a leisurely manner, they are very formidable. Each good Boer is a general in himself, each pile of stones he shoots from a fortress in himself, a commando of 200 men in a good position means 200 fortresses to be taken."

"Then the Boers let off their ammunition unsparingly as far as they can see; they shoot not because they think they will hit anything, but for the very good reason that nothing demoralizes an enemy more than bullets coming from an unseen rifle, indeed, the Boers produce great moral effect with their little bullets. They are extremely busy at 2,000 yards. But every man will not walk across the ground under fire from the Boers at 2,000 yards range and while 'God Save the Queen' at the same time. If anyone accepts my bet he will see what he will see."

"What affords the Boers most glee is our regular cavalry. Indeed, it does not appear a ludicrous appearance in a country of stones and kopjes. I often wonder what would happen to a regular cavalry brigade, if surprised, armed as they are with lance, sabre and carbine. The sturdy Boer horseman with his grass fed pony, lopez along quite regardless of his formidable looking adversary. If the lancer attempts violence, the dopper dismounts and shoots."

"Our colonial cavalry is a little better, but they suffer considerably from their want of knowledge of horses. Even they are no match for the Boer at the game of hide and seek. Fortunately they are brave and have a general, not yet eradicated, contempt for the Dutchmen and often achieve by audacity what they would be unable to accomplish if their usually wild enemy did not think them as formidable as they look. Their work in the Natal, however, cannot be sufficiently extolled. It is one of the most pleasing features of the campaign. It is almost certain that our cavalry will have to be differently trained, at all events armed with a long rifle. The day of shock action is practically over."

"Those vast plains of Germany and Austria, where Murat's legions thundered to victory are now intersected with wire fences."

OTIS AGAIN CRITICIZED.

His Recall Said to Give Satisfaction to War Department Officials.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—The War department officials, while they will not talk over the publication, are considerably pleased over the president's action in relieving General Otis. S. Otis as commander-in-chief of the United States forces at Manila. Had President McKinley taken this action six or nine months ago a great many people here believe that the war in the Philippines would have been over by this time. It is stated by those who claim to know the situation that the failure of General Otis to fully grasp the situation in the Philippines has prevented the success of the United States troops there.

General MacArthur, who succeeds General Otis, will, without doubt, make a very competent commander, but it is believed that because of the mistakes made by Otis, it will be necessary for this government to send more troops to Manila in order to subdue the rebellious Filipinos. This is a great disappointment to the army officials. Four weeks ago General Corbin cabled Otis to send home as fast as possible the troops who first saw duty at Manila. This order has never been carried into effect because Otis was wise enough to see that instead of reducing Uncle Sam's forces there, it would be necessary to have more men. Without doubt, General Otis also discovered that he had a very hard campaign ahead of him and asked for a leave of absence in order to be relieved of responsibility in Manila for an indefinite period.

It is probable that President McKinley was disappointed in Otis, and while the claim has been made that he did not want Otis to return to the United States, he is really gratified that the general made this request of him. With General MacArthur in command of the United States troops at Manila and with the new Philippine commission there to treat with the insurgents, the latter can probably be brought to terms within the next six months. That MacArthur will need more men to accomplish this purpose is said to be true, and the department is quietly making arrangements to send more troops to Manila at an early date.

MORE PHILIPPINE FIGHTING.

Several Engagements Reported Near Marivales Mountains.

MANILA, April 14.—Insurgents, supposedly Mascado's command, are active about the Marivales mountains, across the bay from Manila. A force estimated at 300 attacked Batanga, where three companies of the Thirty-second infantry are stationed, on Monday night, but were easily repulsed. Yesterday they attacked Captain Goldman, with 30 men of the Thirty-second regiment, near Orion, killing two Americans. Goleman then retired.

The transport Thomas sails tomorrow, taking General Theodore Schwan and 300 discharged and sick soldiers.

SET FIRE TO HERSELF.

LA PORTE, Ind., April 14.—Mina Beadle, a school teacher at Tyrer, this county, committed suicide by pouring kerosene over her head and clothing and then setting fire to herself.

TO SUPPRESS THE BOXERS.

SHANGHAI, April 14.—The Chinese government has sent seven thousand troops to Shan Tung to suppress the Boxers. However, it is notorious that a majority of the troops are members of the same society.

LANDSLIDE FOR SENATOR MORGAN

Staunch Expansionist Endorsed by Alabama Voters.

LOST BUT ONE COUNTY

Many Naval Vessels Will Be Put Out of Commission Owing to An Alarming Shortage of Officers and Men—Manila Fleet Affected.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 14.—Reports from all sections of the state indicate a landslide for United States Senator Morgan for re-election, as a result of the democratic primaries today.

Governor Johnson, who has waged a vigorous and aggressive fight against Senator Morgan, carried but one county, as a result of today's voting, which, added to the counties previously instructed for him, gives the governor five counties, with a total of only five votes.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—The navy department was under the necessity today of ordering the United States cruiser Detroit to the Portsmouth navy yard, New Hampshire, to go out of commission.

In addition to this, orders have been prepared to put the Marblehead out of commission at Mare Island and telegraphic orders have been sent to Admiral Watson to send the gunboats Pennington and Concord, now at Manila, to Los Angeles, where they will be also put out of commission.

The battleships Indiana and Massachusetts, which have just been overhauled at the New York navy yard, are to be sent to League Island to be laid up, instead of being commissioned. This remarkable reduction in the number of ships in commission is ascribed to the navy department's lack of sufficient number of officers to furnish the complements for the ships required for naval purposes. The navigation bureau is authority for the statement that the total number of officers is only 1,000, whereas it was four years ago, notwithstanding the great increase in the number of ships.

A MORALITY COMPARISON.

Deaths in the Spanish War as Contrasted With South Africa.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—The war department has prepared instructive statements, comparing the mortality figures in the Spanish-American war with those of the first six months of the present South African war, the purpose being to show that the casualties suffered by the American troops at the time of their occurrence were actually very much less in number, proportionately, to those suffered by the British army up to date.

Only 12 per cent of the American death rate resulted from wounds or occurred in battle, while the corresponding rate for the British army was 63.12 per cent.

The war department's statement says: "The conditions, both military and climatic, under which the campaigns were carried on, were so different that it is difficult to make any comparison."

EXECUTIVE PROMOTIONS.

McKinley Has a New Clerical Force in His Office.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—The promotion of Assistant Secretary Corfield, to be secretary to the president, was followed today by the announcement of the appointment of Benjamin F. Barne, of Pennsylvania to be assistant secretary to the president and Rudolph Forester of Virginia, to be executive clerk to the president.

CONGRATULATES LOUBERT.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—President McKinley today sent a message to President Loubert, of France, congratulating him upon the successful opening of the exposition.

CHICAGO MURDER MYSTERY.

Wealthy Manufacturer Found Fatally Wounded in a Woman's Apartments.

CHICAGO, April 14.—Rufus Wright, a millionaire and treasurer of the firm of Morgan & Wright, bicycle tire manufacturers, is lying at the point of death in a room of the Leland hotel, shot through the neck by a bullet from the revolver of Mrs. Louisa Lottridge, of Paw Paw, Michigan.

The shooting occurred in the apartments occupied by the woman and she and the victim declare it was accidental.

When Detective Sergeant Burns arrived at the hotel, he found Mrs. Lottridge there. He placed her under arrest. A friend who had spent several hours with her previous to the shooting was also arrested. She gives her name as Mrs. Moss. Much mystery attaches itself to the shooting.

IMPROBABLE STORY.

New French Cruiser Said to Have Made 53 Miles an Hour.

TOULON, April 14.—The new French first-class cruiser Chateau Repentin in her speed trial yesterday made 53 knots.