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NEWS FROM LADYSMITH.

Boers Retiring to Biggarsburg Range and Dynamiting Mine Property.

NEW YORK, April 17.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says: Ladysmith dispatches confirm the report that the Boers have retired from the Elands Laagto district to their Biggarsburg positions. No raiding operations southward have been reported and it is now clear that the Boer advance was ordered for the sake of employing the burghers on active duty and of checking desertions. The British inactivity in one sense is masterly, since it demoralizes the enemy. Sir Redvers Buller's scouts have reported that the Boers have wrecked the engine house and shafts of three collieries by heavy charges of dynamite. These wanton attacks upon private property have been characteristic of the Dutch campaign. South Africans explain them on the theory that the Boers are aware that claims for damages to property in Natal and Cape Colony, which will be presented after the war, can never be assessed against the farmers of the two commonwealths, but will be liquidated by the mineowners of the Rand.

Accordingly the Boers feel at liberty to inflict as much damage as possible, since the indemnity will come out of the mining industry of the Rand in the form of taxation based on the profits of the companies. The theory is correct without doubt, that Johannesburg will pay the piper when the war is over. Neither Pretoria nor Bloemfontein has resources for liquidating war indemnities and bills for damages.

An official bulletin issued at Pretoria contains a survey of the military situation in the various sections and implies that there is activity all along the line. The Boer officials evidently find it necessary to convey the impression to their own people that the Dutch forces have not disbanded, but are actively employed at various points. The only fresh claim of victory in this dispatch is a report that General Froneman has defeated a British column and driven it across the Orange river.

There is no confirmation of this story from British sources and, on the contrary, the attack on Colonel Dalgaty's force near Wepener has slackened and there are persistent rumors that General Brabant has relieved the garrison after defeating the Boers. General Brabant is on the way to Wepener with a strong mounted force and reinforcements from Natal are behind him. General Chermiside, with a full division is also moving east from Reddersburg and the Boers may be caught in a corner somewhere in the southwestern section of the Free State.

The general situation at Bloemfontein is unchanged. Military experts here do not expect an advance northward for a week or ten days, since Lord Roberts is waiting for large shipments of horses, which have barely arrived at Cape Town. They are also convinced that General Buller will remain on the defensive and not attack Biggarsburg until the enemy's force has been drawn off by Lord Roberts' invasion of the Transvaal.

It is considered probable that Generals Hunter and Brabant will work their way up to Wepener and Ladysbrand and in this way protect Lord Roberts' line of communications.

THE CROTON DAM TROUBLE.

Many of the Strikers Had No Grievance But Went Out in Sympathy.

NEW YORK, April 17.—According to the Tribune, the cost of the militia and the deputy sheriffs on guard at Croton Dam to the state and county is \$1,750 a day. This expense will be tried by the calling out of the Seventh regiment. Italian Consul-General Bianchi estimates that the increase of wages demanded by the strikers would amount to \$15 a day. In addition the strikers protest against the deduction of two cents a day from their wages as a medical fee, a total of \$14.

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So that the amount in dispute is \$29 per day.

Sergeant Robert Douglass, who was killed at Croton Dam last night, was 28 years of age, a native of Scotland and an ex-member of the British army.

Consul-General Bianchi was asked whether the strikers were paid directly by the contractors or through the medium of padrones who might deduct a part of the wages.

"There are no padrones at all among these workmen," replied Signor Bianchi. "The men are engaged and paid directly by the contractors and have been for the past five or six years. All this trouble could have been avoided, the state could have saved a great deal of money and the work would have been going on without interruption if the contractors had been a little less selfish and a little more considerate of the rights of others. These Italian laborers are peaceably inclined and are content to work hard for very moderate wages."

"There is a feature about this strike with the people in general are not familiar. It is that out of the 650 strikers only 100 to 120 who were getting \$1.25 a day struck for an advance of 25 cents per day. The others went out from sympathy as they were already receiving higher wages. These men have been working up there for the past five or six years and many of them have built small houses or shanties."

"During the past six or eight months the prices of provisions and of other necessities have been going up. The increase is still greater at the Italian quarters because they are four miles from the railroad and all provisions have to be brought from the city. To these poor people who only earned \$1.25 per day, the increase in prices of provisions was tremendous and they felt it keenly. They asked the contractors for an advance of 25 cents a day and for an eight hour working day, but the second demand was merely a formal one as workmen in the building trades are generally asking for eight hours. What they did want was an advance of wages to enable them to buy the same quantity of food for their families that they had done before provisions became dearer. That was all they desired."

"The contractors bluntly refused to listen to the men's demands and the result was that they went out on a strike and their more fortunate fellow workmen went out with them from sympathy."

"The strikers will certainly make no resistance to the troops and there will be no trouble. I shall make no further move in the matter, but I feel confident that the contractors will eventually be obliged to pay their men the advance demanded because they cannot get other men to fill their places at \$1.25 and they will rather grant an advance to their old men than to new hands."

JONES IS PUZZLED.

But Has Finally Decided That Dewey's Candidacy is Hostile to Bryan.

NEW YORK, April 17.—A special to the Herald from Washington, says: Senator Jones of Arkansas, chairman of the democratic national committee said last night that he had no idea what Admiral Dewey's intentions were or the line of action he would pursue to obtain a presidential nomination. So far as the national democratic committee as a body is concerned, no letter or communication had been addressed to the admiral on the subject of his candidacy.

Speaking for himself, Senator Jones said he had not written to the admiral inquiring whether he would enter the Kansas City convention and abide by the result of the convention, he added: "It is quite probable, however, that others are more curious."

"It is quite possible," continued he, "that Admiral Dewey may be suggested in connection with the vice-presidential but I have not the slightest idea that he will be proposed seriously as a presidential candidate. Public sentiment has already decreed that Mr. Bryan is to be the nominee of the reg-

ular democratic party and in my judgment the men who will represent the democratic party at Kansas City will carry out the will of the democratic masses and name Mr. Bryan.

"So far as Admiral Dewey is concerned I have no means of knowing whether he proposes as a democrat to come to the regular organization and abide by the consequences, or whether he and his friends intend to hold a similar convention to that which named a third party ticket four years ago headed by General Palmer."

Senator Jones then explained that he was not seriously considering the candidacy of Admiral Dewey because he believed it to be the result of a movement originated by certain so-called democrats who did not vote for Mr. Bryan four years ago and who have no intention of doing so if he is again named as the party standard bearer. He added that it was not usual for a candidate to announce that he proposed to be the candidate of any particular party and dictate a policy which is supposed to be antagonistic to all the principles of the party from which he seeks support.

"If," said Senator Jones, "Admiral Dewey declares himself to be a democrat he will receive a cordial welcome into the fold, for the American people are proud of him for his gallant and meritorious services in their behalf. There are other good democrats who rendered valuable services to their country during the Spanish war and the admiral will not be lonely in the democratic ranks."

"He will probably receive such consideration as he deserves but he will have to abide the result of the convention whatever it may be."

RIP VAN WINKLE.

Joseph Jefferson Makes a Speech at the Fifth Avenue Theater.

NEW YORK, April 17.—Joseph Jefferson had an extraordinary reception at the Fifth Avenue theater last night when he began his New York season with "Rip Van Winkle."

At the conclusion of the performance, Mr. Jefferson was repeatedly called before the curtain and in response to the demands for speech said:

"I thank you cordially for the reception and applause which you have given me tonight, and if I did not address you when I appeared before the curtain at the end of the first act it was because I did not wish to break the thread of the story."

"But if I had only thought I needn't have feared that I would break the thread of the story, because I have played Rip before you so many times. It is now forty years since I first played the part you see me in tonight in this city and it is a reasonable supposition that I played it before the fathers and mothers and grandfathers and grandmothers of you who are present before me this evening."

"It is sixty years since I first appeared as an actor. I was then but a child and it is pleasant indeed for me to know that there are so many people here tonight. It is not pleasant to know, however, that we are so soon forgotten. I do not want to become melancholy at this time, but when I discuss these things it is difficult to avoid becoming sad, for the actor can only live in the memory of those who have seen him. To them he is a revelation, to others a tradition."

"I can only say that if I have tarried here too long, you who come to see me are quite as much to blame as I am, but when I am encouraged by such applause and by an assemblage so brilliant, I must say I have no intention of leaving the stage and I must say that I thoroughly appreciate this welcome tonight. I feel there must be some friends, as well as the 'general public' in this audience, so let me conclude by saying that I appreciate from my heart this more than kindly greeting."

NOW IT IS BRICKMAKERS.

No Dispute About Wages, but Insist Upon Right to Regulate Employers' Business.

CHICAGO, April 17.—The Tribune says: The brickmakers of Cook county, constituting one of the strongest labor organizations in the West, stand ready to go on a strike. Whether they will or not will be determined by the action to be taken by the executive board of the Illinois Brick Company today. If the company refuses to grant the request of the board of business agents from the building trades council to make no discrimination in the sale of material, every one of the thirty-six brickyards in the county will be tied up inside of twenty-four hours.

It is claimed by members of the Illinois Brick Company that there has been no discrimination in the sale of material since the formation of the company on April 2.

There is a possibility that the meeting of the executive board will exercise an important influence upon the general labor situation. The request of the bricklayers and stone masons that the manufacturers and dealers in building material assist in arranging a conference between the master masons and bricklayers will come up and favorable action by the company may lead to developments that will go far towards settling the whole trouble.

PHILIPPINE TOWN RAIDED.

American Garrison Surprised but Easily Expel the Raiders.

MANILA, April 17.—Twelve hundred Tagalos attacked Cuso's battalion headquarters of the Fortieth regiment at Cagayan, Island of Mindanao, on the 7th. The Americans had fifteen

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And light dressings of CUTICURA, purest of emollient skin cures. This treatment at once stops falling hair, removes crusts, scales, and dandruff, soothes irritated, itching surfaces, stimulates the hair follicles, supplies the roots with energy and nourishment, and makes the hair grow upon a sweet, wholesome, healthy scalp when all else fails.

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casualties while of the attacking force fifty were killed and thirty wounded or taken prisoners. The enemy, numbering 150 riflemen, the remainder being bolomen, archers and mounted spear men, swooped down in a howling mass at daylight, surprising and killing three of the sentries.

They swarmed through the streets in small parties, some bearing scaling ladders by means of which they attempted to enter the houses.

The Americans tumbled out of the barracks and formed in the plazas and companies began sweeping the town. The subsequent street fight lasted twenty minutes. Twelve of the wounded Americans are now on board the hospital ship Relief.

The enemy withdrew to the mountains in great confusion.

OPPRESSOR'S HEEL.

Gomez Says Cuba Was Freed From One Tyrant Only to Pass Under Another.

HAVANA, April 17.—General Maximo Gomez, while on his way to Santo Domingo, stopped at Neuvas, where he was received with a large demonstration. In replying to an address of welcome, he said:

"Cuba fought against the dominion of Spain only to find herself under the heel of the United States. Nevertheless, I have confidence in the American people to believe that they will carry out the promises of the joint resolution of congress."

Acting Mayor Estrada Mora visited General Wood to inform him that in consequence of the recent action of the Havana municipality and of General Ludlow in breaking down the monopoly in the use of the slaughter house, held in trust for the cattle dealers, the latter had threatened not to supply any more meat, asserting they had a monopoly of cattle and could entirely cut off the meat supply of Havana.

General Wood told Senor Mora to take 20 policemen and to occupy the slaughter house, keeping it open to all who wished to kill cattle there, and inform all members of the cattle trust that if they refused to supply cattle they would not be allowed in the future to kill at the slaughter house.

These instructions were carried into effect and there was no trouble. Only one man—a member of the cattle trust—refused to kill and he was informed that he would not be allowed to use the slaughter house again.

HANNA WILL RETIRE.

His State of Health Will Not Permit Him to Act as National Committee Chairman.

NEW YORK, April 17.—A special to the Herald from Washington, says: First Assistant Postmaster-General Heath has not resigned to devote himself to the work of the national republican committee as has been stated. Mr. Heath has no present intention of resigning. What he may do after the campaign opens is a matter about which he will not talk at present.

It is very generally understood by leading republican politicians that Senator Hanna will not be chairman of the republican national committee during the coming campaign. There is no

one whom the president or the party leaders would have more confidence in than Senator Hanna, but the state of his health is such that he does not feel equal to assuming the responsibilities for the management of the campaign.

Mr. Heath is one of the most talked of as Senator Hanna's successor. Representative Dick of Ohio, who is at present secretary of the national committee, is also spoken of for the place.

RETURNED TO WORK.

Chicago Tailors Have Settled Their Wage Dispute.

CHICAGO, April 17.—Tailors who were locked out on February 15 returned to work today, the contract between the journeymen tailors union and the tailors and drapers exchange having been drawn up and signed by representatives of both bodies last night. The exchange wins every point in the controversy. Back shops are refused.

The only point conceded by the bosses was in regard to busheimen, who are allowed to remain with the union. A point lost by the strikers is the retention of men employed in their places by the various shops.

DROWNED NEAR MINECROY.

Countess Festos, Nee Haggin, Loses Her Life in Germany.

BERLIN, April 17.—A special to the Lokal Anzeiger, which gives meager details regarding the loss, near Minecroy, of the yacht of Count Rudolph Festos, with all on board save the owner and two servants, says that among the victims was the countess, who, prior to her marriage, was Miss Haggin, of New York City.

COMMODORE COWIE SAILED.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 17.—Commodore Cowie, U. S. N., sailed for the Philippines today on the steamer Doric, to take charge of the machine shops at the Cavite navy yard.

Everything is practicable which we believe.

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