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The Morning Astorian.

VOL. 1.

ASTORIA, OREGON, THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1900.

NO. 374



The Drain

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THE HEAVY RAINS IMPEDE ROBERTS

No Movements Reported From
the Seat of War.

THE SICK LIST IS LARGE

The Boers Are Organizing a Special Legion
of Foreign Volunteers to Be Com-
manded by a French Renegade Officer.

LONDON, April 19, 5 a. m.—Heavy
rains impede the movements of the
British columns. The blockade of
Wepener continues, although relief is
near.

Large quantities of stores are being
moved southward from Bloemfontein,
which is the reversal of the course
of freight for the last six weeks.

These shipments are made necessary
by the operations in the southwest of
the Free State. There are 2,000 sick
soldiers in the field hospitals, most
of the cases being of dysentery and
enteric fever.

With the exception of these facts,
the embargo upon war intelligence is
almost complete. Special correspond-
ents send trivials or statements which
are obscure, rather than explain
the situation, in their efforts to pre-
pare matter that will pass the censor.

Here and there a phrase indicates ex-
pectancy that large things are about
to happen.
What is to be done with Sir Red-
vers Buller and Sir Charles Warren
occupies everybody's attention.
It is now generally accepted that the
government had a purpose in the pub-
lication of Lord Roberts' dispatch and
that the recall of General Buller and
General Warren has probably been de-
cided upon.

According to the Boer reports, there
is a steady flow of foreign volunteers
to the Transvaal. Hitherto these adven-
turers have been attached to various
commandos. Now it is said they are
to be formed into a special legion,
with continental officers, and there is
a rumor that the command will be
given to a distinguished French sol-
dier, lately retired, who is now in the
Transvaal.

Presumably the officer referred to in
this report is General De Negrier, for-
merly a member of the French supreme
council of war, who was removed from
the active list in July by Marquis De
Galiffet, as a disciplinary measure dur-
ing the Dreyfus court martial.

HARD ON BULLER.

Pronounced by London Globe as Hav-
ing Lost All the Reputation
He Had Left.

LONDON, April 18.—Lord Roberts' criticism of General Buller, General Warren and Colonel Thorneycroft continues to be the topic of interest. All the afternoon papers comment at length on the strictures of the British commander-in-chief in South Africa, taking the same lines as the morning papers, praising Lord Roberts for his frankness, and speculating upon what the publication of the dispatches at the present moment portends. Some of them maintain there is nothing left for General Buller to do but to resign. The Globe declares: "A more pitiable record of indecision in plan, and confusion in execution, we have seldom read," and adds that what little reputation General Buller had left, has been scattered to the wind.

CASUALTIES AT WEPENER.

The Dead Still Lie on the Field Un-
buried.

MASERU, April 17.—Colonel Dalgetty's casualties since he has been besieged at Wepener have been 20 killed and 100 wounded. The Boer losses are reported to have been considerably heavier.

After the night attack on April 12, the dead were left on the field, where they still lie unburied.
There is a conflict of opinion among the leaders. Some want to attack

again while others refuse to do so. Desultory cannon firing and "sniping" continues.

The Caledon is rising, which alarms the Boers, as they are on both sides of the river, and might be cut off if the stream was to become flooded.

Five Boer guns were disabled.

BOER MANIFESTOS.

Free States Exhausted to Stand Firm
for the Cause of Africa.

CAPE TOWN, April 18.—The Boer governments are circulating the following manifesto to Afrikaners throughout Cape Colony:

"We feel that our fate and the fate of the whole of Afrikanedom is at stake and we appeal to you to stand and fight shoulder to shoulder with us. You cannot, you may not, allow the tyrant to extinguish forever your finest traits of character as a nation.

"With you on our side the issue cannot be doubtful. We must conquer. God grant that love for your country and your liberty and the noble virtues of men truly free may induce you to join us in the hour of our supreme struggle."

WILL BE REPEALED.

British Columbian Law Discriminating
Against Alien Miners Will Be
Abandoned.

NEW YORK, April 18.—A Montreal dispatch says:
Hon. Smith Curtis, minister of mines in the British Columbia cabinet, announces that the alien labor law which was passed by the British Columbian legislature at its last session to exclude American miners from the Atlin district will be repealed at the July session of the legislature.

To allow Americans to work placer mines in the meantime, the government has decided to grant free miners' certificates to companies incorporated under the laws of the province of British Columbia. As the expense of incorporation is small, the Americans holding claims or intending to do so, can follow out their inclinations with little more trouble than British subjects. After the law is repealed all will be on the same footing.

EARTHQUAKES IN BOHEMIA.

Serious Disturbances With Landslides
Extending Over Entire Province.

LONDON, April 18.—The Vienna correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says:
The mountain which overlooks the town of Klappi, where the landslide recently occurred, has undergone a seismic disturbance, which is spreading throughout the entire province of Bohemia, between the rivers Elbe and Eger.

The heights of the Bohemian middle range are moving and houses and churches have collapsed in some thirty villages. Railway embankments have been moved, streams diverted and roads sunk. Thus far there has been no loss of life, but a constant watch is imperative.

DIVIDING UP TURKEY.

Emperors William and Joseph Will
Take a Slice of Her European
Holdings.

ROME, April 18.—The Tribuna today says the forthcoming meeting of Emperor William and Emperor Francis Joseph in Berlin has in view arrangements for the occupation of Albania, European Turkey, by Austrian-Hungarian troops.
This statement has caused a sensation in Italy.

TO WATCH THE ECLIPSE.

OAKLAND, Cal., April 18.—A party of eight astronomers, of which Professor Charles Buckhalter of Chicago observatory will be a member, will leave on Tuesday next for Union Point, Ga., to observe the total eclipse of the sun which is to occur May 28th.

COUNTRESS FESTICS SAFE.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—Advice from New York state that the Countess Festics, formerly Miss Ellen Haggin, who was reported to have been drowned by the sinking of her husband's yacht, is in that city. She was not on the vessel at the time of the disaster.

FIRM ATTITUDE TOWARD TURKEY

Causes a Sensation in Foreign
Diplomatic Circles.

WAR NOT YET INTENDED

But the Sultan Will Not Be Allowed to Set
the Matter With Any Further
Promises—Calm Only Will
Be Accepted.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—News of the firm attitude assumed by the state department toward the Turkish government in the prosecution of its claim for damages to American missionary property caused something of a sensation in diplomatic circles today.

Three successive American administrators have prosecuted these claims, each receiving a promise of prompt settlement, and yet not a dollar has been paid. With European diplomats that is an old experience and they have consequently been somewhat surprised at the announcement that the United States government is actually going to insist upon performance instead of promise.

Owing to possible entanglements with European powers, the important step to be taken by our government will not be warlike, but will suggest in the most dignified manner the indignation felt by the United States at the betrayal of Turkish promises.

THE TURKISH EMBROGLIO.

Seizure of Port Smyrna Under Consist-
eration By the President.

NEW YORK, April 18.—A special to the Tribune from Washington, says:
The United States charge d'affaires at Constantinople will be directed to inform the sultan that this government must insist upon the payment without further delay of the \$100,000 indemnity for outrages on American missionaries and destruction of their property. Unless prompt action on the sultan's part anticipates the ultimatum and the debt is discharged before a resort will be made to drastic measures.

Several courses have been urged on the president for the collection of the \$100,000 indemnity, which is admitted by the sultan to be due to the American missionaries. Consideration has been given to a proposition to seize the port of Smyrna and administer its customs revenues until the judgment and the expense of collection is cancelled. This course has not been wholly abandoned in the remote contingency that satisfaction is indefinitely delayed.

It involves serious complications in the Mediterranean for which the United States is extremely reluctant to assume responsibility for the recovery of so small an amount at the present time. It might precipitate war, through Turkey's sending some of its antiquated warships to Smyrna to resist the temporary American occupation. In that event the necessity of sending a large fleet to the Mediterranean would create alarm among the powers and disturb the delicate equilibrium now existing in Europe.

Under the circumstances it has been determined that diplomatic resources will be first exhausted, with the confidence that the sultan will be brought to understand that his promises cannot be lightly broken.

The proved claims against Turkey include about \$300,000 for the destruction of property alone. To these, which admitted of practically no dispute, was added the Lantz claim of \$40,000 which was presented by Secretary Olney.

FREE SILVER CHANDLER.

Wants to Make the Race Question
Again an Issue of Politics.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—Senator Chandler today introduced a bill "for the prevention of the denial or abridgment of the right of citizens of the United States to vote on account of color."

In presenting the bill, Chandler said: "It provides that any requirement of any qualification for suffrage prescribed by any state in its constitution or laws which directly or indirectly is made to apply to any great body of colored citizens of the state while it is not made to apply to the great body of white citizens is hereby declared unconstitutional."

SPOILING FOR A SCRAP.

Unhappy Democrats of the South Try-
ing to Create Trouble in the
House.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The debate on the naval appropriation bill under the five minute rule today drifted into politics and for a good portion of the afternoon members fought hammer and tongs across the political aisle.
The partisan rancor almost culminated

ed in a sensational scene between Grosvener, of Ohio, the champion of the administration, and Williams, of Mississippi.

Some of the democrats began worrying Hawley of Texas by pointedly asking if the president had not changed his mind on the Puerto Rico tariff question, and Grosvener finally threw himself into the breach.

Williams made an interruption that drew a sharp rejoinder from the Ohio about the "unfair advantages" taken by the Mississippi. This aroused the wrath of the latter, and after Grosvener had concluded, he made a stinging response in which he said parliamentary language would not permit him properly to characterize Grosvener's offense.

Later Grosvener disclaimed any intentional affront and there the matter ended.

PROGRESSIVE PEOPLES PARTY.

Middle-of-the-Roaders Change Their
Name and Denounce Bryan.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., April 18.—The middle-of-the-road populists at their mass convention today effected a permanent state organization and adopted a new name—the "progressive peoples party." The name will be presented to the national convention for ratification.

The platform condemns W. J. Bryan and John D. Rockefeller for their alleged connection with the trusts.

The delegates to the Cincinnati convention were instructed to vote first and last for Wharton Barker for president and Ignatius Donnelly for vice-president.

COLVILLE INDIAN LANDS.

Sooners Occupying the Choicest Sec-
tions in Advance of Presi-
dent's Proclamation.

SPOKANE, April 18.—A Greenwood, B. C., special to the Spokesman Review says advice received there from Chesawon in the north half of the Colville Indian reservation state that the sooners are going into the agricultural lands in advance of the date set in the president's proclamation, of October 13.

The portion of the reservation to be opened to agricultural settlement contains 150,000 acres. Out of this, the Indians have been allotted less than 100,000.

IMPORTANT RAILWAY CHANGES.

The Rockefeller Interests Working For
the Consolidation of a South-
western System.

NEW YORK, April 18.—The Tribune says:

The current buying of Gould stocks is thought in Wall street to foreshadow an important railroad consolidation in the southwest.

The Rockefeller interests which control the Missouri, Kansas & Texas road, have bought the Missouri Pacific, and a consolidation of these roads is naturally talked of. The rumors go even further, including in the consolidation the Texas Pacific and the St. Louis Southwestern, which have already been classed as part of the "Missouri Pacific System" although the Missouri Pacific Railway Company does not control these two companies, as it does the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern and the International & Great Northern, the remaining members of the "Missouri Pacific System."

HARRISON'S ADDRESS.

He Will Speak at the Presbyterian
Ecumenical Council.

INDIANAPOLIS, April 18.—Ex-President Harrison will leave here today for New York to preside over the Ecumenical Council which opens Saturday. General Harrison will deliver the opening address, but his private secretary said Mr. Harrison would not discuss in his address the proposed change in the Presbyterian creed, but would confine himself to the general work of the council.

General Harrison declined to express his views upon the creed question.

PUGET SOUND ALARMED.

The Japanese Threaten to Overrun
That Part of the Coast.

TACOMA, April 18.—The present importation of Japanese to Puget sound has reached unprecedented figures and thousands more of the subjects of the Mikado are now afloat, headed his way.

During the month of April 3,500 Japanese have been landed in Puget sound ports and those of British Columbia.

SHOMOON ACQUITTED.

SEATTLE, April 18.—The trial of Charles W. Shoomoon, charged with murdering Charles J. Morbacher, culminated tonight in a verdict of not guilty.

MORE JAPANESE IMMIGRANTS.

VICTORIA, B. C., April 18.—The steamer Milos arrived tonight from Kobe with 1,200 Japanese immigrants, a majority of whom are destined for the United States.

CLEVELAND ON FREE DEMOCRACY

His Letter to the Brooklyn Jef-
fersonian Celebration.

FALSE LEADERS DENOUNCED

Success Cannot Be Gained by Trimming
Sails to Every Transient Breeze of
Popular Sentiment and
Excitement.

PRINCETON, N. J., April 18.—Ex-President Grover Cleveland today sent a letter of regret to be read at the dinner of the Brooklyn Democratic Club at Brooklyn this evening, to the birth of Thomas Jefferson. Mr. Cleveland said:

"Whatever success may have attended a party of opportunity with its sails spread for every transient breeze of popular sentiment or excitement, experience has abundantly demonstrated that democracy is so constituted that it is only strong when courageous in the right, and only victorious when its forces are marshaled under its old and well organized standards.

There has never been a time when the false leadership of our party and a departure from the simple democratic faith have not been quickly discovered and ruthlessly rebuked by listless support, pronounced defection and bitter defeat. These consequences have thus far been so inevitable that the lessons they teach cannot be disregarded without inviting calamity.

"The healthfulness of our party may well be questioned when it will shrink from such an examination of its position as will enable it to avoid disaster by keeping in the course of safety, under the guidance of true democracy.

"Therefore, those who claim to be followers of Thomas Jefferson will fail to discharge a solemn duty if, in this time of doubt and temptation, they neglect such an examination and if this discloses any tendency in the party control to subordinate the principles of pure democracy and to distrust their conquering power, then such conditions should not continue without a brave and early democratic protest."

BRYANISM REPUDIATED.

Ex-Governor Campbell's Address at the
Brooklyn Jeffersonian Anni-
versary.

NEW YORK, April 18.—The Brook-
lyn Democratic Club gave a dinner
tonight at the Germania Club to com-
memorate the 157th anniversary of the
birth of Thomas Jefferson.

In responding to the toast "the restoration of Jeffersonian democracy," ex-Governor Campbell, of Ohio, declared that the party of Jefferson could not survive half democratic and half populist. He repudiated the socialistic theories brought into the party by the populists.

Speaking of the Chicago platform of 1896 he declared that it enunciated many great and enduring truths, but coupled them to at least one fatal error—on Jeffersonian and, under existing mining and commercial conditions, impossible proposition of "16 to 1."

EIGHT CHINESE ARRESTED.

The Murderer of the Chief of Police
of Steveston Has Confessed.

VANCOUVER, B. C., April 18.—Eight Chinese are now in the provincial jail at Westminster charged with the murder of Alexander Main, chief of police of Steveston, or with being accessory to that crime.

One of the prisoners, Chan Yee Chung, today confessed to the murder, stating that Yip Leek, a highlander, had ordered the assault on Main, but that the murderer had first been struck on the head from behind with a mattock welded by a third Chinese, who has fled and who has not yet been captured.

The mattock, with its iron hook, was today found near a cabin covered with blood, and a long knife was also found with traces of blood upon its blade.

FRUIT BADLY INJURED.

Cold Snap Has Caused Widespread
Damage Throughout the
Northwest.

PORTLAND, April 18.—The cold snap last week throughout the Northwest has undoubtedly damaged the fruit crop, but to what extent cannot be determined at present.

In some localities fruit is apparently badly damaged, while almost on the adjoining section the trees are not hurt in the least.

JOHN R. PIKIN, PRESIDENT.

HOUSTON, Tex., April 18.—The trans-Mississippi congress today elected John R. Pikin, of New Orleans, as president.