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The Morning Astorian.

VOL. L.

ASTORIA, OREGON, FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1900

NO. 274



The Drain

upon your purse will amount to very little if you have us do your repairing and plumbing of all kinds. We are always reasonable in our charges, prompt and obliging in service, and our work cannot be excelled in plumbing, gas or steam fitting. How is your old plumbing wearing—let us know.

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Are guaranteed to please. WE ARE AGENTS

A fine line of Table Syrups, Relishes and Sauces just in.

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"La Belle Astoria" Cigar
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ROBEERTS NEARLY READY TO MOVE

But in What Direction He is Going the Censor Sayeth Not.

DEWETSDORP IS OCCUPIED

Rumor of Abandonment of Wepener No, Verified by Official Reports—Heavy Rains are Impeding the British Operations.

LONDON, April 19, 4:20 a. m.—A deluge of rain, lasting ten days, has brought operations in the southeastern part of the Free State almost to a standstill. Creeks have become roaring rivers and the roads are streams of mud.

A singular message, dated Bloemfontein, April 13, and beginning "via press censor, Bloemfontein," reports an exchange of shots in the direction of Dewetsdorp, where the Boers are said to be concentrating "after their withdrawal from Wepener." There is nothing else to indicate that the investment of Wepener has been abandoned by the Boers.

Notwithstanding the rain, however, the British have made some progress, as Dewetsdorp has been occupied by them, probably by the advance of General Buller's division. Dewetsdorp is about 24 miles from Wepener.

An obscure message from Alwal North, dated April 19, says that General Brabant has arrived there, but whether he returned alone or with his troops is not clear.

Reports from Alwal North aver that from 8,000 to 10,000 Boers are at Wepener. Extended reports of the Bloemfontein concert for the benefit of the widows and orphans have been cabled. The concert, the weather and the bare statement that Lord Roberts is ready to move are about the only things that the censor has allowed to pass, and a correspondent who announces that Lord Roberts is ready to move, does not specify the direction in which he is going.

A TREACHEROUS GANG.

Men Taken Out With the Chicago Ambulance Corps Have Deserted to the Boer Army.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—United States Consul Hay at Pretoria has notified the state department by cable of the reported action of the members of the Chicago ambulance corps in taking up arms in the Boer army, instead of continuing with the hospital corps to which they had pledged themselves upon leaving the United States.

Miss Barton was said to have declared that certain members of the party were known to her and believed to be going under true colors.

The officials here say nothing can be done by them to prevent such violations of good faith.

The men did not go out with arms and so did not fulfill the legal description of a filibustering party.

BUYING IN AMERICA.

United States Will Furnish Electrical Machinery for Mexico.

CITY OF MEXICO, April 19.—About all the machinery and equipment material for the electrical traction system adopted for an extensive system of street railways here in the federal district is being bought in the United States.

Sir Weetman Pearson, the great English contractor, who has now contracts amounting to \$100,000,000 pending here, is in the city on his way back to England. He says of the Vera Cruz port works, which his firm is building, that they are practically finished.

All the breakwaters have been completed for every effective purpose and a new deep water quay giving over 800 yards of shipping space will be completed in six months, allowing ships drawing over thirty feet of water a chance to discharge their cargoes alongside the pier.

A big disinfecting establishment for

passengers and baggage will be built at Vera Cruz so as to do away with quarantine on ships leaving Vera Cruz, some steamers now refusing to take passengers at Vera Cruz for New Orleans as on arrival at that port they are subjected to five days' quarantine.

Work has begun on the main drainage of the City of Vera Cruz, according to designs by William Fox, sanitary engineer. Owing to the city being only a little above the sea level, the drainage scheme has to be a pumping one.

THE GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE.

Demand for Cession of Arid Lands to Several States to Be Made.

SALT LAKE, April 19.—Governor Lee of South Dakota and Governor Pender of Nebraska arrived today and took part in the proceedings of the governors of the Western states who have met to discuss subjects of interest to this section.

After a general discussion, a committee was appointed to formulate resolutions against the leasing of the public arid lands by the general government and demanding the cession of such lands to the several states should any change in the present system be made.

THE DUKE D'ARCO.

Has Again Been "Insulted" With an Invitation to Visit Chicago.

CHICAGO, April 19.—Spain's minister to the United States, the Duke D'Arco, is to be invited to attend the thirty-fourth annual encampment of the G. A. R., to be held in Chicago in August.

His acceptance is expected, notwithstanding that the duke was irritated by the receipt of a request that he attend the Dewey celebration.

NEVADA REPUBLICANS.

Delegates Elected to National Convention and McKinley Endorsed.

CARSON, Nev., April 19.—The republican state convention today elected six delegates to the national convention. The platform adopted endorses the administration of President McKinley and favors the largest use of both gold and silver as money.

DIDN'T EAT AN INDIAN.

British Columbia Halfbreed Poet Acquitted of a Growsome Charge.

VANCOUVER, B. C., April 19.—Geo. Hunt, a halfbreed writer upon Indian customs and folk lore, has been acquitted of participation in a recent potlatch, where the flesh of dead and living Indians was devoured.

THE NEW CREED.

Poll of New York Clergymen Shows a Majority in Favor of It.

NEW YORK, April 19.—The Journal and Advertiser has polled as many of the Presbyterian clergymen of Greater New York as could be reached upon the subject of a change of creed. The result follows:
For a new creed, 2; against revision, 14, non-committal, 2.

GERMAN NAVAL BILL.

In Spite of Opposition It Will Be Passed by the Middle of May.

NEW YORK, April 19.—A dispatch to the Herald from Berlin says:
A movement in favor of the navy bill has begun in the ranks of the centrist party. The organs of the party announce with unanimity that the measure will be passed about the middle of May.

AN OHIO BANKRUPT.

CHICAGO, April 19.—Liabilities amounting to \$218,140 are scheduled in a petition in bankruptcy filed in the United States district court by John D. Briggs, a large stockholder in the Findlay Rolling Mill Company, Findlay, O. Most of the debts were contracted at Cleveland in 1897. There are no assets.

AN EXPENSIVE SEAT.

NEW YORK, April 19.—A stock exchange seat was sold today for \$41,500. This is a new record price.

ARTILLERY TO BE INCREASED

Nearly Eighteen Thousand Officers and Men Provided For.

MANY PROMOTIONS POSSIBLE

It Will Be Segregated into Coast and Field Divisions and Commanded by An Officer Ranking as Lieutenant-General.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Secretary Root had a further hearing before the senate committee on military affairs today upon his proposition for the reorganization of the army.

A sub-committee of the full committee reported a measure intended to meet the more urgent needs of the service, which it is expected will be presented during the present session.

The artillery is to be divided into coast and field artillery, under a chief of artillery selected from the colonels of artillery and with a force of thirteen colonels, twelve lieutenant-colonels, thirty-six majors, one hundred and sixty captains and a like number of first and second lieutenants, and not to exceed 17,448 privates. There are to be not exceeding eighteen field batteries.

The artillery is to be increased to the figure named at the rate of 20 per cent each year until the aggregate is reached. The last sections confer upon the senior major general the rank of lieutenant general, and upon the adjutant general, the rank of major general.

NEW BRIGADIER-GENERALS.

Three Volunteer Generals to Be Rewarded With Promotions.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Representative Grosvenor, of Ohio, has introduced a bill authorizing the president to appoint three volunteer officers as brigadier-generals with a view to their retirement.

The bill is an administration measure, having been presented by Grosvenor after conference with administration officials and at their request. It is designed to benefit General Joseph Wheeler, General Fitzhugh Lee, and General James H. Wilson, all of them volunteer officers, who, by the terms of the bill would be given rank as brigadier-generals in the regular service and subsequently retired.

ANOTHER GREAT OUTRAGE.

American Gold-Standard Money to Take the Place of Puerto Rican Spanish Coins.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—The treasury department has completed arrangements for the retirement of all Puerto Rican money and the substitution of American currency. James A. Sample, chief of the issue division of Treasurer Roberts' office, and W. P. Watson, of New York, expert accountant, have been selected to go to Puerto Rico to make the exchange.

It is estimated that there are 10,000,000 pieces of silver and other metallic currency in the island and now in circulation.

These pieces are worth five million pesos. Congress has decided that the exchange shall be made on a basis of 60 cents for each peso.

About \$2,000,000 of American money will, therefore, be required to take up all the minor money of Puerto Rico.

STAMP TAX REPEAL.

New York Merchants Association Has Memorialized Congress on the Subject.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Chairman Payne of the house congress on ways and means, today received a memorial from the Merchants' Association of New York, which will be presented to the committee tomorrow. It is an appeal for the abolition of the stamp tax on express shipments, railroad and steamship shipments and telegrams.

It is stated that the charges exacted by the express companies are ruinous to certain classes of mercantile business and that to this the express companies add a stamp tax, placing it on the shipper with the sanction of the supreme court.

THE CUBAN CENSUS.

Total Population of 1,672,797—the Native Whites Far Outnumber the Blacks.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—The result of the Cuban census was made public today.

The figures, in the opinion of war department officials, fully justify the determination of the administration to allow municipal suffrage in Cuba at an early date.

The officials are gratified to find that the native Cubans constitute so large

a portion of the population; that the whites so greatly outnumber the blacks and that so large a proportion of the native population read and write. In their opinion there seems to be no room for the objection that the proposed basis of suffrage would result in turning the island over to the control of Spain.

The total population of Cuba is 1,672,797. There are 447,372 whites males and 462,926 females of native birth. There are 111,898 male negroes and 132,749 female negroes. The population of Havana City is 235,981.

FOUND IT NO JOKE.

Turkish Minister Smelling Around the State Department Learns Nothing to His Comfort.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Among the callers on Acting Secretary Hill today was Ali Farouk Bey, the Turkish minister to Washington.

It is understood that while aware there has been nothing so far in the nature of an ultimatum, the minister was impressed with the fact that the situation is actually one of great gravity and it is presumed he will so inform his government.

THE PHILIPPINE DUTIES.

War Department Considering an Appeal for Their Reduction.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—The war department has taken up the question of reducing the tariff on American canned goods, preserves, etc., going to the Philippines.

The reduction of duties is being urged by the Pacific coast members.

M'KINLEY IN PATTERSON.

He and Mrs. McKinley Will Be the Guests of Mrs. Hobart.

PATTERSON, N. J., April 19.—President and Mrs. McKinley and Mrs. Hobart, widow of the late vice-president, arrived here this afternoon.

The president and his wife will be the guests of Mrs. Hobart until Saturday. They left for New York.

CHANCE FOR GOMEZ.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—The Cuban elections will be held on June 16.

CROTON DAM STRIKE.

Contractors Have Made an Offer of Compromise to the Men.

NEW YORK, April 19.—The contracting firm of Coleman, Breuchaud & Coleman, may after all end the strike at the Croton dam and its quarries by adding \$16 a day or less to its pay roll, as it has made known its willingness to give the laborers classed as hand drilling \$1.50 a day of ten hours, the compromise rate asked by the strikers.

The firm insists that this is not a "concession," because had the men not struck this would have been paid.

The strikers had not last evening arrived at any decision in regard to the offer.

GERMANY'S DOUBLE DEALING.

After Fomenting the Boer Uprising, She Insults Their Peace Emisaries.

BERLIN, April 19.—The Berliner Tageblatt, in an inspired article says: "If the Boer peace delegation really expects European interference it will not be spared the same disappointment that M. Thiers met with in 1870, when on a similar mission."

Baron Heltzenstein, a major on the general staff, and Lieutenant Thiesen, who were sent to the Boer side to gather military impressions have now returned here.

REDUCED THEIR SENTENCES.

Otis Cuts Off Part of the Sentence of Three Philippine Guerrillas.

MANILA, April 19.—The military commission which tried the three Filipinos at Locallamba for guerrilla warfare has found all three guilty and sentenced two of them to life imprisonment and one to 30 years imprisonment.

General Otis has approved the findings, but has reduced the sentences to 15 years. Two Ladrones convicted of murder have been sentenced to be hanged at O'Donnell.

GOOD LORD DELIVER US!

NEW YORK, April 19.—The baseball season was opened today.

CRIPPLE CREEK NEXT TIME.

HOUSTON, Tex., April 19.—The Trans-Mississippi Congress today decided to hold the next annual convention at Cripple Creek, Colo.

CONSUMPTIVES BARRED.

ALAMEDA, Cal., April 19.—The board of education of this city has adopted a rule forbidding the employment as teachers in the public schools of any persons who are afflicted with tuberculosis.

POOR DEWEY ON THE RACK AGAIN

Made to Recant His Famous Definition of a Democrat.

HE TAKES IT ALL BACK

Swears He Never Said They Were Traitors in War and Fools in Peace—Was Personally Acquainted With Thousands Who Fought in the War.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—In reply to a letter from the editor of the Hamilton Democrat, Hamilton, Ohio, relative to a paragraph which has been going the rounds of the newspapers, Admiral Dewey today sent the following communication:

"You ask if I am correctly reported as saying 'well, I'll tell you what a democrat is: In time of war a democrat is a damned traitor; in time of peace he is a damned fool.' This is one of the thousands of lies uttered concerning me, to attempt to contradict all of which would require more time than is at my command.

"However, I have never said or thought of such a thing as the foregoing statement accredited to me. I have a very fond remembrance of the thousands and tens of thousands of war democrats whom I knew and who are some of the best fighters this country ever saw."

CATTLE THIEVES KILLED.

One of Them Identified as a Union Pacific Train Robber.

SALT LAKE, April 19.—A special to the Tribune from Thompson, Utah, says:
Mr. Fulbertson, manager of the Webster City Cattle Company, yesterday discovered two men mutilating brands on his cattle. They threatened to shoot and be retreated.

With the assistance of the sheriff and a posse, the thieves were overtaken 70 miles north of here and ordered to surrender. The thieves showed fight, and a battle ensued, one of the outlaws being instantly killed.

The dead man answers the description of "Flat Nose" George, who is one of the men that robbed a Union Pacific train about a year ago.

BAD FOR MRS. DEWEY.

Mr. Bryan Still Exhibiting in Texas and "Never Felt Better in His Life."

ST. LOUIS, April 19.—The following dispatch was received this afternoon from Austin, Texas:
"To the editor of the Post Dispatch: You may state for me that the stories that I am in ill health are untrue. I have never felt better in my life."

"I speak tonight at the University Auditorium, and next Saturday at Yergin's Grove, this county, and on next Tuesday at Wichita, Kansas."
"W. J. BRYAN."

LONGSTREET TO BE PENSIONED.

His Services as Major in the Mexican War Recognized.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Senator Gallinger, chairman of the senate committee on pensions today introduced a bill in the senate granting a pension of \$50 a month to General Longstreet.

"The bill gives the general's service as that of major in the Eighth United States Infantry during the Mexican war and makes no reference to his connection with the confederacy.

EIGHTY PER CENT PAID.

Governor Geer Has Received the Money for Equipping the Second Oregon.

SALEM, Or., April 19.—The governor today received thirty thousand dollars from the war department, being 80 per cent of the amount claimed by the state for the equipment of the Second Oregon volunteer infantry at the time it was mustered into the federal service for duty in the Spanish-American war.

IMPORTANT FOREIGN CONTRACT.

Westinghouse Company Will Equip the Paris Underground Railway.

PITTSBURG, April 19.—Word has been received from Paris that the Westinghouse Electric Company has closed contracts for the equipment of the metropolitan underground railroad of Paris, and the suburban lines of the railroad De L'ouest de France.

The company will also equip a large power house for supplying all the surface railroads of Paris with electric current and has equipped the movable sidewalk at the exposition, as well as an electric railway which runs through the exposition grounds.

Special for this Week Only

IRON BEDSTEADS, \$3.15
Oak Clobber Seat Arm Rockers, \$1.75

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