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The Morning Astorian.

VOL. L.

ASTORIA, OREGON, SUNDAY, MAY 13, 1900

NO. 291



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BOERS DESERT THE FREE STATE TROOPS

Lord Roberts Announces Capture of the Stronghold, Kroonstad.

STEYN FLEES FOR SAFETY

Beginning of the End of the War in South Africa—The Transvaal Troops, Routed at All Points, Flee to Pretoria - The British Advance.

LONDON, May 12.—The Boers seem to be on the eve of playing their last card, and, according to many keen observers in England, it is being played, not in South Africa but in the United States through the medium of the Boer delegates who sailed for New York from Rotterdam last week.

An bulk of British opinion does not contemplate for a moment that Mr. Fischer and his companions will achieve success, it is only natural that serious thought is not confidently devoted to prognosticating the date when war in the Transvaal will be ended. The most estimates concur in agreeing that hostilities will have ceased by June.

When President Kruger learns that the last country has been appealed to, namely the United States, and that it will afford no help, he will realize that he has no alternative, in the face of the overwhelming force now victoriously sweeping into his territory, but to sue for peace.

What Great Britain's answer to that request will be was unmistakably defined by Joseph Chamberlain, secretary of state for the colonies, at Birmingham yesterday, when he declared that Boer republics must become a crown colony, whose initial stage of organization will be controlled by a military administration. By agreeing to these terms President Kruger must, of course, give up all for which he has been fighting.

But, on the other hand, now that the terms have been so emphatically announced, they must either be granted or England will stand defeated.

The latter alternative however does not enter into England's category of possibilities. Her people are firmly convinced that Lord Roberts will steadily advance, perhaps with delays and losses of rare devil units, and may be without inflicting a crushing defeat until he occupies the Transvaal.

His forward progress, they believe will be stopped only when President Kruger, learning of the failure of Fischer's mission, asks for peace.

LONDON, May 12.—President Steyn fled last evening after vainly endeavoring to persuade the Burgers to continue opposition.

The Transvaalers said they could no longer fight on the Orange Free State soil and made off for the Vaal river. The Free Staters accused the Transvaalers of having made use of them and then deserting. Many of the Transvaalers have gone to their homes.

LONDON, May 12.—Lord Roberts telegraphs, "I have taken Kroonstad and have entered the city."

The procession entering the town was headed by my body guard, all of whom were colonials, and after my staff and foreign officers came North Somerset Imperial yeomanry, followed by Polecare's division, consisting of guards and the Eighteenth naval brigade, Eighty-third, Eighty-fourth and Eighty-fifth batteries, two five inch guns, manned by Royal artillery company and the Twelfth engineers. First of the force camped around the town. Before leaving Kroonstad President Steyn issued a proclamation making Lindley the seat of government of the Free State. Generals Botha and Dewet accompanied the Transvaalers.

LONDON, May 12.—The situation at the seat of war in South Africa is as satisfactory from the British point of view as the most sanguine friend could have hoped weeks ago. The occupation of Kroonstad practically places the whole Orange Free State in British possession. It is evident from Lord Roberts' last dispatch that the disintegration has commenced. The Free Staters are scattering to their

homes, while the Transvaalers have gone northward, declining to fight longer in the Orange Free State. What little resistance the former still is likely to make, seems to be centering at Lindley, where President Steyn has transferred his seat of government.

It is evident that the strategy of Lord Roberts and the rapidity of his advances have bewildered and disheartened the Boers, as their resistance since the British reached the Zand river has been slight. The only point where they seriously attempted to check the advance seems to have been on the British flank, where they defended with some vigor two kopjes which eventually were carried by the East Lancashire and Sussex, the Boers finally retreating, leaving a group of gunners dead on top of one of the hills.

The only point in the Free State where the Boers seem in any force, with the exception at Lord Roberts' front, is on the southeast, where Generals Rundle, Campbell and Brabant are holding them in check, west of Pletersburg and Ladybrand and are gradually pushing them back as well as effectually defeating all their efforts to break through and threaten Lord Roberts' communications.

Pretoria advices, via Lourenco Marques, state that the Boers supply of smokeless powder is exhausted and that all attempt to manufacture a fresh supply have been unsuccessful.

NOT UP TO STANDARD.

Japanese Court Methods Not Giving the Satisfaction Hoped From Her Progress in Civilization.

(Correspondence of Associated Press.)
YOKOHAMA, April 25.—The feeling of alarm among the foreigners with regard to their being placed under Japanese jurisdiction has been increased by the recent decision of a native court in the case of the Kobe Water Works Company, involving a sum of nearly half a million yen.

The decision was given against Mr. Morse, of the American Trading Company, who had sued the Water Works for non-fulfillment of the terms of a loan made by him to the Water Works.

Among the Japanese themselves there is going on a healthy discussion as to the character and competency of the native judiciary. This has been stimulated by the report of the government commission recently sent abroad to investigate the standing of the American and European courts. The conclusions of the commission are that Japan's judges must be better paid and given a far higher social standing before the nation can hope to place its courts upon a par with those of the Occident. In financial affairs, the past week has witnessed a sharp and sudden fall in Japanese securities. The railway stocks were the chief sufferers. The rates of interest are high and the principal banks are offering seven per cent for six months deposits and 5 1/2 on current accounts.

There is much uneasiness in the air, chiefly on account of the course of foreign trade. Imports up to the middle of the month exceeded the exports by \$4,000,000 yen, or about \$22,000,000.

HONOLULU REPUBLICANS.

An Organization Effected in Which a Number of Natives will Participate.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 12.—The steamer American Maru from Hong Kong, via Honolulu, brings advices that Honolulu was officially declared a clean port April 30.

The transport Hancock, with the Philippine commission on board, sailed for Manila April 28.

An attempt was recently made to blow up the residence of A. De Souza, Canaviana, the Portuguese consul, with dynamite. The house was considerably damaged, but there is no clue to the miscreants.

The organization of the republican party of Honolulu was begun May 2. A number of natives participated in the preliminary proceedings. A democratic organization will be formed at an early date.

CHEESE TRUST FORMED.

CHICAGO, May 12.—An association, that will have control of all the cheese trade in Chicago, and probably will affect the price of the product, has been incorporated in Springfield by Chicago wholesale dealers, to be called the "Cheese Dealers Association Company." The new organization will have for its members all the wholesale merchants in the city.

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LORD SALISBURY'S STARTLING SPEECH

So Remarkable It is Believed He Was Not Right Mentally.

REOPENS THE IRISH TROUBLE

Does Away With All the Good Done by the Queen's Visit to Ireland, and Discounts Lord Roberts' Victories—England is Amazed.

(Correspondence of Associated Press.)
LONDON, May 12.—Lord Salisbury addressed the members of the Primrose League on Wednesday but the drift of his meaning has not yet filtered into the British minds. The remarkable utterances of the premier on that occasion continues to form almost the sole topic of conversation, though editors and writers quickly gave up the attempt to analyze for the benefit of the public the numerous features of the speech and were well nigh staggered into silence by his baffling unexpectedness and the multiplicity of the issues it contained.

It was delivered when the nation expected exactly the opposite kind of remarks. To implore his countrymen to awake to the perils constantly menacing their great empire and its existence at the very moment when a long period of patient waiting had been replaced by jubilation over Lord Roberts' successful advance, was an expedition so utterly bereft of the very first principles of politics, especially considering the approach of the elections, that some of Lord Salisbury's own supporters believe he was almost off his head when he spoke.

Not content with this, he pulled down every pretty fabric that had been built around the queen's visit to Ireland, calmly comparing the political efforts to attain home rule to Boer conspiracies and hostility. And this after the queen and every leading member of Lord Salisbury's own cabinet and party had been at particular pains to bring the Irish hatchet. Moreover, the whole tone of the speech lacked all those formalities, reticences and veiled allusions to which the English people have been accustomed since the days of Pitt and Palmerston.

Lord Salisbury hitherto had religiously followed such precedents, but on Wednesday he spoke to the public as he might to an intimate friend after dinner. So amazing and so interesting has been Lord Salisbury himself, as revealed this week, and the broad and from the standpoint of other nations, the far most important—sensational feature of the speech has passed almost unnoticed.

Were the premier of any other European state to get up in these times of wars and rumors of war and urge the people of an eminently commercial race to accustom themselves to the use of firearms and to establish rifle clubs in every city, village and hamlet, there would run through Europe such a shiver of fright and such vivid anticipation of hostile intention and devastating conflict that market prices would drop by decades and mobilization plans would be at the finger tip of every war minister.

That this has not occurred appears to be due to the generally recognized fact that Salisbury is more a philosopher than a statesman and that when he pessimistically painted the hostilities toward England the world over, he was speaking purely in the abstract, without harboring in his mind one concrete instance whereby that hostility might become an immediate menace.

A curious incident connected with the parade of the Ladysmith Naval Brigade of the British cruiser Powerful was that the decorating authorities almost smothered the officers of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, the Canadian high commissioner, with the stars and stripes, while on the outside of the United States embassy on the same street, there was no sign of an American flag. Lord Strathcona pointed out the unsuitability of the predominance of the stars and stripes, and the number of those emblems was reduced.

The latest display of British ingenuity is a new bible. Mr. J. K. Starley, who describes himself as a "Bicycle Director," of Coventry, has issued, under the auspices of the Sunday School Supply Company, a bible in which the new testament precedes the old. In the preface Mr. Starley justifies his action by saying the old testament was meant to be a candlestick on which the new should stand, adding:

"Yet we have largely made the old an extinguisher which puts out its light."

With all the best players at the war, the polo season opens tamely. Clubs like the Ransleigh and Hurlingham, are likely to be quiet this summer. There was an interesting game Wednesday at Hurlingham, however, when a match between England and America was played. The American team was composed of Foxhall Keene, W.

McCreary and Frank Mackay. The latter was unable to play but at the last moment a strong English player, A. Rawlinson, was substituted. With his help the Americans defeated Lord Harrington, F. Freaks, W. S. Buckmaster and Captain Benton, by four to one.

Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Charles Day Rose, formerly of Montreal, and once a challenger for the America's cup. His two oldest sons have been killed in the war. A third son, Adrien Rose, has just been gazetted and started for South Africa Thursday. Great Britain continues to be bewildered by the continual success of the American jockies and vainly seeks an explanation. One of the leading authorities on English racing matters, however, puts this in a nutshell in an article in the Man of the World, saying:

"Our English jockies appear to have relinquished all efforts at competing with the indefatigable team of transatlantic horsemen now with us. Had some of our young aspirants the energy and determination to get to the front possessed by Sloan, Martin, Reiff and company, their chances of success would be considerably improved."

"At present they, with some half a dozen exceptions, appear absolutely paralyzed at the turn things have taken. It was a notable fact that the brothers Reiff were first or second in every race and only first and second respectively at Hurst Park last Saturday. Each won two races and the younger was thrice and the elder once, second. This was a really remarkable afternoon's performance."

"It will surely be some time before either 'lengthen their stirrup leathers.' The youngest of these gifted industrious, quiet and unassuming jockies is an example to some of our own school, who no sooner get to the front than, like the frog, they swell to bursting. These two young American horsemen are really fine examples for a great majority of our jockies who are gradually allowing themselves to be snuffed out."

WANTED TO PLEAD GUILTY.

Man Arraigned for Murder Wants to Be Hanged Without Trial.

CHICAGO, May 12.—"I plead guilty, and I want to be hanged," announced Lawrence E. Walsh, when he was arraigned before Judge Baker charged with the murder of Robert W. Gilchrist. "This is a capital case and I want capital punishment inflicted. I killed that man and therefore I am guilty."

"Take him back to jail," said Judge Baker.

Walsh is believed to be mentally unbalanced. Judge Baker sent for Assistant State's Attorney McEwan and it was decided to let the plea of the prisoner rest for a few days. It is likely the court will enter a plea of not guilty for the defendant and that Walsh will be tried as to his sanity.

On the morning of March 21, Walsh shot and killed Robert W. Gilchrist, a barber at 174 West Twenty-second street, without cause or provocation, it is said. Some years ago, Walsh fell and injured his head severely. He was ill for several weeks but apparently recovered. During the Spanish-American war he enlisted and went to Cuba. He was ill with the fever there and returned home.

It was noticed by his friends that his mental condition was impaired.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

Well-Known Athlete Uses His Pistol With Deadly Effect Upon a Man and Woman and Himself.

BUTTE, Mont., May 12.—Chas. Paustien, aged about thirty years, a blacksmith helper and foot-ball player as well as an all-round athlete, this afternoon shot and killed Alexander Tate, the manager of a butchering concern near here, and seriously wounded Mrs. Alexander Tate, and when the police went to find him he was lying dead in his room with a pistol wound in his head, having committed suicide.

Paustien was married to his wife in Vapconver three years ago. She sued for a divorce on the grounds of cruelty. This afternoon the decree was granted. Within a few hours Paustien armed himself with a revolver and started for the home of the Tates. The Tates had been in town and when they drove up to their home in their buggy, Paustien was waiting for them.

As they alighted, Paustien walked up to them and exclaimed: "You are responsible for the separation of me and my wife." He at once began firing.

The first shot struck Tate in the forehead and he fell dead. He shot Mrs. Tate twice and, thinking he had killed her, started away.

TRYING TO ESCAPE PRISON.

Coeur d'Alene Miners Appeal From Their Sentence of Imprisonment.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 12.—In the United States circuit court of appeals yesterday, the appeal of Louis Salla and others for a new trial on a writ of error, was submitted on briefs. The appellants are under sentence of 20 months' imprisonment in the state penitentiary at San Quentin for having obstructed the mails during the miners' strike in Idaho a year ago.

The case of Lewisohn Bros., against the Anaconda Copper Mining Company was dismissed by stipulation.

OPERATOR SENDS SEVEN TO DEATH

Went to Sleep at His Post and Failed to Change the Signal.

ADMITS HE IS TO BLAME

Terrible Wreck in a Tunnel—Fire Follows the Collision and Many Firemen Are Injured Trying to Extinguish It—No Bodies Recovered.

PHILADELPHIA, May 12.—Frank Lantel, a tower operator of the B. & O. R. R. Company, stationed at the entrance of the tunnel under Two Hundred and Fiftieth street, it is claimed slept at his post. As a result a rear-end freight collision occurred today in the tunnel, causing the death of Engineer George Leeb and Fireman George Hinchman, and it is believed five tramps who were stealing a ride. Fire followed the wreck and a dozen or more firemen were injured while fighting the flames.

All of the dead were still in the wreck this forenoon, and the fire department was unable to extinguish the flames, which slowly consumed the demolished cars.

Frank Lantel, the tower operator of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, who caused the wreck which resulted in seven deaths today, gave himself up tonight.

When questioned he said: "I did it. Why the white signal remained in place I do not know, but it was there and the train went through as usual. I was asleep, or dozing, and why, I cannot say, except that I feel myself overworked; but I am ready to stand the censure and take what comes to me. I have no excuse to offer."

FRIGHTFUL RAILROAD ACCIDENT

Six Lives Lost in the Disaster at Lordsburg, New Mexico.

LORDSBURG, N. M., May 12.—A wreck occurred on the narrow gauge road, running between this place and Clifton in which Engineer Scholtzman, Fireman McAfee and four tramps were instantly killed and nine carpenters were more or less seriously injured. One will die.

The engine and seven cars were demolished. The wreck occurred at a point near Clifton, which is 99 miles north of here. A bridge was burned out a few weeks ago and was being repaired by a bridge gang. It is charged that the foreman in charge of the bridge gang failed to display the proper signals warning the engineer of the unsafe condition of the bridge.

When in the center of the bridge, which was 50 feet high, the bridge gave way and the engine and train were precipitated into the depths below. The carpenters hurt were working on the bridge which went down.

VICTORY FOR UNION MEN.

School Books for Washington Go to Home Publishers—Work Enough for All.

SEATTLE, May 12.—The fight between local and Eastern publishers as to which should supply the text books for Washington has resulted in a victory for the former and the union men.

The state board of education adjourned this afternoon at Olympia, after awarding a contract for the bulk of the books to the Westland Publishing Company of this state. The latter have secured enough work to keep them running on full time from now on to the opening of the school year in September. The series of readers go to the Eastern men but they are to be brought out by union labor.

ARMOR PLATE FACTORY.

Senate Rejects the Bill for Government Ownership of a Plate Plant.

WASHINGTON, May 12.—By a close vote today the senate rejected the proposition to erect without reference to price at which the government could secure armor plate for its war ships, an armor plate factory. The vote upon the direct proposition was 22 to 24 and the subsidy amendments were rejected by about the same vote. When the committee's proposition was about to be voted upon a filibuster was organized, the quorum of the senate was broken and the question is still in the air.

BARGE SKOOKUM DELAYED.

SEATTLE, May 12.—There is a possibility that the big barge Skookum, now in this harbor loaded with 7500 tons of cargo for Nome, will not be towed north. Owners of freight yesterday complained that she was overloaded, and a marine survey was made. A report will be made today.