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The Morning Astorian.

VOL. L.

ASTORIA, OREGON, FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1900.

NO. 295



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BADEN-POWELL FOOLS THE BOERS

Defender of Mafeking Leads His
Besiegers into a Trap.

LETS THEM TAKE A FORT

Then Takes the Victors—All England Wait-
ing for News of His Re-Entry—Kitchener
in Command of the Forces
on the Way.

LONDON, May 18.—England still
waits with intense and almost breath-
less interest for news of the relief of
Mafeking.

A crowd, remarkable for the num-
ber of men in evening dress, and in-
cluding many ladies, lingered around
the war office even after midnight, hop-
ing for some announcement. Only re-
luctantly did the people disperse when
the lobbies of the war office were finally
cleared with the word that nothing
had been received.

One thing seems clear, that the town
still holds out.

Were it otherwise the Boers' wires,
laid to the camps of the beleaguers,
would have flashed the news. Skeleton
messages from Lourenco Marques,
based on information that leaked out
at the Pretoria war office, shows that
the Boer stormers on Saturday fell in-
to a trap. Colonel Baden-Powell per-
mitted them to seize one fort, and he
then surrounded and overbore them be-
fore the large forces near at hand
perceived the strategy.

It was thus that Sarel Eloff, pres-
ident Kruger's grandson, and part of
his command were taken and fifty of
the Boers killed.

The Canadian artillery contingent
of the Rhodesian force is now report-
ed to have reached Bulawayo, May 2.
The distance from Bulawayo to Ma-
feking is 490 miles. As the railway
is open all the way to Pitsany, 28
miles from Mafeking, where Colonel
Plummer is, the Canadians may yet take
part in the relief.

General French, scouting northward,
found the Boers in strong force at
Rhenosterpruit, 20 miles from Kroon-
stad. Generals Botha, Delany and
Olivier, with artillery, were holding the
position.

President Steyn, according to one
dispatch, has gone to Pretoria. An-
other says he is a fugitive at Lind-
ley. The Free States are surrendering
on all sides.

A dispatch from Cape Town says that
proclamations are being printed there
to be published on the Queen's birth-
day, May 24, annexing the Free States.
One of President Steyn's brothers, who
is a prisoner of General Brabant, says
that the Free States will accept an-
nexation. Those who took up arms a
second time, he explains, had to do so
under threats of instant death if they
refused.

General Buller is pushing straight
ahead without opposition. Apparently
he is aiming at Laing's Nek, which is
on the direct road to the Transvaal.
It is unofficially asserted that Lord
Kitchener is in command of the Ma-
feking relief column and that news
of the relief of the town cannot be
expected until Monday.

PRETORIA, Wednesday, May 15.—
An official bulletin announces that
the federal troops stormed and occupied
the forts around Mafeking on Saturday
morning. The same night the federal
troops were surrounded, losing, so far
as known, seven killed, 17 wounded and
a number taken prisoners. The British
casualties are said to have been
fifty killed or wounded.

It is reported that the advance guard
of the force proceeding to the relief
of Mafeking from the south was re-
pulsed yesterday.

NEW YORK, May 17.—The principal
event in connection with the visit to
this city of the Boer delegates occur-
red today when they were received at
the city hall by the mayor and, in ac-
cordance with a resolution passed by
the municipal assembly, officially wel-
comed to the city.

LONDON, May 17.—The Daily Express
publishes a three column New York
special signed by Pat O'Connor, who

crossed the Atlantic with the Boer dele-
gates on the Maandam under pre-
tense of being an Irish-American and
a Boer sympathizer. As a matter of
fact Mr. O'Connor understands the
Dutch language and he claims to have
overheard some private conversation in
the course of which Mr. Wolmarans is
reported to have said to Mr. Fischer:
"I think we should be careful of what
we say to this man, as he is a spy. Are
you sure he is an American?"

Mr. Fischer—"There is no doubt of
it. I can tell by his accent."
Mr. Wolmarans—"It would never do, of
course, for the British to know that we
are really in the last extremity or for
him to know that we are thinking of
staying in America."

Then resuming the English language,
Mr. Fischer began by blaming Cecil
Rhodes for bringing on the war. He
said:

"I have not a shadow of doubt that
Sir Alfred Milner was sent to South
Africa to prepare for the spoliation of
the Boer republics by force if necessary.
The franchise ruse was all humbug.
President Kruger ceded so much at
the Bloemfontein conference that Mil-
ner was in mortal fear lest all his re-
quests should be granted and lest he
should thereby lose the chance of an-
nexing the Transvaal."

Mr. Wolmarans said to Mr. Fischer
in Dutch: "Do you think we had better
tell him how Kruger broke off the con-
ference?"

Mr. Fischer—"No."
Mr. Wolmarans (in Dutch)—"Our po-
sition just now is precisely that of
Jameson at the time of the raid. He
expected Johannesburg to arise to his
assistance. We expected the same of
Cape Colony and Natal. We are bit-
terly disappointed. Tell him how
Schreiner deceived us."

Mr. Fischer—"He knows well, as well
as we do, that Schreiner is loyal to
Great Britain."

Resuming English Mr. Fischer said:
"We are going to win if the war takes
years."

Addressing Mr. Wolmarans, and using
Dutch, Mr. Fischer then said:

"We had better not say too much.
We are getting badly beaten now. We
are going to America in the hope of
obtaining the friendly help of the United
States in the cause of peace. That is
what we will say to the public. As a
matter of fact we have no hope what-
ever. We have no cut and dried pro-
gramme."

Mr. Fischer went on to say that the
brother of Mr. Wolmarans, who happened
to be in the United States and who was
acting in conjunction with Montagu
White, believed that some sort of peace
would be arranged, but if the delegates
failed in the United States, the Boers,
Mr. Fischer declared, would still not
give in.

TRIED TO ROB A TRAIN.

Texas Bandits Foiled by a Crafty En-
gineer—Pulled the Throttle in
the Face of a Gun.

ST. LOUIS, May 17.—A special to the
Post-Dispatch from Longview, Tex.,
says:

About midnight, while the through
passenger train on the Texas and Pacific
was taking water at Olad creek near
here, an attempt was made to rob the
train.

Fireman Dobbs was covered with a
pistol in the hands of a man who or-
dered him to get off the engine. En-
gineer Jasquish opened wide the thro-
tle and dropped to the floor. Neither of
the robbers was able to catch up with
the train.

INDIAN UPRISING BREWING.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—The secre-
tary of the interior has received in-
formation that the Indians on Tongue
river, in Montana, are becoming rest-
less, and that an incipient "Messiah
craze" has made its appearance there.
The officials believe that not much im-
portance should be attached to these
developments, but the matter has been
referred to the war department with a
request that the military authorities at
the nearest army post investigate and
if necessary take steps to preserve or-
der.

THE TRANSPORT THOMAS.

YOKOHAMA, May 4.—Via Victoria,
B. C., May 17.—The United States trans-
port Thomas arrived unexpectedly from
Manila on Saturday last. Returning
officers and men of the army disagree
with the optimistic views of the Philip-
pine situation lately held by the press
and the public.

Everything seems to point to a long
and devastating guerrilla warfare, and
altogether the outlook is not reassuring.

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WILD'S INLAID LINOLEUM

There is nothing better in the market for floors.
Colors run clear through to the back. We also
handle an extensive line of plain and printed
linoleum. We call special attention to our line of

All Wool Ingrain Carpets ranging in price
from \$50c to \$1.00

CHARLES HEILBORN & SON

FACTS AND FIGURES FOR THE PEOPLE

What Has Been Done in Other
Cities in Municipal Lighting.

ASTORIA PAID TOO MUCH

Municipal Ownership Proven to Be a Big
Success by Practical Demonstration—
Why Astoria is in Dark-
ness.

As to whether or not the city council
has acted wisely and for the best in-
terests of the people in refusing to
longer submit to the extortion of the
West Shore Mills Company for public
lighting, there can be no question, but
whether the people will be able to
reap the full advantages of its action,
depends solely upon the future action
of the water commission. That the
rates for street lights have been too
high; that the service has been bad;
that the bid of the West Shore Mills
Company for a continuance of the light
service promised no betterment of the
existing conditions, but made them
worse, no honest citizen will deny.

For the city of Astoria to be at the
absolute mercy of any private cor-
poration for public lighting is in it-
self wrong. For the city to continue
to place itself in the power of a single
corporation and continue to pay that
corporation more and more money each
year for a constantly decreasing ser-
vice, would be an outrage upon the tax-
payers.

When it comes to the point that a
private corporation can say to a city:
"We will furnish you 40 arc lights on
your streets for \$400 per month but re-
fuse to say whether they will be one
hundred or one thousand candle power.
Accept our offer or we will leave the
city in darkness;" when a corpora-
tion has the power to dictate such
terms to a city, surely it is time for
the people to rise in their might and
release themselves from bondage.

And that is what the city council has
done. Our streets may be dark for a
week or two, or they may have to be
lighted for that length of time at a
greatly increased cost over the ex-
orbitant rates demanded by the West
Shore Mills Company under contract,
but if the water commission does its
duty, the people will be the gainers
in the long run by tens of thousands
of dollars.

Astoria is not a pioneer in
breaking away from the bondage of
private corporations in the matter
of public service. The water commis-
sion meets this afternoon and for their
information the following facts regard-
ing lighting in other cities, not as well
situated as Astoria in the matter
of providing for public lighting, are
given.

In starting, let the situation be once
more summed up: The West Shore
Mills Company proposed to furnish As-
toria with forty arc street lights at
the rate of \$400 per month and refused
to guarantee the candle-power of a sin-
gle light. The council refused their
bid.

The city has \$10,000 already in ma-
chinery and buildings that were bought
and built for the purpose and with
the expectation of running a municipal
electric light plant. Competent en-
gineers say that with an addition of
\$15,000 in machinery to the plant the
city now owns, it can furnish its
streets with any number of arc lights
desired and its public buildings with
all the lights required at less than half
the present rate of cost.

That with an addition of \$40,000 to the
amount now invested the water commis-
sion can not only furnish all the
street and other public lights required,
but they can wire every house, fac-
tory and store in this town and fur-
nish them with lights of more power
and for one half the cost of lights as
furnished by the West Shore Mills
Company, and if desired can furnish
motive power for a city of 50,000 in-
habitants, allowing for the usual street
railways and manufactories.

What has been the experience of other
cities with public lighting? Let the
water commission read the following
extracts gathered from newspapers re-
garding the experiences of other
places:

To start with Mr. Dow, writing to the
Western Electrician upon the advan-
tages of municipal plants, says: "To
sum up: If a municipal plant is op-
erated and managed in good running
order, at such a figure as, added to
interest, sinking fund and lost taxes,
will equal the contract cost of lighting,
there is a gain to the taxpay-
ers in municipal lighting direct-
ly by reason of ownership of a
marketable asset, free from incum-
brance at the winding up of the sink-
ing fund; and indirectly by the re-
tention of the depreciation fund in the
active business of the tax-payers."

Can this be done? Let figures, which
do not lie, answer.

Below will be found the cost of elec-
tric lights, per street arc, per year, in
the cities named, and shows the cost
of private as compared with public
ownership of plants:

Cities	Pop.	Private	Public
Vincennes, Ind.	12,000	\$ 96.00	56.00
Bowling Green, Ky.	12,000	98.50	50.00
Kansas, Wis.	12,000	98.50	50.00
Peoria, Ill.	12,000	99.00	57.50
London, O.	12,000	100.00	57.50
Hannibal, Mo.	12,000	100.00	57.50
Waukegan, Wis.	12,000	100.00	57.50
Marion, O.	12,000	100.00	57.50
Lebanon, Pa.	12,000	104.00	41.50
Logansport, Ind.	12,000	104.00	41.50
Pittsford, N. Y.	12,000	104.00	41.50
Brainerd, Minn.	12,000	104.00	41.50
Bangor, Me.	12,000	104.00	41.50
Fulton, N. Y.	12,000	104.00	41.50
Siles, Mich.	12,000	104.00	41.50
Pittsford, N. Y.	12,000	104.00	41.50
Sacramento, Cal.	12,000	104.00	41.50
Toronto, Ont.	12,000	104.00	41.50
Dallas, Tex.	12,000	104.00	41.50
Galveston, Tex.	12,000	104.00	41.50
Chillicothe, O.	12,000	104.00	41.50
Alameda, Cal.	12,000	104.00	41.50

*This includes 7 1/2 per cent for interest and depreciation.

†This includes 5 per cent for interest and depreciation.

Under private ownership the citizens of

Beaumont, Mich., pay \$1.00 per month for incandescent lights. Under public ownership the citizens of Stan-
ton, Mich., pay 50 cents for the same service.

The citizens of Greenville, Mich., pay a corporation \$1 per month for each incandescent light they use. In Mar-
shall, Mich., the municipality receives 33 cents for the same service.

Citizens of Calcasieu, Mich., patron-
ize a private company and an incan-
descent light costs them \$2.50 per month. At South Haven, Mich., the municipality owns the electric plant and furnishes the same service to citi-
zens for 35 cents per lamp per month.

The electric lighting plant of Muskegon, Mich., is owned by a corporation which charges \$1 per month per incandescent light. At Three Oaks, Mich., the municipality owns the plant and charges 35 cents for the same service.

A private company furnishes consumers of electric lighting at Ironwood City, Mich., with incandescent lights at \$1 each per month. At Shelby, Mich., the city owns the plant and incandescent lights cost 30 cents per month.

Waterworks and electric light plants of Warapakoneta, O., have paid 15 per cent on the investment since the town took them four years ago. Besides the cost to users has been constantly de-
creasing.

Princeton, Ill., has lately changed from private to public lighting.

Lansing, Mich., population 15,000, bought out the private plant and has reduced rates in two years over 40 per cent, and makes a profit of \$7,000 yearly, and in addition to this, the citizens save \$10,000 per year.

Elgin, Ill., population 15,000, paid a private company \$232.42 per light for 33 lights per annum. In 1890 the city entered upon its first year of municipal ownership, and in 1891 she was using seventy-seven lights at a cost of \$62.34. If to this be added interest, charges, etc., the cost is about \$85, or about one-third what the private company charged.

Allegheny, Pa., population 125,000, has reduced the operating expenses from \$61.24 per light in 1885 to \$49.56 in 1898. She paid prior to 1890 a private company \$130 a year per light.

Detroit, Mich., population about 500,000, paid \$139.28 per light to a private company in 1892. The cost for 1898, under municipal ownership, including interest and taxes, was less than \$85.

Chicago, Ill., population 2,000,000, became the owner of its electric lighting system in 1887. Today the city owns 3,222 arc lamps of 2,000 candle-power. Their average cost, including all items, is \$39.49 per lamp per annum.

The Astorian could continue and give a hundred additional instances of the saving to cities by municipal ownership if it had the space to spare or if it were necessary to add to the overwhelming amount of testimony in favor of that proposition.

And the water commission and citi-
zens are asked to compare the rates charged by private corporations in other cities, which were thought to be too high, with the rates charged by the West Shore Mills Company to both public and private consumers.

Once again the Astorian asserts that the light for better and cheaper lights is in the interest of no corporation, company or individual. It was not in-
stituted by any hope of private gain or any desire to do anything but serve the people. The cause is a just one. It pleads its own case with every thinking man. What the people want, what they ask, what they demand, and they have the right to demand, is that the water commission of As-
toria do as have similar bodies in other cities—save the people's money, give them good light and plenty of it at a reasonable cost.

This the water commission can do, if it will, and while it is doing it the taxpayers will not grumble if the lighting of the streets costs treble what the West Shore Mills Company asked in its bid.

Liberty has always cost something and the citizens will gladly pay exor-
bitant rates for street lights for a few months if, at the end of that time, they know they own their own light plant and are free of corporation con-
trol.

WHEELER SPEAKS.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., May 17.—General Joseph Wheeler will deliver an address at the Southern Industrial convention here tonight on "The South and Its Relation to the Trade of the Philippines and the Orient."

BARKER CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT

Says His Nomination Defeats
Bryan Beyond Doubt.

RIVER AND HARBOR PASSED

Senate Trying to Help Out the Pneumatic
Trust Deal, But Walcott Denounces the
Committee, and No Action Is Taken
—Convention Rates.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—The house today passed the special river and harbor bill, carrying \$400,000 for surveys and emergency work.

Wharton Barker, nominee for president of the middle-of-the-road popu-
lists, called on President McKinley to-
day to pay his respects.

These gentlemen have known each other ever since the latter entered public life. Later, Barker said that his nomination makes the election of Bryan impossible.

"At the last presidential election, Bryan received about 6,500,000 votes," said he. "Of this number, at least 2,000,000 were populists. This year I will get 1,500,000 or possibly 1,700,000 of that number. This will cut Bryan's vote to 5,000,000 or less. Where is he going to get the other votes necessary to elect him?"

The post appropriation bill was con-
sidered in the senate today. The committee amendment for the extension of the pneumatic tube service created some debate and was under discussion when the measure was laid aside for the day. Walcott, chairman of the committee on postoffices and post-
roads, vigorously attacked the committee's proposition to appropriate \$750,000 for a pneumatic tube service, declaring the extension of the service was unnecessary and the appropriation was a waste of money.

All the railroads have agreed to a rate of one fare for the round trip for the republican convention at Philadelphia.

RATS CARRY THE PLAGUE.

New South Wales Being Devastated by the Scourge.

VANCOUVER, B. C., May 17.—That the plague is spreading throughout Australia is news brought by the steamer Aorangi today.

She sailed from Sydney April 25, and up to that date in Sydney alone there had been 142 cases of the plague and 49 deaths. Despite all efforts of the sanitary officers to suppress the pest, new cases are reported from almost every seaport town in Australia. The government has issued a circular, stating that the disease cannot be eradicated until all the plague infected rats have been destroyed. Under the official rat catching army 12,000 rats have already been incinerated. The government is spending 30,000 pounds monthly in an effort to free New South Wales from the plague.

BORROWING AMERICAN GOLD.

French Bankers Have Negotiated a Loan of \$15,000,000 in New York.

NEW YORK, May 17.—It is stated that within the last fortnight the bankers of Paris have, through the Bank of France, negotiated a loan of \$15,000,000 from New York bankers.

This money is needed to finance enterprises incident to the exposition year in Paris. While France is one of the richest countries in the world, its stock of gold was insufficient to meet all the demands that have sprung up this year, and the bankers of Paris have borrowed here at comparatively low interest rates in order to prevent any enterprise from lagging.

The big loan is to be shipped in installments, averaging about \$2,000,000 a week. The second installment will go today, and the movement will continue for about three weeks longer. The loan was negotiated by the National City bank, and most of the foreign banking houses participate in it.

AFTER THE HAVANA THIEVES.

Government Will Spare None of Them
—A Conspiracy of Clerks.

HAVANA, May 17.—The principal charge against the Havana postmaster, E. F. Thompson, who, with W. H. Reeves, deputy auditor of the island, and Edwin Moya and Jorge Mascaro, Cuban clerks in the stamp department, was arrested yesterday, will go that he entered into a conspiracy with Cor-
don Richa, a clerk who has confessed to a knowledge of many of the trans-
actions and will give evidence for the government, to shield C. F. W. Neely, the arrested financial agent of the posts. The prosecution says Thompson re-
ceived vouchers and ordered that changes be made in the books and ac-
counts with the manifest intention of shielding Neely.