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# The Morning Astorian.



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**W. F. SCHEIBE,** manufacturer of the Always Reliable

A full line of Pipes, Tobacco, and Smokers' Articles. 474 Commercial St. PHONE NO. 1981.

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## C. J. TRENCHARD,

Commission, Brokerage, Insurance and Shipping.

Custom House Broker. ASTORIA, OREGON. Agent W. F. & Co., and Pacific Express Co's.

## ALMOST IN SIGHT OF TRANSVAAL

British Flag Expected to Fly Over Pretoria in June.

## BOERS ARE QUARRELING

Baden-Powell Refuses to Leave the Front and Go Home and Rest—Roberts Pushing His Army to the Front.

LONDON, May 26.—The latest intelligence from Lord Roberts' headquarters, at Vrededorf station, filed Thursday, 5:45 p. m., was that the British were rapidly advancing. General Hamilton had effected a junction with Lord Roberts. The country in front of them was clear to Viljoens drift. The Boers were evacuating all their positions south of the Vaal river and 5,000 had already crossed to the north bank. Probably General French's cavalry is already reconnoitering the fords of the Vaal. The war office observers expect that a new dispatch from the field marshal will be dated in sight of the Tarnavaal frontier. Bennett Burleigh, writing to the Daily Telegraph from Vrededorf Thursday morning, said Lord Roberts would doubtless cross the Vaal river Saturday or Sunday. The British outposts were then at Erste Geluk, nine miles north of Vrededorf and twenty-six miles south of the Vaal river. The railway is much damaged.

While the British, with an overwhelming force, are thus rapidly approaching the Transvaal, the movements of the Boers are enveloped in mystery. Every one seeking to cross the Portuguese border from the Transvaal is searched for newspapers and letters. Dispatches and mail letters, containing even harmless references to the war are suppressed. The only news that has emerged from the Transvaal during the last ten days has come by word of mouth. According to these oral reports yesterday the Boers were quarreling among themselves.

Transvaal paper money was circulating at 50 per cent discount. Kronz and Klinker, the engineers who opposed the blowing up of mines, have been dismissed. Commandant Schutter has been appointed to defend Johannesburg and all British subjects have been turned out.

Serious trouble is threatening between British and French residents of Stelliers, island of Jersey, owing to the pro-Boer attitude of latter. There have been several collisions and this morning troops were forced to charge with fixed bayonets to prevent demonstrators from invading French quarters.

Major Baden-Powell declines to act upon the suggestion of his friends that he should return to England for rest. He is determined to retain his active command at the front.

NEW YORK, May 25.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: Notwithstanding the declaration of the president, that the United States will not interfere in the South African war, the Boer commissioners expect that political expediency will cause him to make a move which will be beneficial to their cause.

It is apparent to the commissioners that political agitation alone will aid their cause, and they intend to take advantage of every opportunity to press it upon the attention of the American people.

It will be the earnest effort of the South African sympathizers in the United States, to make the failure of the president to act in the interest of peace, one of the prominent issues of the campaign.

The West is reported wrought up over the refusal of the president to intervene and it is proposed to keep the discontent alive. Should Bryan be elected, the fact that the president-elect of the United States has made a declaration of his intentions to take measures to stop the war, will have the effect, it is believed, of causing the British to be more lenient in the terms they will propose.

An official of the administration, who

is close to the president, said the policy which had been adopted had been carefully considered and there would be no deviation from it, no matter how great might be the pressure applied by democratic politicians. Unless Great Britain should require it, this official said, the president would probably refuse to even aid the Transvaal to get terms of peace more lenient than those which the British would impose, provided President Kruger should offer to surrender.

NEW YORK, May 25.—A dispatch from London to the Tribune says: The retreat of Botha's forces from the Rhenoster to the Vaal serves to convince military men that the end of the war is rapidly drawing near. This is without doubt the official view although nobody connected with either the war office or the headquarters staff is willing to be quoted to that effect. The date for the occupation of Pretoria, which is usually named among officers, is June 16. It is assumed among them that there will be no delay either in the passage of the Vaal, or in the occupation of Johannesburg, since General Roberts can turn the Boers out of every defensive position which they may attempt to hold.

They expect to see the British flag flying over Johannesburg by the end of another week and Pretoria under siege early in June. General Roberts himself has been too wary to make any forecasts respecting the duration of hostilities. The officials may have reasons of their own for concluding that there will be peace at the end of three weeks but they are not neglecting to send out reinforcements from England. Every week witnesses the movement of fresh levies and details for strengthening the battalions and cavalry squadrons at the seat of war.

Another matter which is discussed in official circles with increasing interest is the Dutch responsibilities. South Africans are not agreed upon the financial aspects of the problem and upon the most practical method of distributing the burdens of a costly war on the basis of population. Land taxes levied upon the Boers will yield little when they are impoverished and the only adequate resource for the payment of a large indemnity is the mining territory of the Rand.

WARRENTON, Thursday, May 24.—Operations have been pushed forward 30 miles, one of General Hunter's brigades having occupied Vryburg last night. Considering the difficulties of the road, this is a remarkable achievement for a mixed force, short of rations, making forced marches. Water is scarce. Some portions of the brigade covered 15 miles without a break. General Hunter personally goes to Vryburg today by train.

KROONSTAD, Thursday, May 24.—Although the Boers retreated without a shot their late position showed that they meant to fight. Along the steep sides of the south bank were cunningly constructed rifle pits resembling the defenses of Paardeberg. These pits extended for 10 miles. A number of gun emplacements had been blasted in the rocks and for seven miles the grass had been burned in patches with a view of marking the ranges.

## SMALL EUROPEAN TRAVEL

New York Steamship Men Have Not Reaped the Expected Harvest.

NEW YORK, May 25.—Although the month of May has proved disappointing to steamship men in the number of passengers going to Europe they are of the opinion that June and July will tell a different story.

It is not possible as yet to forecast accurately the volume of the July passenger traffic but several steamship men say they are able to predict with confidence a rush of travel in June. They say that the reports of the incomplete condition of the Paris exposition and of the exorbitant hotel rates prevalent in Paris have kept many tourists on this side who planned to go across in May.

They also point to the increased facilities for passenger traffic this summer.

It is a fact that there are accommodations for taking to Europe from 8,000 to 10,000 more passengers this summer than could have been taken last summer. Several passenger boats in the trans-Atlantic business a year ago have been laid off, but a larger number have been added.

It is common knowledge, however, that only a fraction of the expected May rush of trans-Atlantic passenger traffic has materialized.

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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

## APPROPRIATION FOR THE COLUMBIA

Emergency River and Harbor Bill Favorably Reported.

## NO INCREASE OF THE ARMY

Both Senate and House Hard at Work—Pensions for the Widows of Gallant Officers—Trying to Kill the Nicaragua Canal Bill.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—The discussion of the Spooner Philippine bill was continued in the senate today by Morgan (dem.) of Alabama. On the general question of ownership and government by the United States of the Philippine islands, he was in accord with Senators Spooner and Lodge, but he regarded the pending bill as unwise and dangerous legislation, because of the great power it placed in the hands of the president. He was satisfied, however, that the measure would not be passed by this congress, and declared that it was being used as a foil to thrust aside the Nicaragua canal bill.

Much of his speech was devoted to the canal bill and to a denunciation of the efforts to prevent its enactment at this session. The house today devoted two hours to a consideration of the Alaskan civil government bill without completing it. The session from noon until adjournment, was devoted under rule to private pension bills. Talbert (dem.) of South Carolina, who abandoned his obstructive tactics a few weeks ago, was again in evidence today.

After 150 bills had been favorably acted upon by the house committee of whole, Talbert blocked their passage in the house with a point of no quorum. Among the bills favorably acted upon today were senate bills to pension the widow of the late Captain Gridley, who commanded the Olympia in the battle of Manila, at \$50 per month; the widow of the late Commodore W. S. Meads, at \$40 per month, and the widow of the late General M. F. Force, of Ohio, at \$50 per month.

The latter case is a very pathetic one. General Force was the republican candidate for governor of Ohio in 1873. Subsequently he was minister to France. Since his death, Mrs. Force has fallen into destitute circumstances and is now engaged in truck farming near Cincinnati.

Senator Carter, of Montana, today presented the certificate of Governor Smith appointing Honorable Martin Magnus to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Senator Clark. Through its charge here, Mr. Heiso-Nabel Shima, of the Japanese government, has joined the Chinese government in a strong protest against the compulsory inoculation of Japanese and Chinese in San Francisco with anti-plague serum. The Japanese protest is much more energetic and forcible in its terms than that lodged by the Chinese government. The Japanese claim that the rule must be general and include Caucasians as well as yellow men.

Chairman Hall of the house committee on military affairs today stated definitely that owing to the lateness of the session it would be impossible to consider the bill to increase the efficiency of the army.

The senate committee on commerce, through Senator McMillan, today reported the emergency river and harbor bill. The general appropriation made by the bill was increased from \$200,000 to \$250,000 and the following additional harbors, rivers, etc., of which surveys are to be made, were authorized: Columbia river, Oregon; for a canal at The Dalles rapids; Snake river, Idaho and Washington, from the head of navigation to the Columbia river.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—The war department has made public the report of Brigadier-General Young, commanding a provisional cavalry brigade, of his campaign in Northern Luzon from Oct. 11, to Jan. 1, last, during which he rode entirely around the opposing forces of Aguinaldo and MacArthur, a distance of about 150 miles and harried and broke up the insurgent forces so that MacArthur was enabled to move forward without any formidable organized resistance.

General Young's command was composed at various times of portions of the Third and Fourth cavalry, the Maccabee battalion of native scouts under Major Batsion, the Twenty-Second, Twenty-Fourth, Thirty-Third, Thirty-Fourth and Thirty-Seventh infantry. This ride through the enemy's country was, General Young says, accompanied by many hardships and a deal of sharp and at times exceptionally fierce fighting. The attack upon and capture of San Isidro by Major Ballance and a battalion of the Twenty-Second infantry gained special mention and high commendation in General Young's report.

"It is the finest and most efficient

## CHANGING THE CHURCH CREEDS

Both Methodists and Presbyterians at Work.

## CONSIDER CARD PLAYING

Also the Question of Dancing, Theater Going and Other Amusements Prohibited by the Laws of the Church—Warm Debate Expected.

CHICAGO, May 25.—With but four exceptions the Methodist general conference today elected, to serve during the next quadrennial, all secretaries and assistant secretaries of the church, benevolence and editors of various church papers, the present officers being in most instances re-elected. The exceptions were one secretary of Freedmen's aid and Southern Educational Society; assistant secretary of the missionary society and editors of the Central and Western Christian Advocates.

The conference also took up the final disposition, the report of the committee on the state of the church in regard to the attitude of the Methodist church on card playing, theater-going and other prohibited amusements, and the prospects appear favorable for an exceedingly lively debate tomorrow.

The majority report, as presented by Governor Pattison, of Pennsylvania, favors the removal, from the penal code of the code of discipline, of matter bearing on this subject and placing it on the advisory. The minority report favors no action.

The committee on state of the church recommended that no action be taken in regard to licensing of women as preachers and this was approved by the conference today.

ST. LOUIS, May 25.—The most important feature of the afternoon session of the general assembly was the bobbing up again of the Peoria overture, which was thought to have been given a rest by the adoption, at the morning session, and the appointment of a creed revision committee. One of the New York commissioners offered two amendments, as substitutes to sections of the Peoria overture, which provide for the number of members of standing committees and the appointment of a chairman. The substitutes provide that an additional member shall be on each committee, and that the moderator shall appoint the chairman of the committees. Action will be taken on the amendments before the final adjournment of the assembly.

During the discussion of the report of the committee on temperance, Rev. Hugh Lamont, of the Presbytery of Puget sound, offered an amendment protesting against the existence, by official permission, of liquor selling in the canteens of the army of the United States. The amendment was adopted. Philadelphia was selected as the place of meeting in 1901.

## THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

Some Notable Utterances at the Chicago Celebration by Leading Americans.

CHICAGO, May 25.—Queen Victoria and the Anglo-American Harmony were cheered to the echo last night, at the banquet in honor of the eighty-first birthday of Great Britain's ruler at the Wellington Hotel. Over 100 men were seated at the tables. Among the speakers were former Controller of the Currency James H. Eckels, Captain Wyndham, Bishop Thorburn, General J. B. Leake and Bishop Hartsell.

George E. Gooch, chairman of the committee which arranged the dinner, acted as toastmaster and remarks were read from Secretary Hay, the premier of the Canadian provinces and from the foreign consuls in Chicago.

Before the toasts were made, a motion picture was carried amid great enthusiasm to request Captain Wyndham, British consul in Chicago, to cable to his ruler the sincere congratulations of those present.

To the music of the "Star Spangled Banner," the assemblage toasted "The President of the United States." James H. Eckels made the response, saying in part: "At no time in the past hundred years has the president of the United States not been a patriot before a partisan."

"He may be the most right of partisans before taking his position but the conserving properties of the office bring him to act for country first and always before party interests."

## GERMAN MEAT BILL

Its Passage Now Assured, But American Packers Say Its Effects Will Not Hurt Them.

## FORAKER WILL NAME M'KINLEY

Ohio Statesman Will a Second Time Nominate the President, at Philadelphia.

CHICAGO, May 25.—A special to the Tribune from Columbus, O., says: Senator Foraker said today that he would present the name of President McKinley to the Philadelphia convention for nomination. It was Mr. Foraker who placed McKinley in nomination at the St. Louis convention in 1894.

"I don't consider it a serious blow to American packing interests," said C. M. Favorite, of Armour & Co. While it is true that quite a little business is done with Germany in the sausage and canned meat way, it does not cut enough figure to affect the markets in this country."

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