

The Morning Astorian.

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AT GATES OF JOHANNESBURG

British Troops Carrying Everything Before Them.

WAR IS ON ITS LAST LEGS

President Kruger Said to Be Preparing for Flight to Holland—A Special Train in Readiness to Carry Him Out of the Country.

LONDON, May 29.—Lord Roberts is now within a day's march of Johannesburg. General French and General Hamilton fought the Boers from noon until evening on Monday, with what result is not known here.

H. J. Wigram, in a dispatch to the Daily Mail, says:

"The demoralization of the Transvaal forces is remarkable. Panic and confusion prevail everywhere. Everyone is weary of the war and full of fear as to the coming of the British. Operations were being carried on for the encircling of Pretoria with telegraphic communications. Fourteen points in the line of defenses were connected with headquarters and with the Staats artillerie, but this apparently was the only defensive measure adopted. There were no other visible preparations."

"Not much gold is likely to be found in the treasury. The salaries of the state officials and judges have not been paid, or have been paid only in national bank notes, which will be worthless when Lord Roberts arrives. The seat of government will be removed to Watervalboven, a small station on the Delagoa Bay railway line, and then, if necessary, to Lydenburg."

"Both President Steyn and President Kruger complain bitterly of Lord Roberts' unfair tactics in refusing to meet the Boers in positions chosen by them and in eternally turning them by flank movements."

"Around Johannesburg a few trenches have been dug, but no other steps have been taken for defense."

"The railway line is blocked with refugees from the west and southwest, who are packed like sardines in the trucks."

"The government is now endeavoring to reassure the public by telling them that the British will not outrage and plunder them, but it is too late. Previous misstatements are bringing their rewards. Food is very scarce and prices rule high."

"A proposal to release the British prisoners of war is due to this cause. Members of the government and of the Volksraad express approval of the proposal, but President Kruger is violently opposed to it."

"One form of infernal machine which meets with much approval is to be laid under the rails of the various lines. The pressure of some tons of weight of the engine will cause this to explode with most terrible effect. Many of these machines are being made."

"The government has arranged to continue the agitation against the British occupation of the two republics on the continents of Europe, Great Britain and the United States. Great efforts are to be made in this direction and no expense will be spared."

"H. J. Wigram has just returned to Lourenco Marques from Pretoria, where he went disguised. He wired that Kruger has all arrangements made for flight, presumably to Holland. A special train, fully provisioned, is always ready, with steam up. The train waits some distance from Pretoria."

LONDON, May 29.—The war office before midnight published the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

"Klip River, Transvaal, May 28, 5:25 p. m.—We marched twenty miles today and are now eighteen miles from Johannesburg. The enemy had prepared several positions where they intended to oppose us, but they abandoned one after another as we neared them."

"We pressed them so hard that they had just time to get their five guns into the train and leave as soon as some of the West Australian Infantry dashed into the station."

"French's and Jan Hamilton's forces

are apparently engaged with the enemy about ten miles to our left, as firing has been heard since noon."

"The farmers near our line of advance are surrendering, with their guns and horses."

"General Buller occupied Senekal, May 24. No reports of what took place have reached me yet."

Dispatches received this afternoon indicate that although the federal generals are said to be preparing for strong resistance at the Klip river, those who have most closely followed the progress of the war since the British and Boer armies came in touch at Brandfort are skeptical as to the burghers seriously disputing Robert's advance even there. If no stand is made at the Klip river, the safety of the Boer guns at Laing's Nek will be seriously imperilled, for there will be nothing to prevent Roberts from seizing the Johannesburg-Laing's Nek railroad. Indeed, it is already reported that the railroad has been cut and it is quite possible the first official news will record the occupation of Heidelberg.

Roberts may be forced to halt at the Vaal river to repair the bridge and get his guns and transport across, but the mounted men will not be delayed. It is said in high quarters that the speedy announcement of the arrival of the British cavalry at Johannesburg will not surprise the war office.

A dispatch from Mafeking, dated May 22, says the total casualties since the commencement of the siege were 212. Out of 44 officers, 22 were killed, wounded or missing and 130 men out of 975 privates were killed, wounded or missing.

CAPE TOWN, May 28.—It is rumored here that General French has entered Johannesburg.

SENKAL, May 27.—General Buller, with artillery, the Yeomanry and Wiltshire, and the Middlesex and Leicester regiments under Major Dalziel, has occupied Senekal, the Boers being driven out by a few shells. A field cornet and a number of other Boers were killed.

The British casualties numbered 11. The Boers are believed to be concentrating near Bethlehem.

LONDON, May 28.—Advices received here assert that supplies continue to go to the Boers from Lourenco Marques, and that foreign recruits for the Boer army proceed from the same point.

STILL FOOLING BRYAN.

Croker's Lieutenant Gives Out that the Silver Leader Will Have the Tammany Delegation.

NEW YORK, May 28.—John F. Carroll, leader of Tammany Hall, in the absence of Richard Croker, gave out the following prepared statement last night:

"I do not believe that the attitude of the Tammany Hall organization at all doubtful or equivocal. As far as I have been able to consult with the representative men of the organization, they entirely accord with my views of both the propriety and expediency of sending to the national convention a delegation instructed for W. J. Bryan as the presidential candidate."

"It is safe to say that every delegate will favor the programme and whatever influence I may possess will be exerted to impress the desirability of its adoption upon the delegates from the other localities in the state."

Mr. Carroll declined to add a word to the statement, but it is understood that it was issued with Mr. Croker's full sanction. It is stated that the Tammany and Brooklyn democrats recently ex-Senator Hill's plan to rehabilitate himself as a leader in state politics and that there exists a thorough understanding between the Bryan managers and the New York City democrats.

HE BLEW OUT THE GAS.

LOS ANGELES, May 28.—Rev. William Joseph Beecher, missionary of the Latter Day Saints, who came to this city Friday, was found dead in his room here yesterday. He had blown out the gas and death from asphyxiation resulted.

CZAR BREAKS THE RECORD.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 28.—For the first time on record, the czar invited the members of the British embassy to dinner on the occasion of the Queen's birthday. This innovation is regarded as of great political significance.

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DEWEY'S CLAIM TURNED DOWN

United States Supreme Court Decides Against the Bounty.

PRIZE MONEY CUT IN TWAIN

Spirited Debate in the House Over Resolution Expressing Sympathy for Boers—Wellington of Maryland Makes a Sensational Charge.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—The United States supreme court today decided Admiral Dewey's bounty claim against the admiral's contention. The effect of the decision is to deprive the admiral and the men engaged with him at Manila of one-half of the amount claimed by them.

Justice Harlan rendered the opinion of the court, which turned on whether the words "superiority" or "inferiority" in the statute had reference to the support of the enemy's vessels by land batteries, mines and torpedoes.

The original claim of Admiral Dewey and his sailors was about \$400,000. The court of claims reduced it to \$200,000. That ruling is sustained by today's decision. The admiral's personal claim is reduced from about \$20,000 to about \$10,000.

Chief Justice Fuller and Justices White and McKenna dissented. Counsel for Dewey and his men have filed a petition for a re-hearing.

In the course of a speech in favor of the adoption of a resolution expressing the senate's sympathy for the Boers today, Wellington (rep.) of Maryland referred to an alleged secret understanding existing between the United States and Great Britain, when Lodge (rep.) of Massachusetts demanded proof that such an understanding existed. Wellington said that, under the circumstances, it was difficult to present tangible proof, but he believed the proof could be found in the secret archives of the state department.

Lodge replied that under our form of government no such understanding could exist, and as the secretary of the state department had emphatically denied the existence of any alliance or understanding, he believed the country would accept his statement as true. The reading of the sundry civil appropriation bill was completed but not all of the committee amendments have been disposed of.

A lively debate was precipitated over the proposition to continue the life of the industrial commission until October 31, 1901. Charges were made that the commission was being used as a republican campaign machine and that important testimony had been suppressed. The committee amendment, however, was agreed to.

GETTING BACK AT GERMANY.

Uncle Sam Will Give Kaiser Wilhelm a Lesson in the Science of Diplomacy.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—Representative Bailey, of Kansas, today introduced a bill in the house providing that whenever the president of the United States shall be informed that Germany has passed a law imposing prohibitory duties on meat products from the United States, he shall issue a proclamation fixing the time when all articles produced or manufactured in the German empire, when entered for consumption at ports of the United States, shall pay a duty of ten per cent in excess of the duties imposed thereon prior to the passage of the bill.

FILIPINOS SURRENDER.

General MacArthur Reports an Important American Victory.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—The war department received the following cablegram from General MacArthur, at Manila:

"Three officers and 55 men, with 45 rifles, surrendered unconditionally at Cuyapo yesterday. Three officers, 46 men, with 55 rifles, surrendered unconditionally today at Tarlac. These spontaneous surrenders are very encouraging."

CHINESE MINISTER CHAGRINED.

Went to the Capital to Make an Official Inquiry and Was Arrested of Lobbying.

NEW YORK, May 28.—A special to the Herald from Washington, says: Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese minister, expressed regret that a visit of his to the senate had been misconstrued and that he had been placed in the position of a lobbyist.

"I received a dispatch from the Chinese consul-general in San Francisco several days ago," he said, "stating that it would be wise to watch the appropriation bills, as an effort would be

made to attach to one of them a rider of an anti-Chinese character."

"Before making any representations to the state department, I decided to go to the senate and ascertain if the report was true. I went to the office and opened the door. Several gentlemen sitting there recognized me and I obtained from them the information I desired."

"I certainly did not understand that the commission was holding a meeting otherwise I would have immediately retired. These gentlemen displayed considerable interest in the subject and I discussed the Chinese situation with them. My action was entirely informal."

"The call I made yesterday on Senator Allison was at the suggestion of the treasury department, which has charge of matters relating to the admission of Chinese."

Secretary Hay informed Mr. Fang some time ago that there would be no objection to his dealing directly with the treasury department in immigration matters. The minister therefore thinks he had ample authority for approaching Senator Allison.

TO SUPPRESS THE PLAGUE.

San Francisco Health Authorities Take Important Action.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 28.—The plague situation assumed a new phase tonight which will probably result in quarantining the Chinese section of the city.

The quarantine of Chinatown was not called for by any unfavorable development in the sanitary conditions of the city, but it was due to the necessity of providing for a better control of the situation in view of the fact that the United States circuit court today issued an order restraining the local board of health and Dr. Kenyon, United States surgeon, from inoculating Chinese and Japanese.

When the decision of the court was rendered, Surgeon Kenyon called off his inspection and notified Surgeon-General Wyman of the court's action. The state board then took the matter in hand. At a meeting of that board a resolution was passed instructing the local board of health to place an effective quarantine around Chinatown.

WILL BE FOR BRYAN.

Canvas of Maryland Democratic State Delegates Show a Majority For the Aguinaldo Candidate.

BALTIMORE, May 28.—Complete returns from the democratic primaries, which have now been held in seventeen of the 21 counties in Maryland, show that unless a change of front occurs before June 5, the day set for the state convention, the delegates in favor of a Bryan instructed delegation will control that body.

All the eastern shore as well as the northern counties favor an instructed delegation, but while the free silver sentiment also pervades those sections of the state, the delegates to the state convention will be satisfied with instructing for Bryan and allow the regular organization managers their way in the matter of the platform.

The primaries in Baltimore will be held next Thursday. In two of the districts the Bryan Chicago platform men will elect their delegates. The organization managers, it is stated, will avoid a fight so far as instructing the delegates to Kansas City, but they will do all in their power to prevent any platform declaration in favor of free silver.

A FIERDISH REVENGE.

Chicago Squatters Are Going to Bring on a War With Great Britain.

CHICAGO, May 28.—In trying to drive off Captain Streeter's "squatters" from the lake front, Chief of Police Kiple, acting in behalf of the city of Chicago, is alleged to have committed a breach of international law.

By arming with three-inch cannons the fire tug Illinois and the tug John Hay, Chief Kiple, it is said, transgressed the agreement between the United States and Canada which prohibits any but a specified number of duly authorized enlisted ships of war from plying the great lakes.

The captain of the John Hay advised Chief Kiple that he was on dangerous ground when the order came to mount the cannon on the tug, but the chief said he would assume the responsibility. The chief of the squatters, Captain Streeter has determined, it is said, to call the matter to the attention of the resident British consul.

THE PLAGUE EXTERMINATED.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 28.—The house to house inspection of Chinatown is being continued by the inspectors of the board of health, but as yet no case of bubonic plague has been discovered. Confidence is being restored among the Chinese and it is expected that most of the Chinese will reopen their stores today.

HANCOCK AT HONG KONG.

HONG KONG, May 28.—The transport Hancock has arrived here with the members of the new Philippine commission on its way to Manila.

ASTRONOMERS VIEW ECLIPSE

Important Observations Made in Europe and America.

SOUTH IN TOTAL DARKNESS

Totality Continues for Eighty-Five Seconds in Georgia—American Astronomers Secure Valuable Photographs at Foreign Observatories.

TRIPOLI, May 28.—The eclipse expedition under Professor Todd, of Amherst college, completed successful observations with twenty telescopes here today. Corona was seen for fifty-two seconds and was an exact duplicate of that of January, 1889, completely confirming the eleven-years' period of the Corona variation with sun spots.

MADRID, May 28.—Great interest was manifested in this city in the eclipse. Astronomers from all the countries of Europe assembled here to take observations.

LONDON, May 28.—The conditions for observations of the sun's eclipse were fair. The sun was intermittently obscured but observers had ample opportunity to obtain valuable results.

MOBILE, Ala., May 28.—The eclipse was a decided success here, though not total. Birds went to roost and the animals in the Monroe park menagerie became restless.

THOMASTON, Ga., May 28.—The eclipse observations here were conducted under perfect conditions, the totality being for a scant eighty-five seconds.

FORT MONROE, Va., May 28.—The sun was totally eclipsed at 8:53 in a cloudless sky. The period of totality was about 30 seconds, during which time a tiny star hung just below the magnificent corona, which glowed around the inky disc.

BARNESVILLE, Ga., May 28.—Amid a perfect arrangement of detail, with good weather conditions and with no hindrances or defects to prevent success, the varying phases of the solar eclipse were observed by the government astronomers at the United States observatory station here today. The photographic work was unusually successful, twenty exposures being secured.

CONFERENCE CLOSED.

Methodists Act Upon Code of Discipline and Discuss President McKinley.

CHICAGO, May 28.—The quadrennial conference of the Methodist Episcopal church practically came to a close today. Much important business was transacted, including the settlement of the reports of the committee on temperance and the committee on the state of the church in regard to the ban on card playing, theater-going, dancing and other amusements. A strong political color was given the discussion on the temperance question by a bitter arraignment of President McKinley because of his attitude on the anti-liquor law, but the conference refused to criticize any action on his part or that of Attorney-General Grieg.

The minority report on amusements, which was accepted Saturday, was laid on the table, which action leaves the paragraph in the book of discipline exactly as it was before the question was considered.

NOME SCHOONER IN DISTRESS.

The Arthur B. Runs Into a Heavy Gale and Is Disabled.

PORT TOWNSEND, May 28.—The schooner Arthur B., Captain Ackerman, sailing from Seattle for Cape Nome last Wednesday, was towed in at 11 o'clock tonight, in distress. She was caught in a gale Friday night, which lasted until Saturday noon, and had two sails and her rudder carried away. Her deckload of lumber was thrown overboard. The vessel was steered with a spar and, the gale abating, she was enabled to reach Neah bay.

INSANITY AT COLUMBIA.

Number of Students at the Old College Show Strong Signs of Mental Aberration.

NEW YORK, May 28.—It is stated that a socialist organization for propaganda work is being formed among Columbia students, and that Columbia College will be represented at the Socialist Students Congress at Jamaica Plain, Mass., May 30, and probably at the International College Congress of Socialists in Paris in September.