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## WAR PROLONGED BY POLITICIANS

England Would Soon Crush the Boers but for Politics at London.

### AN AFRICAN VISITOR HERE

George Jordan Tells An Interesting Story of Conditions in the Transvaal and the General Outlook.

George Jordan, an attaché of the British engineering corps in South Africa, was a visitor in the city yesterday. Mr. Jordan has just come from the seat of hostilities in the Transvaal, and tells a remarkably interesting story of conditions there. The traveler was averse to discussing matters of a personal nature, but readily replied to general questions asked by a representative of the Astorian. He portrays the South African situation in a far different light than the press dispatches, and as his experience has been very extensive, his narrative is of much interest.

Mr. Jordan is satisfied that the Boer war has been dragged out purely for political purposes, and in reply to a question said he thought there was no immediate prospect of settlement of the trouble.

"After long residence in the Transvaal and other parts of South Africa I am unable to state with which side my sympathies lie," said Mr. Jordan. "In a measure, the Boers can be held accountable, for the reason that they encouraged the investment of English capital in mining enterprises, and then, to employ an American expression, undertook to 'freeze out' the investors. But there is also the pro-Boer side of the matter, and I must confess I am at a loss to tell just who is most to blame for the war.

"There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that politics at the British capital is responsible for the continuance of the war. England could long ago have defeated the Boers, but the war has not been prosecuted with vigor. I regard the cause of the Boers as a lost one, because they committed themselves to the indiscretion of invading English territory. Had they refrained from taking this step they probably would have enlisted at least the sympathy of anti-England Europe, and might have eventually secured the absolute liberty for which they contend.

"To my knowledge there are thousands of British officers in South Africa who draw pay for active service that have never seen a battle, or, figuratively speaking, never heard a shot fired. These officers can be found in the conveniently located camps, where also may be found the 'nurses' sent out to care for the sick and wounded. The officers and nurses seem to greatly enjoy themselves, but they are of no benefit whatever to the British government. These officers and nurses should be sent home, for they are a nuisance. The women particularly are bothersome, for they require more care than wounded soldiers. With the officers here referred to, they spend their time playing golf and croquet in the camps along the route, far removed from the scene of war.

"Settlement of the Boer war will depend entirely upon the status of affairs at home. It is perhaps not generally known, but there is no denying that England will soon have much trouble in India. It will be necessary for the government to provide a large army to cope with the situation, and it is probable the Boers will be finally crushed before the Indian trouble commences.

"England has had many difficulties with which to contend in South Africa, and only those who have been in the field appreciate the obstructions that must be surmounted by the government troops. The greatest difficulty has been experienced in keeping the natives in check. Had England, at the outbreak of the war, permitted the natives to take a hand, all the whites in the Transvaal would have been wiped off the face of the earth. The troops have held the natives in check, and the war has been rendered more burdensome in consequence. Those officers who have seen active service have done exceptionally well.

"The war has proved one great truth. It has demonstrated to a certainty that no power, no matter how great, can ever again crush at one blow a smaller nation which is provided with modern arms. For a time the English troops had no proper guns, and I remember that on one occasion our forces were compelled to march ten miles over a plain before

they could get within range of the Boers. The latter, armed with modern guns, were enabled to pour in a deadly fire on the troops during the long march over exposed ground. It is my belief that Switzerland, armed with the implements of war now manufactured, could successfully withstand the onslaught of any European power. "I believe President Steyn, of Orange Free State, made a great mistake when he compromised his country for the sake of the Boers. As a consequence his people have been reduced to straits. Kruger, of course, was compelled to fight, and was in position to battle. All his relations are immensely wealthy, owning vast farms in the Transvaal. When Kruger fled from Pretoria he took with him everything of value, even to the hands of the clock in the big church which he had caused to be erected opposite his residence. The clock was a square affair and there were four sets of hands. The indicators were of pure gold.

"The Transvaal mines are certainly worth the immense sum which England has thus far spent in carrying on the war. One mine could not be bought for the \$1,000,000,000 which England is said to have spent. So immensely wealthy are the gold deposits that I believe the output of gold will eventually be limited, lest the market should be over-supplied. This is what has been done at the Kimberley diamond mines. Were the latter mines to be worked to their full capacity, one could buy diamonds by the bucketful. The gold deposits are simply marvelous, and future discoveries will doubtless prove as rich as those heretofore made. South Africa is a magnificent country, and the war is deeply to be deplored."

## FOUR BURNED TO DEATH

AWFUL RESULT OF A FIRE AT MACE, IDAHO.

Lodging House Burned and Forty Guests Were Cut Off From Escape.

WALLACE, Ida., Feb. 25.—Dorsey R. Mann, Eugene Gang, J. W. Edwards and Edward Moore were burned to death in the Standard boarding house at Mace last night. Tom Yarbough, D. McCallum, John H. D. Bowhay, Frank Townsend, K. Mackenzie, Thomas Bowers, L. V. Eberhardt, B. D. Bond, John McAuliff, J. C. McConnell, A. H. Adams and R. N. Band are in the hospital from burns or injuries received while jumping from the second story. There is no hope for the recovery of McCallum or Bowhay, and Yarbough's recovery is doubtful. The bodies recovered from the ruins were burned beyond recognition, two of them bearing no resemblance to human beings.

The fire was discovered about 2:30 a. m. and almost immediately the whole building was aflame. Forty men asleep upstairs were cut off from the stairway, all but four jumping from the windows. The bunk-house adjoining burned, but the inmates escaped. The dwelling of William Fletcher also burned.

The property loss is \$17,000; insurance, \$10,000. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

### TEXAS TOWN BURNED.

DALLAS, Tex., Feb. 25.—A special to the Times-Herald from Thurber, Texas, says that fire destroyed the greater portion of the business district of that town today. The loss is \$100,000.

### PROMOTION FOR W. B. SCOTT.

CLEBURNE, Tex., Feb. 25.—W. B. Scott, division superintendent of the Southern and Western divisions of the Santa Fe, has been promoted to the general superintendency of the Pecos Valley division of the Santa Fe system.

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## LAUNCHING OF YACHT METEOR

Event Occurred at New York Yesterday With Much Pomp and Ceremony.

### GREAT CROWD WAS PRESENT

Miss Alice Roosevelt Broke the Bottle and Severed the Ropes that Held the Yacht on the Ways.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—The all-important event in the itinerary of Prince Henry, of Prussia, today was the launching of the schooner yacht Meteor, built for the prince's brother, the German emperor. The christening ceremony was performed by Miss Alice Roosevelt, daughter of the president of the United States, in the presence of the president, prince, German Ambassador Von Holleben and a brilliant assemblage.

Soon after 3 o'clock, the president and prince and their suites embarked on a boat for Shooters Island. The party proceeded directly from the ferry-boat to a stand which had been erected at the end of the ways on which the Meteor rested, guns meanwhile booming salutes and the crowd cheering enthusiastically. The president and the prince, with Mrs. and Miss Roosevelt, arrived on the platform at 10:22.

Precisely at 10:29 Miss Roosevelt raised a bottle of champagne, which had been encased in a beautiful silver filigree and which was suspended by a 35-foot silver chain. Dashing the bottle against the side of the vessel, Miss Roosevelt said:

"In the name of the German emperor, I christen thee Meteor."

Then she raised the silver ax and severed the rope holding the weights which kept the ship in the ways, and the vessel went gracefully into the water.

Simultaneously cannon boomed, but the noise of the guns was lost in that resulting from the roar of human voices.

Soon after the launching the presidential party and the prince proceeded to a hall where luncheon had been prepared.

From Shooters Island the president and the prince went to the Hohenzollern, where luncheon was served.

Before luncheon a golden bracelet, in which is set a small picture of Kaiser Wilhelm, was presented by Prince Henry to Miss Alice Roosevelt. The bracelet is studded with diamonds and other precious stones. It was the gift of the emperor.

Luncheon was finished about 3 o'clock. At 3:10 the president and Mrs. Roosevelt were driven to the Twenty-third street ferry, and went to their special train, leaving Jersey City at 3:55 p. m. for Washington.

Later the prince was escorted to the city hall, where Mayor Low formally presented him with the freedom of the city. Then the royal party were driven up Broadway to Thirty-fourth street and to the Hohenzollern. Along the route the prince was given a continuous ovation. In the evening the party were the mayor's guests at a dinner at the Metropolitan Club, and then attended a gala performance at the Metropolitan opera house.

### GREAT STORM RAGES ON SOUTHERN COAST

Wind Blows a Gale at San Francisco and Does Much Damage to Shipping.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 25.—One of the heaviest storms experienced in many years struck this city this morning. The wind attained a velocity of 54 miles an hour in the city, while at Point Reyes it reached 50 miles. The full force of the storm was felt on the bay and craft of all sorts were tossed about like egg shells. A violent wind stirred the bay into a rolling, tempestuous sea, against which anchors were almost futile. Tow boats were busily engaged in efforts to prevent disaster.

their belongings were thoroughly soaked by the rain.

### CORBETT AND M'GOVERN.

CINCINNATI Feb. 25.—Young Corbett and Terry McGovern were matched today for a 25-round boxing contest, to take place on or before October 15.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE NAMED.

Will Solicit Subscriptions for the Lewis and Clark Fund.

PORTLAND, Feb. 25.—H. W. Corbett, president of the Lewis and Clark centennial, today selected the following citizens to act as the committee of ways and means:

W. D. Fenton, Adolph Wolfe, John F. O'Shea, G. W. Bates, Leo Friede, A. H. Devers and I. N. Fleischer.

The purpose of appointing the committee is to have it take charge of the details of soliciting and collecting subscriptions for the additional capital stock recently authorized.

### TRANSPORT HANCOCK ARRIVES.

Had Rough Trip, Two Men Being Washed Overboard.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 25.—The United States transport Hancock arrived from the Philippines early this morning with 51 cabin passengers, 1022 soldiers and 51 military prisoners. There were three deaths on the voyage, which was a stormy one, and two men were swept overboard and drowned.

The Rosecrans, which arrived last night, brought 591 returning soldiers. Most of the troops belong to the Twenty-second infantry.

### FIVE KILLED IN WRECK

### BAD COLLISION ON THE NEW YORK CENTRAL.

Passenger and Wrecking Trains Came Together at Full Speed on a Curve.

### AUBURN, N. Y., Feb. 25.—Five men

were killed and two fatally injured in a wreck early today on the Auburn branch of the New York Central, two and one-half miles west of Aurelius.

A passenger train and a wrecking train collided head-on while rounding a curve at full speed.

The dead are:

John Hazeman, of Rochester, engineer of the passenger train.

Frank Hines, of Rochester, fireman of the passenger train.

Edward Vine, of Rochester, baggageman.

Engineer Durand, of Syracuse, of the wrecking train.

Fireman Schmuck, of Syracuse, of the wrecking train.

The injured.

Trainman E. H. Renner, of Rochester.

Evan, member of wreck crew.

Both engines and the baggage car of the passenger train were demolished.

### THIS LADY WAS VICIOUS.

Nome Actress Cut Off Her Lover's Head With a Razor.

VANCOUVER B. C., Feb. 25.—While her companion, Jack Kirk, was asleep, Lulu Watta, a variety actress of Nome, attacked him in a fit of jealousy, and severed his head from his body with a razor.

The news was brought down by the steamer City of Seattle.

### TWO BODIES RECOVERED.

VANCOUVER B. C., Feb. 25.—Fire which had been burning several months in the Extension mine on Vancouver Island is extinguished. Search is being made for bodies of 17 men who perished in number 2 slope. Two bodies have been recovered, those of David Griffith and George Southcombe.

### HERMAN A. BRAUN DEAD.

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 25.—Herman A. Braun, known in G. A. R. circles all over the country as Corporal Braun, died tonight, aged 67.

St. Louis, Feb. 1st, 1902.  
**Eclipse Hardware Co., Astoria, Or.**  
Owing to advances in material and increased cost of production we withdraw all previous quotations on Superior Stoves and Ranges.  
Prices will be quoted on application.  
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