

GOLD HILL NEWS.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

GOLD HILL, OREGON.

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week Culled From the Telegraph Columns.

Englishmen are depressed by the situation in Africa.

Arizona will apply for statehood to the present congress.

The Americans have occupied Banga, province of Abia.

Steamers will leave Portland every 10 days for Cape Nome.

The Kentucky election commission gives Taylor's plurality as 2,383.

The Filipinos' treasury was captured by the Americans at Mangataram.

The government's herd of reindeer in Alaska is rapidly increasing and now numbers 2,600.

Bishop Henry Potter, of New York, has arrived in Manila on a brief visit to study the Philippines.

A gas explosion killed many coal miners at Carbonado, Wash. Cause of the accident is a mystery.

The British artillery arm in South Africa has been materially strengthened by the arrival of six big guns.

Commander Charles I. Howell is dead at New York city. He was chief engineer of the Maine when she was blown up.

Lady Francis Cook, formerly Tennie Claffin, announces her intention to forsake England and take up her residence in New York.

Two hundred miners are on a strike at the Tesla coal mines, California, because of a dispute with the superintendent over the wage schedule.

The horticultural commissioners of Southern California propose to establish a quarantine against infected nursery stock imported from foreign countries.

General Gregorio del Pilar was killed in a fight with the Thirty-third infantry, 18 miles northwest of Cervantes. The insurgents lost 70 men in the engagement.

The Vananda group of mines near Baker City was sold for \$1,500,000. The property is to be extensively developed by the new owners, who are British Columbia capitalists.

New York wants both the big conventions.

The investment of Mafeking is closer than ever.

John S. Chase, the socialist mayor of Haverhill, Mass., has been re-elected.

Ten shipwrights from Seattle took the places of the strikers at Vallejo navy yard.

Ex-Governor Lord, of Oregon, has departed for Argentina, to take his post as United States minister.

Legality of the war revenue act is involved in the inheritance tax case before the United States supreme court.

The Six Chinese Companies, of San Francisco, have subscribed \$4,000 to promote commercial relations between China and the United States.

The New York coffee exchange has petitioned the authorities to release the coffee cargo of the 'plague ship' Taylor. They claim there is no danger.

Chaplain Shields, being tried at San Francisco by court-martial for drunkenness, will try to prove that his brother clergymen are persecuting him.

Beet-sugar men are much disturbed over recent discussion. Their industry is flourishing, but free sugar from the islands they say would be disastrous to them.

The German ship Wansbek, which has arrived at Astoria, lost two men on the voyage from Philadelphia, and the boatswain says it was the captain's fault.

Crawford, the soldier who permitted Wardner bull-pen prisoners to escape, was dishonorably discharged and sentenced to 18 years six months imprisonment.

Dispatches indicate that the Boers are making all preparations for a hasty retreat to the Transvaal borders in the event of defeat at Tugela and Ladysmith.

A Kentucky mob had no mercy for a negro who murdered and outraged a woman. He was dragged through the streets at the end of a rope and finally bound to a stake and burned alive.

Sick soldiers were compelled to fight at Vigan. The Americans had but one company and 150 sick men. They had to fight 800 Filipinos. The attack was made in the early morning, and it became a hand to hand conflict.

Fighting has ceased between the Mexicans and Yaquis, the Indians having retreated. It is said they may be joined by others. A courier says the Yaqui's losses in killed and wounded during 10 days' fighting were estimated at 200.

LATER NEWS.

Spain will build a new navy.

An anti-British meeting was held in Omaha.

Gatacre does not blame the guides for his disaster.

Otis has been instructed to open ports in the Philippines.

A colony of 30 Michigan people will settle near Fairhaven, Wash.

Five stores were burned out on Sixth street, near Alder, Portland, Or.; loss, \$10,000.

It is said that South Africa has always been a graveyard for the British generals' reputations.

The British bark Indian Emprie, laden with coal, was burned to the water's edge near Lima, Peru.

Our iron ore supply is short. It will take 200 vessels to handle the cargoes of iron engaged for importation.

Two prominent Portland physicians have been sued by a lady who claims negligence in diagnosing her case.

A report comes from Astoria, Or., that the packers' combine will operate only three of its canneries next season.

Britishers acknowledge that they lost over 700 men at Stormberg, and Boer reports apparently agree with those from British sources.

Nearly 2,000,000 bushels of wheat are stored in warehouses of Tacoma and not a ship is loading, the owners of the wheat holding for better prices.

A company has been organized in Eastern Oregon to build a railway line from Hilgard to the John Day country. The O. R. & N. is said to be in the deal.

Jones of Washington has introduced in the house a bill for a cable to the Philippines, to cost not to exceed \$8,000,000, and the creation of a cable commission.

Terrific gales were reported from ports on the Great Lakes Tuesday, and fears were felt for the safety of a fleet of steamers which had left the Straits of Mackinac.

Crocker denies that he has given up his Southern Pacific job. He will continue as a director in the company until the Crocker stock just bought by the Speyer syndicate is paid for.

Otis reports that 2,000 additional Spanish prisoners have been secured in Northern Luzon, making over 3,000 released within a month. Seven hundred are now en route from Vigan, and transports will be sent for the remainder.

The transports Sheridan and Grant are at Seattle.

Engineers and firemen of the Union Pacific have asked for more pay.

The Pacific Express office at Omaha was robbed of from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

The British ship Glenholm will be fumigated at Astoria for fear of yellow fever.

A prominent Frenchman says that England is ready for war with the whole world.

A negro was shot at Lewiston, Id. The bullet flattened on his skull and he was comparatively uninjured.

Washington officials are anxious over the possible fate of the American prisoners in the hands of Aguinaldo.

The debate on the finance bill has commenced in the house. Representative Overstreet made the opening address.

The football team of the University of California will play the Carlisle Indians on Christmas day, in San Francisco.

Commander E. P. Wood, U. S. N., is dead of typhoid fever at Washington. He commanded the Petrel in the battle of Manila bay.

To increase Admiral Dewey's troubles Minnesota people will present him with a large black bear recently captured.

General Gatacre lost nearly six hundred men near Stormberg. The British forces were led into the trap by treacherous guides.

The supreme court of Oregon has finally passed upon the case of the state vs. Magers, the petition for a rehearing being denied.

Congressman Bailey will protest against the entrance of General Joe Wheeler into congress on his return from the Philippines.

"Governor of Cuba" will be the official designation of the office to which Major-General Leonard Wood will be assigned early in the new year.

Colonel James Graham and William P. Canneen, prominent politicians of St. Marys, Kan., drank from a disinfectant bottle which they supposed to contain whiskey, and are not expected to live.

The president will soon send a special message to congress regarding rewards for officers and men from the Atlantic squadron who distinguished themselves during the war with Spain, and whose gallantry has not yet been recognized.

The controller of the currency has declared the fifth dividend of 10 per cent in favor of the creditors of The Dallas National bank, making 95 per cent paid on the claims proved, amounting to \$26,318.20.

BATTERIES SAVED GATACRE

His Artillery Arrived in the Nick of Time.

WAS TREACHEROUSLY GUIDED

British Set at an Impossible Task and Against Superior Numbers—Opinions of the Press—England Depressed.

London, Dec. 13.—Later details regarding the disaster to General Gatacre's column show that but for the magnificent work of the British artillery the disaster would have been far more extensive, as the incessant Boer fire in the midst of repulsed infantry ultimately led to disorder, which only escaped developing into rout through the batteries of artillery occupying successive positions, covering the retreat, thus drawing a portion of the Boer's galling fire.

Apparently, the British were set at an impossible task, and were treacherously guided. After a trying march and being under arms 16 hours, they attacked the wrong part of the Boer position, where the hill was impregnable, and the burghers were estimated to number 6,000 men instead of 500, as spies had reported. There is little in the story to mitigate the immense humiliation caused by the episode, which is almost an exact counterpart of the battle of Nicholson's Nek. The war office was besieged by anxious relatives today, and successive editions of the newspapers were eagerly scanned. Men and women are equally persistent in pleading for information, but the authorities either do not possess any, or are not prepared to publish it at present.

The affair has caused a most depressing influence everywhere, not excepting the stock exchange, where consols were at the lowest price in many years, and South African securities slumped, not so much on account of the military reverse, which is retrievable, but owing to profound apprehension as to its political effect. No great surprise would now be felt in Cape Colony's becoming aflame from end to end.

ENGLAND IS DEPRESSED.

London Papers All Regard the Defeat as a Most Serious One.

London, Dec. 13.—Discussing the defeat of General Gatacre at Stormberg, the Daily Mail says:

"Quite apart from the loss of 600 fighting men, the unexpected Boer success will probably cause a more general and serious movement among the Cape Dutch. The government must promptly face this by the immediate dispatch of further troops."

The Daily News says: "The reverse General Gatacre has suffered is a sadly emphatic commentary on the peculiar difficulty of military operations in a semi-disaffected country. The enemy's spies are everywhere, and nowhere can we rely confidently on any counter information. General Gatacre seems to have been completely trapped. Of course he will immediately be reinforced."

The Daily Chronicle says: "There is only too much reason for fear that this is the worst illustration we have had yet of inadequate equipment and insufficient scouting. How far this disaster was due to lack of judgment on the spot and how far to lack of artillery is not quite clear, but the patient public cannot help reading that General Methuen's victory at Modder river was won by artillery reinforcement at the critical moment, and all they would like to know is how many times this particular lesson is to be learned."

The Standard says: "The event is in the highest degree deplorable. It will tell against us unfavorably in the Free State, among the colonial Dutch and even among the natives. A great deal of evidence has been accumulating during the past weeks to show how deeply the colony, or at least the northern and western portions of it, are honeycombed by dissatisfaction. Our generals have to cope with a rebel colony as well as hostile republics, and must take measures to lay their plans in accordance with the details."

SHERMAN REGRETS.

Says the President's Philippine Policy Is Wrong.

Philadelphia, Dec. 13.—In response to an invitation to attend an anti-imperialist mass meeting to be held at the Academy of Music, on the centennial anniversary of the death of Washington, December 4, the following letter has been received from ex-Secretary of State John Sherman, dated at Washington:

"I have a strong conviction that the president erred in sending soldiers to the Philippines to take possession of their country. The United States had wisely, as I think, assisted the Filipinos in driving the Spaniards out of the Philippine islands, and should, I think, have aided them in protecting their country against all assaults. He no doubt was advised to adopt the measures taken, and all I can do is to express my regrets. Yours very truly, JOHN SHERMAN."

GATACRE EXPLAINS.

Cause of British Disaster at Stormberg Distance Was Underestimated.

London, Dec. 14.—The war office received the following from General Forester-Walker, dated today:

"Cape Town, Dec. 14.—Gatacre reports as follows:

"The idea to attack Stormberg seemed to promise certain success, but the distance was underestimated by myself and the local guides. Policemen took us round some miles, and consequently we were marching from 9:30 P. M. until 4 A. M., and were landed in an impossible position. I do not consider the error intentional."

"The Boers commenced firing from the top of an unscalable hill, and wounded a good many of our men in the open plain. The Second Northumberlands tried to turn out the enemy, but failed. The Second Irish fusiliers seized a kopje near and held on, supported by mounted infantry and Cape police. The guns under Jeffreys could not have been better handled, but I regret to say that one gun was overturned in a deep mullah, and another sank in quicksand. Neither could be extricated in time to be available."

"Seeing the situation, a dispatch rider was sent to Molteno with the news. I collected and withdrew our force from ridge to ridge about nine miles. The Boer guns were remarkably well served. They carried accurately 5,000 yards. I am holding Bushman's Hoek and Cyphergat. I am sending the Irish rifles and Northumberlands to Sterkstroom to recuperate. The wounded proceeded to Queens-town. The missing Northumberlands number 366, not 306 as previously reported."

Sortie From Ladysmith.

London, Dec. 14.—The war office publishes the following dispatch from General Buller:

"Dispatch from General White, dated yesterday, says:

"Last night Colonel Metcalf and 500 of the Second rifle brigade, sortied to capture a Boer howitzer on a hill. They reached the crest without being discovered, drove off the enemy and then destroyed the howitzer with gun-cotton. When returning, Metcalf found his retreat barred by the Boers, but he forced his way through, using the bayonet freely. The Boer losses were considerable. The British losses were as follows: Lieutenant Ferguson and 11 men killed; Captain Paley, Second Lieutenant Davenport, Second Lieutenant Bond and 41 men wounded; six men captured, who had remained behind in charge of the wounded."

GIVES TIME TO ALL

House Provides for Night Sessions to Hear Financial Speeches.

Washington, Dec. 14.—There is such great pressure for time on the part of the members of both sides who desire to participate in the currency debate in the house that three night sessions were ordered today. Interest in the debate is not keen, judged by the attendance in the galleries, although the members themselves are listening attentively to the speeches.

The features of the debate today were the speeches of Grosvenor of Ohio for the bill, and of Cochran of Missouri and Newlands of Nevada against it. The other speakers were: Parker of New Jersey, William Allen Smith of Michigan, Prince of Illinois, Lawrence of Massachusetts, and Powers of Vermont for the bill, and Shafroth of Colorado and Sims of Tennessee against it.

Whether Admiral Dewey, acting for the United States government, formally or informally recognized the Philippine republic at Manila, is a question which Pettigrew of South Dakota desires the navy department to answer. He introduced a resolution in the senate today directing the secretary of the navy to supply the senate with information on the subject, but Chandler of New Hampshire objected to its immediate consideration.

Senator McBride today reintroduced his bill to appropriate \$650,000 to enlarge the Portland public building. He says it will be impracticable now to secure a change in the building material, but that another story can be added to afford the extra room, which is needed to accommodate the various government offices. This bill was favorably reported without amendment by Senator Simon last year, and both senators expect to secure its passage this session.

Senator McBride also reintroduced his bill fixing the salaries of letter carriers in all large cities.

Bandits of Luzon.

Manila, Dec. 14.—Colonel Smith, with a detachment of the Seventh infantry, surrounded and captured in a village near Malasqui a party of guerrillas, who had made their headquarters there. The party included the band which had assassinated seven officials at Malasqui for friendliness to the Americans. It is expected they will be speedily tried, and either shot or hanged as an example, if convicted.

A gang of alleged boy burglars was arrested in Chicago in as lavishly furnished apartments as a millionaire would occupy. Five boys composed the gang and their ages range from 11 to 17 years. The walls were hung with costly tapestries, rugs, valuable paintings and musical instruments.

TRYING TO LIGHT HIS PIPE

Smoker Caused the Explosion at Carbonado.

HIS BODY HAS BEEN FOUND

Another Accident Caused by a Miner Opening a Powder Keg With a Pick—Two Men Killed.

Carbonado, Wash., Dec. 14.—Funeral services over 23 victims of the mine accident were held today. Coroner Hoska will begin the inquest tomorrow.

Development during the day proved that old man Ben Zedler's tobacco pipe had been responsible for the disaster, and the 23 fresh graves. Foreman Robert Cox's gang found Zedler's corn-cob pipe and a bag containing about two ounces of tobacco early this morning, near where his corpse was discovered the evening previous by Foreman Lewis' body-searching party. From all appearances the old man had just filled his pipe, preparing for a smoke, and had opened his safety lamp to get a light. He never knew what happened afterward.

Rees Jones' remains were also discovered early this morning by Cox's gang. A right leg is missing, having been blown to atoms, and one side of his face and head was frightfully shattered.

State Mine Inspector Owens said to-night:

"The indications are that the open lamp of Ben Zedler, sr., caused the explosion."

An explosion due to black powder was reported from Burnett to Acting Mine Inspector Little this forenoon by a messenger from Superintendent C. H. Burnett. John Krook, a miner there, tried to open a 25-pound keg with a pick, and the powder exploded, burning him and a companion, John Monther almost fatally. This occurred some time during the night in one of the tunnels.

Another Gas Explosion.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 14.—A gas explosion occurred at one of the Cumberland coal mines last night, killing Zucci and George M. Jones and badly burning P. Fairbairn, Harry Thompson, John Guthrie, sr., John Guthrie, jr., Fred Larson and a Chinaman.

FILIPINOS' HORRIBLE DEVICE.

Pitfalls With Sharpened Bamboo Poles, for Impaling the Unwary.

New York, Dec. 14.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: In the hospital reports which reached the war department from Manila is chronicled the first casualty due to falling into a Tagal pitfall which contained the horrible device of bamboo posts set firmly in the hole and sharpened at the top for the purpose of impaling the unwary. The American troops have frequently found such traps on the line of march, and especially in front of insurgent trenches. Ordinarily the traps have been simply deep holes in the jungle covered with long grass, and although soldiers have frequently fallen into them, no serious injury has resulted. On October 25, when 45 men of company I, Nineteenth infantry, were engaged in a reconnaissance in chasing a small band of Tagals from some trenches, Private Peter Karl plunged into such a pit with its sharpened bamboos, and had his foot and leg severely lacerated, which put him out of service. Fortunately he did not tumble headlong into the trap, for if he had, in the opinion of the surgeons, his wounds must certainly have been fatal.

REPORTS FROM OTIS.

No More Organized Resistance Expected in Luzon—Insurgents Routed.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The war department has received the following from Otis, dated today:

"Manila—In Bulacan province, the insurgents have been scattered and driven east to the mountains. Our casualties in that section in the last few days were 10. The insurgents' casualties, in killed, wounded and prisoners, aggregate 100. Considerable insurgent property, with records, arms and ammunition, has been captured.

"Our troops are now in the mountains in pursuit of the insurgents, who have been driven from Subig bay, and marines now occupy the naval station there. Our column moving west from Tarlac is now on the west coast of Luzon, where it has been supplied. It encountered resistance. The column is now moving west and south from Dagupan along the coast. There is no concentrated insurgent force of importance in Luzon north of Manila.

"Southern Luzon will not offer any serious resistance. The troops are co-operating in that section, and organized rebellion no longer exists, and our troops are actively pursuing the robber bands. All important and threatened centers of population in the north have been captured."

Belle Fleming, aged 17, of Guthrie, O. T., has been admitted to the bar of the United States court.