

LETTER FROM LORD ROSEBERRY

Wants England to Define Her Position.

WHAT IS CONTRABAND OF WAR

Possible Change of Policy—Sir Charles Dilke Warns Against a Hasty Overturning of Precedents.

London, Jan. 1.—Lord Roseberry writes as follows this morning to the Times:

"There are disquieting intimations which appear to point to our government having treated foodstuffs as contraband of war. As this is a matter of supreme importance, I venture to address this line to you in the hope that it may elicit an authoritative statement on the subject."

The Times, commenting editorially upon Lord Roseberry's letter, says:

"Too little is known of the seizures for any valid inference safely to be drawn. An emergency might arise when certain foodstuffs would be regarded as contraband while others would not, especially if the latter were intended for combatants. There might, for instance, be reasonable grounds for treating canned goods as contraband and flour as legitimate."

After admitting that it "would be unadvisable to create a precedent which might some day be invoked against us," the article concludes as follows:

"While we fully share the view that no serious change of policy should occur without cogent reasons and ample consideration, we cannot but ask ourselves whether, in the event of Great Britain being engaged in a war, the action, either of the enemy or even of neutral powers, in a matter upon which such great divergence of opinion still exists is likely to be governed by any precedent we or any one else may have set in the past, rather than by the immediate interests of the moment."

A NEW YORK FIRE.

Two Seven-Story Buildings Were Destroyed—Firemen Injured.

New York, Jan. 1.—The two seven-story buildings at 425 to 435 East Twenty-fourth street, occupied principally by the wall-paper factory of William Campbell & Co., were destroyed by fire tonight. The loss is fully \$500,000. The plant of the New York Hygienic Ice Company, which occupied the basement of 425, and that of the Manhattan Electric Light Company, on the first and second floors of the same building, were totally destroyed. A large portion of the east side gets its lights from that company, and was, on account of the fire, cast into complete darkness. The Campbell company employed 400 hands, who will be thrown out of work by the fire. The properties of all three firms are destroyed beyond the hope of saving a dollar's worth. The losses are partly covered by insurance.

Three hook-and-ladder men, Andrew Degnan, Joseph Shaughnessy and Joseph Bessinger, were caught on the sixth floor of the building, and escaped with great difficulty. All were severely burned. Shaughnessy and Bessinger were sent to Bellevue hospital. The other hook-and-ladder men were caught on one of the high window ledges, with the flames roaring all around them and the dense smoke making them almost imperceptible from the street. Extension ladders were run and firemen brought them down in an almost unconscious condition. One of the men, Lee Potter, was very severely burned, and was sent to Bellevue hospital.

TWO TRAINS WRECKED.

One Person Was Killed and Fourteen Were Injured.

Denver, Colo., Jan. 1.—The Cheyenne flyer on the Union Pacific railroad crashed into the Boulder Valley train, at Brighton, Colo., at 6 this morning. One man was killed, Winfield Randelman, express messenger, Denver, whose body was burned to a crisp. Fourteen persons were injured. The Boulder Valley train left Denver a little late this morning, and as usual stopped at Brighton, which is the junction for the Boulder Valley line from the main line to Cheyenne. The Cheyenne flyer also left Denver late, and coming into Brighton in the early morning dusk, ran into the rear end of the Boulder train, telescoping two or three cars and derailing the passenger locomotive.

Section gangs from Denver yards and half a dozen passengers occupied the Boulder train. The mail and baggage car and the smoker of the flyer were burned. Mrs. Young was in the chair car with six children. None of the children were hurt, although she received serious injury. The wounded were brought to Denver and taken to the hospitals. Conductor McAllister, of the Boulder valley train was crazed by the accident. He attempted to jump into the burning wreckage, and had to be forcibly restrained.

In his proclamation to the burghers, Baden-Powell makes the extraordinary statement that the American government has warned others of her intentions to side with England should any of them interfere.

A DOUBLE TREATY.

Portuguese South Africa Is to Be Divided Up.

New York, Jan. 1.—A dispatch to the Herald from Berlin says: The Lokal Anzeiger publishes the contents of the German-English-Portuguese secret treaty. This double treaty will have executive force as soon as the Swiss jurists, Messrs. Blaesi-Hensley and Goldau, have given a decision in the Delagoa bay arbitration.

The decision, it is expected, will be given in January or February and will probably be in favor of England, in which case Portugal must pay to England and America an indemnity of £1,900,000. England obtained in 1891 from Portugal the right of pre-emption in Delagoa bay, and the cession of Delagoa bay to England may therefore be expected in March next.

It is possible that President Kruger may now declare war on Portugal and attack Delagoa at once.

In order to prevent any interference by France or Russia, England concluded a secret treaty with Germany regarding the complete partition of the Portuguese colonial possessions. Germany is to receive all the Portuguese possessions in Asia, with 20,000 square miles of territory and 1,000,000 inhabitants. Germany further receives in Africa all Portuguese territory north of Mozambique, except a strip of land three miles wide, for Mr. Cecil Rhodes' trans-African railway. For this the German government will pay Portugal 25,000,000 marks.

REST AT ARLINGTON.

Burial of the Martyred Heroes of the Maine.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Upon the windy heights of Arlington cemetery, the Maine dead, brought from Havana by the battleship Texas, today were laid away in their final resting places, with simple religious services, and the impressive honors of war, in the presence of the president, members of his cabinet, officers of the army and navy and other officers of the government.

A cabinet officer, surveying the flag-draped coffins before the ceremony began, said: "The lives of these men cost Spain her colonies." But there was no note of triumph in the grim scene today. With a touch of sadness and solemn gravity, the nation performed its duty to the dead and gave its defenders a Christian burial at home, in soil hallowed by patriotic dead.

Battle With Robbers.

Seattle, Jan. 1.—Two masked men held up a Ballard street-car at 11 o'clock tonight. There were eight passengers aboard, and a regular fusillade of shots was fired. One of the passengers inside the car, C. E. Plimpton, opened fire on the highwayman entering from the rear, and three shots were returned. One broke Plimpton's arm and the other entered his breast.

Shortly after midnight the police found near the scene of the Ballard street-car hold-up the body of one of the two bandits. He had been almost instantly killed by a bullet from a passenger's pistol. The body is still unidentified.

Big Buffalo Mine Turns Out Rich.

Baker City, Or., Jan. 1.—A sensational strike was made today in A. Geiser's Big Buffalo mine, two miles west of this city. The miners took several samples of ore from the tunnel, which today tapped the 80-foot ledge. By assays just returned to the owner of the mine, the samples all show gold values ranging from \$18 to \$102.75 in gold and five ounces of silver to the ton. Mr. Geiser, who was formerly part owner of the Bonanza mine, said today that if the values hold out throughout the Big Buffalo, the property will be equal to the Bonanza. The Big Buffalo is within plain sight of this city.

Killed His Young Wife and Himself.

Winnipeg, Jan. 1.—Pierre Dentzer, a German farmer, aged 50, living near Rathwell, 100 miles from Winnipeg, shot and killed his 19-year-old wife in a fit of temper. Dentzer then carried his baby to a neighbors' house and returned home. The authorities were notified, and on approaching the house found that the woman's body had been taken inside the house and a cross had been raised by Dentzer on the ground where she had been shot. Dentzer had spread a sheet on the floor, placed his wife's body on it, blew out his brains.

Went Through a Bridge.

San Bernardino, Cal., Jan. 1.—As No. 33, west-bound freight train over the Sante Fe route, was crossing Cajon creek bridge today, about 13 miles north of this city, nine cars went through the bridge into the creek bottom. Six of the cars were loaded with cotton, one with telegraph wire, and one with general merchandise and sulphur. The cars caught fire and made a terrible conflagration, destroying the entire contents and framework. No one was killed.

A Murderous Collector.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Jan. 1.—Samuel Mills, a collector for an installment house, this afternoon attempted to seize furniture in the house of Mary Venable, colored, for a small debt. The woman attempted to prevent it, and in the struggle that ensued Mills shot the woman and her little son and daughter, all seriously. Mills was arrested.

SOUTH OF MANILA.

Opening of the Campaign in Southern Provinces.

Manila, Jan. 3.—The first movement of the general southern advance occurred this morning, when two battalions of the Fourth infantry landed and occupied Cabuyao, on the south side of Laguna de Bay. Two Americans were killed and two wounded. Twenty-four of the enemy were found dead in one house. One hundred and fifty prisoners and four six-pounder rapid-fire guns were captured.

The gunboat Laguna de Bay bombarded the town before the disembarkation of the troops from the cascos, which was made under the enemy's shrapnel fire. The enemy evacuated the place before the charging Americans, retreating to Santa Rosa, to which town they were pursued.

Heavy fighting occurred along the road to Santa Rosa, which was occupied by the insurgents, retreating south toward Silan. The Americans burned the country around Cabuyao.

The gunboat returned to Calamba, for reinforcements, and thence came to Manila to get ammunition. She recently captured two of the enemy's steam launches, one under the fire of artillery, at Calamba, and also four cascos loaded with rice. Other regiments are mobilizing tonight at San Pedro Macati and Pasig, preparatory to continuing the southern advance.

Yesterday's capture of bombs involved the seizure of documents incriminating 1,000 Filipinos who intended to rise against the Americans. Papers were also found showing a distribution of the city into districts, and a careful assignment of leaders and followers. The precautions taken by the Americans Saturday, it is now evident, alone prevented an uprising.

The provost marshal has requested that two more regiments be detained for the protection of Manila. Three thousand troops are now actually in the city.

Aguinaldo's wife, sisters and 18 Filipinos have surrendered to Major March's battalion of the Third infantry at Bontoc. Three Filipino officers also surrendered to Major March, and the Filipinos gave up two Spanish and two American prisoners.

A GREAT ZINC TRUST.

Combination to Control the Output of the Country.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—Information has reached Chicago of a proposed combination to control the zinc output of the United States. Work on the scheme has been begun, and the initial steps have been taken in Kansas City. According to one of the best-known zinc operators, who was in Chicago yesterday, the plan includes not only the control of the mines, but of the smelting plants as well. Within a short time representatives of the combination will get a price on all producing zinc mines in the Joplin, Mo., district, and secure options on them. It has been estimated by the promoters that it will take in the neighborhood of \$100,000,000 to swing the undertaking successfully, and this amount of money, with as much more as may be necessary, is said to be ready to go into the scheme.

SCHOONERS IN COLLISION.

Phosphate Carrier Goes Down, but Crew Is Saved.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—A special to the Tribune from Norfolk, Va., says: The schooners Fannie Brown and Margaret Roper collided off Hatteras, and the Fannie Brown sank. The 10 men of the crew were saved by the crew of the Roper.

The collision occurred on the night of December 29, during a high wind. The big schooners crashed together before the lookouts saw the danger. The Brown, being loaded with rock and phosphate, filled rapidly, and its crew of 10 had barely time to take to the boats, the schooner sinking shortly after they put off. The Roper, disabled, stood by, and after a hard struggle got the Brown's crew safely aboard.

An Interesting Rumor.

London, Jan. 1.—A dispatch from Lorenzo Marquez, dated December 23, says a curious story is current, emanating from Boer sources that Matt. Steyn, brother of the president of the Orange Free State, and 800 Free Staters have definitely refused to continue the war. Matt. Steyn, acting as spokesman of the party, is reported to have told the president that he was only authorized to intervene in the interest of peace, and that the burghers did not feel that they were bound by his "unwarrantable conduct," especially as they ran the risk of confiscation of their property, and they simply desired to be permitted to farm in peace and proposed to immediately return to their farms.

Train Without an Engineer.

Cedar Rapids, Ia., Jan. 3.—The overland limited on the Northwestern railway ran 50 miles last night without an engineer. No one on the train was conscious of the danger until the fireman brought the train to a standstill at Bertram. Near Mechanicsville, Engineer F. J. Fiske, in some unknown manner, fell from the cab, and the fireman did not notice his absence until the train had whirled over 50 miles. Fiske was picked up unconscious a few hours later, and died in a hospital here tonight.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS.

Commercial and Financial Happenings of Interest to the Growing Western States.

Since the first of July the people of Alaska have contributed to the federal treasury in license money the magnificent sum of \$153,276.40 for the privilege of doing business in Alaska and developing the territory, says the Skagway Alaskan. This is in addition to the tariff duties paid, internal revenues, taxes and all other taxes common to the country at large. It is a special tax levied upon business in Alaska alone, such as no other citizens of the United States are required to pay; in fact it is a tax that was never before in the history of the United States levied against any of its people.

Plenty of Supplies at Dawson.

D. W. Bullock, lately arrived from Dawson, said to an Alaskan reporter: "Dawson is supplied with everything needed there for the winter. The report as to a great shortage of oats is not true. There is plenty of oats along the river and in Dawson to supply the interior. When we got away from Dawson, November 7, oats were selling for 22 cents a pound and hay at 15 cents. Last winter oats went to 40 and 45 cents, and hay to 35 to 50 cents. Tobacco sells in Dawson today for \$1 to \$1.25 a pound, less than it brings in Bennett. The Bennett price is \$1.50 a pound. Flour that sold for \$8 in Dawson a year ago is worth only \$4.75 there today. There will be plenty of beef in Dawson throughout the winter. Dumbolton had four scows loaded with beef on the way in, one of which is at Selkirk and one at Stewart river. I do not know where the others are. Dumbolton will take the meat through to Dawson over the ice after the river freezes. McDougall & Burns have 80 tons below Selkirk and will take it in over the ice. The labor market of Dawson is glutted. There were 1,000 to 1,500 idle men in the town when I left, and more were rushing in from up the river."

Atlin Future Output.

Charles Christopher, who has negotiated more large Atlin mining deals than any other man in the country during the season recently closed, is authority for the statement that there will be no less than half a dozen large hydraulic plants put in operation in Atlin with the opening of spring. He says the output of gold in that country will exceed \$5,000,000. The gold commissioner collected royalty on about \$700,000 this summer, but he failed to collect on more than half the output. There was at least \$1,500,000 taken out of the Atlin gold fields this year, and next year the output will exceed \$5,000,000. Last summer the great majority of the miners did not get to work before August 1, and they all worked small claims and handled most of the dirt with shovels. Next year they will handle it by the hydraulic process.

Snowslide on White Pass.

News of a big snowslide on the White Pass & Yukon railroad was brought to Victoria by the steamer Tees. A rotary and two engines were buried by the slide, and after they were shoveled out, the rotary ran into a rock, knocking out 13 of its 20 knives. The train which was behind the snow-bucking outfit was not injured.

P. O'Regan, one of those who endeavored to walk to Skagway from the snowbound train, was found unconscious, with his face and hands frozen. The operator at Glacier reported to Skagway that the track there was covered for a distance of 850 feet a depth of five to 20 feet. Telegraph wires beyond Glacier are down.

Heathen Chinese Throw a Bomb.

At Victoria, B. C., a dastardly attempt was made to wreck a Chinese Methodist mission church. While the congregation, principally Chinese, was worshipping, a bomb made of lead pipe and filled with gunpowder was exploded. No one was injured. The deed is ascribed to heathen Chinese jealous of the introduction of Christianity among their countrymen.

To List All the Hops.

Directors of the Oregon Hopgrowers' Association met in Salem Tuesday afternoon, and were in secret session four hours. The chief business transacted was to require every local representative of the association to obtain a complete list of hopgrowers and the amount of hops now on hand in their respective districts. The board also announced that it is now ready for business.

Northwest Notes.

An opera house is one of Albany's needs for 1900.

Mule-buyers from California are in Southern Oregon counties.

A Burns paper reports a sale of 2,700 stock sheep at \$2.60 per head.

It is estimated that the call for warrants recently made by the county treasurer of Whatcom county covers about \$170,000 of county indebtedness.

Figures of real estate transfers recorded in King county (Seattle) since July 1 show a total of 495 transfers, of an aggregate value of \$3,989,625, not including, of course, the value of the transfers for nominal sums.

BRADSTREET'S REVIEW.

Temporary Reaction From the Heaviest Holiday Trade on Record.

Bradstreet's says: Holiday influence and stock-taking impart an appearance of dullness to general distributive trade, broken, however, by fair activity in reorder business to fill up stocks depleted by the heaviest holiday trade that has ever been experienced.

Anticipation of spring trade wants has given a more than ordinarily active appearance to business in dry goods at New York, while in industrial lines the efforts of manufacturers to keep up with filled order-books is resulting in unusually active operations. Following the flurry in money, stocks and in some lines of speculative commodities noted last week, has come, as was expected, a more cheerful tone, and a firming up in quotations is noted in such staples as cotton, which was effected by last week's money developments, and also in hog products, coffee, copper, tin and lead. The strength of textiles is still a feature which finds justification in current statistics of larger season's receipts and sales of wool, and in reports of enlarged old and heavily increased new capacity in manufacturing lines.

In iron and steel, reasonable quiet as regards new business is observable, but unabated activity on earlier booked orders is reported. In some cases, no shutdown was made for the holidays by mills and furnaces.

Wheat (including flour) shipments for the week aggregate 3,610,557 bushels, against 2,813,714 bushels last week, 6,292,625 bushels in the corresponding week of 1898, 5,495,061 bushels in 1895.

For the year, failures are the smallest in number for 17 years past, and were it not for a few heavy financial suspensions in December, liabilities, which will exceed those of 1892 slightly, would have been smallest for 12 years past.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.

Onions, new, \$1.00@1.25 per sack.
Potatoes, new, \$16@20.
Beets, per sack, 75@85c.
Turnips, per sack, 60c.
Carrots, per sack, 50c.
Parsnips, per sack, 75@85c.
Cauliflower, 75c@1 per dozen.
Cabbage, native and California, 75@90c per 100 pounds.
Peaches, 65@80c.
Apples, \$1.25@1.50 per box.
Pears, \$1.00@1.25 per box.
Prunes, 60c per box.
Watermelons, \$1.50.
Nutmegs, 50@75c.
Butter—Creamery, 32c per pound; dairy, 17@22c; ranch, 22c per pound.
Eggs—Firm, 30@31c.
Cheese—Native, 16c.
Poultry—9@10c; dressed, 13@14c.
Hay—Puget Sound timothy, \$12.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$17.00@18.00.
Corn—Whole, \$23.00; cracked, \$23; feed meal, \$23.
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$21; whole, \$22.
Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.85; blended straight, \$3.10; California, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$6.00; Graham, per barrel, \$3.80; whole wheat flour, \$3.10; rye flour, \$3.80@4.00.
Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$16.00; shorts, per ton, \$17.00.
Feed—Chopped feed, \$20.50 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$22; oil cake meal, per ton, \$32.00.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 51@52c; Valley, 52c; Bluestem, 54c per bushel.
Flour—Best grades, \$3.00; Graham, \$2.50; superfine, \$2.15 per barrel.
Oats—Choice white, 34@35c; choice gray, 34c per bushel.
Barley—Feed barley, \$15@16.00; brewing, \$18.00@18.50 per ton.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$17 per ton; middlings, \$22; shorts, \$18; chop, \$16 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$9@10.50; clover, \$7@8; Oregon wild hay, \$6@7 per ton.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 50@55c; seconds, 42½@45c; dairy, 37½@40c; store, 25@35c.
Eggs—18@19c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 13c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$2.50@3.50 per dozen; hens, \$4.00; springs, \$2.50@3.50; geese, \$7.00@9.00 for old; \$4.50@6.50 for young; ducks, \$4.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 12½@13c per pound.
Potatoes—55@70c per sack; sweets, 2@2½c per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, \$1; turnips, 90c; per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cauliflower, 75c per dozen; parsnips, \$1; beans, 5@6c per pound; celery, 70@75c per dozen; cucumbers, 50c per box; peas, 3@4c per pound; tomatoes, 75c per box; green corn, 12½@15c per dozen.
Hops—8@11c; 1898 crop, 5@6c.
Wool—Valley, 12@13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8@14c; mohair, 27@30c per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 3½c; dressed mutton, 6½@7c per pound; lambs, 7½c per pound.
Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$5.00; light and feeders, \$4.50; dressed, \$5.50@6.00 per 100 pounds.
Beef—Gross, top steers, \$3.50@4.00; cows, \$3@3.50; dressed beef, 6½@7¼c per pound.
Veal—Large, 6½@7½c; small, 8@8½c per pound.