

SITUATION IS VERY GRAVE

Kruger Asks the Burghers What They Wish.

THE BOERS LOSING HEART

It is Fear That if Dutch Have in Excuse They Will Destroy the Johannesburg Mines.

London, May 29.—When Lord Roberts wrote his first dispatch on Transvaal territory yesterday, shortly before 2 o'clock in the afternoon, he was 51 miles from Johannesburg and 77 miles from Pretoria. His immensely superior forces had passed the Vaal river, their last great natural obstacle, at three points.

The Vaal has a curve of 80 miles on the west to Zand Drift on the east. The concave of the current is toward the Free State. Thus Lord Roberts, advancing along the railway, was in a position to strike any part of the crescent by shorter lines than those by which the Boers could reinforce the threatened points. The Boers retreated almost without a show of defense. General French and General Hamilton apparently did not fire a shot.

Of Lord Roberts' immediate force 11 men, belonging to the Eighth mounted infantry, were the first to ford the river. They came upon a Boer patrol looting at Vieljoen's Drift, and a skirmish lasting 10 minutes followed. Three hundred Boers tried feebly to hold the Vereeniging colliery, but were dislodged. Major Hunter Weston and Lieutenant Earl rode in advance of Lord Roberts' 40 miles into a hostile country to try to cut the railway behind the Boers before the Vaal was crossed, but they were too late.

The Boer rear guard is at Moyerton, 10 miles south of Vereeniging. Their main body is moving toward the Klip river hills that cover the south side of Johannesburg. While Lord Roberts' 30,000 infantry, 20,000 horses and 150 guns are moving on Johannesburg and Pretoria, through a parched and deserted country, the situation at the Transvaal capital, as it was last Friday, is thus described by an observer, who sent his message by private hands to Lourenco Marques yesterday:

"The situation, both from a military and a political point of view, has become very critical. President Kruger yesterday admitted for the first time that matters are very grave. The Boer determination is to trust everything to a last stand on the Gatsrand mountains, to the north of Potchefstroom, where 3,000 Kaffirs are digging trenches. To that point every available man and gun has been sent.

"The whole of the western border of the Transvaal from end to end is defenseless, and General Baden-Powell can march in when he likes. Lord Roberts, on the other hand, will encounter the greatest resistance. The Boer endeavor is to lure the British into appearing to threaten Johannesburg with attack, an excuse thus being given them for the destruction of property. The Transvaal government will not dare destroy the mines and property without an excuse. Much dynamite has been sent down the line, and 160,000 cases lie ready at Zurfontein, near Johannesburg.

"General Louis Botha and General Lucas Meier have pleaded for the preservation of property. Both are large landed proprietors and fear confiscation, but they have not received satisfactory replies from President Kruger."

Naval Station at San Diego.

San Diego, Cal., May 28.—Captain Field, of the United States steamer Ranger, has received orders from Washington directing him to make soundings in the bay and recommendations as to whether this is a suitable location for the establishment of a naval coaling station, and further to advise whether one is needed here. The work of surveying the harbor will be begun immediately. The minimum depth of water will be reported, and also the cost of the necessary land, if the government does not already own land near where the bunkers would be located.

The West Africa Trouble.

Accra, May 29.—It is reported that three European officers were killed and Captain Applin and 100 Hausers were wounded in a recent effort by the Lagos Hausers to break the investing lines of tribesmen at Kumassie. The Ashanti loss is reported to have been great, as the Hausers had three Maxims engaged, although themselves greatly outnumbered. Three hundred Ashantis are said to have been killed in a previous action. The rising is still spreading.

Paper Mill Burned.

Milwaukee, May 29.—The Flambeau Paper Company's mill and warehouse at Park Falls burned today, entailing a loss of \$200,000. The property is well insured. The town was without adequate fire protection, and at one time was thought would be totally wiped out. Assistance from Medford and Abbotsford prevented the spread of the flames beyond the paper company's plant. Included in the loss are two paper machines, valued at \$40,000 each.

WARNING TO CHINA.

Uncle Sam Says the "Boxers" Must Be Suppressed.

Washington, May 28.—The United States government has taken a hand in the suppression of the "Boxers" in China. Minister Conger has been instructed by the state department to inform the Chinese government that the United States government expects it to stamp out promptly and thoroughly this society, and to provide proper guarantees for the maintenance of peace and order, and the protection of the life and property of Americans in China, all now threatened by the operations of the "Boxers." There is no indication in the instructions as to the course that will be pursued by the United States in case the Chinese government fails to observe the warning conveyed in this communication. Mr. Conger is acting on parallel lines with the representatives of every European power at the Chinese court, but has not joined in any concert of action.

STRIKE SYMPATHIZERS.

Caused Another Riot in St. Louis—Attempt to Blow Up a Car.

St. Louis, May 28.—Sympathizers of the striking street car men were again the medium of a riotous demonstration today, and as a result another name was added to the long list of wounded. This afternoon, as a car on the Jefferson avenue line, running south, approached Sullivan avenue, it was attacked by a crowd of men and boys. Several shots were fired at the car. The policemen on the car returned the fire, and in all about 100 shots were exchanged. Peter Wells, a patrolman, who was riding on the front platform, was hit in the left arm pit, the bullet producing an ugly wound. It is not known who fired the shot, as the crowd scattered as soon as the men on the car drew their revolvers. It was rumored that two men in crowd were shot, but they could not be found by the police.

The differences existing between the management of the St. Louis & Suburban Railway Company and the union men in its employ were satisfactorily adjusted this afternoon and all danger of another strike has been averted, at least for the present.

Twenty-two miles of the Transit Company were in operation today, but few cars were running.

At 6 A. M. an attempt was made by somebody unknown to blow up a car on the Spaulding avenue line of the Transit Company. The wheels of the first car struck something that exploded with a loud noise, and lifted the car two or three feet into the air.

ON AGUINALDO'S TRAIL.

Marsh Pursuing the Rebel Leader in Northern Luzon.

Manila, May 28.—Major Marsh, with a battalion of the Thirty-third infantry, and Colonel Hare, with another part of the regiment, while scouring the country northeast of Bangued, report they struck the trail of a party of Filipinos traveling in the mountains and believe they are escorting Aguinaldo. Major Marsh is continuing pursuit across an exceedingly difficult country, beyond telegraph lines.

Sergeant Barry and four privates of company B, Twenty-seventh regiment, have rescued the daughter of the president of San Mateo from some Ladrone, who had abducted her. Afterwards 12 Ladrone ambushed them, killing the sergeant. Three privates stood off the band until reinforced. Seven Ladrone were killed.

Lieutenant Elliott, of the cruiser New Orleans, died recently at Cavite of apoplexy, resulting from a sunstroke.

Looted the Charleston.

Seattle, May 28.—During the last voyage of the Churruca from Aparri, according to the Manila Freedom, the steamer touched at the island where the Charleston was wrecked, for the purpose of taking on a number of beavers. Several American civilians were passengers on the ship and they seized an opportunity to go ashore. Ruins of a house larger and more durable than the cottages of the natives attracted their attention. While passing through the place they stumbled across the searchlight of the cruiser Charleston and numerous other articles, including a splendid case of surgical instruments, the property of the Charleston's medical officer. No arms were found among the loot, and the supposition is that if any of them fell into the hands of natives they were taken across the mainland where the rebels might use them.

Disorders in Isle of Jersey.

London, May 28.—Serious trouble is threatening between the British and French residents of St. Heliers, Island of Jersey, owing to the pro-Boer attitude of the latter. There have been several collisions, and this morning troops were forced to charge with fixed bayonets to prevent the demonstrators from invading the French quarter. Thirty arrests were made. The French consul has reported the situation to the British foreign office, with the result that the latter has wired to the governor, Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Hopton, holding him personally responsible for the maintenance of order.

Germany will bring China to time, the empress dowager having violated her promise never again to allow notorious Li Ping Hang, enemy of Europe, to hold an office.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS

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

Butchered Seven Whales.

W. C. King, of Sand Lake, writes to the Tillamook, Or., Headlight, the following story of the killing of seven stranded whales:

On May 10, as O. R. Chamberlain was walking along the beach, he discovered some black objects in the edge of the water, and upon approaching nearer he discovered that they were whales, which had become stranded from some cause or other. There were seven of them, and they were making tremendous effort to get back into deep water, without avail. The tide was leaving them. They would open their mouths and draw in about a barrel of water and then spurt it through the hole in the top of their head 20 feet into the air, and lying sometimes on their sides it was like getting in the cross-fire of a hose company. Mr. Chamberlain made tracks for home to get his gun and a butcher knife to carve them up. On his return he turned loose with his gun to kill them, but after wasting a few shots he saw that he could not kill them in that way, so he sailed into them with his butcher knife, and stuck them "as you would a hog." That did the work, and he soon had seven whales strung on the beach that were from eight to 18 feet long.

He at once commenced to strip the blubber from the outside of the body and inside the head. The fat was cut into six-inch strips and thrown across a horse's back and taken home and rendered out, which will amount to several barrels. It has a market value, and Mr. Chamberlain will likely realize considerable from it.

Insurance Rate Less.

Representatives of the Pacific Board of Underwriters have finally lowered the rate of insurance on all business property in The Dalles, Or. This includes the larger portion of the buildings below the bluff, and the rates in some cases were lowered much more than the citizens had reason to expect. This action on the part of the insurance companies is taken as a result of the increased facilities for fighting fire here above the other cities of the class in the Northwest. A perfect fire alarm system is now in order, and the recent chemical engine and hook and ladder tests have proved very satisfactory.

Quarantine at Ashland.

George H. McGeer, M. D., acting assistant surgeon of the United States marine hospital service, has been ordered from San Francisco to Ashland by the quarantine service, to inspect all Chinese and Japanese passengers of the Southern Pacific passenger trains coming into Oregon from California, and see that they have certificates showing them to have been exempt from the contagion of the bubonic plague before entering Oregon.

Valuable Onyx Mine.

Spokane, May 22.—O. M. Rosendale, a mining engineer of Portland, tells of the onyx quarry, about 50 miles north of here, in Stevens county. Two steam drills and a saw mill are at work mining and cutting the onyx, which is the finest of its kind in this country. It takes a high polish and the colors are rich green and black. The deposit is about 300 by 1,000 feet and the saw mill is fitted with huge gang saws for cutting the mineral slabs. This Stevens county onyx will rival that of the old world.

In a bunch of beef cattle delivered in Arlington, Or., by Joseph Frizzell, there were three steers that weighed 5,000 pounds. An Eastern buyer who saw them said he had never seen finer steers in the Chicago market. The steers were photographed in Arlington, and before an hour 40 copies of the pictures were ordered. They were grade Herefords of the Danneman stock.

The season at the United States fish commission station, at Baker lake, Wash., situated at the headwaters of a branch of Skagit river, is practically at a close. It is estimated that upward of 90 per cent of the salmon taken produced young fry and that more than 10,500,000 healthy young salmon, of the sockeye or blueback variety, were liberated as a result of the work at the station.

The Belgian hare craze has struck Baker City, Or., says the Democrat. Bela Kadish and Moses Fuchs have gone into the business on a limited scale, with the chances of enlarging their business into ponderous proportions off a small capital. Messrs. Kadish and Fuchs received a day or so ago two does from a rabbitry in California, and the pedigrees attached to them would make a Percheron stallion ashamed of himself.

Work is progressing nicely on the water works at North Bend, Coos county, Or. Water is being brought from Pony slough and a reservoir of 100,000 gallons capacity will be constructed on the hill back of town. From this reservoir water will be carried in pipes to every residence in the place and will have a pressure of 55 pounds to the inch.

MINES AND MINING.

The Oregon Mining Stock Exchange Almost Ready for Business.

Portland, May 30.—The Oregon Mining and Stock Exchange is almost ready for business. The rooms will be finished within a few days. Properties are listed and brokers are ready. A call has been made for the second payment on stock subscribed. The third call will be issued soon. During this week the directors will meet to finally arrange for the opening. The new enterprise has been widely advertised in Colorado and other gold mining centers. The Oregon exchange will work along lines successfully followed at Spokane and Denver and a large list of mining properties are ready for the first session. A gallery for ladies has been provided in the Portland exchange.

Dividends Paid.

Helena, Mont., May 30.—During the latter part of April and up to this time in May dividends have been paid by Montana and Idaho mines as follows:

MONTANA.

Boston & Montana Con.	\$1,200,000
Anaconda Copper	2,400,000
Amalgamated Copper	1,500,000
Florence, silver	22,000
Montana Ore Pur. Co.	80,000

IDAHO.

De Lamar	48,000
Buffalo Hump	10,000
Banker Hill	21,000
Empire State	30,000
Idaho	8,183

New Oregon Mining Companies.

Salem, May 30.—Two million-dollar mining companies were incorporated the past week—the Helena, of Portland and the Freeland Consolidated, of Salem.

Washington Mining Companies.

Olympia, May 30.—The big mining companies incorporated in Washington during the week were the New York and Alaska, of Seattle, Silver Summit, of Spokane, and the Sunset, of Spokane, the latter capitalized for a million.

Looking for Coal in Oregon.

Pendleton, Oregon, May 30.—Coal claims on Birch creek, 20 miles from here, are being examined again to determine once for all whether or not the property will warrant extensive development.

Elks Will Boom Mines.

Portland, May 30.—A special booth for mining exhibits will be a feature of the Elks street carnival here in September. Ores will be obtained from all camps of Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Idaho Mine Accident.

Boise, Idaho, May 30.—Two men were killed and two seriously hurt by an explosion in the tunnel of the Florida Mountain mine at Silver City. The men had drilled into a missed hole and the heavy explosion followed.

Last of the Nome Rush.

Seattle, May 30.—The first rush to Nome is over. Up to date 57 boats have left this port for Nome, carrying more than 10,000 passengers, enormous freight tonnage, and several hundred horses and cattle.

In the Klondike Country.

Tacoma, May 30.—Skagway news less than two weeks old says the Yukon river is open to Dawson City, and Lake Bennett is also open.

Coal Mine Sold.

Renton, Wash., May 30.—The coal mine here owned and operated for seven years by a co-operative company has been sold to Jacob Furth, of Seattle, for \$90,000.

Group of Claims Bonded.

Pendleton, Or., May 30.—The Olin group in the Greenhorn mountains has been bonded by Joe Basler, of this city, to a representative of the Standard Oil Company for \$30,000. If development work now going on proves satisfactory mining will be done vigorously this fall.

Looking for Gold Mines.

Baker City, Or., May 30.—A party of Colorado miners have started from here for the North Powder section, piloted by G. Downs, who owns copper properties up there. They claim to be out for Denver capitalists, to buy anything offered in gold mines worth having.

Seven Devils Mining Country.

Spokane, May 30.—The Seven Devils mining country in Idaho will have the Pacific & Northern Idaho railroad built into the heart of it this summer, as 60 miles of extension work is planned. Immense ore traffic is expected by the general manager of the road, P. P. Shelby.

New Road to the Mines.

Brownsville, Or., May 30.—Surveyors are running a line up the Calapooia for a new wagon road to the mines, as Linn county wants the trade of that section. The road will pass through heavy timber country and some new gold locations.

California Gold Output.

San Francisco, May 30.—Charles G. Yale, of the San Francisco mint, says the gold output of California was \$15,336,031. Silver \$504,012. Placer mines, river bed, bar mines and dredging yielded \$1,401,386. In all the mines of the state 18,700 men are employed.

TRADE IS QUIETER.

Quotations Have Weakened in Several Lines of Business.

Bradstreet's says: Trade is, if anything, quieter and prices are lower than a week ago, while efforts toward a readjustment of productive capacity to present conditions, are noted in several lines of industry, notably iron and steel and lumber. Unsettled conditions in the cotton trade, and a large failure, due mainly to overstepping the bull side of the staple, has tended to weaken quotations in several lines of speculative business. Backward crop reports and the backward demand for cotton goods are of course partly responsible for the sharp break, but statistically the staple remains very strong.

Advices from the dry goods trade are of backward demand at retail, affecting orders in many lines, but cotton goods production is still heavy.

The boot and shoe market is dull with manufacturers firm but with jobbers asking for lower prices.

Lumber is on the whole weaker, partly owing to the unsettled conditions in the building trade and partly to the feeling that prices have been pushed too high, and this feeling is likewise true of a number of other lines.

Almost alone among iron and steel products, structural material is firm and much is hoped for in the direction of new business. The weakness in cast iron pipe is inducing some curtailment of production, notably at the South.

Wheat, including flour, shipments for the week aggregate 3,698,968 bushels, against 5,178,422 bushels last week.

Business failures for the week number 167 in the United States, compared with 155 last week.

In the Dominion of Canada business failures for the week number 18, as compared with 24 last week.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.

Onions, \$9.
Lettuce, hot house, 40@45c doz.
Potatoes, \$16@17; \$17@18.
Beets, per sack, 50@60c.
Turnips, per sack, 40@60c.
Carrots, per sack, \$1.
Parsnips, per sack, 50@75c.
Cauliflower, California 55@90c.
Strawberries—\$2.25 per case.
Celery—40@60c per doz.
Cabbage, native and California, \$1.00@1.25 per 100 pounds.
Apples, \$2.00@2.75; \$3.00@3.50.
Prunes, 60c per box.
Butter—Creamery, 22c; Eastern 22c; dairy, 17@22c; ranch, 15@17c pound.
Eggs—18c.
Cheese—14@15c.
Poultry—14c; dressed, 14@15c; spring, \$5.
Hay—Puget Sound timothy, \$11.00@12.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$18.00@19.00.
Corn—Whole, \$23.00; cracked, \$23; feed meal, \$23.
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$20.
Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.25; blended straights, \$3.00; California, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$6.00; graham, per barrel, \$3.00; whole wheat flour, \$3.00; rye flour, \$3.80@4.00.
Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$18.00; shorts, per ton, \$14.00.
Feed—Chopped feed, \$19.00 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$20; oil cake meal, per ton, \$30.00.
Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef steers, price 8c; cows, 7c; mutton 8c; pork, 8c; trimmed, 9c; veal, 8½@10c.
Hams—Large, 13c; small, 13½; breakfast bacon, 12½c; dry salt sides, 8c.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 51@52c; Valley, 52c; Bluestem, 54c per bushel.
Flour—Best grades, \$3.00; graham, \$2.50; superfine, \$2.10 per barrel.
Oats—Choice white, 36c; choice gray, 33c per bushel.
Barley—Feed barley, \$14@14.50; brewing, \$16.00@16.50 per ton.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$13 per ton; middlings, \$19; shorts, \$15; chop, \$14 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$9@11; clover, \$7@7.50; Oregon wild hay, \$6@7 per ton.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 30@35c; seconds, 45c; dairy, 25@30c; store, 22½@25c.
Eggs—13c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 13c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$4.00@4.50 per dozen; hens, \$5.00; springs, \$2.50@3.50; geese, \$6.50@8.00 for old; \$4.50@6.50; ducks, \$6.00@7.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 14@15c per pound.
Potatoes—40@65c per sack; sweets, 2@2½c per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, \$1; turnips, 75c; per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cabbage, 1½c per pound; parsnips, 75; onions, 8c per pound; carrots, 50c.
Hops—2@8c per pound.
Wool—Valley, 12@13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 10@15c; mohair, 27@30c per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 3½c; dressed mutton, 7@7½c per pound; lambs, 5½c.
Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$5.00; light and feeders, \$4.50; dressed, \$5.00@6.50 per 100 pounds.
Beef—Gross, top steers, \$4.00@4.50; cows, \$3.50@4.00; dressed beef, 6½@7½c per pound.
Veal—Large, 6½@7½c; small, 8@8½c per pound.
Tallow—5@5½c; No. 2 and grease, 3½@4c per pound.