

WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

It seems now that the last hope for peace in South Africa is lost. The notice of the Transvaal government to British authorities is a challenge to war, which Great Britain will be compelled to meet.

It will be a serious affair, the most serious in which the British empire has been engaged since the Crimean war, or at least since the revolt of India.

Secretary Long is inclined to be amused over the claims put forward by the friends of several gentlemen of credit for the selection of Dewey to command the Asiatic Squadron.

According to Judge A. L. Krumler, of Indiana, who is good authority, that state is safely and permanently anchored in the republican harbor, because of the growth of its manufacturing interests and the general good times.

In three years of republican administration the country has doubled the highest export mark reached in Mr. Cleveland's term.

A great English statesman's secret. The secret of a celebrated English statesman's long life was his systematic way of eating.

It is gratifying to know that Hostetter's Stomach Bitters cures stomach troubles. It is a purely vegetable medicine that has stood the test of many years.

PRINCIPAL SALING RESIGNS.

Miss Anna Myers to be His Successor—Two More Teachers Necessary. Principal W. L. Saling of the Sumpter public school has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted by the board of directors with formal but heartfelt regrets.

Miss Anna A. Myers, who has been his able assistant, will be made principal, it is thought, and some new teacher will be engaged to occupy Miss Myers' present position.

Speaking of Mr. Saling's resignation, Miss Myers said: "The school will sustain a loss in Mr. Saling's departure from Sumpter, and I join with the board of directors in good wishes for his future."

Whereas, Professor W. L. Saling has been in our midst for more than three years in the capacity of educator and principal of the Sumpter public school;

Resolved, That we as a board of directors regret that he has seen fit to sever his connection with our school; by resigning his position as principal;

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the board and a copy furnished the Blue Mountain American for publication.

THOMAS McEWEN, W. W. LOONEY, ANDY STINSON, Board of Directors.

THE BOERS' ULTIMATUM.

Withdrawal Within Forty-Eight Hours of all British Forces Landed Since the Bloemfontein Conference is Demanded. CAPETOWN, Oct. 10—The Transvaal government has sent an ultimatum to Great Britain.

LONDON, Oct. 10—A London news agency published the following dispatch from Pretoria, filed there at 7:30 p. m. yesterday: "An urgent dispatch has just been handed to Conyngham Greene, the British diplomat agent, requesting explicit assurance of the withdrawal within 48 hours of all British forces landed in South Africa since the Bloemfontein conference."

The effect of the news of the Transvaal ultimatum upon the stock exchange was steady. Kaffirs were firmer in the belief that the most gigantic gold industry in the world will be incorporated in the British colony as an outcome of the war.

THE OVERCROWDING.

Of the Grazing Lands; Leasing the Only Solution. The question of the proper solution of the grazing land problem formed an important part of the deliberations of the recent National Irrigation Congress.

The frequent controversies and fights in different sections in the west have called attention to the present overstocking of many western ranges and the necessity for some radical change in the administration of the public land laws.

The Irrigation Congress strongly supported the policy that the National government should allow the states and territories to lease their public grazing lands, subject to actual settlement by home-builders, the title, however, to remain in the federal government.

This proposal to lease the public lands is not a new and untried scheme. Large areas of western lands are now being satisfactorily leased to stockmen, and where the practice is in operation the stockmen themselves, both cattle and sheepmen are firm supporters of the policy.

ROUGH ON MULES.

Animals Bound for Manila are Crushed During a Typhoon. By the Associated Press.

MANILA, Oct. 6—The transport Siam, which left Honolulu 31 days ago, encountered typhoons early this week. One lasted 40 hours. Most of the forage which was on deck was swept overboard.

The mules were hurled from side to side and frightfully mangled and disemboweled. Their legs and neck were broken and the wretched animals fell in such a confused mass that the attendants were unable to relieve them.

In the meantime the deck load was washed off, the ship lightened and the rolling increased. When the storm abated the injured animals were killed and their carcasses thrown overboard.

When the Siam arrived here her propeller was high out of the water and the wrecks of her boats were hanging from the davits.

Otis' Report.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6—A cable message from General Otis to the war department brings word of the loss of several hundred horses and mules on the transport Siam. The message follows:

"MANILA, Oct. 6—Steamer Siam, which left San Francisco August 18th with 45 horses and 328 mules, encountered a typhoon on the 21st instant off northern Luzon, in which all but 16 mules were lost. The animals were killed by the pitching of the vessel and the lack of air from the necessary closing of the hatches. No casualties among the passengers."

It is stated at the quartermaster's department that the mules which were lost on the Siam were trained pack mules which were considered the most valuable to be sent to the Philippines.

COMMENT ON RANGE CONDITIONS.

E. Boettcher Believes High Beef and Mutton Prices are Not Due to Scarcity of Range. East Oregonian.

E. Boettcher, one of the heaviest handlers of sheep in this part of the country, has returned from Chicago and will be here for some time attending to the cares of the sheep he owns in this county. Mr. Boettcher is in a position to view the sheep market from the position of both buyer and seller, for the reason that he owns large bands of sheep, which he fattens for the market in the East, and also often buys large bands for shipment to the East.

Having been in Chicago, Mr. Boettcher has quite naturally given close attention to the market conditions prevailing now, and was asked what, in his opinion, was the future of the livestock market, as to prices. He replied:

"So far as I am able to determine, the present high prices for mutton sheep and beef cattle will remain. I see no reason why prices should drop to lower figures, and expect them to remain about on the present level. There will, of course, be the usual fluctuations, from time to time, but no material lowering."

"The higher prices are due directly to the fact that people are buying more and better meat for individual consumption, and the present high prices are simply the result of the application of the law of supply and demand. There is a big demand for meat, and therefore the price goes up."

"Mr. Boettcher, what is your view of the question of high prices as the result of the scarcity of grass on the western ranges? Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, recently returned to Washington from his western trip, stated in an interview that he believed high prices for beef and mutton are due to the fact that the grass has been eaten off the ranges in the western states, and that the bunchgrass of former years being practically gone, prices must remain up until the range was restored to something like its normal condition."

To this Mr. Boettcher replied: "While I do not wish to be understood as disputing the word of the honorable secretary, I am of the opinion that many people not personally acquainted with the handling of livestock on the western ranges are apt to be misinformed. As a matter of fact, the stockmen have not for years depended on the original stand of bunchgrass, but have fed their stock on the growth of grass from year to year. When the rain comes in the proper time, then the stockmen have plenty of feed for their bands, and when the lack of rain causes the range to dry up, then the stockmen suffer and the supply of beef and mutton is lower in relation to the demand."

"Many years have passed since there were any considerable areas of land on which the oldtime bunchgrass was standing. The present conditions affecting the feeding of flocks have been prevalent for all these years, and the present prices being high they are attributed solely to the fact that grass has been heretofore rather scarce from the lack of rains."

"This fall the grass may again be scarce, but it will be due only to the fact that the rains did not come at the right time. They began too early, and should they fail to come any more this fall, then the grass will be short and consequently beef and mutton high. If the rains come yet this fall, and the grass as a consequence is good, then the price of mutton and beef will be affected so as to lower them to some extent."

"But these will be only the market fluctuations from month to month. Prices will not descend to the lower general level which used to be the rule. They are up to stay, for the reason that the American people are consuming more and better meat, as I stated in the beginning."

When in doubt

As to prevailing styles, etc., in Dress Goods, Suits, Skirts, etc., a glance through this department will set all doubts at rest. This fall's array of dress patterns in full suit and skirt patterns covers such fabrics as golf plaid suitings, venetian cloth, crepons and homespun. These are most popular nowadays. Of these goods we can enumerate just a few:

Golf plaids in skirt patterns, large plaid, all wool, 44 inches wide—this makes a good, warm, winter skirt and is strictly in accordance with Fashions latest dictates—

\$4, \$4.50 and \$5.50.

They come in exclusive designs and patterns and assure you not only the most fashionable article in ladies' wearing apparel, but the distinction of having a pattern the duplicate of which cannot be had elsewhere. One single pattern of a kind.

Have you investigated

Our Dress Goods Department?

If not, you have missed some opportunities. In Linings, we have the very latest and best in the world, manufactured by The Gilbert Manufacturing Co., an exclusive lining house. Their near silk, super satin surah, silver sheen and sublime Italiane linings are recognized the world over as without peer. Prices on these are very close, running from 12c to 40c. We would like to have you look at them.

November Delineator now in.

Butterick Patterns for November in.

Call on Minor & Co., Heppner, Oregon.

OLD LETTERS.

The house was silent, and the light was fading from the western glow; I read till tears had dimmed my sight. Some letters written long ago.

The voices that have passed away, The faces that have turned to mold, Were round me in the room today And laughed and chatted as of old.

The thoughts that youth was wont to think, The hopes now dead for evermore, Came from the lines of faded ink As sweet and earnest as of yore.

I laid the letters by and dreamed The dear, dead past to life again; The present and its purpose seemed A fading vision full of pain.

Then, with a sudden shout of glee, The children burst into the room. Their little faces were to me As sunbeams in the cloud of doom.

The world was full of meaning still, For love will live though loved ones die. I turned upon life's darkened hill And gloriol in the morning sky.

—F. G. Scott, in Boston Transcript.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS.

The Fourteenth Annual Convention of the Oregon State Sunday School Association will be held at Albany, Oregon, October 26-28, 1899. A splendid program is being carefully prepared, helpful speakers will be provided, and every worker benefitted.

Primary, normal, home departments and house to house visitation work will be thoroughly presented and practical help obtained. The importance of this meeting, the low railroad fares, the warm welcome assured the delegates, should insure a large attendance, and Sunday School workers bearing proper credentials will receive free entertainment.

Delegates paying full fare over the Southern Pacific to Albany will be returned at one-third fare. The O. R. & N. Co. will sell tickets to Portland at one fare for the round trip, and tickets will be sold October 23th to 26th, good to return on or before October 31st. It is expected that special cars will leave Portland for Albany at 8:30 a. m. October 23th, and return from Albany at noon on October 28th. If a sufficient number (60) to fill these cars is obtained, the low rate of \$2.25 Portland to Albany and return will be made, and all delegates beyond Portland are invited to take these cars.

Send names of all delegates to A. A. Morse, 534 Welder street, Portland, Or. Will pastors and superintendents make special note of this and set apart Sunday, October 23d, as a day of special prayer that this convention may be blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit? A. A. Morse, Secretary.

Equipped For Fame.

Washington Star: "I think," said the Fiji Islander, "that I'll pack up and go to the United States."

"Think you'll make your fortune?" "I'm sure of it. I'll go straight into politics. Every once in a while you hear of a man who makes a hit by getting up on a platform and making a speech without his coat on. Then there was the man who became famous by leaving off his socks, and every now and then they stop to take notice of some one simply because he has no collar and necktie."

"Well, what of it?" "Why, look at me. I never wore any clothes at all."

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Assayers and Mining Experts. To the Mining Public of the Northwest: We beg to advise you that we have opened a branch of our business at No. 205 1/2 Washington street, Portland, Or., to accommodate our numerous clients in the Northwest. As our name for prompt and reliable work in the past is known to every mining man west of the Rockies, it will guarantee our future success. Our certificates are invariably accepted by banks and mining corporations as final. Numerous investors are waiting for sound mining property.

We are now ready for work. Send in your samples with letters of instructions and charges, and we will give you prompt returns.

Our charges are: Gold and silver... \$1.50 Gold, silver and copper... 3.00 Coal, soils and other minerals... 5.00

Check assays a specialty. Hand power stamp mills for sale. Complete, \$50 each.

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All kinds of laundry work done first class.

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Washing without ironing 34 cents per pound.

Steady customers, 3 cts per pound. Carpet washing 3 cts per pound.

Cash on delivery.

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THE DALLES, Wasco Co., Oregon.

This institution is pleasantly situated near the Columbia on the line of the railroad; therefore comfortable home and a progressive seat of learning for their daughters or wards. The location of the Academy is one of the most beautiful on the Pacific slope, the portion of Oregon being proverbial for its pure water, Academy is incorporated and authorized by the state to confer Academic honors. Board and tuition per scholastic year, \$10. Studies will be resumed Thursday, Sept. 28th. For detailed information apply to the Sister Superior.