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# The Daily Astorian

FULL ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT.

VOL. XLVIII.

ASTORIA, OREGON, SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 8, 1898.

NO. 7.

THE CELEBRATED

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## STOLID AS ROCK TO THE LAST

Durrant Dies Upon the Scaffold Protesting His Innocence.

HIS FATHER WAS PRESENT

Accepted the Comforts of the Catholic Church—Body Will Probably Be Cremated.

San Quentin Prison, Cal., Jan. 7.—(Special to the Astorian.)—When William Henry Theodore Durrant died on the gallows this morning for the murder of Blanche Lamont he gave an exhibition of coolness and nerve that has seldom been seen under similar circumstances. He stood almost to the last as though something or some one would intervene to save him. He was called to the scaffold this morning and made a speech protesting his innocence as calmly and with as distinct enunciation as if he had been addressing an assembly of friends upon some ordinary topic of the day. His face was pale, and his eyes were red, but his voice was firm and he stood as stolid as a rock while he proclaimed his innocence and professed forgiveness to those who had so wronged him.

There was not a hitch or accident to mar the plans of Warden Hale in carrying out the sentence of the law. The gown was adjusted, the feet were sprung, the steel rose held, and Durrant's head bowed as he stepped to the gallows. He was broken by the fall of some few feet, and 15 minutes later the murderer's body was cut down and placed in a coffin.

Consistent to the last, Durrant died protesting his innocence. He died, accepting at the last moment the comforts of the Catholic church instead of those of the Baptist church, in which he was reared.

His father witnessed the execution, but his mother was not present. The Rev. Mr. Baker, assistant minister, had arranged to ascend the scaffold with Durrant, but the minister would not say that he thought Durrant innocent, and the condemned man declined his services. Then it was that the sternest of the Baptist church for consolation and called upon Father Lagan, a priest who had frequently visited him in prison, to attend him. Father Lagan responded promptly and performed the last solemn rites of the church.

The body was taken to San Francisco. It is not yet known what disposition of the body will be made, as Durrant's parents have been so far unable to secure accommodations in any of the local cemeteries for the body of their son. It is very probable that the body will be cremated.

## HOPE TO THE LAST

San Quentin Prison, Cal., Jan. 7.—With eyes riveted on Washington, figuratively speaking, the father and mother of Theodore Durrant spent the night in a little inn outside the prison walls, while their son made a desperate effort to calm his nerves that he might spend in sleep the most of his few remaining hours. Hoping against hope, demanding miracles from the slight difference in time between Washington and California, executing some phenomenal action on the part of the justice of the supreme court of the United States when they should take their seats at noon of the day fixed for the execution of the "criminal of the century," the unhappy man spent the night alternately climbing the heights of sanguine expectation and plunging in abysses of despair. When the consciousness that it would be, indeed, the unexpected happening which would again clog the wheels of retributive justice, the prison officials also anxiously awaited the click of the wire from Washington. Every other avenue of escape and delay finally and effectually closed, all awaited with nervous anticipation the final appeal of Attorney Boardman of counsel for Durrant before the United States justice for a writ of prohibition or of habeas corpus. The prisoner's very breath was followed by six watchful eyes, never for a moment withdrawn. The vigilance of the death-watch has increased with the passing of every day and hour. All ways fearful of an attempt at suicide, in the case of a condemned prisoner, they have been twenty carriages in their entourage since Durrant was committed to their keeping. His training in a medical college where his favorite study was anatomy, had so qualified him for facility in self-destructiveness, that his prison guards were apprehensive of his slightest movement.

Durrant's guard had a precise and absolute knowledge of how he might commit suicide. The most innocent looking pencil was not allowed to get near his face, lest with his knowledge of anatomy he might jab it through his eye into the brain. The guards were ready for poisoned leaves, for everything and when yesterday the number of his watchers was increased from two to three Durrant would indeed have had difficulty in making the slightest movement which could not be promptly stopped.

But Durrant apparently had no thought of suicide. He passed his waking hours in prayer and when last night the prison physician remarked reasonably that he would come to him in the morning prepared to give him stimulants, his significant smile and easy measured tone told, if he had not said a word, that he would scorn support or comfort.

## THE STRENGTH OF THE CUBAN ARMY

Supported in Their Hills by a Peaceful Agricultural People.

THEY CANNOT BE DRIVEN OUT

Food Supply for the Army Is Good—Plenty of Cattle and Vegetables—Tobacco Being Raised.

New York, Jan. 7.—A Herald correspondent in Cuba who has just rounded the southern tip of the island through the Cuban and Spanish lines from Pinar del Rio to the Juarosa-Morosa tracks, for the purpose of observing the actual strength and condition of the insurgent forces, today and their ability to continue the war, writes:

"When your orders reached me I was with the force of Pedro Diaz, commander-in-chief of the sixth army corps in Pinar del Rio province. We were camped near Cuzco. Pedro Diaz operating in that province were General Lorente, commander of the second division, or the territory west of Pinar del Rio, and Vidal in Cuzco, commanding the first division, or the district east of Pinar del Rio. General Lorente had 1000 infantry and 400 cavalry, well armed and well fed, but lacking clothes. The force in the same condition. Operating against this force a month ago were only three columns of Spaniards. These never succeeded in reaching the rebel stronghold in the hills until General Parado took the field. The only thing was when the rebels invited it.

From Cuzco I proceeded through the Cuban lines to Havana. I experienced no difficulty in entering the capital. Havana and Matanzas provinces are under the command of General Alejandro Rodriguez, chief of the fifth army corps. Under General Rodriguez are Juan de Castejo, Rafael Cruzas, Jacinto Hernandez, Juan Delgado, Alberto Nolasque and Nestor Aranguren. The total forces under these leaders is 1000 infantry and 1200 cavalry, all well equipped.

In Matanzas, which belongs also to the fifth army corps, are Brigadier-General Beaumont, Colonel Sanguinelly and Yaqueo, with 1000 infantry and 200 cavalry. Only about half this force is armed. This is a difficult province to operate in. The men remain in the hills, cultivating the soil, or watching the coast.

These western provinces have been famous to me for the last year, during which time I have been continually with the rebel forces, except what time was necessary to vary dispatches to Havana. I can vouch for these figures. On the trip to the Orient I broke new ground, but the figures given are from actual observation. I took the field in Santa Clara from Santo Domingo, riding out in broad daylight with guides and within an hour was with the insurgent forces under General Arando. That evening I returned with General Arando to a suburban town for supper. Arando had 100 infantry and 25 cavalry detailed to burn sugar cane.

The next morning I rode thirty miles and joined Colonel Alvarez who had 600 infantry and 100 cavalry. Here I met Dr. Joaquin Cordero, the private physician of General Gomez, on his way to join the general. I traveled with him the rest of the way. Seven wounded soldiers in Alvarez's command the day previous had sacked the town of San Juan Arroyo.

The next day I rode 20 miles to the camp of Eusebio Esquerro in the Planetas hills, two leagues north of the town of Manicaragua. Esquerro is chief of the Centauros brigade and had in camp 400 infantry and 150 cavalry. From there I rode three days through the long range and over the mountains to the CEMFWY and over the mountains 150 miles to the camp of Brigadier-General Nunez in the Triplada hills. Nunez has 100 infantry and 25 cavalry engaged in raising vegetables.

I next proceeded to the camp of Roberto Bermudez in the Montague hills. He had 100 infantry and 200 cavalry. Then I went to the camp of Brigadier-General Montenegro. He had 600 men in camp and assured me that his whole division numbered 2000 infantry and 600 cavalry. I believe that he told the truth, because riding in a straight line through the five camps just mentioned, I actually saw 3700 men.

"After leaving Montenegro I entered what is called the first division of Santa Clara under command of Jose Miguel Gomez. The whole strength of the first division is 2000 infantry and 500 cavalry. I did not meet Jose Gomez, but near El Mango I struck the camp of Tejo Sanchez, who had 200 infantry and 100 cavalry. Near Remedios I entered the camp of General Carrillo, chief of the fourth army corps, or the whole Santa Clara province. Carrillo had in camp 600 men. The whole strength of his command as shown by previous figures is 3700 men. Two days from Carrillo I rode into the camp of Colonel Velaz who is in charge of the outposts of General Gomez' camp, and a day later I had the pleasure of saluting the commander-in-chief, General Gomez, in his camp 200 infantry and 100 cavalry. His action has more.

"From official returns shown to me in General Gomez' camp, I estimate that in Puerto Principe where the Cuban government headquarters are established, the rebel force numbers 2000 cavalry with only an insignificant number of infantry. In Santiago there are 3000 cavalry and fully 16,000 infantry. These figures are conservative.

## MORE WEALTH IS BROUGHT OUT

Returning Klondikers Loaded With Dust and Drafts.

ELDER MEETS WITH ACCIDENT

Fire in the Cabins—Business Hunking in Skagway—Relief Expedition—Supplies Ready.

Seattle, Jan. 7.—Thirty-five Klondikers arrived here today on the steamer City of Seattle, bringing advices from Dawson up to December 7. J. M. Kepner, John Burke and "French Curley" Delorge left Dawson on that date and came through in record breaking time, reaching Seattle exactly one month after their start. The trip was without special incident, other than the usual hardships of such a journey.

"We passed between 20 and 30 men on our way out," said Mr. Kepner. "Parties will be coming out every day now. The situation at Dawson is practically unchanged. The food supply is better than it was two months ago on account of the people leaving."

Delorge in an interview said: "I cannot say exactly how much dust we brought out. I think it will run over \$100,000, and probably reach \$250,000. I know one man who brought out between \$10,000 and \$20,000 in dust. In drafts there was more money represented. One man alone has a draft for \$100,000, and others I know have large drafts. Perhaps the dust will total up \$250,000. There was nothing new in the way of strikes reported when we left. All the mines operated were better worked and the output next spring will be a big one."

All of the Klondikers returning tell of meeting numerous parties scattered along the route trying to push in. Some have dogs while many are trying to drag their outfits on sleds. All are making very slow progress. Considerable scurvy is reported at Dawson.

J. B. and J. F. Graber, formerly of Skamokawa, Pa., who have been prospecting at the head of the Hootling, report that on the 8th of October a party of seven people led the head of Lake LeBaron, since when nothing has been heard of any of them. They also report the picking up of two deserted boats, one of which contained 100 pounds of provisions and the other 400 pounds. As near as they could make out by the marks on the sacks they were the property of "Wolfram and Parker," whoever they may have been. The owners are probably lost, although it may be possible that the boats had been lost by drifting away. They were found on Three Mile river between Hootling and LeBaron.

Napoleon Dupres and a party of six Frenchmen are said to have brought upwards of \$40,000 in dust with them. They also have a draft for \$100,000. The proceeds of the sale of some mining prospects.

In a race with the City of Seattle, the steamer George W. Elder, which runs between Portland and Skagway set fire to her staterooms Monday. The race occurred on this side of Fort Wrangell. The fire was easily extinguished.

WARNING ISSUED.  
Skagway, Alaska, Jan. 2 via Seattle, Jan. 7.—Captain Wood, in command of a detachment of the Northwest Mounted Police, in the district which extends from White Pass summit to Lake Tagish, warns all persons en route to the Klondike that they will not be permitted to pass the Tagish house unless each person has at least 800 pounds of provisions.

Lot "Jumping" in Skagway is the leading industry. Scarcely a day passes that does not witness several lot jumping cases. Building operations are being pushed night and day. Some of the buildings being erected are to be used as hotels and lodging houses, more for dance halls, variety theatres and saloons. The town is lively and each incoming steamer brings hundreds of people. Besides the City of Seattle, which arrived today, the Elder came in from Portland with a big load of passengers. It is almost impossible for the people to secure hotel or lodging accommodations. Restaurants.

(Continued on Fourth Page)

## SITUATION IN CHINA

New York, Jan. 7.—Speaking of the situation in China to a Herald correspondent last night, Secretary Sherman said:

"I think it will now be in line for Russia and France to take possession of Chinese ports. Their interests will require such action. Great Britain has Hong Kong, which is the base for English interests, and now Germany has Kiaochow. Russia is desirous of obtaining a southern port where her ships will not be frozen in during the winter. Besides her commercial interests are such that she ought to have a Chinese port such as Germany has obtained. As far as American commerce is concerned, I expect it will have the same rights in Kiaochow as that of Germany. This depends however, on the commercial regulations which Germany will place in force. From my understanding of the matter Germany is not given title to the territory but she has the right to subordinate her laws for those which the 'Chines' have hitherto had in force. Her merchants will consequently not be subject to the laws of China at Kiaochow. She will be required to observe German laws. I presume the Germans will now establish a large city at Kiaochow and push their commercial interests as vigorously as possible."

"I suppose that if the United States was to indicate to China its desire to obtain a Chinese port, the Peking government would grant it, but we want no such port. Our commercial interests are satisfactorily protected at the present time by the treaties and besides at Hong Kong and we will have the same rights at Kiaochow—we are granted the freedom of the port in the same way as are the English."

RESULT OF SOLID MONEY.  
New York, Jan. 7.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review will say:

"In failures 1897 was not only the best year since 1882, but on the whole the best ever definitely known. With 12,522 in number, 11.5 per cent less than 1896, and \$22,387,771 defaulted liabilities, 43.7 per cent less than in 1896, the year's banking failures amounted for \$28,448,790, and the commercial failures were but 12,521, with liabilities of \$14,523,751, the average per failure being only \$1,153, the lowest ever known except in 1892."

The new year began with disappointment for speculators in stocks and grain which is not a bad sign.

SILVERITES CALL.  
Portland, Or., Jan. 7.—The result of the conference of the silver forces which was held in Portland today at the call of Chairman Cooper, of the union party, is seen in the following resolutions, which were passed unanimously:

"We recognize that the general welfare of our country is opposed by a common enemy that should be met by a solid meeting of American forces.

"As citizens who love their country and desire to do the greatest good to the greatest number, we therefore recommend that this meeting request the people of the populist party, the democratic party, and the silver republican party, to use all fair and honorable means to secure a proper alliance of these parties in district, state and county organizations, to the end that co-operation may be had at the coming election.

"There are plenty of good men in any or all of these parties, pure in principle and tried in patriotism, to fill with honor to their constituents, trusts to which the people would call their servants by popular vote.

"Therefore, we would hope:

"First—That conventions of the several parties be held at the same time and place.

"Second—That they endeavor to agree upon the principles and candidate, maintaining their separate party organization.

"Third—That the county organizations endeavor to govern themselves by the same co-operation, similar to that of district and state organizations.

"Fourth—That all work together for such victory as is sure to follow harmony of action for a just cause, for in union there is strength."

## GREAT BRITAIN LEADS

Washington, Jan. 7.—There is reason to believe that Great Britain will take the lead of other nations in the negotiations of reciprocity treaties under the Dingley tariff act. It is said that the old reciprocity treaties which were set aside by the Wilson act will serve the purpose as a basis for the new agreements.

Washington, Jan. 7.—The feature of the senate session was a speech delivered by Teller. He attacked the republican party as the party advocating the gold standard and expressed his intention of doing all in his power to defeat the party in 1898 and to drag the present administration from power because the policy of the party was in his opinion inimical to the highest and best interests of the people of the United States.