

The Willamette Farmer.

SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE WEEKLY OREGON STATESMAN, SALEM, OREGON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1899.

IN BOER LAND

More Men Needed by the British Commanders in Africa

AWFUL LOSSES AT MODDER RIVER

The Transvaal Forces Reported to Have Suffered as Much as the English—The Greatest Loss.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—(Friday, 4:45 a. m.)—The war office has received a dispatch from Ladysmith, other than that already reported. The general belief is that the large Boer forces Lord Methuen encountered at Magersfontein were partly drawn from Natal, and that General Buller will strike a blow before these have time to return. The newspapers are calling upon the government to employ Cunarders as well as White Star steamers as transports, seeing the urgent necessity for getting more men to the Cape as speedily as possible.

Forty thousand men could still be sent from England without calling upon the militia for foreign service. The effective militia is 100,000, and from this body 20,000, carefully selected, could be concentrated easily and be sent to South Africa. Moreover, the colonies are again proffering their assistance. The greatest need, therefore, is speedily to transport.

Sir Charles Warren, who arrived at Cape Town yesterday, will possibly join Lord Methuen and take command of the combined forces.

PRESE WITH BOERS.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—The war office has received the following dispatch from General Buller, at Cape Town:

"General Buller, under date of December 13th, reporting a skirmish at Tugela in the morning, with 1800 Boers, who were advancing southward toward Ladysmith. Skirmishing continued all morning, the Boers fighting on the front of fourteen miles. The enemy retired with the loss of four killed and wounded. Our casualties were one killed, seven wounded, including one officer, and two missing."

ENORMOUS LOSSES.

Modder River, Dec. 13.—(Wednesday) The ambulances started early yesterday morning under a flag of truce, to collect the wounded and bury the dead who fell at Magersfontein. Brigadier-General Wauchope, who led the Highland brigade, was found dead near the trenches, shot in the chest and thigh. The side of the hill and the immediate neighborhood of the Boer trenches showed dead bodies all about. One wounded Boer informed the correspondent of the Associated Press that their loss was terrible. The whole Scandinavian contingent was destroyed. The Boer losses must exceed 700. All confess that it was their greatest loss during the war. The British troops have returned to Modder river, owing to lack of water near the position held yesterday.

AN ARTILLERY DUEL.

Frere Camp, Dec. 13.—(Wednesday) Firing can be heard, this morning, in the direction of Colenso, and an artillery duel is expected.

DESTROYED A BRIDGE.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—A special dispatch from Weenen, Natal, dated Monday, December 11th, says that Ladysmith garrison has made a sortie and destroyed Modderspruit bridge.

THE QUEEN GRIEVES.

New York, Dec. 14.—A dispatch to the Herald from London says: It is stated that the queen's mental anxiety gives the gravest alarm to the royal household. The queen insists on receiving the minutest information from the war office as to the state of affairs, yet she is completely overcome when the particulars of each engagement are related. Even when discussing other matters and conducting ordinary correspondence, the queen suddenly bursts into a flood of tears and makes pathetic reference to the misery and hardships entailed upon her soldiers as well as upon the Boers themselves.

No matter where one went last night there was but one tonic of discussion—Methuen's defeat and his probable losses. Later in the evening, when it became known that General Wauchope and the Marquis of Winchester were among the killed, the tension was increased. It is not an exaggeration to say that almost every mansion in the fashionable west end contains anxious and sleepless men and women today.

PANIC IN LONDON.

New York, Dec. 14.—A dispatch to the World from London, says: The decided check to General Methuen and the heavy British loss have added to the panic among the military authorities and the jingo war experts in London.

The war office now is pushed to the extremity of its resources. Lord Roberts, commander-in-chief in Ireland, was hastily summoned last night from Dublin to London. At its extra session, parliament was told that \$50,000,000 would cover the expense of the war. It is now said by the best informed that \$200,000,000 will not pay the bill. Eighty thousand British troops are in South Africa now, and 10,000 more

DATE IS FIXED

National Republican Convention to Meet in Philadelphia

ON THIRD TUESDAY OF NEXT JUNE

A Spirited Contest by the Various Cities Interested—Payne's Reapportionment Resolution to Be Withdrawn.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The national republican convention will convene at Philadelphia, on Tuesday, June 19th next. The place and date were decided upon by the national republican committee today, after a friendly contest for the honor of entertaining the convention between the fifty selected, Chicago, St. Louis, and New York.

MANY SPANIARDS FREED

RELEASED FROM REBEL PRISONS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

They Are Shipped Home by General—A Mountain Stronghold Captured by Americans.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—General Otis cabled today that 1800 Spanish prisoners were received in Manila; over 2000 more were en route, and 1300 had been shipped to Spain on the 6th inst. These prisoners are in much better condition than the Spanish prisoners captured when Manila capitulated.

IN THE MOUNTAINS.

Manila, Dec. 14.—A detachment of Colonel Hayes' cavalry, under Lieutenant Arnold, has captured Blecaboto, the mountain stronghold where the last insurrection was ended with a peace treaty. A large quantity of ammunition and arms was captured. Major Batchelor's battalion of the Twenty-fourth infantry is making slow progress in the Aparri valley. The villagers are giving the colored troops banquets and balls everywhere.

IN CONGRESS.

Mr. McBride Is Named for Chairman on the Canal Committee.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The republicans of the senate today adopted the changes made by the committee on committees. The members from Oregon, Washington and Idaho, who are added to the committees, are as follows:

- Judiciary—Simon.
- Agriculture—Foster.
- Coast and Insular Survey (new)—Foster, chairman; Hawley, McMillan, Perkins, Wellington.
- Forest Reservations—McBride.
- Fisheries—Foster.
- Indian Depredations—McBride.
- Interoceanic Canals—McBride.
- Irrigation—Simon.
- Philippines (new)—Lodge, chairman; Allison, Hale, Davis, Proctor, McBride, Beveridge.
- Potomac River Front—Foster.
- Woman Suffrage—Foster.

NEW BILLS.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Among the house measures introduced today were these:

By Wilson, of Arizona, admitting that territory to statehood and to give two months' extra pay to those serving in the war with Spain without limitations of the present law.

By Jones of Washington, to extend the homestead law to the Philippines, so that soldiers serving in the wars with Spain or the Philippines shall have the benefit of homestead settlements in the new possessions.

THE WASHINGTON CENTENNIAL.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Today's ceremonies on the centennial of the death of George Washington were elaborately planned and successfully carried to a fruition. They were conducted by the Masonic bodies, and the Red Men of the United States. The movement for the day's observance originated in 1893, with the grand lodge of Masons of the state of Colorado, the proposition being made by Most Worshipful William D. Wright, grand master of Colorado, who was present to witness the carrying into effect of his long cherished ideal. The charge of the ceremonies incident to today's commemoration was placed in the hands of the Masons of Virginia, it being in the Old Dominion that Washington was obligated as a Master Mason, and there that he participated enthusiastically in the Masonic work and observances. Officers of the grand lodge of Virginia and the membership of Frederickicksburg lodge in which Washington was made a Mason, and of Washington-Alexandria lodge, over which he presided as worshipful master, had the chief part in the duty of seeing that today's observances were appropriate. Thousands of Masons were in attendance from all parts of the country.

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The meeting of the committee was held at the Arlington hotel, and was presided over by Senator Hanna, chairman of the committee. Forty-three of the forty-five states and each of the six territories were represented, Senator Foraker, proxy for Charles L. Kurtz, national committeeman from Ohio, and Senator Wolcott, proxy for J. F. Saunders, of Colorado, being the only absentees. In addition to the committee there were many of the big wigs of the republican party in attendance. The proceedings throughout were enthusiastic and harmonious, every speech that was made emphasizing the fact that President McKinley would be renominated, and that the convention will be in effect simply a ratification meeting.

The claims of rival cities were presented by distinguished citizens of each in open session. The balloting occurred in the afternoon, behind closed doors. Upon the first ballot Philadelphia received 32 votes, Chicago 20, New York 7, and St. Louis 9. On the second ballot the contest narrowed down to Philadelphia and Chicago, the New York votes going to Philadelphia, and the St. Louis vote was split between Philadelphia and Chicago. An amusing incident occurred in connection with this ballot. After it was concluded and announced as Philadelphia 25, and Chicago 23, T. N. Jamison, national committeeman from Illinois, suddenly discovered that in the excitement he had forgotten to vote. He demanded that the vote should be recast and this was accordingly done, but it did not change the result, Chicago gaining only the vote of the committeeman from Illinois. Philadelphia won by the narrow margin of one vote. As the ballot was secret there is no record of the city for which each committeeman voted.

It was the desire of the leaders at the meeting today, that the convention should be held on June 12th, and that date would have been selected had it not been that it conflicted with the date of the Rhode Island elections. June 5th was selected, but that date was reconsidered and changed to the 19th. In the hope and belief that, before that date, congress will have adjourned. The committee considered briefly the request from Delaware, to the committee, to take some action to prevent two contesting delegations from appearing from that state. The committee decided that it had no jurisdiction. Several committees were appointed, and adjournment taken until tomorrow, when the Payne resolution for changing the system of representation will be brought up for consideration.

RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The Payne resolution for the reapportionment of delegates to the national republican convention, on the basis of the republican vote cast in the states and territories, will not be pressed at this meeting of the national committee. Payne had fully intended to offer the resolution tomorrow, and to urge its adoption, but after a conference with the president tonight, decided to abandon the effort to have it acted on at this meeting. Much opposition had developed to the proposed change, and the conclusion was reached that it was inexpedient to push the matter at this time.

WHOLESALE MURDER

A TACOMA MAN'S AWFUL DEED, CAUSED BY JEALOUSY.

Mortally Wounds His Wife and Baby Boy, Kills Another Son and Commits Suicide.

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 15.—Adam Crist deliberately shot his wife fatally, killed his 8-year old son, seriously wounded a second son, aged 5 years, and then ended the tragedy by putting a bullet through his own brain. Jealousy is the only motive assigned for the crime.

Crist is the proprietor of the Chicago lodging house and returned this morning from a six-months business trip to Spokane. He was at the hotel during the morning, and apparently in the best of health and spirits.

About 2 o'clock this afternoon he went to a pawnbroker and purchased two revolvers. At a drug store he bought 25 cents worth of vitriol. He must have proceeded directly home,

for the shooting occurred only a few moments later. Crist was in the hotel kitchen on the second floor when his wife was called to the head of the stairs to talk to a peddler. After an interval of a few moments he sent the younger child to ask her to come to the kitchen. Immediately afterwards four shots were fired, all of which were found to have taken effect in her body. He then turned the revolver on the little boy and wounded him in the leg, but the child managed to crawl down the stairs and escape.

A FRIGHTFUL WRECK

FOUR MEN KILLED ON A RAILROAD IN IDAHO.

Heavy Freight, Drawn by Two Engines, Made a Mad Run on a Down Grade to Destruction.

LEWISTON, Ida., Dec. 15.—Engineers A. E. Baine and J. A. Ogden, Head Brakeman J. Budge, and Fireman Earl Bradshaw are dead as the result of a frightful railroad wreck, which occurred at 7 o'clock this evening, one quarter of a mile from Kendrick, Idaho, on the Spokane-Lewiston Northern Pacific branch. J. E. Peterman, a fireman, who was taken from the mass with a broken leg, is partially paralyzed and will die.

The freight train, drawn by two engines, and loaded with railroad iron, started down grade. The point of disaster is at the foot of the Kendrick grade, which is very steep. The control of the train was lost at the head of the grade, and then the engines started on their mad five-mile run in the dark. None of the ill-fated crew have lived to tell the story of their awful sensation, while being swept on to death. The conductor cut the caboose loose before the train got under full headway and thus saved his life and that of the rear brakeman. The dead are residents of Spokane.

INSURGENTS SCATTER

AMERICAN FORCES ARE PURSUING SMALL BANDS.

General Young Is on the Trail of a Remnant of the Army Holding Twenty-three Prisoners.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The war department today received a cablegram from General Otis giving the latest developments in the situation in the Philippines. The cablegram follows: "Bathecher, of the Twenty-fourth infantry, reports he had on the 14th, an engagement at the junction of the Magat and Rio Grande rivers, Isabella province, the enemy leaving four dead and five mortally wounded in the trenches. Our loss was one drowned and four wounded. He says he is in need of clothing, provisions and money. "Four hundred and seventy-five Spanish prisoners arrived this morning. Young, at Banquil, Northwestern Luzon, reports that his troops are still pursuing the remnant of the insurgents who have twenty-three American prisoners in their possession. Negroes reports that Sergeant Roeder, of the Sixth infantry, with twenty soldiers and eighteen natives police, attacked 400 insurgents at Madrigal this morning. No casualties. The enemy's loss was twenty-eight killed and many wounded.

Isolated bands of bushwhacking insurgents, who are caught by our forces in the Philippines are likely to be summarily dealt with. At a cabinet meeting today the matter was discussed, and it was the general sentiment that the situation demanded vigorous treatment.

RAILROAD EARNINGS.

Southern Pacific Company's Statement of the Year's Profits.

San Francisco, Dec. 15.—C. P. Huntington, president of the Southern Pacific Company, has issued a statement of the earnings of the company for October last and for the first four months of the present fiscal year.

The gross earnings in October amounted to \$6,069,881. This is an increase of \$1,062,382 over the corresponding month of the year before. The figures constitute the largest gross revenue in any one month in the company's history. The operating expenses in October were \$3,692,611, an increase of \$535,626. The earnings over operating expenses were \$2,377,270, or an increase of \$466,756 over October 1898.

For the months of July, August, September and October last the gross earnings of the Southern Pacific Company aggregated \$22,324,375. This is an increase of \$3,038,551 over the corresponding period of last year. The operating expenses amounting to \$12,401,239, an increase of \$2,023,020. The total earnings over operating expenses were \$9,923,136, representing an increase of \$1,665,531 over the same four months of the year before.

THE WHEAT CROP.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The government report shows the total wheat crop to be 547,300,000 bushels.

A HEAVY BRITISH REVERSE

General Buller Attempted to Cross the Tugela River but Was Compelled to Retire

The Losses in One Brigade Are Very Heavy—Ten Guns Abandoned—Boers Opened with a Galling Fire and Wrought Havoc Among the Englishmen.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—(Saturday, 12:47 a. m.)—The war office has received a dispatch, announcing that General Buller has met with a serious reverse. Buller was attempting to cross the Tugela river. Finding it impossible to effect his object, he ordered a retreat in order to avoid greater losses. He left eleven guns behind.

London, Dec. 16.—The following is the text of General Buller's dispatch announcing his reverse:

"Buller to Ladysmith: Chieveley Camp, December 15, 8:20 p. m.—I regret to report a serious reverse. I moved in full strength from our camp near Chieveley at 4 o'clock this morning. There are two fordable places in the Tugela river and it was my intention to force a passage through at one of them. They are about two miles apart. My intention was to force one or the other with one brigade supported by a central brigade. General Hart was to attack the left drift, General Hillyard the right road, and General Littleton was to take the center and to support either. Early in the day I saw that General Hart would not be able to force a passage and I directed him to withdraw. He had, however, attacked with great gallantry and his leading battalion, the Connaught Rangers, I fear, suffered a great deal. Colonel I. G. Brooke was seriously wounded.

"I then ordered General Hillyard to advance, which he did, and his leading regiment, the East Surrey, occupied Colenso station and houses near the bridge. At that moment I heard that the whole artillery I had sent to support the attack—the Fourteenth and Sixty-sixth field batteries and six naval 12-pounder quick firers under Long—had advanced close to the river in Long's desire to be within an effective range. It proved to be full of the enemy, who suddenly opened with a galling fire at close range, killing all the horses and the gunners were compelled to stand to their guns. Some of the wagon teams got shelter in a donga and desperate efforts were being made to bring out the field guns.

"The fire, however, was too severe and only two were saved, by Captain Schofield and some drivers whose names I will furnish. Another most gallant attempt with three teams was made by an officer whose name I will obtain. Of eighteen horses thirteen were killed and, as several drivers were wounded, it would not allow another attempt, as it seemed that they would be a shell mark, sacrificing their lives in a gallant attempt to force a passage. Unsupported by artillery, I directed that the troops withdraw, which they did in good order.

"Throughout the day a considerable force of the enemy was pressing on my right flank, but was kept back by mounted men under Lord Dundonald and part of General Barton's brigade.

"The day was most intensely hot and most trying on the troops, whose conduct was excellent. "We have abandoned ten guns and lost by shell fire one. The losses in General Hunt's brigade are, I fear, very heavy, although the proportion of severely wounded, I hope, is not large. "The Fourteenth and Sixty-sixth field batteries also suffered severe losses.

ENGLAND IS SHOCKED

London, Dec. 16.—(Saturday, 4:40 a. m.)—The news of General Buller's reverse was received so late that many newspaper comments today are confined to a perfunctory expression of extreme regret and disappointment, and of the necessity of calmness and redoubled efforts to retrieve the position. This latest check is regarded as the most serious event in Great Britain's military history since the Indian mutiny. The Standard says:

"General Buller's dispatch is deplorable reading. It is now a familiar story of concealed Boers and British troops marching up blindly almost to the very muzzles of the enemy's rifles. It cannot be doubted that the moral effect will be to aggravate our difficulties over the whole field of operations. "The country has discovered, with annoyance and surprise, that subduing the Boer farmers is about the hardest work we have entered upon since the Indian mutiny. Their commandants have shown themselves able to give our generals useful but expensive lessons in modern tactics."

Depression over the defeat of Great Britain's trusted and idolized commander is all the greater as, during the last forty-eight hours there had been reports of the relief of Ladysmith. Yesterday the war office allowed it to be understood that the position of affairs in Natal was entirely satisfactory. The reaction is all the more pronounced on this account.

It had hardly been realized until now, even after the experience of the week that General Buller could fail. Virtually nothing had been allowed to leak through regarding his preparations, but the public waited patiently in the confident belief that he was taking such time and precautions as would insure success. No independent reports of the engagement have yet been allowed to come through, but General Buller's own dispatches tell the sad tale in sufficient outline to show that the British have been entrapped again by the astute Boers. It is expected that he will renew the attack shortly. Immediately on receiving the news the war office decided to mobilize still another division, and to replace the losses of artillery. Necessary reinforcements will be hurried off as speedily as possible. Fifteen transports are due to arrive at Cape Town between December 17th and January 8th, with about 15,000 troops of all arms, but unless General Buller is able to renew the attack, which is exceedingly doubtful, the British generals will be compelled, for another fortnight or more, to remain on the defensive.

AN ARTILLERY DUEL.

London, Dec. 15.—A special from Frere camp says that, simultaneously with the bombardment of Colenso, a furious artillery duel commenced between the garrison at Ladysmith and the Boers on Umbulwani hill. The following named officers of the Highland brigade, who were reported to be missing after the battle of Magersfontein, were killed:

Captain, the Hon. Cummings Bruce, Captain MacFarlane, Lieutenant Ramsay and Captain Brodie, and the following subsequently died of their wounds: Colonel Downman and Lieutenant Campbell.

The latest dispatches indicate the continued bombardment of Ladysmith, whose position is now perilous. The list of casualties among the non-commissioned officers and men in the light at Magersfontein, just issued, shows 55 killed, 253 wounded and 76 missing. This, however, is apparently not a complete list.

GREAT DIVERGENCE

BETWEEN TRADING AND PRODUCTIVE INDUSTRIES

And the Country's Speculation-Holders of Stocks Suffer Loss While Others Realize Profits.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade will say tomorrow:

"The unusual depression in stocks this week has displayed a great divergence between the trading and productive industries of the country and its speculation. Never has the production been greater, or the number of hands employed larger, or the wages distributed higher, or the purchasing power, based upon earnings, greater than at this time, and never have the condition of trade or the returns of earnings and traffic given a certainty of greater business for the transporters. Yet, as the earnings of the railways and manufacturing companies mount upward, their stocks decline as if it were disastrous for a road to double its earnings and for a mill to realize an unprecedented prosperity.

The inflated capitalization has, of course, done much harm, and speculative excitement has counted profits in many cases long before they were earned. The money markets here and abroad have been strained by the British reverses in South Africa, and wherever they were overladen have been pushed to a quick and disastrous, instead of a gradual liquidation. The result is that the industries and transporting companies realize great profits, while speculative holders of stocks realize severe losses.

The failures for the week were 218 in the United States against 261 last year, and twenty-six in Canada against thirty-one last year.

DOSE OF POISON.

Ended a Bachelor's Life at Thief Creek in Southern Oregon.

Drain (Or.) Dec. 14.—News of suicide reached here early yesterday morning from Thief Creek, about nine miles northeast of here. A bachelor named Julius Wetzel and another man were accused of killing a neighbor's steer for beef, and upon being pressed about the matter, and told that he was liable to land in the penitentiary, Wetzel drew a knife and attempted to cut his throat, but was restrained. Then he took a vial containing poison from his pocket and swallowed the contents and soon died from the effects. An inquest was held.