

A BIG FIGHT

Deciding Battle of the African War Is Now On

SPLENDID WORK OF THE BRITISH

Boers, though battling heroically, are steadily pressed back while British forces advance.

LONDON, Jan. 21.—(Sunday, 4:30 a. m.)—It is evident, from General Buller's dispatch to the war office and advice to the Associated Press from Spearman's Camp, that a big battle is now being fought. As far as can be gathered from these dispatches the result remains undecided, and, unless the Boers withdraw during the night, the engagement on which hangs the fate of Ladysmith and which may prove to be the turning point of the whole war, will be resumed this morning.

The war office, shortly after midnight, posted the following dispatch from General Buller, dated Spearman's Camp, January 20th, evening: "General Clery with a part of General Warren's force, has been in action from 6 a. m. till 7 p. m. today. By a judicious use of his artillery he has fought his way up, capturing ridge after ridge for about three miles. The troops are now bivouacking on the ground he has gained, but the main force is still in front of them. The casualties were not heavy. About 100 wounded had been brought in by 6:30 p. m. The number killed is not yet ascertained.

IN THE FIGHT. Spearman's Camp, Jan. 20.—(Evening.)—The Boers' trenches were shelled continually today. General Littlejohn's brigade advanced and occupied a kopje 2000 yards from the Boer position at Brakfontein. A company of rifles advanced with the balloon in action, and were received with a heavy fire from the Boers. The artillery and musketry fire continues from General Warren's position.

ALASKA MAIL

Chicago, Jan. 20.—A special to the Record from Seattle, Wash., says: Advice from Dawson report that United States Mail Carrier Holcombe has arrived at Eagle from Valdez, completing the first winter trip as carrier of government mail from the seat of the Yukon, a distance of 450 miles. Holcomb said he had a perilous voyage. He encountered many hardships and during the trip ten of his twelve horses died or had to be killed. He had a working force of eleven men who were employed constructing cabins for mail stations, one erected every twenty miles.

From now on the department hopes to give monthly mail service between Valdez and Eagle. One consignment of mail has already come out over the new route. From the coast terminus of the train a telephone line extends seventy-five miles inland and it is the intention of the government to extend the line through the Yukon next summer.

WILL INVESTIGATE.

Washington, Jan. 20.—The state department has been notified that the state of Washington proposes to examine into the allegation that officers of that state were responsible for the kidnapping of the American named Everett, and if it is borne out the men will be punished. The report of the United States consul at Victoria shows that Everett, who was charged with stage robbery, was spirited across the line from Washington into British Columbia, where he was held by the authorities, but that the blame lies upon the Washington officers.

TO HONOR AMERICANS.

London, Jan. 20.—The southern coast towns are patiently awaiting the visit of the American fleet. During the recent visit to Weymouth of the United States naval attaché, Lieutenant-Commander Colwell, to test the wireless steering devices, the mayor of that place called on him and informed the American officer that about £200 subscribed by the town lay in the bank awaiting the Americans' arrival and that the mayor had personally subscribed another \$250 with the view of entertaining the visiting officers.

COLSON INDICTED.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 20.—The grand jury today indicted ex-Congressman David G. Colson, who was colonel of the Fourth Kentucky regiment, for the murder of Lieutenant Ethelbert Scott and Luther W. Demarce last Tuesday. Among those who have volunteered their legal services in Colson's defense are Congressman Bailey of Texas; Congressman Clayton of Alabama; ex-Congressman Houck, of Tennessee; and Attorney-General Mynatt, of Tennessee. Many society women have written Colonel Colson words of sympathy.

EXPECT AN ERUPTION.

San Diego, Cal., Jan. 20.—A letter from Strawberry valley, near Hemet, Riverside county, where the recent earthquake was heavy, says that smoke and steam are pouring from between the rocks and boulders of the basin of Mount Taquitz, and that the people of that section are looking for an eruption of the big volcano ever since the shake on the morning of December 25th, the whole mountain has been in a state of quiver, and that by night and by day, the rumbling is being heard, and the trembling plainly felt.

SEAT A REPUBLICAN.

Washington, Jan. 20.—The house committee on elections divided on party lines today, and, by a vote of 6 to 2,

decided to recommend seating William F. Aldrich, republican, who contested the seat now held by G. A. Robbins, democrat, of Alabama.

TO ALASKA.

Washington, Jan. 20.—Captain Willis P. Richardson, Eighth infantry, and First Lieutenant Howard R. Hikok, Ninth cavalry, have been ordered to this city. They will accompany Colonel Infantero, to Alaska. Captain Richardson is acting adjutant-general of the department, and Lieutenant Hikok as aide-de-camp to Colonel Randall.

AGAINST SILVER.

Indianapolis, Jan. 20.—The convention of the United Mine Workers of America, today, voted down a resolution sympathizing with the Boers. A free silver resolution was tabled.

FOR AFRICA.

Halifax, N. S., Jan. 20.—The first section of the second contingent, which the government of Canada is sending to South Africa, embarked today on the steamer Laurentian.

FOUR STRAIGHT GAMES.

Astoria, Jan. 20.—The Astoria football bowling club team defeated the Illihee Club, of Salem, in four straight games tonight.

RUSKIN DEAD.

London, Jan. 20.—John Ruskin died this afternoon of influenza, aged 81 years.

AGAINST MR. ROBERTS

SPECIAL COMMITTEE FILES A REPORT IN CONGRESS.

In Favor of Refusing a Seat to the Utah Congressman—Minority Favors Expulsion.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Reports of the special committee of investigation in the case of Roberts of Utah, were presented to the house today. The majority report, signed by Chairman Taylor and six of his associates, is a voluminous document, and is accompanied by a summary of the law and facts bearing on the case. It gives details of the hearing, the ample opportunities afforded Roberts to present his case, his refusal to testify and the unanimous finding of facts heretofore published. The majority report finds three distinct grounds of disqualification against Roberts:

First—By reason of his violation of the Edmunds law.

Second—By reason of his violation of the law of the land, of decisions of the supreme court and of the proclamations of presidents, holding himself above the law and not amenable to it. "No government could possibly exist," says the report, "in face of such practices. He is in open war against the laws and institutions of the country, whose congress he seeks to enter. Such an idea is intolerable. It is upon the principle asserted on the ground that all cases of exclusion have been based."

Third—His election as representative is an explicit and offensive violation of the understanding under which Utah was admitted as a state.

The minority report says: "A small partisan majority might render a desire to arbitrarily exclude by a majority vote, in order to more securely entrench itself in power, irresistible. Hence, its exercise is controlled by legal rules. In case of expulsion, when the requisite two-thirds can be had, the motive for the exercise of this arbitrary power no longer exists." The minority report concludes: "If the house shall hold with us and swear in Roberts as a member, we shall, as soon as recognition can be had, offer a resolution to expel him as a polygamist, unlawfully cohabiting with plural wives." The minority report is signed by Littlefield, republican, and DeArmond, democrat.

SHERIFF'S SALES.—Sheriff F. W. Durbin made two foreclosure sales of real estate yesterday. One was the property involved in the case of the state land board vs. Ellen Savage and others, property situated near the asylum, which was sold at \$8,052.46 to the state; the original incumbrance was \$7,493.33. The case of Mary A. Ramp, executrix, vs. F. X. DeGobin, executor; the suit was brought on a mortgage for \$2,066.66 and costs, the property, 200 acres of the finest farming land on French Prairie, was sold to Walter Whelan, for \$3700.

TWO CERTIFICATES.—The state board of education yesterday granted two state certificates good for one year, to two teachers based upon state certificates from other states. They were Elias Brewer, of Myrtle Point, formerly a teacher in Texas, and G. E. Johnson, of Newberg, holding Minnesota papers.

WILL BUY SILVER.

Indian Government Needs the Metal for Its Currency.

London, Jan. 20.—The idea that the Indian government will shortly have to buy silver has stimulated the demand. The indications that the silver reserve of the Indian currency department has been heavily depleted and will be further reduced, are found in the large sales, telegraphic transfers upon India, further are marking out of gold for account of the Indian government and the dispatch of gold direct to India.

The Statistician insists that the government must buy silver without delay, and have it coined as quickly as possible, and reasons that India ought not to be subjected to a further trial on top of the famine, also pointing out that, if troubles occur on Afghanistan frontier, silver alone will be usable.

THE YAQUI WAR.

San Francisco, Jan. 20.—A special to the Examiner from Nogales, Mexico, says a battle has been fought between the Mexicans and Yaquis in which Yaquis were defeated with heavy loss. Their killed numbered 200. Five hundred were taken prisoners.

TWO BAD MEN

Kansas Murderers Lynched by an Indignant Mob

BOTH CRIMINALS REMAINED CALM

Cursed Their Executioners to the Last—One of the Men Confessed His Crime Defiantly.

FORT SCOTT, Kans., Jan. 20.—Geo. Silbee and Ed. Meeks, half-brothers, who were convicted of murder here earlier in the week, were lynched by a mob in the county jail yard tonight. At a late hour their bodies were dangling from two trees in the yard. The men had been convicted of murder in the first degree, their victim being a young German farmer named Leopold Edlinger.

When the doors of the prison were battered in, George Silbee, the older of the two brothers, defied his captors until the last. He placed the noose around his own neck, and died cursing the crowd. Just as he was jerked into eternity he turned to his brother with an oath and commanded him to "die game." The brother obeyed, maintaining an outward calm until he was jerked into the air.

Before the Silbee had shouted to the mob in defiant tones that he himself struck Edlinger, and the Amos Philipps shot him on the head with an axe. He insisted that his brother Ed did not participate in the crime.

AGAINST LYNCHING.

Washington, Jan. 20.—Representative White, of North Carolina, a colored representative in the house, today reported a bill for the "protection of all citizens of the United States against mob violence" etc. All parties participating, aiding or abetting in such affairs are made guilty of treason against the United States government, and subject to prosecution in the United States courts. Cummings, of New York, introduced a bill for the purchase of twenty torpedo boats of the Holland type.

CAPTAIN ADAMS PASSES AWAY

After an Illness of Seven Months—Was a Veteran Officer of the Civil War—Funeral Tomorrow.

(From Daily, Jan. 21st.) Capt. L. P. Adams, well known in Salem and throughout the state, passed away at his residence at No. 155 Court street, in this city at 4:20 p. m., yesterday, after suffering for the past seven months with aneurism.

Levi Perry Adams was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, November 23, 1837. He later moved to Shelbyville, Indiana, where, on September 22, 1857, he was married to Miss Mary L. Adams, with whom he lived until his demise yesterday. He continued to live at that place until ten years ago, when he located in this city.

Captain Adams served his country as captain of Company C, 130th Indiana volunteers during the civil war, remaining in service for three years, and participating in some of the hardest battles of that memorable contest. He was elected constable of the Salem district at the general election in June, 1868, and served very acceptably as Justice of the Peace H. A. Johnson's court officer until about six months ago, when he resigned. He was widely known, and highly respected for his strict honesty and sterling integrity, and counted his friends by the thousands. He was a member of Sedgwick Post No. 10, Grand Army of the Republic, and held membership in the Salem McKimley Club, and the Union Veterans' Association, in all of which organizations he was an active member.

He leaves a widow, three sons and two daughters, all of whom were at his bedside, when he passed away, to mourn his taking off. The children are Elmer P. Adams, of Woodburn; Chas. and Ivan Adams, of Salem, and Mrs. Edna C. Tucker, and Mrs. Anna A. Haslam, both of Portland.

OREGON DEMOCRATS.

State Convention Will Be Held in Portland, April 12th.

Portland, Jan. 20.—The democratic state central committee met today and decided to hold the state convention in Portland, on April 12th. The convention will consist of 267 delegates.

A WINNER.

San Francisco, Jan. 20.—Bannock Burn, owned by Barney Schreiber, won the Turf Congress stakes, one mile, at Tanforan Park today, in 1:39.

CANADIAN RIFLES.

Montreal, Jan. 10.—The new body of mounted rifles to be raised in Canada at the expense of Lord Strathcona, the Canadian high commissioner at London, will be known as Strathcona's Horse. It will be got together by the militia department, and will be forwarded to South Africa from Halifax, but Lord Strathcona will meet the entire expense, and furthermore will maintain the troops in South Africa during the continuance of the war. It will consist of three units of 125 men each and will be drawn from the mounted police force and the cowboys and ranchers of the Canadian Northwest.

HAS HOPS.—

Abraham Toews, of Sheridan, is in the city, to consult with the Oregon Hop Growers Association, regarding the placing in the pool of his crop of hops, he having grown 138 bales of a good quality last year. Mr. Toews will remain in the city for a few days.

HAS SIXTY-SIX CHILDREN

HEBER Z. RICKS HAS THE RECORD FOR BIG FAMILY.

A Veteran Mormon, He Followed Brigham Young Across the Plains in the Year 1848.

(Special Correspondent of The Inter Ocean.)

Cheyenne, Wyo., Jan. 10.—In the valley of the Snake river, near where that stream forms the boundary line between Wyoming and Idaho, lives the father of the largest family on the American continent, and probably in the world. The owner of this unique distinction is Heber Z. Ricks, one of the faithful followers in religion and practices of the late Brigham Young. Reliable persons who have known Ricks for many years say he has twelve wives and sixty-six children. Many of his sons and daughters have long since taken unto themselves helpmates for life, and to these have been born 218 children, thereby bringing the number of souls in the Ricks family, exclusive of the venerable father himself, up to 296—a pretty good showing for one man.

The members of the Ricks family are scattered over a stretch of country fourteen miles long by two miles wide. Heber Ricks has an even dozen ranches which, with those of the sons and daughters, make quite a good-sized settlement. In the center of this settlement a town called Ricksville has been established. Here are located a general store and a church, the latter being the largest as well as the most substantial building in the Ricks empire. During week days the church is transformed into a school-room, and a regularly employed teacher (usually one of the Ricks daughters) labors with the descendants of Heber Z. On Sundays, and not infrequently of an evening, services, which are of course strictly Mormon, are held. These religious meetings are usually presided over by the elder Ricks and are very interesting, being conducted in that manner peculiar to the Mormon faith. In case of the absence of the "bishop," as the head of the family is known in the settlement, as is frequently the case when he makes a visit to one of his wives living in the extreme upper or lower ends of the colony, one of the sons will fill the pulpit and preach the doctrine of his father.

Heber Z. Ricks is a giant in form and strength, although he is 77 years old. Little or nothing is known of his boyhood except that he was reared on a farm in Western New York. He has never been known to say much about his early life other than that he landed in St. Louis in 1842. From that city he went to a small settlement in the vicinity of where Independence, Mo., now stands, where he joined the Mormon church. A little band of Mormons, with Ricks at their head, left the place early in the spring of 1848 and turned their faces toward Utah. Brigham Young's party of 225 persons had gone on the previous year and had left a faint trail, which Ricks and his party followed with great difficulty. This trail led them across the state of Nebraska along the Platte river, up the Big Laramie river, and across the state of Wyoming by way of Fort Laramie, and on into the valley of the great Salt Lake via Echo canyon.

When Ricks left Missouri, it is said, he was a single man, but when he and his party reached Salt Lake valley he was the possessor of five better halves. Settling near Salt Lake, Ricks continued to take unto himself additional wives until he had ten. Early in the year 1869, with the number of his wives increased to twelve, Ricks pulled up stakes and moved across the mountains through Eastern Idaho to the valley of Snake river. There upon one of the most fertile spots to be found on the continent, he established himself. The first few years were ones of great activity for Ricks and his already large family. For a time all lived in one large house, which was hastily erected, but later twelve houses, composed of roughly hewn logs, were constructed at different points along the river. To these were added, in due time, barns, corrals, and other out-buildings, and in a few years Ricksville was something more than a name. While the population in the vicinity of this settlement is distinctly Ricks, there are a large number of families of

Mrs. Morris' Letter to EVERY WIFE AND MOTHER.

[LETTER TO MRS. PINKHAM, NO. 14, 1851] "I have taken eight bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound with gratifying results. I had been married four years and had two children. I was all run down, had falling of womb with all its distressing symptoms. I had doctored with a good physician, but I derived very little good from his treatment. After taking a few bottles of your medicine, I was able to do my work and nurse my seven-months-old babe. I recommend your medicine to every wife and mother. Had I time, I could write much more in its praise. I bid you God's speed in your good work."—MRS. L. A. MORRIS, WELAKA, PUTNAM CO., Fla.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM—When I commenced the use of your remedies I was very bad off. Every two weeks I was troubled with flowingspells which made me very weak. I had two of the best doctors, but they did not seem to help me.

"They said my trouble was caused from weakness and was nothing to worry about. I felt tired all the time; had no ambition. I was growing worse all the time until I began the use of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I am now able to help about the house, and am much improved in health."—MRS. A. WALKER, CALLACON DEPOT, N. Y.

LABOR NOTES.

Nearly 20,000 anthracite coal miners in Pennsylvania joined the United Mine Workers union in November. Fifteen local unions in the building trades at Pittsburgh and Allegheny are preparing to make a united demand for the eight-day on January 1st to go into effect April 1, 1900. The unions involved include the carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers, stone masons, free-stone cutters, steam fitters, plumbers, electricians, painters, paper hangers, metal workers, tile setters, structural iron works, stair builders, interior decorators and hod carriers. In all some 12,000 men will be involved in the proposed movement.

other names. The settlement does not differ in this respect or in any other from any Mormon settlement in Utah, Wyoming, or Idaho, and a visitor, were he not familiar with the history of the Ricks family, would never suspect that Heber Z. is the father of so many children.

DEMOCRATS TO MEET.

National Convention Will Be Decided Upon Next Saturday.

New York, Jan. 19.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: When Mr. Bryan reaches Washington Saturday the time and place of holding the democratic national convention will probably be determined. While the determination of these questions is in the hands of the committee and will not, therefore, be formally settled until the meeting of that body in February, there is a disposition on the part of the party managers to take whatever action may accord with the wishes and the judgment of the man, who, it is believed, is certain to be the party's nominee for the presidency.

Active work is being done by representatives of Kansas City and Milwaukee, and the committees of both of these cities are bringing every possible pressure to bear, but these efforts are bringing no definite results, and a majority of the members will be influenced by what Mr. Bryan says.

WILL BE RECEIVED.

The Representative of the Transvaal at Washington.

New York, Jan. 19.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: It is stated in an authoritative manner that if Montague White is equipped with proper credentials from the Transvaal government, he will be received as its representative by the administration. General O'Brien's reaction was ostensibly due to his American citizenship, but there is no doubt that the authorities would have preferred that the matter of the Transvaal representation be left undetermined.

However, when Mr. White calls at the state department Secretary Hay will see him, and his status will then be determined. There is every reason to believe that if his mission is to secure an expression of sympathy from the president in behalf of his government or the intervention of that official, it will fail, as it is reiterated that the administration will not interfere unless Great Britain should intimate her willingness to have this government act.

TWO MADE ONE.

Stubb—That is a lazy tenant Grafton has on his farm. Grafton told him to put up two signs, one "Beware of the Dog," and the other "Beware of the Bull."

ONE MAN'S PIPE MUSEUM.

After Personally Testing Many He Thinks the Briar Root is the Best.

(New Haven Evening Register.) Dr. Louis B. Bishop of 77 Whitney avenue has one of the most remarkable collections of pipes in the world. The collection represents several years' labor and it includes almost every form of pipe extant. Pipes that have soothed the nerves of the Mohammedan in far away Morocco are besides those which have officiated at the peace conferences of the American Indian and the unpretentious corn cob or clay.

Mr. Bishop, during his travels abroad and in this country, has picked up the pipes in different places and under different circumstances and there are some rare and costly specimens. The unique collection has been exhibited previously to friends and the owner has smoked almost all of them to satisfy himself of the individual merits of each. Dr. Bishop told a reporter a few days ago that after testing from his large collection the briar-wood is the best after all.

Almost every one is familiar with the long-stemmed comforters that are closely identified with Germans and Germany and of these there are quite a large number in Dr. Bishop's collection. There are other pipes that came from Austria, Italy, Turkey and France.

Some of the pipes are over a hundred years old and in a remarkably well-preserved state, notwithstanding their age. The Austrians use a more elaborate smoking outfit than other people, some of the pipes coming from carved. In Venice Dr. Bishop procured an old-fashioned sign belonging to a tobacconist with carvings upon the outside illustrating the legend of the seven hunters after the hare.

One of the most interesting in the lot is a pipe found in Alaska. The stem is made of bones of an animal with an old spool serving as a bowl. In addition to the pipes the owner of this variegated collection has a great many cigar and cigarette holders that came from all parts of the world.

Had these men who are fighting any cause to dislike each other? Oh, no; none whatever.

Have these men who are fighting fathers and mothers and wives and children? Oh, yes; many of them.

Is war bad for horses as well as men? Yes; horses have no hospitals or ambulance corps or pensions; they are not unfrequently left on battle-fields to die of starvation. War is hell for horses.

Is it right for men to fight and kill each other and thousands of horses in war? Well, what are these men at? These men are at war. Will not these men kill each other? Yes, they will. Men go to war to kill each other.

Did these men who are fighting get up the war? Oh, no; the politicians got up the war.

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DID NOT ACCEPT

GOVERNOR GEEB'S ANSWER TO THE MARQUETTE CLUB.

BRITISH HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.

Gov. T. T. Geer, after considering the invitation received on Thursday, to deliver the address at the Lincoln Day banquet of the Marquette Club of Chicago, yesterday declined the invitation, in the following message, sent to the chairman of the committee on arrangements from whom the invitation was received:

"While deeply appreciating the honor of the invitation, to address your club on the occasion of the Lincoln Day banquet, I must plead pressure of public business and the great distance to Chicago as a bar to my acceptance. I hope to enjoy that pleasure in the future."

In speaking of the matter, the governor said yesterday that he considered the invitation from the Marquette Club one of the greatest compliments ever paid him and the state, and he would consider it an honor to appear before that organization on the occasion of their annual Lincoln Day banquet, to deliver an address, but that he could not, at present, see his way clear to accept the invitation, as the business of the department demanded his attention at this time to such an extent as to make it an utter impossibility to take the long journey to Chicago.

The gravest objection to the appointment, by authority, of a national day of "humiliation and prayer" is contained in a reminder that such days, at the time of the Crimean and Indian wars, merely "disrupted" the Bank Holidays of Great Britain, with their concomitants of railway excursions, crowded public houses, and the rest of it. To close the public houses altogether on the appointed day, as they do in America on the day of a presidential election, would possibly require an act of parliament, and one does not like to think of the sort of talk that would be let loose in debate on such a subject.

One thing is the bogging of certain minds over the word "humiliation." One writer, a clergyman, and not the first to come, says in effect—"We have done nothing to be ashamed of, and why should we be humbled ourselves?" Yet at morning and evening prayers we regularly and most justly acknowledge ourselves to be miserable offenders. Other people are nervous about prayers for victory from tenderness of conscience as to the supposed implication of such a prayer that our cause is a just one and its presumed arrogance. But again, we constantly pray that the queen may be strengthened to vanquish and overcome all her enemies, and assuredly the impilers of the Prayer-book had no thought of asserting that the sovereign must always be in the right in a quarrel. The prayer takes the human form of a special petition, for which there are countless spiritual precedents; but behind the prayers there is always the mental reservation that God alone knows the justice of our petition or whether it is for our good that it should be granted.

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