BLOODY WAR

Fighting in Free State Costly to the British Army.

MANY OFFICERS REPORTED KILLED

London Is Anxiously Awaiting Particulars —Buller's Forces Near Ladysmith —Cronje Is Surrounded.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—(Thursday, 4 a. m.)—Lord Roberts' list of forty-nine killed and wounded officers, including two generals, in the engagements up to Sunday evening, causes anxiety, especially as in the officers' list neither the losses of the Welch and Essex regiments nor those of the mounted infantry are included. This is about the number that fell at Colenso, where non-commissioned officers and men brought the total losses to 800. It is considered strange that, when sending his casualties, Lord Roberts gives no information as to the result of the fighting. If he has made such a report, the war office is withholding it. Moreover, nothing is known as to what took place Monday, Tuesday and yesterday.

The absence of details from Lord Roberts' dispatch, contrasted with his rather full narratives during the first part of his operations, produces uneasiness among the military observers. All comment in the morning newspapers, both editorial and critical, is threaded with the disturbing suggestion that despite the hard fighting, General Cronje has been able to beat off his pursuers, has escaped and is being reinforced by rail from Ladysmith, and by forces on foot and horseback from northern Cape Colony, as well as from Kimberley.

As the correspondents with Lord Roberts are silent, the telegrams from Boer sources receive some countenance. The latter aver that Cronje, while the British were endeavoring to surround him between Paarderberg and Kootoo's Rand, received reinforcements under De Witt, and that together the Boer commanders fought the British to a standstill.

However all this may be, public opinion here will not be reassured until the war office issues explicit statements of successes, which, of course, would clear away the gathering doubts respecting the uninterrupted success of Lord Roberts' forward movement. No one doubts his ultimate success, but there is fear of a temporary disappointment, and that a lot of hard fighting is yet ahead of the British.

The latest report regarding General Buller, circulated in the house of commons last evening, was that the agent of the De Beers Company had received a cablegram from Cape Town, which must have passed the censor, to the effect that General Barton's fusilier brigade had reached the hills commanding Ladysmith. Quite apart from this however and from every other rumor the early relief of the beleaguered garrison is thought inevitable.

CRONJE SURROUNDED.

Cape Town, Feb. 21.—Special correspondent of Cape Argus says: "General Cronje is surrounded at Haarleberg Drift, but is offering a stubborn resistance. The British are shelling the Boers vigorously, and expect to capture the whole force."

LINE IS OPEN.

New York, Feb. 21.—The Anglo-American Telegraph Company today issued the following notice: "From London we are again informed, that telegrams may now be accepted for Kimberley, but only at sender's risk."

CANADIANS AFLOAT.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 21.—The last detachment of the Second Canadian contingent for South Africa, consisting of more than 600 officers and men and nearly the same number of horses, sailed from Halifax today. Conspicuous among the decorations on the transport Milwaukee was the Stars and Stripes beneath the British blue ensign at the fore. This is a most unusual circumstance.

MILITARY OPERATIONS.

IN THE PHILIPPINES WILL SOON BE TERMINATED.

A Mobile Mounted Police to Be Substituted for the Army—Fighting Guerilla Bands.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—According to information received at the war department from Manila, at the end of the present expedition of General Bates into the two provinces at the extreme southern part of the island of Luzon, the military operations in the Philippines will close. Afterward, it is stated there is nothing to do but to undertake to maintain order through the police system. Attention is now being given to that subject, and steps are being taken to form a thoroughly mobile, lightly armed gendarmerie, something on the order of the Canadian mounted police, to cover the islands at all points and conserve the energies of the regular troops.

The arrest of A. T. Galon, on a charge of being a guerilla, as reported from Manila yesterday, it is said at the department, marked the initiation of another policy towards the insurgents who still remain under arms. As a summary punishment of the guerrillas cannot be had until some action has been taken to declare the terminaton of the application of the rules of war, it is assumed at the war department that General Otis has already issued some kind of a proclamation or notice to the natives warning them that, if they defy the rules of war and pursue a predatory warfare, they will be treated as guerrillas when captured.

The president is devoting special attention to the formation of the new Philippine commission, acting on the advice that the army has reached the end of its function in the islands, and that the time is ripe for the establishment of civil government throughout the archipelago. It is hoped that the personnel can be completed before the end of next week. It appears that Mr. Denby was obliged to decline reappointment as a commissioner on account of physical inability to stand the hard work.

Fine Printing, Statesman Job Office.

ARE HOSTILE

Republicans Who Oppose Puerto Rican Tariff Bill.

SOME OF THEM MAY SUPPORT IT.

Democrats, Who Favor the Measure, May Offset the Party's Losses—A Conference Is Called.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—For the first time in the debate upon the Puerto Rican tariff bill, the voice of a republican was raised today against the measure. Bromwell, republican of Ohio, spoke against the bill. He opposed it on the ground of policy and not of constitution. His hostility, however, was not so absolute but that he announced his intention of voting for it if the substitute failed. The other speakers today were Ray, of New York, and Long, republican of Kansas, for the bill, and Henry, of Texas, against it.

The republicans have decided to hold a caucus for a conference on the bill Saturday night. Although there are said to be between twenty and thirty republicans who are hostile to the bill, the republican leaders, who are canvassing the situation, say that not more than four or five will cast their votes against it. They also say several democrats will support it. The only democrat who is outspoken in his advocacy of the bill is Davey of Louisiana. He represents one of the largest cane sugar interests in the South. Others, including Mayer, of Louisiana,, and Brossard, of Louisiana; Loud, of California; Davis and Sparkman, of Florida, are said to be in the doubtful column, but the democratic whip says that only Davey, and Sibley, of Pennsylvania, will vote for it. Wilson, of Idaho, silver republican, is said to be inclined to vote for the bill. Some of the republican opponents of the bill who dislike to go on record against their party, believe that the way out of the dilemma in which they find themselves, is to vote to recommit the measure. On account of the pressure for time, the debate hereafter will begin at 11 o'clock and there will be night sessions Thursday and Friday.

Representative Tawney, of Minnesota, the "republican whip" of the house, has wired all absent republicans to be present on Saturday. This is understood to be for the purpose of having all republicans present at the conference, on Saturday night, on the Puerto Rican tariff bill.

THE SAMOAN TREATY.

Washington, Feb. 21.—The senate, in executive session, today, ratified the treaty between the United States, Great Britain and Germany, affecting the claims growing out of the joint control of the Samoan islands.

A SUBSTITUTE.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Four republican members of the house committee on merchant marine and fisheries, who have differed from their associates on the terms of the shipping bill, today completed a substitute bill, which was introduced by Representative Miner, of Wisconsin, those acquiescing with him in the measure being Stevens of Minnesota, Jones of Washington, and Fordney of Michigan. The bill follows the general plan of the original, but makes a number of amendments.

EMPTY PROMISES.

Made by Multnomah County Regarding Valuations of Property.

Portland, Feb. 21.—Fifteen county assessors of Oregon met on Tuesday, to agree upon a uniform basis of valuations, for assessment purposes in Oregon, for 1900. They adjourned today without accomplishing anything, for the reason that there was nothing for them to do. They agreed not to agree upon a basis. If any county makes a large cut in valuations this year, it is probable that all others will follow, though Assessor Greenleaf's assurance, that Multnomah values will show an increase of between $6,000,000 and $7,000,000, may serve to check any headlong plunge.

PENSIONS FOR AUTHORS.

Mr. Anthony Hope, in talking about the proposed scheme of pensions for authors, remarks: "Interesting to learn that authors become poor, is it? Ah! the fabulous wealth of the author is a pleasing myth. Indeed, with but a few exceptions we are lower in the financial scale than the members of any other learned profession." — New York Tribune.

NEW AUSTRIAN MONETARY STANDARD.

Austria-Hungary has now adopted a new monetary standard—the krone, made up of a hundred heller, and worth half a florin, taking the place of the florin or gulden, with itn divisions into kreuzer.

A LONG VOYAGE.

San Francisco, Feb. 21.—The ship A. G. Ropes has arrived here from New York, after a remarkable voyage. She left New York in July 1899, and in order to get here has in reality circumnavigated the globe. The distance covered during the voyage was 25,800 nautical miles. All kinds of accidents befell the vessel.

EX-MAYOR DEAD.

Portland, Feb.—John M. Breck, a pioneer of 1850 and at one time mayor of Portland, died today.

WILL MEET TODAY.

Washington, Feb. 21.—On the eve of the meeting of the national democratic committee, which assembles here tomorrow to fix a time and place for holding the democratic national convention, Kansas City and Milwaukee are struggleing earnestly for the honor of entertaining the convention. Although there is some desultory talk of Cincinnati as a compromise, the fight is between Milwaukee and Kansas City, with chances tonight seemingly in favor of the latter place. Milwaukee has raised a fund of $100,000 for the entertainment of the convention. The amount which Kansas City is expected to expend has not been disclosed. The concensus of opinion is, that the convention will be held before the republican convention.

SENATOR QUAY'S CASE.

To Be Called Up in the Senate for Consideration.

Washington, Feb. 21.—An effort is to be made to get the question involving the seating of former Senator Quay, of Pennsylvania, formally before the senate for consideration. Penrose, of Pennsylvania, gave notice today that he would call up the case tomorrow. As it is a privileged question, he may be able to secure a vote on the taking up of the case for consideration, and thus develop Quay's strength in the senate, at least approximately. During the greater part of today's session, the Hawaiian government bill was under consideration.

SPANISH ISLANDS

Occupied by American Forces Will Be Restored.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Upon representations of the Spanish government to the effect that some islands south of the Philippine archipelago, which had been taken possession of by United States gunboats, were really the property of Spain, the authorities of the state department, having examined the charts, concluded to direct the withdrawal of our claims to the islands of Caygayen, Sulu and Cibitu.

HIGH WATERS.

Spokane, Feb. 21.—The rivers of Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington are overflowing, in some instances flooding, to a minor extent, the low-lying streets of the town. Moscow and Pomeroy report the same condition. Many bridges over creeks have been washed out, and the new railroad work on the new railroad work on the Juliette branch of the Northern Pacific was washed out. The damage otherwise is slight.

KEELEY IS DEAD.

Los Angeles, Feb. 21.—Leslie E. Keeley, inventor of the Keeley cure, died here today.

Our nature runs either to herbs or weeds; let us seasonably water the one and destroy the other.

Phellosene is the name given by a French inventor to a substance he describes as artificial cork, and which may be used for all purposes for which cork has hitherto been found useful. It is an analogue of celluloid, says an English authority, and consists of cork bark ground to an impalpable powder and agglutinated by solution of nitro-cellulose in acetone. This material is made into a doughy mass, compressed into moulds and dried. It contains about 10 to 12 per cent. of nitro-cellulose and is said to be a trifle, if anything, more combustible than cork under the ordinary conditions.—Mobile Register.

SMALLPOX IN LANE.

Eugene Register:

It is now apparent that Lane county is afflicted with smallpox in a mild form. The action of the county commissioners in sending out medical examiners to thoroughly examine into the contagion was a commendable act. There is no telling where the dread disease might break out in a virulent form and precautions taken now may prevent wide-spread disaster. There is no occasion for alarm for, by establishing a strict quarantine the malady can be stamped out.