

IN FREE STATE

Efforts of the British Commanders

To Head Off Retreating Enemies

Have Thus Far Met With No Results—Important Operations in the Field of War.

LONDON, April 27.—(Friday, 5 a. m.)—Isersalpoort which is not marked on maps, lies between Sanna's Post and Thabanchu. General Hamilton has probably by this time arrived at Thabanchu, as he is urging his utmost endeavors to cut off the Boers who are retreating from Dewetsdorp.

The Boer forces at Thabanchu are not unlikely to make a stand to cover the escape of the convoys from the Southward. They have laagers eight miles apart, stretching from Brandfort to Thabanchu, with a base camp at Samalld station.

General Brabant, in the fight with the Boers at Wepener, had a narrow escape. General Pole-Carew's advance was much hampered by the tardy arrival of artillery, which prevented him from capturing Leeuwkop before darkness set in, and enabled the Boers to secure their retreat.

Taken on the whole, however, there has been no bungling, and apparently, Lord Roberts, with the commands in the hands of the younger generals, now has an exceedingly efficient army. The report that the Boers have re-occupied Boshof proves to be untrue. Lord Methuen is still there, and General Hunter's division from Natal, which was supposed to be going to Bloemfontein, is arriving at Kimberley. This is evidence that some important operations are afoot in that district.

It is understood that the reason the Boers did not destroy the Bloemfontein waterworks was, that there are many Boers among the stockholders. The Boers are showing more activity in Natal. They are placing some heavy guns four miles north of Elands Laage.

A NATURAL FORTRESS. London, April 27.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, under Wednesday's date, says: "Our mounted infantry entered a high mountain plateau on the Thabanchu today, almost without opposition." As Thabanchu is a natural fortress, this must mean that the Boers have practically thrown up the sponge in this section of the country.

WATER IS SCARCE. Bradfort, O. F. S., April 23.—The British column in the direction of Bullfontein and Hoopstad has been beaten back through Boshof. The federalists sustained two casualties, and the British had twelve men killed and a number wounded. Yesterday General Kelly-Kenny's artillery at Dewetsdorp indulged in a mild bombardment of General Dewet's position. The firing lasted throughout the morning. The scarcity of water is supposed to be very pressing at Bloemfontein. A desperate attempt was made, by a large British force in two columns, to recapture the water works. Their right flank was beaten back, however, and a party of fifty were cut off and twelve men were killed. The Johannesburg command has captured a British scout. Some American scouts have been shot.

TURNED THEIR POSITION. London, April 26.—(Midnight).—The war office publishes the following dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated at Bloemfontein, April 26th: "General Ian Hamilton yesterday drove the enemy off a strong position at Isersalpoort, by a well conceived turning movement which was admirably carried out by General Ridley, commander of the Second mounted infantry brigade and General Smith-Dorrien, commanding the Eighteenth brigade. The troops are today advancing toward Thabanchu.

"Our losses were slight, only one yet being reported—Major Marshall, of Graham's Town Mounted Rifles, a severe wound in the shoulder."

TO EMBARRASS M'KINLEY. London, April 27.—It is alleged that the Boer peace commissioners will time their arrival in the United States, so it will occur at the most exciting period of the Presidential election.

THE EIGHT-HOUR LAW. House Committee Favors Bill to Shorten Work Days in Erecting Public Buildings in Future.

WASHINGTON, April 26.—The House committee on labor at a special meeting today, directed a favorable report on the Gardner 8-hour bill, which has attracted much attention in labor circles and among contractors for Government work. The vote was unanimously in its favor. There are other bills of similar character which stipulate that every contract shall stipulate a penalty for each violation of the provision directed by this act, of \$5 for each laborer or mechanic, for such and every calendar day in which he shall labor more than eight hours.

FOR POSTOFFICES. Washington, April 26.—After a four

days' discussion the house today passed the postoffice appropriation bill. The attempt to strike out \$150,000 for special mail facilities from New York to New Orleans, and from Kansas City to Newton, Kansas, met the fate it has, ever since the appropriation was placed in the bill in 1893. No one demanded a separate vote upon the amendment striking out the pneumatic tube provision, and the house by a large majority, stood by the amendment to give extra compensation to the letter carriers for work in excess of 48 hours a week, although the carriers were said, by Cummings, Democrat of New York, to be opposed to it.

The bill to increase the salary of the Director of Census to \$7,500, and the salaries of Supervisors of the Census by 2 per cent of the amount received by their enumerators, was passed.

A DEWEY BOYCOTT.

Organized Labor Will Not Participate in the Celebration. Chicago, Ill., April 26.—The long talked of boycott of the Dewey celebration, by organized labor, took form today when the executive committee of district No. 8, of the International Association of Machinists, issued an edict, declaring the promoters of the celebration antagonistic to Union labor, and ordering the members of the union to take no part in it.

MURDERED AT PORTLAND.

REMAINS OF A MAN FOUND IN THE WILLAMETTE.

Heavy Irons Fastened to His Neck to Weight Him Down—Evidence of a Crime.

PORTLAND, Or., April 26.—The body of an unknown man was found floating in the river, today, just south of the railroad bridge. Around the neck there was twisted a wire, to which was attached two brake shoes, taken from a freight car, and weighing about fifty pounds. It was thought the body was that of William Brannan, of Eltonsburg, N. Y., who had been missing from Seattle for three weeks, but word came this evening, that he was safe in Seattle. It is evident the man was murdered, and then thrown into the river.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT.

SEVERAL TITLES CONFERRED ON IRISH OFFICERS.

The Ruler of England Expresses Herself as Pleased with Her Sojourn in Ireland.

DUBLIN, April 26.—Before the departure of the Queen from this city, today, she said, she had had a most pleasant visit, and intimated that she hoped to be able to return. The Queen conferred baronetcies upon the lord mayors of Dublin and Belfast, the title of lord mayor on the mayor of Cork and his successors in office, and knighthood upon the mayor of Cork and the mayor of London.

Her Majesty gave £1,000, to be distributed among the poor in the Dublin hospitals.

A BIG SALE.

New York, April 26.—The Fifth Avenue Hotel and the Madison Square Theatre building adjoining were sold, in one parcel, at public auction today, for \$4,225,000, the purchaser being W. P. Eno, son of the original owner.

CONCESSIONS CANCELLED.

Washington, April 26.—The Nicaraguan Government has finally cancelled the concessions to the Maritime Canal Company, to construct a ship canal across Nicaragua.

NOW A BISHOP.

Portland, Or., April 26.—Rev. Father B. Orth, of this city, has been appointed bishop of Vancouver, B. C.

M'KINLEY GOES HOME.

Canton, O., April 26.—President McKinley and party left here for Washington this afternoon.

MANY SCALP BOUNTIES.—Secretary of State F. J. Dumble has issued, up to date, about 5000 warrants, in payment of scalp bounties, under the law, passed at the last session of the legislature, providing for the payment of bounties. The aggregate sum thus expended is \$61,088—this in one year of twelve months.

UP A CENT.—The quotation for wheat at the Salem Flouring Mills office in this city yesterday advanced a cent and the price now being paid for the golden grain in this city is 42 cents.

Exposure to a sudden climatic change produces cold in the head and catarrh is apt to follow. Provided with Ely's Cream Balm you are armed against Nasal Catarrh. Price 50 cents at Druggists, or Ely Brothers, 56 Warren street, New York, will mail it. The Balm cures without pain, does not irritate or cause sneezing. It spreads itself over an irritated and angry surface, relieving immediately the painful inflammation, cleanses and cures. Cream Balm quickly cures the cold.

PEACE DECLARED.

Why devote all your time reading about the Boer War and the Gold Fields of Alaska? There are other matters of vital importance; you may make a trip East, and will want to know how to travel. In order to have the best service, use the Wisconsin Central Ry., between St. Paul and Chicago. For rates and other information, write Jas. A. Clock, General Agent, Portland, Oregon.

His armor was his honest thought, And simple truth his utmost skill.

SWEPT BY FIRE

Enormous Loss in Business District.

Ottawa, Ontario, Suffers a Holocaust.

Millions of Dollars in Property Destroyed and Thousands of People Are Homeless.

OTTAWA, Ont., April 27.—Five square miles of territory burned, over 2500 dwellings, factories, mills, stores and other buildings destroyed, entailing a loss to reach \$20,000,000, and between 12,000 and 15,000 men, women and children homeless, is the summing up of the havoc wrought by a fire, which has been raging at Hull and in Ottawa since 11 o'clock yesterday morning, and at midnight was not completely under control. Most of the lumber piles in Ottawa and Hull have disappeared, and are now mere heaps of charred wood and ashes. A half dozen churches and schools, a number of mills, the Hull waterworks, the Hull court house and jail, the postoffice, the convent, almost every business place, and about 1000 dwellings and shops in Hull have been destroyed. Indeed, practically nothing of Hull is left but a church and a few houses beyond it.

The spot where the fire originated is about a quarter of a mile from the main street of Hull, and as a gale was blowing from the northwest right in the direction of the lumber piles and mills, on both the Hull and Ottawa shores, of the Ottawa river and Chaudiere Falls, it was soon seen that the fire was almost certain to be a large one. By 11:30 the fire had gotten a good hold on Main street, and the entire street, with dozens of cross streets, was burning.

The fire leaped across the Ottawa river, and caught the sheds in rear of the MacKay Milling Company, on Victoria Island, and in a few minutes the lumber piles on Victoria and Chaudiere islands, one of the power houses of the Ottawa Electric Co., the Victoria foundry, and half the buildings on the two islands were in flames.

The result is that the whole of that part of Ottawa, known as Chaudiere Flats, surrounding the Canadian Pacific railroad station, where the lumber mills are all located, is fire-swept. The only building standing in the whole area is that of the Ottawa Cardboard Factory. From the flats the fire extended across the Richmond road on to Rochester, and as far as the experimental farm. The westerly fire took everything up to Huntong and Mechanicsville, so that on the Ottawa side of the river there is a larger area covered by the fire than on the hillsides.

The fire originated in a dirty chimney, and the high wind caused the flames to spread rapidly. The fire at midnight was largely confined to that part of Rochester, lying near the St. Louis dam, in the southeast part of the city. Unless a heavy wind rises the remainder of the city is safe. Three people were killed.

A GOOD RECORD.

Indiana Republicans' Choice for Governor of the State.

Indianapolis, Ind., April 26.—Colonel Winfield Taylor Durbin, is the Republican nominee for Governor. He was born at Lawrenceburg, Ind., May 4, 1847. He has never held a public office, but has been a prominent factor in both state and national politics for many years. He is a member of the National executive committee. During the late Spanish war, Durbin was colonel of the 16th Indiana Volunteers. He went through the civil war as private.

END IN SIGHT.

Chinese Empire Will Soon Fall—A Revolution Predicted.

New York, April 26.—A special to the Herald from Washington, says: Edwin H. Conger, American minister in China, is keeping the state department fully advised by mail of developments in the situation. His latest reports are not of a very encouraging nature, and indicate that the anti-foreign movement is decidedly spreading, being particularly strong in the provinces of Szechuan, Hunan and Chi-Chi-Li.

As illustrating the hostility of the Empress Dowager to the development of her empire, attention was called today to a decree, which she recently issued, degrading five officials on the most ridiculous charges. One, for instance, was degraded because of his "unfathomable heart," another because of his "greed for money." The real reason of their degradation was because of the fear of the Empress Dowager and her advisers that they were prominent in the reform movement.

The hostility of the Empress Dowager to the progress of her people will surely precipitate a crisis, it is said, in official and diplomatic circles, and it would not be surprising if the troubles which the Peking government apparently does not wish to suppress should be the forerunner of anarchy and general revolution.

ANOTHER DEMAND.

Constantinople, April 26.—Negotia-

tions between the United States and the Port regarding the American indemnity claims have been transferred here. United Charge d' Affaires Griscorn yesterday handed Tewfik Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, a note based on instructions he had received from Washington, the tenor of which has not yet made public. It is understood, however, that it demands prompt payment of the indemnities.

TERKEY WILL PAY.

Will Build a Cruiser in America to Disguise Indemnity.

London, April 27.—The Constantinople correspondent of the Daily Chronicle says: "The Turko-American difficulty is in a fair way to settlement, the Sultan having promised satisfaction. It is asserted that the Porte has revived the project of building a cruiser in the United States, to disguise the payment of indemnity, and Ahmed Pasha is going to New York to negotiate with the Cramps on the subject."

GOING TO MEXICO.

Indians to Emigrate and Resume Their Nomadic Habits.

Washington, April 26.—The House committee on Indian affairs today directed a favorable report on the bill allowing the Indians in the Indian Territory to emigrate to Mexico. Mexico gives the Indians an opportunity to return to their tribal nations, and nomadic habits, and they prefer this to the restrictions now imposed upon them.

SPECIAL RESERVE.—Old Government Whiskey is recommended by A. P. O'Brien, M. D., Captain and Surgeon; also Wm. D. McCarty, M. D., U. S. Army; furthermore, by the Board of Health of San Francisco, as the purest unadulterated for invalids, convalescents and family use. Sold exclusively by J. P. Rogers, in Salem. dw if

THE WAR IN LUZON

Americans and Insurgents Meet at Close Quarters.

REBELS WERE BADLY DEFEATED

Guerrilla Bands Aggressive in North Ilocos Province—Several Alcaldes of Towns Imprisoned.

MANILA, April 26.—About three hundred of the enemy have been killed recently in North Ilocos, including Dadd's fight and attack at Batoc (April 16th), when from 600 to 700 rebels, a quarter of whom were armed with rifles, determinedly attacked the Americans, charging their positions and fighting at close quarters. The engagement lasted all the afternoon, the enemy burning the town, but they were repulsed after the arrival of American reinforcements. Thirty-two insurgents were killed and seventy captured at Batoc.

The insurgents generally are aggressive in that province. They captured an American provision wagon near Lapo. The Americans, having obtained evidence that the Alcaldes of Lapo, Marsingal, Cabangas and Sinit were holding treacherous communication with the insurgents, immediately imprisoned them and burned the Lapo town hall. There have been several minor fights in the province, including an attack by 200 insurgents at Lavag, April 17th, forty of whom were killed, and eighty were captured.

Men's Crash Hats

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