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Foreign News

LONDON, Feb. 10.—A special dispatch from Spearman's Camp, dated yesterday (Friday) noon, says that owing to the Boer cross-fire and the possibility of intrenching Vaal Krantz, General Buller's force withdrew. The Financial News, which publishes this dispatch, suggests that General Buller has not yet actually recrossed the Tugela.

DURBAN, Feb. 11.—It is rumored here that General Joubert is marching with a column of six thousand men to outflank General Buller. Blois Farm, to the south of the Tugela, has been occupied by the Boers. This is within an hour's ride of Chieveley, and the hills thereabout command both the bridges over the Tugela and Forts Wylie and Molinoux, from which a view of Bulawana and a part of Ladysmith is obtained.

CAPETOWN, FEB. 11.—The latest news from Kimberley is very disquieting. For over a month the besieged have been feeding on horses' flesh, and as a result the death rate and sickness has trebled. The women and children are unable to eat horse meat and are dying in large numbers. The Boers have brought more guns from Mafeking and the bombardment has been renewed at closer quarters and is falling heavily on the garrison. The Boers have been largely reinforced and it is evidently their determination to bring the long siege to a close, irrespective of the cost.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The "Daily Mail" publishes the following dispatch from Sydney, N. S. W.: "The news of General Buller's reverses has caused a great sensation here. Cardinal Moran, in a remarkable speech, has advocated conscription in Australia, in view of the possible complications. He thinks it may soon become necessary to defend Australia and therefore regrets the departure of the local troops."

LONDON, Feb. 13.—(4:15 a.m.)—Lord Roberts has gathered 35,000 men, with whom, according to the best military opinion in London, he purposes turning the left of the Magersfontein line near Jacobsdal, entering the Free State, compelling General Cronje to raise the siege of Kimberley and thus making his first step toward Bloemfontein.

Kimberley is in sore straits. Details of the December death rate show that in a population of 14,000 whites and 19,000 blacks, the mortality was 60 whites and 138 blacks per thousand. The infantile death rate was 671 per thousand among the whites, and 912 per thousand among the blacks. Enteric fever was prevalent.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce today decided by a vote of 8 to 5, to report a Pacific cable bill along the lines of the Sherman bill, defeating by 5 to 8 the Corliss proposition for a government ownership. The bill was taken up today by the committee. The bill authorizes the Postmaster General to contract with an American cable company for the payment by the United States of not to exceed \$400,000 per year for twenty years for the transmission of Government messages from the Pacific Coast to Honolulu, to Guam, Manila, Hongkong and such points in Japan as the contractor, with the approval of the Government of Japan, may select.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—Affairs in Puerto Rico are becoming desperate, while politicians in Washington are trying to make party capital out of the colonial-tariff question, the solution of which means life or death to the industries of the island.

Matters have gone so far that some of those in Washington best acquainted with the situation fear that there is grave danger of an insurrection, and an attempt to throw off American sovereignty if speedy relief is not afforded.

At the caucus of Republican Senators to be held to-morrow this view will be presented and immediate action on the pending bill will be urged as the only means of insuring the preservation of peace in the island.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The friends of Cecil Rhodes are becoming alarmed at his possible fate and have sent an emissary to see Dr. Leyds, the diplomatic agent of the Boers in Europe in regard to the probable course the Boers would pursue in the event of his capture. Dr. Leyds assured the intermediaries that the Boers did not intend to kill Mr. Rhodes; but he added, they would certainly hold him as a hostage until the indemnity for the Jameson raid was paid. In view of the developments since the raid, the Boers have also decided to double the amount of the indemnity demanded, so Mr. Rhodes' friends will have to hand over £2,000,000 (\$10,000,000) before he is released.

It is also learned definitely that Dr. Jameson is still at Ladysmith, in spite of all conflicting reports.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—Interest centers in Lord Roberts, for England realizes that he is in danger. His base of supplies at De Aar is evidently the object of the Boer army that is pressing back General French at Rensburg. But some military experts believe Lord Roberts has cut loose from that base and has taken to Madder river enough supplies for his army of invasion. General French may be strong enough to hold the Boers back, or General Kelly-Kenny may be able to effect a junction of French's and Gatacre's forces.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—The news of the day is the enforced retirement of the British from the Colesburg district under heavy Boer pressure and probably after brisk fighting. Thus, at a time when Lord Roberts is apparently unable to push an army into the Free State the Boers make a counter stroke in unknown but seemingly great force, not far from vital line of railway connecting De Aar and Orange river.

The indications as to General Buller's immediate intentions are contradictory. One informant who has intimate relations with the War Office predicts a movement within the next day or two. A number of correspondents who have been with General Buller have gone to Durban for a few days' rest, under the impression that nothing is to be done immediately.

The fact that General Buller's dispatch revising the casualties to the British troops at Potgieter's Drift is dated from Chieveley is taken in some quarters as an indication that General Buller has removed his headquarters to that place. There is nothing to indicate whether or not he left any large force at Springfield.

The Boer invasion of Zululand is causing keen anxiety. Apart from the fact that it threatens General Buller's supplies, it is difficult to believe that the Zulus can long be kept quiescent while their cattle are commandeered and the country overrun by their hereditary foes.

BOER HEAD LAAGER, LADYSMITH, Feb. 8.—The British, who were in possession of the kopje at Molen's Drift, abandoned it after a bombardment of Boer cannon this morning, and retired across the Tugela river to their former position. A desultory cannonade is proceeding at the Tugela this morning, but otherwise everything is quiet.

ISLAND NEWS

FROM HONOLULU

No deaths nor suspicious cases since Monday.

From the statement of S. M. Damon, Minister of Finance, the assets of the Hawaiian Treasury are \$1,530,673.40, and the liabilities \$370,675.98. Special appropriations practically absorb the balance.

At a meeting of the Commissioners of Education Thursday, Feb. 22, afternoon it was decided to open the high school. Neither the grammar department of the former nor the practice department of the latter will be opened.

Mr. H. A. Baldwin, Manager of the Hamakua plantation, Maui, who went into quarantine last week at the J. M. Moutserat premises near Koko head, has been sick with malarial fever for several days, but is improving.

C. H. Kluegel, the civil engineer for the Hilo Railway Company, John S. Smithies, collector of the port at Mahukona, Frank Foster, "the man with the hoe" and W. Berlowitz, a commercial traveller for several Honolulu firms, went into quarantine at Sunner's island where they will remain ten days in order to leave for other islands.

The regular session of the Legislature of the Republic of Hawaii met and adjourned on Wednesday, Feb. 21. Present, J. L. Kaulikou, speaker, and Representatives A. V. Gear, A. T. Atkinson, and A. G. M. Robertson. Minister Cooper attended as the representative of the government. No business was transacted, and on motion of Representative Atkinson the house adjourned for three days. The Senate did not meet.

Bids for the construction of the Wailuku water works were opened in the Interior office, Friday noon. Chas. B. Wilson and John F. Bowler were the only bidders. Their figures being rates for dimensions and materials, will require some calculation to find whether or not they come within the appropriation. In the meantime it may transpire that some bids from Wailuku have been delayed through the interruptions of inter-island mails. Jas. T. Taylor, engineer of the Public Works bureau, goes into quarantine this afternoon so as to be able to leave for Wailuku in nine days. —Bulletin.

FROM HAWAII

The Conemough had bad luck with her horses. Some of them developed influenza after leaving San Francisco and died on the way. Five died after reaching Hilo. —Hilo Herald.

Mr. Kennedy, agent of the Board of Health, has issued orders to the steamer agents that freight cannot be taken from Hilo to ports on this island until further order. —Hilo Herald.

The Hilo railway bed is finished to nine miles and the contractors are waiting the arrival of the locomotives so that track-laying may begin. The locomotives will be here on the next Matson vessel and it is expected the road will be in operation by April 1st next. —Hilo Herald.

The Advertiser says the Aztec was charged six prices for stevedoring while at this port. The charge may be true, though the Herald is unable to confirm it, but as the six Hilo prices did not equal one of Honolulu, and the time occupied in the work of discharging and loading the animals was half that usually taken in Honolulu, where is the ground for a kick? —Herald.

Peter McRae is in receipt of a letter from Col. G. F. Little in Washington. The Colonel says he must have more money to lubricate the wheels of justice in order to secure those squatters' rights for the denizens of Olaa. Four hundred dollars more has been forwarded. If that doesn't do the business the dam gates will be closed and the squatters will take their chances with the rest of the people on legislation. —Tribune.

Referring to the rumors that the people of the Aztec would report un-

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favorably to Washington, relative to the facilities in Hilo for handling stock and the delay caused by this and other matters, the Captain of the Port Albert remarked that he had been able to transfer over 500 animals in eleven hours, and he doubted whether a better day's work could be shown anywhere. The matter of water supply had caused some delay, owing to the use of the lighters for sugar during so much of the time, but otherwise he was perfectly satisfied with Hilo as a half-way house on the voyage to the Orient. —Hilo Tribune.

FROM KAUAI

The steamer Charles Nelson, 8 days from San Francisco with four day's later news, arrived in Makaweli, Kauai, Tuesday morning. She has aboard a cargo of 27,000 packages of merchandise consigned to H. S. Co. The Keaouhou, now at Kauai, will assist in the work of lightening the freight ashore. —Bulletin.

Captain Gregory and the purser of the Waialeale that arrived this morning report a case of choloid at Koloa, Kauai, the victim being the jailer at that place, an Hawaiian. The man took sick Monday.

As the Waialeale left Hanalei in the afternoon and the Charles Nelson arrived at 10 a. m. there was not time for any mail to get across from Makaweli. The purser did his best to get news of the war in South Africa and other important matters, but was told that there had been little communication between the Charles Nelson and shore so that no news whatever could be learned. —Bulletin.

FROM MOLOKAI

KAUNAKAKAI, Feb. 18. — Last week an old native man was burned to death in his house below Palau. It is not known how the fire occurred, whether it was the work of an incendiary or whether the man accidentally started the fire and was unable to get out as he was partially paralyzed. —Star.

KAMALO, Feb. 18. — A second daughter of Hugh McCarriston is ill with the fever which is so prevalent in Molokai. —Star.