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THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Latest Dispatches Received From Chiveley Camp

Hint at Some Important Movement on the Part of General Buller.

The News Interpreted to Mean That He Contemplates a Renewal of His Attempt to Relieve Ladysmith, Though the Report is Accepted With Some Misgivings in Official Circles.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—(5 a. m.)—The latest special dispatches from Chiveley Camp hint at some important movement as imminent. This is interpreted, with some misgivings, to mean that General Buller contemplates a renewal of his attempt to relieve Ladysmith. It is reported by the same dispatches that the Boers have now retired to the north bank of the Tugela, being afraid that the swollen river may bar their retreat. They are also moving their laagers nearer Ladysmith, probably with the intention of putting further pressure on the garrison, which now seems to be suffering pretty heavily from bombardment.

It is difficult, however, to conceive that General Buller would make another frontal attack, especially now that the river is rising, and an additional indication that this is not his purpose is the fact that he has removed his headquarters back to Frere. The Boer movement northward from the Tugela is quite in keeping with the enemy's plan of securing a safe line of retreat.

It is known that further artillery is due to arrive for General Buller, but the belief here is that his forces even then will be too weak. He may, however, be animated by a desire to accomplish something before the arrival of Lord Roberts, and to satisfy the keenness of his men to retrieve their defeat.

The reported engagement with Kaffirs is very vague, and cannot be explained pending the arrival of later dispatches.

The Earl of Mount-Edgiecombe, brother-in-law of Lord Landsdowne, says the War Office would countenance a scheme to enroll volunteers in a sort of preparatory stage in order to learn drills and the like. The number of members of the House of Commons who have volunteered for the front threaten seriously to reduce the Government's majority when Parliament reassembles.

The Rothschilds have donated £2,000 to the Buckinghamshire volunteer fund. It is estimated that £200,000 will be contributed privately to British funds throughout the country. Already the fund for relief of families of soldiers exceeds £500,000.

The "Times" has the following, dated December 27th, from Lourenzo Marques: Cargoes for the Transvaal have dwindled to one-fifth of the average, but large shipments are expected from Europe. In the meantime there are persistent rumors here and in Durban that guns and ammunition are smuggled through for the Boers. A French liner now in the harbor is said to have brought two large guns from Madagascar.

The "Times" to-day publishes the following dispatch from Chiveley Camp, dated December 24th: Parties of Boers approached to-day within three miles of Chiveley Camp, threatening our watering parties, who are compelled to go some two miles owing to the scarcity of water. It is reported that the Ladysmith garrison made a sortie on Thursday and captured a hill.

The "Daily Mail" asserts that several guns have been removed from the forts at Plymouth by night, and that these will be sent to Cape Town.

The Modder River correspondent of the "Times," referring to the scare firing of the Boers, says: "Their nervousness causes much amusement among the British. It is quite certain that half the Boer force is employed watching by day and the other half by night. Probably the consequent weariness with the scarcity of water and the presence of typaoid will render the Boer position intolerable. Their present action is due either to a scare or to a wish to cover a retirement to Spytfontein."

Dispatches from all parts of South Africa emphasize the great enthusiasm among the troops and public, occasioned by the appointment of Generals Roberts and Kitchener. The announcement that the former will have supreme command, and that the latter will be chief of staff, has largely dispelled the depression in Cape Colony caused by the recent reverses, while the soldiers anticipate everything from the presence of "Bobs," from success in battle to Cape beer.

Advices from Cape Town dated December 24th say an investigation shows that the reported disaffection among the Dutch in the Victoria district has been overdrawn. The farmers, it is pointed out, are mostly land owners and will not risk the loss of their farms by rising.

A dispatch from Lourenzo Marques, dated December 23d, says a curious story is current, emanating from Boer sources, that Matt Steyn, brother of the President of the Orange Free State, and 800 Free Staters, have definitely refused to continue the war. Matt Steyn, acting as spokesman of the party, is reported to have told the President that he was only authorized to interview in the interest of peace, and that the Burghers did not feel that they were bound by his "unwarrantable conduct," especially as they ran the risk of confiscation of their property, and they simply desired to be permitted to farm in peace and proposed to immediately return to their farms.

Sir Richard Howard Vincent, member of Parliament for the Central division of Sheffield, and Colonel of the Queen's Westminster Volunteers, has been appointed to command the infantry division of the City of London Imperial Regiment.

The text of Colonel Baden-Powell's proclamation to the Burghers besieging Mafeking, the gist of which has already been cabled, comes from Lourenzo Marques to-day. After asserting that the Republics cannot hope for foreign intervention, and pretending to relate the exact attitude of all European Powers, including Emperor William, who, the Colonel says, "fully sympathizes with England," Baden-Powell makes the extraordinary statement that the American Government has warned the others of her intention to side with England should any of them interfere.

A War Office dispatch from Colonel Baden-Powell, dated December 12th, after announcing that Lady Sarah Wilson had arrived safe at Mafeking, adds that the health and spirits of the garrison are very satisfactory.

BELATED DISPATCHES.

LADYSMITH, Sunday, Dec. 24 (via Pietermaritzburg).—General White has had a slight attack of fever but he is now convalescent. The Boers' shell fire has been very damaging recently. On Friday one shell killed six men and wounded nine. The same missile killed fourteen horses. Another just missed the Fifth Lancers' lines, slightly wounding six officers. Several shells have fell close to General White's house, compelling the removal of headquarters to another point. It is reported General Joubert is again in command of the Boers. The military authorities appear confident, but they are very reticent. Boers have been observed moving northward and westward in large numbers.

PIETERMARITZBURG, Wednesday, Dec. 27.—A dispatch from Ladysmith dated December 22d, says: The Boers have mounted another howitzer on Surprise Hill, replacing the gun captured in the sortie of the Rifle Brigade. While they watch us nightly with a searchlight, and bombard the place daily, they show no signs of assaulting the town. They probably think they can starve us out, but we have plenty of provisions.

The total casualties since the siege began are seventy men killed and 276 wounded.

PRETORIA, Tuesday, Dec. 26 (by way of Lourenzo Marques, Thursday, Dec. 28).—Commandant Snyman reports as follows from Molopo: "On Monday morning the enemy from Mafeking attacked one of our forts in force with cannon and an armored train, and so persistently that there was fighting right on the walls of the fort. But we have retained our fort. The British loss is reported at fifty-five."

The other commandos report "All quiet," with the exception of the usual bombardment of Ladysmith.

Commandant Swart reports from the laager at Alowynskop, near Zeorust, that he had an engagement on Friday, December 22d, with Kaffirs in the neighborhood of Derdorpoort. The Kaffirs occupied a strongly fortified ridge, and were well prepared for emergencies. After heavy fighting the Burghers captured the Kaffir position, losing three killed and five wounded.

General Schalkberger reports under date of December 23d that trains are now running to Colenso, indicating that the Boers have built a connection around Ladysmith.

General Cronje reports from the Modder River December 24th that the Boers captured two British forts at Kuruman, December 17th.

It is rumored that General Methuen's big naval gun has exploded.

The Transvaal Government has promulgated a new gold tax law, by which individuals and companies working their own mines are taxed 30 per cent. of the output, while mines worked by the Government will pay 50 per cent. Suspended mines will pay 30 per cent. on their probable output, calculated on three months' workings. Reducing works will pay 30 per cent. of their net profits. The law is retroactive to October 10th.

KIMBERLEY, Friday, Dec. 22, via Modder River, Dec. 27.—Before dawn to-day a detachment of the mounted forces with artillery and light infantry, moved out in a westerly direction. Boer artillery from Kamperdam opened fire at Ottos Kopje, Kimberley, fort replying with twenty shells.

The British force reconnoitered outposts along the Lazaretta ridge, the Boer patrols retiring. Having accomplished this, and having discovered Boer reinforcements approaching from Wimbledon ridge, Colonel Chamier, with the Royal Artillery, exchanged a dozen shells as soon as the guns could be limbered up. Some 500 Boers poured in a heavy fire from their earthworks, the British finally retiring with the loss of one horse. The movement showed that the Boers were still keeping their guns in the vicinity of Kimberley and are able to summon reinforcements rapidly. It shows their proneness to vacate a position immediately when weaker than the opposition force.

LADY SARAH WILSON.

MAFEKING, Sunday, Dec. 24th, (by native runner to Mochudi.)—Lady Sarah Wilson is living in a bomb proof shelter of her own construction under the private residence of Mr. Weil. There she is enabled to exist with some sort of comfort, and if she chooses to spend a part of the time in the house her shelter is close enough to enable her to take cover between the ring of the warning bell and the arrival of the projectile.

The correspondent of the Associated Press at Mafeking, to whom she granted an interview, was struck with the fact, on entering her bomb-proof refuge, that she is unquestionably an old campaigner. Even in this noisome, dark hole, dug under the ground, she manages to make herself comfortable. She has whisky and soda as well as cigarettes to offer visitors.

Lady Sarah's adventures were exciting, sometimes amusing and often spiced with considerable danger. It was on a Thursday that she left Mafeking. She arrived at Settlagoli Hotel that night. Before morning she was aroused by the rattle of musketry and the boom of guns. It was Captain Nesbitt of the Mashonaland mounted police, now a prisoner in the hands of the Boers, who was fighting desperately, unable to get back or to go forward but holding the wrecked armored train until the last. As soon as daylight would allow Lady Sarah placidly rode to the scene of action and photographed the wreck. Finding that her presence at Settlagoli exposed her to insults, the Boers moved her to Mosuti, where she enjoyed the hospitality of a colonial farmer. By means of heavy bribes she persuaded natives to carry information to and fro, and extraordinary stories regarding her were circulated among the Boers. One was that she was the wife of an English

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THE CAMPAIGN IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Gen. Otis Reports to the War Department at Washington

The Capture of a Stronghold of Rebels Northeast of San Mateo.

The Filipinos Lost a Large Number in Killed and Wounded, With Twenty-four Prisoners Taken—The Americans Also Captured a Large Amount of Ammunition, the Rebels' Food Supplies and Considerable Other Property.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The Adjutant General received a cable message from General Otis this morning telling of the capture of a mountain stronghold beyond Montalban, northeast of San Mateo, formerly supposed to be impregnable, and the capture of many prisoners and a large quantity of arms and ammunition. The dispatch is as follows:

Manila, Dec. 29, 1899.—Adjutant General, War Department, Washington; Colonel Lockett, with his regiment, two battalions of the Forty-sixth (Colonel Schuyler); one of the Forty-fifth Dorst), and a company of the Twenty-seventh Infantry, also two guns, under Captain Van Deusen, attacked the enemy, 600 strong, in a mountain stronghold beyond Montalban, northeast of San Mateo. A large number were killed and wounded and twenty-four were taken prisoners. Lockett also captured one cannon, forty rifles, 20,000 rounds of ammunition, 500 pounds of powder, the arsenal fortifications, all food supplies and considerable other property. This captured point is located on a mountain trail, and was formerly supposed to be impregnable. Our casualties were Lieutenant Enslow, Eleventh Cavalry, and five enlisted men wounded, mostly slightly. Private Matson of the Forty-fifth Infantry was drowned."

General Otis at Manila to-day cabled the War Department that First Lieutenant Edward R. Taylor, Twelfth Infantry, was run over by a train crossing the Agno River, near Bautista, on the 26th inst., and died in a few hours. Lieutenant Taylor was born in Illinois, and was appointed to the army from Idaho in June, 1889. He was graduated at the military academy and assigned to the Twelfth Infantry, with which he served in South Dakota and Nebraska up to the time of the outbreak of the Spanish war, when he accompanied the expedition to Santiago Bay. At the close of the war he rejoined his regiment and served in Kansas and Missouri until February, 1899, when he accompanied his regiment to the Philippines, where he remained to the time of his death.

TRIAL OF MOLINEUX.

An Interesting Incident During Cross-Examination of Cornish.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—The most interesting incident to-day in the trial of Roland B. Molineux, charged with the murder of Katherine J. Adams, occurred during the cross-examination of Harry Cornish by Mr. Weeks, defendant's counsel. Mr. Weeks asked the witness to step from the stand, sit down at the end of the table occupied by the attorneys for the State, go through the performance of opening the bottle of bromo-seltzer, show how he knocked the contents into the glass, how he poured the water from one glass into another, being careful to get approximately the same amount of water that he used in the preparation of the fatal dose on the morning of the murder of Mrs. Adams. Cornish complied with the request, and proceeded to show how much he drank of the mixture, also about how much Mrs. Adams took of the poison. It was not until Mr. Weeks asked the witness to drink the water in this plan to mimic reproduction of the scene that the Recorder interfered. Mr. Weeks assured Cornish that the water would not hurt him, but the court remarked:

"This dumb show has gone far enough."

Assistant District Attorney Osborne good naturedly told the witness to go ahead and drink the water, and the witness picked up the glass with the remark:

"Well, I will drink it."

At this point Recorder Goff again interfered, with the statement that he would not permit anything of the sort to take place in the courtroom.

Mr. Osborne said that while Cornish did not like the tactics adopted by the attorney for the defense, he had no objection to drinking the water if allowed to do so by the court. This, however, the Recorder would not consent to.

Two of the most important witnesses for the prosecution were on the stand during the day. They were John D. Adams, ex-Secretary of the Knickerbocker Athletic Club, and Cornish. Mr. Adams was the first witness called. The most interesting point in connection with his testimony to-day was his positive identification of the handwriting on the poison package as that of Molineux. The testimony of Cornish consisted largely of detailed descriptions of the scenes of the morning of the murder at the Adams flat.

Recorder Goff refused to allow Mr. Weeks to ask any questions as to the present whereabouts of Mrs. Cornish, the wife of the witness, and why Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, the latter the daughter of Mrs. Adams, had separated.

Few new facts were elicited in the attempts to trace the poison package from the Knickerbocker Athletic Club to the Adams flat. It was, however, discovered that Cornish deposited the bromo-seltzer bottle in his desk at the club in the presence of P. S. Finneran, that he lost the key of the desk, and that it was afterward found on the floor of the Adams flat, after the death of Mrs. Adams; that just before the murder it was necessary for the engineer at the club to break open the desk for the purpose of removing various articles, and that the desk was repaired in a makeshift fashion.

Cornish also testified that he was mistaken in his statements to the newspapers immediately after the murder as to the time when he brought the poison package from the club to his room at the Adams apartments, and that he had refreshed his memory by talking with Mrs. Rogers concerning the matter.

A PERFUME FARM.

One Soon to be Established at Monrovia, California.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—The "Post" says to-day: Within a few months there will be established in Monrovia, Cal., the first perfume farm and perfume manufacturing plant operating on an extensive scale that has ever been established in this country.

A party of New York and Chicago capitalists have been working on the scheme for several months. Thousands of acres of land have been bought in Southern California. Expert German and French chemists have already been engaged, and early in the coming spring the plant, it is said, will be in full operation. A meeting of the promoters of the enterprise will be held at New York in a week or two, and final arrangements for the organization of a stock company completed. It is intended to incorporate under the laws of Illinois.

Mistook His Wife for Burglar.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Alfred Morrison, a professor of languages, mistook his wife for a burglar during the night and shot her at their home in Mount Vernon, N. Y. Mrs. Morrison exonerated her husband from all blame. He is almost insane from grief. Mrs. Morrison may die.

Fire at Burlington, Iowa.

BURLINGTON (Ia.), Dec. 29.—The building and contents of the Biklen-Wisener wholesale grocery were destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of $150,000, with insurance of $95,000. Intense cold prevented the firemen from doing effective work.

SENATOR KYLE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

HAS RETURNED TO THE RANKS OF THE REPUBLICANS.

Prefers the Gold Standard to Bimetallism With the Ingredients of Radical Socialism.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—A special to the "Times" from Washington says:

Senator Kyle of South Dakota, who has been classed in the Congressional directory, presumably upon his own authority, as an independent in politics, but who repeatedly has voted with the Republicans, has come out in a declaration that will justify the makers of the directory hereafter in classifying him as a Republican in name as well as in fact. He is out of line with his former Populist associates, and says so.

"Though I am a bimetallist and have been so from conscientious convictions for twenty-five years," he said, "I would rather take the most undiluted gold standardism than to accept bimetallism with the ingredients of radical socialism that are now associated with it."

He does not favor that part of suggested legislation which gives to the Secretary of the Treasury authority to issue bonds at his own discretion, believing that when the people of the United States find it necessary to increase their public debt Congress should be consulted.

On the general question of voting for the gold standard, he does not believe that the enactment into law of a principle which is now generally recognized will affect the country disadvantageously.

"We have been practically operating under the gold standard," he said, "for thirty years. We have brought ourselves into harmony with the money systems of the world. It is a doubtful proposition whether it is right to disturb values again when by such action we do injustice to the creditor class and at the same time put ourselves out of joint with the rest of the world. In thirty years we have adjusted ourselves to new conditions, and in going to bimetallism now we might be committing a second wrong, the demonetization of silver being the first, in order to make a right."

Senator Kyle says that the third party movement has degenerated into an indorsement of all that is radical and socialistic.

The Chairman of the Populist party in South Dakota, he says, is a Socialist of the most pronounced type, whose newspaper advocates an entirely new form of Government. The Republicans and conservative Democrats who were associated in the independent movement in the past, have returned to their former political allegiance, not caring to follow Altgeld, Debs and other agitators.

"Because of these radical meetings," he says, "the American flag was twice torn down and the red flag of socialism raised in its place. I am in favor of American institutions," added Mr. Kyle, "and I would rather take the Republican party, with all in it that is distasteful to me, than be allied with those who have no respect for our flag and who want to tear down our Government."

"Is the independent movement in South Dakota at an end?"

"It is probable that the Socialists, the radical Populists and the radical Democrats will get together and operate under the name of the Reform party. In the election last fall there was no organized Democratic party and no Democratic ticket. The name was completely obliterated, and yet it was not so very long ago that the Democrats cast 27,000 votes in my State. This conglomerated party can never win. The present Populist Governor was elected by a bare majority of 300, although previously the Populists had several thousand majority. In the last election the Republicans, without money and without a struggle, won by nearly 7,000. In the Presidential campaign next year South Dakota will go for McKinley by from 10,000 to 15,000. The Socialistic tendency of the third party people and the prosperity which is being enjoyed by the South Dakota farmers have sounded the death-knell of the old movement."

THE PAST YEAR A PROSPEROUS ONE.

Rarely Have Sanguine Commercial Hopes or Predictions

Found Such Adequate Realization as in the Season Just Closing.

The Year 1899 a Record-Breaker in Nearly All Lines of Business and Industry—The Volume of Domestic and Foreign Trade the Largest Ever Recorded, and the Bank Clearings Surpassed All Previous Records.

NEW YORK, Dec, 29.—Bradstreet's review of "the year in business" tomorrow will say:

Rarely have sanguine commercial and financial hopes or predictions found such adequate realization as they did during 1899. Certainly nothing like the widespread and general upward movement of values, alike of staples and of securities, such as occurred during this year, could have been foreseen. Linked with an immense business and a record breaking production in nearly all lines of business and industry, except, perhaps, in some products of the agricultural interest, there was with it an advance of staple values, either of which alone would have made the year notable, and, combined, to have served to establish the year as a record breaker, and set up new standards. The volume of domestic and of foreign trade alike was the largest ever recorded and the bank clearings, reflecting immense business expansion, active speculation in stocks and immense new industrial floatings, far surpassed all previous records.

Prices, as a result, primarily of the stimulation proceeding from supply and demand conditions, scored probably the greatest advance in any single year, and brought the general level of staple values to the highest point reached for more than eight years past. Failure statistics point to the smallest number reported for seventeen years past. These results have come to pass in the face of a considerable increased production of wheat and an immense falling off in the yield of cotton.

Industrial affairs for the year has been one of enormous expansion. Certainly nothing like the general advance in wages of industrial employes has been witnessed for many years, and this has been accomplished with a minimum of friction.

The close of the year finds order books filled to from three to six months ahead in nearly all lines. Distributive trade was naturally of immense volume throughout the year, though mild weather at the close tended to modify the satisfaction with which retail trade in winter fabrics was regarded. This was, however, partly compensated for by a holiday business surpassing all previous records. Notwithstanding smaller exports of agricultural products during the calendar year, breadstuff shipments being 15 per cent. smaller, cattle and hogs exports 12 per cent. less, and cotton shipments, owing to the short crop, at least 15 per cent. less, there was such an expansion in our manufactured exports that the entire export trade of the year will considerably exceed that of the last calendar year, which was the heaviest recorded, and will make the year no less notable in the line of foreign than domestic trade with a total of exports little less than $1,280,000,000, an aggregate which, if reached, will mark a gain of 3 per cent. over the record total of 1898.

Imports have naturally shown a marked revival, and if the gain for the eleven months is maintained for the month of December, a total a little below $800,000,000 may be expected, which would guarantee a total foreign trade well in excess of $2,000,000,000, an amount it might be remarked, never before equaled. As to exports, it is to be noted that nearly one-third of all are manufactured products, a proportion never before reached; and, as to imports, the very increase in raw products intended for manufacture bears testimony to the activity of domestic industry. The apparent trade balance in our favor, though not as heavy as in 1898, will still aggregate an enormous amount.

That the advance in the price of staples has not been a fictitious one, or based upon arbitrary actions of combinations, is evidenced by the fact that a similar price movement has been witnessed abroad, the general level of prices in England, for instance, being higher on December 1st this year than for more than eight years past. The course of values, too, has been in accordance with expectations of economists, in that the greatest relative rise has been in manufactured goods or in products of industry, not exclusively agricultural. Breadstuffs alone of all the classes of staples are actually lower now than they were a year ago, the decline being about 6 per cent. On the other hand, the manufactured or partly manufactured products, such as metals, raw and manufactured textiles, building material, coal and naval stores, have scored remarkable gains. Metals, as a whole, were 50 per cent. higher than a year ago, due largely, of course, to the forward rush of iron and steel prices, which have all practically doubled in value within the year. Raw cotton and wool have made especially noteworthy advances, and from being among the most depressed of industries, the textile manufacturing trades have become among the busiest there is record of. Other textiles have shared in this advance, and the result is that textiles as a class are one-third higher than a year ago.

Coal and coke have shared in the wonderful industrial development of the year, with a rise equal to that in textiles, and building materials, too, have made equal gains, owing mainly to the marked advance in lumber. Naval stores showed a gain of nearly one-third in price. Hides and leather are one-fourth higher. Livestock, dried fruits and oils are one-eighth higher, and provisions, chemicals and miscellaneous products have all advanced.

Taking bank clearings as an index, the outlook at present favors a total at the country's clearing-houses, making comparison with previous years, of 74 per cent. over 1897 and of 51 per cent. over 1892, while as compared with 1894 the volume of clearings has practically doubled. Active stock speculation and immense industrial floatings, but, above all, enormous and industrial activity, naturally swelled the volume of clearings in the Middle States, but the gains in the New England group, including Boston, where copper share speculation was extensive, and where are the great manufacture centers, were also considerable. The largest monthly clearings up to December were reported in March, while outside of the metropolis the highest total was shown as late as October. The flurry in money late in December swelled the weekly bank clearings to an unprecedented sum, making possible exceptionally heavy December aggregate. Decreases from 1898 at individual cities were few, and due mainly to changes in methods unconnected with the generally large business done. As compared with 1894, every city in the country naturally reports larger clearing, but it is worth noting that thirteen cities in all show decreases from the year 1892, which still remains at those cities a year of unequaled trade. The railroads of the country have done the heaviest business in their history, proved by the gains in gross and net receipts over all previous records.

That the transportation interests are determined to share still further in the unexampled volume of tonnage offering is proved by the general advance in rates scheduled for January 1, 1900. Railroad building, though mostly branches and feeders, was the heaviest reported since 1890, was double the average of the preceding four years and 50 per cent. larger than in 1898.

The record of embarrassments has been of a steadily diminishing scale as regards number, and even in liabilities the year's record is an exceptional one, and were it not for a few large failures in the last two months of the year that period as a whole would have been fairly entitled to the appellation of phenomenal.

The total number of failures, based upon complete returns for eleven months and partial returns for December, will be in the neighborhood of 9,550, a total smaller than in the preceding year by 17 per cent., and 40 per cent. less than in 1893, the year of the panic. As compared with 1892, there is even shown a decrease of 6 per cent., and the number of failing traders, firms or corporations is in fact the lightest since 1882. As regards liabilities, while the showing is not so good as expected, there is a reasonable hope of the aggregate not being much in excess of $120,000,000, which would be 13 per cent. less than in 1898, and 70 per cent. smaller than in the panic year, 1893, and only 11 per cent. more than in 1892, a year of exceptionally good trade.

The return of normal conditions is indicated by the percentage of assets, which may aggregate $62,000,000, being only 51.6, as against 52 per cent. last year; 65 per cent. in 1893, and 50 per cent. in 1892. The percentage of those failing in business, too, will show a marked shrinkage, and will be among the lowest ever reported.

That the improvement in business has made itself felt at last in all parts of the country is indicated by the Southern and Pacific States groups, showing the largest decrease in failures from a year ago, fully one-third in each case. The business community looks forward to 1900 with at least equally mixed feelings of hope and confidence.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29. — R. G. Dun & Co.'s "Weekly Review of Trade" will say to-morrow:

No correct report of failures in 1899 can be made until the year has closed. A collapse of speculation in copper stocks has swelled the aggregate at Boston alone over $6,000,000 within a few days, and might yet add to the record. The failures reported are fewer in number than in any year since 1883, and smaller in amount of commercial liabilities than any year since 1881. The aggregate of defaulted liabilities is $120,160,000, but nearly two-thirds of the banking liabilities were added within a few days, the aggregate reaching about $30,900,000. The commercial liabilities have been about $89,260,000, though exact returns for a few recent failures are not yet obtainable. No other years except in 1881, with defaulted liabilities of $81,155,932, and 1880, with $65,752,000, have failures been as small since the agency commenced quarterly returns in 1875.

The week has been exciting only at Boston, where the failures growing out of speculation and the efforts to reestablish banks and firms suspended, have not given the week a holiday character. Yet general business is thoroughly safe and prosperous, and no important firms have failed, save some which were individually connected with concerns involved in speculation.

The speculative troubles come because the volume of legitimate business and the unprecedented distribution of profits, interest and dividends, made it no longer possible to carry some stocks on borrowed money. Prosperity itself placed a check on speculative features.

Wheat and cotton speculation has taken a holiday, prices scarcely varying, and the movement of both is surprisingly small. Atlantic exports of wheat (flour included) have in four weeks been only 8,278,618 bushels, against 19,874,587 last year, and Pacific exports 3,314,271, against 3,855,808 last year. The corn exports continued about as large as last year, but cotton exports this month have been less than half last year's, with some decrease on takings of spinners. Accumulated stocks in mills and markets both here and abroad are so large that there is no haste to pay the prices asked.

The industries are closing the most extraordinary of their history. Long-established branches have undergone a veritable reconstruction, vastly increasing their capacity, while new industries which scarcely existed a year or two ago have enlisted a vast capital, altered the mode of business and production in almost every direction and improved conditions for the future almost beyond calculation.

Death of a Catholic Clergyman.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Rev. Sylvester Malone, pastor of the Roman Catholic Church of Saints Peter and Paul, Brooklyn, and a member of the Board of Regents of the University of New York, died to-day aged 79 years.

RAIL ACCIDENT IN COLORADO.

The Cheyenne Flyer on the Union Pacific Road

Crashes Into a Boulder Valley Train at Brighton Station Crossing.

The Mail and Baggage Car and the Smoker of the Flyer Caught Fire and Were Destroyed, and the Express Messenger Burned to a Crisp—Fourteen Other Persons Also Injured.

DENVER, Dec. 29.—The Cheyenne flyer on the Union Pacific Railroad crashed into the Boulder Valley train at Brighton, Colo., at 6 o'clock this morning. One man was killed and fourteen persons injured. Winfield Randleman, express messenger, of Denver, was burned to a crisp.

The Boulder Valley train left Denver a little late this morning and as usual stopped at Brighton, which is the junction for the Boulder Valley line from the main line to Cheyenne.

The Cheyenne flyer, Union Pacific train No. 3, also left Denver late, and coming into Brighton in the early morning dusk, ran into the rear end of the Boulder train, telescoping two or three cars and derailing the passenger locomotive.

The section gangs from the Denver yards and half a dozen passengers occupied the Boulder train. The mail and baggage car and the smoker of the flyer were burned.

Following are the passengers injured: H. S. Hooker, Oolin, Ia., head cut badly; Mrs. Margaret Young, Mansfield, Mo., forehead cut; S. G. Hurst, banker, Brighton, badly cut and bruised; F. V. Davis, traveling salesman, Denver, head badly cut, back injured, ribs broken; W. G. Tompkins, traveling salesman, Kansas City, head badly cut, back injured; C. H. Payne, Laramie, Wyo., head badly cut, right hand mashed; Mrs. McCanna, Laramie, bruised.

Mrs. Young was in the chair car with six children. None of the children were hurt.

Superintendent Deuel says he cannot understand why the Boulder train was not on the sidetrack, as it had twenty minutes to clear the Cheyenne flyer.

The Boulder train consisted of fourteen loaded freight cars and a heavy caboose. Engine No. 815, the locomotive hauling the flyer, lies out on the prairie, a total wreck, as evidence of how hard the crash was.

The injured were brought to Denver about noon and taken to hospitals.

Conductor McAllister of the Boulder train was crazed by the accident. He attempted to jump into the burning wreckage, and had to be forcibly restrained.

Remarkable fortitude was shown by Fred Laws, brakeman on the Boulder Valley train. He was making a coupling near the head of the train when the collision occurred. He was thrown down. His cries for help were not heard, and he drew a knife from his pocket, cut off his leg, and crawled from under the car. His recovery is doubtful.

FLOUR SEIZURES.

New Contentions on the Law of Contraband Goods Involved.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The seizure by British warships of several merchant ships carrying cargoes of American goods to Delagoa Bay on the ground that the goods were destined for the Boers is bringing out the fact that several new contentions in the law of contraband goods are involved in the case. Thus far the discussion has turned on the point that the consignees were Americans residing at Philadelphia. But it is contended in some official quarters that the first question in the case is as to the consignee, not the consignor. According to this view, the original shipment might have been in good faith, but so long as the consignment was likely to pass into the hands of the Boers it was suggested that the rules governing contraband of war had been violated, and the goods could be seized. It is expected, therefore, that when the inquiry is prosecuted by Embassador Choate at London and Consul Hollis at Pretoria, they will have before them not only the facts as to the original consignment, but also all of the evidence relating to the bonafides of the consignees in having no connection with the Boers.

THE LAWTON FUND.

Now Amounts to Over Thirty Thousand Dollars.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Adjutant General Corbin reports to-day that the contributions to the Lawton fund amounted to $30,525, being an increase of about $4,000 since the last previous list.

Following is a list of subscriptions of $100 or more received since yesterday: Chicago subscriptions through Alex H. Revell, $1,223; William K. Vanderbilt, $1,000; John E. Parsons, New York, $100; E. C. Conners, New York, $100; Hon. James McMillen, $100; W. T. Elkins, Philadelphia, $500; daughter of Mr. Einstein of the New York "Press," $100; Mrs. Eleanor Martin, New York, $100; Hon. Timothy O. Woodruff, New York, $100.

Thomas Mackellar Dead.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 29.—Thomas Mackellar, senior member of the firm of Mackellar, Smith & Jordan, type founders, died to-day of pneumonia at his home in Germantown. Mr. Mackellar, who was a printer, poet and author, was born in New York August 12, 1812. He was the author of numerous books, poems and hymns, among them "The American Printer," a treatise on practical printing. He was President of the Type Founders' Association of the United States and was a member of a number of other organizations.