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SIX DAYS OLD

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICAN BATTLEFIELDS MUCH BELATED.

Britain and the Rest of the World Kept in Ignorance of What Transpired Last Week.

RISING IN CAPE COLONY

FARMERS JOINING THE FREE STATE AND TRANSVAAL FORCES.

Unconfirmed Report that Lord Methuen Has Recovered and Is Again on the Warpath.

TRANSPORT ISMORE ASHORE

TROOPS SAFELY LANDED, BUT 350 HORSES PROBABLY LOST.

Boers Reconcentrating at Colenso on Nov. 28—Farmhouses Looted by Gen. Joubert's Men.

LONDON, Dec. 4, 4:30 a. m.—The week opens without a word of news such as the British public is so anxiously awaiting. With a larger army in the field than the country ever before mobilized, it can only be said that the loss of 3,500 men, entailed before the enemy's borders have been crossed, is a serious matter, and while there is no feeling of despondency as to the eventual result of the war, it is regretfully admitted on all sides that the strength of the Boer resistance has been woefully underrated. It is now seen that the attempt to hold a useless position at Mafeking was a serious tactical mistake, as was also the endeavor to keep the large civil population in Kimberley.

Perhaps the brightest spot for English readers to-day is the announcement that President McKinley has designated the son of Secretary Hay to succeed Mr. Macrum in Pretoria. The Daily Telegraph says: "This appointment is a graceful concession on the part of the United States government to British feeling. Our countrymen's interests will be safe in the hands of the new consul."

South African news is now six days in arrears. The censorship does not yet permit details of the Modder river battle to be transmitted. Some vague statements have been published in the Cape Town papers, and according to those the Boers numbered 8,000 men and were intrenched on both banks of the stream, although mostly on the northern bank. The British, according to those accounts, drove the enemy across the river, compelling them to retreat, and established themselves on both banks. These details, however, are too meagre to enable an accurate idea of the engagement to be formed.

A dispatch has reached London announcing that Lord Methuen is again in the field, and it is also said that Count Gleichen, who was wounded in the fighting at Modder river, was struck by a bullet in the neck.

Serious news comes from the northern sections of Cape Colony. The whole border districts between Colesberg and Burghersdorp has declared for the Boers. In Venterstadt alone more than 2,000 have joined the rebellion. The farmers have formed a commandering committee and talk confidently of a triumphant march on Cape Town. General Buller's proclamations have been torn down and trampled upon, and the loyalists are bidden to hurry to Cape Town to prepare coffee for the rebels.

The official list shows that a modification has been made in the command of the Sixth division. Instead of Lieut. Gen. Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke, the commander will be Maj. Gen. Thomas Kelly-Kenny, inspector general of auxiliary forces and recruiting, with Major General Knox and Major General Clements as brigade commanders. General Kelly-Kenny has had no South African experience.

With regard to Natal, it is still doubtful whether the bridge over the Tugale at Colenso has been destroyed. There is a report that the British drove the Boers off while attempting to destroy it, but the probability is that the structure was mined and fired afterward.

According to a dispatch from Pitterskraal, dated Tuesday, Nov. 28, the Boers were then attempting turning movements from Steynsberg and the district north of Storkstrom in co-operation with the rebels, by way of Maraisburg and Tarkastad, against General Gatacre's column.

The War Office publishes the following dispatch from Cape Town, dated yesterday:

"The transport Ismore is ashore on the rocks in St. Helena bay. The troops have been safely landed, but the 350 horses are still on board. H. M. S. Doris and Niobe, with the transport Columbian, have gone to her assistance.

"Colonel Kekewich reports, under date of Nov. 30, that the Bechuanaland police captured the Boer laager west of Kimberley Nov. 28. Communication by searchlight with Kimberley has been established from Modder river."

BOERS NEAR COLENSO.

Determined to Prevent the British Crossing Tugela River.

DURBAN, Natal, Nov. 28.—The Natal Mercury publishes the following dispatch from its correspondent at Frere: "The Boers have reconcentrated at their old positions near Colenso, back of Grobler's kloof, and everything points to a determined effort to prevent the British crossing the Tugela river. The reports of wanton destruction of property by Boer looters are confirmed."

FRERE CAMP, Natal, Nov. 28.—The reconnoissance made to-day by General Hildyard and Lord Dundonald's command, the fact of which has already been cabled, gave an excellent opportunity for studying the country. On approaching Colenso the British found on every side scenes of devastation that testified to the thoroughness of Boer looting. The Williams farm and others had been ransacked from end to end. In some cases the contents of every room of the farmhouses had been destroyed. The Boers had evidently burned what they could not carry off. The property of the Boer commissariat was testified to by the corn husks that were to be seen about the deserted campfires of the enemy.

The wreck of the armored train, still visible, showed that a Boer shell had broken an axle, which had obviously caused the accident to one car that lay on its side. The other car was upright, but both were riddled by the enemy's bullets and artillery fire. Two grave near by bore the inscription, "To Fallen Soldiers."

The main Boer force is now gradually getting near Chieveley station.

FROM BOER COMMANDERS.

Official Accounts of the Result of Fighting Near Kimberley.

PRETORIA, Monday, Nov. 27, via Lourenzo Marques, Dec. 2.—Commandant Delarey has reported to President Kruger that the burghers, in spite of their determined defense at Gras Pan Nov. 25, were surrounded by the British and were compelled to retire.

Commandant Dutoit sends the following report to the council of war from Kimberley: "Early yesterday the British made a sortie, supported by cannon and Maxims. Under cover of darkness they advanced in the direction of Bloemhof. Two hundred burghers encountered them, and I brought up an additional one hundred. Nine burghers were killed and seventeen wounded. The British left two on the ground, but an ambulance removed these."

The Boer commander on the western border reports that twelve burghers were killed and forty wounded in the fighting at Belmont.

The Boer laager at Derderpoort was attacked last Saturday by a strong force of the Natal mounted police. Mr. Barnard, a member of the Volksraad, was killed.

Troop Ship Arrives at Cape Town.

CAPE TOWN, Tuesday, Nov. 28.—The troopship Bavarian, from Queenstown, Nov. 10, with Colonel Ivor Herbert, assistant adjutant general for the home district and the foreign military attaches, together with the Connaught Rangers, the first battalion of the Royal Dublin Fisiliers and a contingent of miscellaneous troops, in all more than 2,000 men, arrived here to-day. Colonel Herbert and the military attaches immediately landed, and the Bavarian proceeded with the troops, presumably to Durban.

Webster Davis Goes to South Africa.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—Webster Davis, assistant secretary of the interior, left here to-night for a trip to South Africa. He wil sail from New York Wednesday morning and be away three months. He will spend a portion of the time in the Transvaal.

PORK FOR TOMMY ATKINS.

Trainload of Meat for British Soldiers Wrecked.

CHICAGO, Dec. 3.—A train of fourteen refrigerator cars, containing salt pork intended for the British army in South Africa, was wrecked to-day near Kenilworth, Ill., on the Milwaukee division of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. The cars were completely demolished, but it is believed the greater part of the pork can be saved. A serious delay in shipment, however, will result. The wreck is supposed to have been caused by a broken journal. Hints were passed among the crowd of trainmen and spectators to the effect that the journal had been tampered with at Milwaukee by over-zealous Boer sympathizers, but these were scouted by officials of the road.

BURLY GENERAL CRONJE.

Big-Boned, Silent Boer Who Loves War for War's Sake.

While Joubert is the cunning schemer of the Transvaal army, Cronje is its rough and burly fighter. Of the two he is the more representative Boer. Joubert, possibly from his French ancestry, is a man of a certain polish, and can be indirect when policy requires. His craft is that of the hunter, and thinly disguises the force that awaits only the opportunity.

Something of this is already observable in his operations around Mafeking. He is doing all he can to lure Baden-Powell from the intrenchment, where he can strike man for man. He has made several assaults. He can be depended upon to stake everything on one desperate fight at the first fair chance

General Cronje is greatly admired by the Boers. They think Joubert is a wonderful tactician and organizer, but they love Cronje, the silent man, of sudden and violent action. He is no man's friend. His steel gray eyes peer out from under huge, bushy brows. He never speaks unless necessary, and then in the fewest words. He never asks a favor. When time for action comes he acts, and that with the force of fate and with no consideration for himself or his men.

That is the way he handled the Jameson raid. He saved the Republic then, in the opinion of the Republic. He is a man after the Boer's own heart.

Conje is a soldier and nothing else. He hates form. He hates politics, though a born leader of men. He was strongly urged to oppose Kruger for the presidency in 1898, but he would not. He will have none of any rule but that of a rifle. He despises cities. He is a man of the veldt.

These two men, Joubert and Cronje, hold in their hands the fate of the Boer Republics. The one is commander-in-chief, the other is second in command. Of Joubert we have heard much, of Cronje little. The most descriptive picture of Cronje is from the pen of Douglas Story, the editor of the late Boer newspaper, the Standard and Diggers' News. It was published in the London Daily Mail of Oct. 30, and the following is an extract:

"Wily and farseeing as is Piet Joubert, no man of them all can handle troops in the field as Cronje. He has the eye of a hawk for position, the nose of a jackal for signs of weakness in the enemy. His maneuvering of Jameson was that of an Oliver Cromwell.

"Cronje was commander at Potchefstroom, seventy miles to the south of Krugersdorp, when Jameson crossed the border. He co-operated with Malan and Potgieter, but the conduct of the fight lay with the cool head of Cronje.

"I rode out to the scene of Jameson's defeat sometime after the battle, and realized how much of the hunter there is still in the Boer fighting man. No mere soldier would have herded his enemy so patiently into a position as did Cronje into the fatal corral at Doornkop.

"All through the night succeeding Jameson's attack on Krugersdorp Cronje kept wearily hustling his enemy into the place of death. The brave, foodless troopers, heavy with sleep, were driven like sheep into a shambles.

"When the morning broke, to the right, to the left and in front of them Boer marksmen kept their rifles trained upon the raiders. Escape there was none. But the battle was won in the night hours, while Jameson was helplessly blundering on in front of his remorseless enemy. Cronje could afford to wait until the troopers came within a hundred yards before he gave the mercy blow.

"And yet there was a time in the darkness when Jameson almost escaped from his hunters. Cronje's son was badly wounded in the early skirmish. For the moment the father's instinct overcame the general's discretion. He bore his boy back to Krugersdorp and left him with Dr. Viljoen there. It was a father's act, and one strangely unlike the rough farmer's exterior of the man who mastered Sir John Willoughby. The lesson learned that pitiful night dictated Cronje's courteous assurance to the defender of Mafeking that the Red Cross was safe from him and his.

"While Cronje was gone somebody blundered, and the troopers in their blindness very nearly wandered around the flank of the beaters into safety. But it was not to

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KENTUCKY LAW

STATUTE GOVERNING THE CANVASS OF ELECTION RETURNS.

Two Sections on Which Republicans Rely for the Issuance of a Certificate to W. S. Taylor.

DEPENDS ON STATE BOARD

WHICH WILL BEGIN ITS WORK IN FRANKFORT AT NOON TO-DAY.

Law May Be Construed by the Partisan Commissioners Wholly in the Interest of the Democrats.

VOTES MAY BE THROWN OUT

AND THE GOVERNORSHIP AWARDED TO THE WILY WM. GOEBEL.

Jefferson County Contest the Main Point of Dispute—Republican Statement of the Case.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Dec. 3.—Governor Bradley said to-day the regular state militia would not be here for several days at least as matters stand now. The Mountain City and new State Guards left as civilians to-night for the capital. Speaking of this he said: "I wish they would stay away, for they make me fear a fight." Adjutant General Collier, Col. Rodger Williams and the Governor held a conference late to-night. Goebel and the Democratic leaders are secreted and refuse to discuss the situation even with members of their party, and what they propose to do is merely a matter of conjecture. Many armed men are on the streets, but the capital is quiet to-night. Most of the department offices were open all day and to-night are occupied by consulting Republican leaders. The Republican minor candidates express fear they will not be given certificates, though the head of the ticket be supported by the commissioners. Goebel continues hopeful, and Col. Robert Breckinridge, candidate for attorney general, and Harvey McChesney, candidate for superintendent of public instruction, think they will get certificates.

Goebel's private secretary, Vreeland, said to-day that Goebel would get the certificate and that on inauguration day both he and Taylor would take the oath of office. The matter would then go to the Legislature, and Bradley would have to continue in office until a final decision was reached. "If the Republicans do not try to drive us into a hole," he said, "there will be no trouble."

Mr. Taylor said this afternoon: "I fear the Goebelites may force a terrible disgrace on the State."

The Goebelites threw out the hint tonight that the commissioners will adjourn from day to day without deciding the governorship until the meeting of the Legislature, but Hon. Augustus Wilson, of Louisville, a noted political lawyer, says they cannot do that. "They have nothing whatever to decide as to the governorship," he says. "Their function is purely ministerial. They merely see that the figures of the returning boards are accurately counted and added, and they must award the certificate of election to the candidate having the majority. Not being a returning board, they cannot throw out one vote for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. They must abide by the decision of each county's returning board. The total gives a majority for Taylor. To my knowledge and the knowledge of the whole State, too, the commissioners are men of noble and honest careers. Therefore we know they will not make such a forced theft as to award the certificate to any one but Taylor. I expect the matter to be settled to-morrow in a few hours. Only on the vote of the lesser candidates does the law give them power of opinion or decision. The ignorance of the law has given the people an idea that the commissioners have a power that they do not possess concerning the governorship. In view of this I do not look for bloodshed, though that is not impossible."

The election commissioners will meet tomorrow, although Ellis, the missing member, has not yet arrived.

THE LAW IN THE CASE.

Statute Under Which the Election Commissioners Must Act.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Dec. 3.—At noon tomorrow the State board of election commissioners of Kentucky will meet to canvass the returns from the last State election and to decide whether Goebel or Taylor is entitled to the certificate of election as Governor. There is not much probability that the matter will be settled to-morrow and it may be Wednesday or later before a certificate is issued. Both sides express themselves as confident of the outcome, but no one can predict with accuracy the decision which will be arrived at by the board. The certified returns from the county boards, now on file with the secretary of state, give Taylor a plurality of 2,435, but the Democrats declare that enough of these votes will be thrown out and that Goebel will be awarded the certificate. The Kentucky election law is capable of divers constructions and the definite conclusion of the board will rest very largely upon how its members decide to construe certain portions of the statute. That portion of the law on which the Republicans rely follows:

"Section 9. After an election for governor, lieutenant governor or other office elective by the votes of the whole State or more than one county it shall be the duty of the board of canvassers of the returns for each county, immediately after the examination of such returns, to make two or more certificates in writing, over their signatures, of the number of votes given in the county for each of the candidates for any of said offices and the number of votes for or against such questions or constitutional amendments. One of the certificates shall be retained in the clerk's office; another the clerk shall send by the next mail under cover to the secretary of state at the seat of government.

"Sec. 10. Said board of election commissioners shall consist of three members, and in the absence of each the other shall be a board for examining and canvassing the returns of election for any of offices named in last section of this act. First—It shall be the duty of said board, when the returns are all in or on the fourth Monday after election, whether they are in or not, to make out, in the office of secretary of state, from the returns made, duplicate certificates in writing over their signatures of the election of those having the highest number of votes, one certificate to be retained in the office, the other sent by mail to the person elected. If all the returns are not made the right to contest an election shall not be impaired."

A LOOPHOLE.

The Republicans assert that inasmuch as, according to the law, a certificate of election is due to the person having the largest number of votes according to the certificates of the county boards, it will be impossible for the board to do otherwise than return a certificate in favor of Taylor, he having a majority of 2,435, according to the certificates now on file with the secretary of state. There is a loophole in the very sections upon which the Republicans rely that may work against them. It is this: "The said state board shall be a board for examining and canvassing the returns." How the board will construe the word "examining" is a matter of doubt. The same words exactly are used in defining the powers of the various county boards, and under this wording they have claimed and used the power of rejecting votes which they believed were illegally cast. If the county boards have this power over precinct returns, why, the Democrats ask, has not the state board exactly similar powers over county returns in a passage of the law defining its powers in identical language.

With the certificates of the commissioners of Jefferson county giving Taylor a plurality of 3,442 votes was filed a mass of evidence that many of these votes were illegal, and it is not among the impossibilities that the state board may so construe its powers under the word "examining" as to declare that it has the power to reject these votes. If it does Mr. Goebel will get the certificate. The main reliance of Goebel is on contesting Jefferson county, which means the city of Louisville. This vote, according to the returns, showed a plurality for Taylor of 3,422, and if the Democrats succeed in having it thrown out it means the defeat of Taylor and of every other candidate on the Republican ticket.

The Democrats are contesting the Louisville vote chiefly because of Governor Bradley's action in ordering the militia under arms and the alleged presence at the polls of deputy United States marshals. They also base their contest on the fact that inspectors for the Brown party forced their way into the polling booths and usurped the function of officers of election. The Republicans will claim before the election commissioners that the claims of intimidation by the militia and of officers' interference by the United States marshals are wholly inadmissable, for the reason that the militia was held in the armory until fully three hours after the close of the polls, and they were at no time until long after the polls had closed present at or near a polling booth.

DID NOT INTERFERE.

As to the marshals, it is asserted by the Republicans that not only were they too few in number, there being but fourteen in Kentucky all told, to be capable of any interference, but that they actually did not in any manner interfere with the casting of any vote either in the city of Louisville or elsewhere throughout the State. They visited the polls as private citizens only. To offset the claim of intrusion by the inspectors for the Brown party the Republicans assert that if the claims of the Democrats are correct and no positive denial is offered by the Republicans the fault lies with the Democratic officials who admitted them. If they did not want them in they should have kept them out. They claim that the Democrats cannot allege their own negligence of duty as a reason for throwing out Republican votes. It is admitted by both sides that the Democrats have a stronger case in Jefferson county than anywhere else throughout the State. If they win there the other contests may be dropped. And if they lose, success in all the other contests will not make Goebel Governor of Kentucky.

Next to the Jefferson county contest in importance comes that of Knox county, which returned a plurality for Taylor of 1,385. The contest there is based on the allegation that the Republicans used tissue paper ballots by which the secrecy of the ballot was destroyed. In Johnson county, which returned a plurality for Taylor of 386, a similar claim is made; also in Lewis county, which gave 850 more votes for Taylor than for Goebel. The Republicans assert that similar ballots were used by the Democrats in the counties of Graves, Ballard and Bath, in which the aggregate plurality for Goebel was far in excess of the total Taylor plurality in the counties of Knox, Johnson and Lewis.

At one time the Democrats announced their intention of contesting the votes of Nelson county, which gave a plurality of 1,198 for Taylor. In making the returns the county election commissioners certified the vote for W. P. Taylor. There was no such candidate and the Democratic contest was generally considered weak. The matter has been adjusted, the vote of Nelson county counted for W. S. Taylor and this contest has been abandoned by the Democrats. In Pulaski, Mercer, Robertson and one or two other counties claims of general irregularities are made by the Democrats, but the aggregate number of votes involved in these contests is small and cannot affect the general result when the vote of Jefferson county has been counted for either Goebel or Taylor.

MERE CONJECTURE.

All of this is, however, merely conjecture. Neither Democrats nor Republicans know what the board will do, and all of them decline to discuss the matter in advance of the meeting of the board. Mr. Goebel declined to say anything at all and General Taylor contented himself with the assertion: "I am confident the board will do its duty." And that ended his preliminary survey of the situation. Governor Bradley would express no opinion regarding the probable outcome of the work of the board. "I don't think there will be any trouble," he said. "I really expect none. There is no need of looking ahead for trouble. We will cross bridges when we come to them."

The legal advisers of the Republican candidates claim that there can be nothing in the point which it is said the Democrats may claim—that a construction of the word "examine" may give the board the right to consider anything else than the classification of returns made by the different county boards. Attorney Bruce said on this point: "The question of the power of the State Canvassing Board to hear evidence and decide contests over county votes has been practically settled by the Court of Appeals. The language of the statute as to the duties of this state board is substantially the same as to the county canvassing board, which in turn is the same as under the law preceding the Goebel law. Under that law it has been distinctly held more than once by the Court of Appeals that the canvassing board has no power to hear evidence and decide contests. It can only certify the result as shown on the face of the returns showing the number of votes cast. It must be remembered that after this State Canvassing Board adjourns the law provides that the same men shall constitute a contest board for state officers other than Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Now, if the canvassing board could hear evidence and decide contests there would be nothing for the board to do when it convenes as a contest board. No, the canvassing board has nothing to do with contests. That belongs to the Legislature

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OPENS TO-DAY

THE FIFTY-SIXTH CONGRESS WILL CONVENE AT NOON.

Little Work Will Be Done in Either House on Account of Vice President Hobart's Death.

MEMBERS TO BE SWORN IN

AND CASE OF MORMON ROBERTS REFERRED TO A COMMITTEE.

Seats to Be Drawn on Tuesday, When Members Will Also Listen to the President's Message.

PROGRAMME OF LEGISLATION

FINANCIAL BILL TO BE RUSHED THROUGH THE HOUSE.

Senate Also to Consider a Monetary Measure—No Immediate Action in the Quay Case.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The opening week of the session in the House promises to be crowded with stirring events. There is always a good deal of glamour in connection with the assembling of a new Congress, which is a social as well as a political event. The galleries are always crowded and there is intense interest in the election of the speaker, the swearing in of the members at the bar of the House, the reading of the President's message, the biennial seat drawing, the introduction of bills and resolutions into the legislative hopper and the general clearing of decks for action later on. But as the committees are not appointed until just before the holidays recess no actual business is transacted usually until after the recess. This year it will be different. At the very threshold of the session will come the contest over the admission of Representative-elect Roberts, of Utah, and later in the week the House will plunge into an important and possibly a protracted debate upon the financial bill which was prepared by the Republican leaders last spring at Atlantic city.

The Roberts case has attracted the attention of the whole country. The Republican leaders have adopted a plan of procedure which is designed to prevent Mr. Roberts from taking the oath of office until after the charges in connection with his alleged polygamous practices have been investigated by a special committee. Mr. Taylor, of Ohio, will make the objection to the administration of the oath to Mr. Roberts and will offer a resolution referring his case to a special committee. There is considerable scattered opposition to this method of procedure on the ground that the refusal of the House to permit a representative-elect bearing proper credentials to be sworn in upon unproven charges would create a bad precedent and might result in chaos at some future time when political feeling ran high. But there are several precedents for this course in the case of members charged with disloyalty after the war, and these will be used in support of the procedure. Every member of the House has been bombarded with petitions in the Roberts case, and there undoubtedly will be a large majority, without regard to party lines, in support of the plan outlined by the Republican leaders.

WHAT DEMOCRATS SAY.

Considerable diversity of opinon exists among the Democratic members as to the best policy to be followed by the party when the Republicans object to the administering of the oath of office to Representative Roberts. The Democrats have not yet conferred on the matter; but some understanding may be arrived at to-morrow morning before the House meets. Some of the leaders believe that to refuse to permit a member-elect to be sworn in will establish a dangerous precedent and interfere with his constitutional rights. They think therefore that he should be permitted to take the oath of office and the matter of his eligibility then be determined by a committee of the House appointed for that purpose. This is the opinion of Mr. Bailey, of Texas, and it is said to-night that he will ask that Mr. Roberts be sworn in but that at the same time will declare that this does not commit him to the right to sit as a member. Other Democrats believe that as a matter of policy no objection should be raised to the plan of procedure determined upon by the Republicans. An objection to the Republican plan of procedure at this stage, they assert, will give the impression to many who do not investigate the question thoroughly that the Democrats are in favor of Mr. Roberts sitting as a member of the House and that no attention will be paid to the contention that the objection was made on constitutional grounds. Representative Richardson, the leader of the minority, said to-night that no plan of action on the part of the Democrats had been determined upon and that he preferred not to be quoted as saying what in his opinion they should do.

Owing to the time which will be consumed in the disposition of the Roberts case tomorrow the drawing of seats, which usually requires several hours, probably will be postponed until Tuesday. The announcement of Vice President Hobart's death will be made probably immediately after the Roberts case is disposed of, and the House will adjourn out of respect to his memory.

The drawing of seats and the reading of the President's message will occupy Tuesday. Tuesday night the Republicans will caucus on the financial bill. It is the intention of the Republican leaders to make this a caucus measure and proceed to pass it before the holiday recess. The caucus will decide, if the present intention is followed, not to wait for the appointment of the committees on banking and currency, but to bring the bill into the House forthwith, probably under a special order from the committee on rules. The debate may begin on Wednesday. The length of time to be given to the debate has not yet been determined. By some it is thought three or four days may suffice.

IN THE SENATE.

While the session promises on the whole to be a busy one in the Senate, the first week probably will be marked by considerable lethargy. Indeed, it would be exceptional if any actual work would be done. On Monday the new senators will be sworn in, but beyond this nothing will be done. Ordinarily the President's message is received on the first day of the session, but its receipt will be postponed for a day this session out of respect to the memory of the late Vice President Hobart, whose death Senator Sewall will announce. Tuesday little will be done beyond the receipt of the annual message, the present purpose being to adjourn immediately after the reading of the message to give the Republican senators an opportunity to hold a caucus on the reorganization of the committees. Wednesday and Thursday will be devoted largely to the introduction of bills. There probably will be no session either Friday or Saturday.

Among the first bills to be introduced will be the financial measure prepared by the Republican members of the finance committee. It will be offered by Senator Aldrich, and will be referred to the whole finance committee, including the Democratic members. While comparatively little time will be spent in the Senate chamber during the early days of the session, much attention will be paid to getting ready for the important matters to receive attention later. These include the financial bill, the policy to be pursued in the Philippines and Cuba, the form of government to be provided for Hawaii and the ratification of the various reciprocity treaties negotiated during the recess, Porto Rico and the seating of senators appointed by Governors. Up to date only one senatorial appointment has been made. This is the case of Senator Quay, but if he is seated there will be an effort to fill the vacant seats from Utah, California and Delaware by the same methods. There is unusual interest in Mr. Quay's case, and both his friends and opposing senators are already working zealously. Mr. Quay will make no effort to be seated on Monday.

MASONIC CELEBRATION.

Centennial Anniversary of George Washington's Death.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—Arrangements are about completed for the Masonic celebration of the centennial anniversary of the death of Worshipful Master George Washington on Dec. 14. Large numbers of Masons from all over the United States and Canada are expected to attend. Colonel Robert White, of Wheeling, W. Va., who was appointed by the grand lodge of Virginia as chief marshal, and his staff, will have full charge of the procession and all matters connected with the celebration aside from the regular Masonic rites. The principal ceremonies will be at Mount Vernon and will include an address at the old tomb by the grand master of Masons in Colorado, Masonic rites at the new tomb and addresses at the mansion by President McKinley and R. T. W. Duke, grand master of Masons in Virginia. At night a reception will be held at Willard's Hotel in this city. President McKinley and his entire cabinet are expected to attend.

WILL REPEAT HIS ACT.

Reese Says He Intends to Defy the Federal Court.

FORT SCOTT, Kan., Dec. 3.—James Boston, of the national executive board of the United Mine Workers of America, who has been sent here from Duquoin, Ill., to take charge of the Kansas coal strike in the place of John R. Reese, who is in jail for contempt of the Federal Court, left in company with Reese's attorney to institute habeas corpus proceedings in the Federal Court of Appeals to secure Reese's release. Before leaving he reiterated his defiance of Judge Williams and said he would go to work in the Kansas field in a day or two or just as soon as he set the wheels of justice in motion on behalf of Reese.

At the jail this evening Reese stated with emphasis that the moment he was released he would return to the coal mine and repeat the act for which he is now in jail. "We hold that we have done nothing which an American citizen has not a perfect right to do, and we will not compromise our position for any favor from the court," said he.

RAPID-FIRE TELEGRAPH.

Another Successful Test of the Pollak-Virag System.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.—A successful test was made to-night of the Pollak-Virag system of rapid automatic telegraphing between this city and Chicago. The dispatches were sent from the World office via Pittsburg and Fort Wayne to the Tribune office in Chicago. Joseph Virag, one of the inventors, handled the New York key. Although the wires were not in perfect working order, he managed to send four messages at the rate of about one thousand words a minute. L. O. McPherson, representing the Guardian Trust Company of Chicago, which is promoting the invention in the United States, watched the test at this end. A second long-distance test will be made next week when Anton Pollak arrives from the West.

TO DETECT TUBERCULOSIS.

New Serum That May Be a Valuable Aid to Physicians.

CHICAGO, Dec. 3.—The Tribune says: "A new serum which, it is claimed, will show the presence of tuberculosis long before it would be possible by the microscope, the X ray or other methods now in use has been invented by Dr. A. R. Jenkins, of this city. He does not claim to have discovered a new cure, but that the use of the serum enables competent physicians to detect the presence of the disease in its earliest stages and in time to effect a cure by good sanitation and plenty of outdoor exercise. It shows whether or not a case is true consumption, no matter how early or light the attack."

BOYCOTT ON PIANOS.

Instruments Made by Some Chicago Factories Placed Under Ban.

CHICAGO, Dec. 3.—A novel boycott of the wares of the piano manufacturers who have locked out their employes was decided upon by the Chicago Federation of Labor to-day. The plan is to induce the renters of pianos to shun the product of the factories involved in the labor troubles. Wherever the tabooed instruments are found on rent the users are to be asked by a committee of the Federation to return them to the warerooms where they are obtained and to replace them at once with instruments made in factories that have refused to join the lockout.

CAPTURED BY REBELS.

City of Maracaibo, Venezuela, in Possion of Hernandists.

CARACAS, Venezuela, Dec. 3.—After a fight lasting sixteen hours, the city of Maracaibo, capital of the State of Zulia, is in the power of the Hernandist revolutionary forces.

LONG'S REPORT

THE SECRETARY'S REVIEW OF A YEAR'S WORK OF THE NAVY.

Several Important Questions Discussed and a Number of Recommendations Made.

MORE WARSHIPS NEEDED

CONGRESS URGED TO PROVIDE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF EIGHTEEN,

Also Asked to Give Thanks to Sampson's Men and to Settle Armor-Plate Question.

CAUSE OF POSTAL DEFICIT

POINTS FROM POSTMASTER GENERAL SMITH'S REPORT.

Twenty Million Dollars Annually Lost by Carrying Certain Matter at Rate for Publications.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The annual report of the secretary of the navy, just made public, is a document of unusual interest, dealing not only with the work of the navy during the past year, and important recommendations for the future, but also discussing the more important questions relating to the navy, including the authorization of eighteen new warships, the imperative need of special legislation in the early days of Congress for armor of the best quality that can be obtained, and the proposition that the thanks of Congress be given to the commander-in-chief of the North Atlantic squadron and to the officers and men under his command for the part they took in the naval operations at Santiago.

As to the increase of the navy Secretary Long says: "The number of large, swift and powerful armored cruisers of great coal endurance in our navy is largely disproportionate to the rest of the naval establishment. The experience of the last year has also shown the need of several smaller vessels, usually classed as gunboats. It is, therefore, recommended that Congress be required to authorize the construction of the following vessels:

"First—Three armored cruisers of about 13,000 tons trial displacement, of a maximum draft at deep load not to exceed twenty-six feet, carrying the heaviest armor and most powerful ordnance for vessels of their class, to be so sheathed and to have the highest practicable speed and great radius of action.

"Second—Twelve gunboats of about 900 tons trial displacement, to be sheathed and coppered.

"Third—As recommended a year ago, three protected cruisers of about 8,000 tons trial displacement, carrying the most powerful ordnance for vessels of this class, to be sheathed and coppered and to have the highest practicable speed and great radius of action."

The secretary adds in this connection that the 8,000-ton protected cruisers are considered better adapted to the present needs of the navy than the 6,000-ton ships recommended last year. He also asks that if satisfactory bids cannot be obtained for the new ships authority be given to build them at the United States navy yard.

THANKS DUE GALLANT MEN.

The secretary's reference and recommendation as to those who took part in the operations at Santiago are as follows:

"While those engaged in the battle of Manila have been deservedly rewarded—and no men ever deserved reward more richly—those who took pat in the operations at Santiago, displaying the same conspicuous conduct and extraordinary heroism, have received no recognition whatever for their great service, except the recommendation for promotion by the President, which have lapsed, not having been acted upon by the Senate. The department believes it due to these gallant men to suggest to you that their services be recognized and equal justice done them and that in accordance with the statute in such a case made and provided you recommend and that the thanks of Congress be given to the commander-in-chief of the North Atlantic squadron and to the officers and men under his command, as they were given in the case of the commander-in-chief and officers and men of the Asiatic squadron.

"The North Atlantic squadron was charged with great and exacting duties, including the blockade of Cuba, co-operation with the army and the pursuit, blockade and capture or destruction of the Spanish squadron under Admiral Cervera, all of which it discharged with signal efficiency. It was a campaign of great scope and enormous responsibilities, and was brought to a successful and glorious consummation which terminated the war by the destruction of the Spanish sea power. It was marked by unsurpassed precision, brilliancy and vigor. That the men who by such achievement have earned their country's gratitude have received no reward from its government is an omission which it cannot be doubted will be cordially and generously repaired.

"If reward by the present system of promotion is abandoned the department renews its suggestion embodied in Senate Bill 5005, introduced at the last session of Congress, which provides for medals of three classes—one for conspicuous conduct in the war, one for extraordinary heroism and one for general meritorious service, the first to carry with it a percentage of increase of pay based upon the rank of the recipient and calculated to take the place of the increase which would be the result of promotion were that form of reward continued. It is believed that such a medal worn through life and transmitted for an inheritance will be far more grateful to a deserving officer than a promotion in rank at the expense of a comrade."

ARMOR FOR WARSHIPS.

Concerning armor for warships the secretary says: "The most important question pertaining to naval construction at the present time and one that demands prompt attention is that of the armor for vessels now building and for others authorized but not yet contracted for on account of the provision in the act of March 3, 1899, prohibiting the department from contracting for the vessels therein authorized until contract has been made for the armor therefor within $300 a ton. The price fixed is one for which even inferior armor cannot be obtained, and the department, therefore, has been unable to invite proposals for the three