

CRISIS IS NEAR

TWO GREAT BATTLES MAY SOON BE FOUGHT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

General Buller at Frere Preparing to Cut His Way Through the Boers to Ladysmith.

METHUEN HIMSELF AGAIN

AND PLANNING TO RESUME HIS MARCH TOWARDS KIMBERLEY.

Already in Hellograph Communication with the Besieged Town, Where All Was Quiet on Monday.

BOER ARMY AT SPYTFONTEIN

AND A SANGUINARY FIGHT IS EXPECTED AT THAT PLACE.

Over Five Hundred Burglers Killed and Wounded in the Modder River Engagement.

LONDON, Dec. 8, 5 a. m.—General Buller has arrived at Frere from Pietermaritzburg. This announcement is held to indicate that all the preparations for an advance to the relief of Ladysmith are complete and that stirring news will soon be received.

The fact that Lord Methuen is announced as resuming his command at almost the same moment is interpreted in some quarters to mean that battles will be fought simultaneously in Natal and at Spytfontein. It appears doubtful, however, whether General Methuen's force is yet ready for what will evidently be a heavy encounter.

The construction of the temporary bridge across the Modder river has entailed enormous labor; and even now the structure is liable to be washed away if should a heavy storm come.

General Methuen has been obliged to move his camp a mile north in consequence of the unsanitary state of the stream, due to the presence of the bodies of dead Boers. As the railway bridge was completely destroyed, he was compelled to leave a considerable force to protect his communications.

A special correspondent sends the interesting information regarding Boer tactics that Commandant General Joubert has given general orders to reserve fire until the British are within the close range of 600 yards.

At the Modder river battle the Free State burghers became nervous and opened fire prematurely, thus revealing their position and frustrating the Boer plan.

The Daily Mail publishes a dispatch from Julian Ralph at Modder river, who says: "The Kimberley people are troubled by the necessity of feeding 10,000 Basutos in the diamond fields whom the Boers refuse to allow to depart and who, should they fail to get enough meat, would become discontented and restless.

On the night of the battle of Modder river, Kimberley, missing the accustomed signals from here, was in great anxiety, fearing that we had been defeated. The fact was that we did not use our search light for fear the Boers would wreck the apparatus. Five hundred and thirty Boers were killed or wounded in the battle here. The number has already been accounted for; and the enemy's losses were probably much heavier."

KEKWICH'S SORTIE

A special dispatch from Kimberley, dated Wednesday, Nov. 23, says: "As a result of signals from the relief force to the south, and of certain movements on the part of the Boers, Colonel Kekewich determined to make a sortie with a view of keeping a large force of Boers employed here. Yesterday afternoon a portion of the garrison, with artillery, under Major Chamier, and mounted troops, under Major Scott-Turner, advanced southwest towards the Boer positions, and captured Carter's farm, which completed the line it was intended to hold in view of Lord Methuen's early approach. Major Scott-Turner then turned his attention to the Boer laager, which he captured in fine style in spite of the enemy's heavy fire. All the camp equipment was captured or destroyed. Finally the British stormed the ridge and captured three redoubts, after severe fighting. In leading the men who were storming the fourth redoubt, Major Scott-Turner and Lieutenant Wright were killed. It is alleged that they were struck by explosive bullets. The death of Major Scott-Turner compelled the British to retire upon Carter's farm, the whole affair having lasted four hours."

A dispatch from Modder river, dated Dec. 4, says: "A searchlight message from Col. Kekewich, at Kimberley, says the town is provisioned for forty days, with forage for thirty days, and has a plentiful water supply. Everything has been quiet here during the last three days. The theater and the convent have been fitted up as hospitals. A number of our cattle have been captured by the enemy."

LATEST FROM LADYSMITH.

A dispatch from Frere Camp, Natal, dated Dec. 6, says: "A runner from Ladysmith to-day reports all well. The bombardment, the messenger adds, continues, but is ineffective, the Boer shells only hitting the houses."

The Tugela bridge, it is announced at Pretoria, is so completely ruined that it will be a work of great magnitude for either belligerent to restore it. The British fired on some Republican scouts south of the Tugela a few days ago. There were no casualties.

A newspaper correspondent named Lynch, who entered the Boer lines at Ladysmith on Monday with the alleged purpose of exchanging newspapers, has been made a prisoner and will be brought to Pretoria. The announcement is made in a special dispatch from Bloemfontein, dated Sunday, Dec. 3, that President Steyn, of the Orange Free State, has joined the Boer forces at the Modder river. His appearance, the dispatch adds, caused great enthusiasm among the Boers.

The Morning Post publishes an article warning the British public that "the dissatisfaction already experienced respecting the Boer forces in Natal is likely to be repeated on the western border." It says that men are wanted everywhere and asks "why the splendid body of Royal Marines

is now being employed in sweeping floors and washing paint in England and is not sent out to handle the naval guns, instead of the hurriedly trained men, unfamiliar with those weapons, who have gone.

The government has decided to dispatch to South Africa at the earliest possible moment a cavalry brigade of about four thousand men.

Baron Loch, former Governor of Cape Colony and British high commissioner for South Africa, lecturing in London last evening, related some of his experiences with President Kruger. He said the remarks of the President, President Kruger, as shown that he contemplated just the state of affairs which had now arisen. Mr. Kruger even expressed a desire to have a seaport and said the Transvaal hoped to have a navy some day. The Times, commenting on Lord Loch's reminiscences, says that there is no doubt of the tilt the Dutch ambition for Dutch supremacy in South Africa.

METHUEN NEAR KIMBERLEY.

Decisive Battle May Soon Be Fought at Spytfontein.

LONDON, Dec. 7.—The War Office has received the following message, dated Dec. 6, from General Forrester-Walker, the British governor of Cape Colony: "General Methuen writes to-day that he has resumed command and is nightly in communication with Kimberley. The health of the troops is excellent."

Perhaps an explanation for the retirement of burghers from Natal can be found in a dispatch from Modder river, Dec. 3, saying that a strong Boer force, estimated to number 3,000 men, was reinforcing Gen. Cronje from Natal. The same dispatch says everything points to the fact that a great engagement will be fought at Spytfontein. The Boers are massing on the hills there, are vigorously building stone defenses and are digging rifle pits in every direction. The Boer redoubts on Lazaretto ridge, west of Kimberley, are also being extended and strengthened, showing that the rumors of the intentions of the Boers to abandon the attempt to stem General Methuen's advance are unfounded. The British have shifted their camp to about a hundred yards away from the battlefield and are settling down for a week. There are some cases of fever among the troops. Much depends on General Gatacre's advance. There is undoubtedly a large concentration of Boers ahead of Gen. Methuen. Practically the whole of their fighting forces have joined the Kimberley besiegers.

An official account of the sortie at Kimberley Nov. 23, when the British casualties as called yesterday, occurred, says: "The British demonstrated towards the Wimbleton ridge ranges. The enemy's guns were posted in the range at Spitskop to Wimbleton Siding. Major Scott-Turner, with the mounted troops, attacked the enemy's right flank, capturing a laager and three redoubts. The enemy in a fourth redoubt made a stubborn resistance. The British captured many shells and destroyed other stores." The same dispatch gives reports from Colonel Kekewich, dated Dec. 3 and 4, showing the Boers were increasing in numbers around Kimberley.

Major Scott-Turner, who was killed in the sortie, was a gallant rider who had seen much hard service in Matabeleland under Forbes and Carrington. He was a fine horseman and a man utterly fearless, with an inherent love of adventure. Lieutenant Wright, also killed, was famous as one of the coolest and most expert riflemen in South Africa and a match for the best hunters among the Boers.

It is reported from Orange river to-day that 107 dead Boers were taken to Kaffraskop after the battle of Belmont.

The advance in the northeastern part of Cape Colony is becoming remarkable. The local farmers are flocking to the Boer laagers, the townspeople, in many instances, welcoming the invaders with demonstrations of joy. The annexation of British territory proceeds daily. The reported Boer successes have made a great impression among the Basutos.

Advices from Pretoria say the government has allowed two cable messages to reach Kimberley. The first was from the War Office. The second was from the British high commissioner, Mr. Kruger. It is added, is ill.

Official dispatches received at Pretoria from the different Boer forces say all is quiet, except at Kimberley, where an armored train made sorties yesterday morning.

The Orange Free State has proclaimed the annexation of Dordrecht, about fifty miles north of Queenstown—Cape Colony.

Still No News from Macerum.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—Since the notice received about two weeks ago of the objection interposed by the Boer government to the attempt of United States Consul Macerum at Pretoria to disburse certain sums of money provided by the British government to supply the British prisoners there with small necessities and luxuries during their confinement, the State Department has heard nothing on this subject. Upon being informed of the objection the Department instructed Mr. Macerum to protest against it, but it is not known how he has fared since then. In fact, the department has been unable to obtain an answer from him to any of its communications of recent date, and it does not know even if he has received notice of the granting of his leave of absence.

American Nurses Entertained.

LONDON, Dec. 7.—The British Medical Society gave an "at home" this evening to the American nurses who accompany the hospital ship Maine when she sails for South African waters Dec. 11. Miss Hibbard, attired in white corded silk with gold braid, made a brief address. Referring to the growth of the army nurse movement in the United States, she said that the great honor done those who were sent to nurse the British wounded would always live in their hearts, making them feel that love should ever be their greatest motive.

10,000 More Horses Wanted.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 7.—Purchases of mules in America for the use of the British government seem likely to stop them. It is said orders have been received to purchase 10,000 more animals. Almost this many have already been shipped from Southern points.

Officers Who Will Aid the Boers.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—The Berlin correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "The German steamer Hontig has just arrived at Lourenco Marques, where the German and Dutch Red Cross contingents. She has also thirteen German, two French and one Swedish officer who are going to join the Boers."

NOT YET FOUND

AGUINALDO ROAMING SOMEWHERE IN THE ISLAND OF LUZON.

Now Supposed to Be Headed Towards the Province of Cavite, the Seat of the Insurrection.

NO PROSPECT OF PEACE SOON

THOUSANDS OF FILIPINOS IN ARMS NOT FAR FROM MANILA.

Soldiers at Imus and Bacoor Harassed Every Night and Forced to Sleep with Hands on Guns.

GENERAL YOUNG AT VIGAN

MACARTHUR, GRANT AND BELL HUNTING FOR STRAY REBELS.

Lawton and Hood Trying to Corner Aguinaldo in a Valley and Batcherlor Making a Dash for Aparri.

MANILA, Dec. 8, 1909. a. m.—General Young arrived at Vigan, province of South Ilocos, on Wednesday, Dec. 6. After a hard but successful fight with a greatly superior force of Filipinos, commanded by General Tino, the Americans had one man killed and twelve wounded. The enemy's loss was heavy.

MANILA, Dec. 7.—The expectation of catching Aguinaldo in the north has been practically abandoned, and the probability now is that he will turn southward if he is not already there with his destination Cavite province, his home, where the insurrection began and where it still has its greatest strength. The Filipino soldiers in that province have recently been showing increased enthusiasm and boldness, and captured insurgents say that Aguinaldo is coming to San Iloilo with a large army. The same belief prevails among the natives at Manila and elsewhere that Aguinaldo intends to make his headquarters in Cavite province.

There are three thousand insurgents between Imus and Bacoor. Keeping the Americans sleeping on the ground and nightly awaiting attack. The Filipinos have several cannons. The first mayor of Imus under the American regime, who ultimately deserted, is their leader in the assaults and is ambitious to take the town. Three soldiers of the Fourth Infantry have been coming to San Iloilo with a large army. The same belief prevails among the natives at Manila and elsewhere that Aguinaldo intends to make his headquarters in Cavite province.

The American forces in the north have separated into two main commands. One is pursuing bands of Filipinos. General MacArthur is engaged in clearing the mountain country west of the Manila-Dagupan Railroad. General Grant is moving from Angeles toward Subig with four hundred men. Colonel Bell is sweeping south from Mangrove.

The American commanders have been unable to locate large bodies of insurgents, although there were about five hundred in San Clementine, nine miles south of Mangrove, early in the week. Colonel Hood, with the Sixteenth Regiment and Cavalry, and General Lawton, with a force from the Tenth, are operating against General Pilar's army in the San Mateo mountains.

Major Batcherlor, with a battalion of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, is making a daring expedition. He left Bayambang, province of Nueva Viscaya, a week ago to march through Cagayan valley to the north coast of Luzon, intending to reach Aparri at the mouth of the Cagayan river, the most important northern seaport of the island. While no large forces are known to be in his path, it may be that he has had some fighting, although the friendliness of the inhabitants is the dominant feature. When he arrives at Aparri he will find a gunboat awaiting him.

The Spanish prisoners in the Benguet region are escaping from the Filipinos and are flocking into Vigan. Several hundred are there already, and a steamer will go to bring them to Manila.

Chinese Crew for the Manuanaue.

MANILA, Dec. 7.—The transport Manuanaue, which arrived here from San Francisco Nov. 23 after a terrible voyage, was scheduled to start for home to-day with discharged and sick soldiers. A large force has been employed in repairing her machinery. It was impossible to get her in condition to leave to-day and her departure was postponed until next week. Her captain secured a crew of Chinese at Hong-Kong, to take her to San Francisco. The steamer Rosario, chartered by the government to bring a load of cattle from the island of Mampujan to Iloilo, left Iloilo on Monday and went ashore on the rocks near Mampujan. Her crew and passengers were saved and taken to Negros.

Mutiny of Native Police.

MANILA, Dec. 7.—There has been a mutiny of native police in one of the towns of the island of Negros. An American officer was killed. No particulars have been received.

YOUNG AT VIGAN.

The General Reports a Fight with a Strong Force of Filipinos.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—To the relief of the War Department, General Young has been heard from, after a week's absence in the interior of Luzon. General Otis called this morning as follows:

"General Young reports his arrival at Vigan on the evening of Nov. 5, having encountered a force of the enemy at Narbacan, twelve miles south of the city, whom he drove to the eastward of the same into the San Quentin canyon. His troops are now pressing them back. The country is extremely rough and strongly entrenched. About six hundred prisoners who escaped reported that the insurgents were in the mountains. They were driving Spanish prisoners to escape from Benguet. Later the insurgents were driven back into the mountains. They were transported, with subsistence and medicinal supplies, to Vigan to-morrow, to bring the prisoners to Manila and to supply Young's troops with quartermaster's stores. Our casualties were one killed and

twelve wounded, wounds mostly slight. The enemy left in trenches twenty-five dead, a few rifles, several thousand rounds of small ammunition and forty shrapnel. Young has sufficient troops to meet all difficulties.

"In central Luzon there is no insurgent force of importance except in Bulacan province, near the mountains, where General Pillar holds together one thousand or more men, which will be attacked soon. General Grant has moved a small column down the east coast of Bataan province, encountering little opposition. A column moving westward from the mountains is expected to reach the coast east of Luzon on the 10th inst. Many small insurgent bands are in the country robbing, and in some instances murdering the inhabitants. They are being pursued by troops quite successfully. To the south of Manila the insurgents still maintain their positions, but the necessary force to scatter them will be sent there soon."

Young Filipino Missing.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 7.—Former Lieutenant Colin H. Ball, who swam the Bagbag river with Furston, is in the city searching for the little Filipino boy who came from Manila as the Twentieth Kansas mascot. Ball took the young insurgent to his home in Seban for the purpose of educating him, but the boy tired of school and ran away the day before yesterday. It is thought he is headed for Washington, and if he is not found here a watch will be kept for him at Chicago and St. Louis. He is a remarkably bright lad, speaks English a little and shared honors with Furston as an attraction when the Twentieth was welcomed home.

STARVED HERSELF.

Death of a Religion-Crazed Woman Who Refused to Eat.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 7.—Mrs. Sarah A. Lansdowne died at the home of her stepmother, Mrs. Doane, in this city to-day from starvation. She lived at Stanbury, Mo., where she became crazed over religion and refused to eat or drink. For the past fourteen days, save for a little nourishment forced down her throat, she had not partaken of a mouthful of food or a drop of water. Her mouth became so dry that she lost the power of speech, and when questioned was compelled to write her answers.

STUDENTS QUIT SCHOOL

THEY CHARGE A PROFESSOR WITH BEING FAR TOO LIBERAL.

Trouble in Boston University Over the Teachings of Huckleberry G. Mitchell.

BOSTON, Dec. 7.—The theological department of Boston University has been shaken by a revolt of the students, who are protesting because they considered the teachings of Prof. Huckleberry G. Mitchell to be un-Methodistic and too liberal. These same students have gone to Drew Theological Seminary, at Madison, N. J. It was claimed that protests have been made for a year past, the professors being of the opinion that Professor Mitchell ought either to modify his opinions or resign from the faculty of the theological school. The movement culminated in a petition to the trustees against the appointment of the professor when his term expired this month.

The making of a new, more liberal, and the body of students who agreed with the professor's teachings, and they sent in a counter petition for the professor's retention. The trustees heard both sides and decided to reappoint Professor Mitchell for a new term of five years. The nine students then laid their case before the board of bishops of the Protestant Episcopal church.

The trustees of the church, who are the body of students who agreed with the professor's teachings, and they sent in a counter petition for the professor's retention. The trustees heard both sides and decided to reappoint Professor Mitchell for a new term of five years. The nine students then laid their case before the board of bishops of the Protestant Episcopal church.

At the head of the agitation was Rev. W. W. Schenk, who was supplying the pulpit at a church in Franklin, Mass. He resigned the pastorate and publicly explained his reasons, as follows: "Coming from the West to Boston University School of Theology a year ago, I was shocked to find the most rabid rationalism being taught as Old Testament exegesis under the cover of a leading Universalist school. Believing it my duty, not alone as a personal matter, but in the interest of Methodism at large, I demanded proof, which was not forthcoming. Coming to Messianic prophecy, only half a truth was taught. Further on Jesus Christ is described as a man of straw. The miraculous conception was set aside and the atoning blood made nonessential."

President Warren, of the university, confirms the story of the dissensions and says the matter cannot be further considered until the next meeting of the bishops. Professor Mitchell declines to be interviewed.

Prof. Gilbert Under Fire.

CHICAGO, Dec. 7.—A special meeting of the board of directors of the Chicago Theological Seminary to-night criticized Prof. George Hilly Gilbert, of Iowa, professor of New Testament literature and interpretation, because of the doctrines revealed in his books, "The Revelation of Jesus" and "Students' Life of Christ." Among the directors present was Rev. N. A. Hyde, of Indianapolis.

The meeting lasted from 9 a. m. until 11 p. m., the Congregational ministers of Chicago and many cities of the West debating the case. No formal charges were preferred against Prof. Gilbert. His recent books have caused much talk and criticism in church circles and the publications of the Congregational Church. His book especially his latest book, "The Revelation of Jesus," caused a notable stir. It is said that the book argued that the entire inspired teachings of the Bible contained in the words of Christ. Prof. Gilbert's critics say it negatively discredits the works of the apostles, and teaches that the Savior did not teach that He was of inspired origin.

A CIRCUS MAN'S WOE.

Peter Sells Says His Wife Is Unfaithful and He Asks a Divorce.

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 7.—Peter Sells, the millionaire circus man, of the Forepaugh-Sells Bros., shows, to-day filed a petition for divorce on the ground of adultery, naming William Bott, of the firm of Bott Bros., and Harris D. Lyons, a prominent railroad man, as co-respondents. The acts are alleged to have been committed at frequent intervals during the last ten years.

Military Explorers Possibly Lost.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 7.—Apprehension is felt here for the safety of the party of military explorers headed by Lieut. J. H. Harris in his statement that the election officers of Jefferson county had certified under the stress of a writ of mandamus for returns which were false.

STANDS 2 TO 1

KENTUCKY ELECTION BOARD TO RENDER DECISION TO-MORROW.

Two of the Three Members Are Said to Favor Issuing Certificates to Republican Candidates.

INJUNCTION MAY BE ASKED

IF TAYLOR IS DECLARED THE LEGALLY CHOSEN GOVERNOR.

Democrats May Appeal to the Court to Prevent Inauguration of the Republican Next Week.

GOEBEL AND TAYLOR SILENT

ELECTION COMMISSIONERS NOT IN A HAPPY POSITION.

Beset by Politicians of Both Parties—Points out the Closing Arguments of Judge Hargis.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Dec. 7.—The decision of the State Board of Election Commissioners, covering the gubernatorial contest, will be handed down on Saturday morning. The great probability is that certificates of election will be given to William S. Taylor, the Republican candidate for Governor, and to the Republican candidates for the other offices on the state ticket. The vote will probably be two for the Republican and one for the Democratic state ticket. It was thought, when the board adjourned at noon, after the conclusion of Judge Hargis's argument, that two members of the board had practically decided to vote for Taylor, and that they wished to spend the time between the adjournment of court and other offices on the reading of the opinion, in preparing a syllabus of the decision they had decided to render.

The three members of the commission have been placed in a most unenviable position. Their best friends, even their relatives, have pleaded with them on both sides of the question, some for Taylor, some for Goebel. No matter which way they decide the case it means much to their friends. The pressure against them has been something stupendous, and it is only fair to say that, throughout the entire canvass and during the one and one-half days of argument, they seemed actuated only by the intention to do their duty as they understood it and to render justice where they consider it due. There is no doubt the pressure brought to bear on them so far will be continued until they have handed down the certificate of election on Saturday. It will have been upon them every minute from the time Judge Hargis closed his argument to-day until the entire matter has been settled. It is possible that one or the other of the two majority members of the board may alter his position and stand for Goebel, but it is not considered likely, and the chances now are that the conditions which prevail to-night will be handed down to William S. Taylor and his colleagues on Saturday.

MAY ASK AN INJUNCTION.

It is possible, in case the decision is given to Taylor, that the Democrats may secure an injunction restraining him from taking his seat, and in this manner inaugurate the fight that will be carried into the Legislature and fought out there to the bitter end. Some such step has been considered, but it has not definitely determined upon. It is believed that the board, in handing down its decision, will say that, while frauds and irregularities were undoubtedly committed in the election, the powers of the board do not permit it to go behind the returns. It is expected that upon this part of the decision, granting it is made, a Democratic writ of certiorari will be granted to stand on the matter. Mr. Taylor said: "I have nothing to say. I am still in the thick woods and as long as I see trees, I can't talk. My friends tell me this and that, but I will wait until Saturday before I do any talking."

Judge Hargis made the closing argument for the Democrats before the board this morning. He opened with a strong arraignment of the tactics alleged to have been pursued by the Republicans in the city of Louisville. He declared that by reason of the militia and United States marshals who were gathered in the city of Louisville, the Democratic ticket was deprived of 10,000 votes. He declared the conduct of the Republicans in Jefferson county was a deliberate and criminal usurpation of power. The judicial acts of Judge Toney in issuing orders of court grounded against Democratic election officers were also declared to be an unlawful assumption of authority. Judge Hargis then turned his attention to the Republican state officers who had, he declared, filled the streets of Frankfort with a "drunken and lawless mob" on the first day of the meeting of the canvassing board for the purpose of overawing the board in the discharge of its sworn duty.

Commissioner Ellis interrupted Judge Hargis in his statement that the election officers of Jefferson county had certified under the stress of a writ of mandamus for returns which were false.

"Do they say they certified to false returns?" asked Mr. Ellis.

"They do," said Judge Hargis.

"Did they put that assertion in writing?" "No, sir, they have not done so."

"Why didn't they do so?"

"Because they were told by the court if they did so they would be committed for contempt and they did not wish to go to jail. Read the record," said Judge Hargis, indicating the eight volumes of testimony from Jefferson county, "and you will see all these things, and others fully as bad are true."

In one precinct in Louisville, Judge Hargis declared, 300 votes were cast for state representatives when only 170 ballots were used.

"Where does that appear?" asked Mr. Ellis.

"In the record of the vote of Jefferson county that is lying before me."

"How do you know only 170 ballots were used?"

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IT WILL PASS

GOLD STANDARD BILL MAY HAVE A MAJORITY OF THIRTY.

It Will Be Debated All Next Week in the House and a Vote Taken on the Following Monday.

PLANS OF THE OPPOSITION

OBSTRUCTIVE TACTICS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE EMPLOYED.

Democratic and Populist Senators Bitter Against the Senate Bill, but May Not Delay a Vote.

WANT TO DEBATE NEW ISSUES

SOME ANXIOUS TO PUSH TRUST QUESTION TO THE FRONT.

Proceedings of Senate and House—Proposition to Teach Soldiers and Sailors How to Play Ball.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal. WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—While the House Republicans are a unit in support of the gold standard bill, the Democrats are divided. The great majority of them will oppose that measure, but there are a few who will not follow their leader in the direction of soft money. Besides Driggs and McAleer, several New York congressmen other than Driggs will also vote for the gold standard. This makes up a serious division in the ranks of the opposition, so that there will hardly be a Democratic caucus held on the subject, at least one with the understanding that everyone who participates is bound by its decision. The opponents of the gold standard bill in the House realize that nothing they can do will prevent or even long delay its passage through that body. The final vote on its passage will be taken probably on Monday, Dec. 18, and the majority for it will be somewhere about thirty; that is, it may reach forty, and it is certain not to be less than twenty.

The Senate gold standard bill prepared by the Republican members of the finance committee is regarded by the soft money Democrats as more objectionable than that of the House, and the Populist and Silver Republican Senators are even more bitter against it than the Democrats. The Democratic leaders, however, have decided upon the advice of former Senator Sherman. It is hinted, not to adopt obstructive tactics towards the bill. They will content themselves with making their record complete as opposed to the gold standard and in favor of silver monometallism and soft money generally, and the rest of the opposition forces will perform because they are not strong enough to carry an obstructive campaign. It is thought, though that is their preference. A leading Democratic senator said to-day that a vote on the bill would be reached about the 1st of April.

The real reason for the adoption of this programme by Democrats is that they believe the enactment of a gold standard law at this session of Congress will remove the money question from National politics next year, and enable them to push issues to the front as the dominant issue. In that they profess to believe, they are right. The passage of the bill in April would, they argue, leave three months in which to bring the trust issue before Congress and compel the parties to align themselves. They insist that with the law on the statute books requiring gold payments, and the Senate in Republican hands for the next few years, the money question would for the time being cease to be a leading or even prominent issue. Just how they will prevent the money issue from assuming prominence with Bryan nominated on the Chicago platform, they cannot explain. They simply insist on it as a palpable fact.

One thing that looks a little curious, in view of the profession of the opponents of the gold standard bill that they will not adopt obstructive tactics toward it, is that they are raising telegrams to Governor Poynter, of Nebraska, urging him to appoint former Senator Allen, Populist, to a vacancy caused by the death of former Senator Hayward. They take the ground that he is needed here at this juncture because a great fight over the money question is on. They dwell on his ability as a scrapper on the floor, and especially as a long-distance orator, he having talked all one night during the fight over the repeal of the silver purchasing clause of the Sherman act, and getting apparently as much as when he began. Of course, personal feeling enters into the matter somewhat. Allen being popular with Senators of all parties; for aside from his financial vagaries, he is an able man, besides being a royal good fellow. Still their urgency makes it look as though they expected a harder fight than they want the Republicans and the public to think possible at this time.

HOUSE FINANCIAL BILL