

BLOW AT BOERS

GENERAL BRABANT REPORTED TO HAVE HIT THE ENEMY HARD.

He is Said to Have Defeated the Boers of Wepener, Capturing Guns and Prisoners.

RUMOR NOT YET CONFIRMED

REGARDED IN LONDON AS A "PREMATURE" STATEMENT.

Brabant Left Allval North Saturday, and It Was Expected He Would Make It Hot for the Boers.

BRITISH MORE CONFIDENT

DISPATCHES FROM BLOEMFONTEIN GROWING OPTIMISTIC.

Another Warning from Winston Churchill—Losses Last Friday—Boers Under Arms.

LONDON, April 16.—The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, telegraphing Sunday, says: "An unconfirmed report is in circulation here that General Brabant has inflicted a crushing defeat upon the Boers at Wepener, capturing guns and taking prisoners."

PROBABLY PREMATURE.

Brabant Has Hardly Had Time to Reach the Boer Position.

LONDON, April 16, 4:35 a. m.—The War Office had nothing to communicate to the public yesterday. It may be taken for granted that the rumor of General Brabant's victory at Wepener is premature. With the remainder of his force he left Allval North on Saturday for Rouville, and there has scarcely been time for an engagement.

A dispatch from Reddersburg, dated yesterday, said: "Colonel Dalgety wired yesterday: 'All well. Enemy apparently slackening attack.' General Chermide's division is encamped seventeen miles east of the railway. Boers are supposed to be in the vicinity, but an attack by them is improbable."

The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Times, telegraphing Sunday, says: "It is reported that reinforcements for the Boers, with sixty wagons, have arrived at Dewetsdorp en route for Wepener. This should precipitate an action. The statement that President Kruger has been south seems to confirm the reports that the Boers are getting disheartened. This continued exertion of his personal influence appears now to have become a necessity."

All the Bloemfontein dispatches this morning breathe a confident tone. There seems to be a heavy demand on the railway, for so large an army leaves the populace bare of everything save the absolute necessities of life.

The fact that the censured allowed Winston Churchill's dispatch on the subject of remounts to pass speaks volumes for the condition of that question and concerning the prospect of any immediate advance towards Pretoria. The utmost Lord Roberts will be able to do for some time to come will be in the direction of clearing the Boers from the southern part of the Free State.

The dispatches announce the approach of winter. The first pinch of frost has been felt at Bloemfontein, where considerable rain has fallen.

It is said that President Kruger has visited the camp at Kroonstad as well as at Brandfort.

LOSSES AT WEPENER.

Eighteen British Killed and 132 Wounded in Last Friday's Fighting.

ALLVAL NORTH, April 14.—It is officially reported that the British losses at Wepener in Friday's fighting were eighteen men killed and 132 wounded. Colonel Grenfell wires that the casualties include Quartermaster Williams, Lieutenant Halford and Lieutenant Duncan and fifteen men wounded.

Sir Godfrey Langden, resident commissioner at Maseru, telegraphs that no shelling has been heard from the direction of Wepener to-day.

A regiment of British infantry and a battery of artillery arrived on Friday.

General Brabant's headquarters and all the mounted troops have gone to Rouville.

The Northern Post asserts that the Rouville district furnished 1,000 recruits to the Boer force as a result of the invasion last week. Five hundred Boers under Commandant Swanepoel, forced the Royal Irish Rifles to evacuate Rouville. The former landrover, who had been acting for the British, offered to go to the front to prove himself a free State Slater, and almost a man the Free State, who had taken the oath rejoined the Boers. Nearly every one produced a Mauser. Looting, however, was repressed.

It is reported that there are seven thousand Boers at Wepener.

Fourteen British sympathizers have been imprisoned. The Boers admit having shot Mr. Guiney, the hotel keeper, for taking refuge to the British.

A paymaster with £1,400 was captured.

ON THE BASUTOLAND BORDER.

Three Thousand Armed Natives Ready to Repel a Boer Invasion.

MASERU, Basutoland, April 14.—Sir Godfrey Langden, British resident commissioner, returned here yesterday (Friday) from the scene of operations near Wepener. He stated that the Boers had captured 2,000 armed natives to resist possible Boer encroachments. The orders of the resident commissioner are that the

WAR ON CREED

DR. PARKHURST LEADING THE PRESBYTERIAN CRUSADERS.

His Sermon Yesterday Devoted to Condemning the Westminster Confession of Faith.

DENOUNCED AS AN INCUBUS

UNDER WHICH THE CHURCH IS TOTTERING AND DECLINING.

He Would Send It to a Museum, for He Does Not Believe It Can Be Acceptably Amended.

NEW SIMPLE CREED NEEDED

BRIEF STATEMENT IN PLAIN ENGLISH—SAXON WOULD SUIT HIM.

Alleged Incongruities of the Third Chapter of the Present Confession Pointed Out.

NEW YORK, April 15.—Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, leading in his pulpit in Madison-square Presbyterian Church, today, made a vigorous assault on the Westminster Confession of Faith. He said: "We ought to have a new confession of faith. It is surprising that the Presbyterian Church is able to do as much as it is doing with such an incubus strapped upon us as we are toting around in our present confession. In the first place, the thing needed is not a system of theology, for that is what our present confession is, but a simple, brief, Saxon statement of a half dozen or so of the vital ingredients of Jesus Christ's message to the world. I could get along with a confession of faith containing but the little that Jesus said when He was trying to make a Christian of Nicodemus."

"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

"That gives to us the doctrine of God's unlimited love, human guilt, the divinity of Christ, salvation through Christ, faith in Christ, immortality; every word Saxon, three-quarters of the words monosyllables; profound enough for any elder; simple enough for any four-year-old."

"At any rate, we want a new creed. Amending this one will not meet the necessities of the case. Better give it a dignified place in the museum for what it is, then back it to pieces and revamp it for what it is not. And then, once more, if there were among us the distinct feeling which the gospel so wonderfully guarantees, that everything in all this great Christian matter pivots on the absolute and unconditioned love of God, we should be intolerant toward everything that states it is not."

"Our Father, why any man who should become a father for the sake of joy and 'glory' he would use in burning and racking his own offspring, deliberately creating a child with a view to the agony into which he was going to torture, would be chased from the earth as a fiend and as an abomination. I do not mean the case to nobody preaches it. It is true that nobody preaches it, and equally true, I doubt not, that nobody believes it. Nevertheless, it is printed on the flag beneath which the Presbyterian army is marching, and it hangs out because it is there, and men are going out because it is there."

Shorter Creed Favored.

CLEVELAND, O., April 15.—Rev. Dr. S. P. Sprecher and Rev. Paul F. Sulphern, the ministerial delegates from this city to the Presbyterian General Assembly, today declared in favor of the adoption of a shorter creed, and both said they and the two lay delegates would vote for this change.

Dr. Sprecher wants the Westminster confession revised, also.

DESERTS METHODISM.

Rev. E. E. Stackpole Offers His Services to Congregationalists.

AUGUSTA, Me., April 15.—Rev. E. E. Stackpole, of the Methodist Church, today preached his farewell sermon to the parish and the Methodist faith. He said, in part: "I hold myself to be in spirit with the founders of the Methodist Church. I think I interpret the Scriptures as Wesley would have done had he lived in this age. So that while I am a Wesleyan Methodist, I am not a modern Maine Methodist, according to the powers that be. I have preached in the Methodist Church here for twenty-two years, and was brought up in a Methodist family. I shall offer my services to the Congregational Church, and if I can find a church that will be blessed by my work, I shall accept a call. I believe in building up a life of more service in building up the kingdom of God by working in the Congregational Church."

GEN. GORDON AS AN EVANGELIST.

He Successfully Urges Old Soldiers to Put on the Armor of Christ.

HOUSTON, Tex., April 15.—Gen. John B. Gordon, commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans, who is on a lecture tour in Texas, attended the revival meeting in Gatesville, conducted by Abe Mulkey, and at the conclusion of the sermon the evangelist called on him for remarks.

General Gordon responded from his place on the platform near the preacher in one of the most powerful exhortations. It is said that he has never been heard in this State. His remarks were addressed principally to the Confederate veterans present.

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LONG WILLING

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But Will Accept the Honor if It Is Tendered Him by the Republican National Convention.

SLATE MAKERS ALL AT SEA

CALCULATIONS UPSET BY THE SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

Report That McKinley and Other Party Leaders Will Confer with Hanna at Old Point Comfort.

MARCUS AURELIUS HAS GRIP

AND MAY NOT ATTEND THE OHIO CONVENTION NEXT WEEK.

Tennessee Republicans Divided—Tomorrow's Louisiana Election Likely to Be Closer Than Usual.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—Secretary Long's implied willingness to accept the Republican nomination for the vice presidency as inferred from the statements made by him on that subject yesterday was a matter of general comment in Washington today. It set the Republican slate makers to thinking and for the time being has seriously upset the calculations of those who believed that the honor would go to one of a half dozen others mentioned for the vice presidency.

Secretary Long was asked tonight for an exact statement of his attitude on the question. He seemed disinclined to enter into any general discussion of the matter, but he was asked to let it rest with what he has already said on the subject, believing that the vice presidency is an honor of such a character that no man could well refuse to accept it. The secretary, however, is not an avowed candidate seeking the place, but the belief is general that if the nomination is offered to him he will accept it.

Secretary Long was asked tonight for an expression of opinion regarding Admiral Dewey's candidacy for the presidency. In a good-natured way he evaded making a reply, but laughingly remarked that Dewey "was the honored man of our navy."

CLAIMS OF LOUISIANIANS.

Caffery Republican Faction Thinks It Will Carry the State.

NEW ORLEANS, April 15.—The state campaign closed last night with rival meetings in this city. The Democrats had a rally at Elk place, presenting three dozen speakers from four platforms. The Caffery Republicans wing held a meeting at the head of Canal street, styling it an indignation meeting to protest against election frauds which they fear will be committed. The campaign has been very bitter. The Caffery Republican faction, of which Senator Caffery's son is the candidate for Governor, has severely arraigned Democratic election methods and attacked the former party wing which they say is exercised by Governor Foster. The latter at one time threatened to call Senator Caffery, who has taken an active part in the Republican campaign, to personal account. Despite the feeling aroused, however, the outlook is for a quiet election on Tuesday. There are two Republican tickets, one representing the Wimberly faction and the other the Caffery faction. The Democrats have one ticket in the field. The Caffery managers claim they will come to the city with 20,000 majority, which will not be wiped out in the city. The Democrats say the Caffery ticket will not get 20,000 votes in the State. The Wimberly faction claims it will poll a larger vote than Caffery, though it conceals its Democratic success.

The election on Tuesday will be for the entire state ticket and local tickets in all the parishes. The next Legislature will elect two United States senators, S. D. McEnery will succeed himself, while Governor Murphy J. Foster is almost sure to succeed Senator Caffery.

TENNESSEE FACTIONS.

Two Sets of Delegates May Be Sent to the Philadelphia Convention.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., April 15.—Representative W. P. Brownlow and Pension Commissioner H. Clay Evans were in Chattanooga today en route to Nashville, where the state Republican convention meets on Thursday. The state committee met to-morrow to take up all contests for seats in the convention. The decision of the committee will be final. Mr. Brownlow and his friends control the state committee, the former being its head. Commissioner Evans stated tonight that he held and contesting delegations sent to Philadelphia. Mr. Brownlow maintains that nothing but fair treatment will be accorded the Evans faction of the party and that all proceedings of the committee and convention will be regular. Fully one-third of the total vote of the convention is contested, and upon these contests the committee will have to pass. Two candidates for Governor will also in all probability be put forward by the Republicans and a bitter fight ensue.

CLARK WILL TRY AGAIN.

If Ousted by the Senate He Will Appeal to Montana Voters.

NEW YORK, April 15.—W. A. Clark, of Montana and New York, and former Governor Hauser, of Montana, held a conference here today relative to Mr. Clark's United States Senate aspirations. Mr. Clark referred all questions to Mr. Hauser, who, in turn, said that Mr. Clark "would fight to the last ditch" to retain his seat in the Senate.

"If his seat is declared vacant finally," said Mr. Hauser, "Senator Clark will become a candidate for re-election by the next State Legislature to be elected in November." Mr. Hauser intimated further, as if with assurances from Montana,

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TO KEEP ORDER

FIVE HUNDRED NEW YORK MILITIA MEN ORDERED TO CROTON DAM.

Italian Laborers Determined Not to Return to Work Until Their Demands Are Complied With.

ALL SAID TO BE WELL ARMED

AND IN NO MOOD TO PERMIT OTHERS TO TAKE THEIR PLACES.

Three Hundred and Fifty of the Soldiers to Be Cavalrymen. Who Will Patrol the District.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY STRIKE

STATEMENTS FROM OFFICIALS AND LEADER OF OPERATORS.

Both Sides Satisfied with the Situation—President Powell's Boycott—Other Labor News.

CROTON LANDING, N. Y., April 15.—While everything is quiet and peaceful in the neighborhood of the Croton dam tonight, nearly 300 armed deputies are guarding the works and each one of them is guessing as to what to-morrow may bring forth. The striking Italian laborers, whose homes are in the vicinity of the works, are behaving themselves excellently. But underneath their assumed quiet there is stubborn resolve not to go back to work nor let any outsiders take their places until the contractors agree to pay the increase of wages demanded. Strenuous efforts are being made by Italian Consul Branchi and State Arbitrator Delahanty to bring about a settlement of the difficulty. The strikers are very determined in their demands and swear that if outside labor is brought here they will fight tooth and nail to prevent it. Angelo Rotella, who is the recognized leader of the strikers, said to-day: "This is a fight to a finish. We earn more money than we are receiving and the contractors must pay us for our work. The State should protect us and instead of sending deputies and soldiers to help the bosses they should compel them to treat us right. Ours is a just cause. We only ask for fair play. If the bosses attempt to bring the other laborers here we shall prevent any work being done, and if the military come to help them we will fight the soldiers. The bosses will have to give us our rights and until they do not another stone will be put in its place 'on the big dam.' Rotella spoke earnestly and his remarks were listened to by a crowd of his countrymen, who voiced the same sentiment in a manner which showed undoubted determination.

STRIKERS ARMED.

The strikers are all well armed with guns and pistols, and in this regard they have a decided advantage over the sheriff's deputies, who have only long night sticks and thirty-two caliber revolvers. The deputies are in a valley, while the strikers command the adjoining hill. With the guns the Italians could riddle the sheriff's men, who in turn could not send a bullet from their revolvers half way up the hill in case a fight should take place. There were several additions to the ranks of the deputies to-day and there are now nearly 300 of them at the works. Most of them are being fed at a near-by boarding house. Many of them complained of being insufficiently supplied with food. In addition to this they claim they are made to work overtime and threats of a strike among them were rife to-day.

The feature of the day was the mingling of the strikers and the deputies at the Easter service in the little Roman Catholic chapel in the valley which was built by the contractors. The majority of the congregation is made up of the strikers and their families and it was feared that when they would come in contact with the men of the law there would be trouble. The very opposite occurred, as the men greeted each other amicably.

Rev. Father J. J. Owens, the parish priest, celebrated the Easter Sunday mass, and in addition to the regular choir there was a mandolin and guitar quintet, the leader of which was the leader of the strikers, Angelo Rotella. Father Owens counseled the strikers to obey the law and shun the saloons.

General Roe announced to-night that he had received a formal written demand from Sheriff Malloy, of Westchester county, this morning, to call out 500 troops to go immediately to the scene of the Italian laborers' strike at the Croton dam. He said Sheriff Malloy came down from Westchester and gave him the demand in person. General Roe has decided to order out early to-morrow morning the Fourth Separate Company, of Yonkers; the Eleventh Separate Company, of Mount Vernon; Squadron A, of New York, and Troop C, of Brooklyn. General Roe gave as his reason for ordering so many cavalry and so few infantry that there are more than six miles of territory to cover, and that it is necessary to have troops which could move quickly and be scattered. He said also that the topography of the country is exceedingly hilly. General Roe does not expect to have to call out any New York infantry, and thinks that the 500 men will be sufficient to quell the strike. The troops will number 150 infantry and 350 cavalry. Squadron A will furnish 20 men and Troop C will have 150.

A report reached here at 10 o'clock to-morrow will say: "Railroads using Chicago as their gateway have taken up international improvement plans for the territory between Chicago and the Rocky mountains, which involve the expenditure of millions of dollars and an addition to the present population from immigration alone of at least 50,000 new people within the next eighteen months. The number of new towns that will appear on the maps of the West within the next year or those to which from five hundred to six hundred new population is to be added already number 173. Before 1902 it is believed this number will exceed 200. Areas neglected in the past, while trunk lines were building, are receiving the closest attention from railroad land commissioners and traffic managers."

TO BUILD NEW TOWNS.

Railroads Preparing to Develop Hitherto Neglected Portions of the West.

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AMERICAN WOMAN INJURED.

PARIS, April 15, 4:25 a. m.—An American lady was overtaken by a cyclist yesterday afternoon at the corner of the Rue Rieffler and the Avenue d'Alma, and so badly shaken as only to be able to pronounce her name, which she gave as Pierce, and to indicate her nationality. The lady, who is of middle age and was well dressed, lies insensible at the Beaujon Hospital.

5:30 a. m.—