

RELYING ON RUMORS

London Apprehensive Over Death of News From Africa.

GEN. WARREN'S REPORTED SUCCESS

Gen Wood Establishes a Post in Enemy's Country.

RELIEF OF LADYSMITH

LONDON, January 15.—Up to the present the reported crossing of the Tugela river by Gen. Warren's division remains but rumor. Nevertheless, the whole tenor of such news as has dribbled in from South Africa during the last forty-eight hours indicates that a combined forward movement of a comprehensive character is proceeding. It is not necessary to believe in the crossing of the Tugela by the Boers being in full retreat from Colenso, because it has been learned that a column is proceeding via Weenen to Helpmanna, to cut off their retreat. But at the same time credible information from many different sources indisputably points to momentous changes in the disposition of the republican forces.

NO CAPTURE.

It is true, so the answer sets forth, that war existed between the United States and the Kingdom of Spain on the 1st day of May, 1898, but the Attorney General denies that the squadron under Dewey's command did on that day capture from the King of Spain the two protected cruisers Isla de Cuba and Isla de Luzon and the battleship Maine, on Juan de Austria. The Attorney General avers that the cruisers mentioned were sunk during the engagement. No certain knowledge is had by the Attorney General, so he says, of the manner in which the other property was taken, and it is asked that due proof of all the facts and circumstances of the alleged capture be made.

SUPERIORITY OF ENEMY DENIED.

The Attorney General denies that the enemy's vessels engaged in the action of May 1, 1898, supported by an torpedo mine and land batteries, or to the fire of which Dewey's squadron was exposed during the action, were of superior force to the vessels of the squadron.

THE SANTIAGO NAVAL FIGHT.

The answer of the United States through the Attorney General has also been filed in cognation with the report of the commission brought by William T. Sampson, rear admiral, United States navy, commander-in-chief, in his own behalf and also in behalf of the officers and enlisted men of the United States naval force on the north Atlantic station who took part in the naval engagement of Santiago de Cuba, July 3, 1898, by the battleship and the vessel under his command, so that neither any of the said vessels of the King of Spain, nor any of the officers or enlisted men, nor any of the property captured by the United States, nor any of the property captured by the United States in the Santiago engagement, the following statement in the answer of the United States in the Sampson case is significant.

MR. HOAR'S RESPONSIBILITY.

Mr. Barrett's Charge at an Anti-Expansionist Meeting.

MR. BARRETT'S CHARGE AT AN ANTI-EXPANSIONIST MEETING.

Mr. John Barrett, former United States minister to Siam, in a speech delivered to an anti-expansionist audience in Chicago has named Senator Hoar of Massachusetts as the United States senator whose anti-expansion speech was called to Hong Kong and subsequently placed in the hands of the Filipino soldiers, causing, as Mr. Barrett believed, the outbreak of the Philippine revolution.

INCREASING THE WATER SUPPLY.

Col. Miller's Report of Work Done in December.

FLORA FOR SENATOR GEAR.

Senator Gear of Iowa was the recipient this morning of a very fine basket of roses. They were sent by Iowa admirers employed in the executive departments, in honor of his re-nomination to the United States Senate, and were on his desk to day when the Senate was called to order.

W. G. COLEMAN'S APPOINTMENT.

Walter G. Coleman, general agent of the Florida Central railroad, has been appointed by the Secretary of War "auditor for the Philippine archipelago and the Islands of Guam." It will be his duty to examine and settle all accounts pertaining to the revenues and expenditures of the Philippines and Guam and to render accounts to the War Department every month. He will have two assistants. These officials were appointed some time ago and are now in the Philippines.

OLD STORY OF MURDER AND SUICIDE.

ROZEMAN, Mont., January 15.—At Bridgeport, twelve miles west of here, Frank Rogers, a merchant, shot and killed his landlady, Mrs. Edith Davis, and then turned the revolver on himself with fatal accuracy. The deed was committed Saturday night, but the bodies, which lay in the kitchen, were not found until today. Jealousy and drink caused the deed.

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES.

Trustees of the Mutual Protection Fire Insurance Company of the District of Columbia were elected today as follows: William B. Channing, William S. Thompson, S. H. Kauffmann, James L. Norris, James S. H. Fitch, Claudius B. Jewell, James G. Hill, Thomas J. Bell, John Cammack.

BIG RAILROAD DEALS

Pennsylvania Gets Control of the Chesapeake and Ohio, and O. and B. and O.

OBJECT OF \$15,000,000 ISSUE

Vanderbilt Interest Gets Control of Western Systems.

SCHEME WORKED QUIETLY

PHILADELPHIA, January 15.—The Evening Telegraph today says: The apparently real meaning of the new \$15,000,000 Pennsylvania railroad stock issue does not rest in the plan to abolish grade crossings and the erection of a new station in Pittsburgh, at the cost of \$1,500,000, together with betterments elsewhere over the great system, but in the payment for extended purchases of stock of the Chesapeake and Ohio, said to amount to 100,000 shares. A prominent Pennsylvania railroad official said regarding the matter: "Chesapeake and Ohio shares have been purchased very quietly during the past few months in order to effect an important, far-reaching railroad deal. Whenever a share was offered in the market it was picked up, and the purchase was done so skillfully that the price was not disturbed in the slightest degree."

Big Block of B. and O.

It is stated that Mr. Cassatt bought in this way a block of 100,000 shares of Baltimore and Ohio stock through Jacob Schiff of Kahn, Loeb & Co., New York, and Jas. J. Hill, president of the Great Northern. The buying of Chesapeake and Ohio is another step.

New York Central's Interest.

The New York Central secures practical control of the Big Four and Lake Erie and Western as its part of the combination. M. E. Iggalls remaining as president of the Big Four, but retiring from the Chesapeake and Ohio. The consolidated road is likewise in the deal, and the merging of the West Shore, the old Nickel Plate, with Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, New York Central and Pennsylvania have been determined upon.

COLD WEATHER CHECKS FLOODS.

Rivers in Washington Valleys Are Held Back.

TACOMA, Wash., January 15.—The weather has suddenly turned cold, and the waters of the rivers which have been causing damage by floods in the valley have gone down. In the mountains the streams are all reported to be frozen up, and the melting of snow has stopped. The Northern Pacific has cleared its tracks and fears no more trouble.

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URGENT DEFICIENCY

Bill Appropriating \$56,127,841 Reported to the House.

PROVISIONS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Additional Clerks in Executive Department.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The urgent deficiency appropriation bill reported to the House today carries a total of \$56,127,841, of which sum \$47,022,322.61 is reappropriation of unexpended balances of former appropriations.

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Clemency Asked for a Murderer in Alaska.

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THE CASE OF MR. QUAY

Majority Report Adverse to Seating Him Now Completed.

THE CONSTITUTION AND ALL PRECEDENTS

Bearing on the Case Said to Be Cited.

ALIEN OWNERSHIP OF LAND

Adoption of Substitute Offered by Mr. Bailey.

TAX OFFICE FACILITIES

The District of Columbia had its first day in the House, under the new Congress, today. As soon as an preliminary morning business was cleared away, Chairman Babcock took the floor and called on House Bill 5297.

ALIEN OWNERSHIP OF LAND

This bill provides that the act entitled "An act to better define and regulate the rights of aliens to hold and own real estate in the territories," approved March 2, 1897, be amended so as to extend to aliens the same privileges concerning the acquisition, holding, owning and disposition of real estate in the District of Columbia as by that act are conferred upon them in respect of real estate in the territories of the United States. All laws and parts of laws so far as they conflict with the provisions of this act are repealed.

PROVISIONS OF THE BILL EXPLAINED.

Mr. Babcock yielded to Mr. Jenkins, who explained the provisions of the bill, as outlined above.

MR. WILLIAM ALDEN SMITH OF MICHIGAN

questioned the necessity for the passage of the bill, and Mr. Lacey of Iowa asked the chairman to allow him to read.

MR. JENKINS MADE A DETAILED EXPLANATION

of the law governing alien ownership and its application to the District of Columbia.

MR. HEPBURN OF IOWA SAID THAT HE WAS AFRAID

some of his populist friends on the other side of the House were not awake to the situation.

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he was opposed to alien ownership, and he thanked Mr. Hepburn for explaining the bill.

MR. RIDGELY OF KANSAS, A POPULIST, ASKED

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MR. BAILEY OFFERED AN AMENDMENT,

to compose the differences, providing that the act shall apply only to those who have already purchased land here.

BAILEY SAID SUCH PEOPLE WERE OWNING LAND IN VIOLATION

of law and it was the object of this bill to prevent the law officers from selecting by entering proceedings to escheat the property.

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ON LOCAL BUSINESS

Time in the House Given to the District.

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MR. RIDGELY MOVED TO RECOMMIT THE BILL

with instructions to report a bill providing alien ownership to five years and limiting that after that time all alien property in the District should be escheated to the government.

THANKING SAMPSON AND SCHLEY.

Joint Resolution Introduced by Senator McComas.

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