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The Evening Star

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KEEP BRITISH BUSY

Gen. Roberts Reports Great Activity on Part of Boers.

THE FIGHTING AT ELANDSLAAGTE

Reported Boer Victory Near Brandfort is Unconfirmed.

WARNING TO CAPE COLONISTS

LONDON, April 11.—Lord Roberts writes to the war office from Bloemfontein, under date of Tuesday, April 10, as follows:

"The Boers have been very active during the past few days. One commando is now on the north bank of the Orange river, not far from Alwal North, while another is attacking Wepener. The garrison there is holding out bravely and inflicting serious loss on the Boers. Maj. Springs of the Cape Mounted Rifles was killed. No other casualties have been reported as yet. The troops are being moved up rapidly. A number of men from the 7th Dragoon Guards, under Lieut. Wetherley, which had been reported missing since April 7, has returned safely."

As the foregoing does not mention the alleged British reverse on Saturday at Meerkatsfontein, the Boer telegrams are not credited at the war office, and they are further discredited on account of the discrepancies in the dispatches, as Meerkatsfontein in one message is located near Brandfort and in another it is located southeast of Bloemfontein, the places being 100 miles apart.

Gen. Gatacre Recalled.

Gen. Gatacre's return to England is accepted as being in the nature of a recall, though no reason is given for it, and it will be associated in the public mind with his lack of success. Lord Roberts criticized his management of the Stormberg attack, and possibly Gatacre's having arrived an hour and a half too late to receive the Redersburg force may have decided his return. Gen. Buller, seemingly, succeeds Gen. Gatacre, and, according to a dispatch from Bloemfontein, the commanders of several brigades are about to be changed.

The Reuters Telegram Company's correspondent at Alwal North, writing at 9:30 this morning, says:

Notification to Portugal.

It is learned that the Boer governments have formally notified Portugal that they consider the shipping of British troops and munitions of war to Rhodesia by way of Beira, Portuguese East Africa, to be tantamount to hostile action. This, however, will not stop General Sir Frederick Carrington's forces from entering Rhodesia. Whether or not the Boers will make reprisals upon Portugal remains to be seen, though the best informed opinion here inclines to the belief that the Boers are unlikely to back up their protest with action that would bring them into hostilities with still another power.

CHANGES IN ROBERTS' ARMY.

Gen. Gatacre Believed and Will Return to England.

BLOEMFONTEIN, Tuesday, April 10.—Gen. Gatacre, the commander of the third division, is about to return to England.

FIGHT AT ELANDSLAAGTE.

Boer Attack Held Back by the Naval Brigade.

LADYSMITH, Tuesday, April 10.—The Boers opened fire this morning early, sending shells into the British camp at Elands-laagte from three positions which were separated. The shells did no damage. The troops moved out to reconnoiter and found the Boers in strong force and well fortified. A naval 4.7-inch gun replied to the Boers, who have again placed a Long Tom in position.

When the Boers commenced shelling the British were drilling, and one private was killed and another was severely wounded before the soldiers were withdrawn from the range. Then the naval brigade opened fire and drew a heavy Boer fusillade, and two of the cruiser Philomel's gunners were killed. The naval men stuck to their positions, however, and the Boers unmasked six guns, including a 7.5-pounder, and shells fell in all the British camps.

After three hours' bombardment the Boer fire slackened and the burghers cleared out from a kopje on the right, when a British shell hit on the spot occupied by their gun. Another commando was seen moving toward the British left, apparently with the intention of flanking it, but the British advanced pickets were continually sniped, but few casualties have been reported.

Boer Attack Held Back by the Naval Brigade.

It is rumored that a body of Boers has gathered southwest of Elands-laagte with the apparent intention of cutting the British line of communication to the north.

Gen. Buller visited Elands-laagte today.



Latest reports from South Africa indicate great activity on the part of the Boers southeast and south of Bloemfontein; in the country between Ladysmith and Glen-coe and around Mafeking.

HEAVY STORMS OUT WEST

RAIN AND SNOW, ACCOMPANIED BY UNUSUAL COLD.

The Disturbed Area Extends From Wyoming to Texas—Red River Booming.

CHICAGO, April 11.—The whole west and southwest, including the states of Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, is experiencing a series of rain and snow storms, accompanied by temperatures ranging from 15 to 39 degrees below normal, with heavy frosts over a large section of the wheat belt. At Denver this morning thermometers registered 8 above and at Dodge City, Kan., 18 above.

According to the United States weather bureau, the storms are a continuation of the recent cloudburst that caused the Austin, Tex., disaster. Swollen streams are reported from all over the west. Several minor washouts have occurred, but so far the railroads have not experienced serious trouble. Weather officials say the East line will extend tonight as far south as the Ohio river at least.

DENISON, Tex., April 11.—High water is reported at all points in the Red river territory. The Red river has risen ten feet within the past twenty-four hours. The Wichita is on a big boom, and an overflow is expected in the latter part of the week.

Advices from Texas show that the Red river has risen eight feet, and is increasing eight inches an hour. The rise comes from the upper tributaries, and will be augmented by the heavy waterpouts of the past twenty-four hours in this section. The Sanguin river and Little river are also booming, the latter being out of its banks in the lower lands.

EPPS AND WOOD DEFEATED.

Result of Primaries at Richmond, Va., Yesterday.

RICHMOND, Va., April 11.—The returns from yesterday's primary were slow in coming in and the result in some cases was not final till the last precinct was heard from. The vote was the heaviest in years and the count was not completed until after midnight today. C. W. Hardwick, chairman of the board of aldermen's finance committee, was defeated by a close vote by James B. Wood, a Chesapeake and Ohio official. The chairman has the placing of the city's money on deposit and the banks of the city exerted strong influence for and against his election. J. C. Smith beat H. Claiborne, the incumbent, 131 votes for city sergeant. All the other old officers were re-nominated.

FIRE AT BOWLING GREEN, VA.

Business Portion of the Town Almost Completely Destroyed.

RICHMOND, Va., April 11.—Fire swept Bowling Green, Caroline county, last night and destroyed thirteen stores, two livery stables, two carriage shops and county jail. Estimated loss \$300,000 to \$700,000; insurance, \$200,000. Only two stores are left standing in the business portion of the town, which is practically destroyed.

BOLD BURGLARY IN RICHMOND.

Watchman Overpowered and Standard Oil Company's Plant Robbed.

RICHMOND, Va., April 11.—J. A. Sowell, watchman of the Standard Oil Company's plant in Manchester, was overpowered by five men at an early hour this morning, tied with wire, gagged and thrown aside like old baggage, while the men blew open the safe and took the contents, including \$500 in cash.

RUMORED BOER VICTORY.

Daily News Correspondent Sends Report From Pretoria.

LONDON, April 11.—The Daily News has the following from Pretoria, dated Monday, by way of Delagoa bay:

"It is officially announced that a battle has been fought south of Brandfort, in which 900 British troops were killed and wounded and 800 taken prisoners.

"Lord Roberts is declared to be finding great difficulty owing to the scarcity of water."

A dispatch today to the Daily Mail from Brandfort, dated Sunday, says: "Yesterday Gen. de Wet inflicted the third defeat of the British within a week, at Meerkatsfontein, the Boers capturing 900 British soldiers, losing five Boers killed and nine wounded."

The Daily Mail also has the following from the business portion of the Standard Railway Company professes to have received a telegram reporting a Boer victory near Kroonstad, the Boers capturing 900 British."

Commenting on this, the Daily Mail remarks: "There is a Meerkatsfontein of Kroonstad, but if the reports be true, this can hardly be the place."

Mr. Richardson, the minority leader, called attention to the fact that the rule would permit the House to vote only upon a single proposition. If it had been possible for the Senate to add to the inquiry of the original bill levying 15 per cent of the Dingy tax on goods going into Porto Rico, he said, it had done so in the original government amendment. Under the guise of a civil government, he said, the Senate had imposed an imperialistic government upon the people of the island. He asserted that it was never the intention of the republicans of the House in the first instance to enact any such measure. He quoted President Harrison, ex-Speaker Reed and other republicans of national reputation in favor of free trade with the island, and drew a salvo of applause from his legislative colleagues by characterizing the President in the language of ex-Speaker Reed as the "empire builder."

Proceeding, he expressed his regret that the Secretary of War had not seen fit to furnish the opinion of Judge Charles A. Magson, the attorney of the insular bureau, to the effect that the Constitution extended ex-proprio vigore to our new possessions, and that the original recommendations of the President and the Secretary of War were based.

He read some extracts from this alleged suppressed opinion which had been printed in a New York newspaper. The reading was frequently punctuated with applause.

Why, Mr. Richardson asked, had the republicans of the House changed front upon the whole question? For reply he read the opinion of Prof. Schurman of the Philippine commission, that "strife had gone down to Washington and had grasped the republican party by the throat."

He also recalled the statement printed a short time ago in a local newspaper that a republican member of the House had said that in return for the passage of the bill a large contribution was to be made to the republican campaign fund.

The Alleged Deal.

Mr. Richardson created something of a sensation by giving the name of the newspaper man who had written the interview, saying it was a reputable correspondent, worthy of all credence.

Mr. De Armond (Mo.) said the rule was evidence that those who had decided to suppress intellect, could not deny the conscience realized that they must do their work quickly. He commended those who had the manhood to stand out for the republicans, and he said that the republicans would have the country to reckon with.

ADOPTED BY HOUSE

Special Rule Regarding Vote on Porto Rican Bill.

Exciting Scenes Preceded Division.

Result Was 158 Yeas, 142 Nays; 11 Refrained From Voting.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

The President Arranging for a Trip to New York.

TO ADDRESS ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE

Large Delegation From Lowell, Mass., Received.

MANY SENATORIAL CALLERS

President McKinley is going to New York April 21 to make an address before the ecumenical conference on foreign missions.

The President will make an address before the ecumenical conference on foreign missions. The distinguished church body meets in Carnegie Hall on Monday and at 8 o'clock in the evening will listen to addresses by the President and representatives of the state and city of New York. The honorary president of the conference is ex-President Benjamin Harrison. President McKinley will remain in New York on the 22d, the Sunday following.

The President may make one other visit out of Washington this month. He intends to go to Canton for a few days some time after his trip to New York. The home of President and Mrs. McKinley is being repaired and the President wants to see for himself how the work is getting on. Several months ago a Canton architect was here going over the plans with the President.

Invited to Gridiron Club Dinner.

Henry L. West, president of the Gridiron Club, and General H. V. Boynton, former president of the same organization, saw President McKinley this morning and invited him to attend the dinner of the club on the 28th of this month. The President said it would give him great pleasure to attend if possible. He then mentioned the President's wish to take him out of town. He has attended several of the Gridiron dinners and enjoys the evening's merriment to the fullest extent.

Asking for Chaplaincy.

Representative Baker this morning presented Rev. E. L. Lamar of Baltimore to the President. Mr. Lamar would like to be a chaplain in the navy. The President said that there are no vacancies now but suggested that Mr. Baker again present Mr. Lamar's name when there was an opening.

Representative Warren A. Candler, asked for a chaplaincy for a Texas minister. The President has the application under consideration.

Many Callers on the President.

The President had an engagement for 10 o'clock this morning to shake hands with about 150 persons of Lowell, Mass. Owing to the pressure of official visitors, however, the President was nearly an hour late in going to the east room to meet the Lowell visitors. This caused Jerry Smith, the old colored servant to remark, "Dere ought ter be two Presidents—one ter tend ter business, and t'other ter do de handshakin'."

The hundreds of sightseers at the White House each day inquire if there is any way to see the President and shake hands with him. Some of the girls are trying to secure appointments in Alaska for Colorado men. Senator Wolcott is not making any claims as to Colorado's attitude in November next.

Mr. Dalzell Reviews History.

At this juncture Mr. Grosvenor's time expired and Mr. Dalzell concluded the debate on the rule. Reverting to Mr. Richardson's characterization of the rule as an "outrage," he recalled the rule brought in when the democrats concurred in the Senate in passing the Wilson tariff bill, evoking furious protests during the recital. "Scribes, pharisees and hypocrites," he denominated the democrats for prating of the change of base made by the republicans. When the Porto Rico tariff bill was originally presented he said it had been advocated and opposed with the same old traditions of the respective parties.

The democrats had found their law in the Lord Scott decision, their highest political philosophy of John C. Calhoun. The republicans had found their law in the platform of the Republican party. The platform had been elected. The majority upon whose shoulders the responsibility rested, he predicted, in conclusion, that the rule was not far distant when the masses of the people of the country would recognize their cause as a just and beneficent for the people of Porto Rico.

Mr. Richardson's Substitute.

Mr. Richardson, with a motion to recommit the rule with instructions to report a new rule and a substitute bill providing: "First. For free trade between the United States and Porto Rico."

"Second. A civil government for the territory of Porto Rico, republican in form."

The Speaker ruled that as the previous question had been ordered on the rule Mr. Richardson's motion was not in order.

"Vote" came from many quarters, and the Speaker called the roll to secure order while the vote was taken.

The viva voce vote was indecisive, and to the adoption of the rule a viva voce vote was taken on the adoption of the rule.

The voting was followed with intense interest.

"Whips," Long and Underwood, hovered about the desk, seeing that every possible vote was recorded.

The Result a Surprise.

The announcement of the adoption of the rule—yeas, 158; nays, 142; present and not voting, 11—was greeted with salvos of applause on the republican side. The large majority was a general surprise. It was regarded as a vote.

The republicans who voted against the rule were: Crumpler of Indiana, Heatwole of Minnesota, Lano of Iowa, Littlefield of Maine, Lorimer of Illinois, McCall of Massachusetts, and Michigan. Mr. Warner of Illinois. The only democratic voting for the rule was Shiley of Pennsylvania.

It was decided that the time remaining, three and a half hours, should be equally divided between the two sides. Mr. Payne and Mr. Richardson to control the time on the republican side.

Mr. Payne yielded to Mr. Watson (Ind.), who opened the debate. From the inception of the consideration of the Porto Rican tariff bill, Mr. Payne has received many communications on the subject. By disposing of the matter soon he will not be held entirely by the hands of the President's able executive men for Commissioners, and it is safe to say that if he makes a selection it will be after careful thought by the man or men.

Today's Nominations.

The following nominations were sent by the President to the Senate today:

War: Artillery, To be captain, First Lieut. Isaac N. Lewis, 7th Artillery, to be first lieutenant, Second Lieut. Sam F. Bottoms, 6th Artillery, Infantry.—To be first lieutenant, Second Lieut. William K. McCue, 2d Infantry.

One of the Merrimac's Crew.

Osborn Delgnan, who was one of the gallant crew of the Merrimac when that vessel was sunk in the harbor of Santiago, has been assigned as acting boatswain in the United States navy.

PORTO RICAN TARIFF

THE BILL EXPECTED TO PASS THIS AFTERNOON.

Only One Vote to Be Taken—Members on Both Sides Hurrying Here.

The resolution for the consideration of and vote on the Porto Rican tariff bill in the House today was an exact copy, as to the method of voting, of the resolution under which the Senate amendments to the Wilson tariff bill were concurred in at the Fifty-third Congress. It is an iron-bound, copper-riveted proposition, admitting of but one vote—that on the motion to concur in the Senate amendments. The general belief would carry by a majority of from three to five. The vote occurs at 6 o'clock this afternoon, and the exact result depends upon the arrival, without hindrance, of absent members, who are hurrying to reach Washington before that hour.

The work of Mr. Long for the republicans is to get the bill passed. The democrats are working to get the bill defeated. The House and arranging pairs for such as must be absent has been, perhaps, the most thorough in legislative history. The opposition to the bill is at a disadvantage in consequence of sickness, having three absentees at least two of whom will not appear. All except Bailey of Texas, Stallings of Alabama and Cochran of Missouri are expected and none of them are paired, but it is possible that one of them may get here in time to vote. It is said that Bailey had a promise of a pair when he went away, but it was broken.

On the Republican Side.

The republicans expect to have all their members except Boutelle of Maine present or paired. The exact location of each member of the House is known to the man of each party in charge of the pairs and the organization of the forces is complete. Mr. Tawney, who is expected to be the last of the absentees to arrive, is due at 2 o'clock this afternoon, and King, the newly elected democrat from Utah, is hurrying on his way, but is hardly expected to arrive in time to vote.

It is conceded that nine republicans will vote against the bill, but if there are no more under cover who will vote against the bill, the majority will be 158 to 142.

Mr. Allison said that the District appropriation bill should not be concluded today. It would take very little time tomorrow. Under the head of "Auditor's office" Mr. Allison proposed an additional amendment increasing the salary of one clerk provided for in the bill at \$1,200 to \$1,400.

First Item Struck Out.

When the amendment appropriating \$25,000 for improving the municipal whole sale market on the reservation between 10th and 12th and B and Little B streets northwest was reached Mr. Allison said upon further deliberation the committee did not care to retain that amendment, and it was struck from the bill.

School Provision Passed.

The provision for public schools was adopted without debate, except that Mr. Hawley remarked that he was greatly pleased to see that what he and others desired had been done in relation to the public schools of this city. He said it was the confident hope of many people that two of the trustees should be women. He said that in the minds of members of the committee on appropriations that the President would appoint two women as trustees, and hoped the President would do so. He made no motion.

The school provision was amended on motion of Mr. Allison to stipulate that one superintendent should be appointed and have charge of the colored schools. A janitor was provided for at \$20 for the Hillsdale School.

Under the head of the appropriation for the metropolitan police, twenty-two instead of twenty-one station keepers were provided for.

Salaries for Police Court Judges.

Mr. Berry objected to the increase of salaries of two judges for the Police Court from \$2,000 to \$3,000. He said he had heard of no complaint from these judges regarding their salaries. He said there was a disposition to increase such salaries, and he saw no reason for doing it. In his state there were judges who got but \$2,000, and they did not complain about not having enough.

Mr. Allison said the estimate for these salaries had been \$4,000.

Mr. Berry made a point of order against the increase of salary as a change in existing law.

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Mr. Gallinger Comments.

When the item appropriating \$1,800 for the church orphanage association of St. John's parish was reached, Mr. Gallinger said he was surprised that a wealthy church should ask for this paltry sum of money. The next item for an equal amount for St. Joseph's Asylum he knew nothing about. He said, of course, "these worthy people" needed money and if they could not raise it, why not subscription? They wanted it from Congress.

He said the superintendent of charities had reported that there was room for more children in the orphanage, but that the orphanage, and he didn't see why Congress should appropriate for private charities when the government had \$2,000,000 for the public care of children and any one conducting a private charity of the kind should be able to get the money from their own responsibility and for their own purposes.

He made no motion in connection with the amendment, but he said he had no objection to its appearing in the bill when ready for final passage.

For Filtration Establishment.

The following amendment was adopted on motion of Mr. Allison:

For establishing those portions of a filtration plant which are essential to the operation of the system of filtration, including necessary land, grading, masonry and appurtenances, \$200,000, to be available immediately.

On Mr. Allison's motion, an amendment appropriating \$1,000 for the Women's Clinic in the District of Columbia was adopted.

Municipal Hospital.

Mr. McMillan proposed an amendment appropriating \$10,000 for the purchase of a site for a municipal hospital.

Mr. Allison proposed an amendment increasing the salary of the superintendent of the street-cleaning department from \$2,200 to \$2,400.

Mr. Chandler objected to the appropriation of \$50,000 for continuing the erection of a workhouse for males, which appropriation was put in the bill in the House of Representatives.

He made an extended argument to show that many persons believe that the workhouse, jail, etc., would eventually be removed from their present location to some place further out of the city, and for that reason objected to an enlargement of the buildings on their present sites in East Washington.

The Appropriation Retained.

The Senate then, by a decisive vote, retained the appropriation in the bill.

On motion of Mr. Cockerell an amendment was adopted appropriating \$2,000 for grading and regulating Quincey street from Brightwood avenue to 8th street, in Petisworth.

On motion of Mr. McMillan an amendment appropriating \$25,000 for grading and improving Connecticut avenue extended was adopted.

On Motion of Mr. Chandler \$11,000 was appropriated to purchase a strip of land adjoining the land formerly purchased by the government for the purpose of constructing a water tower on 18th street, this land to be used as a public park.

The Bill Passed.

With the above amendments the bill was then passed by the Senate.

Marine Band for Egg Rollers.

The Secretary of the Navy today ordered the Marine Band to play at the President's grounds next Monday afternoon for the benefit of the children engaged in their usual Easter pastime of egg rolling.

Roberts Warns Cape Colonists.

COLESBURG, Cape Colony, April 11.—In view of the state of unrest across the border, Lord Roberts has proclaimed a warning to the Cape Colonists that further acts of hostility will be treated with the utmost rigor of martial law.

MONEY FOR DISTRICT

Appropriation Bill Acted On in the Senate.

SCHOOL PROVISION ADOPTED

Debate Over Raising Police Judges' Salaries.

OTHER ITEMS PASSED

The Senate began the consideration of the District of Columbia appropriation bill at 12:45 today. Senator Allison, chairman of the committee on appropriations, requested that this bill be disposed of, and Senator Burrows consented to defer his remarks on the Quay case until tomorrow.

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