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BOERS IN VRYBURG Town Surrendered to Besiegers Without a Struggle.

FEARFUL PANIC FOLLOWED

1,500 Boers Reported to Have Been Blown Up by British Troops, at Mafeking, Who Decoyed Them Over the Lyddite Mines.

(By Telegraph.) LONDON, Oct. 20.—The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing at 10 o'clock Thursday night, says: "Vryburg surrendered Sunday. To-night's despatches from Kuruman, ninety miles west by south of Vryburg, state that the police having withdrawn from Vryburg, the town surrendered to the Boers, the inhabitants fleeing in all directions, mostly toward Kuruman. When the police withdrew the Cape Boers notified the fact to the enemy, thus inviting them to take possession. There was a fearful panic. The British are wittily indignant at this scuttling."

FIRED ON THE PATROL. LADYSMITH, Oct. 19.—Evening.—This morning a patrol under Major Ayle penetrated the Boer outpost at Bester's station and was fired upon, but retired without loss.

"ALL'S WELL." THE REPORT. CAPE TOWN, Oct. 19.—A dispatch from Kimberley dated October 17, says: "All is well here. Colonel Hore engaged the Boers at Mafeking on October 14, with great success. Mafeking was still safe on October 15."

Complaints of Boer outrages upon the natives continue to arrive. These serve further to inflame the Basutos and Zulus. Yesterday one hundred and fifty Basutos from Johannesburg arrived at Burghersdorp, Cape Colony, and alleged that the Boers had robbed them wholesale and flogged them with "blackknives."

BOERS SUFFERED HEAVILY. The party which included a son of Chief Leroboti, was supplied with provisions, and the Basutos then set off homeward, cheering for the Queen and chanting war songs.

The Orange Free State force, with a few guns, moved about 10 miles down Tintin pass, opening with artillery on small British cavalry patrols. The range was distant and the shooting indifferent. The object may have been either a feint to draw our troops from the real point of attack, or a prelude to Boer concentration against Ladysmith.

BOERS SUFFER REVERSES. KIMBERLEY, Oct. 17.—Delayed in transmission.—The Boers suffered a reverse on Sunday at Spruitfontein, ten miles south of Kimberley. An armored train went out to bring in a train reported to have been captured by the Boers near the Spruitfontein siding. A party of Boers, who were encountered near by, lowered the railway signal and displayed a white flag, apparently with the idea of inducing the train to proceed. The driver suspected that the Boers were in possession and stopped the train, whereupon the Boers issued a large force and opened fire but without any effect.

The soldiers replied from the train and about half a dozen Boers were killed. The British were unscathed. Seven hundred Boers surprised a party of thirteen Cape Colony police who were guarding the railway at Riverton Road, 18 miles north of Kimberley, on Sunday morning. The Boers opened a terrific explosion was heard later and it is believed that the Boers blew up the station.

A relief party of 25 police sent from Kimberley, met the Boers near Riverton. The enemy displayed a white flag to induce the troops to fall into their trap, but the police were ordered to retire. Then the Boers opened a heavy fire upon them, discharging about 400 rounds. A bullet struck the horse of Surgeon Major Sullivan, who, with a trooper whose horse had stumbled and dismounted, was captured.

VOLUNTEERS NOT WANTING. CAPE TOWN, Oct. 18.—(Delayed.)—There is an incessant procession of applicants for active military service, and the new force of 3,000 mounted infantry which the imperial government has sanctioned will be quickly raised.

1,500 BOERS BLOWN UP. LONDON, Oct. 20.—The Daily News Cape Town correspondent says: "It is rumored here that the Boers attacked Mafeking in force, but were repulsed. The defenders, seeing the enemy retreating, pursued them for some distance. Then a feint was made, and they commenced to retire on the town, allowing themselves to be driven their position, again advanced to the attack and were driven back to the attack and were driven over Lyddite mines, laid for the defence of the town. It is reported that 1,500 Boers were killed by the explosion."

It is reported from Delagoa Bay that the Swazi King Bunu is collecting his forces with the object, presumably, of attacking the Boers. It is stated that

the Portuguese forces at Delagoa Bay will be raised to war strength. "It is announced from Pretoria that an eccentric person known as Baron Deginsburg has been court-martialed and shot as a spy. Plans of the local forts were found in his possession."

BOERS CAPTURE A TRAIN. LONDON, Oct. 20.—The Ladysmith correspondent of the Daily Telegraph under date of October 19, afternoon, says: "The Boers captured a train which left Ladysmith at 12:30, near Elands-laagto. It contained several officers and a few men, besides civilians, all going to Glencoe or Dundee."

BRIDGES BLOWN UP. CAPE TOWN, Oct. 19.—The Boers have blown up the bridges at Fourteen Streams and the Modder river, the former north and the latter south of Kimberley.

BRITISH UNDER FIRE. GLENCOE CAMP, Oct. 18.—7:35 P. M.—(Delayed in transmission.)—The British troops here have been under fire. A strong Boer patrol was encountered eight miles from the camp and was repulsed, the British suffering no casualties.

NEWS IS MESSAGING. LONDON, Oct. 19.—The war office this evening issued the following bulletin: "No news of importance has been received from Natal today. The cavalry attached to our forces at Ladysmith and Dundee are engaged in observing the enemy's movements. Steps have been taken to secure Pietermaritzburg and Durban against raids on the western frontier."

There is no recent reliable intelligence from Kimberley or Mafeking, both places being cut off from railway and telegraphic communication. It is believed, however, that a skirmish took place on Sunday six miles south of Kimberley and that the Boers were beaten off with some losses, by an armored train. There was some fighting at Mafeking on Friday or Saturday, ending with a repulse of the attacking force.

Boers in considerable numbers are assembled opposite Aliwal North, and Bethulle, on the Orange river. Railway communication with the Orange Free State and the Transvaal has now ceased, the remaining refugees having been warned to leave by way of Delagoa Bay."

CONGRESSMAN OLEY'S DAUGHTER. She Moves to Hang Lee's Picture in a Place of Honor at West Point.

ATLANTA, GA., Oct. 19.—Mrs. W. N. Mitchell, of this city, a daughter of Congressman Oley of Virginia, has inaugurated a movement to have the picture of General Robert E. Lee placed in the gallery of superintendent of the national military academy at West Point. Mrs. Mitchell wrote to President McKinley and Congressman Oley and to Secretary Root relative to the matter.

The secretary has replied that Col. A. L. Miller, present superintendent of the academy, will place General Lee's portrait in the academy's gallery, if one is provided, showing General Lee in the uniform of a United States army officer. An effort will probably be made by the United Daughters of the one is provided, showing General Lee in the military academy from September 1, 1852, to March 31, 1855.

AWFUL TALE FROM THE SEA. Multitudes Crew Murder Captain and Mate. Are Now in Prison.

SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFFE, Oct. 19.—The brig Juliana Schlosser recently arrived here on her way to Brazil, and reported that during the voyage the helmsman had murdered the captain, the captain's wife and the mate. The Brazilian consul asked assistance of the authorities, and the Spanish cruiser Infanta Isabel sent several boats crews to the brig. They were fired upon by the brig's crew and the marines replied, finally boarding the ship. Eleven seamen then jumped overboard, but were rescued by the cruiser's boats and are now imprisoned. The helmsman committed suicide. Another murdered man was found on board.

Gold Medal for Life Saver Midgett. WASHINGTON, Oct. 19.—The Secretary of the Treasury, upon the recommendation of the board of award of the life saving service, has presented to Rasmus S. Midgett, a gold medal for conspicuous and heroic conduct in rescuing ten persons from the wrecked schooner Preilla, off Gulf Shoal life-saving station, N. C., during the hurricane of August last.

Vessels Arrived. Steamer Australia (Ger.), Braummer, New Orleans. Steamer Shawmut, Allan, Boston. Barge Atlas, Boston.

Vessels Sailed. Steamer Oriol (Br.), Maddrell, Rotterdam. Steamer Australia (Ger.), Braummer, Rotterdam.

Calendar for This Day. Sun Rises 6:17 A. M. Sun Sets 5:21 P. M. High Water 9:50 A. M.; 10:16 P. M. Low Water 3:25 A. M.; 4:13 P. M. Weather Forecast. WASHINGTON, Oct. 19.—Forecast for Virginia—Cloudy, with local rains Friday, Saturday, fair; light variable winds.

WIND AGAIN WAS SHY OCTOPUS PUNCTURED Had It Held Shamrock Would Have Been Vanquished. Bryan in Ohio Hurls His Shafts at the Trusts.

COLUMBIA WAS FAR AHEAD

Crew of the Challenger Are Convinced That the American Yacht is the Better Boat. Another Attempt Will be Made Today.

(By Telegraph.) NEW YORK, Oct. 19.—Had the wind held today, the Columbia-Shamrock series for America's cup would have ended in three straight wins for the defender and the Irish cup hunter would have sailed home without the trophy beaten as decisively as any former candidates. Only the failure of the wind saved the Shamrock from a defeat more stinging than on Monday. Today she was beaten on the run to the outer mark five minutes and 51 seconds, elapsed since the start of the leg breeze, which should have been a bit but which, owing to a shift of the wind, was a broad reach, Columbia sailed away from her like a witch. When the race was declared off, about ten minutes before the expiration of the time limit, Columbia was leading by about three miles. She was then four miles from the finish.

Had the race ended Shamrock would have been beaten by at least twenty minutes. SHAMROCK WOULD HAVE LOST. Sir Thomas' hard luck continued to follow. His boat was very badly handled today, in spite of the aggregation of talent aboard of her. The two English captains and the captain of Empress or William's yacht, Meteor, failed to get Shamrock over the line before the handicap gun was fired and she went into the race penalized by two seconds on that account. The additional balance which was put into her yesterday also seemed to be a handicap on the part of her managers. What Shamrock may be able to do in rough weather and a reefing wind is still problematical, but the experts are almost unanimous in the belief that the Columbia can take her measure in light airs or a sale of wind.

"CAN'T THEY COULDN'T WIN." "There was no living with them," said one of the Yankee tars on the Shamrock's tender Lawrence. "They did not think their boat would win; they absolutely knew it; they would not even hear arguments. After they returned from the race Monday they were so sure that they would not speak to each other. Now they are frank enough to admit that the Columbia is the better boat by ten minutes over a thirty mile course."

The yachts will race tomorrow and even if Columbia wins there is a possibility that two more races will be sailed. A suggestion to this effect has been made and Sir Thomas appears anxious that it should be carried out. He has been greatly disappointed in the showing his boat has made, but believes she might do better over a triangular course in a heavier wind, and has said that he would be very pleased to sail two more races.

DAY WAS RADIANT. This was a radiant day for those on hand and a big holiday crowd went out to witness what all supposed would be the last race of the cup series. The course today was laid 15 miles before the wind, southeast by south, straight from the start and the sailing away, varying behind the line, Captain Barr on the Columbia, bested the talent aboard the challenger sending the Columbia flying across the line 27 seconds ahead of his adversary. So badly had the Shamrock miscalculated that the handicap gun boomed two seconds before the challenger crossed the line, and she sailed away with that penalty in addition to the six-second she allows the white wonder under the new measurement. The race to the outer mark was not exciting. Both yachts crossed with bulging balloons, mastsails and their largest club topsails drawing. But as the wind had pulled a little and shifted away, the course had been set, instead of keeping away for the mark they made almost a triangular race of it. The Columbia showed her rival a fleet pair of heels, gaining gradually from the start. For almost an hour the luffing match continued, carrying the yachts four miles off the mark. The Shamrock having been badly beaten in her attempt to get to windward, both squared away for the mark, breaking out their big spinnakers to the wind.

BREEZE DIED TO FIVE KNOTS. The breeze gradually died down to about five knots or less and the race was degenerating into a drifting match as the big yachts approached the mark. The challenger was directly astern of the Columbia, trying with her mountains of canvas to blanket the towering sails of the Yankee. But Columbia was a wizard. Some how she managed to get wind enough from somewhere to keep her slipping through the water and in vain Shamrock strained to overtake her. The yachts were half an hour covering the last half mile. Slowly Columbia wore around the mark and filled away. Passing Shamrock, still outward bound, close aboard on her weather, she robbed her of the light breeze and left her with drooping rigging utterly becalmed for a full minute.

CHEERS FOR BOTH YACHTS. A brass thrated chorus had greeted the Columbia as she turned and it was repeated with added vigor when Shamrock went around six minutes and 18 seconds later. The Columbia had gained 51 minutes and 51 seconds in the 15 miles to leeward. About three and a half hours had been consumed and there appeared no chance for either yacht to get home, but as the breeze continued to haul to the southward it made a fair wind for the return journey and as it freshened to ten knots soon afterward, a faint hope of finishing within the time limit arose.

The Yankee sailed away from her rival like a ghost ship, leaving her far astern, increasing the distance between them so rapidly that when the race was declared off at 4:19 she was leading by three miles.

GREENVILLE, O., Oct. 19.—William J. Bryan, Mrs. Bryan and the newspaper men who accompanied the party throughout Kentucky, crossed the river from Covington last night and boarded the special train provided for the three days' tour of Ohio. The train was run to Dayton in the night, where the private car of John R. McLean was attached and at Greenville, Darke county, Mr. Bryan delivered his first address in Ohio. There was an immense crowd present. The decorations were numerous and tasteful and the enthusiasm pronounced.

ESCORTED BY FARMERS. The visiting party was escorted to the court house square by a mounted body, largely composed of the farmers of the county. Dr. L. C. Anderson presided and introduced Mr. John R. McLean, the Democratic candidate for governor. Mr. McLean introduced Mr. Bryan as the unchallenged leader of the masses. Mr. Bryan, in order to avoid the crisp morning air, put on a skull cap, which provoked good natured laughter, in response to which he said: "My hat is not as much protection as it used to be and you ought not to complain if I am getting a little bald. In 1896, I said I was too young to be president. Then I had to depend upon the constitution to protect me. Now I can depend upon my baldness."

"The Chicago platform to which you gave such loyal support in 1896, is still the platform of the Democratic party and the platform of the Ohio Democracy again endorses that platform. I believe the planks of that platform today are stronger than when they were written."

DEFENDS INCOME TAX. Mr. Bryan then entered into an elaborate defense of the income tax and predicted a popular endorsement of the proposition. He cited the efforts of the government to raise a revenue to conduct the Spanish war because of the decision of the Supreme Court against the income tax. He said the money question was still unsettled and the fight would be continued.

He claimed the Republican party said some trusts were bad and others good. "Trusts are actually so bad," said the speaker, "that at a Republican convention in this state, a convention run by Mark Hanna, denounced them."

"Do you know the difference between a good trust and a bad trust? A good trust gives liberally to a Republican campaign and a bad one does not. The Republican party cannot destroy the trusts. When the attorney general of the United States is asked to intervene in these cases, the biblical injunction, 'Remember thy creator,' the Republican party was the creator of the trusts."

Mr. Bryan denounced the increase of the regular army as being called for by the President two months before there was any war or act of hostility. "THE PURCHASE OF MEN." "I dare the Republicans to defend the title by purchase of 10,000,000 of men," continued Mr. Bryan. "They assert the right to be in the Philippines by purchase and that too, after having a less price for human beings than we pay for hogs."

CAUSTIC CRITICISM Applied by Mr. Chamberlain to Action of Opposition.

SCENE IN HOUSE OF COMMONS

Secretary of State for the Colonies Bitterly Denounces "Standers" Based Upon Refusal to Produce the Letter He Wrote Mr. Hawkesley.

(By Telegraph.) LONDON, Oct. 19.—Floor and galleries were densely crowded today in the House of Commons in anticipation of a speech by the secretary of state for the colonies, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, on the government's policy in South Africa.

The first lord of the treasury and government leader, Arthur J. Balfour, promised to answer tomorrow a question whether the government had decided upon a specific course of action with reference to recommendations to the international commission regarding the future disposition of Samoa.

Mr. Chamberlain, who was loudly cheered on rising, began with a severe criticism of the action of the opposition at the previous meeting of Parliament. Their statements, he said, were calculated to encourage President Kruger's resistance and to embarrass the government in "most difficult and a most critical function."

Referring to Mr. Stanhope's demand yesterday for the production of his (Chamberlain's) letter to Mr. Hawkesley, he said, he would gladly produce this if Mr. Wm. Vernon Harcourt and John Morley, who were members of the South African commission demanded it.

Mr. Stanhope's criticism he characterized as "neither honest nor honorable." The speaker, Mr. Wm. Court Gully, intervened, saying that the language of the colonial secretary was "beyond Parliamentary bounds."

Mr. Chamberlain retorted that it was impossible adequately to describe Mr. Stanhope's accusation that he (Chamberlain) and Sir Alfred Milner had formed a war.

"The government welcomed all honest and honorable criticism of its policy," said Mr. Chamberlain, "and I wish I could apply these epithets to the speech for the members for Burnley."

MR. STANHOPE EXCITED. Mr. Stanhope, leaping to his feet, cried: "I rise to order. I thought fit yesterday to arraign the conduct of the secretary of state for the colonies. He speaks of my criticism as dishonorable and dishonest. Can such terms be applied to members of this house?" (Opposition cheers.)

The speaker—"I think the language of the secretary of state for the colonies is going beyond—" (the rest of his words being drowned in wild Irish cheers and shouts of "Withdraw.")

Mr. Chamberlain calmly waited until the uproar had subsided and then said: "I bow with all respect, Mr. Speaker, to your decision. I withdraw everything I have said."

Then amid frequent ironical Irish cheers, he proceeded to denounce the "Campaign of slander" based upon his refusal to accept Mr. Stanhope's challenge to produce the letter he wrote Hawkesley, saying that if Sir Wm. Campbell-Bannerman or Sir Wm. Vernon Harcourt desired to see the letter, he would produce it with the greatest pleasure, as they were honorable members and honorable men. (Cries of "Order" and "Withdraw.")

Mr. Stanhope again leaped to his feet and called upon the speaker to intervene.

AS THE SPEAKER SAW IT. The speaker rejoined that he did not think what the colonial secretary had said imputed dishonorable conduct to the member for Burnley.

With regard to the allegations respecting his own association with Cecil Rhodes, he declared that from the time of the Jameson raid, he had had no communication, either direct or indirect with Mr. Rhodes on any subject connected with the South African policy.

Mr. Chamberlain said that in the light of recent events and of the utterances of President Kruger, he had come to the conclusion that war had always been inevitable although it was only of late that he had himself most reluctantly reached this view. He had hoped for peace and driven to maintain it, and up to a recent date he had believed that peace was possible. He had always been determined to secure justice for the British in South Africa and to maintain the paramountcy of Great Britain; but with these things assured, he desired peace. Whenever there had been a doubt as to President Kruger's motives the government had always given him the benefit of the doubt.

MUST PROTECT SUBJECTS. Turning to the principles involved in the war, the secretary went on to say: "If we maintain our existence as a great power in South Africa we are bound to show that we are willing and able to protect British subjects wherever they have suffered injustice and oppression. Great Britain must remain the paramount power in South Africa. I do not mean paramount in the German and Portuguese possessions but in the two republics and the British colonies."

Mr. Chamberlain then proceeded to discuss the question of racial animosity, denying that the feeling, which he said, was based in South Africa on contempt, would be increased by hostilities. Racial animosity existed be-

(Continued on eighth page.)

BUCKEYE STATE TOUR BEGINS

Democratic Demosthenes Greeted at Greenville by an Immense Throng. Was Escorted by Mounted Guard of Farmers.

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"THE PURCHASE OF MEN." "I dare the Republicans to defend the title by purchase of 10,000,000 of men," continued Mr. Bryan. "They assert the right to be in the Philippines by purchase and that too, after having a less price for human beings than we pay for hogs."

Let God choose between the definition of the declaration of independence and that which says all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Mr. Bryan said that when he first went to Cincinnati, in March, 1895, to advocate the cause of free silver, the first and foremost man to lend him assistance and sympathy was John R. McLean. "Under his guidance," continued Mr. Bryan, "our party in this state polled more votes prior to 1898 than we would have done otherwise and the only reason we did not carry the state in 1896 was that there were more votes counted than we or the law machinery supposed existed in the state."

BRYAN AT CELINA. CELINA, O., Oct. 19.—At Celina, the reception was extremely cordial. Mr. Bryan said in part: "This is one of the States in which an important campaign is being carried on this fall and this election is not only important because you choose your state officers this year, but because the verdict at the polls will be accepted as your opinion upon the issues which are now before the public. Some one has likened government to a corporation in which every citizen is a stockholder, which from time to time elects its directors. Taking that idea of government, the stockholders can select a new board of directors when they choose and the directors ought to protect the interests of the stockholders."

"The voter has a right to expect the officer to observe the conditions and promises of the platform. The farmer is careful in the selection of hired hand and ought to be in the selection of the public officer but it is said he allows himself to go to sleep and never awakens until the affairs of the nation have run up against a stone wall."

NO FARMER CAN AFFORD IT. "I think the time has come when no farmer can afford to be a Republican. I believe the farmer who supports that party stands in his own light and is doing himself an injustice. I believe members of the Republican party of an earlier date had a great reverence for Abraham Lincoln. Great changes within the party have taken place since then. Abraham Lincoln in 1859 wrote a letter in which he demonstrated that he believed in the man first and the dollar afterward. Since those days the party has placed the dollar first and the man afterward and, if you Repub-

licans want to change conditions, bring the party back to Lincoln's standard, you must employ an artist to draw the difference between Mark Hanna and Abraham Lincoln, employing the toboggan slide as a background. (Applause.)

"With Abraham Lincoln the man came first, with Mark Hanna, nothing is genuine unless the dollar mark is blown in the bottle. When the Republican party was organized it was with the idea that political convictions were stronger than party ties. The vicious dollar mark was not a consideration then."

Mr. Bryan then discussed the income tax and the revenue with the accompanying right to issue money, claiming the Republican party planned to retire the greenbacks in favor of the national banks, who have more influence than the common people, recalling the fact, as an evidence of inconsistency, that the Republican National Convention of 1888 denounced Cleveland for demonetizing silver.

HE MADE A PASSING REFERENCE TO GOV. ROOSEVELT'S APPEARANCE IN THE STATE IN FAVOR OF A LARGER STANDING ARMY, AND ASKED IF IT WAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING THE BLESSING OF ASSIMILATION, AND LIKENED OUR PHILIPPINE POLICY TO THE COLONIAL POLICY OF ENGLAND IN INDIA, SUGGESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE THE TITLE OF "PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES," QUEEN VICTORIA BEING RECOGNIZED AS "QUEEN OF ENGLAND AND EMPRESS OF INDIA." "Increased enterprise meant an increased army and increased taxation to support the theory of imperialism."

AT ST. MARY'S. St. Marys had a good crowd present to meet the special train. Mr. Bryan discussed the silver issue at some length and the matter of government by injunction. Handshaking and a few personal greetings were indulged in at Rockford, and Ohio City.

AT VAN WERT. VAN WERT, O., Oct. 19.—Mr. Bryan arrived at Van Wert at 4 o'clock. The visiting party were escorted in carriages to the court house through streets thronged with a cheering mass of humanity. Mr. Bryan in his address said: "I do not feel discouraged by the defeat of 1896, for I felt when the Republicans went into power responsibility went with them. I felt, if we were wrong in our position in 1896, we deserved to be defeated and if we were right our position would be vindicated by experience. I believe the last three years have vindicated the position taken in 1896. (Applause.)"

AT DEFIANCE. DEFIANCE, O., Oct. 19.—The Bryan party closed the first day of the Ohio tour in this city tonight before a large and enthusiastic audience in the Opera House. A street parade preceded the meeting. Ex-Congressman W. D. Hill, president of the Ohio Democracy, presiding, speaking when the Bryan party arrived, gave way to John R. McLean, the candidate for governor, who briefly addressed the meeting in introducing Mr. Bryan. Mr. Bryan said in reference to the introduction as the next president: "I only have one ambition, shared by every citizen and that is to leave this government to my children better than I found it. If the victory won by the Republicans in '96 injures to the good of the people I shall rejoice with every Republican. I expect to be here for many years. I save this for the benefit of those Republicans who help criticisms upon me."

BE CONCLUDED BY DEMONSTRATING THE ADMINISTRATION'S PHILIPPINE POLICY.

SEABOARD AIR LINE EXPANDS. System Will Soon be a Formidable Rival of the Coast Line. (By Telegraph.) NEW YORK, Oct. 19.—President Williams of the Seaboard Air Line states that the projected line of the Seaboard from Charleston to Augusta, and from Augusta to Athens, is now being surveyed. Several corps of engineers are engaged in the work, but nothing definite can be given out in regard to this new line until the preliminary work is completed. If this proposed line should be constructed the Seaboard would be the shortest line by about 100 miles between Washington and Tampa and Cuba, will have the great advantage of operating its own rails for the entire distance between Atlanta, Augusta, Savannah, Charleston and Athens, by shorter routes than any now existing between the important cities mentioned.

WEST VIRGINIA RAILROADS. President Williams also says that his system has recently contracted for four vestibuled trains which are to be used this winter by the Seaboard Air Line in its new through passenger service between New York, Jacksonville and Tampa.

The new route thus opened will be known as the "Florida and West Indies Short Line." The lines of this system in which the Florida Central Railway and the Georgia and Alabama Railway are included, will, on January 1, 1900, be completed through from Richmond to Jacksonville and Tampa and negotiations have been concluded with the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, from Richmond to Quantico, and with the Pennsylvania Railroad, extending from Quantico to New York, by which the trains of the Seaboard Air Line will enjoy the same rights and privileges between Washington as those enjoyed by the Atlantic Coast Line, and from Washington to New York, the Seaboard will be upon the same footing in the use of the tracks of the Pennsylvania as the Atlantic Coast Line, the Southern Railway and the Chesapeake and Ohio.

The contract with the Pennsylvania Railroad has been signed by the officials of both companies, and a final agreement has been reached with the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad for the use of that company's tracks between Richmond and Quantico, where connection will be made with the Pennsylvania Railroad.

STEEL MILLS TO COST \$5,000,000. CLEVELAND, O., Oct. 19.—Steel mills which will rival in size the Big Johnson plant at Lorain, O., will soon be established at Fairport Harbor, a few miles east of this city. The cost is said to be \$5,000,000. The products will be steel plates, slabs, bars and billets.