The Most Beautiful Half-Tone Newspaper ever offered to St. Louis readers. Next Sunday's Republic.

THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC.

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NINETY-SECOND YEAR. ST. LOUIS, MO., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1900. PRICE { In St. Louis, One Cent. Outside St. Louis, Two Cents. On Trains, Three Cents.

TAYLOR RETAINS A BATTALION.

Democratic Legislators Refuse to Return to Frankfort While Troops Remain.

GOVERNMENT AT LOUISVILLE.

Majority of Legislature Will Convene To-Day and Enact Legislation—Taylor's Claims to Governorship Ignored.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 11.—Although a battalion of Taylor soldiers have come from Frankfort, but white a large number of that kind remains there the Legislature will not meet in the legal capital of the State. The prospects are that for a week or two, and longer, if Taylor persists in his course, not only will the clerks of Appeals and Legislature and Governor and Attorney General be established here, but the minor State offices, after the contests are decided, will hold forth at Louisville, and no attempt will be made to dispossess of the offices and records of Frankfort except through the legal channels.

Both houses of the Legislature will meet in the Courthouse at noon tomorrow. The Senate will adopt the resolution approved by the House yesterday, and unless it a committee will be appointed to leave at once and go to Frankfort and report on conditions there, and if that committee reports that the presence of soldiers makes it unsafe for the Legislature to meet there the sessions in Louisville will be continued until there ceases to be any danger. The presence of militia can only be taken as a sign of danger, since there is no insurrection or resistance to authority or any other cause for the presence of the troops, which have been there for over the State [illegible] for which Taylor will be liable.

This week will be an important one for the Legislature. It has lost a great deal of time in its recess with the militia and in holding arrivals, and the session, limited by law to sixty days, is drawing to a close. There are many bills to be passed, some of which are urgent. A score or more of these were advanced to third reading yesterday and they will early be put upon their passage.

Taylor to Be Ignored.

Absolutely no attention will be paid to the Republican minority at Frankfort. If they do nothing more than adjourn from day to day. If arrests are attempted, failures will be met with. The Democrats are determined that attempts to interfere with the Legislature will not be tolerated.

The Democrats are confident that Judge Taft of the United States Court of Appeals will refuse to grant the injunction asked against the Contest Board. They have prepared their case by working night and day, and it remains to be seen from the evidence at Cincinnati whether that they have a single leg on which will make it impossible for any impartial judge to entertain the case. The Democrats are acting under the law of the State, and that can in no way be construed as a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment.

If, as is believed, the Federal Court refuses to grant the injunction, the State Board of Election Commissioners, sitting as a Contest Board, will on Tuesday take up the contests for all offices below Lieutenant Governor. The result in the Congressional district will be held as the same offices are made in the counties. The testimony will be reviewed and the attorneys given time to argue. If they desire it. The verdict of the Contest Board is final.

Will Appeal to Court.

In view of the issue of fraud and the impossibility of the Republicans to retain, it is easy to predict what the result will be. The new officers will qualify as soon as they are seated. It is an certain, however, that the Republicans will force to place, for the immediate will bring suit for possession and by the course open the Republicans.

On the other hand, if the Republicans are successful in having Judge Taft take cognizance of their cases, Taylor and Marshall, as Governor and Lieutenant Governor, will take a similar injunction and to prevent Beckham from acting as Governor and Sexton Carter as acting as President pro tem. of the senate. The petitions have already been issued. They were offered to Judge Evans in Louisville last week, but he refused to hear them. It was the intention to have brought those suits at the same time the others were filed, but it was deferred, as it would have been a violation of the agreement under which they entered.

Now that the agreement has been repudiated, it is not believed the Legislature will at this session permit an amendment or modification to the Goebel election law. Had the agreement been honored it would have been modified.

It is almost certain that an extra session of the Legislature will be called by Governor Beckham to meet in April and to last sixty days. At this session it is likely that the election law will come up for modification, and also some other important measures that cannot be reached at this session.

EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY.

Immense Reward Offered for Discovery of Goebel's Assassin.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 11.—Not a stone will be left unturned and no expense will be spared until the assassin of Governor Goebel is brought to justice. The word assassin is used because the authorities are firm in the belief that the work was the result of a conspiracy, and they are said to now be close on the trail which will lead to arrests of a man or men high in the councils of the Republican party.

There are three men under arrest, two in Louisville and one in Frankfort, one of the men is Sheriff J. L. Sutton of Whitley County, who was in Frankfort on the day Goebel was shot and who immediately fled. When an attempt was made to arrest him he leaped from the third story of the Victoria Hotel, but was not badly injured. He talked incoherently about the assassination, declaring he did not kill Goebel, and gave other attempts to lead the authorities to believe that he knew, at least, of the conspiracy.

The other suspect held in Louisville is Harlan Whittaker. He comes from Governor Taylor's home county of Butler, and was sent to Frankfort to become one of the bodyguards of Taylor. He slept in the executive building, from which the shot was fired, and was arrested as he ran from the building. When searched he was found to have three revolvers upon his person. He was at once removed to Louisville for safekeeping.

Goebel was shot with a rifle, and not with a pistol. This is a point in Whittaker's favor. He, for several years, conducted an itinerant shooting gallery. It was because of his ability to shoot well that he was sent to Frankfort to become one of the bodyguard of Taylor.

The third suspect is Lee Jones of Whitley County, a typical mountaineer. He was arrested only a few days ago, it is said he confessed a knowledge of a plot, and named a Republican leader as knowing who fired the shot, if he did not give the name of the assassin himself. Jones was one of the thousand armed mountaineers brought to Frankfort by Finley and Secretary of State Powers.

The Messrs. Goebel, the detectives and Colonel T. C. Campbell, the celebrated criminal lawyer of New York, who has been engaged by the Messrs. Goebel to take charge of the case, are convinced, as a result of its category of measurements, that the shot was fired from the first floor of the Executive building.

This floor contains three offices—that of the Governor, the private office of the public room known as the Secretary of State's office, and the private office of the Secretary of State. Both of these private offices open out from the public office of the Secretary of State. For a week before the assassination these rooms were occupied night and day by mountaineers and by Taylor's bodyguards. Just who was in there when the fatal shot was fired is not known, except for those who were there, for instantly after the shooting Taylor ordered out the militia and for an entire week the civil authorities were denied admission to the building.

From these circumstances the detectives are convinced of a plot and the theory is generally accepted from circumstantial evidence.

Private rewards, offered by people all over the State, now aggregate $[illegible]. Besides this it is the purpose of the Legislature this week to offer a reward of $[illegible]. With a reward of $[illegible] in prospect many detectives are on the scene, and Colonel William Pinkerton went to Frankfort to investigate the case.

As the detectives have figured it out, from statements that have been made, the plot was to kill three men—Goebel and Judges Hazelrigg and Hobson of the Court of Appeals.

By the killing of Hazelrigg and Hobson there would have been a Republican majority in the Court of Appeals, three Republicans and two Democrats.

TAYLOR'S LATEST MOVE.

Will Now Attempt an Appeal to the Federal Court.

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 11.—It is reported tonight that the Republicans will this week seek to bring the contest for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor before the Federal Court.

Former Governor Bradley, chief counsel for the Republicans in their application before Judge Taft to restrain the State Election Commissioners from proceeding with the contests of the minor offices, was in town this afternoon in communication with leading Republican lawyers.

The case involving the minor offices comes up to-morrow at Cincinnati, and it is believed the other cases will also be taken before Judge Taft, though it is not likely anything will be done until after Tuesday.

On that day application of the Democrats for an injunction to restrain Taylor from interfering with the Legislature will come up in the Circuit Court at Frankfort. The case has been continued from time to time by the Democrats, pending the peace negotiations. It is said a temporary injunction will be granted. The case will then be taken to the Court of Appeals, the State court of last resort. Upon whether or not an appeal to the Federal Court will be depends the Republican hope of relief from that quarter.

MAY CHANGE ITS NAME.

Another Rumor Concerning the L. & N. Railroad.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 11.—The Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, embracing lines from St. Louis to the Atlantic coast and from the Ohio River to the Gulf of Mexico, it is said, is soon to be known as the St. Louis, Nashville and New Orleans Railroad Company. The change of name is a point that has been considered by the directors of the company in connection with the contemplated removal of the general offices from this city to St. Louis and the transfer of the shops here to Nashville.

A gentleman prominently identified with the Louisville and Nashville said to-night that the bearing of the charter upon these questions had been carefully considered and that the charter contained no provisions requiring the company to maintain its general offices or shops at any point in Kentucky. He could not say how the franchise read as to the name of the company, but remarked that the name could easily be changed so as to have the new name cover all the lines controlled or owned outside of this State.

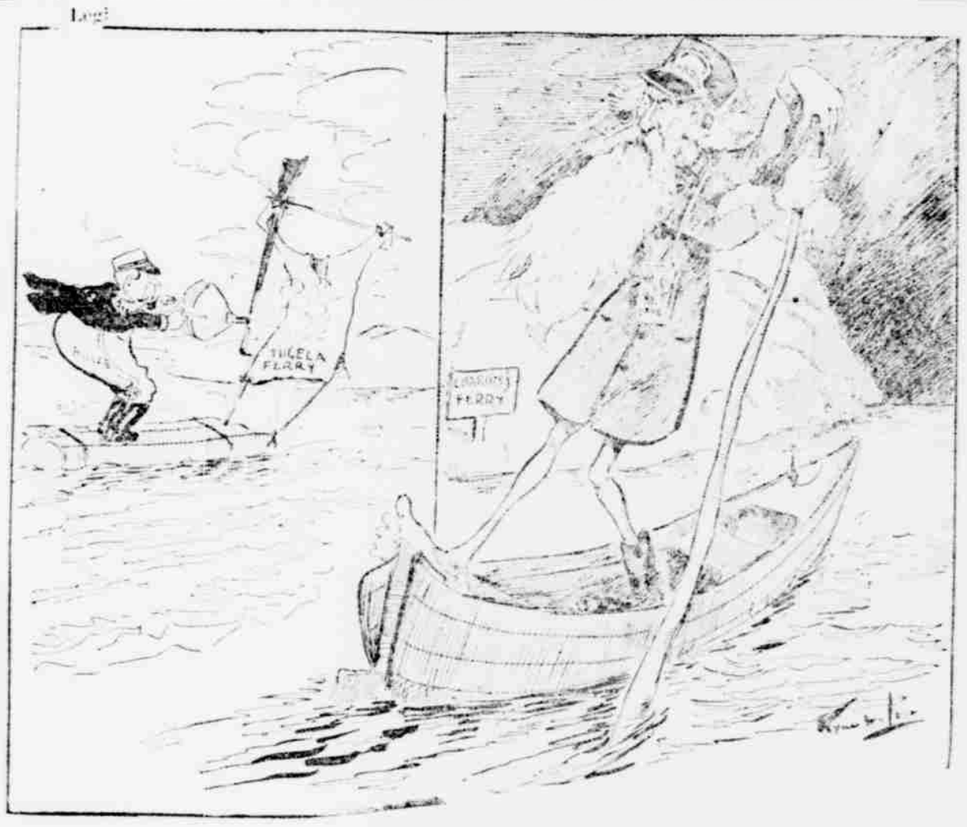
LEADING TOPICS —IN— TO-DAY'S REPUBLIC.

For Missouri—Cloudy and colder Monday, with cold wave in northeast portion; southerly, shifting to northwesterly, winds.

For Arkansas—Increasing cloudiness Monday; rain or snow and colder Tuesday; southerly, shifting to northwesterly winds.

For Illinois—Snow flurries and colder late Monday; increasing east to northeast winds; Tuesday partly cloudy and much colder.

Page.
1. Insurgents Shot Burning Arrows.
Mob Lynched Acquitted Man.
Boers Now on the Aggressive.
Taylor Retains a Battalion.
Shot While Seated at His Window.
2. Jury a Unit on Molineux's Guilt.
Chairman Jones Foresees Victory.
Says British Are Barbarous.
General Nelson's Eulogy of Lincoln.
Tennessee's Speech.
Australia in a Panic.
3. Territorial Form of Government.
Wall Street Funeral.
Railway News in Miniature.
Republicans Start to the Lost Feast.
4. General Sporting News.
Recovery and Fine Equal Favorites.
New Bowling Course.
Louisville Is Anxious.
His Only Minor Clear.
Curious Edmund Stewart.
5. Sermons and Services at the Churches.
Reception to Mar County.
Central Y. M. C. A. Meeting.
To Be Formerly Posted.
Sunday School Convention.
6. Editorial.
The Stage.
Additional Expressions From Editors.
Cuban Element Full of Fight.
7. Lead and Zinc Report.
Shot in the Head.
Sermon to Actors.
Father Senez Dead.
President McKinley's Guest.
9. 3 Funding Bonds Under Gold Bill.
10. Movement of Grain.
The Cotton Market.
Live Stock Markets.
11. Will Be Arraigned To-Day.
The Weather Bulletin.
12. Brooded Over Her Husband's Death.
Commission Wants Dangerous Powers.
Ohio Republican Clubs.
Attempted Train Robbery.
Indian Delegates Depart.



CHARON: "I THOUGHT I WAS THE ORIGINAL FERRYMAN."

INSURGENTS SHOOT BURNING ARROWS.

Destroy a Large Part of the Town of Albay, Terrorizing the Residents.

MAINTAIN A CONSTANT FIRE.

Guerrilla Warfare Continues South of Manila—Attempt to Ambush the American Force at Morong Province.

Manila, Feb. 11, 8:50 p. m.—Of late the insurgents in Albay Province, Luzon, have adopted harassing tactics against the forces which the Americans have garrisoned. They camp in the hills and maintain a constant fire upon the American outposts. When the troops sally against them they scatter, returning when the Americans retire.

They shoot burning arrows, and have thus burned a large part of the town of Albay. Indeed, most of the larger towns in that Province are practically deserted, except by the garrisons. Scarcely any of the inhabitants return to their homes. They are camping in the interior, and it is supposed that armed insurgents prevent them going back. It is reported that there is much suffering among them owing to lack of food. As a result of these conditions, the hemp business in that section is seriously hampered and ships going for cargoes are compelled to take chance of coaling to their loading. Hemp held in the interior is quite inaccessible.

Colonel Bell will take two regiments and a battery through the Provinces of North Camarines and South Camarines, going there on transports. Many insurgents retreated to that part of the Island from Cavite and Batangas Provinces. Another expedition will soon start to garrison towns along the north coast of the Island of Mindanao.

Guerrilla warfare continues south of Manila. Two attempts have been made to ambush the Americans. Colonel Schwan, while returning to Manila with his staff and an escort of a hundred cavalry from Pulangas, was attacked by the insurgents. The latter were dispersed, but five of the Americans were wounded.

Lieutenant Colonel Beacon, with six companies of the Forty-second Infantry, had a two hours' fight with General Pio del Pilar's command, which attempted to ambush the Americans along the trail through Morong Province, near the lake. Here the insurgents were dispersed, but the Americans had several wounded, among them a Captain.

General Bell is operating southward through Zambales Province with a small force.

Another expedition is proceeding northward from Subic. It is reported that the insurgent General Alejandro has recovered from his wound and has assembled a large force in that district.

The plague continues. Eight cases were reported last week among the natives and Chinese. There is no communication, however, and business and social life are undisturbed. Smallpox is prevalent among the natives along the railway, and in the towns on the northern coast. Two officers of the Thirty-sixth Infantry have died of the disease, and another officer and several soldiers have been stricken.

DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATURE.

Chicago Chronicle's Figures on the Illinois Situation.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 11.—The Chronicle tomorrow will say:

"Even the ultra conservative leaders of the Democratic party are now boasting that the next Legislature will be Democratic, despite the fact that McKinley carried it by 103,281, and that Floyd K. Whitmore escaped with a plurality of 4,000 over M. F. Dunlap, Democratic candidate for State Treasurer.

"Although the Democratic leaders have had little to say regarding candidates, legislative or State, they have been keeping tab on conditions in each of the fifty-one senatorial districts of the State and have received reports from several canvassers who are not taking their figures from dream books. The situation may be summed up as follows:

"House—Republicans sure, 69; doubtful, with chances favoring Republicans, 2. Total, 72. Democrats sure, 41; doubtful, with chances favoring Democrats, 7. Total, 48.

"Probable Democratic majority in the House, 9.

"Senate—Republican holdovers, 17; sure of election, 9. Total, 26. Democrat holdovers, 9; sure of election, 11; doubtful, in favor of Democrats, 5. Total, 25.

"Probable Republican majority in the Senate, 1.

"Joint Assembly—Republicans, 86; Democrats, 86. A Democratic majority of 8.

"The foregoing figures have been prepared by leading Democrats after a careful canvass and are regarded as conservative."

SHOT WHILE SEATED AT HIS WINDOW.

J. Schutz, a Wealthy Wine Grower Near Strattman, Victim of an Assassin's Bullet.

ASSAILANT IS AT LARGE.

Officers From Clayton Went to the Scene to Investigate the Affair—Motive of the Deed Is a Mystery.

A report reached Clayton last night that J. Schutz, a wealthy St. Louis County wine grower, 55 years old, was that night shot from ambush and probably mortally wounded while seated near a window reading a newspaper at his home on the Schutz road, five miles northwest of that city. Deputy Sheriff Albert Autenrieth was sent out to investigate the reported attempted assassination, but at a late hour last night had not returned.

Mr. Schutz is one of the best known German farmers and wine growers in the county. Who the would-be murderer could be or why the attempt on Mr. Schutz's life was made were regarded as mysterious. Mr. Schutz was well liked in the neighborhood of Strattman Post office, where his farm is located, and where he has lived for the last twenty-five years.

Shortly before Farmer Schutz's accustomed hour of retiring for the night he decided to scan the day's paper before lying down. As is the custom in many country homes the lamp had been placed near an uncurtained window. Through the darkness its rays could be seen from a distance of nearly a mile. Mr. Schutz seated himself at the window and proceeded to read the news of the day. His wife was also in the room, but was some distance away from the window.

Presently there was a flash seen in the yard and then a report and the next instant a bullet crashed through the window pane. Schutz sank to the floor without a groan, with the blood trickling from a wound in his head. His terrified wife sprang forward and lifted her husband to a position of comfort, at the same time calling for assistance. With the assistance of children she carried her husband to an adjoining room. At first it was thought that he had been instantly killed, but an examination revealed that he was still breathing. Messengers were dispatched for a doctor, after which they were sent to Clayton to notify the authorities there. A hurried search of the premises failed to reveal any clinking hammers.

Upon the arrival of Sheriff Autenrieth later the hunt for the mysterious assailant was commenced systematically under his direction.

It is feared that the bullet wound in Farmer Schutz's head will result fatally. From appearances, it is a rifle wound.

So far as is known, Mr. Schutz has no malicious enemies, nor is there any feud existing between him and any of his neighbors.

HAVANA SEWER TANGLE.

Dady and Taylor Concessions May Conflict.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

Havana, Cuba, Sunday, Feb. 11.—(Copyright, 1899, by the New York Herald Company.)—Michael J. Dady had a conference with Governor Leonard Wood yesterday morning regarding the legal aspect of the contract with the City of Havana for building sewers. Another conference was arranged for to-day.

Mrs. Taylor, widow of the contractor who had a concession from the city under Spanish rule to pave and flag all the streets, has presented her case to General Wood and has asked permission to continue the work, which was taken out of her hands by the military authorities a year ago. She holds authority from the former Council involving the expenditure of nearly $[illegible] to complete certain work left unfinished and has also a claim against the city for $[illegible] due on other streets.

The Taylor contract has been in operation since 1891. It is a local tangle for General Wood to unravel and suits for damages are threatened in instances where the military authorities have ripped streets which Taylor held orders to complete. It is also said to conflict with the Dady concession.

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY.

Occasion to Be Fittingly Observed in New York.

New York, Feb. 11.—In honor of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln much of the business of New York will be suspended to-morrow. All the banks, exchanges and public schools will be closed. Many banquets and receptions will be held in the evening. Chief among them will be the fourteenth annual banquet of the Republican Club at Delmonico's. Senator Chauncey M. Depew, president of the club, will be toastmaster.

MOB LYNCHED ACQUITTED MAN.

Self-Confessed Murderer Hanged in the Streets of Port Arthur, Tex.

ROPE BROKE ON FIRST TRIAL.

Victim Asked for Chewing Tobacco While a New One Was Being Brought—Quiet, but Determined Lynchers.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Port Arthur, Tex., Feb. 11.—After being acquitted by the District Court at Beaumont, Bill Sweeney, the confessed murderer of Gus Kambach, was hanged by a mob in this city at 1 o'clock this morning.

Two days ago Sweeney killed Kambach in the little shanty in which they lived. They had had trouble in a saloon, and, after going home, Sweeney stabbed Kambach in the throat with a small Indian sword. Death was almost instantaneous.

At that time a number favored hanging Sweeney on the spot, but Deputy Marshal Lucas succeeded in get him out of town and into the county jail at Beaumont in safety.

It was reported that Sweeney had threatened to return and settle old scores with other parties in Port Arthur, and consequently there was a crowd of the depot when the 12:30 a. m. train arrived to see if he returned, although it was not expected that there would be any trouble if he did.

Almost the first man off the train was the accused murderer. As he stepped down two men standing near took him by the arm and quickly marched him around the corner to where six or eight men were in waiting, and these were all who really had anything to do with the affair.

A crowd of perhaps sixty followed them to where the lynching took place at the corner of Fifth and Dallas streets. Here a rope was passed over the guy of an electric light pole and Sweeney was quickly pulled into the air with a running bowline around his throat. The first attempt failed, as the rope parted. On the second trial it held, and, after a few minutes, the rope was tied and Sweeney left hanging there till 8 o'clock, when he was cut down, and, after an inquest, was given a pauper's burial. Throughout the whole affair everything was done with absolute quietness.

Persons living within fifty feet of where the lynching occurred knew nothing of it till this morning. Sweeney took it all so cool that doubts were raised as to his sanity. It is said that just before he was pulled up the first time he requested those standing near to make a good job of it.

Several times while waiting for the party who went after a new rope to return he asked for a chew of tobacco, once even after the noose was around his throat. Sweeney's record up to the time of his murdering Kambach was bad, and he was looked upon as a good man to let alone.

BERLIN BANKER ARRESTED.

Serious Charge Placed Against Herr Adolph Sternberg.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

Berlin, Feb. 11.—(Copyright, 1899, by W. R. Hearst.)—One of the wealthiest bankers of Germany, Herr Adolph Sternberg, has been arrested by the Berlin police, charged with enticing young girls from their homes. The arrest has created a profound sensation on account of the high standing of the millionaire banker in Berlin. He is prominently identified with religious and charitable organizations and has been regarded as a model of moral manhood.

At the preliminary investigation before the police magistrate today bail was offered in the sum of [illegible] marks, but it was refused, as the inquiry brought out the allegation that Herr Sternberg had sent an emissary to New York and commissioned him to bring young girls to Berlin. Letters from New York were read in court, and seemed to confirm the testimony of the witnesses in Berlin.

The police intimate that other wealthy Berlin business men are implicated in similar scandalous transactions.

MUST RECEIVE MACRUM.

Senator Mason Points Out the President's Course.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Washington, Feb. 11.—In an interview today concerning the non-official reception of Former Consul Macrum at the State Department, Senator Mason said that Macrum must be received by the President, whether or not he is still in the Government. The Senator further said that Macrum must be recognized as having been the Government's representative in the Transvaal before leaving there, and that if he bears any messages from Kruger or others, the State Department must receive them.

BOERS NOW ON THE AGGRESSIVE.

Advance Within an Hour's March of Chieveley.

OUTFLANK BULLER.

The British Outposts in Rendsburg District Driven In.

PATROLS CAPTURED.

Roberts Addresses the Highlanders at Modder River.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

Pietermaritzburg, Sunday, Feb. 11.—(Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company.)—The Boers have occupied Bluff's farm, on this side of the Tugela, and not more than an hour's ride from Chieveley.

They have turned the Intombi into a hospital. On this farm are hills which command both Frimes over the Tugela and Forts Wylie and Molineux, and from which a view of Estcourt and part of Ladysmith may be obtained.

The news of Buller's retreat across the river and also of the Boer advance through Zululand has had a depressing effect here.

People are wondering whether the objective of the Boer move in Zululand is Greytown, with the idea of commandeering disaffected Dutch and drawing the British forces from the Tugela.

Everybody now expects Greytown will next be attacked by the Boers, as they are already within a day's ride of that place.

TO OUTFLANK BULLER.

Durban, Feb. 11.—It is rumored here that General Joubert is marching with a column of 5000 men to outflank General Buller.

BRITISH LOSE FIFTEEN MEN.

Rensburg, Feb. 11.—A picket of the Yeomen Rifles, after holding a post for some hours yesterday, were forced to retire, the Boers getting on a hill and firing down upon them. Three were slightly wounded, one is missing and one escaped unhurt.

Out of a patrol from Thaufontein, under Captain Hamilton, composed of eight Tasmanians and eight of General French's scouts, only two Tasmanians and three scouts returned. The others were captured by the Boers.

DRIVING IN PICKETS.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

Naauwpoort, Saturday, Feb. 10.—(Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company.)—The Boers have developed great activity around Colesberg. They drove in the pickets at Slaster's Nek and Hobirk's Farm. An attack on their camps is not anticipated, however. The Boers have been observed massing at Colesberg.

ACTIVE AT KIMBERLEY.

London, Feb. 11 (Midnight.)—The War Office has just issued the following dispatch, dated today, from the General commanding at Cape Town:

"Telegraphic reports from Rensburg that on Friday, February 9, the Boers tried to turn the right flank, but were beaten off. Position maintained. Casualties small.

"Kimberley reports that the Boer fighting force was apparently increased on Wednesday, February 7. Next day the Boers commenced the construction of trenches to the east, nearly parallel to the Glasis, and 400 yards from the Premier Mine.

"A native reported that he accompanied some Boers who left Mafeking for Kimberley, carrying with them a 6-inch gun and a quick-firing field gun. The former opened fire on Kimberley.

"Otherwise the situation is unchanged."

ROBERTS AT THE MODDER.

Modder River, Feb. 10.—Lord Roberts is here. Upon appearing before the troops on Friday he was enthusiastically cheered. He visited the camp of the Highland Brigade this morning and complimented General MacDonald and his men on the steady conduct at Koedoesberg Drift.

The Highlanders returned last night. Before retiring they found the bodies of twelve Boers. They believe the losses of the enemy were heavier than those of the British, because it is known that in addition to the dead Boers found, several had been buried.

Apparently the Boers have brought all their big guns from Mafeking to shell Kimberley.

Our naval guns shelled Magersfontein today, for the Boer guns were silent. It is supposed that the enemy have withdrawn their artillery. They are blowing up the permanent way beyond Morton Siding.

The Boers still man their trenches, but their numbers are apparently reduced. The bulk of their force has gone to Kimberley or toward our flank.

BOERS PRESSING BRITISH.

Rensburg, Saturday, Feb. 10.—The Boers outflanked the British here yesterday. A considerable force of the enemy was threatening the British communications between Rensburg and Sunnyfontein, twelve away, and, during a reconnoissance by some Inniskillings and twenty Australians from Sunnyfontein, the Boers were discovered attempting to get a gun in a position to shell the British camp.

The Australians having come into very close contact with the enemy, took cover under a hill about 900 yards from the camp. Thereupon the Boers took up a position with a view of preventing their retirement. Some burghers got within 200 yards of the Australians and called upon them to surrender. They replied by fixing bayonets and shouting defiance.

Sergeant Edwards and two men made a dash, and, all clear under a hot fire, passed a number of hills held by the Boers and brought word that the Australians were safe, and confident of holding the enemy at bay and of getting out after dark, which eventually they did.

The Inniskillings prevented the enemy getting their guns in position. The Australians lost one man killed and three wounded.

The convoys have been successfully gotten to Sunnyfontein to-day, the British escorts having had several brushes with parties of from twenty to thirty Boers infesting the region. Lieutenant Colonel Page, with a section of artillery and 150

Continued on Page Two.

GENERAL WAR NEWS.

The Boers have assumed the offensive.

They have crossed the Tugela on Buller's right flank and are within an hour's march of Chieveley.

Their flying column through Zululand is threatening Buller's line of communication farther south.

One dispatch says that Joubert is marching with 6000 men to outflank Buller.

In the Colesberg and Barkly districts the Boers suddenly have become very active. They are threatening the communications of the British, owing to outposts and several British patrolling parties have been captured.

The garrison at Kimberley has been increased. That town has been cutting loose from for a month.

Roberts has reached the Modder River and it is practically certain that French also is there to assume command of the cavalry division.

SITUATION SUMMARIZED.

Boers May Compel Buller to Abandon His Present Effort.

BY MILTON V. SNYDER.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

London, Monday, Feb. 12.—(Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company.)—The fact that the War Office, up to the present moment, has not issued any message received from Buller in regard to his retirement across the Tugela has aroused a feeling of apprehension in some quarters that the Naval commander is too highly engaged in meeting a Boer flank movement to send any dispatches.

There are indications that the Boers have assumed, temporarily, at least, the offensive, and are moving upon the British right flank and line of communication, plainly the best means of compelling the abandonment of the effort to relieve Ladysmith by the Sattlefield-school tactics.

At Inkhwa Mountain, the Boers have long held a threatening position upon the British right. They seem now to have pushed forward from it to a point described as Bluff's Farm, "but an hour's ride from Chieveley," as one dispatch has it.

This place probably is a little to the southwest of Ibhlawe, since it commands both the road and the railway bridges at Colenso. At the same time word comes from Natal of a further advance of the Zululand force of Boers, apparently developing a flank movement in the direction of Greytown. This would threaten the British line of communication far to the southward. It is quite likely that General Buller will have to leave White to hold out as best he can, while he protects his own position.

The report also comes from Durban that General Joubert with 6000 Boers has already started to swing around the British flank.

If this story be true, and there is no information to the contrary, the coming week promises to be one of great anxiety for England. Time for the Boers have been able to hold the British at every point. How they will fare upon taking the offensive remains to be seen.

The Boers at Colesberg are unusually active. So far from being hemmed in, they are themselves threatening the British line of communication. As the dispatches from that station to Cape Town are signed "Clements" it is probable that General French has gone to Lord Roberts to take command of the cavalry division. Roberts's arrival at Modder River is regarded as an indication that the commander-in-chief is surveying the situation with the possible intention of making his advance into the Orange Free State from that point.

The Boers' pressure on Kimberley is reported by Colonel Kekewich, the British commander, to be increasing. It is said the guns which were formerly at Mafeking have been moved down to Kimberley; that a 6-inch gun has opened fire on the town. The Boer forces show an increase and they are moving their intrenchments forward.

KIMBERLEY ON HORSEFLESH.

From the Cape press is learned a fact which has been carefully cut out of telegrams by the censor. The besieged town took to horseflesh in January. Plainly it is nearing the end of its food and, consequently, its resistance. This may explain the concentration of so large a British force at Modder River.

A significant sentence in a daily news dispatch from Cape Town strengthens the belief that Roberts is about to advance. The message states that every available truck of the Western Railway system has been secured by the military authorities.

Goldland was much excited Saturday night by the persistent rumor that Ladysmith had fallen, with the result that large numbers of members were at their clubs early yesterday. There was no confirmation of the rumor or, indeed, news of any kind, which condition of affairs was interpreted by the optimistic as good news.

The hopeful feeling which, curiously enough, filled the Stock Exchange at its close on Saturday was reflected in nearly all remarks heard yesterday, and the dull London Sunday is a day on which an Englishman sums up his ideas and gives expression to his thoughts. I gathered from these expressions that unbounded faith is felt in the present move of Roberts and Kitchener, which all appear to assume has begun.

What is more, General Buller is not blamed, but trusted. What I hear over and over again is the statement that Buller must keep hanging away at the Boers, keep them working at mounting guns and trenching and inflict as much loss upon them as possible, meanwhile saving his men to the utmost. This is not the kind of talk which was heard three months ago, but it is what one hears to-day. It's the sober opinion of the nation, formed after repeated reverses.

CHINA'S DEFENSE POLICY.

Prepared to Resist Foreign Territorial Aggrandizement.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Decrees issued by the Empress Dowager of China, which have just reached the State Department, show that a new policy of defence against foreign territorial aggrandizement has been adopted by the Pekin government.

These decrees further show that, though it was not generally known here, the relations between China and France several months ago were so strained that the Empress Dowager apprehended hostilities with the latter Power.

Those acquainted with Chinese affairs are disposed to regard the decrees as significant of the belief of the Empress and her advisers that China is sufficiently prepared to resist by force of arms all further aggressions of foreign Powers upon Chinese territory, and that her future policy will be in line with his view. In fact one decree goes to the extent of empowering officials to declare war upon any foreign Power attempting to seize territory belonging to the jurisdiction under their control.