THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC.

NINETY-SECOND YEAR. ST. LOUIS, MO., TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1900. PRICE. {In St. Louis, One Cent. Outside St. Louis, Two Cents. On Trains, Three Cents.}

MAKING THE ISLAND PART OF THE UNION.

Senator Davis's Resolution Extends the Constitution to Puerto Rico—Double Purpose.

PHILIPPINES NOT INCLUDED.

Congressman Bartholdt Tells the President the People of His District Favor the Puerto Rico Tariff Bill.

The Republic Bureau,
14th St. and Pennsylvania Ave.

Washington, March 5.—Representative Bartholdt called at the White House to-day and had a talk with the President about the Puerton Rican tariff bill. In spite of the protests from all parts of the country against levying a tariff against citizens of the United States living in Puerto Rico, Mr. Bartholdt assured the President that the people of his district in St. Louis are in favor of the bill recently passed by the House. After his conversation, Mr. Bartholdt said:

"I told the President that the people of my district would uphold the Republicans in imposing a tariff on Puerto Rican products. If we allow Puerto Rican goods to come in free we must do the same by the Philippines. With the Philippines having free markets in this country, capital would go there, employ cooly labor at 10 cents a day, send goods back to this country in competition with our own manufactures and kill American labor. This we will not have."

Republicans Embarrassed.

The Puerto Rican tariff is giving the Republicans more trouble now than they had before the bill passed the House. Immediately after the President's arrival from New York this morning, Payne and Dalzell, leading Republicans of the Ways and Means Committee, were summoned to the White House for a conference. This was of an hour's duration, and when they left the President's room both gentlemen declined to repeat what had taken place in the conference.

There is now a mutual effort on the part of the administration and the House leaders to shift responsibility for this tariff act. The representatives of the administration are quoting the President's message to Congress as proof that he desired free trade for Puerto Rico with the United States and was opposed to the bill. The Republicans who voted for the bill against their own judgment insist that they did so at the President's solicitation. Certainly they make a strong showing of proof to this effect.

Speaker Henderson appealed in the Republican caucus for the support of every Republican for the measure, saying the President would take it as a party disaster and humiliation if the bill failed.

Watson of Indiana and other doubtful Republicans try to square themselves with offended constituents by claiming they voted for the measure under appeal from the President and coercion of the party caucus. The administration men realize that this puts the President in the attitude of having recommended free trade in his message to Congress and afterwards sent verbal requests to doubtful Republicans asking for support of the tariff bill. Naturally, they resent it; but thus far they have not successfully refuted the statements of Messrs. Watson and others of their own party.

Proposes Free Trade.

The Senate Republicans now are wrestling with the embarrassments of the question. Chairman Davis of the Foreign Affairs Committee to-day hit upon what he regards as a happy solution of the problem. Mr. Davis's plan is an amendment to the House bill providing free trade for Puerto Rico by declaring that certain provisions of the Constitution are applicable to that island. Mr. Davis believes that this would simplify the handling of expected tariff complications with the Philippines.

If adopted, he believes his amendment would be a binding declaration that the Constitution applies only to such new territory as Congress specifies and that this would leave the Philippine tariff question to come up hereafter on its own merits. This is an illustration of the straits to which Republican leaders have been reduced.

Beyond the Puerto Rican question looms constantly trouble to follow when the Philippines are to be legislated for. If free trade is fixed for that island, the Republican leaders fear that the expansionists in their own party will favor abandoning the Philippines rather than giving free trade with the United States to the Filipinos.

Senator Davis also proposes a new section as follows:

"For the purpose of this act, the following provisions of the Constitution of the United States are hereby extended and made applicable to Puerto Rico:

"The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States, but all duties, imports and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

"No per capita or other direct tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration hereinbefore directed to be taken.

Davis's Amendment.

"No tax or duty shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one State over those of another; nor shall vessels bound to or from one State be obliged to enter, clear or pay duties in another."

The amendment is as follows:

"And it is hereby enacted, that all duties, imports and excises imposed or levied, laid or collected, by Congress upon Puerto Rico or any products or business thereof, or in relation to said Puerto Rico, shall be uniform with all duties, imports and excises laid and collected throughout the United States.

"That no per capita or other direct tax shall be laid by Congress in or upon Puerto Rico unless in proportion to the census or enumeration directed to be taken by the Constitution.

"That no tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from Puerto Rico.

"That no preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of Puerto Rico over those of any State of the Union, nor shall vessels bound to or from Puerto Rico be obliged to enter, clear or pay duties in any State of the Union.

"Nor shall any preference be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of any State of the Union over those of Puerto Rico, nor shall vessels bound to or from the ports of any State of the Union be obliged to enter, clear or pay duties in any port of Puerto Rico."

Yell County Republicans.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Little Rock, Ark., March 5.—The Democratic primaries held in Yell County Saturday resulted as follows: United States Senator, James H. Berry; Congressman, C. C. Reid; Prosecuting Attorney, Jesse Hart; Representatives: J. W. Clark, J. A. Taylor; Judge, M. C. Black; Circuit Clerk, R. H. Docus; County Clerk, G. W. Hunnicut; Sheriff, J. M. Cole; Assessor, J. P. Briggs.

DEMOCRATIC CLANS AT KANSAS CITY.

Intense Party Interest Displayed in the State Central Committee Meeting To-Day.

RIVAL CONVENTION CITIES.

St. Louis Delegation Finds Kansas City's Ice-Coated Kopjes Untenable—Speculation Regarding the Committee's Course.

BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.

Kansas City, Mo., March 5.—Despite execrable weather, this has been a busy day for the visiting and local politicians. The Democratic State Committee will meet at 11 o'clock to-morrow at the Baltimore Hotel. At the same time the Democratic pramaries all over the city will be running full blast. There is a municipal ticket, from Mayor down, to be nominated, and a three-cornered fight is on between Thomas H. Shelly, James H. Reed and A. O. Schueler for the chief prize. Meantime, the Democratic committee will be wrestling with the problem of how many conventions shall be called and when and where they will be held.

To-night it looks like a toss of a penny might decide whether there will be two or three conventions; also whether the State nominating or the delegate convention will be held first. Up to the middle of the afternoon indications pointed to a consolidation of these two conventions, with the State Nominating Convention being given the right-of-way. To-night fully half the committeemen say they really do not know what is best to do in the premises.

It seems certain, however, that the Judicial Convention will be held after the National Convention and the State Nominating and Delegate Convention some time in June.

There is the hottest kind of a fight on between rival cities for the conventions, and it is possible this will result in three conventions. Jefferson City, Kansas City, Sedalia and St. Joseph are working like beavers and each wants the lion's share. The St. Joseph and Jefferson City pushers do not hesitate to say it is very bad taste for Kansas City to try to shake the Christmas tree after receiving such a present as the Democratic National Convention.

The Kaw people answer this by saying their town offers superior advantages.

The question of selecting convention cities is having a good deal to do with settling other matters. All the hotels have full registers of visiting Democrats. Most of the candidates are here, and the remainder, with few exceptions, are expected in the morning.

Less than half a dozen of the thirty committeemen failed to show up during the day. David A. Ball, candidate for Governor, had not been seen about the hotels up till to-night, but former Congressman Dockery was among the early arrivals and put in a busy day. Most of his friends greeted him as "Governor" Dockery.

Among the other candidates present during the day were the following: Albert O. Allen of New Madrid, T. M. Bradbury of Cole and F. L. Pitts of Monroe, for Auditor; E. C. Crow of Jasper, Attorney General; Noah M. Given of Cass, Judge of the Supreme Court; Lieutenant Governor A. H. Bolte of Franklin, State Treasurer; George W. Trigg of Ray and Colonel O. F. Guthie of St. Louis, Railroad Commissioners; Sam B. Cook of Audrain, Secretary of State; Judge W. W. Wood of Johnson and Judge H. C. Timmons of Barton, Judge of the Kansas City Court of Appeals.

The night trains brought in many more and the last stragglers are due at 8 o'clock a. m.

St. Louisans Present.

At roll call this evening the following St. Louisans answered: Harry B. Hawes, Colonel Ed. Butler, O. P. Mallard, W. C. Atmore, James J. Butler, Thomas W. Ward, Judge James McCaffrey, Charles P. Higgins, Kid Sheridan, Colonel O. F. Guthrie, R. P. Thompson, Colonel James C. Snell, Morton Jourdan, Judge Kilber, William Flynn, Henry Quellmanz.

Among others present were Major Harvey W. Salmon of Clinton; J. W. Armstrong of Pulaski, who will likely be added to the State Committee to fill the vacancy in the Eighth District; State Senator John F. Morton of Ray; Henry E. Warren of Pulaski; Dick Booth, J. H. Edwards, W. H. Hassett, Colonel Paul R. Moore, E. T. Orear, Colonel Al Morrow, L. J. Hall and J. D. Stark of Jefferson City; Judge Hall of St. Joseph; J. D. Allen of Butler; R. T. Bailey of Cass; Colonel J. H. Chinn of Platt.

"You may say the meeting of the State Committee will be lively," said Chairman Sam B. Cook. "There has not been so much interest taken in a meeting of the committee in years. There is sharp rivalry among the cities seeking the convention, and this, in a measure, is likely to determine whether two or three conventions will be held. It is my idea the meeting of the committee will be open. I believe its deliberations will be harmonious, but do not care to hazard a guess as to dates and locations of the conventions."

Sedalia was a little slow in presenting her claim for one of the conventions. It was not until to-night that a delegation arrived in quest of such a prize. It was headed by W. D. Steele, O. M. Barnett and Thomas Mitchim.

"We are after one of the conventions and will get it," said Mr. Barnett.

Jefferson City Delegation.

Jefferson City reached here first and put in some hard work with a pretty big delegation, headed by the following committee from the Commercial Club: Judge A. M. Hough, chairman; Perry Rader, John R. Greene, Ed R. Hogg, Ben G. Veith, W. J. Chambliss and George W. Hobbs. They want the State nominating convention. If it is consolidated with the delegate convention, so much the better.

St. Joseph put in a similar bid, although her delegation did not arrive until to-night. There are more than 150 of them. Among those comprising the delegation, are: F. F. Harl, Colonel J. W. Boyd, M. M. Crandall, A. W. Brewster, Judge Thomas J. Porter, A. J. Enright, Police Commissioners Walter Robinson, John Trice and Frank Freytag.

Few members of the committee knew until to-day that Kansas City would seek any of the State conventions.

But the Kaw town entered the contest at a breakneck pace, and has already succeded in giving Jefferson City and St. Joseph a good scare. The opinion is generally expressed to-night that if three conventions are decided upon, one will go to the three competing cities offering the best accommodations. The State Nominating Convention is considered the best by the rivals. Unless there is a decided change of sentiment to-morrow the State Nominating Convention will be held quite early in June, but whether before or after the Delegate Convention is yet an unsolved problem. With one or two exceptions, all the candidates for State offices favor a convention much earlier than usual. Any time between May and the middle of June would suit them.

The St. Louisans and those who left Union Station with them last night came in this morning over the Missouri Pacific, Burlington, Wabash and Chicago and Alton. At 7 o'clock, when the first train reached the depot, it was raining, chilly and murky, and the streets and pavements were a glare of ice. The only reception committee consisted of cabmen. None of the St. Louisans had thought of bringing alpenstocks with them, such as are used in the Alps, and none were provided with skates, the latter being an oversight which two or three measurably corrected later in the day.

Major O. F. Guthrie, candidate for Railroad Commissioner, was the first to venture on the ice field, and he had not taken two steps until he received a hard fall. Colonel Ed Butler made some earnest remarks about the topography of Kansas City and ordered a hack. He said he would rather trust himself in the hands of a hackman than to risk his standing on the ice. His example was followed and the cabmen reaped a harvest.

Untenable Kopjes.

All day and well into the night the visitors slid over the streets and kopjes of Kansas City. Sometimes it was a "shoot the chutes" ride, with a friendly puddle of water to check the shooter at the terminus, and again many clear falls were scored. Fortunately no one was seriously injured.

The Kansas City politicians were too busy looking after their primaries to pay much attention to the visitors. Only a few of them called at the hotels to explain the cause of the absence of their fellow-politicians.

"It's nice of you Kansas City fellows," said Kid Sheridan of St. Louis, in a spirit of fun, "to fix things so we can vote while we are here. Few cities would have been so thoughtful."

Ben Brady and Tom Barrett, St. Louis members of the committee, did not come in with the others. They are due in the morning. It was reported during the day that they would make an effort to induce the State Committee to issue an order or something of the kind with a view of saving their old organization in the City Committee. Two-thirds of the members of the State Committee have said no such a proposition will be entertained for a minute.

O. P. Mallard, secretary of the Jefferson Club, spent the day endeavoring to obtain suitable hotel quarters for the club during the National Convention. He believes fully 400 members of the club will attend. He will continue his investigation to-morrow, and hopes to have some good offers to submit to his club at its next meeting.

Favor Three Conventions.

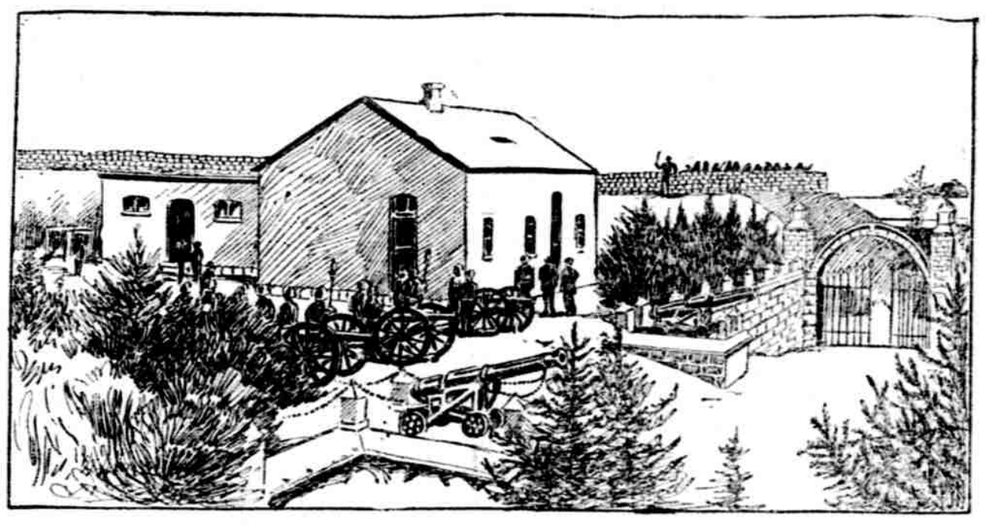
All the candidates for State offices in the city held a meeting at the Midland Hotel to-night to discuss the situation regarding the number of conventions to be held. With but one opposing, it was decided to advise the committee to call three conventions and ask that the State Nominating Convention take precedence. Colonel John A. Knott, candidate for Secretary of State, said he was opposed to departing from precedent and thought the State Nominating Convention should follow the Delegate Convention. No other candidates present concurred in this view.

The expression of the meeting was asked by a number of committeemen, and it will have an effect on the committee's decision. It is now conceded the State Nominating Convention will be held first.

Speaking of the situation, one of the candidates said: "It seems evident there will be a bitter contest over the election of national delegates-at-large between several aspirants."

The prospects now are that the State Nominating Convention will be called for the first week in June, the Delegate Convention about two weeks later, and the Judicial Convention after the National Convention.

C. B. OLDHAM.



BOER FORT AT BLOEMFONTEIN.

JUDGE HARMON'S PLAIN TALK AT THE DINNER TO TAFT.

Pointed Out Mistakes in Handling the Philippines Question and Summarized Difficulties Before the New Commissioner—Judge Taft Says He Is Against Expansion.

Cincinnati, O., March 5.—The complimentary dinner given to-night at the Queen City Club to Judge William H. Taft, the recently appointed President of the Philippine Commission, by his friends and neighbors was unique in its elegance and in its good will. The hundred substantial citizens who took this method of bidding farewell to their friend included the representative men of Cincinnati.

M. E. Ingalls, president of the Big Four Railroad Company, presided as toastmaster. After reading a letter of regret from Secretary of War Root, who was unable to attend, and after speaking in a happy vein of Judge Taft and his great mission, he introduced Judge William R. Day, late Secretary of State, who spoke of the negotiation of the treaty of peace with Spain.

Judge Day was followed with the closest interest. The heartiest applause was given to his assertion that the aim of the United States is not to exploit trade in the Philippines, but to serve the interests of those islands.

Governor George K. Nash followed Judge Day. Judge Judson Marmon was next introduced.

Action vs. Traditions.

Judge Judson Harmon, who was Attorney General under the last Cleveland administration, and whose association with Judge Taft at the Cincinnati bar has been contemporaneous, created a sensation in his opening sentence, though it was understood the company had not been chosen with the view of political harmony. Judge Harmon, in part, said:

"If you had met to approve the general course of the Government with respect to the Philippines, I should not be here. For a hundred years we contented ourselves with words of sympathy for peoples struggling, as we once struggled, for freedom and independence. Here for the first time an opportunity came to help in such a struggle without breaking our settled policy. We joined ranks with the native patriots against the common enemy. Whether any one made or was authorized to make promises to them is of no consequence. Our history and principles are a perpetual promise; and no one will deny that when the Filipinos joined forces with us, they believed, and we knew they believed, that success would mean the fulfillment of their hopes.

"When we came to terms of peace, it was our duty to put an end to the claims of Spain. As to all the territory, except a few square miles, these were the barest of pretensions, but Spain's need and others' greed might make a speculative asset of them to the injury of our allies. This was the only possible justification for the direction to our commissioners to purchase these claims, and we naturally expected some declaration of trust. So did our allies.

Not the People's War.

"But it soon turned out that instead of buying off the King of Spain, the Government bought him out and proposed to realize on the investment. Our only real war followed—a war which a word would have avoided if our Government had been willing to say it, and whose victories aroused no gladness in our people like those over Spain. The Government got absolutely nothing by the treaty with Spain, except color of title to a small part of the territory and consequent color of right to make war on the inhabitants, without action by Congress.

"Whatever it now holds (save what it got by treaty with the Sultan of Sulu), it has acquired by conquest from them and not otherwise, and it is still engaged in perfecting and extending such conquest. We now hear the usual plea of the doers of doubtful things—'The deed is done; it is too late to discuss it.'

"It is never too late to retrace a misstep; to right or undo a wrong. If the people shall decide that no nation is good enough to rule another nation without the other nation's consent; if they shall remember what it cost us to cast out the heresy that the great principles of liberty did not apply to black men, and shall refuse to re-embrace it as to the brown ones; if they shall conclude that this country cannot long exist part vassal and part free, as they found it could not part slave and part free; then there will be no difficulty in doing what we ought to have done in the beginning—leave the Filipinos to manage their own affairs and serve notice on the world that they are under our protection. That is how it may be settled soon. It may take long. As it involves right and wrong, it will never be settled until it is settled right.

"Meantime, there are certain duties for which we are responsible. One is to provide a government for those islands. However strongly he may disapprove the course which has led to this necessity, no citizen has a right to withhold his aid and support.

Law of the Situation.

"The situation is very peculiar. On the ratification of the treaty whatever territory in fact belonged to Spain became the territory of the United States. The military authority of the President ceased. As the Government has chosen to refer the title to all the territory it holds to the treaty with Spain, the President must treat it all alike as part of our national domain, and none of it as enemy's country. Congress has failed to act in the matter, so the President is compelled to continue as a de facto government that which he has established under his military power. It is either that or anarchy. His right to make regulations in the nature of laws is subject to grave doubt, but his right to provide agencies for enforcing the laws is clear.

"He has decided to act through a civil commission. He has chosen our friend and neighbor as the head of that commission. And I am here to join in approving that decision and that choice, and in wishing Judge Taft godspeed on his voyage and the most important work that has fallen to any man of his generation. Our duty is the very highest. None but the best and wisest can discharge it for us. And if we may judge all by the one we know, the President could not have chosen better. It was no defense of slavery that the slaves were better off, but slavery was a double wrong when they were treated badly. So, giving these people good government will at least save us from adding injury to wrong.

"I am sure our friend here realizes the difficulties of the task before him. He will have to deal with rights which have vested under a mixed system of Spanish and native laws and customs. He must take into account strange ideas, prejudices and manners; but, perhaps, those may trouble him less than those of the intelligent people, who know our history and professions, and who, we are assured, closely follow all that occurs here, to find sometime encouragement in their struggle to be free.

Administration Heresy.

"If anybody could do this work with credit to himself and us, he can. Above all, he has two qualifications without which failure would be certain. First, he cannot be brought by any political or other pressure to yield to any of the heresies which this new departure is bringing forth. One of them is the revival of the notion that the Constitution is a mere compact among the States and operates only in them. He knows what has been held from the beginning—that all persons, everywhere, who owe allegiance to the United States are citizens of the United States. He knows that there is no authority except that conferred by the Constitution; that that authority extends by its own vigor throughout the entire national domain, and that with it go the personal and civil rights the Constitution guarantees to all alike.

"Second, he knows that the sole object of all the government is the good of the governed, and the efforts which will, no doubt, be made to provide for securing benefits to others at the expense of the governed that will surely fail."

The silence which marked the opening remarks by Judge Harmon was intense. At length, when applause broke out, it was followed by a remark in the room, "Just four of you."

But when Judge Harmon declared the duty of the Government to be the establishment of a protectorate over the islands, the applause was continued. He produced undisguised surprise when he hinted that one of the best qualifications of Judge Taft for this mission was the fact that he was not an expansionist.

Judge Taft Not an Expansionist.

Judge Taft spoke for about an hour, devoting much time to his associates of the Cincinnati bar and with feeling words of thanks for the tributes of his friends. Coming to the topic of the Philippines he said:

"The commission is not organized. Its members have never conferred together. I speak, therefore, for myself alone.

"Like Judge Harmon, and unlike Chairman Ingalls, I am not now and never have been an expansionist. I have always hoped that the jurisdiction of our nation would not extend beyond territory between the two oceans. We have not solved all the problems of popular government so perfectly as to justify our voluntarily seeking more difficult ones abroad.

"With deference to Judge Harmon, I do not think in this instance that we have voluntarily sought them. The high and patriotic purpose of the President in the present juncture is to give the people of the Philippine Islands the best civil government which he can provide, with the largest measure of self-government consistent with stability. He seeks only the welfare of the Filipinos and the betterment of his condition. The incidental benefits to the trade of this country, arising from the new relation, must be made subservient to the interests of those who have become our wards. This is his charge to his new commission. With this purpose thus defined I have the deepest sympathy. When, therefore, the President did me the honor to ask me to assist him as one of the commission in carrying it out, I could not urge as a reason for declining that I did not agree with his policy and its object."

Judge Taft was frequently interrupted by applause, which was especially vigorous when he announced the charge given by the President to the new commission, and when he spoke of the necessity of enforcing civil service in the Philippines. At the close of his address, the entire assembly arose and joined in cheers for the distinguished guest of the evening. The presentation of Taft closed the exercises and the guests departed, after singing "America."

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

For Missouri—Colder Tuesday; rain in southern and snow or rain in northern portion; Wednesday fair; winds becoming northwesterly.

For Illinois—Rain in southern, snow or sleet in northern portion Tuesday; colder in southern portion; Wednesday fair; brisk east to southern winds, becoming westerly Wednesday.

For Arkansas—Rain and colder Tuesday; Wednesday fair; westerly winds, becoming northwesterly.

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BOER RELIEF FUND.

Secretary Hay Acknowledges Receipt of a Second Draft.

Doctor Emil Preetorius of the Westliche Post has received a letter from Secretary of State John Hay, acknowledging receipt of the draft for $100 which was sent him several days ago to be forwarded to President Kruger of the South African Republic. The money, which is to be applied to the use of the widows and orphans of Boer soldiers, has been sent to the American Consul at Pretoria, to be delivered to President Kruger, together with a letter which accompanied the draft. This is the second draft sent by Doctor Preetorius for the same purpose and through the same channel. The amounts were made up from contributions to the fund collected by the Westliche Post.

EXPEDITION SENT TO RELIEVE MAFEKING.

Boers Probably Will Try to Stop It at Vaal River Crossing.

French's Cavalry Runs Into a Hot Fight—Boer Front Extends Eighteen Miles Before Lord Roberts.

BY MILTON V. SNYDER.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

London, Tuesday, March 6.—(Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company.)—Bennett Burleigh cables to the Daily Telegraph under date of Osfontein, March 4:

"The Boer front covers eighteen miles to the south of Modder River.

"General French again had a successful skirmish this morning with the enemy."

Other advices indicate that the Boers are preparing to make a stand at Abraham's Kraal, which is considerably east of their present position. The opinion is expressed regarding Abraham's Kraal that the place is not ideal and has drawbacks. It enables the flanks to be covered by a comparatively small force, but can be readily turned by either cavalry or infantry and the plain country behind it, as well as its communications, can be swept, but if well-provisioned it may prove a veritable fortress, and may not be quite so rapidly either assailed or invested as those imagine who forget that besides 8,000 or 10,000 men in the position the Boers can probably support it with a number of field forces aggregating 6,000 or 7,000 mounted burghers.

These could not be brought into action against their will except by cavalry, and it is doubted whether French has cavalry enough, even including all that is to be yet brought over the Orange River, to force to a fight five or six mobile commandoes operating in combination with a fixed position, so long as these bodies have supply bases on the railway for their limited needs of food. In other words, Roberts probably will have to strike at the railway far behind Abraham's Kraal, and if he does he will have to take exceeding care of his own communication with the Kimberley railway and even those of the diamond city, as far as the Orange River. The problem, presupposing the conditions mentioned, is not an easy one.

It is interesting to note that a movement is in progress from Kimberley. A strong force, including the Canadian mounted infantry and a portion of the artillery of the Kimberley Light Horse, has commenced a march northward. Opposition is expected at Fourteen Streams, where the railway bridge has been wrecked. To cross the Vaal River and push onward up the line can only have one object. There are doubtless scattered commandoes of Boers in this district, but the ultimate destination of the expedition, without doubt, is the relief of Mafeking and active co-operation with Colonel Plumer.

In the north of Cape Colony all the Generals seem to be active. Gatacre reports that the Boers are dwindling in numbers at Stormberg. Both in the east and west the British are driving the Boers before them. Brabant has secured Labuschagne's Nek, after a stiff fight, while Clements on the west has not only occupied Achtertag, but apparently is harrassing the retreating Boers at Norval's Pont.

There is no fresh news from Northern Natal save that no Boers have been found within a radius of thirty miles of Ladysmith.

Buller's revised list of casualties from February 14 to February 27 gives ninety-three men killed, 654 wounded and twenty-five missing.

EXPEDITION FROM KIMBERLEY.

Cape Town, March 5.—A strong force of British, including the Kimberley Light Horse, is marching northward from Kimberley.

It is expected that the crossing of the Vaal River will be disputed at Fourteen Streams, where the railway bridge has been wrecked.

Sir Alfred Milner has issued the following proclamation:

"Whereas, the enemy's forces have invaded the districts of Prieska, Kenhardt, Britstown and Barkly West, and whereas many British subjects have taken up arms, and whereas it is necessary to repel invasion and suppress rebellion, now, therefore, martial law is hereby proclaimed in these districts."

FRENCH'S CAVALRY ENGAGED.

Osfontein, March 3.—General French yesterday evening noticed a body of Boers trekking northwest and sent a squadron last night to keep in touch with them. This morning the troopers were followed by about 150 Boers, who advanced around a hill, but who retired precipitately when the British shelled them.

The Boers then opened a heavy fire with Maxims and also began firing from a kopje in the center of the position, with a long-range fifteen-pounder.

The Boer trekking, in consequence of General French's movement, was temporarily stopped.

BULLER'S ARMY IN LADYSMITH.

BY RICHARD HARDING DAVIS.

SPECIAL BY CABLE

Ladysmith, Sunday, March 4.—(Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company.)—The entrance of General Buller and his columns into Ladysmith this morning was one of the most splendidly moving spectacles I have ever witnessed. It was as affecting as the diamond jubilee procession, as magnificent as the Czar's entrance into Moscow, as full of enthusiasm as Admiral Dewey's welcome by New York.

Twenty-two thousand "Tommies" — lancers, foot soldiers, gunners, irregular horse, colonials, blue jackets and Indians—blistered, tanned, covered with mud, covered with bloodstains and ragged as sweeps, passed for three full hours before General White, cheering, shouting and tossing their helmets.

The emaciated, yellow-faced garrison, whose loose khaki told of weeks of starvation, cheered them in return, the Gordons piped for them, and the women and children to whom they brought relief waved their handkerchiefs and cheered with the men.

General Buller's arrival was hailed tumultuously. Two battalions of the Devons, who had separated last in India five years ago, broke ranks and rushed at their old comrades. After the march past, the civilians put General White in a landau and dragged it by ropes to his headquarters.

In the battle of Pieter's our loss was less than 200, while the Boers lost about 400, including 100 prisoners.

The Dublins carried the Boer trenches at the point of the bayonet, capturing forty prisoners. The West Yorks especially distinguished themselves. They were complimented by General Buller. After they had reached the crest of the hill, and while they were not only under a severe rifle fire from the Boers, but were also being pounded by shrapnel and lyddite from our own gunners, who had mistaken them for the enemy, they sprang up to the sky-line, and, placing their helmets on their bayonets, waved them at our guns. This action exposed them to the fire of the Boers, but it silenced our own guns.

Our men have learned to take cover, but they still expose themselves on the sky-line to fire, and officers continue to stand.

The meeting between Generals Buller and White was eminently characteristic. It might have been a chance meeting on a field day at Aldershot. There was no cheering and no demonstration. In London bands may be playing, people may be cheering, flags may be waving, but here the officers are saluting punctilliously, greeting old comrades as though they had met in Piccadilly. This meeting, of course, preceded Buller's triumphant entrance into Ladysmith.

Signs of the siege of Ladysmith are not read in shell holes, nor in shattered walls, nor in cellars used for bomb-proofs, but in the faces of the people. Passing down the streets is like walking through the wards of a fever hospital. They carry their sufferings jauntily, under the mask of a habitual British indifference. One has only to offer an officer a cigar or offer a biscuit to a "Tommy" to find a starving man.

NEWS FROM MAFEKING.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

London, Tuesday, March 6.—(Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company.)—Lady Sarah Wilson writes to the Daily Mail from Mafeking, under date of February 13:

"On Thursday, February 15, in the afternoon, a Boer siege gun arrived at an emplacement to the west and fired shots before sunset and again during the middle of the night among the women and children.

"What punishment does Britain intend to mete out to such dastards, whose code is worse than that of savages and so devilish that it strips them of title of being considered human beings?

"The following morning one of their attacks took place to the southwest. Large bodies were seen approaching under cover of trees. The force consisted principally of natives, or, to be more accurate, I should say we saw only natives.

"The system now adopted in these spasmodic outbursts of pluck is to send the wretched natives in front with a few Germans, Scandinavians, Irish and renegade British in charge, who urge the natives on, while the Boers, who are too modest to exhibit themselves to Mafeking men, remain behind under cover of rocks and trees and slowly creep on the flanks of the 'niggers' fighting in front.

"If the natives are able to advance, the Boers also advance, but they are out of sight directly the natives are forced to fall back, and make tracks for their laager, never waiting to cover the retreat of the poor devils out in the open.

"The enemy advanced within 2,000 yards of our men and lay low.

"The enemy halted in cover. Their siege gun opened first with fourteen rounds. One of their shots fell within ten yards of our trench.

"From the evidence here and from reports on the Natal side, it appears that artillery is a much overrated arm. At the close of this campaign the authorities must turn more serious consideration to the question of the importance of mounted infantry.

"We have held a Masonic lodge here under conditions which are unique in the modern history of freemasonry. It was well attended, many visitors being present from all parts of the world.

"The question of food stuffs is engaging the attention of the authorities. The natives are feeling the want of food, and the allowance is necessarily very small. A soup kitchen, therefore, is being organised. Horses, stray hogs and the heads and feet of oxen are being utilized for this purpose. The soup kitchen should be a great boon to all. The town is on strict rations. Oats are procured with the allowance of bread and meal, the rejected husks being for the horses."

The same correspondent, writing under date of January 20, of the Mafeking siege, says:

"The Boers have fired 800 rounds from their ninety-four-pounder into the town. I long ago lost count of the rounds from the other guns. Some fifty tons of metal have been shot at us, but we still pursue the even tenor of our way. Plenty of shelters have been built everywhere and for everybody. The staff, the paymaster and the telephone office are underground.

"Folks proceed to business as usual. The lookout tells when the Boer guns are loaded and bells are rung all over the town; the people dive into the nearest dug-out; the gun booms; the people come out and ask casually where that shell has gone and resume their business till the bell rings again.

"It is funny to hear one ask the best way to go to such a place, perhaps only a block away, and to hear the reply, 'Go as far as the end of this dug-out, then cross to the opposite B. S. trench and then round the C. S. dug-out.'

"The hundredth day of the siege was celebrated by a dinner given at Dixon's Hotel to the Commandant of the town. No press tickets were issued.

"On Sunday we held a grand agricultural and produce show, which was highly successful. Cattle, poultry, vegetables, fruit and flowers were exhibited and prizes were offered for the finest animals born since the beginning of the siege. There were six

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