The Evening Times

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EXCITEMENT IN LONDON

Reason to Believe That a Great Battle is Raging.

neral Roberts' Report That the Situation Is Unchanged Not Credited—Boers Fortifying Positions North and West of Ladysmith With a View to a Safe Line of Retreat.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—There is every reason to believe that the greatest battle of the Boer war is raging today along the Tugela River for more than twenty-five miles.

Colenso is the centre of the line. Potgieter's Drift, at the west, is the extreme left, and Weenen or Inhlawe Mountain, at the east, is the right of the line of battle.

Buller is at Potgieter's Drift fighting to turn the Boer flank there and rush on to Ladysmith.

Clery is at Colenso engaging the Boers there and keeping them from re-enforcing their flanks.

Warren is at Inhlawe or Weenen, more likely the former, where the Boers are entrenched south of the Tugela. He is probably striving to capture this position, seize the ford over the Tugela, ten miles north of Weenen, and turn the enemy's left flank.

London is a fever of excitement, but the War Office has no detailed news or holds back what it has. Roberts reports "no change in the situation," but this is looked upon either as diplomatic or as indicating that Buller and his generals are too busy to send despatches.

Warren started eastward from Frere on the 3d with a flying column of 11,000 men in the direction of Weenen. He was equipped with large supplies and full means of transportation ready for a long march.

All the colonial and irregular troops have been placed under General Warren's command.

Scouts found no signs of the enemy at Grobler's Klopp, while Colenso was ascertained to be deserted. It is assumed that White's success at Ladysmith has broken the Boers' hearts, and that the enemy is falling back. It is reported from the Zululand border that the Boer women have been sent away by their husbands at the front, owing to the great slaughter near Ladysmith. This is believed to mean that the Boers are preparing to leave the colony.

Despatches say that White was sending up rockets from Ladysmith for two nights preceding Buller's advance, which would indicate that he is taking part in the onslaught on the Boer positions.

A despatch from Ladysmith, dated Thursday, January 11, by heliograph, by way of Weenen, says:

"The Boers are fortifying positions north and west of Ladysmith, doubtless with a view of securing a safe line of retreat should their opposition to General Buller's advance fail. They still surround Ladysmith in large numbers. It is known that they are greatly depressed by their heavy losses. Prior to Saturday they were perfectly confident of their ability to defeat the garrison and to take possession of the town."

It is stated officially this afternoon that no despatches have been received by the War Office from General Buller since the one dated at Springfield last Thursday.

INHUMANITY OF THE BOERS.

They Use Explosive Bullets and Fire on Ambulances.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—Letters from the soldiers fighting against the Boers and from correspondents throw a keen light on Boer tactics. A medical officer under Lord Methuen, describing the battle of Modder River, writes:

"Very few of our men being wounded, I went out near Sunset to aid the Highlanders. They had been lying all day under that frightful sun, and their wounded were there. No stretcher-bearers could advance, as they were shot at. They shouted to me to crawl on the ground, as the firing was not over. There were still three or four Boers with express rifles and explosive bullets, who were under cover, and who kept picking off our men."

Julian Ralph, writing about the Modder River fight, says:

"A common reliance of the Boer was upon gin. Empty gin bottles and bottles still containing gin, were to be seen stuck in the loose dirt of the trenches. One word as to a phase of their warfare which must be touched upon, in justice to every account we correspondents write of it. With my own eyes I saw the "putt-putt" gun and the fire of the sharpshooters trained upon our ambulances three times and upon our stretcher-bearers on innumerable occasions—in fact whenever they rose to their feet on the right of the line and attempted to perform their work."

NEWS FROM LADYSMITH.

The First Official Accounts of the Engagement.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—The "Standard's" correspondent in Ladysmith is the first to get through from the beleaguered town an official account of the battle on January 6, but unfortunately the most important portion of the message, describing the earlier stages of the engagement, has not yet been received.

The assault on the western end of General White's southern position was, it seems, continued with the utmost stubbornness until darkness came on, and the Devonshire Regiment in the final charge cleared the Boers from Wagon Hill at the point of the bayonet. The British positions are being strengthened all around, but up to the present the Boers have made no fresh movement against them.

The Boer version of the fight, supplied by Dalziel's Agency, gives the Boer loss as 1,000 killed and wounded, the Free Staters being the heaviest sufferers.

WAITING FOR SUPPLIES.

A Boer Commando in the Zaambaans Country of Zululand.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—A despatch from Durban, Natal, says that a Boer commando with wagons is in the Zaambaans country, Zuzuland, within a day's march of the sea. It is believed to be waiting for supplies and ammunition secretly landed near St. Lucia Bay.

The Boers have looted all the stores and mines in the Swaziland Territory and the ruined natives are completing the destruction.

The Cape Town Treason Case.

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 15.—The test treason case of the alleged Douglas rebel, Gert Vuuren, has been adjourned for a week.

Five States in Five Hours.

The "Royal Limited," beautiful, swift, and sure, leaves Washington, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Station, New Jersey Avenue and C Street, daily, 3 p. m., arrives New York 8 p. m. Exquisite dining and cafe car service.

RELIEF OF LADYSMITH.

A Movement on the City Expected to Begin Tonight.

PIETERMARITZBURG, Jan. 13.—(Delayed in transmission).—The heliograph has been going on all day between Frere and Ladysmith. Merchants here have received orders to send foodstuffs forward. This is taken to mean that a movement for the relief of Ladysmith is expected to begin at once. It is believed that this movement will begin on the evening of January 15.

The foreign military attaches have gone to Cape Town to join General Kitchener.

BOMBARDMENT AT MAFEKING.

The Response of the British Reported to Be Weak.

LOURENCO MARQUES, Jan. 13—(Delayed in transmission).—A Boer despatch from Molepo, dated January 10, says:

"Mafeking is being continuously bombarded. The response from the British garrison is weak. The natives are deserting the town and it is reported that the Kaffirs are starving."

ALL QUIET AT ESTCOURT.

The Boer Forces Believed to Be Concentrating Elsewhere.

ESTCOURT, Natal, Jan. 13—(Delayed in transmission).—Everything is quiet in this vicinity. There is an impression here that the Boers are concentrating elsewhere. A remarkable incident is reported in connection with the charge of the Devons upon Wagon Hill in the fighting around Ladysmith, on January 6. Lieutenant Masterson, was ordered to cross the fire-swept zone and deliver a message. He was hit by three bullets, but struggled on and delivered the message which was very important. The lieutenant is doing well, although there are eleven holes in his body.

The above apparently confirms the statements of Sir William MacCormack as to the comparative harmlessness of the Mauser bullets. The "eleven holes" from three bullets may seem strange, but one bullet going through the arm and then passing in and out of the side or back would make four holes.

FOUR YEARS FOR DESERTION.

The Boers Condemn Dr. Caldwell to Hard Labor.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—A despatch from the Boer headquarters at Ladysmith says:

"The Boers have sentenced a deserter named Dr. Caldwell to four years' imprisonment at hard labor."

THE FEELING IN LONDON.

A German Broker Hustled at the Stock Exchange.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—By common consent the stock brokers in the city declared some weeks ago that any clerk in their employ who volunteered for service in South Africa would be reinstated in his position at the close of the war. Today a clerk in the employ of a German firm of brokers was told by his employers that if he volunteered he would lose his place.

The story got about in some way, and, when one of the partners appeared on the stock exchange he was hustled around, hooted, and finally knocked down and kicked. The man fainted and when he revived was again roughly handled.

REPORTS AT THE CAPE.

Rumors of Dutch Revolts a Daily Occurrence.

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 13—(Delayed in transmission).—The "Onsland," the Dutch newspaper here, continues to complain about the importation of mules and horses, saying that it is likely to spread infectious diseases. This is regarded by the British as an attempt to work upon the feeling of the Dutch farmers.

There are fresh reports that a train has been fired on by the disloyal Cape Dutchmen at Paarl, which is thirty-six miles in a direct line from Cape Town, or forty-nine miles by the railroad line, via Stelenbosch. These reports are circulated daily, and little importance is attached to them here.

THE MODDER SWOLLEN.

Rains in the Free State Make Fords Impassable.

MODDER RIVER, Jan. 12—(Delayed in transmission).—Rains in the Free State have raised the Modder River three feet and as there is a strong current it is impossible to use the fords. The only means of transit is by the pontoon bridges.

A mounted Boer picket was seen after daybreak today a mile beyond the left front of our picket line in the direction Drosmead. There were eight men in the party all mounted. They spread out over a distance of 200 yards and were very quick and successful in their scouting work, taking advantage of every particle of cover. As soon as the day broke they disappeared.

The night signaling of the Boers can be seen for a distance of twelve miles along the mountain ranges. They use the German code and can only send three words a minute.

Yesterday a Boer dressed in kilts and khaki walked alone toward a picket of the Highland Brigade. The Scotchmen thought he was a comrade who had escaped from the Boers or one of their own men who had got beyond the lines. When he was about 500 yards from the line the Boer fired three shots at the Highland picket and then turned and ran toward the Boer camp. The Highlanders sent a volley after him, but it is believed the burgher escaped.

Condition of the British Hospitals.

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 11—(Delayed in transmission).—Sir William MacCormack, President of the College of Surgeons, who volunteered his services in South Africa, has returned from Natal. He has inspected the Natal and Cape hospitals and speaks in the highest terms of the medical arrangements which he says leave nothing to be desired. He was surprised by the wonderful recoveries and the lowness of the death rate.

A Census Office Suggestion.

Director Merriam has suggested that the agriculturists of this country use some of their spare time between now and June next in thoroughly preparing themselves to answer promptly and accurately the questions relative to the acreage, quantity, and value of crops; the quantity and value of all farm products, animal and vegetable; the cost of fertilizers and farm labor, and, in fact, all the items of farm operations for the calendar year 1899, which the census enumerators are by law compelled to ascertain. This, he says, will result in a full and accurate census.

To Inspect the Crook.

Major John B. Bellinger, Superintendent of Army Transports, under the Quartermaster General, went to New York today to inspect the transport Crook which has been overhauled and remodeled.

ROUTING THE INSURGENTS

The Fleeing Rebels Shoot Down American Prisoners.

The Engagement With the Twenty-fifth Infantry Results in a Filipino Loss of Fifty—Colonel Anderson Liberates Sixty Spaniards and Captures Twenty Thousand Dollars

Advices from Manila today show that the American troops have recently been making it lively for the rebels, who, in their desperation at the approach of the troops, shot the American prisoners. The engagements, several in number, all took place in the vicinity of Santa Tomas, and in some instances sharp fighting ensued.

Two companies of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, under Colonel O'Neil, were attacked at Iba by a large number of bolo men and robbers. After a lively fight the rebels retired in great haste with a loss of fifty men on the field. The Americans did not loose a man in this engagement.

While Colonel Anderson, of the Thirty-eighth Volunteers, and his regiment were proceedings to south of Santa Tomas they fell in with a large force of insurgents. The fighting was brisk, but the rebels soon retired from the field and were driven through Lipa to Rosario. Twenty dead and wounded Filipinos were left on the ground.

The American loss was one man killed and two wounded. The men under Anderson liberated ninety Spanish prisoners and seized $20,000.

General Schwan's march to Manila has been a triumphant one, for he has thus far liberated about 200 Spanish prisoners, and has reported no losses.

General Wheaton's force is actively operating in western Cavite and Batangas provinces, and he has all of the important towns under patrol. There does not appear to be any inclination on the part of the natives in this territory to continue the rebellion, and many of them, who, it is believed, were formerly with the insurgents, have returned to their homes, and are following peaceful pursuits.

The official report from General Otis to the War Department today confirms the press despatches respecting the movements of the troops and the recent engagements. The report is as follows:

Manila, January 15, 1900.

Adjutant General, Washington:

Bolo men and armed insurgents, robbers from Zambales Mountains, attacked two companies, Twenty-fifth Infantry, O'Neil commanding, at Iba, January 6, driven and pursued with loss to them of fifty men, no casualties; Schwan's troops east and south Santo Tomas, Batangas; yesterday Cheatham's battalion, Thirty-seventh struck enemy east Santo Tomas, on San Pablo road, enemy left five dead on field, cavalry soon appearing pursued force eastward; no report of result. Cheatham's casualties, one wounded. Anderson, Thirty-eighth, en route to Lipa yesterday, struck insurgents few miles south Santo Tomas, drove them through Lipa to Rosario; enemy's loss twenty dead and wounded, sixty Spanish prisoners, $20,000; Schwan has liberated about 200 Spanish prisoners now en route to Manila. Anderson's casualties yesterday, one man killed, two wounded; Wheaton's force actively operating in western Cavite and Batangas provinces, all important towns held and constant patrolling; great many Filipinos returning to homes believed to be insurgent deserters. OTIS.

A cable despatch from General Otis today informs the War Department of the following list of casualties:

Manila, January 15, 1900.

Adjutant General, Washington:

Casualties—Killed action near Naic, January 9, Eleventh Cavalry, Company I, Robert Napier; action Comanci, January 3, Twenty-fifth Infantry, Company B, Morgan C. Washington, corporal; prisoners killed near Comansi, upon approach American troops, January 5, Ninth Infantry, Company B, Charles C. Cook, Alonzo Brown; wounded, Company B, Joseph W. Cook, chest, severe; Twelfth Infantry, Christian Peterson, commissary sergeant, thigh, severe; Company B, Edward E. Norval, groin, severe; wounded in action Barie de Lumubara, January 7, Twenty-eighth Infantry, Company H, Enos N. Williams, throat, mortal; Company L, Fred C. McWood, first sergeant, thigh, severe; Robert Cunningham, back, severe; Alexander Riddet, shoulder slight; James Goodrich, neck, severe; Company I, Harry D. Landault, knee, slight; Barie Putol, January 7, Twenty-eighth Infantry, Company A, Martin Wentnix, hand, slight; Angus Edder, corporal, neck, slight; Patrick McDonnell, elbow, slight; Company B, James Wareham, wrist, slight; Comanzi, January 5, Twenty-fifth Infantry, Company L, James T. Quarles, ankle, severe; Company K, John W. Harvey, slight. OTIS.

RESCUED FROM AN ICE FLOE.

Fifteen Skaters Adrift on the Delaware River.

RIVERTON, N. J., Jan. 15.—For a few minutes yesterday there was every indication of a terrible tragedy on the Delaware River here, and there was excitement enough to last the year out. Despite the warm weather of the past few days which had rotted the ice in the river and made it gravely dangerous a large number of residents ventured out, many of them with skates on.

The Philadelphia police tug Stokly came up and the concussion of its passage through the half-blocked channel caused a huge carck in the fast ice near shore. Suddenly a huge floe, on which were fifteen skaters, was detached, and started down stream with menacing speed. A cry of alarm went up, and an appeal for boats was made, but at this season few boats are ready for service in this section. Luckily, however, Robert and Charles Biddle, who do a good deal of duck hunting, had one of their small boats out, and they promptly started to the rescue.

A few minutes seemed like an age for the imperiled people on the floe, which was drifting rapidly down on the tide. The work of rescue was rapidly accomplished, however, and none too soon, for just as the last skaters were safely landed the floe crashed into the town wharf and broke into pieces.

Among those who were rescued were George Washington and his two little daughters. After the danger was over cheers were given for the brave rescuers and for George Washington, who had again crossed the Delaware amid the ice.

THE MONITOR'S LAST OFFICER.

Arrangements for the Funeral of Lieut. Samuel Howard.

The funeral of Lieutenant Samuel Howard, U. S. N., who died Sunday morning at his home, 2307 M Street, will take place tomorrow afternoon from his late residence. Lieutenant Howard was the pilot, and the last of the officers and crew who served on the Monitor during her memorable battle with the Confederate ironclad Merrimac.

The deceased leaves a daughter, who resides in this city. He was a member of Lincoln Post, G. A. R., of this city, and also of St. John's Lodge, F. A. A. M., of Newport, R. I.

The Grand Army and the Masonic bodies of this city will have charge of the funeral services. Rev. Dr. Newman, pastor of the First Congregational Church, will officiate. Interment will be at Arlington.

Eulogies in the House.

Saturday has been set apart in the House for eulogies on the late Representative Danforth of Ohio. At the request of Mr. Robertson of Louisiana, Saturday, the 27th instant was today set apart for eulogies on the lote Representative Baird of Louisiana.

THE MOLINEUX TRIAL.

A Washington Witness Causes the Prisoner to Turn Pale.

NEW YORK, Jan. 15.—With today the tenth week of the trial of Roland Molineux for murder began, and are the indications a few days will see the case for the State resting. The fact that the case is nearing its end has revived speculations as to what the defence will do. There were reports today that Mr. Weeks would call no witnesses at all, and there were also other reports that he would call about twenty, including medical and handwriting experts.

The courtroom began to fill up early this morning. Among the first to arrive were Harry Cornish and W. J. Kinsley. Mr. Kinsley was on the stand when court adjourned on Friday. He had finished his direct testimony and had declared that in his opinion Roland Molineux had written the three new Barnet letters and also the new Barnet envelopes. Mr. Weeks arose to cross-examine just as court adjourned until this morning.

All the principals in the case were on hand early and every seat was taken when the recorder entered. Soon after 10 o'clock Molineux was then brought in, looking as fresh and unconcerned as ever. General Molineux and the lawyers for the defence were in their places, but Mr. Osborne was a trifle late again.

Among the persons in court was a negro woman, Rachel Greene. She said when called that she lived in Washington, was born there, and owned property there. She is a married woman and just in from Washington last night.

On direct examination Mrs. Greene stated that she had formerly been employed in New York as a chambermaid for Mrs. Bellinger at No. 257 West Seventy-sixth Street. A Mr. and Mrs. Cheseborough had rented a room of Mrs. Bellinger from November 2, 1897, until May 1, 1898.

"Do you see the Mr. Cheseborough in this room?"

The woman arose and looked around the courtroom. Finally she pointed at the defendant. "I think that is the man. He had a moustache then, though."

"That will not do," said the recorder. "She said that she thought that was the man. That is too indefinite."

Mrs. Greene was told to step down and point out Mr. Cheseborough. The woman left the stand and walked toward the bench where Molineux sat. She deliberately pointed Molineux out. The young man was very pale. He did not smile, now, but looked as if he were very angry. His lips twitched nervously. His father was deathly pale.

The witness continued her testimony by stating that the woman was called Blanche and the pair continued at the address given until after Christmas, when they moved to Mrs. Bellinger's establishment on West End Avenue. Cheseborough left in January, 1898, while Blanche remained until June. The witness was allowed to leave the stand in a controversy between opposing counsel.

RELIEF FOR SHIPBUILDERS.

A Bill Affecting the Union Iron Works Favorably Reported.

The Senate Committee on Claims has submitted a report on the bill for the relief of the Union Iron Works of San Francisco. The report says that in view of the strong equities of the contractors, and of the precedents already established in similar cases, the committee agrees with the Secretary of the Navy that the penalties should be remitted, and report the bill favorably with the recommendation that it pass.

This case arises out of the technical failure of the Union Iron Works, to maintain the horsepower required by their contract for the Monterey during the official trial. The contract requirement was that an indicated horsepower of propelling engines, air pump, and circulating pump engines of 5,400 should be maintained for four consecutive hours. The total horsepower developed by these engines during the trial was only 5,071.77, though for an hour and three-quarters the power was maintained above that required, and then fell off, owing to inefficient firing of the boilers. By reason of the deficiency in horsepower of 328.23, a deduction of $32,823 was made from the amount paid the contractors, on the basis, as provided in contract, of $100 per indicated horsepower which the contractor should fall short of the required 5,400.

The evidence, it is said, shows tha this failure to develop the full horsepower during the contract trial was due, not to any lack of power of the engines, which the contractors claim are fully capable of developing the 5,400 horsepower and more, but to inefficient firing and attendance upon the machinery. The Nevy Department admits the correctness of this claim.

THE QUARANTINE LAW.

The Supreme Court Gives a Decision Against Louisiana.

The effort of the State of Louisiana by injunction of the Supreme Court to protect the citizens of the State against the quarantine law of Texas, as enforced by the health officer of that State, has failed.

By a unanimous decision the Supreme Court today dismissed the bill filed by the Attorney General, of Louisiana, last fall, thus ending the proceedings.

Chief Justice Fuller announced the opinion of the court, briefly reciting the facts of the litigation and the status of the case; how Louisiana had filed the bill asking for a writ of mandamus against the health officer and Governor of Texas, restraining them from enforcing the rules and regulations prescribed by the health officer against the transportation of persons and property from New Orleans into or through Texas and a writ of injunction prohibiting them from proclaiming similar rules and regulations in the future. To this bill, Texas demurred and the case went to argument.

The opinion in great part discussed the question of jurisdiction of the court, the conclusion being that the court had jurisdiction of all controversies between States, but that they must be strictly controversies between States and not between one State and the citizens or a part of them of another State.

The case at bar, the Chief Justice said, was not such a one as warranted the court in interfering with the discharge of the duties of the Executive of Texas; nor would the court be justified in enjoining the health officer alone, until after the governor had been appealed to in the matter.

The demurrer of Texas to the bill of Louisiana was sustained, and the bill dismissed.

Justices Harlan and Brown concurred in the judgment, but held some different views from those expressed by the court as being the basis of its action.

Kipling to Go to Court.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—The "Cambridge Magazine" recently published a series of articles headed "Kipling and Company," and purporting to be written by McTurk. Another college journal, the "Cantab," impugned the authenticity of the articles. The magazine has brought suit for libel and has subpoenaed Kipling and McTurk as witnesses.

The End of the Nineteenth Century

witnesses the unprecedented success of G. H. Mumm's Extra Dry; imports in 1899 being 109,303 cases, or 72,495 cases more than of any other brand. These facts speak, not misleading figures bid at auction sales.

RIDICULED BY MR. BERRY

The Beveridge Resolution Criticised in the Senate.

The Arkansan Opposes the Assertion of Power in the Philippines—He Favors the Proposition of Senator Bacon as a Means of Ending the Trouble in the Archipelago.

After the introduction of a large number of unimportant bills in the Senate this morning a resolution was offered by Mr. Perkins calling on the Secretary of the Navy for information as to the number of United States vesels now under construction; of all types and classes, how many officers of each grade and rank will be required for vessels now in commission or that may be put in commission in thirty days; and when the vessels now under contract will be completed and ready for commission.

Mr. Hoar moved to add to the resolution an enquiry as to the number of officers and men now employed in the navy. The amendment was agreed to, and the resolution was adopted.

The joint resolution heretofore offered by Mr. Bacon declaring the purpose of the United States with reference to the Philippine Islands was taken up and Mr. Berry addressed the Senate. In connection with it he had read the resolution offered by Mr. Beveridge declaring the Philippine Islands the property of the United States.

These two conflicting resolutions, he said, fairly represented the views of the two great political parties in the United States. The one had the support of all who believed in the principles of the Government and in the farewell advice of Washington; the other seeemed to represent the views of the President and of the Republican party. He asserted that the Beveridge resolution was imperialism, absolute and unscrupulous; and he was unalterably and forever opposed to any such assertion of power.

Mr. Berry ridiculed the claim of Mr. Beveridge in his speech that the Lord had selected the American people as his trustees and as his chosen people in the regeneration of the world. The Lord had said: "Thou shalt not kill; thou shall not steal; thou shalt not bear false witness," and yet the claim was that the Lord had made Americans His trustees to commit every one of these acts on which He had put the seal of His condemnation. He (Mr. Berry) wanted some proof of such trusteeship, and denied its existence. He believed that the Southern people would still stand as they have always stood, for truth and justice and honor. He asserted that the President's proclamation of December 28, 1898, know as the "benevolent assimilation" measure, was the unfortunate cause of the Philippine war.

It was not too late, he said, to remedy that evil; if Congress would adopt the joint resolution introduced by the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Bacon) there would not be another gun fired in the Philippine archipelago. He believed that if a vote of the people were to be taken tomorrow on the two resolutions, disconnected from party politics, there would be an overwhelming majority in favor of the resolution of the Senator from Georgia. At the close of Mr. Berry's speech the joint resolution went back to the calendar.

Mr. Pettigrew continued the discussion of the Philippine question on a resolution of enquiry offered by him. He quoted from Mr. Lincoln this sentence:

"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves; and under the rule of a just God cannot long retain it."

"I believe," he said, "that that is true. I believe that the reflex action on our own people, of the conquest of other people and of governing them against their will, will gradually undermine the free institutions of this country and result in the destruction of the Republic."

THE WAR REVENUE LAWS.

A Conference With the President Respecting a Revision.

Representatives Steele of Indiana, Payne of New York, Hull of Iowa, and Dalzell of Pennsylvania, called together on the President this morning.

They came to the White House to discuss in a general way the question of framing certain amendments to the War Revenue bill. It is not expected that these will be many or very important.

From all parts of the country have come complaints to members of Congress regarding the hardships or inconveniences of the stamp tax. As a consequence, the Administration members of Congress feel that something should be done to satisfy constituents and to modify some of the more inconvenient features of the law. It is well understood that the revenues will stand some slight reductions, without embarrassing the Government. A few of the taxed articles, it is said, could be lopped off to please constituents without a wholesale revision of the Revenue law.

The stamp on express receipts causes a good deal of trouble in various parts of the country, complaints regarding it have been frequent and bitter, and it is thought by the House leaders that the income from this source might well be sacrificed to the public convenience.

The beer tax and the stamps required on proprietary articles have also been the cause of much friction among the people, who have the tax to pay.

It is believed the House leaders have hit upon a plan of introducing a few amendments to the Revenue law, which will not stir up too much excitement in Congress, and which will please the people of the country by lightening taxes. This plan was presented to the President this morning by Representative Steele and those who accompanied him.

The growing influence of the Congressional delegation from Iowa is a matter of comment at the White House. For instance, this morning Senator Allison called upon the President and was with him some time, talking over an appointment and discussing the progress of the Currency bill and the Subsidy bill which is to follow it.

Representative Dolliver is a frequent caller, as are Mr. Hepburn and Mr. Cousins. In fact, there are about six Iowans, including Speaker Henderson, who are very prominent in Administration councils.

They consult Mr. McKinley with a frequency that has excited comment here. It begins to look as though the influence once wielded by the State of Maine in Washington had been transferred to Iowa.

AN EXCITING MEETING.

Two Factions at the Election of Mutual Insurance Officers.

The annual meeting of the Mutual Insurance Company is being held today at the offices of the company, 902 Pennsylvania Avenue. The meeting is for the purpose of electing seven managers to conduct the offices of the company for the ensuing year.

The meeting up to a late hour this afternoon was an exciting one, as two factions among the stockholders were anxious to get control, one headed by the present officers and another by S. H. Walker, a very large stockholder.

THE URGENT DEFICIENCY BILL.

Laid Before the House to Be Taken Up Tomorrow.

The Urgent Deficiency bill was reported to the House today from the Committee on Appropriations. It is the first appropriation bill of the session. It carries a total of $56,127,841, $8,525,509 direct appropriations and $47,602,332 reappropriations from unexpended balances under the War and Navy departments. The several allotments of the bill are:

Executive Office, $3,000; Treasury Department, $2,069,624; Fish Commission, $7,500; Smithsonian Institution, $4,000; District of Columbia, $2,500; War Department, $199,617; Naval Establishment, $2,750,000; Interior Department, $325,573; Department of Justice, $32,531; Postoffice Department, $7,630; Postal Service, $290,327; Paris Exposition, $169,500; House of Representatives, $25,000; Library of Congress, $2,670; printing and binding, $270,000; judgments, Indian depredation claims, $242,112; judgments, Court of Claims, $2,123,925.

Military Establishment—Signal Service, $183,500; Pay Department, $15,188,832; Subsistence Department, $4,000,000; Quartermaster's Department, $25,350,000; Medical Department, $500,000; Ordnance Department, $530,000.

Naval Establishment—Bureau of Equipment, $350,000; Bureau of Steam Engineering, $1,500,000.

Mr. Cannon, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, gave notice that he would call the bill up for consideration tomorrow.

JUSTICE FOR A VETERAN.

Favorable Action Recommended on William T. Godwin's Case.

Mr. Harris, from the Committee on Military Affairs, has submitted to the Senate a favorable report on the bill to authorize the President to place William T. Godwin on the retired list with the rank of first lieutenant.

The purpose of this bill is to restore William T. Godwin to the rank in the regular army which he formerly held, and from which he was summarily dismissed—wrongfully, as is claimed; also that immediately upon his appointment he be placed upon the retired list as a first lieutenant, the retired list being increased by one for that purpose.

William T. Godwin was appointed second lieutenant Tenth Infantry May 15, 1861; promoted to be first lieutenant July 1, 1861, and was dismissed September 13, 1862. It appears from the official report of the Adjutant General that this officer served at posts in New York Harbor and on provost duty in Washington from his appointment to March, 1862, and from March to August, 1862, in the field with the Army of the Potomac.

He was taken ill at Harrison's Landing, Va., and when the Army left there in August, 1862, he was sent to the United States hospital, Newark, N. J., arriving there August 18. The next day, August 19, request was made by his father and mother, in Philadelphia, that leave of absence be granted to him to visit his home in that city. A few days later he himself applied for such leave, on the certificate of the surgeon in charge of the hospital. Leave was refused by the War Department under regulations then in force; but it appears that he left the hospital and went to Philadelphia with the permission, as he subsequently stated, of the surgeon in charge, given on the supposition that his request for leave would be approved by the War Department.

Under date of September 10, 1862, in camp at Rockville, Md., Major Charles S. Lovell, Tenth Infantry, reported Lieutenant Godwin as unfit for the service, and in general and special orders he was dismissed. These orders were, presumably, based on Major Lovell's report, but as that report has been missing from the files since 1862 the precise facts cannot be stated. Immediately after his dismissal he wrote the President claiming that injustice had been done him. This paper is endorsed as follows:

"I incline to think injustice has been done in this case. Will the Secretary of War have an investigation and correct an injustice which may appear? A. LINCOLN.

September 22, 1862.

THE SABINE LAKE CHANNEL.

Report of a Government Survey Transmitted to Congress.

The Secretary of War has transmitted to Congress a letter from the Chief of Engineers, United States Army, together with copy of a report from a Board of Engineers consisting of Major James B. Quinn, Capt. Charles S. Riche, and Capt. Clement A. F. Flagler, Corps of Engineers, of a survey of the proposed channel through Sabine Lake, Texas, made in compliance with the provisions of the River and Harbor act of March 3, 1899.

The board has had under consideration four different locations for the channel with depths of 9, 12, and 25 feet through Sabine Lake, and it recommends the construction of a channel 100 feet wide on bottom and 125 feet wide on top with mean low-water depth of 9 feet along the Louisiana shore of the lake, and connecting mouths of Sabine and Neches Rivers, all at an estimated cost of $300,000.

In the opinion of the Board any channel through the lake will require dredging for maintenance, and the report contemplates the purchase of a suitable dredge at a cost of $100,000, and an annual appropriation of $50,000 for its operation. The need of a channel through this lake is principally for the transportation of lumber to vessels lying in the pass. The lumber is at present in danger of loss on this passage, and subject to a freight rate of $1 per 1,000. This rate is due to risk of loss and demurrage, occasioned by storms causing low water in the lake. It was stated to the board that this rate would be reduced 50 per cent by a 12-foot channel through the lake.

WARSHIPS ON THE LAKES.

Information Relative to the Agreement With England Wanted.

Representative Clarke of New Hampshire, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported to the House today a resolution which was adopted, calling on the Secretary of State for information relative to the agreement said to exist between Great Britain and the United States, which prohibits the presence of more than one warship in the Great Lakes at one time.

Because of this agreement, it was shown, shipbuilders in the Great Lakes are discriminated against.

Presidential Nominations.

The following nominations by the President were sent to the Senate today: Charles H. Sherman, of California, to be assayer of the mint at San Francisco, Cal.; Peter F. Barclay, of Del Norte, Col., to be receiver of public moneys at Del Norte, Col.; Eli L. Warner, of St. Paul, Minn., to be surveyor general of Minnesota.

Representative Gale Sworn In.

After the reading of the journal in the House today June W. Gale, the successor to the late Representative Settle of the Seventh Congressional district of Kentucky, appeared, accompanied by Representative Berry, and was sworn in.

Flynn's Business College, 8th and K.

$5—Census Office Examination—$5.

OPPOSED IN THE HOUSE

Objections to the First Bill Presented from the District.

The Proposed Act to Define and Regulate the Rights of Aliens to Hold Real Estate Laid Aside, Amended, and Taken Up Again—Improvements in the Tax Department.

Under the rules the House today took up legislation affecting the District of Columbia. Mr. Babcock called up House bill 5297, which provides: "That the act entitled 'An act to better define and regulate the rights of aliens to hold and own real estate in the Territories,' approved March 2, 1897, be, and the same is hereby, amended so as to extend to aliens the same rights and privileges concerning the acquisition, holding, owning, and disposition of real estate in the District of Columbia as by that act are conferred upon them in respect of real estate in the Territories of the United States."

Mr. Jenkins, who made the report on the bill, briefly explained its object, and the necessity for its passage. Representative Smith of Michigan said he did not think it was necessary legislation. Mr. Lacey asked that the laws relating to the ownership of lands be read.

"Who will control the time in opposition?" asked Mr. Smith.

"If no member of the District Committee offers the measure," said the Speaker, "the chair will recognize the gentleman from Michigan in opposition to the bill." Mr. Jenkins then went on to explain the laws on the subject.

Mr. Hepburn said it had been the custom of the Populists to declaim against the ownership of land by aliens, and that they had denounced such ownership from the stump and in their party platforms. But now, he said, his Populist friends were silent on the subject. He thought he should wake them up and thus let them know of the bill before the House.

This brought Mr. Bailey to his feet, who asked Mr. Hepburn to repeat what he had just said.

Mr. Hepburn said he didn't know the gentleman from Texas was the friend of the Populists. Mr. Bailey said he believed in the old doctrine which prohibited aliens from owning land in this country, and he would try to defeat the bill.

Mr. Ridgely, Populist, from Kansas, thanked Mr. Hepburn for calling attention to the bill. He was still opposed to aliens owning land and would vote against the bill.

Mr. Smith of Michigan made a vigorous argument against the bill. He was opposed to aliens owning any of the sacred soil of the National Capital. The bill should be defeated.

Mr. Babcock came forward and suggested that the trouble could be obviated by the adoption of an amendment which he proposed. His amendment made the bill apply only to those aliens who now own land in the District of Columbia. Mr. Bailey suggested that Mr. Babcock bring in a bill to compell the aliens to sell their lands in the District. After a colloquy, and at the suggestion of Mr. Bailey, the bill was temporarily laid aside.

A motion was made that the House go into the Committee of the Whole to consider House bill 5042, appropriating $4,000 for improvements in the tax department of the District of Columbia. The report of the District Commissioners explaining the necessity for the passage of the bill, accompanies it.

Before the Speaker put the motion Mr. Grout said he thought the bill had been improperly referred. He thought it should be referred to the Appropriations Committee. He suggested that Mr. Babcock offer the bill as an amendment to the Urgent Deficiency bill which comes up tomorrow. This suggestion was not adopted and the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole with Mr. Hepburn in the chair.

After some discussion, on motion of Mr. Babcock, the bill was reported, and at 2:15 o'clock it was passed.

Mr. Babcock then called up the alien Land bill again, and reported an amendment.

DISTRICT LAND TITLES.

A Report on Lots Owned by the Government.

The Secretary of War has sent to the Sente in compliance with a resolution of that body a letter from General Wilson, Chief of Engineers, and a communication from Col. Theodore A. Bingham, and other papers bearing on the title to lands in the District of Columbia.

General Wilson's letter follows: "The Senate of the United States, by resolution dated January 27, 1898, directed the Secretary of War to transmit to the Senate, at as early a day as possible, the numbers and locations of all lots in the District of Columbia the title to which the records in the office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds show to be in the United States; also a report of all lots in the District of Columbia sold or donated by the United States, the numbers of the squares in which such lots are located, the date of sale, the names of purchasers, and the amounts received.

"The information called for by the above-mentioned resolution, excepting as to lots sold, was furnished the Senate by the Secretary of War May 26, 1898, and printed in Senate Doc. No. 227, Fifty-fifth Congress, second session, and a partial list of lots in the District of Columbia sold by the United States, compiled from the records in the office of public buildings and grounds, and covering squares numbered from 1 to 245 consecutively, was furnished the Senate by the Secretary of War January 3, 1899, and is printed in Senate Doc. No. 47, Fifty-fifth Congress, third session.

"I have now the honor to submit, in further compliance with directions of the Secretary of War, an additional list of lots in the District of Columbia sold by the United States, compiled from the records in the office of public buildings and grounds and covering squares numbered from 247 to 760, both inclusive, said list having been transmitted to this office with a letter dated the 7th inst., copy herewith, from Col. Theodore A. Bingham, United States Army, in charge of public buildings and grounds.

"It will be observed that in this list and also in that published in Senate Doc. No. 47, aforementioned, certain squares are not reported upon. Such squares as are omitted were deeded back to the original proprietors and will form a separate list by themselves, the squares and lots now reported upon being those sold by the United States and for which money has been received.

"Colonel Bingham states that there remain about 450 squares yet to be reported upon, and further report will be presented by me so soon as the very limited clerical force available for the work will permit the necessary examination of records and tabulation of results."

Influenza Epidemic in Spain.

BARCELONA, Jan. 15.—An epidemic of influenza is prevalent here. One-half of the people are ill with the disease.

Norfolk & Washington Steamboat Co.

Delightful trips daily at 6:30 p. m. to Old Point Comfort, Newport News, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach. For schedule, see