

ITALY READY TO MEDIATE

Consents to Intervene if Boer Demands Are Modified.

A cablegram sent from Rome to Pretoria before the British Ambassador, The Foreign Office declines to state the nature of the modifications required of Presidents Kruger and Steyn—Mafeking's Garrison All Well on March 18—Cattle Captured From the Boers—The Casualties Reported to Be Slight.

LONDON, March 27.—A despatch from Rome of even date says: "The Foreign Office today called the Italian Consul at Pretoria that Italy would consent to mediate between Presidents Kruger and Steyn would modify their demands."

"This message was sent after a number of long consultations with Lord Currie, the British Ambassador to Italy. The Foreign Office declined to explain what modifications had been suggested to the Boer Presidents."

A despatch from Mafeking, dated March 18, via Bulawayo, March 20, says: "All well. Our patrols are active. We have rushed one of the Boer entrenchments and effectively frustrated another. We captured twenty-six head of cattle and killed twelve Boers. Our loss was two killed and three wounded."

No reliable news is arriving from South Africa where the rainy season is commencing with exceptionally heavy storms, thus converting the camps into swamps. Two transports at Durban are being converted into hospital ships, and the number of sick and wounded and with a view to clearing the field hospitals, preparatory to the next operations by the English troops.

A despatch from Maseru, Basutoland, dated yesterday, says: "It is stated that Commandant Olivier's command, which is trekking toward Kroonstad, reached Bloemfontein some thirty miles north of here, where it laid up for forty-eight hours in order to give the men a chance to recover from their fatigue and to rest the horses and oxen."

A later despatch from Bloemfontein says that the 5,000 Boers with sixteen guns, under Commandant Olivier, who were slipping along the Basutoland frontier, have succeeded in reaching the Orange River. It is estimated that the Boers have joined the Transvaal forces at Kroonstad. If they have done this the burgher army at that place has been materially strengthened.

The difficulties that General Roberts must overcome before reaching the Transvaal frontier have been greatly increased, too. Olivier's force was made up of men who came from Colesberg, Norval's Post, and points in Northern Cape Colony, and has been reported at various points along the Basutoland border, where it is apparently trekking northward in the hope of slipping around Roberts' army.

French was sent eastward from Bloemfontein to intercept them, and it was reported that he had done so, near Thabanchu, and that a force sent southeast by Roberts, was harassing the fleeing Boers in the rear. It was hoped that they would be surrounded and captured near Thabanchu.

General French is now announced to be returning to Bloemfontein without having met any Boers. He reports that many burghers have surrendered to him at Thabanchu.

A despatch from a correspondent with General Roberts' army, dated at Bloemfontein, March 26, 12:10 p. m., says: "General French's army has just crossed the Orange Free State forces, but, according to various reports, resigned his command some months ago, and is now in the full possession of President Kruger. It is now stated that the Johannesburg police, under President Kruger's orders, have departed for Pretoria. Two other Free State forces, who also possessed passes or permits have been arrested and sent to Pretoria."

A guard of the Lanciers brought in three Boers named van der Merwe yesterday. They lived on a farm near the town of Lieutenant Lyon, of the Guards, was killed and Lieutenant Colonel Cordington, Lieutenant Colonel Crabbe, and Captain Trotter and a guide were also killed.

"Lord Roberts received General Tucker's Seventh Division this morning."

The Boer commandos are assembling in great force at Kroonstad, where it is said, a Boer council of war is now being held.

OTIS FAILING HEALTH

His Friends Declare That He Is Verging on Collapse.

NEW YORK, March 27.—The following despatch has been received from Hongkong: "General Otis is on the verge of collapse. Surgeons say that he must return to the United States soon or he will break down mentally. His friends admit it, and declare he ought to return immediately."

"There is growing indignation among Army surgeons because Otis refuses to leave to officers and men whose cases demand immediate return to a temperate climate. Usually deaths occur as the result."

"The transport Sheridan left Manila on March 6 with a lot of military prisoners. Against the protests of the surgeons Otis sent as guards for the prisoners men from the hospitals who were scarcely able to stand on their feet. They are expected to do two hours on and four hours of duty in the hold of the transport in a tropical sea."

"This ought to be investigated when the Sheridan reaches San Francisco."

"Guerrillas and Ladrones are so active that we are burning towns wherever the telegraph wires are cut or ambushes are attempted."

While the War Department officials deny that General Otis is in the least danger, there appears to be little doubt that he will be relieved by May 1 and will return to this country, arriving in June, when he will be made a major general, to succeed General Merritt and will probably be given the command of the Department of the Lakes. General Brooke will succeed General Merritt in command of the Department of the Lakes.

At the Surgeon General's office it was stated today that no official reports had been received concerning General Otis' health, but that as far as possible the officers on the sick list at Manila were being brought home. It was admitted that many of them had been ill were not brought home because they could not be spared from important posts.

"I have no doubt that General Otis' health is breaking down," said a prominent medical officer, "for he persists in attending to every minor detail of the campaign in the Philippines. He has been here for some years and he is an officer that ought to be left to his subordinates. It is a wonder that he has not been relieved long ago, as long as he has. It would be a good thing for General Otis to recall him, and it would also be an advantage the Army, as he would be able to rest and recuperate at his own home. The trifling details of the campaign in the Philippines are expected to arrive there early in May. Otis will have a long convalescence. The Commissioners at Manila will explain the details of the situation existing in the islands; his plans for civil government, and the needs of the inhabitants, and what he thinks should be done to pacify the insurgents and restore order."

Gen. Arthur MacArthur, it is said, will succeed Otis. He has the confidence of President McKinley and is the chief of the forces in the Philippines. He has had charge of the principal expeditions against the insurgents since the death of General Lawton, and he is said to be thoroughly acquainted with the needs of the natives.

The report that General Otis had detailed sick men to guard the military prisoners aboard the Sheridan will probably be corrected by the arrival of the vessel at San Francisco which will be about April 6. It was said at the War Department today that no complaint had been received of the illness of the general.

The order issued by Secretary Root today appointing a board of officers to enquire into the fitting up of the hospital ship *Missionary* at Manila, and the order issued upon the advice of surgeons at Manila in order that the vessels will be ready for hurrying home sick soldiers who will be sent to this country when the rainy season begins.

THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION

A Meeting at Which No Business Was Transacted.

The new Philippine Commission met this morning at 10 o'clock at its room, 815 Vermont Avenue, and the members were together for more than two hours, when they adjourned for the day. There were present W. H. Taft, chairman; Dean C. Worcester, Luke E. Wright, Bernard Moses, and H. C. Ide. Speaking for the Commission, the chairman said that they had transacted no business, but had simply met to become acquainted and to suggest plans for a more formal meeting in the near future.

"The members would like to see that any policy had been adopted by any individual to offer to the Commission, but each was emphatic that the meeting had not been called for that purpose. After the adjournment photographs were taken of the members as they sat at the table."

It has not yet been decided when the Commission will sail for Manila, but it is expected that the members will hold at least another meeting in this city before leaving, at which certain business will be transacted, the result of which they will offer to the President for his inspection and comment.

"It is thought that they would be able to sail from San Francisco during the first week in April, but that date has now been postponed to a later one, and it may be the first of the month before they are on their way. No date was today set for the next meeting, but this matter was left to the chairman, who will summon the members by mail at his option. He declined to even guess when this would be done, and reiterated the statement that the meeting had been devoid of all business."

WARFARE IN CHINA

Imperial Troops Engage the Boxers, With Heavy Losses.

PEKING, March 27.—An engagement has been fought between the Imperial troops and the rebellious "Boxers." The result was heavy. The casualties on both sides were heavy.

The Boxers are a Chinese anti-foreign secret society. Some time ago the Boxers announced their intention of going to Peking to further their campaign against the "foreign devils."

The engagement took place at Yen-Chui in the Province of Pechili. About 1,500 men were engaged on each side.

RUSSIAN SQUADRON ARRIVES

Demands for Land Likely to Be Made at Masanpoh.

YOKOHAMA, March 27.—A Russian squadron has arrived at Masanpoh. Its appearance is regarded as promising a demand for the concession of land at Masanpoh, twenty miles to the south.

The Prince's Visit to France.

LONDON, March 27.—The well-informed society paper, the "World," denies that the Prince of Wales will go to Paris in April. It says he will not be there before Whit-tuesday.

Seeking a Second Term

MARTINSBURG, W. Va., March 27.—

Lowest Lumber Prices

Always at F. Libbey & Co., 6th and N. Y. ave.

FAILED TO FREE POWERS

The Taylorite Held Without Bail for the Grand Jury.

Judge Moore States That He Believes the Prisoner Was Implicated in Gordon's Assassination, Taylor's Pardon Ignored—The Defendant Cheerful—The Other Cases.

FRANKFORT, Ky., March 27.—Caleb Powers, Republican Secretary of State of Kentucky, was at 10 o'clock today held over to the grand jury without bail on the charge of being an accessory before the fact to the assassination of Governor Goebel. The defense, when court convened at 9:30 o'clock, announced that it would introduce no evidence, but would file in bar the pardon issued to Caleb Powers by W. S. Taylor. They therefore moved the dismissal of the defendant. County Judge Moore overruled the motion.

Former Governor John Young Brown, the chief counsel for the defense, therefore asked for the dismissal of the prisoner on the merits of the case. This motion was likewise overruled. Brown then submitted the case without argument by agreement with the Commonwealth, stating that they were anxious for bail for the defendant and could furnish it to any amount. Judge Moore said:

"I want to say for the defendant that I don't think he is the man who shot the late Governor Goebel, but I do think he was concerned in the conspiracy that brought about the death of Senator Goebel. I therefore hold him over to the grand jury without bail, so that the case may be further investigated."

The Prisoner Cheerful.

Caleb Powers did not change expression at all during the trial. He seemed rather cheerful, and conversed with his attorneys. Court adjourned until 2 o'clock, when the cases against the other alleged conspirators, Capt. Davis and W. H. Culton, will be taken up.

Many Kentuckians are incensed today over the action of Attorney Tom Campbell in almost causing a riot during the trial of Caleb Powers. Powers was held in scores of guns were leveled on Powers and a massacre seemed certain.

The leveling of pistols at Secretary of State Powers to the United States Ambassador, when it was rumored that Taylor's troops were to attack the Governor's forces at the jail, seemed to be a deliberate insult to the United States Ambassador. The intention seemed to be to shoot them down in case of any trouble. It is said that a Democrat came to Mr. Powers last evening and said: "I don't know how the situation existing in the islands; his plans for civil government, and the needs of the inhabitants, and what he thinks should be done to pacify the insurgents and restore order."

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GENERAL WHEELER'S ORDERS.

Officially Placed on the Waiting List Today.

The official order placing Gen. Joe Wheeler on the waiting list, was issued by the War Department today. It is as follows:

"By direction of the Secretary of War, Brigadier General Joseph Wheeler, United States Volunteers, having reported at the War Department in compliance with his orders, will await further orders for the Government."

It is more than probable that General Wheeler will remain on detached duty until June, when General Merritt will retire and General Otis be promoted to major general. General Wheeler will be appointed to the vacant brigadier generalship.

TO INSPECT THE SUMMER

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Quartermaster General Livingston, Surgeon General Sternberg, Inspector General Breckinridge, and Commissary General Weston will leave Washington tonight for New York, where they will inspect the new transport Summer tomorrow.

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"When were you inaugurated Governor?" "The second time?" "Yes." "About January 2, 1899." "Did you ever send any authorized officer of the State to investigate the condition of affairs in the Couer d'Alene before you issued your proclamation declaring martial law? Did you get your information from Sinclair?" "The answer of the witness indicated that Mr. Sinclair was his principal source of information."

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The Witness' Motives in Calling for Federal Troops Seriously Questioned—His Evasive Replies Regarding the Employment of an Alleged Criminal as a Deputy.

The withering cross-examination of the Governor of Idaho was continued by Mr. Lentz and Mr. Cox before the Committee on Military Affairs of the House today.

Mr. Lentz impugned the motives of Governor Steunenberg in calling for Federal troops to control the situation in the Couer d'Alene before involving the aid of the citizens of Idaho, it being shown that there were about 6,000 able-bodied men in the State. Mr. Lentz sought to show to the committee that the Governor's animosity toward the union miners of Shoshone county was due in a measure to their failure to vote for him for Governor in 1898, after having supported him in 1896. The witness was accused of having connived at the appointment of criminals as deputies. At one point in the examination, the Governor of Idaho claimed that the Ohio Representative had insulted him, but the alleged insult will remain in the printed record of the hearing.

Governor Steunenberg entered the committee room some time before the hearing was called to order. There were but two members of the committee present, Mr. Lentz and Mr. Cox. The witness was called to the witness chair. The members of the committee present were Messrs. Hull, Brownlow, Mondell, Marsh, Dick, Hayden, Jett, Esch, Capron, and Stevens. Mr. Lentz asked the call to order by passing up and down the north side of the session chamber with his hands folded behind his back. He looked at the paleontologists, representatives of many foris and military posts, that line the walls of the committee room.

At 10 o'clock Governor Steunenberg took his place in the witness chair. The members of the committee present were Messrs. Hull, Brownlow, Mondell, Marsh, Dick, Hayden, Jett, Esch, Capron, and Stevens. Mr. Lentz asked the call to order by passing up and down the north side of the session chamber with his hands folded behind his back. He looked at the paleontologists, representatives of many foris and military posts, that line the walls of the committee room.

THE OPEN DOOR IN CHINA

Mr. Hay's Correspondence Submitted to the House.

The President today sent to the House in answer to the resolution of Mr. Cummings, the correspondence between the Secretary of State and foreign governments concerning the arrangements for the maintenance of the open door in China. The correspondence opened on September 6, 1899, with a note from Secretary Hay to Mr. Vignaud, United States charge d'affaires, at Paris, enclosing copies of instructions to the United States Ambassador, at London, Berlin, and St. Petersburg. "In reference to the desire of this Government that the Governments of Great Britain, Germany, and Russia make formal declaration of an 'open door' policy in the territories held by them in China."

GENERAL WHEELER'S ORDERS.

Officially Placed on the Waiting List Today.

The official order placing Gen. Joe Wheeler on the waiting list, was issued by the War Department today. It is as follows:

"By direction of the Secretary of War, Brigadier General Joseph Wheeler, United States Volunteers, having reported at the War Department in compliance with his orders, will await further orders for the Government."

It is more than probable that General Wheeler will remain on detached duty until June, when General Merritt will retire and General Otis be promoted to major general. General Wheeler will be appointed to the vacant brigadier generalship.

TO INSPECT THE SUMMER

Secretary Root and Others Going to New York.

Quartermaster General Livingston, Surgeon General Sternberg, Inspector General Breckinridge, and Commissary General Weston will leave Washington tonight for New York, where they will inspect the new transport Summer tomorrow.

Secretary Root will leave for New York this afternoon and will join the officers of the Department and visit the Summer. Secretary Root will review the military at Madison Square Garden tomorrow night.

The Summer will sail from New York for Manila, Thursday, carrying 1,500 recruits and a company with a train, broke into citizens' houses, looking for whisky, and when asked for his warrant slapped his hand on his six-shooter and said "this is my warrant." John Murphy, a deputy, said: "No sir, I did not." "Well, don't you think that was an outrage?" "They were cries from members of the committee, 'Oh, let that pass,' and it was passed over."

"When were you inaugurated Governor?" "The second time?" "Yes." "About January 2, 1899." "Did you ever send any authorized officer of the State to investigate the condition of affairs in the Couer d'Alene before you issued your proclamation declaring martial law? Did you get your information from Sinclair?" "The answer of the witness indicated that Mr. Sinclair was his principal source of information."

"So Hay asked: 'Governor, have you consulted with the President with regard to keeping these troops in Shoshone county all this time?'" "Only if it appears in my correspondence with the War Department."

The witness told of the telegrams which had passed between him and the War Department concerning the maintenance of troops in the Couer d'Alene.

"So far as you know the President and War Department approve of the troops being kept there?" "I think they do." "Mr. Lentz asked: 'Governor, how old are you?'" "You were elected first in 1898, again in 1899."

"Yes, sir." "In your campaigns did you visit the Couer d'Alene district?" "Yes, sir; I made speeches in Wallace, Gem, and other places."

"You carried the county by a handsome vote in 1898?" "I did." "You thought they were your friends?" "If so understood it."

"Well, in 1898 you did not carry the county?" "I did not."

"Then your opinion of these men began to change?" "My opinion began to change as early as January, 1897."

"In 1898, these men in Shoshone county sent to the Legislature of Idaho Representatives who opposed certain bills that you wanted to be passed?" "The witness' answer was substantially an affirmative one."

Regarding the Militia.

Mr. Lentz then carried the witness over certain matters that were pending before the Legislature, particularly with regard to a proposition to disband the militia.

"Is it not a fact that the Bunker Hill and Sullivan Mining Company reported its men as enrolled in the militia, so that the county was deprived of their contributions to the road fund?" "I am inclined to the belief that the question was raised."

Mr. Lentz and Governor Steunenberg discussed the militia question at some length. The State of Idaho sent to the Philippines about 800 men. The volunteers from Shoshone county numbered about 50. There were three full companies of militia in Shoshone county, and about eighteen or twenty of the Shoshone volunteers were militiamen. At the last election 49,000 votes were cast, there being equal suffrage between the sexes. In 1898, before the

MINISTERS PLEAD THEIR CASE

Advocate in Strong Terms the Abolishment of Polygamy.

A hearing was held by the Committee on the Judiciary of the House today on the proposed amendment to the Constitution prohibiting the practice of polygamy and rendering polygamists ineligible to office under the American Government. A number of ministers appeared before the committee, among them being the Rev. Dr. Byron Sunderland, of this city; the Rev. Dr. McAllister, of Pittsburg; the Rev. Dr. Scovel, late President of the Wooster University, of Wooster, Ohio; the Rev. Dr. Hugh Johnston, of Baltimore; the Rev. Dr. T. P. Stevenson, of Philadelphia; and the Rev. Dr. Kerr Boyce Tupper, of Philadelphia.

Dr. Johnston was the principal speaker. He said that the day had come when the body of polygamists could be considered only as a body of fanatics. He declared that the Mormon Church controls Utah, and to a very considerable extent Idaho. Mormon colonies are at work in various parts of the country.

"It is time," he said, "to cut this festering ulcer from the bosom of our Republic by adopting this amendment. He added that he anxiously hoped that one wife and one husband, and that this amendment is in the interest of pure womanhood and higher civilization."

SUFFERING WITH SMALLPOX.

A Racehorse Attache Sent to the Hospital.

John Wycher, colored, twenty years old, arrived this city this morning with a carload of race horses shipped from New Orleans. He was ill three days on the train. When the car was transferred to the race track at Benning he went to the house of a friend in Kenilworth.

The Health Department was notified of his illness, and on investigation found him suffering from smallpox. He was removed to the hospital, the house fumigated, and the inmates sent to the detention camp.

Porto Rico