

Rain tonight. Saturday fair; slight changes in temperature; variable winds.

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HEAVY FIGHTING IN WESTERN TRANSVAAL

Kitchener Reports Engagement With Delarey.

BOTH SIDES SUFFER SEVERELY

British Attacked While Pursuing the Boers.

ARE FORCED TO ENTRENCH

Burghees Finally Repulsed on All Sides. Special Mention Made of Conduct of Party of Canadian Rifles, Every Man of Whom Was Hit.

LONDON, April 4.—General Lord Kitchener today reports a heavy engagement near Driekuil, Western Transvaal, on March 31, in which 1,500 Boers under General Delarey and Kemp were engaged with a force of British under Generals Cookson and Keir.

The dispatch reads: "Our forces were reconnoitering toward Hart River, when they struck gun tracks. They caught up with the Boers and carried on a running fight with them for eight miles through the bush.

"On emerging on the open country the British were advanced upon by large reinforcements, who attacked our flanks, forcing them to hastily entrench their position.

Fighting ensued at close quarters till the enemy was repulsed on all sides.

"Delarey and Kemp and other Boer leaders vainly attempted to rally their men, who retreated northwest and to the south, suffering heavy losses. Our casualties were also severe."

Lord Kitchener makes special mention of the brave conduct of a party of the Canadian Rifles. He says:

"A party of the Canadian Rifles held their post till every man was put out of action."

THE MURDER OF BOERS.

English Officer Surprised Scandal Was So Long Suppressed.

PLYMOUTH, England, April 4.—Your correspondent today had an interview with a British officer who has just returned from the Cape.

The officer expressed the greatest surprise that the scandal charging Australian officers in South Africa with the murder of offensive Boers had been so long suppressed.

The officer told your correspondent that there are thirty-one distinct charges against Australian officers, including seven counts for the murder of women and children.

COLES IS SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR LIFE

Negro Who Killed Albert Hawkins at Deanwood.

JURY OPPOSED TO HANGING

Verdict That Prevented the Ending of the Negro's Career on the Gallows. Coleman, Who Killed Perry Officer, Given Three Years in the Penitentiary.

Marcellus Coles, colored, convicted of the murder of Albert Hawkins, also colored, was today sentenced by Justice Anderson to imprisonment for life in the penitentiary at Moundsville, W. Va.

The jury which found Coles guilty of murder qualified its verdict by adding the words, "without capital punishment." The verdict, according to the law in force at the time offense was committed practically fixed the sentence at imprisonment for life.

The crime of which Coles was convicted was committed at Deanwood Park on August 26 last. Coles and Hawkins attended a picnic given at that place, and became involved in a quarrel over the breaking of some crockery. In the struggle between them Coles stabbed Hawkins in the thigh with a penknife.

Coles fled from the scene and was arrested a short while afterward. Hawkins was sent to Garfield Hospital, but he died before reaching there. Coles is about twenty-two years old.

Charles Coleman, colored, convicted of manslaughter, was sentenced by Justice Anderson to imprisonment in the penitentiary for three years. Coleman was charged with the murder of Perry Officer on September 16 last, at a brickyard in Southwest Washington. The jury which heard the testimony returned a verdict for manslaughter against the defendant.

The killing of Officer was the result of a quarrel between him and Coleman over a trifling matter. The evidence showed that Coleman, without just provocation, struck Officer on the head with a few blows of a brick.

Attorneys Thomas L. Jones and W. Calvin Chase appealed to the court for leniency on behalf of the defendant, because of his age. It is claimed that he is sixteen years old. They asked that he either be sent to the reform school, until he reached his majority or to the District Jail, for a short term.

Petition for Executor.

Dr. Joseph Muir was today appointed executor in the place of Mrs. Ellen McPherson Muir, as the contestant, in the litigation over the estate of the late Congressman John R. McPherson of New Jersey. The petition asking for the substitution of Dr. Muir as the executor was presented to Justice Barnard, presiding in Probate Court, by Messrs. McKenney & Flannery, counsel for the late Mrs. Muir. The McPherson estate is estimated to be worth about \$175,000, part of which is valuable real estate in this city.

THE PRESIDENT ORDERS INVESTIGATION OF BRITISH CAMP AT NEW ORLEANS

Protest of Governor Heard Leads Mr. Roosevelt to Direct the Authorities to Make a Thorough Enquiry Into Matter. Early Action Is Anticipated.

An official investigation of the alleged British shipping camp at Chalmette, near New Orleans, was ordered by President Roosevelt today.

Announcement of the action was made at the conclusion of the Cabinet meeting today, at which the protest of Governor Heard of Louisiana, to the effect that agents of the English army were violating the laws of neutrality by shipping mules and supplies from Chalmette to New Orleans, was exhaustively discussed.

This protest from Governor Heard was received by Secretary Hay several days ago and by him transmitted to President Roosevelt.

It is understood that the protest contained some strong allegations that the laws of neutrality were being violated.

A month ago in response to a protest from the Boer delegates, Messrs. Wolgast, and Wessels, who visited Washington, the State Department declared

that the shipping of mules and supplies from New Orleans was not a violation of the laws of neutrality and that there was nothing to prevent the Boers from doing the same.

Representative Sulzer, of New York, today introduced the following resolution in the House:

"Whereas The Governor of Louisiana has reported to the State Department the existence and operation in the State of Louisiana of a British base of supplies, conducted and controlled by British military officers, whereby horses and mules and other supplies, contraband of war, are shipped on British military and naval transports to the seat of war in South Africa for the augmentation of the British military forces in South Africa operating against the South African republics of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal; and

Whereas the Governor of Louisiana

further reports, and sustains his report by affidavits of ten citizens, that said British base of supplies has been and is being used to procure by solicitation, fraudulent representation and unlawful means the enlistment of said American citizens in the British army operating in South Africa.

"Therefore, be it resolved, That the Secretary of State be, and he hereby is, respectfully requested, if not incompatible with public interest to transmit to the House of Representatives the said report and communication of the Governor of Louisiana, together with all accompanying affidavits, documents and communications."

The investigation will be conducted through the Department of Justice. Attorney General Knox will instruct the United States District Attorney at New Orleans to look into the matter and to render a report.

MRS. DENNIS AT LAST DESCRIBES ASSAULT

The Injured Modiste Talks Connectedly of Her Awful Experience.

STORY TOLD TO DETECTIVES

Catheter at Her Bedside at Garfield Hospital, She Makes the First Lucid Comment on Incidents of the Fateful Night.

Although it has been said that Mrs. Ada Gilbert Dennis, the victim of the mysterious and brutal assault at her home, 1117 K Street northwest, is becoming insane, she this afternoon surprised the police by making a wonderfully clear statement regarding herself, the first reliable and rational statement she has made since her awful experience.

Early this morning Captain Boardman received a message from the surgeons at Garfield Hospital that the patient's mind was exceptionally clear this morning and that it might be possible to secure a statement from her. Accordingly, Detective Sergeant Horne and Warden Rabbitt, secretary to Captain Boardman, were sent to the hospital.

Accompanied by Dr. Atkinson, physician, and Surgeon Reichelderfer, of Garfield, the little party fled into the unfortunate woman's room. Every preparation had been made for the visit, and Mrs. Dennis was propped up in bed by two large pillows. The ghastly wounds about her head had entirely healed, although in some places the skin was seared by long red cuts, scars which she will never lose, as a memento of the brutal attack made upon her.

The questioning was done by Detective Horne, and both the questions and answers of Mrs. Dennis were recorded by Mr. Rabbitt. Although her statements regarding the assault were not of great importance, when other matters were discussed, such as her property and her condition, she brightened up and answered her interrogator in a precise and firm manner.

"Who was in the room when you were assaulted?" was asked by Detective Horne.

"I think there were two or three people," answered the injured woman, distinctly.

"Do you know who struck you?" asked the detective.

"Mrs. Dennis replied that she did not, but that according to her own ideas she must have been hit while standing up, for she said she felt sure that she had fallen after the blow. The same question regarding her assailant was repeated, but she only answered in the negative. There is no doubt in the opinion of the police that her mind is at present a blank regarding the subject.

When asked as to whether she owned a house, Mrs. Dennis replied that she did, and that she also owned considerable jewelry.

"I have a beautiful pair of earrings given me by my husband, a gold watch and chain, a ring, and a brooch," said she, adding that one of the rings had been stolen some time prior to the assault upon her. The conversation then changed to the night of the assault. The sick woman was very nervous, and it required the strict attention of the nurse to prevent her from pulling a bandage from her right eye. She looked her questioner and audience in the eye and answered every question clear and distinctly.

"Mrs. Dennis," said Mr. Horne, "how long have you been here?" meaning the time she had been confined in Garfield Hospital.

"Oh, I guess about six weeks," she replied.

After answering a score or more of questions the surgeons concluded the interview. When asked during the interview if she remembered anything regarding herself on the night of the assault, she said that she was positive that she saw through a keyhole in the door several parties outside of her room. She said she felt a great deal better now and was anxious to know how her mother and sister were.

The change in the patient's condition

REJECTS THE SENATE ANTI-ANARCHY BILL

House Judiciary Committee Prefers Ray Measure.

THE POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

Upper Body Planned a Military Guard for the President and Those in Line of Succession, and Conviction of a Person Who Killed in Self-Defence.

The House Committee on the Judiciary today took up the bill passed by the Senate "for the protection of the President of the United States" and the strongest opposition to it was quickly apparent.

The principal objections to the measure are because of the section which gives the murderer a death sentence and his accomplices not more than twenty years, and the section providing a military guard for the President, Vice President, and Cabinet officials.

There was opposition also because the Senate bill would convict a person who killed in self-defence and because there is no provision for the punishment of anyone who harbors, counsels, or aids the murderer.

The committee authorized the chairman, Mr. Ray, of New York, to report the House bill, which removes all these objections, as a substitute for the Senate bill.

He was also authorized to amend the House bill in one particular, making it clear that the President, Vice President, or those in line of succession are presumed to be at all times engaged in the performance of their official duties.

PAIR OF ALLEGED ANARCHISTS JAILED

Arrested for Circulating Pamphlets at Altgeld Meeting.

Prisoners Remanded by Magistrate Until Question of New York's Law Can Be Investigated.

NEW YORK, April 4.—Henry Hirsch and Solomon W. Heller were arraigned in police court today, charged with distributing anarchistic pamphlets at the Altgeld memorial meeting at Cooper Union last night.

Henry George, chairman of the meeting, said to Magistrate Pool that he had examined the book and believed it simply an academic exposition of anarchy. It advocated no violation of law.

Magistrate Pool remanded the prisoners until tomorrow. He asked the clerk if the Legislature had not passed a law prescribing a severe penalty for the dissemination of anarchistic doctrines.

The clerk said that no copy of the new law had been received from Albany, but he had heard that Governor Odell had signed the bill yesterday.

LAND SHOULD BE DONATED.

Colonel Biddle Gives Views on Proposed Street Extension.

Colonel John Biddle, the Engineer Commissioner, has submitted to his colleagues on the District Board his views upon Senate bill No. 4119 for the extension of Twenty-Fourth Street northeast. The estimated cost of the extension is \$12,000 for the land, \$9,000 for the grading, and \$8,500 for macadamizing, making a total of \$29,500.

"The greater part of the proposed extension," says Colonel Biddle, "is through agricultural land, and it would seem as though the land should be dedicated through these tracts. A part of it passes through an old subdivision which was recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, but not with the Surveyor, as now required by law, through which it might be difficult to obtain donations.

"The Engineer Department does not recommend the crossing of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad along the line of this street, as such crossing would have to be at grade. Crossings are contemplated at the block south of Twenty-fourth Street and also at the block north of it."

DECLARES DISTRICT STREETS NOT CLEAN

Washington Highways Said to Be Neglected

The charge that more money was spent in Washington for street cleaning in proportion to its size than in other cities, and that the streets were not as well cleaned as elsewhere, and that some were not cleaned at all, was made by Mr. McDermott in the House today.

Mr. McDermott Sharply Criticises Condition of Thoroughfares.

MR. CANNON TO THE DEFENCE

But Even He Thinks Original Sum Should Have Proven Sufficient.

CONTRACT SYSTEM FAVORED

Discussion Arises Over an Appropriation of \$20,248 in the Deficiency Bill, Although \$115,500 Had Been Originally Appropriated for the Purpose.

The House this morning passed an urgent deficiency bill carrying an appropriation of \$192,737.39.

The following provisions in the measure are for the relief of the District:

"To enable the Collector of Taxes to prepare tax-sale certificates, with authority to employ clerks of the Collector's and other District offices after office hours, \$50,000.

"Fire Department—For forage, \$3,000. "Public schools: For fuel, \$10,000. "Health Department: For the enforcement of the laws relating to the manufacture and sale of drugs and foods, including candy and milk, and for the necessary expenses of the chemical laboratory incident thereto, under the direction of the Health Department, for the service of the fiscal year 1902, \$500.

"For Street Cleaning \$20,248. "Sprinkling, sweeping, and cleaning streets: For sprinkling, sweeping, and cleaning streets, avenues, alleys, and suburban streets, including necessary incidental expenses, \$20,248.

"One-half of the foregoing amounts to meet deficiencies in the appropriations on account of the District of Columbia shall be paid from the revenues of the District of Columbia and one-half from any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated."

Mr. McDermott (Dem., N. J.) raised a question as to the amount allowed for street cleaning, and asked what the original appropriation was.

Mr. Cannon said it was \$115,000. He thought himself that should have been sufficient, and that the amount of money for this purpose should be limited, and not more than one-twelfth expended in any one month; but the Commissioners had reported that the fund would be exhausted early in May, and as summer was approaching, and the streets must be sprinkled, \$20,000 additional was necessary.

Declares Streets Not Cleaned.

Mr. McDermott said that the appropriation for street cleaning in Washington was greater in proportion than any other city in the country, yet the streets were not clean. He called attention to the condition of Pennsylvania Avenue during the past two months, and expressed the belief that the money might not have been properly used.

Mr. Cannon said there were more than 200 miles of streets to clean, but he thought \$115,000 should have been enough, but unless this additional appropriation was made there would be no street cleaning for several months, and accordingly he urged that it be made.

Favors Contract System.

Mr. McDermott said under the contract system the work could be done for 10 per cent of the present cost, with a million-dollar guarantee to do it well.

Mr. Cannon replied by saying that Washington was one of the cleanest cities in the country, and he would not criticize the method employed here.

"I do not question the method of cleaning the streets," said Mr. McDermott, "but what I call attention to is that some of the streets are not cleaned at all."

"The bill was passed without further objection."

FOURTEENTH STREET WORK.

Colonel Biddle Reports Upon the Bill for Improvement.

The Engineer Commissioner, Col. John Biddle, has sent forward to his colleagues on the Board a report upon the proposed amendment to the District appropriation bill providing \$40,000 for grading and macadamizing Fourteenth Street to the northern limit of the Sault tract.

"It has been contrary to the policy of the Commissioners," says Colonel Biddle, "to recommend an appropriation for improving a road as a condition of its donation, for the reason that a large number of roads which have been secured by donation or condemnation still remain unimproved, and are awaiting appropriations for their improvement. The special case of Fourteenth Street, however, is so important and the land proposed to be donated so valuable, that it is believed an exception should be made.

"The amount named, \$40,000, is the estimated cost of improving the road to the northern limit of the Sault tract, with the understanding that the railroad company, which already has a charter approved its line on this route, will pave the central part of the roadway.

"From the statements of property owners interested in this extension it does not seem possible, however, that donations of all the land can be obtained, though a very large proportion of it can be."

Colonel Biddle suggests that the Commissioners recommend the enactment of the proposed amendment.

A Fire in Unoccupied House.

An alarm of fire was turned in shortly after 2 o'clock this morning from box 231 for a fire in two unoccupied frame houses, 610 and 612 Freeman's Alley northwest. The houses were damaged to the extent of \$500, and are owned by William Moreland. No cause can be assigned for the fire.

NATURAL PREY OF AMERICAN COMMERCE

Major Farquhar's Views of Central and South America.

PLAN FOR MERCHANT MARINE

Statements Made Before the Committee on Commerce in Advocacy of the Department of Commerce—Labor Will Finally Get Its Own Department.

Major Farquhar of the late Industrial Commission continued his statement this morning before the Committee on Commerce in advocacy of the establishment of a Department of Commerce.

During the course of his remarks he spoke of Blaine's ideas on reciprocity. Blaine, he declared, did not care how low the reciprocal rates were so that the goods exchanged were carried in American bottoms. "And I don't know," said the speaker, "but that would be the best way to build up the merchant marine. It would do it without taking the money out of the public treasury."

Continuing, he said that the whole of the insular service should be taken out of the State Department and placed under the Department of Commerce. He believed that the bill should provide for an additional assistant secretary to have charge of the labor branch of the department.

Foreign trade, he said, was absolutely essential to the continued prosperity of the country, which is now able to produce greatly more than is necessary for American consumption. History showed that the strongest and best civilizations always preyed upon the weaker ones, and let it hit whomsoever it would the South and Central American republics should be the commercial prey of American commerce.

Mr. Charles H. Litchman, also of the Industrial Commission, said he endorsed all that Major Farquhar had said. He was in favor of an independent and separate Department of Labor, but he did not think it possible to get one for a long time, so he favored its incorporation in the Department of Commerce with an assistant secretary to supervise it. When labor becomes powerful enough to demand anything it usually gets it, he said, and when the Federation of Labor embraced 5,000,000 members, as he thought it might in twenty years, it could demand and get a Department of Labor with a representative in the Cabinet.

SENATORS TO HEAR OF AGUINALDO'S CAPTURE

Ex-Captain Detchemendy to Be Given Fair Hearing.

ASKS JUSTICE FOR COMRADES

Resigned From the Army Because All the Credit Was Given to General Funston—Committee to Be Informed of All the Facts.

Capt. George A. Detchemendy, formerly of the Twenty-second United States Infantry, the man who captured Aguinaldo's bodyguard and intercepted the letter to General Lacuna that led to the Filipino leader's capture, was at the Capitol today and had a conference with Senator Hawley with reference to being heard by the Senate Committee on Military Affairs.

Captain Detchemendy had a long talk with Secretary Root yesterday regarding his work in the Philippines, and lodged a complaint for himself and his officers and men that they have received no recognition for their part in the capture of the Filipino leader.

Captain Detchemendy believes that he should have been allowed to make the capture after he had secured knowledge of the whereabouts of Aguinaldo. He says that his command has received no recognition whatever, and has almost been forgotten, while General Funston has become a popular hero and his men have received decorations for doing what was really made easy for them through the preliminary work of Captain Detchemendy and his men.

The Military Affairs Committee will, it is understood, grant Captain Detchemendy his hearing, and may have a further investigation of the matter. He asks that his fellow-officers and the men under them be given medals for their work.

Captain Detchemendy resigned from his command some time ago on account of what he considered the injustice of his treatment.

NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Local Headquarters for Uncle Sam in Many Towns.

The Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds today reported favorably bills for the erection of new public buildings as follows:

Providence, R. I., \$1,600,000; Meriden, Conn., \$100,000; Findlay, Ohio, \$100,000; Sterling, Ill., \$50,000; Flint, Mich., \$50,000; Biloxi, Miss., \$15,000; Kalamazoo, Mich. (extension of present building), \$60,000.