

GEN. BULLER SURPRISED THE BOERS

Followed Up the Movement by Shelling the Trenches.

HIS FORCES CONCENTRATED

One Cause for Anxiety Removed by Recent News—In Cape Colony General Methuen Makes a Demonstration in Force, Shelling Boer Works—Gatacre Is Skirmishing Around Molteno—An Account of a Battle at Ladysmith.

London, Jan. 18, 4.30 a. m.—General Buller completely surprised the Boers and occupied the hills beyond Potgieters Drift, fifteen miles west of Colenso, on Wednesday, Jan. 10. This intelligence is contained in an exclusive despatch to the Times, dated yesterday. He followed up the movement by shelling the Boer trenches.

This news completely disposes of the statement that Sir Charles Warren's force went in the direction of Weenen, and it tends greatly to restore confidence in General Buller's tactics.

The supposition that he had divided his forces into three columns had given cause for anxiety. It is now seen that such a view was erroneous, as General Buller's forces are concentrated.

In Cape Colony General Methuen has made a demonstration in force, shelling the Boer works. General Gatacre is skirmishing around Molteno and General French has been throwing a few shells at the Boers at Rensburg. Colonel Plumer is moving to the relief of Mafeking from Bechuanaland. He is now in command of less than 2,000 men. Mafeking is in a bad way; the siege is being pressed with determination and the Kaffirs are deserting because of pinched rations and the necessity of eating horse flesh.

The standard has a vivid account of the assault upon Ladysmith, showing that the garrison was surprised and that several times the situation was critical. Out of a detachment of thirty Gordon Highlanders who surrendered every man was wounded, says the correspondent. Curiously enough, this is the first mention of the capture of the Highlanders. The Boer repulse at Ladysmith was the heaviest counterstroke of the war.

The government is relaxing its efforts to send out reinforcements. It is quite undecided as to when the Eighth division will be shipped.

The war office declines the offer of a third battalion of Northamptonshire militia, saying that no more militia will be sent abroad. It seems probable that only 5,000, instead of 10,000 yeomanry, will be mobilized.

The ministers are gathering for a cabinet council, which will probably be held tomorrow (Friday).

From Spearman's Farm. London, Jan. 18.—A special dispatch from Spearman's Farm, dated January 17, says:

"The British column moved to Spearman's Farm, beyond Springfield on January 17. The difficulties in crossing the swollen river were great, the wagons being quite covered."

The other morning papers are out with extra editions confirming the dispatch from Spearman's farm to the Times. The Daily Telegraph's correspondent under yesterday's date says:

"I am permitted to wire from Spearman's farm that General Lyttelton yesterday afternoon ferried and forded Potgieters drift and seized with little opposition a line of low ridges a mile from there. During the night a howitzer battery was carried across. Today, from Mount Alice, near Swartzkop, naval guns and howitzers effectively shelled the Boer position which is strong."

"General Warren also today crossed the Tugela, six miles farther to the west, near Wagon drift, with all arms. In the face of a hot and heavy fire from Boer cannon and rifles. He has effected a most satisfactory lodgment two miles further on toward Spruce kop."

London, Jan. 18.—The Pietermaritzburg correspondent of the Daily Mail telegraphing last Wednesday evening, January 17, says:

"Arrivals from Estcourt report that there was fighting on the Tugela today. The result is not known here."

A Bombardment. London, Jan. 17.—The following dispatch has been received from Mafeking under date of January 3:

"The enemy began a renewed and vigorous bombardment January 1, and deliberately fired six 9-pounder shells into the women's laager, killing a little girl and wounding two children. The material position is unchanged."

Modder River, Cape Colony, Jan. 17.—There was a demonstration in force, under General Methuen, yesterday, a division being engaged, with the object of ascertaining the strength and disposition of the Boer force and also in order to try to draw the Boers from Kimberley, where, lately, they have been active. The British discovered the Boers in great force and be-

MOLINEUX TRIAL NEARLY ENDED

Arguments Heard in Cases of Meyers and Krauss.

Harrisburg, Jan. 17.—The board of pardons heard argument today in the cases of Samuel Peter Meyers, of Somerset, and Frank J. Krauss, of Lehigh, both of whom were applied for a commutation of sentence to life imprisonment. An executive session will be held tomorrow to consider these and a number of other cases which have been under advisement since the December session. The application in Krauss' case is a mental disease and there was no motive for his alleged crime and that by reason of public sentiment against him it was impossible to obtain a fair trial. District Attorney Groman filed a protest against a commutation. Meyers is alleged to have murdered Michael Carney and John Lenhart at Garret two years ago.

His attorneys have asked that his sentence be commuted on the ground that he is of unsound mind and that the members of his family are subject to nervous and mental diseases and disturbances. The district attorney of Somerset county and the widow of Meyers alleged victims have protested against a commutation. Arguments were also heard in the cases of John Heckman, of Pittsburgh, and Michael J. Maloney, of Allegheny, second degree murder. The cases of Samuel Houck, of Harrisburg, burglary; Thomas Cooper, of Allegheny, arson; James E. Ritenour, Westmoreland, felony, and John F. Doyle, of Philadelphia, conspiracy, were continued. The case of William H. House, former assistant attorney of Pittsburgh, serving 22 months in the Western Penitentiary for embezzlement, will also be considered tomorrow in executive session, he having made application for a rehearing.

GENERAL WHEELER'S RETURN. No Significance in His Relief from Further Duty. Washington, Jan. 17.—It is said at the war department that there is no special significance in the fact that General Wheeler has been relieved from further military duty in the Philippines and ordered home. Although he has never been in command, it is understood that active duty in the field has undermined General Wheeler's health and that it was dangerous for him to remain in the tropical climate of the Philippines much longer. While it is not officially admitted that General Wheeler is suffering from malaria, it is stated positively that if he has taken such a step the president will suspend action until he has had an opportunity to confer with him on the subject, with a view of disengaging him from such a course. He is nearly 63 years of age, his statutory list of active service in the army and but for that fact would have been appointed a brigadier general in the regular army.

The president is said to favor legislation which will authorize the appointment of General Wheeler and General Lee and, perhaps, one or two others, to be brigadier generals on the retired list, in acknowledgment of their faithful services to this country during and since the Spanish war. It is said that is one of the statutory list of General Wheeler is summoned home at this time.

His orders which were issued several days ago, require him to come to Washington by way of San Francisco, for consultation with the secretary of war.

UNITED MINE WORKERS. Fully 700 Delegates Are at Indianapolis Convention. Indianapolis, Jan. 17.—The third day's session of the United Mine Workers of America convened today, with John Mitchell, president, in the chair. There were fully 700 delegates present.

Chairman P. J. Keenan, of the credentials committee, submitted his report. Mr. Fahr, of the committee, who read the report, said that there would be differences in this convention as there have been in all others. Owing to the nature of the data furnished the committee had not been able to put out delegates in their proper places. The showing of the various states was larger than expected.

The credentials committee's report was acted upon and all delegates who were not seated were ordered to report to the committee for a settlement of differences.

The election of officers was postponed and the report of the committee on rules and order of business read and accepted. President Mitchell then announced the names of the regular committees which will work during the convention. These committees: Scale, transportation, appeals and grievances, reports of officers, and a committee of tellers.

Wages Advanced. Pittsburg, Jan. 17.—Pitmen and possibly conductors and engineers all over the Baltimore and Ohio railroad system proper are to be the subjects of a substantial wage advance dating from January 1. The advance will be about 8 per cent. The Pittsburg and Lake Erie management sent out notices to the various division headquarters announcing an advance to all its yardmen. In general the advance averages about 10 per cent.

Pennsylvania Pensions. Washington, Jan. 17.—Pension certificates: Philip Lenz, Northumberland, \$8 to \$12; Joseph Hackett (dead), Plymouth, \$2 to \$10; Orinial widows, etc.—Maria E. Smith, Johnston, \$8; Susan V. Weir, Johnstown, \$8; Mrs. M. J. Weir, Johnstown, \$8; Mrs. M. J. Weir, Johnstown, \$8; Emma L. Lebkuecher, Wingo, Center, \$8.

County Jailor Killed. West Plains, Mo., Jan. 17.—County Jailor Alfred Henry, while feeding the prisoners in the Howell county jail today, was overpowered and killed by two prisoners, B. Richardson and Ed Grady. The prisoners escaped and locked the door after them. A reward of \$1,000 is offered for their capture.

Charters Granted. Harrisburg, Jan. 17.—Charters were issued by the state department today as follows: Pittsburgh Sewer Street Railway company, Pittsburgh; capital \$25,000. Crescent Manufacturing company, Pittsburgh; capital \$25,000. Pittsburgh Real Estate company, Pittsburgh; capital \$5,000.

"Jim Crow" Bill Passed. Richmond, Va., Jan. 17.—The house of delegates today passed the "Jim Crow" car bill, or bill requiring separate cars for whites and black on the railways, without a dissenting vote.

BOARD OF PARDONS.

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LIVELY DEBATE IN THE HOUSE

TALK OVER THE SALE OF THE CUSTOM HOUSE.

Mr. Sulzer, of New York, Starts the Ball Rolling—Mr. Sibley Warmly Commends the Course of Secretary Gage—Resolution of Inquiry Regarding the Conduct of the Philippine War Is Adopted—Mr. Teller Talks on Finances—The Vote on Gold Standard.

Washington, Jan. 17.—The house had another inning today over the sale of the New York custom house by Secretary Gage. Mr. Sulzer, of New York, the author of the resolution for an investigation of the secretary's transactions with the New York banks, started the ball rolling by charging that the mandate had already gone forth to suppress it. Mr. Sibley, a Pennsylvania Democrat, formerly a radical advocate of free silver, who is now out of sympathy with the Democrats in the house, warmly commended Mr. Gage's course. These two speeches precipitated a debate which lasted about three hours.

Mr. Grosvenor, of Ohio, explained that the committee on rules, to which the subject was referred, had not acted because no evidence had been produced before the committee to warrant the ordering of such a far-reaching investigation. Not a single person had appeared before the committee to press it. Mr. Hepburn (Rep., Ia.) assailed Mr. Sulzer for his extravagant statements and declared there ought to be some way to rebuke a member for slandering honored officials. Later in the day during the discussion of the appropriation for the army, Mr. Cannon, in charge of a bill, challenged a member to move to strike it out. Mr. Williams (Dem., Miss.) replied to Mr. Cannon in an eloquent speech, in which he affirmed the loyalty of every American citizen to the flag and charged Mr. Cannon with shrewdly issuing a challenge that he knew would not be accepted. He maintained the right, however, of members to criticize the policy of the government, asserting that loyalty to the flag was often confounded with loyalty to a policy of the government. The urgent officers' bill was passed with only one unimportant amendment.

In the Senate. An agreement was easily reached in the senate today to take the final vote in the pending bill fixing gold as the standard of value in the United States. Mr. Sulzer for many resolutions, the measure will be discussed.

After several days of debate the drug net resolution of inquiry regarding the conduct of the Philippine war was adopted. It was introduced by Mr. Hoar, (Mass.) and practically was passed as amended December 21, 1899, as compared with the similar period of the preceding year.

The increase in number of articles was 125,041,675, and in value \$2,456,952. The largest increase in number of articles sold is in "postage due" stamps, which are six per cent, and the largest increase in value of articles sold, is found in ordinary stamped envelopes, 34 per cent.

ALLEGED COUNTERFEITERS. Tuscarora People Accused of Flooding Bradford with Bad Dollars. Towanda, Pa., Jan. 17.—James T. Culver and Adolph Babcock, of Tuscarora township, were arrested today and held in jail for a further hearing by United States Commissioner Mix, charged with making and passing counterfeit money.

The men are suspected of belonging to a well organized gang of counterfeiters that has flooded the county with bogus dollars.

Schaefer-Morningstar Contest. New York, Jan. 17.—Play was resumed today in the 11-inch ball line handicap match between Jake Schaefer, who is endeavoring to score 2,000 points against 1,500 by Ora Morningstar, the young Chicago shuttler. Schaefer lost ground today and was unable to break through the lead which his opponent has maintained from the beginning of the contest. Score: Afternoon game—Morningstar, 190; average, 18.4; high run, 47. Schaefer, 135; average, 30.5; high runs, 71 and 32. Evening game—Morningstar, 190; average, 12.4; high run, 25; grand total, 690. Schaefer, 191; average, 28.5; high runs, 52 and 67; grand total, 1,675.

Senate Confirmations. Washington, Jan. 17.—The senate today confirmed the following nominations: Consul—M. J. Carter, of Pennsylvania, at St. Johns, N. F.; A. Wood, of Pennsylvania, at Kehl; G. L. Darte, of Pennsylvania, at Patras, Greece; A. C. Yates, of Virginia, at Malabar, East Indies; Pennsylvania, C. Griffin, Catastagua; H. L. Cooper, Edinboro, Erie county.

Thirteen Are Killed. Turin, Jan. 17.—It is now announced that thirteen persons altogether were killed and forty others were wounded by the explosion yesterday of the dynamite factory at Avigliara, fourteen miles from here.

Steamship Arrivals. New York, Jan. 17.—Arrived: Friesland, Antwerp; Sailed: St. Paul, Southampton; Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Cleared: La Gasconne, Havre. Rotterdam—Arrived: Staudam, New York. Southampton—Arrived: St. Louis, New York.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING

Weather Indications Today: RAIN.

1 General-General Buller Crosses the Tugela River. Conclusions of Committee on the Roberts Case. Testimony in the Molineux Trial. Congressional Doings.

2 General-Northeastern Pennsylvania. Financial and Commercial.

3 Local-Opinions Handed Down by the Superior Court. Funeral of Rees Watkins.

4 Editorial. News and Comments.

5 Local-President Truesdale Interviewed. Two Killed, Several Injured in the Oxford Tunnel.

6 Local-West Scranton and Suburban.

7 Local-About the County.

8 Local-Live Industrial News. Condition of the Anthracite Coal Trade.

IMPORTANT DECISION. Judge Arnold's Opinion in the Oleomargarine Cases. Philadelphia, Jan. 17.—A decision of interest to the entire produce trade of Pennsylvania was handed down by Judge Arnold in common pleas court today in the case of the commonwealth against J. K. Vandye, agent of the Oakdale Manufacturing company, of Providence, R. I. In substance the court declares that the coloration of oleomargarine is in violation of the statutes. Vandye sold in this city in original packages shipped to him by the Oakdale Manufacturing company fifty pounds of oleomargarine. He had been used by the state dairy and food commissioner for selling the commodity. He filed a demurrer on the ground that he was engaged in the lawful business of selling oleomargarine. The question raised during the argument was whether a dealer should under the law be compelled to use coloring matter in oleomargarine to render the composition distinct in appearance from genuine butter.

Judge Arnold decided that the legislature could not compel the manufacturer or dealer to add any color to the article, but it may punish him for adding any coloring matter to oleomargarine. He imposed a fine of \$100 and costs on Vandye.

HIT BY SEVEN BULLETS. John O'Neil Is Shot by Charles Robinson. Huntingdon, Pa., Jan. 17.—The persistent attention of John O'Neil to the wife of Charles Robinson, of Spruce Creek, resulted in his death today at the hands of the wronged husband. Suspecting the infidelity of his wife and having knowledge that O'Neil would call at the house today Robinson procured a 38 calibre revolver and came upon the couple in his home unaware. Without saying a word Robinson commenced firing at O'Neil and when the weapon was emptied seven bullets were in O'Neil's body. Two of the bullets entered the left temple and one took effect in the neck. O'Neil died without a murmur. Robinson, then in an indifferent manner, picked up O'Neil's body and threw it into the street. Mrs. Robinson's admiration for O'Neil's beauty and the fact that both Robinson and his wife are in jail.

SALE OF STAMPS. A Large Increase Is Shown During Last Three Months of Year. Washington, Jan. 17.—A large increase is shown in the sales of postage stamps and stamped envelopes during the three months ended December 31, 1899, as compared with the similar period of the preceding year.

The increase in number of articles was 125,041,675, and in value \$2,456,952. The largest increase in number of articles sold is in "postage due" stamps, which are six per cent, and the largest increase in value of articles sold, is found in ordinary stamped envelopes, 34 per cent.

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COMMITTEE IS AGAINST ROBERTS

Report That Will Be Made on the Mormon's Case.

STATUS AS POLYGAMIST

Congressman-elect from Utah Pronounced a Polygamist—Investigators Divided as to Method of Procedure to Keep Him Out of the House—Majority Recommends Exclusion—Minority Believes He Should Be Seated and Expelled, Will Submit Report to That Effect.

Washington, Jan. 17.—The special committee of the house of representatives to investigate the case of Brigham H. Roberts, Utah, today reached a conclusion. On the polygamist status of Mr. Roberts the committee was unanimous and it agreed on a formal statement of facts. On the question of procedure to be adopted the committee was divided. The majority, consisting of all the members except Mr. Littlefield, of Maine, and De Armond, of Missouri, favored exclusion at the outset. Messrs. Littlefield and De Armond will make a minority report favorable to seating Roberts on the prime facie rights and then expelling him.

The statement of facts found by the committee is as follows: We find that B. H. Roberts was elected as a representative to the Fifty-sixth congress from the state of Utah, and was the date of his election about the age of 50 years; that he has been married more than seven years a naturalized citizen of the United States and was an inhabitant of the state of Utah.

That about 1885 he contracted another plural marriage with Margaret C. Shipp, with whom he has ever since lived in the habit and repute of marriage. Your committee is unable to fix the exact date of this marriage. It does not appear that he held her out as his wife before January, 1897, or that before that date she held him out as her husband, or that before that date they were reputed to be husband and wife.

That these facts were generally known in Utah, publicly charged against him during his campaign for election, and were not denied by him.

That the testimony bearing on these facts was taken in the presence of Mr. Roberts, and that he has been examined by the witnesses, but declined to place himself on the witness stand.

WILL RAISE THE CASH. No Danger That Philadelphia Will Not Redeem \$100,000 Pledge. Philadelphia, Jan. 17.—President Henry Burke, of the Citizens' Convention association, today emphatically denied the rumors sent broadcast from Washington to the effect that the committee was unable to redeem its pledge of \$100,000 for the national committee to open the campaign. He asserts that no fear of failure is entertained and that the \$100,000 will be forthcoming. When Senator Hanna and the sub-committee of the national campaign committee were in this city last week the latter was assured of the entire amount.

William E. Elkins, the millionaire traction magnate of this city, is said to have remarked to Senator Hanna: "Don't worry over that \$100,000 promised the national committee, senator; if it is not made up by the time you need it, you call upon me and I will make good the deficiency."

The members of the citizens' committee went to Washington today to attend the meeting of the national committee.

OUR COMMERCE FOR 1899. Record of Exports Beaten—That of Imports Almost Equalled. Washington, Jan. 17.—The exports of merchandise from the United States during the year 1899 were valued at \$1,275,486,641, and exceeded by \$19,940,375 those of the previous year, a record which has not been equaled in any twelve months in the history of the country.

The value of the merchandise imported during the year was \$799,524,020, which is an increase of \$18,498,724 over the previous year, and only \$1,824,727 less than \$800,000,000, the highest record on imports when the highest record on imports was scored.

The balance of trade in favor of the United States for the twelve months was \$475,962,621.

Philadelphia Exposition. Washington, Jan. 17.—The sub-committee of the Republican national executive committee having the matter in charge met today and went over the plans of the Philadelphia exposition building with the architect. A number of changes were suggested and the committee will not hold another meeting until these have been made.

WEATHER FORECAST. Washington, Jan. 17.—Forecast for Thursday and Friday: For eastern Pennsylvania, rain Thursday; fair Friday; high easterly; wind; gales on the coast.