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BULLER TO THE FRONT

His Arrival at Freere Means Advance Soon to Ladysmith.

METHUEN AGAIN IN COMMAND.

Collision Is Expected at Natal and Speyfontein - English Doubt Kaffirgrams That Boers Are About to Abandon Siege of Ladysmith.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—General Buller's arrival at Freere is held to indicate that all the preparations for an advance to the relief of Ladysmith are complete and that stirring news will soon be received. The fact that Lord Methuen is announced as resuming his command at almost the same moment is interpreted in some quarters to mean that battles will be fought simultaneously at Natal and at Speyfontein. It appears doubtful, however, whether General Methuen's force is ready for what will evidently be a heavy encounter. The construction of the temporary bridge across Modder river has entailed enormous labor, and even the structure is liable to be washed away should a heavy storm come. General Methuen has been obliged to move his camp a mile north in consequence of the unsanitary state of the stream, owing to the presence of the bodies of dead Boers. As the railway bridge was completely destroyed, he was compelled to leave a considerable force to protect his communications. A special correspondent sends the interesting information regarding Boer tactics, that Commandant General Joubert has given general orders to reserve fire until the British are within 400 yards. At the Modder River battle the Free State burghers became nervous, opened fire prematurely, thus revealing their position and frustrated the Boer plans.

The Morning Post publishes an article warning the British public that the "disillusionment already experienced respecting the Boer forces in Natal is likely to be repeated on the western border."

It says men are wanted everywhere and asks why the splendid body of royal marines is now being employed in sweeping floors and washing paint in England and is not sent out to handle the naval guns instead of the hurriedly trained men, unfamiliar with these weapons, who have gone. The government has decided to dispatch to South Africa at the earliest possible moment a cavalry brigade of about 4,000 men.

Distrust the Kaffirgrams.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—A story was current at Durban on Tuesday, Dec. 5, to the effect that the Boers made what is thought to have been their final effort to capture Ladysmith, Dec. 4, and were defeated and retreated. As the story was brought by runners, it should be received with reservation, as the unreliability of these "Kaffirgrams" is notorious. According to this report the Boers opened a furious bombardment during the morning of Dec. 4, continuing it for hours, when the British finally silenced the Boer guns, made a sortie and hard fighting followed, the Boers retreating after very heavy losses, estimated in hundreds.

FARMER ADMITS A MURDER.

Says He's One of a Gang of Thieves Operating in Two States.

FORT SCOTT, Kan., Dec. 8.—Amos Phillips, a Bates county farmer under arrest here with "Red" and George Smith, brothers, charged with complicity in the murder of Leopold Edlinger, a farmhand, two weeks ago, confessed the crime and said that all three were members of a gang of professional stock, grain and harness thieves, who have operated all over southwest Missouri and southeast Kansas and who have two rendezvous, one in the timber in Cedar county and another in Bates county.

Public indignation is intense and through fear of a mob Sheriff Wheeler has placed a strong guard about the jail and announced that his men will shoot at whatever cost of life should an attempt be made to secure the prisoners. Phillips says he and the Smiths, knowing that Edlinger had \$800, followed him for three days, intending to murder him, and that when a favorable opportunity presented itself, "Red" Smith shot him and he (Phillips) crushed his head with an ax. The body was found weighted down in a small river near here.

Combine of Cattle Ranches.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 8.—George B. Loving of Fort Worth, who has been engaged for several months in effecting the combination of about 50 big southwestern cattle ranches under one management, announced the appointment here yesterday of three appraisers, who are to fix the value of a number of the ranches to be taken into the combination. The appraisers are J. H. Stevens of Kansas City, Charles Goodnight of the Texas Panhandle and J. W. Light of Chickasha, I. T. Those appraisers will inspect the ranches and report during the month of January.

Decision Comes Saturday.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Dec. 8.—The decision of the state board of election commissioners covering the gubernatorial contest will be handed down on Saturday morning. The strong probability is that certificate of election will be given to William S. Taylor, the Republican candidate for governor.

Riders Far Ahead of the Record.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—The following is the score at 2 a. m. in the bicycle race: Miller-Waller, 1,901; Maya-McEachern, 1,900.9; Gimn-Pierce, 1,900.8; Fischer-Gardner, 1,900.6; Stevens-Turville, 1,900.5; Babcock-Stinson, 1,900.2; Schinck-Forsler, 1,899.8; Walthour, 988.5; Aronson, 919.

BEATS HIS WIFE TO DEATH.

Joseph Hutchens, an Aged Man, Then Blows Out His Own Brains.

ADEL, Ia., Dec. 8.—Joseph Hutchens, who lived a mile and a half east of Adel, beat his wife to death with a club yesterday and then blew his brains out with a shotgun. He was about 65 years of age and had been married about 40 years. Six children survive, all grown and most of them married. Mr. and Mrs. Hutchens were known to have had more or less trouble for the last 20 years. Hutchens has always been jealous of his wife.

Developments in Ingraham Failure.

MOUNT Ayr, Ia., Dec. 8.—The failure of A. O. Ingraham, the largest merchant in this part of Iowa, is developing sensational features. It is now stated by the creditors' representatives that the liabilities are fully \$120,000 and total assets not over \$30,000. In the three weeks before the failure Ingraham decided away a store at Shannon City, another at Allendale, Mo., besides lands and buildings which he held. The creditors announce they will undertake to set aside the conveyances, which they believe were fraudulent. The store has required protection of officers to prevent people who had sold produce to Ingraham from going in and helping themselves to stock. Already a considerable part has been taken in this way.

Army of the Frontier Elects Officers.

CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia., Dec. 8.—At the fifth annual meeting of the Society of the Army of the Frontier yesterday officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Colonel David Murphy, St. Louis; first vice president, Colonel J. B. Leake, Chicago; second vice president, Captain E. G. Miller, Waterloo, Ia.; third vice president, Captain J. K. Mason, Keokuk, Ia.; secretary and treasurer, J. O. Bonnell, Chicago. The next annual meeting will be held in Chicago during the national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Trial of Ed Jerome Begins.

FREMONT, Neb., Dec. 8.—The trial of Ed Jerome, charged with shooting U. S. Pope with intent to kill, opened in the district court yesterday. The entire day was consumed in selecting a jury. The shooting took place on Main street, Aug. 8. Both were gamblers. Pope was shot five times and as it was thought at the time impossible for him to recover no effort was made to remove the bullets. He has now nearly recovered.

Cashier Spencer to Go to Prison.

STROUT CITY, Dec. 8.—Myron B. Spencer, the defaulting cashier of the Barber Asphalt company, will have to go to the penitentiary. The district court refused to grant him a new trial.

Woman Injured by a Street Car.

CEDAR RAPIDS, Dec. 8.—Mrs. George L. Stearns of Marion was removed to St. Luke's hospital, suffering from injuries which may prove fatal. She was run down by a street car.

Funeral of Judge Woolson.

MT. PLEASANT, Ia., Dec. 8.—The mortal remains of Federal Judge J. S. Woolson were laid to rest yesterday afternoon in the cemetery of his old home in this city.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

Pain's Fireworks company made an assignment Thursday in Brooklyn. The Champion Copper company is a new concern at Houghton, Mich., capital stock \$2,500,000.

The Illinois attorney general holds that assessment insurance companies cannot insure persons under 27 years old.

The Chicago Great Western has declared a semi-annual dividend of \$2.50 per share on preferred, payable Jan. 31, 1900.

Ferdinand W. Peck declines re-election as president of the National Business league, owing to the approaching Paris fair.

The Illinois coal operators held a meeting in Chicago Thursday to discuss plans to resist the demands of their men for better pay.

Joseph K. Emmett, the actor, today filed a petition in bankruptcy at New York Thursday, with liabilities of \$17,500 and no assets.

The report of the London board of trade for the month of November shows increases of \$2,175,900 in imports and \$4,751,700 in exports.

Marty McCue of New York and Billy Whistler of Baltimore fought 20 rounds to a draw Thursday night before the Eureka Athletic club, Baltimore.

The joint Democratic legislative caucus at Richmond, Va., nominated Thomas Martin to succeed himself as United States senator. Martin, 103; Governor Tyler, 27.

James P. Reed, the famous checker player, formerly champion of the world, died at the Homeopathic hospital at Pittsburg from an epileptic fit. Reed was 40 years of age.

At Alexandria, Ind., Policeman George Lee was killed in a pistol fight Thursday. Three shots were fired, one by the officer. He was dead when found and the case is a mystery.

Great difficulty is being experienced at Venus, Ill., in securing a jury to try the nine Cartersville strikers on trial there on the charge of murdering Mrs. Minnie Cars, a negroess.

John Curtis became involved in a difficulty with Pete Thompson and Henry Smith near El Reno, O. T., Thursday and killed Thompson and fatally wounded Smith.

The 15-year-old son of Widow Rhodes killed Jim Jones and mortally wounded John Britt while they were attempting to force an entrance into his mother's home near Montgomery, Ala.

Apprehension is felt for the safety of the party of military explorers headed by Lieutenant J. S. Herron of the Eighth United States cavalry, which ascended the Susitna river last June on route for the Yukon. At the divide between the Susitna and Tanana Herron's guides deserted him and no word has been received from him since.

NAMES RULES COMMITTEE.

Speaker Appoints the Men Who Will Direct House Business.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The session of the house lasted only half an hour yesterday. Mr. Overstreet (Ind.), in charge of the finance bill, attempted to reach an agreement for its consideration next week, but Mr. Richardson on behalf of the minority rejected all proposals on the ground that a bill so important as this should go through the regular channels.

The speaker thereupon appointed the committee on rules, which is to include himself, Mr. Dalzell (Pa.), Mr. Grosvenor (O.), Mr. Richardson (Tenn.) and Mr. Bailey (Tex.). They will hold a meeting today and decide upon a rule for the limits of the debate, which undoubtedly will consume the whole of next week.

Mr. Roberts, the Mormon representative, despite the adoption of the Taylor resolution, which in terms deprives him of his seat during the pendency of his case in committee, was in the hall throughout the session and occupied the seat he selected on Monday.

Senate Adjourns Until Monday.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Routine proceedings of the senate yesterday were enlivened by a colloquy between Mr. Chandler (N. H.) and Mr. Hale (Me.) over a bill introduced by the former to promote athletic sports at the military academy at West Point and the naval academy at Annapolis. Both senators became facetious and at times sarcastic over the growth of athletics at American colleges, and Mr. Chandler advanced the proposition that the cultivation of such sports as football and similar sports at the government academies ought to be given the sanction of law. The senate will hold no further sessions until Monday.

Starved Herself to Death.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 8.—Mr. Sarah Laundson died at the home of her stepmother, Mrs. Dr. Doane, in this city yesterday from forced starvation. She lived in Stanberry, Mo., where she became crazed over religion and refused to eat or drink. For the last 14 days, save for a little nourishment forced down her throat, she had not partaken of a mouthful of food or a drop of water. Her mouth and throat became so dry that she lost the power of speech and when questioned was compelled to write her answers.

African M. E. Conference.

ROME, Ga., Dec. 8.—The African Methodist Episcopal conference will be in session in this city this week. The conference represents a membership of 2,600,000 and having churches and Sunday schools all over the world. There are 20 bishops in the church. At this session delegates will be elected to the general conference, which meets in Chicago next May. There are 200 delegates present.

Jobbers Organize to Fight Trusts.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 8.—At a secret meeting here yesterday of the principal wholesale grocers and tobacco jobbers of Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri the preliminary steps were taken for the formation of an association for mutual protection against the encroachment of trusts against the jobbing business. Another meeting will be held in January to complete the organization.

Rumor Raises Price of Stocks.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—A rumor on the Stock exchange here yesterday that Ladysmith had been relieved aided the market and caused bidding for South African securities.

ANOTHER RALLY IN GRAIN.

Predictions of a Better Export Inquiry Influence Wheat.

CHICAGO, Dec. 7.—Light receipts and predictions of a better export inquiry supported the wheat market today. May closing $\frac{1}{8}$ ¢ over yesterday. Corn at the close was $\frac{1}{8}$ ¢ and oats $\frac{1}{8}$ ¢ higher. Provisions closed steady, $\frac{1}{8}$ ¢ lower. Closing prices:

WHEAT—May, 99 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; July, 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢@70 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢.
CORN—Dec., 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; May, 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.
OATS—Dec., 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢@22 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; May, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.
PORK—Jan., 49 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢@49 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢; May, 48 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.
LARD—Jan., 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; May, 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.
LARD—Jan., 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; May, 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.

Chicago Live Stock.

CHICAGO, Dec. 7.—Cattle—Receipts, 9,500; generally about steady; range cattle, butchers' stock and canners active; stockers and feeders steady; good to choice, \$5.00@7.85; poor to medium, \$4.50@5.50; mixed stockers, \$3.00@3.75; selected feeders, \$4.00@4.20; good to choice cows, \$3.00@4.75; heifers, \$3.00@5.00; canners, \$2.00@3.00; bulls, \$2.35@4.30; calves, \$4.00@7.35; fed Texas heaves, \$4.00@5.25; grass Texas steers, \$3.50@4.25; train of 100-pound grass western cows sold today at \$5.65. Hogs—Receipts, 42,000; $\frac{1}{8}$ ¢ lower; closed steady as decline; good clearance; mixed and butchers', \$3.00@4.05; good to choice heavy, \$3.00@4.07 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; rough heavy, \$3.80@3.87 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; light, \$3.50@4.05; bulk of sales, \$3.50@4.00. Sheep—Receipts, 17,000; slow to weak, closing about unchanged; native wethers, \$3.85@4.70; lambs, \$4.00@5.50; western wethers, \$4.00@4.35; western lambs, \$5.00@5.35.

Kansas City Live Stock.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 7.—Cattle—Receipts, 8,000; well finished, dressed beef steers steady; common lightweights and butchers' cows slow and lower; stockers and feeders quiet; heavy native steers, \$3.30@3.75; lightweights, \$4.50@5.75; stockers and feeders, \$3.50@4.25; butchers' cows and heifers, \$3.10@4.75; canners, \$2.50@3.10; fed westerns, \$4.00@5.40; western feeders, \$3.50@4.40; Texans, \$3.40@4.25. Hogs—Receipts, 12,500; opened slow, ruled about to lower, closed firm; heavy and mixed, \$3.80@3.90; light, \$3.75@3.87 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; pigs, \$3.70@3.75. Sheep—Receipts, 4,400; slow; prices averaged about steady; lambs, \$4.75@5.25; muttons, \$4.00@4.75; stockers and feeders, \$2.75@4.00; culls, \$2.00@2.75.

South Omaha Live Stock.

SOUTH OMAHA, Dec. 7.—Cattle—Receipts, 2,700; best steady, others lower; native beef steers, \$4.40@5.50; western steers, \$4.00@4.80; Texas steers, \$3.75@4.25; cows and heifers, \$3.30@4.20; canners, \$2.40@3.25; stockers and feeders, \$3.00@4.10; calves, \$3.50@4.75; bulls, stags, etc., \$2.00@3.50. Hogs—Receipts, 9,000; to lower; heavy, \$3.75@3.85; mixed, \$3.50@3.52 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; light, \$3.25@3.30; pigs, \$3.10@3.30; bulk of sales, \$3.30@3.35. Sheep—Receipts, 2,000; steady to $\frac{1}{8}$ ¢ higher; native muttons, \$4.25@4.60; western muttons, \$4.00@4.25; stock sheep, \$3.65@3.95; lambs, \$4.50@5.35.

Announcement of the Day.

Friday—Sun rises at 7:13; sets at 4:33. Moon sets at 11:03 p. m.
The Weather—Northwest and Iowa; Fair Friday and Saturday; variable winds, mostly southerly.