RANGE OF THERMOMETER.

The thermometer at the Times office yesterday ranged as follows: 9 A. M. 26, 12 M. 31, 3 P. M. 42, 6 P. M. 38, 9 P. M. 35, 12 M. 33. Average, 34 1-6.

The Times.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Forecast for Sunday and Monday: Virginia, North and South Carolina—Rain and warmer Sunday; fresh easterly winds. Monday partly cloudy and colder.

VOL. 14. NO. 300. RICHMOND VA., SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 1900. PRICE THREE CENTS.

AN ENORMOUS INCREASE IN FREIGHT SHIPMENTS.

Richmond a Leader as a Distributing Point in the South.

THOUSANDS OF TONS ARE HANDLED.

Factories Running Night and Day and Railroads are Rushed to Transport Commodities.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ALSO SHOWS IMPROVEMENT

Despite the Fact that Business Done During the Spanish-American War was Abnormally Increased Owing to the Heavy Troop Movements, the Records of all Preceding Periods Were Broken During the Year Just Ended, and Traffic for the Month of January Shows an Increase Over that of Last Year—Labor of all Kinds is at a Premium and Manufacturing Plants Have Orders for Far Ahead — Big Enterprises.

There are but few people living in Richmond who are aware of the fact that this city is one of the greatest shipping points on the continent, and as a distributing centre stands high in the list. More first-class tonnage originates at Richmond than at any other point in the South.

The increase in the freight shipments for the year just ended over those of the year preceding, is something scarcely creditable, and especially within the past six months. The shipments have reached proportions that are simply enormous, and are steadily growing. One transportation line's business has, for many weeks, shown an increase of about $5,000 weekly in receipts and this may be taken as a fair sample of the business done by other lines.

Shipments in many instances are to-day made in car loads when they were formerly handled in smaller consignments. Hundreds of car loads of freight are taken directly from the factory or the mill to the car and never pass through the ordinary channels and routine of the freight depot or warehouse.

RUSHED WITH ORDERS.

This is true of no commodity in particular, but of freight in general. All classes of freight show an enormous increase, and this is especially true of iron products. The demand for the manufactured article, such as rails, nails, spikes and axles and iron for structural purposes, has reached proportions hitherto unknown. Mills are kept busy day and night, but even when running on double time find themselves unable to supply the demands made upon them. There is not a factory in the city of Richmond that has not enough of orders ahead to insure operation for many months to come.

What is true of Richmond may also be said of the country as a whole. Not a manufacturing plant of any capacity whatever has failed to experience the prosperity which the country is now enjoying. The industrial boom is epidemic. Its boundaries are the Atlantic and the Pacific Lakes and the Gulfs.

MAMMOTH SHIPMENTS.

Old transportation lines find themselves in a position unable to properly handle the enormous amount of freight with the equipment on hand, and contracts amounting to millions have been let for the building of more cars to carry it and more engines to haul it.

The shipyards throughout the country are working overtime in order that new bottoms may be furnished to supply the traffic. The fact that the cost of materials has advanced and that labor of all kinds, especially skilled labor, is at a premium, has, in no manner, affected the demand, which shows, even under these conditions, a tendency to assume still greater proportions.

Freight rates have even advanced on several occasions, but the demand for transportation facilities has in no wise been diminished.

SOME CONVINCING FACTS.

January has always been considered an "off month," but even now the business done by freight concerns show an increase over that of 1898 and 1899. The total reached during 1898 may be regarded as abnormal, both in passenger and freight traffic, especially the first mentioned, as the increase was due to the heavy troops movement, but despite this fact an increase is shown in the receipts of the year that followed, and now in the three weeks of the year just begun, an increase is again noticeable.

One of the various transportation lines doing business in this city reported in January, 1899, a forwarding business that amounted to about $7,000 and of business received of about $5,000, making a total of $12,000. For January, so far, the figures to be set opposite the above are $11,000 and $6,500, making a total of $17,500. Car-loads forwarded for January, 1899, amounted to about 45, and received from competitive points 60; for the three weeks of January, 1900, forwarded, 70; received, 95, making the totals of 105 as against 105.

This comparison will practically hold good for other lines, as the increase is general.

Passenger traffic, too, shows a wonderful increase. More people to-day are travelling than at any time in the history of the roads. This increase is not confined to either local or through business, but is about evenly distributed. Increases range from 10 per cent. to 30 and 35 per cent.

BIG BUILDING BOOM.

Much has been said of the building boom which Richmond is now experiencing. Figures, however, have so far been lacking. The Times has had a contractor of highest standing to make an estimate on the total cost of most of the principal building operations just completed or in process. He places the figures for the amount of money to be paid out during the coming six months for building operations at $600,000. As the largest of these he cites the following:

Valentine Meat Juice Company's new abattoir, $30,000.
Kingan & Co.'s abattoir, $10,000.
Pace Co.'s abattoir, $60,000.
Hardesty Candy Factory, $15,000.
Baldwin & Brown's warehouse, $12,000.
American Tobacco Co.'s warehouse, $60,000.
Hunter & Co.'s, warehouse, $13,000.
Addition to Cedar Works, $10,000.
Wirtingdale Manufacturing Co.'s addition, $8,000.
Virginia-Carolina Co.'s bag factory, $5,000.
Pace Block repairs, $16,000.
Mt. Zion Baptist church addition, $7,000.
Fulton Baptist church, finishing, $4,500, total cost, $9,000.

These figures do not include the millions that will be spent in improvements by the Chesapeake and Ohio, Seaboard Air Line and other railroads; neither the money spent by such corporations as the Virginia Electrical Railway and Development Company, the James River Improvement Company, the Richmond Conduit Company and other similar organizations.

There are also many building enterprises going on in the way of small stores, private houses and church edifices and large numbers of others being planned for.

MONTAGUE FOR GOVERNOR.

He Will Announce His Candidacy Tuesday

NEWPORT NEWS, VA., Jan. 27.—Special.—It is authoritatively stated here that Hon. A. J. Montague will run for governor. He will announce his candidacy Tuesday.

ANNUAL DINNER OF GRIDIRON CLUB

Burlesques, Skits, Songs and Witty Speeches Make a Thoroughly Enjoyable Evening.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The fifteenth annual dinner of the Gridiron Club was given at the Arlington Hotel to-night and like its predecessors, was the most successful event of the year. The Club is composed of forty Washington correspondents, who each year give a number of dinners and make the last held in January, a notable ocasion as it is the anniversary of the organization.

The banquet-hall was handsomely decorated, the ceiling and walls covered in laurel, smilax and maiden-hair ferns, with palms and other tropical plants filled every window and corner of the room. Through all this mass of green were more than a thousand electric lights of all colors. The tables were banked with flowers, orchids and roses predominating, while many vases of American Beauty roses adorned the room.

Henry Litchfield West, of the Washington Post, the new president, occupied the head of the table, which was made in the shape of a Gridiron and around which were gathered two hundred guests and the members of the club.

DARING BURLESQUES.

As usual, the unique features and daring burlesques, together with the good-natured skits aimed at prominent guests, formed the principal part of the entertainment. These were interspersed with songs by the quartette, solos and witty speeches, all making a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The menu was an exquisite affair, being a little volume bound in leather, each page having the name of a member, with his vignette, together with the paper he represented. It was intended as a souvenir of the fifteenth annual dinner.

Two now members were made the text for a burlesque on Imperialism. The club "expanded" for the new members raised the president to the rank of emperor, and "crowned" him.

Reports from Colonial Governors and vassal states and the conferring of titles were rudely interrupted by "Uncle Sam" who seized the "crowns" and drove the decorated "officials" from the room.

A minstrel show with really new jokes amused the guests, several songs written for the occasion were given, a verse being allotted to Mr. Bryan with an allusion to "16 to 1." Another lamented for Senator Frye, because as president of the Senate, he had to listen to senators instead of enjoying his favorite sport, fishing.

The speeches were especially good, Senator Dupuy and the Chinese minister being at their best, while the remarks of Messrs. Frye, Bryan, Gorman, Chandler, Tillman, Hanna and Beveridge were of the usual high order. The speakers were placed upon their mettle by the happy introduction of Mr. West, who presided throughout the dinner with dignity and ability.

PROMINENT GUESTS.

Among the guests were the following:

Senator Frye, president of the Senate; Hon. W. J. Bryan, Hon. Arthur P. Gorman, Mr. Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese Minister; Senators Depew, Beveridge, Burrows, Chandler, Hanna, Jones of Arkansas; Penrose, Shoup, Tillman, Walcott and Rawlins; Representatives Dalzell, Clark, Cummings, Bewersock, Hall, Landis, McClellan, Lawrence, Swanson, Tawney, Underwood and Wheeler; Major-General John R. Brooke, Admiral George W. Melville, Rear-Admiral Aaron W. Weaver, Colonel Theodore A. Bingham, Samuel Spencer, President W. W. Finley, Vice-President and W. A. Turk, general passenger agent, and J. M. Culp, general traffic manager Southern railway; J. Addison Porter and George B. Cortelyou, secretaries to the president; Mayor J. Edgar Smythe, of Charleston, and Dr. Charles U. Shepard, of Summerville, S. C.; M. E. Ingalls, president of the C. C. C. and St. Louis railway; Herald A. Lawther and Lieutenant Cplonel Arthur Hamilton Lee, British Embassy; Assistant Secretary of War George D. Meiklejohn, General Marshall I. Luddington, Lieutenant-Colonel Culver C. Sniffin, Captain Lansing H. Beach, U. S. A.; F. D. Underwood, vice-president and J. H. Maddy, Baltimore and Ohio railway; James D. Yeomans, Inter-State Commerce Commission; Myron T. Herrick, Cleveland; John Floyd Waggaman, Annapolis; General H. M. Duffield, Colonel J. Frank Hecker, Major George H. Hopkins, Detroit; Frank Barksdale, Pennsylvania railroad; Frank A. Vanderlip, assistant Secretary of the Treasury; George K. Westinghouse, Pittsburg; George H. Daniels, general passenger agent New York Central railroad; James Everson, Philadelphia; Louis A. Pradt, assistant attorney-general; Richard J. Bright, sergeant-at-arms United States Senate; S. H. Kauffmann, Washington Star; John B. Wight, commissioner District of Columbia; Richard C. Kerens, St. Louis; T. P. Shonts, president Indiana, Illinois and Iowa railroad; Charles H. Duell, Commissioner of Patents; S. Walter Woodward, Washington; Henry S. Pritchett, superintendent Coast and Goedelic Survey; Robert McNamee, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives and editor of the Jacksonville News; John F. Wilkins, Washington Post; George I. Finlay, Puerto Rico, and William O. Smith, Honolulu.

CAUGHT ON A BRIDGE.

Mother Tries to Rescue Her Son and is Killed.

TARBORO, N. C., Jan. 27—Special.—John Manning, his daughter, Mrs. Denton, and her son, Johnnie, were crossing the Tar River bridge this morning on their way to Tarboro, when they were caught on the bridge by a special train.

Manning and his daughter escaped injury, but the mother, seeing the imminent danger of her son, rushed back to rescue him. It was impossible to stop the train, and she was torn to pieces under the wheels. The boy's hands were badly crushed, and it is supposed he is internally injured. Manning was badly injured by jumping from the trestle. The Atlantic Coast Line authorities rendered them every possible medical aid.

The two new cotton factories, Fountain Cotton Mills and Tarboro Mills No. 2 buildings are now complete, and a great deal of the machinery is placed, and the management hopes to be in operation by March 1st.

New water works and sewerage systems are being put in and will soon be completed.

The East Carolina Railway Company have completed eight miles of track and are running regular trains. The road will probably be completed to Snow Hill by the coming fall. They have received from the State farms 125 convicts to push the work forward.

Farmers are making diligent preparations for another crop.

GODWIN LOOKING FOR SQUALLS.

He Arms Himself for Future Eventualities.

SUFFOLK, VA., Jan. 27.—Special.—John W. Godwin, who had to leave his happy North Carolina home because of persecution and who passed last night in Suffolk, this morning began preparing himself for attack. He bought a repeating rifle and a supply of ammunition and left for Norfolk on business.

Godwin is looking for a home in this vicinity, and will return here in a few days to renew the search. He will, as soon as possible, dispose of his five lots in Ahoskie, N. C., and sell his Hertford county farm near there. He never wants to see them any more if they can be sold.

Mrs. Godwin is still in Hertford county, or was last night. She is not staying at home, but at the house of a friend in the same county.

The local peanut market has somewhat declined in tone during the past week. Farmers' goods are weaker and the offerings are larger. The market in fancies shows little change. The demand is good.

To-day's quotations: Fancy, 3 3-4c.; jumbo, 5 1-2c.; extra, 3c.; No. 1 Virginia shelled, 4c.; No. 2 Virginia shelled, 3c.; extra large Virginia shelled, 6 1-2c.; farmers' goods, running, 2@2 5-8c.; bunch, 3@3 5-8c.; Spanish, 75c. a bushel.

The Navy's Share.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Admiral Watson has cabled the following account to the Navy Department of the participation of the navy in General Kobbe's successful campaign through the islands south of Luzon, which contain most of the hemp product:

Manila, Jan. 27.

Kobbe's expedition to southeast Luzon, conveyed by the Nashville, the Helena and the Mariveles, was a complete success. Sorgogoson, Donsal Bulau, Virac and Legaspe were taken and garrisoned.

Legaspe was captured Tuesday after sharp fighting, the Nashville co-operating inside of five hundred yards. Private Marine Franklin was wounded, and on board the Nashville, Captain Bradley and five others, none serious. Fifty-one dead Filipinos in the trenches. Captain Rogers commends Moore, of the Helena; Gilpin, of the Mariveles; Moale, Cook, Yuenseli, Castleman and Cadet Evans, for services rendered during the expedition.

WATSON.

Watson Takes a Coaling Station.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Admiral Watson reports this morning that he has taken possession of Isabella coaling station on Basilan island, and established a marine garrison there under command of Lieutenant Long.

THE CRITICISM IS UNABATED

Yet Nothing Serious Will Result in Parliament.

MOTIONS OF CENSURE

With Impassioned Denunciations are All That is Expected.

THE OPPOSITION IS DIVIDED.

This Was Plainly Shown When Mr. John Morley Publicly Sneered at Lord Rosebery's Speech—They Will Content Themselves With Criticising Individual Points.

(Copyrighted 1900, by Associated Press.)

LONDON, Jan. 27.—Though the criticisms of the government and its methods of handling the war is unabated, it is safe to say, that when Parliament meets Tuesday next, nothing serious will result. There will be the usual motions of censure, with, perhaps, more than usually impassioned denunciations of the various departments of the administration, especially the War and Colonial Offices, but such is the patriotism of the average Englishman and the serength of the Conservative organization that it will be surprising if Lord Salisbury's majority is even appreciably weakened. This merely tally of votes, however, must not be construed as a real index or national feeling, for many a man will go to the government lobby who outside has privately declared some one ought to be hanged for mal-administration, and that if Lord Salisbury did not disassociate himself from the system or culprits responsible for the national humiliation, he must eventually take the consequences.

The inner circles are perfectly well aware of such an eventuality, but they have no fears for the immediate future, implicitly believing in a successful climax of the war and trusting it will offset the initial blunders.

Another cogent reason for prophesying that the session will be barren of changes affecting the balance of power, is that the opposition, apparently, is hopelessly divided. Nothing showed this better than Mr. John Morley's speech at Forfar, January 24th, when for the first time he publicly sneered at Lord Rosebery, who numbers among his devoted adherents such brilliant Liberals as Mr. H. H. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey.

IMPOSSIBLE TO UNITE.

Lord Rosebery's magnificent speech that week, and the speeches which he has recently delivered, have been convincing men of all parties of his exceptional breadth of mind, patriotism and ability to face a national crisis sanely, and, perhaps, it is not stretching the bow to say he to-day commands British confidence to a greater extent than Lord Salisbury, yet it is impossible for the Liberals to unite on him, and, as the Saturday Review says: "He is so admirable out of office that no one would risk putting him in."

With Morley so bitterly opposed to the Rosebery section of the Liberals, and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman such a noncommittal nonentity that his own party press scarcely ever refers to him, the Liberals have no leader upon whom to unite, even should they cohese sufficiently to make a determined attempt to oust the government, so it is probable that the opposition's tactics will be of the guerilla order, contenting themselves with putting up Sir Charles Dilke and others to criticise individual points, and while not directly challenging a vote upon the morality of the war and the government's waging of it for fear of incurring the accusation of being unpatriotic, having the end by vigorous academic criticism of the ante-bellum diplomacy, bringing up the Jameson raid skeleton, and demanding the production of the withheld correspondence which was referred to by Mr. B. F. Hawkisey, counsel for Cecil Rhodes, in the letters recently published by the Independence Belge.

MEASURES OF CENSURE.

This line of policy, however, will not prevent the Irish members and most of the advanced Liberals from bringing to vote most sweeping measures of censure. But the Liberal leaders of all sections are likely to abstain from supporting the war itself, which has now been in progress over three months and the British position is worse than when Parliament was hastily assembled to grant supplies.

An eminent British general, reviewing the campaign thus summed it up: "First of all, we under-estimated the enemy; secondly, we knew nothing of the power of modern weapons when opposed to each other in the hands of tolerably equal forces; thirdly, we deserted strategy to satisfy sentiment. By that I mean Ladysmith and Kimberley appealed to us and we answered as quickly and as unthinkingly as does an electric receiver to a transmitter.

"We have learned many things, but, chiefly, we have learned that long-range guns and rifles minimize tremendously the advantage which formerly accrued to the aggressor. Yet, I thoroughly believe, and I am not speaking without experience, that had any continental nation undertaken the same task with the same force it would by this time have been wiped out. There are a lot of things which might have been learned had we watched the land-fighting at Santiago, but we did not. As a result, we did not have nippers to cut wires and we knew nothing about Mausers. But the appreciation of our shortcomings only makes us the more determined. It may be six months and it may be a year, but we shall achieve our object."

THE INJUNCTION WAS REFUSED

Judge Speer Dismissed Proceedings in Case of Dady Against Georgia and Alabama Railroad.

MACON, GA., Jan. 27.—Judge Speer this morning, in the case of Dady against the Georgia and Alabama railroad, refused the injunction sought to prevent the consolidation of the Seaboard Air Line system.

He referred to the fact that causes sub-

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

RUMOR IS RIFE IN BRITISH CAPITAL

Buller's Forces Said to be in Full Retreat.

STORY DISCREDITED.

No Explanation Received of Abandonment of Spion Kop.

SIEGE OF MAFEKING RAISED.

This Report Comes from Delagoa Bay on What is Said to be Good Transvaal Authority—General French Has Succeeded in Getting in Touch With Gatacre.

LONDON, Jan. 28.—1:45 A. M.—The only news received by the War Office during the night is a dispatch from Lord Roberts dated yesterday (Saturday) stating that the situation is unchanged and that General French reports a reconnaissance of the enemy's position on Thursday when he found the Boers strongly posted at Pieltfontein. The maps do not show any such place in the region of General French's operations, and it is probable that Reitfontein, ten miles north of Colesburg, is the place alluded to.

A special dispatch from Colenso, dated, Wednesday, January 24, says that Commandant Lucas Meyer's commando surprised and surrounded a strong body of General Methuen's Infantry, killing and wounding 32 and capturing 15.

DISCREDITED RUMOR.

LONDON, Jan. 27.—In connection with the meeting of the Defence Committee of the Cabinet to-day the rumor was reiterated that the War Office is concealing the gravest kind of news from the Upper Tugela river.

The reports even go so far as to say the forces of General Buller are in full retreat.

It is impossible to confirm or deny the reports as the officials maintain silence. They say they have nothing for publication. It is evident, however, from the War Office announcements that the casualties reported by General Buller occurred in General Lyttleton's brigade, which apparently was not engaged at Spion Kop, that there has been severe fighting not yet reported.

Lord Wolseley, the commander-in-chief of the forces, was also present at the meeting of the committee.

There is no mention here of the reports circulated in the United States that General Clery has been defeated by the Boers. The last heard of General Clery was that he was participating in General Warren's movements.

REPORTS DISCREDITED.

LONDON, Jan. 27—1:15 P. M.—The War Office has no news of the catastrophe to General Buller's force reported from Berlin and discredited the story. Neither has the War Office any explanation at least for publication of the abantionment of Spion Kop and there are no advices in this connection from independent sources. The disposition to-day is to regard the evacuation as not so serious as at first thought, and commentators are abusing the military authorities, both at the front and at home, for publishing hasty accounts of an incomplete half-understood operation, thus alternately thrilling and depressing the nation.

The afternoon papers describe the general dispatches as unpleasant reading for the British people, intensely mortifying to the national pride and damaging to the country's prestige, and scathingly denounce the gazetting at the present time of the representatives, who the St. James Gazette says:

"Display academic frivolity not uncommonly found in combination with considerable practical incapacity, lapsing into sneering when they ought to rebuke, and filled with the slang and humor of Kipling's subalterns."

PREVAILING FOLLY.

The St. James Gazette sums up its opinion as follows: "These dispatches show the folly, which has prevailed throughout the period the campaign has covered and which has exacted its usual tithe of lives and men."

There are signs of important movements developing in the north of Cape Colony. General French has succeeded in getting in touch with General Gatacre possibly presaging a combination of the two columns and the commencement of a concentration of the forces which is believed to be the ground-work of Lord Roberts' plan of campaign.

The War Office announces that the casualties reported by General Buller yesterday occurred in the battallions of General Lyttleton's brigade which, so far as known at the War Office, was not engaged in the capture or defense of Sion Kop. It appears, therefore, that they are additional to the considerable casualties which General Buller has reported as having occurred at Spion Kop.

VOLUNTEERS LEAVE.

The last detachment of the infantry section of the London Volunteers, numbering 134 men were entrained this morning for Southampton, where they will embark to-day for Africa. The route from Wellington Barracks to Nine Elms Station was thronged with cheering spectators, but not in the same degree as on previous occasions so the order of march was undisturbed. The Lord Mayor and sheriffs accompanied the troops to Southampton. The battery section and ammunition column completing the regiment, will leave February 3d.

There are signs of important movements developing in the north of Cape Colony. General French has succeeded in getting in touch with General Gatacre, possibly presaging a combination of the two columns and the commencement of a concentration of the forces which is believed to be the groundwork of Lord Roberts' plan of campaign.

MAFEKING RELIEVED.

LORENZO MARQUES, DELAGOA BAY, Friday, Jan. 26.—It is reported on good Transvaal authority that Mafeking was relieved Tuesday, January 23d.

BERLIN, Jan. 27.—Some of the papers here claim to have a telegram from Pretoria saying that General Warren was enticed into Spion Kop, where the Boers fell upon him; that seventeen of his cannon were captured and that Buller's hasty retreat over the Tugela river alone can save him.

The alleged Pretoria telegram adds that the British losses were 800 men killed and 1,500 wounded.

The dispatch comes through Brussels and does not receive much credit in this city.

BOER CAMP, MODDER SPRUIT, UPPER TUGELA RIVER, Tuesday, Jan. 23.—The British are now endeavoring to force with 40,000 troops the Spion Kop route to Ladysmith.

The firing on General Bothas' position yesterday was terrific. The grass was fired, rocks dislodged and trenches pierced, but the battle was practically one-sided, the Federals only firing thirty shots.

A ball from a shell landed in General Bothas' pocket. The only Boer casualties were some horses wounded. The firing ceased at dark, but was resumed this morning in the vicinity of Ladysmith and here, but up to noon it lacked vigor.

SITUATION REVIEWED.

LONDON, Jan. 28.—Mr. Spencer Wilkinson, whose articles on the war situation have attracted much attention here and abroad, wrote the following review of the situation at midnight and after the War Office had given out a telegram from Lord Roberts, dated at Cape Town, Saturday, saying there was no change in the situation:

"The affair of Spion Kop appears very much like a reverse at the decisive point of the decisive battle. According to General Buller's telegram, General Warren determined to take the hill because it commanded the enemy's other positions. Having taken it Tuesday night, he abandoned it Wednesday night, presumably because he was unable to hold it.

"The published words of General Buller's telegram have the tone in which a reverse is announced. Whether the mishap can be made good it is impossible to say.

"A general attacking has, to some extent, the power of making his own decisive point. General Warren may yet best the enemy by success at some other point or he may retake Spion Kop and keep it, but unless in one way or another the battle now going on can be won, there is no probability of Ladysmith being relieved.

RETREAT DIFFICULT.

"General Buller's army, unless successful, will be in a critical position, for its retreat would be a difficult operation. The main Boer force is as near to any point on the railway as is General Warren's wing of Buller's army, and the Boers have the adavntage of speed. For this reason, as well as because of the importance of his purpose to relieve General White, we may expect General Buller to do his very utmost before giving up the attempt, and in this necessity lies the best hope of success.

"The American civil war showed how rifled fire-arms, by rendering assault difficult, produced battles lasting several days, and as since then the range and rate of fire have been greatly increased the prolongation of the duration of battles was to be expected. But without a fuller knowledge than the telegrams as yet afford, it is not possible clearly to interpret the episodes of the unfinished fight.

"The report from Boer sources that Mafeking has been relieved is credible, for Colonel Plumer has been persistently working in that direction, and there has been time since he was last heard of near Gaberones, for him to cover the intervening distance. Moreover, the Boers have wisely been concentrating their forces at more decisive points, but it requires confirmation.

DR. LEYDS INTERVIEWED.

His Presence in Berlin Has No Political Significance.

BERLIN, Jan. 27.—The North German Gazette this evening says that Dr. Leyds, the diplomatic agent of the Transvaal, who arrived here for the celebration of the Emperor's birthday, was received by Count Von Buelow, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to-day.

The Lokal Anseiger publishes a report of an interview with Dr. Leyds, in which he is quoted as saying his presence in Berlin has nothing to do with politics, but is due merely to the invitation to the diplomatic dinner, which he had received from the Imperial Chancellor. He proposed to remain some days, but had no particular designs.

Regarding mediation, Dr. Leyds said the Boers had no occasion to appeal to any one. Everything was going splendidly. As to the conclusion of peace, his personal opinion was that Great Britain would have to return a large portion of the territory she had seized from the Boers, and the Federal Republics would, of course, obtain every guarantee that not a hair of the heads of their kinsmen would suffer. No words, he continued, need be wasted on the absolute independence of the two republics. Ladysmith, Mafeking and Kimberley, Dr. Leyds added, were simply prisons, with the sole difference that the British had to consume their own provisions.

PRAY FOR BRITISH SUCCESS.

Hindoos and Mohammedans Express Their Unswerving Loyalty.

CALCUTTA, Jan. 27.—A monster meeting of Hindoos and Mohammedans in the town hall here to-day passed a resolution expressing unswerving loyalty and attachment to the throne and deciding to offer prayers for the victory of the British in all places of worship. The meeting also subscribed 63,000 rupees toward the Mansion House fund for the relief of the widows and families of the victims of the South African war.

THE AFFAIRS OF PORTO RICO

They are Discussed in the Senate Committee in Connection With the Foraker Bill.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The Senate Committee on Porto Rico has decided, so far as it can decide, that the Island, whose affairs are has under its particular care, shall be known as Porto Rico and not Puerto Rico, as fixed by a recent executive order.

The question came up to-day in the meeting of the committee in connection with the Foraker bill, providing a form of government for the island and the decision upon the spelling of the name was unanimous.

The committee went over the bill in detail deciding upon many changes in phraseology and some alterations in the general provision of the measure. Probably one of the most important changes was to strike out the word "constitution" wherever it appears in the original print of the bill, which extended the provisions of the constitution as well as of the laws of the United States to the Island. The change was made because of the opinion generally expressed by the members of the committee that our constitution is not suited to the Porto Rican people.

JURY TRIALS.

The opinion was also quite general that the extension of the constitution was not necessary. Some of the senators expressed the opinion that the natives of the island were not yet prepared for jury trials. Another important amendment provides for the retirement of Porto Rican coins and substitutes for them the

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

THE EMPEROR'S BIRTHDAY KEPT

He is Praised as the Champion of Peace.

RECALL THE JESUITS.

Catholics' Lasting Gratitude Would Thus be Earned.

ELECTRIC MOTIVE POWER.

Berlin Elevated Railroad Will Introduce it at an Expense of 43,000 Marks—Sensational Trial of Bank-President Von Kriegsheim Begins This Week.

(Copyright 1900, by The Associated Press).

BERLIN, Jan. 27.—Excepting that it was lacking in court fetes the Emperor's birthday to-day was kept in the usual way. Flags were displayed everywhere and the papers publish congratulatory articles in which His Majesty is praised as the champion of peace, the promoter of civilization and the vigorous helmsman of Germany's destinies.

The Kreuse Zeitung's house poet again publishes his usual congratulatory ode. The Centre organs remind the Emperor that the Jesuits are not yet recalled and say we would earn the Catholics' lasting gratitude by signing the Jesuit Recall.

BRILLIANT RECEPTION.

The court mourning on account of the Dowager Empress' death also stops all projected festivities among the higher classes, where the Emperor was to have been present. Tuesday's court reception, which was the only one this winter, was more brilliant than ever. The ladies' costumes displayed unusual elegance, many of them being of peculiar design.

Among the older court element complaints this winter were specially strong, because of the rigid new court ceremonial, the style of reception being copied by the Emperor more and more after the Court of St. James, old gentlemen specially complaining about being forced to wear knee breeches with thin silk stockings, inducing rheumatism and gout. They also complain at the increasing costliness of the gala coats, which, for high officials, now cost 1,400 marks.

Munich celebrated the Emperor's birthday by a banquet, in which all the Bavarian princes shared. The heir to the throne, Prince Ludwig, toasted the Emperor, and spoke in favor of the naval increase.

Though Dr. Leyds, the diplomatic representative of the Transvaal, claims that he came here principally to celebrate the Emperor's birthday, as in previous years, the Associated Press understands, on authority, that he also came to consult with the German officials about Portugal's alleged breach of neutrality in stopping travel to the Transvaal from Delagoa Bay.

ELECTRIC POWER.

The Berlin Elevated railroad intends to introduce electric motive power at the expense of 43,000 marks.

The roles for the Passion Play at Oberammergau have now been awarded the character of the Holy Mother to be represented by Anna Flunger and that of Christ by Anton Lang. Edward Lang remains as the musical director.

The grave of Humboldt, the naturalist and traveler, at Tegel, near this city, has been desecrated by miscreants, who wanted to steal the metal ornaments. The offenders were frightened and fled, leaving their tools.

The German Evangelical Women's Federations has petitioned Prince Hohenlohe to call a conference for the purpose of internationally settling upon preventative measures against traffic in girls for immoral purposes.

During the coming week begins the sensational trial of Bank President Von Kriegsheim and his confederates, who are charged with a long system of swindling, practiced by international perjuries and forgeries. Several prominent society ladies are involved.

NO HOPE FOR MAJOR BRANDER.

His Condition Early This Morning Grew Worse.

Major Thomas A. Brander is in a dying condition at his residence, corner of Fourth and Franklin streets.

No operation can be performed upon him, owing to his being too weak to undergo such. His physician, Dr. Jacob Michaux, says that he would undoubtedly die before an operation could be performed.

It is not likely that Major Brander can live through the next twenty-four hours. No hope is entertained of his recovery, as his condition grew alarmingly worse at an early hour this morning.

SUMMARY OF TO-DAY'S NEWS.

Local.

—Work of the Legislature.
—Judge Waddill appoints receivers for the Miller China Company.
—Alleged grievances of Southern railroad employes.
—Charles W. Gardner, the negro who was murderously assaulted, died last night.
—Richmond's great shipping business.

State.

—Public installation of officers at South Boston.
Attorney-General Montague to run for Governor.
—Patient jumps sixty feet from a Norfolk hospital window.
—Old Dominion liner Jamestown still hard aground.
—Senate and House committees on Asylums and Colleges visit Petersburg.
—Dwelling and contents burned in Amelia county.
—The Methodist church in Alexandria to be rededicated to-day by Bishop Wilson.

General.

—Judge Speer refuses to grant the injunction asked to prevent consolidation of Georgia and Alabama and F. C. and P. railroads.
—The Gridiron Club, of Washington, hold their fifteenth annual dinner.
—The House listened to eulogies on deceased members.
—Goebel men win in Berry-Van Meter contest, which they claim assures victory in the gubernatorial fight.

Foreign.

—Report that Buller's forces are in full retreat is discredited.
—Mafeking is said to have been relieved on Tuesday, January 23d.
—Parliament meets Tuesday, but it is not thought the Government will be challenged.
—German Emperor's birthday kept as usual.