

The Morning Astorian.

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NO. 167

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--- BOND STREET.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Yesterday we received notice from the publishers of the **WEBSTER'S EDITOR OF THE ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA**, that owing to the enormous increase in the price of paper within the past few weeks, they would shortly withdraw the sale of their Encyclopaedia at the present price. Our contract with the publishers enables us to make the same liberal offer as heretofore. Thirty large volumes of the Encyclopaedia, one guide to Systematic Reading of the Encyclopaedia, One Upright Oak Bookcase and One Large Webster's Encyclopaedia free of charge. All the above will be delivered upon the small payment of

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EIGHT THOUSAND BOERS ROUTED AT MODDER RIVER

Great Victory Won by General Methuen in Bloodiest Battle of the Century.

PUBLIC ANXIETY AND SUSPENSE INTENSE

Remarkable Demonstration on the Departure of Fresh Troops From London—Reviewed by the Queen Who Makes a Speech.

LONDON, Nov. 30, 4:30 a. m.—Twelve hours' reflection upon Lord Methuen's brief dispatch has only served to increase public anxiety and suspense. All kinds of speculation is indulged in.

In the absence of any indication as to whether the Boers occupied the north or south bank of Modder river, the best opinion inclines to the latter theory and it is pointed out that the British must have been utterly exhausted if they could not follow up the retiring Boers and crush them as their army crowded over the bridge, their compulsory line of retreat.

LONDON, Nov. 29.—Enthusiasm marked the departure today of the first detachment of the composite battalion of household cavalry going to South Africa. Surging masses thronged Windsor cheering and singing, and similar scenes were witnessed in London in spite of the dense fog.

There was an interesting ceremony at Windsor today when the queen inspected the men of the grenadier guards who recently returned from Omdurman and conversed with the wives and families of soldiers who have gone to South Africa from Windsor district.

After the inspection of the troops her majesty briefly addressed Colonel Hutton, congratulating him on the splendid conduct of the guards in South Africa and expressing deep regret at the losses sustained.

The wives and families of soldiers were then grouped in front of the royal carriage and her majesty sympathetically addressed them, saying how much she felt for them and hoping they would have good accounts of their husbands and fathers.

The spectacle was unique. Anxious wives with crowing babies in their arms or in baby carriages passed in front of the queen who leaned forward dropping words of sympathy and hope.

LONDON, Nov. 29.—The war office has received the following dispatch from General Buller:

"Cape Town, Tuesday, Nov. 28.—General Methuen reports: 'Nodder river, Tuesday, Nov. 28.—Reconnitered at 5 a. m. the enemy's position on the river. Nodder and found them strongly entrenched and concealed. No means of outflanking the river being full. Action commenced with the artillery, mounted infantry and cavalry at 5:30 a. m. The Guards on the right and the Ninth brigade on the left attacked the position in a widely extended formation, at 6:30, and, supported by the artillery, with two large guns, four Krupps, etc. The naval brigade rendered great assistance from the railway.

"After desperate, hard fighting, which lasted 10 hours, our men, without water or food and in the burning sun, made the enemy quit his position. General Pole Carew was successful in getting a small party across the river, gallantly assisted by 300 Sappers.

"I speak in terms of high praise of the conduct of all who were engaged in one of the hardest and most trying fights in the annals of the British army. If I can mention one arm particularly, it is the two batteries of artillery."

LONDON, Nov. 29.—The great battle at Nodder river has been fought and General Methuen has added another victory to his achievements of the past week. That the Boers defended their position with all their old-time gallantry is amply proven by Methuen's dispatch and it will probably be further

testified when the list of British casualties is made known. There appears to be no doubt Methuen has gained a real advantage, though details must be awaited before the full effect of his 10 hours' desperate fighting can be gauged. Presumably, the burgher army was on the south bank of the river, but whether, when the Boers retreated they crossed the river northward or retired in an easterly direction into the Orange Free State, is unknown. Possibly the Boers had repaired the bridge previously reported destroyed and managed to withstand the British attack with their rear guard while their main body escaped over the bridge, then destroying the bridge behind them. The British, however, appear to have surmounted the difficulties, crossing the river and seizing a position on the north side of the stream.

This success of the British clears another stage of the road to Kimberley, the siege of which General Cronje must have partially raised in order to give battle to General Methuen. There is little reason to doubt, however, that the Boers will again rally, as heretofore, after a seemingly crushing defeat, unless they have lost their guns, of which there is no mention in the official dispatches.

The burghers are understood to have a strong laager at Spytfontein, 14 miles north of the Nodder river, so another engagement possibly awaits the British before they can commence the last stage of the 11 miles from Spytfontein to Kimberley, though it is pointed out Croftie will thereby run a great risk of being caught between General Methuen and Colonel Kekewich, the British commander at Kimberley.

A belated dispatch from Orange river says General Methuen's troops are advancing under the greatest difficulties, fighting an omnipresent but almost invisible foe. A special dispatch from Windsor says Methuen's dispatch to the queen after the battle of Nodder river says:

"The battle was the bloodiest of the century. The British shelled the enemy out of the trenches and they charged. The result was terrible."

A revised list of the British casualties at Belmont shows: Officers killed, 4; wounded, 22; noncommissioned officers and privates killed, 46; wounded, 225, of which number the guards had 35 killed and 39 wounded.

A revised list of the casualties sustained by Bullard's forces at the battle of Beacon Hill shows: Killed, 17; wounded, 64; missing, 1; prisoners, 8.

BIG PHILADELPHIA FIRE.

Publishing Firm of Lippincott & Company and Others Lose Heavily.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 29.—An electric spark in the basement of Patridge & Richardson's big department store, Nos. 15 to 29 North Eighth street, start-

ed a fire this morning that in less than four hours laid in ashes nearly four blocks of business houses and caused an estimated loss of over \$3,000,000. The heaviest losers are: J. B. Lippincott & Co., book publishers; loss estimated at \$2,000,000. Patridge & Richardson, \$600,000; Litt Bros. department store, \$400,000.

In addition to the big houses mentioned, numerous smaller stores were either gutted or badly damaged. Chief among these were Bailey's, \$100,000; Rosenberg's millinery establishments, \$30,000. Various other establishments were slightly damaged by smoke and water.

BOND SALE TO GO ON.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—The secretary of the treasury today announced that he would continue until the close of business, December 23, next, to purchase any United States bonds known as four per cents of 1907 and five per cents of 1904 at the prices heretofore paid, namely 111 for fives. Eighteen million of the \$5,000,000 called for have been purchased up to date.

EX-COLLECTOR BLACK DEAD.

PORTLAND, Nov. 29.—Thomas J. Black, Ex-collector of customs for the district of the Willamette, was found dead in his apartments at the Imperial hotel early this morning. Owing to the suddenness of his death the coroner deemed it advisable to hold an inquest, which was done, when it was found that death had been caused by asthma and heart disease.

BAD TRAIN WRECK IN NEW JERSEY

EIGHT PASSENGERS KILLED

Buffalo Express Run Into White Standing on Siding at Paterson—Twenty Injured.

NEW YORK, Nov. 29.—The east bound Buffalo express on the Delaware Lackawanna and Western railroad while standing outside the station at Vanwinkle street crossing, Paterson, N. J., at 7:45 tonight, was run into by a swiftly moving accommodation train bound from Phillipsburg, N. J., to Jersey City.

At least eight people were killed and there are now 20 injured at the hospital in Paterson, several of whom may die. The dead are: Mrs. Roe, and two daughters of Ithica, N. Y.; Walter Welbrook, Cornell College; Mille Craig, New York; two unknown women, unknown boy, two unknown men and an unknown little girl. The injured include Miss Agnes McDonald, of Oxford, N. Y.; Samuel Mendelsohn, Wilkesbarre; Miss Mamie Doyle, Binghamton; Miss Lizale Kane, Binghamton; David Roe, Ithica; Oscar Aronson, Scranton, Penn.; John White, Ithica; Louis Dardon, Dover, N. J.; Louis Freedman, Scranton, Pa.; Charles Remsen, Brooklyn; William C. Ossel, Chicago and Daniel Maxwell, Hackettstown, N. J.

The Buffalo express was waiting for the moving of a local train that had been delayed at the station and the Phillipsburg accommodation was following the express but a short distance behind.

The two rear cars of the express were broken to pieces, most of the passengers in them being either killed or injured. The engine of the Phillipsburg train was completely wrecked, the engineer and fireman escaping by jumping. The engine plunged into the rear car of the express, the Pullman day coach and plowed through heavy timbers almost its entire length. This car was lifted from the track and pushed next to the last car, also the Pullman, carrying off its end and almost completely telescoping it.

The engineer of the Phillipsburg train was torn to pieces.

The wreckage caught fire but the flames were soon extinguished. From the wreck came groans and shrieks and prayers for death or deliverance.

It was intensely dark at the scene and much difficulty was experienced in clearing the wreck.

LIEUT. GILMORE'S PARTY AGAIN HEARD FROM

Code Message Received Yesterday by Admiral Watson Through an Escaped Prisoner

SEVEN MEN REPORTED ALIVE AND WELL

Were Confined Twenty-Five Miles From Vigan, But Now Believed to Have Been Released by Young's Successful Advance.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—The following cablegram has been received at the navy department from Admiral Watson:

"CAVITE, Nov. 29.—Wild rumors have been received of the capture of Vigan, November 26, by the Oregon's landing force under Lieutenant-Commander McCracken. The inhabitants welcomed the flag. Lieutenant Gilmore is well, with seven of his men, about 25 miles from Vigan. Received a Meyer code letter from Gilmore by Albert Sosichen, a newspaper artist, who was with Gilmore seven months and escaped. He was brought here by the Samar.

News from insurgents through a Spanish sergeant, indicates that all the Urdanetta crew were killed except the four following: Farley, Green, Powers and Burke.

The names of the Gilmore party are: Walton, Vandoit, Ellsworth, Brisolesen, Anderson, Edwards and Peterson. Some of the wounded were left at Baler. Gilmore has no news of them.

The above dispatch, taken in connection with advices received today from General Otis, describing the success of the movements of the army under Young, encourages naval officials in the belief that perhaps by this time the American prisoners referred to have already been released.

SANTIAGO IS QUIET.

General Wood Says no Outbreak Need
be Feared and Troops Can be
Reduced.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—When asked if there was any possibility of an outbreak among the rural guards in Cuba General Wood, governor of Santiago, today said: "No more than there is of an insurrection among the police force in Washington."

Concerning his mission to Washington, he said that it was merely for consultation about the reduction of American forces in the island.

"I have recommended a reduction of

about 20 per cent of the force in my department."

It is said on good authority that General Wood is slated to succeed General Sternberg as surgeon general of the army, when the latter retires by law in June of the coming year. The surgeon generalship would place General Wood at the head of the medical staff of the American army at but little over 35 years of age, making him the youngest officer ever holding this responsible position. It would leave him 25 years of active service.

General Wood has taken a house in Washington, where he has moved with his family, and it is thought this is another indication that he will make his permanent residence here at no very distant date.

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