

# The Morning Astorian.

VOL. L.

ASTORIA, OREGON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1899

NO. 166

## Now is the Time . . .

THE weather will be getting colder soon.

Better buy your

STOVES

now at

**THE ECLIPSE HARDWARE CO.**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Yesterday we received notice from the publishers of the WEBSTER EDITION 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 Encyclopedias 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

ONE DOLLAR

Balance in small monthly payments. Call and look into this offer.

**GRIFFIN & REED.**

Here is a List of

## High Grade Goods at Moderate Prices:

Fancy Creamery Butter in Kegs and Rolls.  
Strictly Fresh Eggs.  
New Crop Maple Syrup.  
Buckwheat and Griddle Cake Flour.  
Packard & Smith's Fancy Italian Prunes.  
New Crop Nuts, Figs, Mince Meat.

**Ralston**

Breakfast Food,  
Pancake Flour,  
Whole Wheat Flour,  
Whole Wheat Crackins.

**ROSS, HIGGINS & CO.**

We Rent New Typewriters

Many New Improvements Added—SEE OUR LATEST

**Smith Premier Typewriter**

NEW ART CATALOGUE FREE

L. & M. ALEXANDER & CO., Phone Main 574  
Exclusive Pacific Coast Dealers. 245 Stark St. Portland

## PORTLAND DENTAL PARLORS

Top Floor  
Washington Building



Crown and Bridge Work, \$4.50 per tooth, guaranteed.  
Best set Teeth, \$5.00 fit guaranteed.  
Best Fillings, 50c up, guaranteed.

All Work Positively Guaranteed to give Perfect Satisfaction OR NO PAY.

Washington Building, Corner 4th and Washington Sts.  
Fifth Floor, Rooms—47, 48, 50, 51, 52.

Phone Oregon, Brown 493, Columbia 569

## MINE HORROR AT CARBONDA

### Worst Disaster in the History of the Washington Coal Regions.

### THIRTY-FIVE MEN KILLED

#### Explosion From Unknown Source Happens Without Warning to Those Below.

### THE HEART-RENDING SCENES

#### Frenzied Relatives of the Imprisoned Men Rush to the Scene—Heroic Work of Rescue Still Going On.

CARBONADO, WASH., Dec. 9.—An explosion in tunnel No. 7 of the Carbon Hill company's mine at 11 o'clock this morning killed 23 men. People who had been accustomed to a livelihood by mining knew at once what the explosion meant, and stood around with blanched faces.

These apprehensions of some fearful disaster were confirmed in a little while with the information that the morning shift in tunnel No. 7 had been caught in an explosion of fire damp. Seventy-two men were at work in the mine when the explosion occurred. A rush of the inhabitants was made in the direction of the mouth of the tunnel. Wives of the men supposed to be on shift, ran to and fro, screaming and wringing their hands with anguish, and crying children were clinging to their skirts. It was all that D. T. Davies, superintendent of the mine, could do, to stop friends of the doomed miners and their wives from plunging madly into the tunnel's mouth.

The coal mines here are those of the Carbon Hill Coal company, but they really belong to the Southern Pacific Railroad company.

The rock is of a soft, bituminous variety, productive of a large proportion of gas, and has been much used in gas manufacture. The foreman in charge of the shift was Jonah Davis. Foreman Davis escaped unhurt, together with about forty miners.

Frenzied relatives of missing men gathered at the mouth of the mine and waited eagerly to catch a glimpse of the forms as they were hurried by to the coroner's office.

The work of rescue is being rushed forward but it may be several days before the last blackened form is taken from the mine, for many men are believed to be buried under a mass of earth and rock. To extricate them will take time and thus far the work of rescue has been pushed at the extreme point of the workers, for black damp and noxious gases have driven rescuers back repeatedly.

The cause of the explosion is a mystery to everyone. Not even the miners rescued can give any explanation. Only safety lamps of the English Clancy and Davis patterns are worn when at work. Should, however, one of the men open his lamp in an accumulation of coal gas, an explosion would result. The only open light known was that of a small locomotive used to haul cars in and out of the canyon on the main level. It is merely theorizing to say that this was the cause, although a mule driver named James Cowley, now lying wrapped in oil skin, and fairly covered with a mixture of boiled linseed oil and lime juice, says he was caught in the shock on the main gangway. Conway was the first man to come out of the mine. His story is as follows:

"I was just about ready, when Watt Jones halloed out 'let her go, Jim,' and all of a sudden I thought a ton of dynamite had burst. The force of the shock threw me down, and a flame of fire seemed to surround me. I crawled out through it on my hands and knees as well as I could until I reached the engine. 'For God's sake pull out quickly,' I begged, for I felt as though I was burning to death and could hardly breathe. It did not take much urging, for the black damp was already beginning to smother us and I was hauled out on the engine as near as I can remember."

The list of dead who could be identified is as follows:  
Rees Jones, fire boss, aged 30, unmarried.  
Dan Davis, aged 18.  
Evan Lewis, aged 20.

Richard Durr, young man, leaves a widow and one child.

John Jones, aged 64, leaves a widow and a married daughter.

Thomas Edwards, aged 40, leaves a widow.

Evan Richards, aged 30, leaves a widow and six children.

Howell Meredith, aged 59, leaves a widow and nine children.

Joe Thomas, aged 27, single.

Evan Lewis, single.

Watt Jones, 30 leaves a mother.

William Richards, aged 48, a family.

Mullen, aged 30, leaves a mother.

Gustave Knutt and H. Knutt.

Johnson, aged 40, leaves a family.

Ben Zeddler and B. Zeddler, father and son.

D. S. Thomas, aged 50, leaves a family.

William M. Davis, aged 35, leaves a family.

Howell Meredith, leaves a family.

None of the bodies were at first recognizable, because the faces of the dead men were charred and blackened beyond identification. It was only when they were conveyed to the morgue and the corpses were washed that it could be told who they were.

The work of rescuing the living was completed at 9 o'clock.

By that time the mine had been purified by fans to such an extent as to permit free ingress and egress.

Those who were brought to the surface were muffled in sackings to protect their burns until they could be carried to the hospital.

Many cases of heroism on the part of the rescuers were brought to light. Men would continue at the work of rescue until overcome by gases. They would be carried to the air to revive and go down again.

Shreds of clothing, torn by the force of the explosion, and the personal effects of each corpse were placed in a box and labeled.

### THE ROBERTS CASE

#### Committee of Investigation Will Send to Utah for the Testimony of his Unlucky Wives.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9.—It is understood that the opposition to Roberts has suggested the wives with whom he is alleged to have maintained polygamous relations be summoned as witnesses. The first wife, it is said, would be exempt from testifying against her husband, as she has a legal status as a wife but this exemption would not extend beyond the first wife. Chairman Taylor said that the committee was considering whether it should go to Utah or have witnesses come here and that no decision had been reached.

Schroeder, representing the opposition to Roberts said it could be established that Roberts has maintained and is now maintaining the status of a polygamist, that in 1889 he pleaded guilty to unlawful cohabitation and has since that time continued that relation.

Specifically, Schroeder said it could be established that these had recently been born children to his polygamous wives, among them being twins born to Celia Dibblee Roberts, the reputed second wife of the congressman elect.

Those children were represented to be born, he said, August 11, 1897, and until this morning he had understood they were acknowledged by Roberts as his. It could also be shown that he had been holding out Dr. Maggie Ship Roberts as his wife and is now maintaining the status of a husband toward her; that during all these times he had a living lawful wife, Louisa Smith Roberts, who also has borne him children.

Schroeder said the witnesses who were in Utah were readily accessible if the committee desired to summon them. He suggested that Miss Adah Roberts, a daughter of Roberts, was now in the city, might be available as a witness.

### MAINE SURVIVOR DEAD.

#### Another One of the Famous Crew Has Discovered the Secret of Her Fate.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—Commander Charles I. Howell, chief engineer of the United States battleship Maine, when that vessel was blown up in Havana harbor, is dead, at his home in this city. He died from an apoplectic stroke. He was 50 years old and was born in Coshen, N. Y. He was graduated from the United States naval academy in June, 1868, fourth in his class. His appointment as an assistant engineer dates from August, 1870, and in 1874 he was raised to the grade of past assistant. He was promoted to the rank of chief engineer in 1893.

He served on the Maine from 1895 until the loss of the battleship. He was then transferred to the Newark and later was assigned to shore duty at the Brooklyn navy yard. He was made a commander in September, 1899. He was sitting at a table by the side of Lieutenant Fred W. Jenkins at the time of the blowing up of the Maine. That was the last he saw of the unfortunate officer who perished in the wreck.

## HAS MAFEKING BEEN RELIEVED?

### Communication Opened and Dispatches Are Not Interrupted.

### LADYSMITH ADVANCE BEGUN

#### Boers Preparing For a Strong Stand and an Important Action is Imminent.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—Reviewing the Anglo-Boer situation, the London correspondent of the Herald, says:

Such disquiet as was caused in London by the news that General Methuen's communications had been cut at Gras Pan was fleeting, for information reached the war office at midnight that the British commander at Modder river had again been heard from. It was also learned that General Buller had arrived at Modder river to take command of the cavalry, presumably taking up with him the major portion of the bridge.

Almost simultaneously came a brief dispatch indicating that the long expected advance for the relief of Ladysmith had begun. This important news was contained in an agency telegram from Pretoria, saying that an official report from the Boer head laager near Ladysmith was in effect that the British were advancing on Colenso. From the date of this dispatch, Thursday, it would appear that the northward movement from Frere began on Wednesday.

The Boer position on the Tugela had not been attacked up to Wednesday night. No confirmation of this is forthcoming, either from the war office or from newspaper dispatches, but it is evident on reading some of the latter that the hand of the censor had been at work.

On the Natal side there is good reason to believe that an action is imminent. The difficult work of bridging the Tugela river in the face of the enemy must be the first step. The Boers around Ladysmith are reported to be preparing strong positions, in which heavy arms are being mounted behind masonry.

As to Mafeking, all kinds of reports are current, some of which point to a possibility that the siege has already been raised. The fact that from the end of last month, dispatches from Colonel Baden-Powell and various correspondents have been coming through from the beleaguered town very much quicker than would appear to bear out the belief that the siege became weaker since Colonel Crook's force was called south to reinforce the Boers at Modder river and around Kimberley.

A message from Magalapy announced that preparations had been completed for an advance in force for the purpose of repairing the railway and restoring communication with Mafeking. A dispatch from Modder river dated last Monday said that the whole Mafeking command had joined the Kimberley forces. Finally a telegram from the Orange river under date of Tuesday says that reports are current that Mafeking has been relieved.

### PREPARING FOR DEFEAT.

#### Boers Are Making Preparations for Inevitable Retreat.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—A dispatch to the Herald from Petermaritzburg, says:

Evidently the Boers are concentrating their attention in provisioning for their retreat, even to the extent of commanding wagons and oxen of the natives, which have been taken to Dundee.

From other reports there is little doubt that the Boers are preparing for flight, although resistance is expected to be offered to the advance of the relief columns from the heights commanding Colenso, on which earthworks have been constructed. The Colenso road bridge is intact, but is believed to have been mined. The construction of the Frere bridge is complete.

### ARRIVAL OF THE HOWITZERS.

#### British Now Better Prepared Than the Boers With Heavy Guns.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says:

The first six of the eighteen howitzers sent from England after an inexplicable delay on slow transports, arrived several days ago at Cape Town and as there is no record of these transshipments to Durban, it is probable that they have gone up the country to Lord Methuen, although it is not known whether they passed Gras Pan before the railways was cut by the raiders.

The remaining twelve have gone to Durban where they will probably be landed on Tuesday. These guns are equal to the best artillery in the pos-

session of the Boers and are capable of discharging at long range lyddite shells of fifty pounds.

It was worth while for both General Buller and General Methuen to wait for those powerful guns, with their ammunition, even if there were serious risks to the safety of the beleaguered garrisons from the delay, since the effect of the British artillery fire against both Colenso and Spytfontein would be greatly increased by lyddite shells. The expediency of delay on the part of both generals does not alter the fact that some one blundered in the war office in not sending out the howitzer batteries on one of the earliest and fastest ships.

Lyddite shells were used with tremendous effect at the battle of Omdurman. General Buller was personally responsible for their introduction in the British military service when he was adjutant general. He considered it nothing less than a scandal that the British army should not be supplied with high explosive shells, which Germany and France had adopted.

Owing to some reason which remains an official secret, these howitzer batteries were held back in England until the Boers had dragged very heavy pieces of artillery to the battle fields and siege guns were outclassing the British guns. The howitzer batteries started about the time when General Joubert's "long tom" was throwing in to Ladysmith at each shot a weight of metal equal to the discharge of a complete round of one of General White's six gun batteries of 15 pounders.

Lord Methuen's infantry would have been greatly protected against loss in their three battles if the howitzers had been added to his artillery force for, unlike the navy guns, which are tied to railroad trucks, they are almost as movable as ordinary field artillery. General Buller has been waiting for them day after day when Ladysmith was exposed to a most scientific fire from the Boer artillery.

### ALL QUIET AT LADYSMITH.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—A dispatch to the Herald from Ladysmith, says:

Thursday and Friday passed fairly quiet. The bombardment is now only casual.

The Boers are mounting numerous new guns in commanding positions. They evidently intend making a big effort to reduce Ladysmith after the return of General Joubert and his Boers from Colenso. The town can not be carried by assault, but the new guns will render the place very uncomfortable. All is well so far.

### WEEKLY LONDON BUDGET.

The War Still Absorbing the Main Attention of All Classes of English People.

(Copyrighted 1899 by Associated Press.)

LONDON, Dec. 9.—A representative of the Associated Press has discovered the whereabouts of Mr. Montague White, the former Boer agent here, who, after spending the recent weeks with Dr. Leyds at Brussels has returned to his home in England, where he is living quietly. While he has no official connection with the Transvaal, Mr. White keeps in touch with those who sympathize with the Boers. He has been invited to lecture in the United States, but has declined. Mr. White intends to return to Johannesburg, where he has much property, when the war is over. But he doubts if

(Continued on page 4.)

## FIGHTING THE REAR GUARD

### Rebel Leader, Gen. del Pilar, Killed With Seventy of His Men.

### AGUINALDO IS HARD PRESSED

#### Rebels Demoralized on All Sides and the American Troops Keep Pushing Up Every Advantage.

MANILA, Dec. 9.—General Gregorio del Pilar, commanding Aguinaldo's body guard, was killed by Major Peyton March's battalion of the Thirty-third infantry in the fight 18 miles northwest of Cervantes, Dec. 2.

According to reports which General Young obtained from escaped Spanish prisoners at Vigan, several days ago, Major March led the coast where he was pursuing Aguinaldo and encountered General del Pilar on a fortified train. They fought for four hours, during which time 70 Filipinos were killed and wounded. The American loss was one killed and six wounded. The Spaniards report that Major March is still pursuing the insurgents.

Del Pilar was one of the leaders of revolution. He was a mere youth and was reported to have graduated at a European university. Professor Schurman met him as a member of the first peace commission and raised him as remarkably clever.

The Americans have occupied Bangued, province of Abra.

General Grant's expedition has visited Orani and several western towns, meeting small bands. He killed several rebels and captured a quantity of munitions of war.

Bishop Henry Potter of New York has arrived here on a brief visit to study the Philippines.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—The war department has received the following from General O'Ri:

"Manila, Dec. 9.—A dispatch from General Young, at Vigan yesterday, says that escaped Spanish prisoners report a four hours engagement on the 3d inst. between his troops and Aguinaldo's guard, near Cervantes, 50 miles southeast of Vigan, with a heavy loss to the enemy, who is being pursued. Our loss was one killed and six wounded. The inhabitants of their own accord, joined the troops in repairing the trail and carrying subsistence.

"Have pushed the column to San Jose, south of Bangued. Howe's column is on the rear trail; Bachelier's battalion of the Twenty-fourth is out of reach, north of Bayombong, evidently descending the river. The natives report fighting 20 miles north. The navy reaches Aparri tomorrow. A column of MacArthur's troops, the Twenty-fifth infantry, is reported near Iba, on the west coast Zamboanga. Grant's column is near Subig bay. "Lawton is in Bulacan province today, with sufficient troops to overcome

(Continued on page 4.)

## The Credit of Selling The Best Clothes in Oregon.

That's what we've had for years, and we're making Steinbach clothes more popular every day. Our success is the resultant of our pains to sell first, last and all the time, clothes that have fit, Freshness of Fashion, Low Price and Satisfaction in 'em.

Look to us for the right things in Clothes, Hats and Furnishings for Boys and Men.

Men's Suits from \$10 to \$35.

Men's Overcoats from \$10 to \$45.

Boys' Suits and Reefers at \$2.50, \$3.50, \$5.00 and up.

**A. B. STEINBACH & CO.,**

LARGEST CLOTHIERS IN THE NORTHWEST

Mail Orders Solicited.

Corner Fourth and Morrison Sts., PORTLAND, OREGON.