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The Morning Astorian.

VOL. L.

ASTORIA, OREGON, FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1900.

NO. 278



The Drain

upon your purse will amount to very little if you have us do your repairing and plumbing of all kinds. We are always reasonable in our charges, prompt and obliging in service, and our work cannot be excelled in plumbing, gas or steam fitting. How is your old plumbing wearing—let us know.

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A full line of Pipes, Tobacco, and Smokers' Articles.
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Scheibe's Opera Star
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Commission, Brokerage, Insurance and Shipping. Custom House Broker. ASTORIA, OREGON. Agent W. F. & Co., and Pacific Express Co's.

PURSuing THE FLEEING BOERS

British Making Strenuous Efforts to Cut Off Their Retreat.

HAMILTON AT THABANCHU

Burgers Likely to Make a Stand to Protect Their Transport—Report of Boshof's Recapture is Untrue—Roberts Gratified With Events.

LONDON, April 27, 5 a. m.—Israel's Poorte, which is not marked on the map, lies between Sannasport and Thabanchu. General Hamilton has probably by this time arrived at Thabanchu, as he is urging his utmost endeavors to cut off the Boers who are retreating from Dewetsdorp.

The Boer forces at Thabanchu are not unlikely to make a stand to cover the escape of their convoys from the southward. They have laagers eight miles apart, stretching from Brandport to Thabanchu, with a base camp at Samaldell station.

General Brabant, in the fight with the Boers at Wepener, had a narrow escape. General Pole-Carew's advance was much hampered by the tardy arrival of the artillery, which prevented him from capturing Leukop before darkness set in and enabled the Boers to secure their retreat.

Taken on a whole, however, there has been no bungling and apparently Lord Roberts, with the commands in the hands of the younger generals, now has an exceedingly efficient army.

The report that the Boers have re-occupied Boshof proves to be untrue. Lord Methuen is still there, and General Hunter's division from Natal, which was supposed to be going to Bloemfontein, is arriving at Kimberley. This is evidence that some important operations are afoot in that direction.

It is understood that the reason the Boers did not destroy the Bloemfontein waterworks was that there are many Boers among the stockholders.

The Boers are showing more activity in Natal. They are placing some heavy guns four miles north of Elands-laagto.

It is alleged that the Boer peace commissioners will time their arrival in the United States so it will occur at the most exciting period of the presidential election.

PRETORIA ARSENAL EXPLODED.

Number of Workmen, Including the General Manager, Killed.

PRETORIA, Wednesday, April 25.—A serious explosion occurred at the Begbie works, used by the government as an arsenal, last night.

The walls of the building were destroyed and the structures in the immediate neighborhood are a mass of flames. The shrieks of women and children in the adjoining streets added to the ghastliness of the scene.

Ten workmen were killed and 22 injured, including Herr Grunberg, the manager of the works. The most important of the machinery was saved.

The cause of the explosion is unknown. The works employed 200 persons, mostly French and Italians.

The Red Cross ambulance did good work in helping the wounded.

ANOTHER POSITION TAKEN.

General Ian Hamilton Executes a Brilliant Turning Movement at Israelsport.

LONDON, April 26.—The war office publishes the following dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated Bloemfontein, April 26:

General Ian Hamilton yesterday drove the enemy off a strong position at Israelsport, by a well conceived turning movement which was admirably carried out by General Ridley, commander of the Second mounted infantry brigade, and General Smith-Dorrien, commanding the Eighteenth brigade. The troops are today advancing toward Thabanchu.

"Our losses were slight, the only one

OTTAWA AND HULL NEARLY WIPED OUT

Greatest Fire Ever Known in History of Canada.

TWENTY MILLIONS OF LOSS

Fifteen Thousand People Homeless and Five Square Miles of Territory Completely Burned—Still Burning at Midnight.

OTTAWA, Ont., April 27.—Five square miles of territory burned, over 2,500 dwellings, factories, mills stores and other buildings destroyed, entailing a loss estimated to reach \$20,000,000, and between 12,000 and 15,000 men, women and children homeless, is the summing up of the havoc wrought by a fire which has been raging at Hull and in Ottawa since 11 o'clock yesterday morning and at midnight was not completely under control.

Most of the lumber piles in Ottawa and Hull have disappeared and are now mere heaps of charred wood and ashes. Half a dozen churches and schools, a number of mills, the Hull waterworks, the Hull court house and jail, post office, convent, almost every business place and about 1,000 dwellings and shops in Hull have been destroyed. Indeed, practically nothing of Hull is left but a church and the few houses beyond it.

The spot where the fire originated is about a quarter of a mile from the main street of Hull. As the gale was blowing from the northwest right in the direction of the lumber piles and mills on both the Hull and Ottawa shores of the Ottawa river and Chaudiere falls, it was soon seen that the fire was almost certain to be a large one.

By 11:30 the fire had gotten good headway on Main street and the entire street, with dozens of cross streets, was burning. Practically there is not a house left in the street.

The fire sprang across the Ottawa river and caught the sheds in the rear of the Mackay Milling Company on Victoria island, and in a few minutes the lumber piles on Victoria and Chaudiere islands, one of the power houses of the Ottawa Electric Company, the Victoria foundry and half the buildings on the two islands were in flames.

The result is that the whole of that part of Ottawa known as Chaudiere Falls, surrounding the Canadian Pacific railway station where the lumber mills are located, is fire swept. The only building standing in the whole area is that of the Ottawa Carbide factory. From the flats the fire extended across the Richmond road on to Rochester and as far as the experimental farm. Westerly the fire took up Huttonberg and Mechanicville, so that on the Ottawa side of the river there is a larger area covered by the fire than on the Hull side. The fire originated in a dirty chimney, and a high wind caused the flames to spread rapidly.

The fire at midnight was largely confined to that part of Rochester lying near the St. Johns dam, in the southwest part of the city. Unless a heavy wind rises, the remainder of the city is safe. Three people were killed.

THROWN UP THE SPONGE.

Retreat of Boers From Thabanchu Shows That They Are Leaving That Section.

LONDON, April 27.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, under Wednesday's date, says: "Our mounted infantry entered the high mountain plateau of Thabanchu today almost without opposition. As Thabanchu is a natural fortress this must mean that the Boers have practically thrown up the sponge in this section of the country."

HAS COME AROUND.

Sultan Changes His Mind About the American Claims and Will Add the Amount to a Cruiser He Wishes the Cramps to Build.

LONDON, April 27.—The Constantinople correspondent of the Daily Chronicle says: "The Turko-American difficulty is in a fair way of settlement, the sultan having promised satisfaction."

"It is asserted that the Porte has revived the project of building a cruiser in the United States to disguise the payment of indemnity and Ahmed Pasha is going to New York to negotiate with the Cramps on the subject."

CONTINUED REBEL ATTACKS.

The American Troops Compelled to Visit Summary Punishment Upon a Number of Filipino Officials.

MANILA, April 26.—About 300 of the enemy have been killed recently in North Ilocos, including Dodd's fight and the attack on Batoc (April 16), when from six to seven hundred rebels, a quarter of whom were armed with rifles, determinedly attacked the Americans, charging their positions and fighting at close quarters.

The engagement lasted all the afternoon, the enemy burning the town, but they were repulsed after the arrival of American reinforcements. Thirty-two insurgents were killed and seventy captured at Batoc.

The insurgents generally are aggressive in that province. They captured an American provision wagon near Lapo.

The Americans having obtained evidence that the alcaldes of Lapo, Magalingal, Cabugas and Sinait were holding treacherous communication with the insurgents, imprisoned them and burned the Lapo town hall.

There have been several minor fights in the province, including an attack by two hundred insurgents on Lavag, April 17, forty of whom were killed and eight were captured.

HERE'S A SITUATION.

The Dewey Celebration Boycotted by a Chicago Labor Union.

CHICAGO, April 26.—The long talked of boycott of the Dewey celebration by organized labor took form today when the executive committee of district No. 8, of the International Association of Machinists, issued an edict declaring the promoters of the celebration antagonistic to union labor and ordering the members of the union to take no part in it.

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GOING BACK TO WORK.

CANTON, O., April 26.—President McKinley and party left here for Washington this afternoon.

WHEELER'S TURN NOW.

Woman After the Old Grizzled Hero of Santiago.

NEW YORK, April 26.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: Persistent rumors again couple the names of General Joseph Wheeler and Mrs. George W. Childs, and this time there seems to be good reason to believe an announcement of their engagement to marry will be made.

When Mrs. Childs was asked for a confirmation or denial of the rumor, she smiled and referred the question to General Wheeler. The gallant veteran also smiled when asked about it.

"It would be anything but gallant for me to talk upon that subject without first having asked the permission of Mrs. Childs to do so," he said. "At the same time I will admit that this rumor has been so persistent that it would be well to set it at rest one way or the other for all time. I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll see Mrs. Childs and ask her to answer your questions or authorize me to do so."

He then swung off in the direction of the home of Mrs. Childs, on F street. When seen later he smiled broadly. "Yes, I saw Mrs. Childs," he said, "and I think you will soon receive your answer. Mrs. Childs said she would send you a note setting at rest all of these rumors."

General Wheeler was assured that any further reference would be taken as a confession that the engagement

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The Admiral Defied to Bring On an Investigation to Vindicate Himself—A Remarkable and Sensational Interview.

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It is known that the interview came to the attention of the secretary and that it is considered sufficiently serious to warrant an explanation from Captain Chadwick. Should Captain Chadwick stand for the interview it is likely that the department will feel in duty bound to make him substantiate his statements. In this way it is possible that the whole Sampson-Schley controversy may be reopened.

In the interview credited to him Captain Chadwick is alleged to have made these statements:

"Every one of us feels the disgrace that Schley has put upon us. It is not Sampson or Schley that we care about or are anxious to vindicate. It is the honor of the navy that has been assailed, its esprit du corps has received a serious blow, and in the opinion of officers it has been injurious to us abroad by a disgraceful exhibition of pettiness, of which Admiral Schley has been guilty."

"I have for him only contempt. I would not shake his hand if he offered it to me and in this I believe I simply re-echo the sentiments of almost the entire navy. If Admiral Schley desires a vindication let him ask for an investigation of his conduct. The men who fought the ships at the battle of Santiago and the general public, I am sure, desire such an investigation, and will be willing to abide by the result, whatever it may be."

"Those who are acquainted with Captain Chadwick's sentiments would not be surprised if he should avow that he was quoted correctly; but they express the opinion that he would explain to the department that he did not authorize the interview. In such a case it is difficult to forecast the action of the department."

Section 26 of the navy regulations prohibits criticism of officers by their colleagues.

Violation of this regulation is punished by noting the offence upon the record of the guilty officer. Captain Chadwick has heretofore been very careful not to talk for publication, and it is this fact which makes his friends here believe he did not authorize the interview.

Captain Chadwick has never been friendly to Rear-Admiral Schley, and the latter's friends intend to bring him to account. The fact that Rear-Admiral Schley is several thousand miles away should have prevented any officer from criticizing him, they declare, and they are glad that Secretary Long has shown his fairness by taking measures to prevent public criticism of their hero.

Should Captain Chadwick admit that he made the statements quoted, it is likely they will press the department to order a court martial and call its attention to the case of Captain McIntyre, who was dismissed because of criticism of Captain R. D. Evans, who commanded the battleship Iowa in the Santiago engagement.

WILL SWEEP THE COUNTRY.

If Tammany Makes Bryan's Platform McKinley's Nomination Will Be Useless.

NEW YORK, April 26.—Elliot Danforth, chairman of the democratic executive committee, says he feels confident that New York will go democratic next fall, and that Mr. Bryan will easily sweep the country, if he will agree to a platform as outlined in his Kansas speech.

Every day, he says, he receives assurances that men who abandoned the party four years ago were returning now, because of the attitude of the dominant party in relation to trusts and imperialism, and their confidence that the silver issue would be relegated to the rear in the coming campaign.

If sufficient assurance could be given that Mr. Bryan would be willing to conciliate Eastern democrats by making trusts and imperialism the prominent issues, he said, he felt sure that 75 per cent of those who balked in 1896 would return to the party this year, and that the other 25 per cent would be more than compensated for by dissatisfied republicans and independents.

"None of us expect that Mr. Bryan will abandon the Chicago platform," Mr. Danforth said, "but we believe in hoping that he and the other national leaders will recognize the fact that other issues have come to the front since 1896, and that due importance should be given to them."

"If this is done there is not any doubt that democrats all over the country will get together, and that means a democratic victory next fall. New York state is never doubtful when the party is united. At every election during the last 15 or 20 years, it has been shown conclusively that there are more democrats than republicans in the state, and that democratic victory is entirely dependent on democratic harmony."

In relation to the attitude of the coming state convention, Mr. Danforth said that it was unlikely that it would instruct the delegates to the national convention to vote for Mr. Bryan's nomination or reaffirm the Chicago platform. "Our delegation will vote for Mr. Bryan, though," Mr. Danforth added, "and we will take particular pleasure in doing so if a platform upon which we can all unite is adopted."

COEUR D'ALENE INQUIRY.

Witness Sinclair Denies Sulzer's Fake McKinley Interview.

WASHINGTON, April 26.—The cross examination of Bartlett Sinclair continued before the Coeur d'Alene investigation committee today without developing any notable incidents.

Attorney Robertson and the witness clashed rather sharply throughout the cross examination, as the witness' answers were in the main flat contradictions of statements embodied in the attorney's questions.

In regard to the published interview, in which Sinclair was alleged to have said that President McKinley had told him he fully approved of what had been done by the governor and civil authorities in the Coeur d'Alene, the witness said the interview was erroneous.

POINT RICHMOND'S LUCK.

Machine Shops and Round Houses of Santa Fe Will Be Located There.

POINT RICHMOND, Cal., April 26. The machine shops and terminal round house of the Santa Fe are to be located here. The plans have been prepared and will soon begin. The company has already completed its waterworks and the freight slips and wharves are nearing completion. Roadmaster Thomas says the tracks will be ready for passenger traffic by the 15th of May, but the train service will probably not begin until some time later.

FATHER ORTH MADE BISHOP.

PORTLAND, April 26.—Rev. Father B. Orth, of this city, has been appointed bishop of Vancouver, B. C.

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CALIFORNIA BUSINESS CHANGES.

Pickle Works Secretary an Embezzler and the Packing Company Going Through Insolvency in Court.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 26.—Charles L. King, secretary of the Pacific Pickle & Vinegar Works, who is alleged to be an embezzler, has not yet been located by the detectives. It is stated that the company can easily meet every claim against it.

President Cote, of the California Packing Company, is in the city, preparing for proceedings in insolvency. His father-in-law, A. B. Patrick, is said to be involved to the extent of \$41,000 in this failure, but the A. B. Patrick Tanning Company, which is an incorporated institution, will not be affected.

ANOTHER OBSTACLE REMOVED.

WASHINGTON, April 26.—The Nicaraguan government has finally cancelled the concessions to the Maritime Canal Company to construct a ship canal across Nicaragua.