

ALL THE NEWS, THE RELIABLE NEWS, THE QUICKEST NEWS, IN THE "T.-R." 45c PER MONTH BY MAIL, SEND ADDRESS AND MONEY.

Evening Times-Republican.

Compare the date in the Daily T.-R. with the dates on other papers and see yourselves which paper publishes THE NEWS FIRST. When order the T.-R. for quickest news. THREE MONTHS BY MAIL \$1.35.

FIGHT AGUIALDO'S GUARD

Detachment of Young's Troops Have a Four Hours' Engagement Near Cervantes.

Supposed to Be Aguineldo's Guard—The Pursuit Is Being Continued.

Inhabitants Join the Troops in Repairing the Roads and Carrying Rations.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Otis cables today: "A dispatch from Yucatan, at Yucatan, yesterday says escaped Spanish prisoners report a four-hours' engagement between a detachment of his troops and Aguineldo's guard near Cervantes, fifty miles southeast of Yucatan, with heavy loss to the enemy, who are being pursued. Our loss was one killed and six wounded. The inhabitants of their own accord join the troops, repairing the trail and carrying subsistence. Have pushed a column to San Jose, south of Bangued. Howe's column is on the rear trail. Bathol's battalion of the Twenty-fourth is out of reach, north of Bayambon, evidently descending the river. Natives report that fighting occurred twenty miles north. The navy reached Aparri tomorrow. A column of MacArthur's troops, the Twenty-fifth Infantry, is reported near Iba, west coast of Zamboanga. Grant's column is near Subig bay. Lawton is in Bulacan province, with sufficient troops to overcome opposition and scatter the enemy. It is probable the troops which engaged Aguineldo's guard are Hare's command, as they were reported close on Aguineldo's rear."

IN SOUTH AFRICA

British Capture Lombardskop Hill, Putting Boers' Big Guns Out of Action.

Boer Head Langer, Ladysmith (Friday)—The British stormed and carried the hill at Lombardskop, putting a big Creusot gun and one howitzer out of action and capturing a small Maxim.

The British Advance. London, Dec. 9.—A Pretoria special dated Friday, says: "Three thousand British troops, preceded by an armored train, are advancing on Colesburg from Naapooort."

BRITISH ARE ADVANCING.

Relief Column Now Moving in the Direction of Ladysmith.

London, Dec. 9.—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 had again been heard from. It was all so learned that General Bullington had arrived at Modder River to take charge of the cavalry, presumably taking up with him the major portion of a brigade.

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 to the effect that the Boers were advancing on Colesburg.

From the date of the dispatch (Thursday) it would appear that the northward movement from Fere began on Wednesday night.

No confirmation of this is forthcoming, either from the war office or from newspaper dispatch, but it is evident in reading some of the latter, and particularly a dispatch in the Daily Telegraph from Frere of Thursday's date, that the hand of the censor has been at work.

Taken in conjunction with the news from Pretoria that fighting had begun on the Modder River on the morning of Wednesday, the news of Methuen's communication having been cut was looked upon as rather alarming. It was inferred that it had been found impossible to keep intact the line of communication, which stretches along the railroad between the Orange River and the Modder River, a matter of fifty miles, and that the Boers had managed to maintain themselves even on the scene of General Methuen's dearly bought victory.

Pessimists regard the isolation of Methuen's none too large force as a serious matter, especially as General Gatacre does not seem able to make much headway from the direction of Stormberg Junction.

While the Boers, must number quite 15,000 men, the original force which fought at Modder River having been reinforced from Kimberley, Jacobsdahl and Bloemfontein, it must not be forgotten that Methuen, too, on his part, has been reinforced. Although his own regiments have lost heavily, he must command now nearly 11,000 men.

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 Boers must be the first step. The Boers around Ladysmith are reported to be preparing strong positions, in which heavy guns are being mounted behind masonry. On Thursday heavy firing was heard from Frere camp, in the direction of the beleaguered town. This was probably a Boer assault and it is to be presumed that it was repulsed.

A SOUTHRON FOR EXPANSION.

Governor Jones of Arkansas Says "Keep the Philippines."

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 9.—Great interest is shown in the expansion sentiments expressed at the railway banquet by Governor Daniel W. Jones, in view of the fact that he has hitherto been considered an opponent of that policy. In order that his views may be more thoroughly understood, the following signed statement was obtained from him yesterday:

"I have been investigating the question for my own satisfaction and have formed very decided views and I propose to state by them. I consider the acquisition of the Philippines a most fortunate, for the reason that it furnishes us a permanent foothold near the Asiatic coast, which will protect our commerce with Asia. I believe that the only salvation for the southern states of this union is in the expansion of our commerce by the opening of new markets in Asia for our products, and in order to maintain and protect such commerce we must have the Philippine Islands for reasons perfectly obvious.

As the matter now stands, with the price of our products in Europe, we can only get for them enough to pay the cost of production to induce us to produce. But with the construction of the Nicaragua canal we will be as close to Asia as we are to Europe and a market much more valuable will be opened to us because of the nature of the country and its need of commodities. I believe that China will be divided among the four great powers of Europe at no distant day, or at all events, that its commerce will be controlled by them, and with the Philippines belonging to us we can demand that our commerce with that commerce upon equal terms with those powers."

MANSION BURNS.

Welling Residence With its Costly Statuary and Beautiful Furnishings Destroyed.

Washington, Dec. 9.—The Welling mansion burned this morning. Loss, \$50,000, and on contents \$50,000, including costly statuary, many fine paintings, tapestries and beautiful furnishings. Dr. L. H. French occupied the residence.

DEFAULTER FOR LARGE SUM.

Charles Merriken Disappears and Shortage of \$50,000 is Discovered.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 9.—Charles Merriken, secretary and treasurer of the Caribbean Milk Company and agent for the Maryland Clay Company, has disappeared. His shortage is roughly estimated at between \$50,000 and \$75,000. Harry Parr, a leading capitalist of Baltimore, owns more than a controlling interest in both companies. He had great confidence in Merriken and was a generous employer. He said yesterday that he had left the management of the two companies almost entirely to Merriken. Experts are engaged on the books.

"I have already learned," continued Mr. Parr, "that the books are two or three years behind. Merriken handed me each month what purported to be monthly statements and balances. It seems now that they were only cooked up for the occasion. Both companies are rich and good payers and can afford to stand the losses, whatever they may be. Merriken represented my interests in both companies and I am the chief loser and am perfectly able to stand it. I would be satisfied if he would come back and help settle up the books. If he did so I would not prosecute him."

Investigation shows that Merriken for several years had been a high liver. He told the young woman he married several years ago that he was worth \$50,000 and received a big salary. He said he had money upon his wife and his home. He was popular among sportsmen and in business circles.

SAYS THAT HEMP IS NEEDED.

President Filiter Denies the Statement of Cordage Trust.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 9.—William Filiter, president of the Edwin H. Filiter Cordage Works of this city, does not agree with the manufacturers of binding twine, cordage and rope who, it is said, have been urging the United States government to keep Philippine ports closed, representing that there is no scarcity of hemp in this country.

Filiter in an interview yesterday asserted that nearly all manufacturers of twine, rope and cordage were desirous of securing hemp from Manila. "There is now so little Manila hemp in the country," he said, "that the price is 14 to 15 cents a pound, as against a normal price of 5 or 6 cents. A return to this market of the normal supply of Manila hemp would mean the saving of millions of dollars to the farming interests in harvest twine. At present the price is so high that Mexican sisal takes its place in the manufacture of harvest twine. Sisal is much inferior to Manila hemp in all places where strength is required. Several grades of harvest twine are made of greater or less proportions of Manila fibre. The price of sisal has nearly doubled since the Manila supply is cut off. The normal output of Manila twine, in all the islands of the Philippine group, is about 25,000 bales a week, of 250 pounds each. At present and since the beginning of the war only about 2,000 bales have been shipped. Since the beginning of the war with the insurgents and the establishment of the blockade, shipments have been attended with much delay and difficulty, owing to the restrictions and lack of shipping facilities, which are largely monopolized by the government vessels."

Big Battle Expected.

Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 9.—A great battle is expected to take place today at Maracaibo. The government has stopped private messages. The American steamers are not permitted to enter Maracaibo. The report that the Colombian army would invade Venezuela is untrue.

ROBERTS QUESTIONED

Utah Member-Elect to Congress Before the Committee Investigating His Case.

Concedes That He Pleaded Guilty to Charges Under Edmunds-Tucker Law.

But Demurs to Jurisdiction of the Committee and Makes an Extended Plea.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Consideration of the case of Roberts, of Utah, was resumed behind closed doors this morning by the house investigating committee. Roberts was present to answer interrogatories. Roberts was first asked if he conceded the existence of a court record wherein he pleaded guilty in 1899 under the Edmunds-Tucker law. This he conceded. He was next asked whether in about 1887, or since 1890, he married plural wives and lived with them since as wives. To this Roberts pleaded not guilty, and demurred to the jurisdiction of the committee. The demurrer is based on technical legal grounds, that it was an attempt to deprive him of vested property, the same being his salary as congressman, that the committee has no right to consider other evidence than the court record in establishing guilt; that the crime charged, unlawful cohabitation, even if proved, was not a bar to his holding office, freedom therefrom not being among the enumerated constitutional qualifications. Roberts argued his case at great length and urged that his prima facie right to a seat be considered at once, as his state was being denied representation while injurious legislation affecting that state might take place.

WOOD IS HOPEFUL.

Denies That Cubans of Santiago Province Are Used at McKinley's Message.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Gen. Leonard Wood was in conference with the president today. He later commented on the telegram from Santiago representing the colored Cubans in Santiago province, as incensed at McKinley's message. Wood said: "I have received many telegrams from Santiago province since the appearance of the message, saying the people are delighted with it. Even ultra radicals express their pleasure openly. The keynote of sentiment is that the Cubans have surrendered to me in the last month 8,500 arms. There are too few arms in the province, to cause trouble, if it were desired, but the truth is the blacks are contented and growing happier and more prosperous every day."

THE BIG GAME ON.

Chicago and Wisconsin Universities Decide the Championship This Afternoon.

Madison, Wis., Dec. 9.—The game for the championship of the west between the foot ball elevens of the Universities of Chicago and Wisconsin was played here this afternoon. The day is cold and raw, with rain. The attendance is enormous, Chicago alone sending 1,500 rooters for the Maroons and Milwaukee 1,000 for the Badgers. The teams have been practically unbeaten during the season and there is little to choose between them before the kick-off.

BUILDING A NEW LINE.

L. M. Martin Confers With Santa Fe Officials on New Project.

Chicago, Dec. 9.—L. M. Martin, until recently general manager of the Iowa Central, was in the city yesterday to meet officials of the Santa Fe in connection with the new railroad project he is interested in. Some time ago a company was formed under the name of the Santa Fe & Grand Canon Railroad Company to build a railroad line from Williams, Ariz., on the Santa Fe, to the Grand Canon of the Colorado. The grading and bridging between Williams and the brink of the canon is completed and fifteen miles of track. This work is being completed at the rate of a mile a day, and it is expected that the entire road from Williams to the canon, a distance of forty-seven miles, will be completed before the cold weather begins.

The railroad will run along the brink of the gorge for twenty-three miles, but that part of the road probably will not be begun before next spring. The company will be an independent enterprise, but closely allied with the Santa Fe, which will run its trains over the tracks of the new company. The new road has a double object in view—the opening of a tourist line to the canon and the development of the rich copper and other mineral deposits in the district. Mr. Martin, who is one of the directors of the new company, is hopeful of the success of the enterprise and thinks that the Grand canon will become one of the greatest scenic attractions of this country.

Before the new line is built it is said hotels will be built near the brink of the canon to accommodate travelers. The new company has spent nearly \$10,000, it is stated, in procuring a passable trail or path from the level of the railroad to the bottom of the canon to enable tourists to reach the bottom without much trouble or danger. The Grand canon, which has formed the subject of many lectures, is a massive chasm with almost perpendicular walls. It is 200 miles long, thirteen miles wide at places and 6,000 feet deep.

TO IMPROVE GUARD

Adjutant General Byers Would Place the State Guard on a New Basis.

Favors Making It in Fact a Part of the Standing Army.

Believes That All Officers Above Lieutenants Should Be Appointed, Not Elected.

Des Moines, Dec. 9.—A storm of criticism has been provoked by the recommendation of Adj. Gen. M. H. Byers of this state, in his biennial report just filed with the governor, that the legislature submit an amendment to the constitution to popular vote removing the provision that National Guard officers must be elected by the members of the guard. Most of the old soldiers disagree with the adjutant general, but those who had any part in the management of affairs during the time that Iowa soldiers had a part in the Spanish-American war endorse the recommendation.

THE SENATORSHIP.

Both Sides Claiming Many Doubtful Members as "Sure" for Their Candidate.

Des Moines, Dec. 9.—Chicago Tribune special: The actual strength of the candidates for United States senator at the present time would be hard to determine. The friends of Senator Gear claim that he has seventy-three sure votes and will have upwards of eighty when the vote is taken in the joint caucus. Fifty-nine votes are required to elect. The supporters of Mr. Cummins assert that he has more sure votes than has Senator Gear, and that a majority of the doubtful list has Cummins inclinations.

Nine of every ten politicians who are heard talking about the senatorship in the corridors of the hotels here, have typewritten lists of the members who will vote for their candidates, and what is most remarkable, the names of many members appear on both lists and are marked "sure."

CLAIMS OF BOTH SIDES.

The general situation from a far standpoint is set forth in the following statement by Senator McArthur of Burlington: "Senator Gear will be his own success. He is a man of great ability and is behind his candidacy six years ago and for him in the present contest, and it will be remembered that he beat the field easily at that time. Senator Gear is strong with the people and his strength in the general assembly extends to the rank and file of the army. It is admitted that Mr. Cummins has some followers who are sincere in their support, but it is well known that several of the members of the senate are in connection with some one or more of the parties in the contest, and it is reasonable to expect that they will vote for the candidate of the party to which they are attached."

CLAIMS OF BOTH SIDES.

"The action of Senator Blanchard in declaring for Gear, and the result of the conference of the members of the Fifth district, ought to convince every thinking man that the claims of the Gear supporters are well founded and that they have a full knowledge of the situation. "No well-posted person can fail to see the drift of sentiment. At no time since the contest began has Mr. Cummins stood the ghost of a show to win. Gear will have an overwhelming vote in the joint caucus."

CLAIMS OF BOTH SIDES.

Senator McArthur was asked why the Gear faction was continuing the fight in so serious a manner if the battle were already won, to which he replied: "Did you ever know of a lawyer submitting his case to the court on half a chance? In his possession of a case he simply intend to introduce all the evidence, so that there can be no mistake in the verdict."

CLAIMS OF BOTH SIDES.

The situation as viewed by the Cummins forces is described in the following statement by Senator A. B. Funk: "Mr. Cummins' case is upon a satisfactory basis. He has more sure votes and unqualified support than it is possible for Senator Gear to possess at this time. The doubtful list is by the well informed and truthful admitted to be large. Of this list it may be reasonably and safely assumed that Mr. Cummins will draw more than a fair proportion. His supporters in the senate and the house are strong in political leadership, and in the elements of legislative control much more than equal to the combined forces of the opposition. The opinion is becoming common in the state army and one troop of cavalry in case of a call for troops.

TO IMPROVE GUARD

Adjutant General Byers Would Place the State Guard on a New Basis.

Favors Making It in Fact a Part of the Standing Army.

Believes That All Officers Above Lieutenants Should Be Appointed, Not Elected.

Des Moines, Dec. 9.—A storm of criticism has been provoked by the recommendation of Adj. Gen. M. H. Byers of this state, in his biennial report just filed with the governor, that the legislature submit an amendment to the constitution to popular vote removing the provision that National Guard officers must be elected by the members of the guard. Most of the old soldiers disagree with the adjutant general, but those who had any part in the management of affairs during the time that Iowa soldiers had a part in the Spanish-American war endorse the recommendation.

THE SENATORSHIP.

Both Sides Claiming Many Doubtful Members as "Sure" for Their Candidate.

Des Moines, Dec. 9.—Chicago Tribune special: The actual strength of the candidates for United States senator at the present time would be hard to determine. The friends of Senator Gear claim that he has seventy-three sure votes and will have upwards of eighty when the vote is taken in the joint caucus. Fifty-nine votes are required to elect. The supporters of Mr. Cummins assert that he has more sure votes than has Senator Gear, and that a majority of the doubtful list has Cummins inclinations.

Nine of every ten politicians who are heard talking about the senatorship in the corridors of the hotels here, have typewritten lists of the members who will vote for their candidates, and what is most remarkable, the names of many members appear on both lists and are marked "sure."

CLAIMS OF BOTH SIDES.

The general situation from a far standpoint is set forth in the following statement by Senator McArthur of Burlington: "Senator Gear will be his own success. He is a man of great ability and is behind his candidacy six years ago and for him in the present contest, and it will be remembered that he beat the field easily at that time. Senator Gear is strong with the people and his strength in the general assembly extends to the rank and file of the army. It is admitted that Mr. Cummins has some followers who are sincere in their support, but it is well known that several of the members of the senate are in connection with some one or more of the parties in the contest, and it is reasonable to expect that they will vote for the candidate of the party to which they are attached."

CLAIMS OF BOTH SIDES.

"The action of Senator Blanchard in declaring for Gear, and the result of the conference of the members of the Fifth district, ought to convince every thinking man that the claims of the Gear supporters are well founded and that they have a full knowledge of the situation. "No well-posted person can fail to see the drift of sentiment. At no time since the contest began has Mr. Cummins stood the ghost of a show to win. Gear will have an overwhelming vote in the joint caucus."

CLAIMS OF BOTH SIDES.

Senator McArthur was asked why the Gear faction was continuing the fight in so serious a manner if the battle were already won, to which he replied: "Did you ever know of a lawyer submitting his case to the court on half a chance? In his possession of a case he simply intend to introduce all the evidence, so that there can be no mistake in the verdict."

CLAIMS OF BOTH SIDES.

The situation as viewed by the Cummins forces is described in the following statement by Senator A. B. Funk: "Mr. Cummins' case is upon a satisfactory basis. He has more sure votes and unqualified support than it is possible for Senator Gear to possess at this time. The doubtful list is by the well informed and truthful admitted to be large. Of this list it may be reasonably and safely assumed that Mr. Cummins will draw more than a fair proportion. His supporters in the senate and the house are strong in political leadership, and in the elements of legislative control much more than equal to the combined forces of the opposition. The opinion is becoming common in the state army and one troop of cavalry in case of a call for troops.

T.-R. BULLETIN.

NOTICEABLE NEWS OF TODAY

The Weather.

For Iowa—Rain tonight and in the east Sunday; colder in the west tonight and in the east and south Sunday. For Illinois—Rain tonight and Sunday.

PAGE ONE TELEGRAPH AND GENERAL: Young Close on Aguineldo; Roberts Pleads Before Committee; Taylor Wins in Kentucky; British Advance in Africa; The Big Foot Ball Game; The Iowa Senatorship; Byers and the Guard.

PAGE TWO TELEGRAPH AND GENERAL: Gentiles' Answer to Roberts; Barrett on the Philippines; News of the Day.

PAGE THREE EDITORIAL: Victor Aroused Over Insanity Case; Farmer Burned to Death Near Clinton; Elmore-Iowa Falls Foot Ball Game; Short Iowa Specials.

PAGES FOUR AND FIVE EDITORIAL: The Register's Charity; The Kentucky Election; Seeking the National Convention; Mississippi Improvement; Topics and Press Comment; Looker's Observations.

PAGES SIX AND SEVEN CITY NEWS: Forger Arrested; Company II Mustered In; Monroe Willmar Paroled; Living Students (Page 5); Local Comment; Brief News of the City.

PAGE EIGHT MARKETS AND GENERAL: Saturday Markets by Wire; The Dismour Murder Case; The Trade Reviews.

THE SIX-DAY RACE

Contest Will Not Be Decided Till Last Lap Is Made.

New York, Dec. 9.—The great six-day cycle race will end at 10 o'clock tonight. It has been the most exciting and closest contest of the kind ever held. Up to today the racers averaged about nineteen and a half miles an hour. As but nine laps separate the first and last of the six days in the race, it can be depended on that the race will not be won until the last circle of the track is made.

The scores at 9 a. m.: Miller-Walker, 2,477; Maya-McEarchorn, 2,471; Gibbon-Pierce, 2,471; Fischer-Chevalier, 2,470; Stevens-Turville, 2,470; Babcock-Stinson, 2,470. At noon the score stood: Miller-Walker, 2,531 miles; Maya-McEarchorn, 2,530 miles; 7 laps; Fischer-Chevalier, 2,530 miles; 6 laps; Stevens-Turville, 2,530 miles; 3 laps; Babcock-Stinson, 2,530 miles; 1 lap.

A RECEIVER APPOINTED.

Des Moines Man Takes Charge of the Ingram Store at Mt. Airy.

Des Moines, Dec. 9.—In the United States court yesterday George D. McArthur, of the Wardell-Pratt-Howell Company, was appointed receiver for the stock of A. O. Ingram at Mt. Airy. Injunctions were also issued restraining all business and the persons to whom the stock of the store, located at Shannon City, Ia., and Allendale, Mo., from in any manner disposing of the stocks or any part of them, while an injunction was also served on persons to whom he held real estate, restraining them from disposing of the same.

The proceedings at yesterday's court only a sequel of the big Ingram crash that came early in the week, and are steps taken by the creditors to possess themselves of property they claim Ingram is endeavoring to put out of reach of his creditors. Mr. McArthur, Inc., as receiver, holds a \$25,000 bond with the clerk of the United States circuit court and immediately entered into possession of the property. United States deputy marshals were hurried to Mt. Airy, Allendale and Shannon City last evening to serve the injunctions.

Following these proceedings a number of the creditors united in making application to the United States district court to have Ingram declared a bankrupt and asking that the trustee be directed to take charge, not only of the Mt. Airy property, but of the property transferred to the other locations. Ingram has filed a waiver and consents to be adjudicated a bankrupt provided the trustee he has placed in charge of his Mt. Airy stock are permitted to continue in charge.

Tama Pioneer Dies.

Tama, Dec. 9.—Joseph Puth, an old resident of this city, after a lingering illness of several months, died at his home last night. Mr. Puth was born in Germany, but settled in Tama in September, 1858. Entering into business with his neighbors, he has since been a successful and prominent merchant tailoring business under the firm name of Puth Bros. He has remained without a week's vacation during the last thirty years. He was of quiet demeanor, possessed of strict integrity and had the esteem and confidence of his neighbors and acquaintances. His wife died several years ago, and he leaves quite a family of sons and daughters, who are grown up. Mr. Puth was a member of the Catholic church here. An old landmark of the pioneer days of Tama has passed away.

Wedding at Brooklyn.

Special to Times-Republican. Victor, Dec. 9.—Mr. Charles Stanley, formerly of this place, but now of Des Moines, was married in Brooklyn Tuesday to Miss Florence Leebener, of that place. The groom is a graduate of our high school.

At San Francisco Rear Admiral Kault Has Transferred His Flag to the Philadelphia from the Iowa.

Special to Times-Republican. San Francisco, Dec. 9.—Rear Admiral Kault has transferred his flag to the Philadelphia from the Iowa.

TAYLOR'S COUNTED IN

Kentucky Election Commissioners Decide for Taylor on Face of the Returns.

Finds His Plurality Over Goebel to Be 2,383 and Signs Taylor's Certificate.

Minority Opinion Filed and the Contest Will Go to the Legislature.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 9.—The election commissioners this morning signed Taylor's certificate of election to the office of governor of Kentucky. The official figures of the vote filed with the secretary of state are: Taylor, 193,714; Goebel, 191,331.

Taylor's plurality, 2,383.

The commissions of the other republicans on the state ticket were also signed.

Preparations for the fight in the legislature will be made at once. Both houses give a democratic majority of thirty-two members on joint ballot, but of this margin so many are anti-Goebel men that the republicans expect to clinch the seating of Taylor and repeal the present election law, which Goebel favored, to establish present democratic control of county election boards throughout the state.

United States Senator Deboe will leave for Washington to carry official report of the situation to national headquarters. He having acted as one of the directors of the republican campaign, Goebel made no formal statement beyond expressing confidence in the statements of friends that he would be "governor within two months."

Gov. Taylor is waiting until the election board's opinion is formally presented before talking.

The wires laid by the democrats to name ex-Senator Blackburn as Senator Lindsay's successor when the legislature meets have been drawn tighter. The party leaders claim a walk-away for him.

Payne, in a minority report, dissents from the majority decision, he declares that the word "examine" in the election law means that the board may go behind the returns and act as an investigating as well as a canvassing board. He dwells on alleged republican frauds, and declares vigorously for the seating of Goebel.

Prior and Ellis follow partisan lines slightly, declaring their stand is taken only because the law allows the board no judicial functions and that they can not go behind certified returns.

They voted against the use of his ballots in four counties. Knox, Johnson, Magoffin and Lewis, and so-called military intimidation in the city of Louisville should nullify the election in these districts. The report abounds with quotations from legal decisions bearing on these points.

The final decision of the democrats to make contest fights was reached last night, and after a long conference with ex-Senator Blackburn, the Goebellites determined to carry the fight for the governorship to the legislature, government ship into the legislature. The minor candidates will file notices at once with the election board. It was determined that no attempt would be made to enjoin the commissioners from issuing the certificates.

When the conference of Goebel's followers adjourned there were cheers for Payne, and ex-Senator Hakes was sent away with yells of approval, as was Attorney Mitchell, who had asserted during the campaign that "if Goebel didn't get in there would not be a white republican left in Kentucky."

"Old Jack" Chin left last night. He spoke of Ellis and Prior as political opponents.

"If I had been in Ellis' place," he said, "my name would have been signed for Goebel with an ink flourish two inches deep. My name has signed their names and waited for them."

The mountain men all have left the city. Their leaders are satisfied.

"I speak the truth," said one of them last night, "and plans had been laid to the end when I say that had the certificate gone to Goebel he would have been hanged before he got to the state house. We came to Frankfort merely to offset any democratic attempt to rush matters by mob force. The fact is that Taylor was elected by over 25,000 more than Goebel. This has been done, and we were determined to end this robbery of votes. We had stood enough."

Delays in Designing War Ships.

Washington, Dec. 9.—There has been great delay in making the designs for the three battleships and three armored cruisers authorized for the navy last March. Some time during February Secretary Long instructed the department to get the general character of these ships. This action was the usual one in anticipation of the authority of congress to build the vessels. Ordinarily it would have been possible to design the ships and invite bids and award contracts by October 1. Absolutely no progress has been made, however, toward designing, much less awarding contracts for the six big ships. It will take at least six months to draw the plans for each class of ship, but there is no sign yet that the members of the board of construction are agreed as to the features of the vessels. The battery, which is the first thing to be settled, has not been arranged, and even the plans made some weeks ago by Rear Admiral O'Neil, chief of ordnance, have been laid aside.

Bank Statement.

New York, Dec. 9.—Bank statement: Surplus reserve decreased \$5,577,175, loans increased \$38,550 and deposits decreased \$3,925,500. The bank now holds \$5,859,525 in excess of legal requirements.