The Times

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BRITISH MAY ADVANCE

General Buller Preparing to Attack the Boer Position.

Despatches From South Africa Say a Great Event Is Impending—Reinforcements for the English Army on the Tugela River—Joubert's Men Approach Nearer to Ladysmith.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—"A great event is impending" are the concluding words of a despatch dated December 27 in which Winston Churchill, correspondent of the "Morning Post," describes the respective positions of the Boers and British at and near the Tugela River in Natal. The same idea can be read between the lines in some other telegrams, and the expectation is growing that General Buller will shortly make a second attempt to cross the river.

The latest news regarding the transports indicates that he has been reinforced by 8,000 men and 18 guns since the failure of his first attempt, but as the Atlantian, with two batteries, left Cape Town yesterday for Durban it may be assumed that no move will be made until these additional twelve guns have reached the front. By then General Buller's strength will be sufficient to enable him to employ two divisions for the attack, while holding the camp with a whole brigade.

The best informed criticism here is in inclined to be sanguine as to the results, half fearing that the attack will be a forlorn hope.

The Boers, according to the latest telegrams, are carefully preserving the secret of their artillery emplacements. They, therefore, do not reply to the shelling of the British. According to the "Telegraph's" Cheveley correspondent all the Boers who were south of the Tugela River have recrossed, fearing that their retreat would be barred by the swollen river. Their lookers seem to have been removed nearer to Ladysmith, with the object of further pressing the garrison there.

From other centres nothing of first importance is recorded. The papers make much of the Boer "nervousness" at Modder River, which, they say, is evidenced by two false alarms which resulted in their aimlessly fusillading the veldt all night, but such occasional scares are, of course, familiar incidents in any campaign. The assumptions that the Boers' position is becoming untenable through the weariness of the men, typhoid fever, lack of water, and horse sickness may be disregarded, especially in view of a Modder River despatch to the "Times," dated December 28, which says: "We have had no certain information concerning the Boers' doings for several days."

A despatch from Lourenco Marques, dated December 28, refers to the rumors that guns and ammunition are being smuggled into the Transvaal, and says that suspicion attaches to a French Line steamer which is now in the harbor there. This vessel brought two large guns from Madagascar. The despatch adds: "It is significant that Major Erasmus of the Transvaal Artillery, arrived coincidently with the steamer. Other important Boer emissaries are continually coming and going.

"It is noteworthy that the Transvaal's and Free State's Consul here continues to act as Consul for the Netherlands. The chief of the Portuguese customs assures me that the suspicions concerning smuggling are groundless, but much depends on the subordinate officers. There is reason to believe that Pretoria is well informed of the British military movements. This is confirmed by the fact that Lord Roberts's appointment was known in Pretoria on December 20, though it was only telegraphed here from Cape Town this week. There is a suspicion that the Transvaal Government is in close touch with a foreign consulate at Pretoria, whose Consul is notorious for his pro-Boer sympathies."

Lord Rosebery has written briefly to the "Times," remarking upon the supreme importance of the question raised by the "disquieting intimations" that the government is treating food stuffs as contraband of war, and expressing the hope that his letter will elicit an authoritative statement on the subject.

PRISONERS WELL TREATED.

Winston Churchill Denies That the Boers Are Cruel.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Winston Churchill, the correspondent of the "Morning Post," in a despatch detailing the position of the British prisoners at Pretoria, declares there is no cause for anxiety concerning them. He adds that the Boers are certainly not a blood-thirsty people, and that they are most desirous of deserving the respect of European nations by correct observance of the usages of war. The only misbehavior is by renegades, whose cowardice and brutality excite the disgust of the real burghers.

The British officers at Pretoria are strongly guarded by police, armed with rifles and revolvers. They are frequently visited. Their only exercise is a daily game of "rounders." They are allowed to become members of the State Library, where there are many good books. The Government allows them a daily ration of "bully beef" and groceries, but anything may be bought from the local tradesmen. As Great Britain does not pay her officers while they are prisoners, many of them are poorly off financially. All are despondent, and the inactivity of their life makes them dull. The reports of Boer victories exaggerate their melancholy.

Churchill describes the other ranks who are encamped at Water Fall as very unhappy because they are without money and are unable to buy tobacco. Their rations are very scanty, but their health is good.

AT CHEVELEY CAMP.

Return to Duty of British Soldiers Wounded in Early Battles.

CHEVELEY CAMP, Dec. 28.—(Delayed in transmission).—Lieut. T. A. D. Best, of the Inniskilling Fusiliers, and Capt. H. M. Shewen, of the Dublin Fusiliers, who were wounded in the battle of Colenso on December 15, have returned to duty.

In reports of the Tugela River battle the Irish Fusiliers were mentioned when the Inniskilling Fusiliers were the ones intended to be referred to.

A late despatch from the front gives the total casualties in General Hart's brigade in the Colenso battle at one hundred. This includes two officers killed and nine wounded.

Soldiers who were wounded and sent to the hospital ship Dunmore and who have reported back for duty tell extraordinary stories of the way they were treated. They say they not only received all the necessaries of life, but enjoyed such luxuries as eau de cologne, worked slippers, exotic fruits, and novels.

Funds to Equip the Yeomanry.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Baron de Rothschild has appealed to the public for funds to equip the Buckhamshire Yeomanry. He himself donates $5,000 to the fund, and William Waldorf Aster also donates a like sum.

Flynn's Business College, 8th and K.
$5—Comm Offer Examination—$5.

BOER PROVISIONS CAPTURED.

Six Wagons Taken and Conveyed to Frere Camp.

CHEVELY CAMP, Dec. 27.—(Delayed in transmission).—Six wagons conveying provisions to the Boers, were captured last night and taken to Frere Camp.

Last night the Boers heliographed, among other questions, "How's Buller?" The British made no reply. Major Chichester has been appointed provost marshal of Natal. It is still very hot and the grass is fearfully burned.

GENERAL WHITE IN DANGER.

Bombardment at Ladysmith Growing Daily More Severe.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The "Daily News" correspondent at Ladysmith, in a despatch dated December 24, describes the bombardments of December 22 and 23 as entailing the heaviest casualties of any since the siege began.

Several shells fell near the house in which General White is ill with fever. Finally one wrecked a neighboring room without hurting anyone, but headquarters was promptly removed.

General White is now convalescent.

FENIAN RAID IMPROBABLE.

Mr. Kinsley Disclaims Knowledge of Any Proposed Invasion.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 29.—J. B. Kinsley, President of the local order of the Fenian Brotherhood, said today regarding rumors of another Fenian invasion of Canada:

"I do not believe in the stories. The affairs of the Brotherhood are secret and such a matter, if contemplated, would hardly leak out at this stage of the game to block matters. I really do not believe that such a move is contemplated. We have considerable arms and ammunition, the remains of the vast purchases made during the last raid. These are now antiquated and of little use. Most of the rifles are Springfields.

"If the opportunity ever again offers itself the Fenians will attempt another invasion. There are thousands of Fenians in this country ready and willing to go. Fenians are giving the Boers all possible aid. During the last invasion I command d five hundred men and got as far as Buffalo."

THE CONFISCATED FLOUR.

A Misapprehension Concerning the Merchandise Dispelled.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Some misapprehension appears to have arisen out of the cabled reports of the seizure by the British Government of flour sold in New York and consigned to Delagoa Bay. It was said at first that flour was not ordinarily considered contraband of war, and that protest might issue from this Government against such an act by the British authorities. Then a story gained currency that the flour was really not American property, but was owned by British subjects in South Africa, who had bought it here and paid for it, and that it was transported in British ships by British forwarding and transportation agents. It is apparent now from the conversation of shipping agents down town that there is no likelihood of any diplomatic protest from this Government, and no reason for it, but rather that if this Government is called upon to act at all it may be in the way of seeing that reimportation is stopped to the American sellers of the merchandise, if it shall appear that they are still legally the owners of it.

The agents here of all three of the ships, the Maria, Mashona, and Beatrice, whose cargoes it has sometimes been carelessly said were seized, are Norton & Son, whose ships, sailing from here for South Africa usually make five stops there, four of which are at British ports. The ships stop at Cape Town, East London, Algoa Bay, and Durban, all British ports, and then they go to Delagoa Bay, which is in Portuguese territory. Out of a cargo of 6,000 or 7,000 tons, the agents say, 1,000 or 1,200 tons would ordinarily be consigned to Delagoa Bay. That was about the proportion in the cargoes that gave rise to the incident under consideration. At the last British port where the vessels stopped, the Government stepped in and said that the ships would not be permitted to proceed to Delagoa Bay with the consignments which the manifest showed to be destined for that place, but that all such cargo must be discharged there in Natal. It was so discharged, and the shipping agents thereupon notified all shippers that they would not thereafter receive shipments for Delagoa Bay.

Under their bills the transportation agents were freed from liability, if, through an act of war, of providence, or of the Queen's enemies, they were unable to land the goods at the port of destination. They had carried them to the nearest possible port. That being the case, in view of the shipping agents, the question would then lie between the real owners of the merchandise and the British Government which intercepted it, for the flour was sold and shipped in time of peace. All such goods are shipped at consignees' risk, and the question of the ownership, it is said, would lie between the sellers or commission merchants and the purchasers.

It was the agents' opinion that the British Government was quite ready to reimburse the owners of the flour, and merely stopped its delivery at Delagoa Bay because it had rather pay for it than take the chance of its reaching the Boers.

THE COLOMBIAN REVOLUTION.

The State of Santander Reported to Be in the Hands of Insurgents.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Dr. A. Diaz Guerra, representative here of the Colombian revolutionists, received a cable despatch today from Maracaibo, Venezuela, which said:

"State of Santander in control of insurgents. Five thousand men from Boyaca have gone there to re-enforce revolutionary army. Revolution increases daily."

It is believed by Colombians in this city that the battle reported today was a defeat of the Government troops, as the censor refused to allow the correspondent at Colon to cable any particulars.

VENEZUELA BUYING ARMS.

An Order Placed for Twenty Thousand Mauser Rifles.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—It is said that an order for 20,000 Mauser rifles and 2,000,000 cartridges has been placed for the Government of Venezuela with G. Amsinck & Co., of this city. The payment for the munitions is guaranteed, it is said, by Senor M. Matieos, former Minister of the Treasury.

There have been persistent rumors afloat recently of a probable war between Venezuela and Colombia, and the shipment a few weeks ago from this port to the Colombian Government of 24,000 rifles and 12,000,000 cartridges gave the rumors the color of truth.

A statement made last week by a Colombian official was to the effect that there were 20,000 Colombian troops on the frontier of Venezuela.

Bubonic Plague in Mauritius.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Sir Charles Bruce, Governor of Mauritius, has cabled to the Colonial Office, informing it that there have been twenty new cases of bubonic plague in the island, and twelve deaths from the disease.

THE DELAGOA BAY TREATY

France Agitated by the Anglo-German Agreement.

Inspired Articles in the Parisian Press—A Suggestion of European Intervention—Russia Opposed to the Contention of Great Britain—Portugal's Financial Condition.

PARIS, Dec. 29.—The Paris press in general shows unmuzzled retrochee in discussing the rumored secret treaty between England and Germany in regard to the partition of the Portuguese possessions in Africa. Apprehension of a sudden move is evidently felt.

A large-type article in this morning's "Matin" bears the marks of official inspiration. It explains the origin of the treaty by England's taking advantage of Portugal's financial straits, and by the interference of the German Emperor to prevent England from profiting alone. The article then declares the consequences in the present situation: "We thus see that the treaty can come into operation only if Portugal is obliged to have recourse to the terrible usurers who have circumvented her. Now, on the one hand, the financial situation of Portugal has a tendency to rise, and, on the other, King Carlos may hope to find money-lenders who will not ask the finest flowers of his crown."

To this direct insinuation of France's willingness to relieve Portugal of all obligations toward England, the article adds in a separate emphatic paragraph: "There can be no present question of the treaty. Portugal asks for nothing."

The article next considers the immediate effects of sudden aggression on the part of England; if done without the consent of Germany, then outside intervention would be certain; if with the consent of King Carlos, whose dynastic rights England has guaranteed, revolution would break out in Lisbon. The article warns England that public opinion in Portugal, France, Germany, and Russia now fully agrees in favor of the absolute independence of the Boers and a prompt conclusion of peace honorable to the Boer Republics. "There can be no doubt that all these public opinions would rise up against the governments that would allow England to touch Lourenco Marquez at the present. Most of all in France it is considered that Delagoa Bay in British hands would be a cannon aimed at Madagascar."

The article ends with a direct threat of international interference on the part of Germany, France, and Russia in the case of sudden aggression by England. This should be compared with the utterances of two serious evening papers, either of which may be taken as receiving official views.

The "Liberte" says: "France can never allow England to lay hands on Delagoa Bay, because the British flag at Delagoa Bay means practically the seizure of Madagascar. We are assured that at this special point the support of Russia would not fail us." The "Debats," over the signature of its responsible foreign editor, adds sharply: "England, in spite of temptations, must now await the good pleasure of the Berne arbitration committee before taking in advance the pledge which she covets."

This further allusion to England's financial hold on Portugal sleary indicates the trend of French diplomacy in the matter for the present.

BERLIN, Dec. 29.—The official "Deutscher Reichsanzeiger" states that it is authorized to declare that the reiterated statements of the "Lokal Anzeiger," in regard to an Anglo-German treaty, are impudent and chimsy inventions.

CRUISE OF THE MONTGOMERY.

Reasons Assigned for the Warship's Voyage to Africa.

The Navy Department declines to furnish further information about the visit of the cruiser Montgomery to Liberia and Sierra Leone, but enough has been learned to indicate that the vessel was engaged in more important work than merely calling at ports on her station to show the Stars and Stripes. There is reason to believe that, as was suggested to a Times' reporter last night, the real reason for the visit was the selection of a site for a coaling station on the coast of Liberia.

The Montgomery made soundings at Monrovia, and there is on file at the Navy Department a report from one of her officers, Ensign Leigh Palmer, giving the result of the examination made by himself and other officers at that place. It is probable also that the Montgomery was sent to western Africa on account of the reports that England and Germany were preparing to seize Liberia. As that Republic is a sort of foster-child of the United States, a report of that character would naturally excite apprehension here. Ensign Palmer was very much impressed with the adaptability of Monrovia for defensive purposes. His report is not encouraging to the emigration of American negroes who seek homes in Liberia. Of a party of eight from the United States that had arrived just before the Montgomery, three died within a week. The people of the towns, he says, do not observe any sanitary measures, and in consequence the mortality is great. While the report does not say anything about the selection of a coaling station, the information in it points to an intention on the part of the cruiser's officers to select a suitable site.

The Montgomery's visit to Africa was made during September and October. She was absent from South Africa, it is said, about six weeks. She started across to the African coast from Pernambuco, the easternmost part of South Africa, to Sierra Leone, the westernmost point of Africa. The distance between these two places is only 1,600 miles, and was probably made by the cruiser at ordinary speed in seven days. The Montgomery was back at Isla Flores, the quarantine station of Montevideo, before November 1. Navy Department officials decline to give exact dates.

Not a Hamburg-American Vessel.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—A representative of the Hamburg-American Line said tonight that none of its vessels sailed from Hamburg today for any American port. The New York office of the line received no despatches stating that any of its fleet was in trouble. Steamships from London, Hull, Newcastle, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Bremen also passed through the Straits of Dover on their way to the United States. An agent of the North German Lloyd Line, whose steamships ply between Bremen and Baltimore and this port, said that the vessel in distress east of Dungeness could not be one of his line.

The Dixie Arrives at Norfolk.

NORFOLK, Va., Dec. 29.—The cruiser Dixie arrived in Hampton Roads this afternoon from New York bound to the Norfolk navy yard, for stores and ammunition. She has on board three hundred naval recruits from the Western States, who will be taken on a cruise to the West Indies and European ports.

$1.25 to Baltimore and Return via B. & O. Saturday and Sunday,
December 30 and 31, good for return until following Monday. Tickets good on all trains except Royal Limited.

DEFEAT FOR FILIPINOS.

American Troops Storm a Rebel Stronghold.

The first engagement of any moment reported by General Otis within a week was cabled the War Department yesterday. The American forces, under Colonel Hare, several hundred strong, stormed a mountain stronghold, considered to be impregnable. After fierce fighting the enemy was routed. General Otis' cablegram was as follows:

Colonel Lockett, with his regiment, two battalions of the Forty-sixth, Colonel Schuyler commanding, one battalion of the Forty-fifth, Colonel Dorst, and one company, Twenty-seventh Infantry, with two guns, Captain Van Duesen, attacked the enemy, 800 strong, on their mountain stronghold, beyond Montalban, northeast of San Mateo. A large number of the insurgents were killed and wounded. Twenty-four were taken prisoners.

Lockett captured one cannon, forty rifles, 20,000 rounds of ammunition, 500 pounds of powder, several fortifications, all food supplies, and considerable other property. This captured point is located on mountain trail, and was formerly supposed to be impregnable. Our casualties are Lieutenant Enslow, Eleventh Cavalry, and five enlisted men wounded, mostly slight. Private Matson, of the Forty-fifth Infantry, was drowned.

ATTACKED AT TALEVERA.

Four Members of the Signal Corps Killed or Captured.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—(4 a. m.)—A cable to the "Herald" from Manila says:

"Six men of the Signal Corps were attacked yesterday at Talevera, east of Tarlac, by a force of two hundred insurgents, and four of them were either killed or captured.

"A despatch stating that the Filipinos were harassing the entire Lingayan coast from Vigan to San Jacinto in small bands, and that Lieut. J. C. Gilmore and the members of the cruiser Yorktown's crew who are prisoners of the rebels had been separated and were with insurgent bands in the northern mountains was censored by General Otis on the ground that he had contrary information.

"The strength of the insurgents at Malalbon caused surprise to the Americans.

"Merchants here are anxious to have the campaign in Cavite province begun, so that it may be the sooner finished and the ports be opened to trade.

"General Otis' recent decree authorizing civil marriage makes no provision for divorce. Only the Catholic reasons for separation are recognized in the order.

"Girls twelve years old and boys fourteen are permitted to marry with the consent of their parents, but otherwise they must be twenty-one years old."

LIEUTENANT TAYLOR KILLED.

General Otis Announces the Death of a Gallant Officer.

A cablegram from General Otis to the War Department yesterday announced the death of First Lieut. Edward Taylor, of the Twelfth Infantry. He was run over by a train in crossing the Agno River at Bantista, December 26. Lieutenant Taylor was born in Illinois in 1871, but was appointed to West Point from Idaho, in 1893. He graduated in 1898, and was assigned to the Twelfth Infantry, serving with it in the West until 1898, when he accompanied the regiment to Cuba and fought at San Juan Hill, later going to the Philippines.

TRANSPORTS FROM MANILA.

The Tartar and the Newport Reach San Francisco.

The transport Tartar, about whose safety some persons were apprehensive, reached San Francisco yesterday. She had five discharged soldiers on board. In his despatch announcing her arrival Major General Shafter says that the remains of James Wiggs, a discharged private of the Eighteenth Infantry, who died of chronic dysentery at Manila, and of Samuel Davis, private, Twenty-eighth Infantry, who died on the voyage, were brought to San Francisco on the Tartar.

General Shafter reported also the arrival at San Francisco from Manila of the transport Newport. Major Kilbourne, paymaster; Captain Torrey, Sixteenth Infantry; Captain Jones, Twenty-second Infantry; Lieutenant Burgess, Fifth Artillery; Lieutenant McGrew, Sixteenth Infantry, and Lieutenant Schindel, Sixth Infantry, were passengers on the Newport, which brought also the remains of Lieut. Maxwell Keyes, Third Infantry. There were no sick on board the transport, and no deaths during the voyage.

CONDITIONS IN ALASKA.

Affairs in the Arctic Territory Discussed by the Cabinet.

The future of Alaska was discussed by the Cabinet at its meeting yesterday, and it was decided that new military posts would be established at several points. Efforts will also be made to promote agricultural pursuits and stock raising in that Territory.

The Secretary of the Treasury called the attention of the Cabinet several weeks ago to the fact that, from reliable reports received by him, there would shortly be a big rush of prospectors to Cape Nome and other points, and that more troops would be needed to keep order, and that additional courts must be established. Since then Secretary Root has been studying the situation, and announced yesterday to the Cabinet that several companies of soldiers would be sent to Alaska in the early spring. Congress will also be asked to make provision for additional courts.

Secretary Wilson stated that experts from the Agricultural Department had conducted many experiments and thoroughly investigated the agricultural resources of Alaska during the past summer and that many varieties of vegetables could be successfully raised in that country, and that there was an abundance of grazing land for stock the entire year.

The Secretary of War reported the progress made by General Wood since he became Governor-General of Cuba. Mr. Root said that General Wood was receiving the co-operation of the best citizens of Cuba in his administration of civil government. General Wood's actions received the approbation of the Cabinet.

WATERSPOUT IN THE PACIFIC.

Narrow Escape of the Coal-Laden American Ship Eclipse.

HONOLULU, Dec. 22, via San Francisco, Dec. 29.—The American ship Eclipse, from New Castle, N. S. W., for Honolulu, had a narrow escape from wreck by a squall on December 2. The vessel, which was coal laden, was sailing along on a quiet sea when it was discovered that the mizzen royal sail was split.

Sailor John Nicholson was sent aloft to bind it. In a few minutes when nearly all hands were below, a squall or a waterspout struck the ship, carried away the mizzen royal mast, and split thirteen sails. No trace of Nicholson could be found.

The captain thinks a waterspout caused the disturbance, as iron bars five inches thick were twisted like wire.

The Flight of General Hernandez.

CARACAS, Dec. 29.—General Hernandez, the rebel leader, with a few men, is in full flight toward the Colombian frontier. The revolution is practically over.

General Amnesty in Italy.

ROME, Dec. 29.—The Cabinet has decided to grant amnesty on New Year Day to all persons accused of political offences.

NO SOLACE FOR TAGALS

New York Assemblymen Refuse to Adopt a Filipino Resolution.

Councilman Cassidy Seeks to Have the Municipal Assembly Condemn the American Government for Its Expansion Policy—Sympathy Expressed for the Boer Republic.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—A resolution condemning the Government and sympathizing with the Filipinos was introduced in the council today by Councilman Cassidy (Dem., Queens). He found his opportunity when Councilman Goodwin (Tam.) called up for consideration the aldermanic resolution adopted on Friday of last week, expressing sympathy with the Boers. This resolution was declared out of order by President Guggenheimer at the council meeting on Tuesday, and was placed on file. Mr. Guggenheimer was not present at the meeting today, and John T. Oakley, the vice chairman and Tammany leader on the floor, took his place as presiding officer. Mr. Goodwin took up the duties of leader on the floor and soon after the council was called together he asked that the resolution of sympathy with the Boers be taken from the file and acted upon by the council. Mr. Cassidy jumped up and offered his resolution. The conclusion of the resolution follows:

Resolved, That the municipal assembly of the city of New York hereby declares its profound sympathy with the Filipinos in the gallant struggle for independence and protests with all earnestness in the name of humanity itself against the continuation of a war in the Philippines which was commenced for political purposes and has since been conducted in violation of all teachings and spirit of American Democracy.

Councilman Engel (Tam.) moved that this resolution be laid on the table. Instead, Mr. Oakley recognized Mr. Cassidy, who made a speech in support of his resolution.

Some one suggested that the Cassidy resolution be acted upon after the Boer resolution had been ruled on, and Mr. Cassidy agreed to this. The Boer resolution was put at once. Mr. Oakley called for the yeas and nays. There were a few yeas. Councilman Leich (Rep., Brooklyn) shouted "No" at the top of his voice. Mr. Oakley ignored him and announced that the Boer resolution was adopted unanimously.

The vote of reconsideration was unanimous. Mr. Cassidy was not present. Then Councilman Hyland (Tammany) moved that the resolution be placed on file. This was adopted unanimously also. Mr. Cassidy said afterward that if the Boer resolution was adopted the Filipino resolution should be adopted, and that the action of the council in reconsidering its vote during his absence was an outrage.

GOVERNOR PINGREE'S PLANS.

Municipal Ownership and Tax Reform Advocated in His Message.

LANSING, Mich., Dec. 29.—Governor Pingree put work enough on the Legislature today to keep that body busy for twice the constitutional limit of the special session. Notwithstanding his declaration that the sole purpose of the session was to urge the submission of the so-called equal-tax amendment to the constitution, he sent three messages recommending other legislation to both houses today, the equal-tax proposition having been defeated last night. Aside from a constitutional amendment providing for municipal ownership and operation of street railways and other public utilities he urges the doubling of the taxes exacted from railroad companies, and the changing of the system of taxation on mining corporations.

In his message he expressed the opinion that the railroads should pay not less than $2,250,000 annually, this being an increase of nearly $1,150,000 over the present aggregate tax. The bill introduced in compliance with his suggestion as to mining companies provides for a tax of 3 cents per ton on iron ore, and a graduated tax based on aggregate output of from one-sixteenth to one-half cent per pound on copper. The upper peninsula legislators estimate that this will yield $1,500,000 per year, and that two-thirds of this would come from the copper mines of Houghton county.

Both of these tax measures were fought to a finish at the regular session of the Legislature last winter. Both passed the House, but died in the Senate. The indications are that they will meet the same fate next week. There is not much more hope for the municipal ownership project, the fact being that the Senate can be depended on to kill whatever the Governor advocates.

SENATOR MORGAN'S CANVASS.

His Friends Rallying in All Parts of Alabama.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 29.—Friends of United States Senator Morgan from all parts of the State met here today and held a conference looking to a vigorous campaign in behalf of the Senator's re-election. It is admitted that Governor Johnston, through his organization, is a very dangerous opponent of Senator Morgan, and the latter's friends today devised a plan of action. An organization was perfected, with Capt. Frank S. White, of Birmingham, as its chairman, and headquarters are to be established at Birmingham.

It is intended to organize in every county in the State in the interest of Senator Morgan. Immediate action will be taken to head off Johnston's lead. Senator Morgan will be here soon and will be at the service of his friends. Debates with Governor Johnston will be arranged, and a hot campaign will be waged.

MR. PLATT'S DENIAL.

He Has Not Announced His Preference for Vice President.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—The "Brooklyn Eagle" printed the following this evening:

"Senator Thomas C. Platt made this statement today: 'The report that I favor or have committed myself to anyone for Vice President, or that the State organization is committed to anyone, is untrue. I have announced myself for no one, directly or indirectly. I believe it is entirely too soon to take up this question. And all this discussion is premature.

"'I like Mr. Woodruff. I believe he is a solid Republican, but I have not said that I favored him or that the organization of New York favored him for Vice President. Neither have I said that I believed Mr. Root was the man, or that Mr. Hiss should be chosen.

"'At the proper time I will let my opinions be known. Until then I shall not say anything definite, and all reports pledging me to anyone are and will be false.'"

$1.25 To Baltimore and Return via Pennsylvania Railroad. $1.25
Tickets on sale Saturday and Sunday, December 30 and 31, good to return until Monday, January 1. All trains except Congressional Limited.

SENATOR HANNA SAYS "BOSH."

He Declares That Secretary Gage Has No Thought of Resigning.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 29.—Senator Hanna today declared in positive terms that there was absolutely nothing in the report sent out from Chicago to the effect that Secretary Gage was to retire from the Cabinet, because of the criticisms evoked by his attitude toward the National City Bank of New York.

"That is all bosh," said Senator Hanna, this afternoon. "What do you fellows print such nonsense for? Why Gage as no more thought of leaving the Cabinet than the President has of resigning his office. There is absolutely nothing in it."

"Then there is nothing in the talk of Kohlsaat going to Washington?"

As the question was put to the Senator his eyes spread wide with astonishment. But all he said was "Pish."

Referring to the Ohio situation and the policy to be followed by the incoming Republican administration toward the outgoing Bushnell administration, Senator Hanna said today that he believed in the men who won the victory getting the rewards and that he wanted the decks cleared of all who were not in thorough sympathy with the new administration. This is interpreted to mean that all the Bushnell appointees will be removed and their places filled by good Hanna men.

OPPOSED TO FUSION.

The Indiana Populists to Maintain Their Party Organization.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 29.—The Populist State Central Committee met here today to arrange for the meeting of their State convention, and it was determined to nominate a full State ticket February 22. The question of fusion with the Democratic party was discussed at considerable length, and it was decided that fusion is inexpedient and should not be entered into either by the State or national party in the coming campaign.

The members of the committee were a unit in the sentiment that the party must be held to its organization, and that there is nothing in common between them and the Democrats that would appeal to the people and on which a successful campaign could be made.

STRANDED IN A GALE.

A Passenger Steamer Aground on the English Coast.

DOVER, Dec. 29.—A violent southwest gale is prevailing here. An outward bound steamer for the United States is aground on the sands to the eastward of Dungeness, and she has signaled an urgent request that tugs be sent to her assistance. Lifeboats have reached here from Folkestone, and they and the lifeboats from here will go to the stranded vessel. The Dover harbormaster has ordered tugs, but it is feared that the gale will prevent them from starting before 2 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The steamer's position is reported to be most dangerous. It is feared that there will be a serious disaster before aid can reach her, unless the gale abates. It is reported that she has many passengers on board.

It is stated that the steamer is one of the Hamburg-American Line, but this is not certain.

Distress signals have also been received from the South Sands Head lightship, which is reported to be drifting toward the sands.

UNION OF RICE MILL OWNERS.

The Efforts of Planters to Increase Prices.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 29.—The rice mill owners of southwest Louisiana, who have been in secret session here for two days, adjourned today, having reached an agreement.

Every effort was made to keep this agreement a secret, but it developed that it was a decision by which the rice crop will be held back instead of thrown on the market at once, in the belief that this holding back will stimulate prices.

Under existing conditions, with the fierce competition between the mills, the entire rice crop is rushed upon the market within a few weeks with the result that prices go to pieces. An attempt will be made to hold back the bulk of the crop, marketing from time to time, only such rice as the country needs. It is said that all of the country mills have gone into the arrangement.

SAMOA'S BRIGHT FUTURE.

Baron Von Sternberg's Views on the Recent Convention.

BOSTON, Dec. 29.—Perhaps the most interesting feature of the American Historical Association's trip to Cambridge today was the speech of Baron Speck von Sternberg on Samoa. He said in part:

"It was a happy day when the vexed Samoan question was wiped out altogether by the signing of the convention of December 2. It adjusts amicably the questions which have arisen between the three Governments in respect to the Samoan group of islands. Two days ago I received a letter from the most prominent American merchant in Apia, who, during the last war in Samoa, was the staunchest defender of law, truth, and justice, especially as regarded the trodden down rights of Makaaha and his party. The letter says:

"'You know how heartily I sympathized with your people during the late uncalled for troubles, and how continuously I exerted myself to try and set matters right with the public. Since the happy issue of the labors of the High Commission has become known here I take a most hopeful view of things, and feel very certain that matters Samoan will improve vastly to the general advantage of all who intend to obey the law and be good citizens.'

"I entirely agree with the expectation of this gentleman. There is no doubt whatever that where the American and German citizens co-operate matters always have improved, and will improve."

A TELEGRAPH COMPANY SUED.

Failure to Deliver a Message Entails Sad Consequences.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 29.—W. F. Beck, of Repton, Ala., has filed a suit for $10,000 damages against the Western Union Telegraph Company for alleged delay in delivering a telegram, setting forth that through this delay he lost Miss Dora Ward as his wife. The case has been filed in the United States Court.

According to the plaintiff he sent a telegram from Repton, in June to Miss Ward, in which he said he would see her the next day. The telegram was not forwarded, as the agent had been instructed, to Miss Ward, and through this delay he failed to win her, causing him much mental pain and anguish, and serious wounding and lacerating his feelings and affections.

Miss Ward married a man named Bagland. She telegraphed three suitors, it is said, that she would give a favorable reply if they were with her on the day named and the delay of Beck's telegram caused him to lose.

Rejoicing at Colon.

COLON, Colombia, Dec. 29.—There is general rejoicing here over the report that control of the Panama Canal has been secured by an American syndicate. A rise in the price of all local property is anticipated. The United States gunboat Scorpion, with the surveying commission on board, has arrived at Carthagena. Her commander reports "all well."

WOOD'S WORK OF REFORM

Receipts at the Havana Customhouse Rapidly Increasing.

A Misconception Regarding Action in the Cardenas Ayuntamiento—Investigation Into the Collection of Duties Has a Salutary Effect—Spaniards Flocking to Cuba.

HAVANA, Dec. 29.—Governor-General Wood's action in the matter of the Cardenas ayuntamiento has been misconstrued here as affecting the Daly contract. General Wood intended no such construction of his decision. He simply wanted the Cuban people to deal directly with contracts extending over a term of years, amounting practically to concessions, holding that the present ayuntamientos, which were appointed by the military authorities, will be without power after April, when their successors will be elected by the people. For the present he wants the ayuntamientos to go to work and clean up the towns and get in a position to pay for future improvements. General Wood is not touching the Daly business. He has other matters of more importance to attend to.

The receipts at the custom house yesterday were $100,500, the largest in the history of the island. The impression prevails that the present investigation into customs matters has assisted in increasing the amount of duties collected. Until now the scandal importers have been given the benefit of every doubt regarding the classification of their imports, to say nothing of the absolute fraud that was perpetrated in that connection. But for once undoubted honesty is prevailing in every department, the result of the searching investigation that is being made. Every invoice for a year past is being examined for evidences of fraud, as it is only in this way that the whole conspiracy, which ran through all the departments, can be uncovered. The officers in charge of the prosecution of the accused say there is no doubt of their conviction, as the methods employed necessitated the signatures of the accused, and the papers bearing on these are now in possession of the prosecution.

The suspension of the order transferring Colonel Richards has caused much gratification here. His grasp of affairs as a careful officer has made him essential to General Wood, coming, as the latter does, into a new field.

Commenting on the circular recently issued by the Cuban Planters' Association, advocating Spanish immigration, the "Diario de la Marina" says the planters' attitude meets with universal approval. It adds that an immigration office is urgently needed to aid immigrants in obtaining employment.

The Planters' Association is endeavoring to establish a permanent immigration office in Havana. The immigrants at present are largely dependent on chance in finding employment, and they are at the mercy of labor agents, who charge a commission to both employers and immigrants. The latter are often forced to accept menial work in Havana, owing to the fact that they do not know to what part of the island to go to obtain work suitable to them. The Spanish immigration is unabated, and the necessity of adopting some measures for the protection of those who come is becoming urgent. It is probable that the Government will take action as soon as General Wood disposes of more pressing matters.

The newspapers take it for granted that Senores Villalon, Estevez, and Verona will be members of General Wood's cabinet, and also that Alejandro Rodriguez will be Secretary of the Treasury. The latter is a friend of General Gomez. If it develops that this slate is correct, it will be well received. The comments of "La Lucha," "Diario de la Marina," and "La Discusion" are favorable. It is gratifying to General Wood and his friends that "La Discusion" is well disposed, as it is the organ of Senor Capote, who was displaced by General Brooke from the post of Secretary of the Government.

THE KANSAS INSURANCE WAR.

A Suit Against Chicago Companies to Test the Law.

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 29.—Kansas proposes to wage war on the "Fire Insurance Union." Today Frank S. Thomas, the agent of the Continental Insurance Company of New York, which recently conducted a big rate war against "union" companies in Topeka, sued the Springfield Fire and Marine and the Traders' companies of Chicago, for damages in the amount of $1,000 each.

These companies revoked Thomas' license as Topeka agent in October, because he accepted the agency of the Continental, a non-union company. Thomas recites that he was promised a good line of "union" companies if he would not take the agency of the Continental, which he refused to consider. He says he spent seventeen years working up business for the Springfield and Chicago companies, and that he wants damages for the revocation of his licenses.

This fight is far-reaching, and will test the right of the insurance union to violate the anti-trust law of Kansas.

A PAPER FACTORY BURNED.

A Destructive Blaze Destroys a Manufacturing Plant.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—The William Campbell Wall Paper Company's factory which covered half the block between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Streets on the East River, was burned tonight. The fire was the hottest and most dangerous with which the fire department has had to cope for many months. The great factory furnished endless opportunities for the dangerous back draughts, which are the terror of firefighters, and one of them caught several of the firemen and burned them one seriously.

A gutta percha factory on Twenty-fourth Street, just above the burning building, caught fire.

The police estimate the loss on the building and the fine machinery for the manufacture and printing of wall paper, which it contained at $600,000 at least. This amount, of course, will be increased by the loss of the gutta percha factory and by the loss of a stable, upon which the wall on the Twenty-fifth Street side of the factory fell. The plant of the United States Electric Light Company, to the west of the burning building, was threatened by the fire, and all of the street lights in that section of the city were cut off.

The Dominion Parliament.

OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 29.—It was officially announced today that the Dominion Parliament will be summoned to meet on February 1. The Government will make every effort to have a short session, but the opposition will be inclined to make it a fighting session, as it is understood that Parliament will be dissolved soon after prorogation. The principal discussion will be in connection with Canada's participation in the South African war, and the future responsibility of the Dominion in England's foreign wars.

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