

BOERS TRYING TO INVEST ROBERTS AT BLOEMFONTEIN

British Forces Now Being Concentrated to Offset the Audacious Plan of the Advancing Transvaalers.



SAVING A GUN OF BATTERY U, R. H. A.

In the disaster at Bushmans Kop on Saturday last a sergeant major of Battery U, Royal Horse Artillery, by great exertion and cool judgment managed to save one of the eight guns which had been cut off and thought to be lost.

LONDON, April 5, 5 a. m.—It looks to-day as though the Boers had conceived the audacious plan of attempting to invest Lord Roberts at Bloemfontein, or at least to endeavor to delay his northward advance by harassing the British lines of communication.

ATTEMPTS TO KILL PRINCE OF WALES

A Young Anarchist Fires Two Shots at His Royal Highness, but Fails to Do Injury.



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES. From a photograph taken lately in his uniform as captain general of the Honorable Artillery.

BRUSSELS, April 4.—As the train was leaving the northern station for the southern railroad station, a youth fired two shots from a revolver at the Prince of Wales, but missed his Royal Highness.

Prince of Wales and that he did not regret his action and was ready to do it again if given a chance.

MARCHING TO THE RELIEF OF MAFEKING

LONDON, April 5.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Mafeking, dated March 25, by a runner to Gaborone, says: "Last night we received the welcome news of the dispatch of a column by way of Vryburg to relieve us. The messenger reported that he had encountered no Boers on the road."

COLONEL PORTER MAKES A MOST BRILLIANT CHARGE

LONDON, April 5.—The Daily Mail has the following from Bloemfontein, dated Tuesday, April 3: "Colonel Porter, with ninety carbineers and Scots Greys and two guns, performed a brilliant deed Sunday. He charged a large body of Boers and rescued ninety British prisoners, including eleven officers who were captured the previous day. There were no casualties on the British side."

GENERAL CLEMENTS' MOVE.

LONDON, April 5.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing Tuesday, says: "General Clements' force traversed Petrusburg Sunday morning and is now encamped a day's march from here."

DESIGNING MEN BACK OF DEWEY

Party Opponents of McKinley and Bryan His Advisers.

USING THE ADMIRAL AS A POLITICAL CLUB

Led Him to Believe Both Parties Would Be Eager Bidders for His Leadership.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

NEW YORK, April 4.—The Herald has twenty-nine interviews with Democratic National Committee men. Twenty-seven declare for Bryan; North Dakota is for Dewey, and J. J. Dwyer of California says he cannot decide until he knows Dewey's politics.

ALL HEADQUARTERS, WELLINGTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, April 4.—Admiral Dewey's announcement of his candidacy for the Presidency has been the sole topic of conversation to-day among public men in Washington.

Though Admiral Dewey does not indicate in any way which party he expects to take up his candidacy it is stated that he expects that his announcement will create such a wave of popular enthusiasm as to induce the leaders of the Democracy the advisability of placing him in nomination at the Kansas City convention.

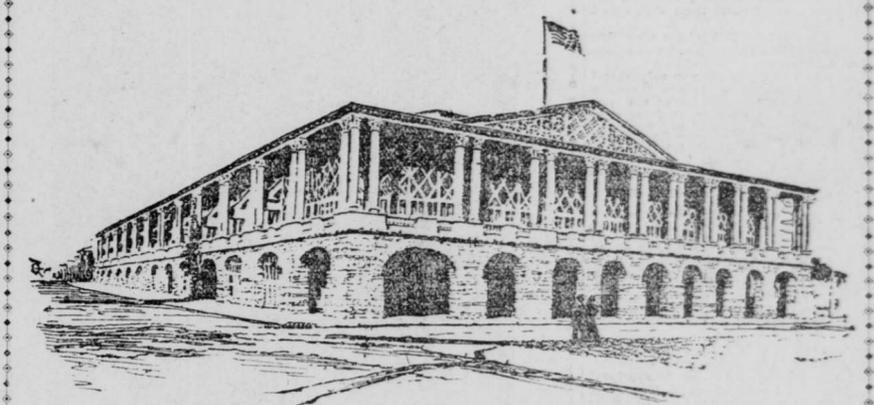
There is good reason to believe that certain prominent Republicans are well pleased with the admiral's action, even if they did not urge it upon him in advance. Some of the Republicans who have opposed the party of Bryan are said to be John R. McLean, the admiral's brother-in-law; former Secretary of the Navy Whitney; former Senator Gorman; Nathan Straus of New York and Judge Braxley of South Carolina.

Unless the office of the admiral's announcement outside of Washington has been entirely different from what it has been here it will utterly fail to arouse enough popular enthusiasm to carry the hero of Manila into the White House.

It is to be hoped that the admiral's announcement will be met with the same enthusiasm as that which has been greeted at railway stations and receptions into the belief that the American people were ready to bestow upon him any office or honor within their gift. It is plain that if the admiral is to receive any nomination it must come as the result of a spontaneous outburst of enthusiasm from the people, so strong as to be beyond the power of politicians to curb it or control it.

FIRE DESTROYS CONVENTION HALL AT KANSAS CITY

Presbyterian Church, Lathrop School and a Row of Flats Swept Away by the Devouring Elements.



Convention hall, Kansas City, as It Appeared Before Destruction.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., April 4.—Convention Hall, Kansas City's pride, wherein the Democratic National Convention was to have been held on July 4, was laid in ruins in less than thirty minutes' time this afternoon from a fire that started from an unknown source at 1 o'clock. The fire burned with such fury that it was evident almost from the start that the structure was doomed and the firemen soon turned their attention to saving surrounding property.

A stiff breeze was blowing and before the fire was subdued at 2:15 o'clock the Second Presbyterian Church, one of the finest edifices in the city, the church parsonage, the Lathrop public school, a two-story, thirteen-room building, all situated across the way on Central street, a half-block of three-story flat buildings on Twelfth street, were rendered total losses.

Several residences were damaged to a greater or less degree and for a time it was feared that several blocks of buildings in the residence district would go. The aggregate loss is \$400,000, apportioned as follows: Convention Hall, \$235,000; insurance \$155,000; church \$50,000; insured; parsonage \$15,000; school \$35,000; insurance \$20,400; Williamson block, Twelfth street, \$50,000; insurance \$45,000; miscellaneous \$5000.

Planes are on foot to rebuild Convention Hall immediately and make it ready for the Democratic convention in July.

Whether politicians underestimate Admiral Dewey's strength with the people of the country is a question that can only be answered when time enough has elapsed for the feeling throughout the country to manifest itself somewhat. There have been instances in American history when politicians and party leaders have had to give way to a general manifestation of the popular will, and the admiral and his advisers have hoped that this would be one of those occasions.

However this may be, it is certain that the trend of opinion among politicians, and especially among the supporters of Bryan, is that the Dewey candidacy will amount to very little. This was well illustrated by the reply of Senator Jones of Arkansas, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, to my question as to what he thought of the admiral's candidacy: "I have not given it any consideration," said the Senator. "It will be forgotten by to-morrow night, so what is the use of thinking about it?"

When I asked the admiral this morning

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Flames Spread Rapidly.

The fire started, as near as can be learned, at 1 o'clock this afternoon just above the boiler room in the northeast corner of the building, on the alley where some plumbers had been at work. There was no fire in the furnace and the supposition is that the blaze started from a spirit lamp used by one of the plumbers at the crossing of an electric light wire. A still alarm was first turned in. By the time the first engine arrived, ten minutes later, the whole building was a mass of flames. The entire structure, covering half a block each way on Fifteenth and Central streets, was a mass of fire before a second alarm could be sounded, and in less than half an hour the roof, upheld by massive steel girders that spanned its 20 feet of breadth, fell with a crash that sent showers of burning embers in every direction and drove the firemen across the street. The brick Corinthian columns lining the building along the facade on Thirteenth and Central streets tumbled a few minutes and fell outward and the hall was a complete wreck.

A strong wind carried the flames to the Second Presbyterian Church, on the opposite side of Thirteenth and Central streets, and in forty minutes that structure, occupying a half block in length, was in ruins. The parsonage adjoining that spanned its 20 feet of breadth, fell with a crash that sent showers of burning embers in every direction and drove the firemen across the street. The brick Corinthian columns lining the building along the facade on Thirteenth and Central streets tumbled a few minutes and fell outward and the hall was a complete wreck.

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SUDDEN DEATH OF GEN. JOHN BIDWELL.

Was an Early Pioneer and at One Time Prohibitionist Candidate for Presidency.

Special Dispatch to The Call.



THE LATE GENERAL JOHN BIDWELL.

CHICAGO, April 4.—General John Bidwell, perhaps the oldest living California pioneer, died suddenly at his magnificent home on the Rancho Chico at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon.

General Bidwell had for several years been superintending the work on a new drive through his grounds, and went out to inspect the work this morning at 7:30 o'clock. At about 9 o'clock, while marking a fallen tree for sawyers, he suddenly dropped to the ground. He was conveyed to his house and several physicians were summoned to his bedside. At first he rallied and strong hopes were entertained of his recovery, but at 2 o'clock he had a relapse, from which he never recovered. Besides a widow, he leaves three nieces

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CONTRIBUTORS TO DEWEY DAY FUND DEMAND A RETURN OF THEIR MONEY

CHICAGO, April 4.—From early morning till nearly midnight the executive committee in charge of the preparations to receive Admiral Dewey on the occasion of his proposed visit to Chicago on May 1 was in session listening to demands of angry contributors of money for the return of their contributions and to withdrawals of offers of a score or more of civic and other organizations to participate in the proposed Dewey day parade. As a result it is considered quite probable the Dewey day celebration may be called off.

When the committee was formed it was decided by the members of the finance committee, to whom was intrusted the work of collecting funds to meet expenses, that there was to be nothing of a political nature in the affair, but that this occasion was to be a patriotic celebration on one of the great naval battles in history, that Admiral Dewey had kindly consented to lend his presence to the occasion, so that hundreds of thousands of admirers of the hero of Manila Bay might look upon his features, grasp his hand and pay him homage.

The committee met splendid success up to this time. The people have felt the season was good for such an event and the occasion would bring thousands to Chicago. The fund which was raised for Admiral Dewey's entertainment was in keeping with the city and occasion. Military and civic societies volunteered their services to make the display such as had never been witnessed in Chicago before, and every one felt the celebration would be as fitting to the admiral as had been the one in New York on his return from the Orient.

The committee was hurriedly called this morning to discuss the new phase put upon Dewey's standing before the people by his announcement of his candidacy for the Presidency, and had barely been called to order when demands for a return of their contributions were made. The general excuse for the demand invariably made was that the contribution had been made for the entertainment of Dewey, the victorious admiral of the navy, and not for Dewey, the politician and office-seeker. The withdrawals of requests for positions in the parade by civic and military organizations were invariably based upon the same grounds.

Members of the committee are facing one of the strangest propositions they have ever been called upon to solve. They talked the matter over at length, and after a conference made the following statement to the press: "The majority of the members of the committee find themselves in an embarrassing position, owing to the fact that they supposed they were to entertain the admiral of the United States navy, and now it develops they are to entertain a candidate for the office of President of the United States. This political feature has caused the embarrassment referred to, and many of the organizations that were to participate in the parade have decided to withdraw."

"Contributors to the fund to defray the expenses did so on the assurance of the committee that there would be no politics whatever on the occasion, and now contributors are asking for a return of their money. It will do its utmost to overcome the reticence of feeling caused by the publication of Admiral Dewey's determination to become a candidate for the Presidency."

Notwithstanding the committee's public statement that preparations will continue, the members privately say they believe the "fig is up." Many of the members have lost heart, and if Admiral Dewey should change his mind, now that he has become a candidate for office, and decline to come to Chicago, it would be a great relief to them.

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