

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

WAR PREPARATIONS VIGOROUSLY CONTINUED BY ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

Latest Advice from St. Petersburg, however, said to be favorable to peace—English Hovers on Tripud—French-Chinese Peace—Kl Mahdi Routed.

LONDON, April 10.—In the house of commons to-day Mr. Gladstone said that a reply was received from Russia last night. This stated that Russia had already asked Gen. Komaroff to explain his conduct in attacking the Afghans at Penjdeh.



THE BATTLE GROUND.

The Times ridicules Russia's reply to England's demand for an explanation of Gen. Komaroff's attack upon the Afghans.

Beaver line, negotiations to this end having already been opened.

RUSSIA, April 10.—Gen. Graham has issued a proclamation, in which he urges rebels to return to the British.

OTTAWA, Ont., April 10.—In the house of commons to-day on motion to go into committee of supply.

THE "Fly on the Wheel" Policy.

LA HABANA, April 10.—The Russian agents in London have visited the offices of number of steamship companies.

PHILADELPHIA, April 10.—The morning newspapers throughout Russia, with very few exceptions, in commenting on the recent battle between the Russians and the Afghans.

PARIS, April 10.—The Gaulois publishes a telegram from Berlin, which says: "Prince Bismarck has assured a banker that in spite of the incident at Penjdeh the Russian policy is unchanged."

Mr. Frelinghuysen Beyond Hope.

His Royal Highness in Ireland.

TELEGRAPH—C. C. BREEKS.

RAVAL PIENO, April 10.—The news of the battle between the Russians and the Afghans was received by the Ameri- canly.

ALEXANDRIA, April 10.—It is reported here that the British government has arranged in the event of war with Russia to have troops now operating in the Sudan sent to Gallipoli.

QUIET AND COMFORTABLE.

THE OLD HERO'S CONDITION MORE FAVORABLE THAN SINCE THE HEMORRHAGE.

Anxiety About the Financial Future of His Family—Cheerful and Depressed by Turns—Reading European War News—Profusion of Floral Designs Left by Friends.

NEW YORK, April 10.—The first and second bulletins given out by the physicians of Gen. Grant to-day indicate a continuance of his generally comfortable condition.

The second (11 a. m.) bulletin stated Gen. Grant's condition remains substantially the same.

After this bulletin was issued Dr. Douglas left the patient, and again the general was without medical attendance.

Dr. Shrayd returned between 2 and 3 o'clock and remained until 3:30 p. m.

There was no other consultation during the day.

At 3 p. m. Dr. Douglas said in response to a request by cable from London for a bulletin, that there was little to say in a bulletin, because the general was so quiet and comfortable.

At 5 p. m. Gen. Grant has had a comfortable day. He has rested on the bed longer than for many days.

The grant residence is adorned at almost every available resting place with elaborate floral designs.

Col. Fred Grant arose at 5 p. m. after a long sleep.

Mrs. Dent left the house at that hour after being assured by Dr. Douglas the general was comfortable and easy.

At 10:30 p. m. Gen. Grant's condition is reported as comfortable.

The bulletin issued at midnight was as follows:

Gen. Grant has been quiet during the evening. He has dozed most of the time, and is at present inclined to fall into a natural sleep.

PHILADELPHIA, April 10.—Philip R. Schuyler Post No. 51, G. A. R., to-day sent a dispatch to Gen. Grant.

NEW YORK, April 10.—Capt. Tutbill, of the 7th Regiment War Veterans, called at Gen. Grant's hospital and presented resolutions of sympathy.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., April 10.—A meeting of ex-confederate soldiers was held here to-night, and resolutions were adopted unanimously expressing sympathy to Gen. Grant in his affliction.

MASSACRE BY HALF-BREDS.

Parts of Thirteen Families Believed to Have Been Killed—Exciting Rumors—A General Indian Rising Feared.

OTTAWA, Ont., April 10.—In the house of commons to-day Sir John Macdonald said he regretted that he had to announce a massacre at Frog Lake, about forty miles north of Fort Pitt.

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Races at New Orleans Yesterday.

CAPT. COUCH'S MISSION.

THE CHAMPION OF THE OKLAHOMA BOOKERS IN THE CITY.

His Story of the Situation—A Call at the Interior Department—To See the President and Urge a Decision One Way or Another.

Capt. Couch, one of the leaders in an attempt to settle on the Oklahoma lands, arrived in the city yesterday morning.

He called at the Interior Department and had a talk with Assistant Secretary Muldrow.

He was found in his room at the National Hotel by a reporter last night, conversing with ex-representative Clark, of Kansas.

Capt. Couch is a tall, light-complexioned man, and weighs about 150 or 160 pounds.

He has a strong, manly face and features, and while talking he has a quiet, pleasant manner that impresses an auditor with his earnestness.

Of his visit to Washington, he said he came to represent the boomers, to get, if possible, a decision as to the legal status of their case.

As to the "validity of the government's title to the land," he will have a formal interview with Secretary Lamar this morning, and will then call on the President.

Capt. Couch has with him petitions from the would-be settlers praying an early decision in the matter, and has certificates from the mayor and other officials of Arkansas City, Kan., where the boomers are encamped.

He has also with him a report from the good reputation and conduct of the settlers. These he will present to President Cleveland.

"If I want," he said, "a decision from the department, one way or another. Our case is simply this: If these cattle men, who occupy the territory more than 15,000,000 acres of ground, have a right to use the land, then we think we have a right to use it."

He said he would call on the Interior Department to-day, and will then call on the President.

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THE NATIONALS DEFEATED.

Providence Carries Off the Honors in a Brilliant Game—Games Played Elsewhere Yesterday.

For the first time this year the Providence managers put their foot on the field yesterday, and as a consequence they trounced the Nationals soundly.

But for all that they had to play ball to the top of their skill, and throughout the game was remarkably interesting.

Radbourne was hit very hard by the Nationals, but great catches by Carroll, Hines, and Crane turned hits that ordinarily would have been good for double and triple batters into outs.

The visitors made a good many hits from Powell's delivery, but, except in the seventh inning, they were scattered, and but for fielding errors would have yielded but few runs.

The Nationals scored first in the second inning, Morrissey taking second on Bassett's wild throw, third on White's sacrifice hit, and scoring on Knowles' base hit.

In the third, Hines, Carroll, and Powell scored for Providence on base hits by Hines, Farrell, and Crane, and errors made by White and Knowles, none of the runs being carried.

In the fourth inning Powell reached first on Starr's error, and came home on hits by Barr and White, his run being the last scored by the home team.

Starr made a base hit in the fifth and scored on Radbourne's sacrifice and Knowles' miff of Crane's fly, which Hoover should have been called to take.

In the seventh inning a double by Carroll, a single by Farrell, a three base hit by Starr, and a single by Gilligan gave three earned runs.

In the eighth Carroll scored the last run of the game on his single, Farrell and Barr scoring on his error. The fielding was really brilliant on both sides, most of the errors being of the excusable variety due to the atmosphere.

Knowles was tried at second, and except for the drop of a fly ball did well, two of his errors being excusable. Baker played at first in great style.

One of the marked features of the game was the fine work of Radford and White at shortstop, and Hines did marvelous work in the outfield.

Moore and Barr also making some pretty catches. Fulmer and Gilligan both caught perfectly.

For the champion of the Oklahoma boomers in the city, where the boomers are encamped, he will have a formal interview with Secretary Lamar this morning, and will then call on the President.

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CLERKS ON THE DEFENSIVE.

THE REFLECTIONS UPON THEIR POLITICAL NECESSITIES REPLIED WITH SCORN.

Some Peculiarities of the Lady Shopmen Who Wear Out the Lives of the Gentlemen Behind the Dry Goods Counters in This City—Cranks and Spiders Described.

"I think the clerks ought to be heard on this question," said an experienced dry goods salesman to a reporter for THE REPUBLICAN yesterday.

"Here we are blamed for driving trade to Halloway by our want of courtesy, while the point of fact we are martyrs to the caprice of our fair critics—the ladies. You must know that it is a trade secret, that we are said either by a direct percentage or a salary on a basis of about 5 per cent. of what we sell.

Now is it reasonable to suppose that a man, and we are all clerks, may be selling a \$50 collar at the next counter? Is it in human nature to suppress all signs of suffering under these circumstances?"

"But a lady naturally seeks to suit herself in what she buys in the way of dress?"

"Certainly, but she can do that in from fifteen to twenty minutes in the cheapest of our most expensive stores that we keep in stock—that is, if she knows what she wants before she comes to the store as every good purchaser does.

But the trouble is that the majority of our callers of the fair sex are simply 'looking for samples,' or 'want samples to show to their dressmaker,' or 'do not know exactly the quantity they require,' and will not take our word, based on our experience in the matter. Others, again, have 'forgotten their spectacles' and cannot depend on their naked eyesight.

Some come in after breakfast, turning over goods, hand out a sample from their purse or hand satchel and say they wish that matched, just as though they doubt and are not sure of the color when they came in. 'The sick friend' is an old institution. The samples that are carried home to the poor sufferer would be sufficient to clothe the whole population.

We have indeed seriously canvassed the question of appointing a committee to carry round to the sick friends samples of goods for their amusement. It would pay us to do this, but we only know where the sick friends are. Unfortunately, they exist only in the mind's eye of the persistent shopper."

"What is the average value of samples carried away by individuals?"

"From 10 cents worth to \$2 worth from each store. In goods with large plaid patterns it takes one-eighth of a yard in length to show the goods, and a yard of material costs from \$1 to \$2 a yard. It is easy to see how the cost of a handful of samples will mount up."

"What do the ladies want these samples for?"

"Crazy gulls principally. We have lately been testing the bona fide of the more persistent sample gatherers by cutting a hole in the goods of the pattern that we can identify it if the pattern is asked for again. This renders it worthless for crazy quilt purposes, and we frequently find our notched patterns left on the floor before the lady gets ready to leave."

"But I suppose you can identify most of these chronic callers?"

"Yes, we generally can 'spot' them. They are known as spiders and cranks among us, and if we can avoid them we do so, but still we are supposed to maintain an even smile for all who come in. 'The long hours' is another source of impatience and irritability. We have on an average to discuss the ruling fashions and the style which is desirable for the ladies, from 100 to 300 ladies during the twelve hours that we are on our feet; to answer the same questions in almost every case. We have no objection to furnishing samples when a lady comes in. Angrily she says that is the object of her visit, but we do object to hauling all the goods in our department over, and afterward find that it is only a sample caller who will make a pleasure to wait on a nice lady, and all the clerks that I know of readily recognize the gentleman when she comes in."

"How about the complaint that is made that Washington merchants and their clerks object to sending home wraps for clerks?"

"Do you mean to say that such things are done?"

"Yes; frequently. Our porter has been kept waiting while the lady made a round of calls that took an hour or two with her wrap on, and on returning made him wait for her to get ready to go. The time the store is without that particular wrap, which may be demanded by a regular customer. Some ladies when they come in refuse to respond to the polite invitation of the clerks who meet them, but will proceed to the end of the store, and taking a seat, wait until the floor walker approaches, when they will make another complaint of being neglected. Others come late in the evening with a pattern which it is impossible to match without full daylight, and complain because the clerks are not able to select a pattern which will probably be brought back in the morning as unlike the sample."

"Do you think that Washington prices are higher than other cities?"

"No. We frequently sell goods over samples obtained from other cities, and I know of cases where goods bought in Baltimore compared very unfavorably with those for which lower prices have been paid in Washington."

"What proportion of sample sends do you pay for customers?"

"A fellow clerk counted them to-day, and up to 10 o'clock about one out of ten of his customers were 'spiders.'"

"A Chicago Delegation."

Sen. Frank Latta, who succeeds Hon. J. J. Flinnery, will go to Chicago, where he desires to be United States marshal for northern Illinois. Mr. William Whelan, and Mr. T. C. Coughlan, all of whom are Chicago statesmen, arrived at Willard's yesterday on a mission to convince President Cleveland that Mr. McGonigle should be the marshal of that locality.

No Violation of Civil Service Rules.

Early this morning a lady went to the civil service commission and charged that a woman had, as she knew, just been appointed in the Treasury Department in plain violation of the rules. She gave name, residence, and date, and said nearly all Washington should know the facts. An investigation showed the charge to be without the least foundation.

A Government Clerk's Wealthy Wife.

Mr. Grace T. Turnbull has discontinued the petition in Newport, R. I., for divorce from her husband, Henry Turnbull. The petition alleged non-support as a ground for divorce. Mr. Turnbull is a clerk in the adjutant general's office here, and an investigation showed an extensive establishment in Newport and a large income.

For nervous or other ailments, neuralgia, sciatica, rheumatism, etc., is indicated at post office.