

FRANCE IS PLEASED.

McKinley Commended for Offering Our Services

BETWEEN THE BOERS AND BRITISH

To Aid in the Settlement of Their Differences and Stop the Further Continuance of the War.

Paris, By Cable.—"The United States has shown selfish Europe an example," said a responsible official to a representative of The Associated Press, when asked what was the feeling of the French government regarding President McKinley's offer of his good offices to England. "We felt," continued the official in question, that our own position with respect to England, in view of the present state of public feeling there, was too delicate to admit of our acceding to Mr. Kruger's appeal; and as this reluctance appeared to be shared by every other power, the action of the American government in taking the initiative came as an agreeable surprise. That it did not proceed does not detract from its merit.

The Associated Press representative here called the attention of a portion of the French press to President McKinley's offer of his good offices to England. "We felt," continued the official in question, that our own position with respect to England, in view of the present state of public feeling there, was too delicate to admit of our acceding to Mr. Kruger's appeal; and as this reluctance appeared to be shared by every other power, the action of the American government in taking the initiative came as an agreeable surprise. That it did not proceed does not detract from its merit.

The official informant added that, although there appeared to be little likelihood of intervention in the immediate future, yet hopes are still entertained that an offer of good offices from the powers may eventually prove acceptable.

"At any rate," said he, "it is not unlikely that it will be made if foreign interests are in danger by the threatened destruction of the gold mines."

This question of the destruction of the gold mines, as predicted by Mr. Montagu White, is regarded as a serious matter, and as being not merely possible but probable.

It is learned that the French government has received information to the same effect from another source, and it considers the descendants of the Dutchmen who flooded their own country in order to repel an invader quite capable of following this historic precedent in the case of foreign owned gold mines. The French press has taken up the matter and points out the enormous amount of French savings sunk in the gold fields. It is stated that if the Boers carry out their threat it will take at least three years to reconstruct the surface machinery and other plants, while immense destruction could be wrought by dynamite to the underground workings. France owns a third of the shares in the Transvaal mines; and these alarmist predictions have already had their effect on the quotations. Thus, since Tuesday, Robinson has dropped from 2.10 to 2.00; Ferreira from 4.33 to 4.65, and Geldenhuys from 1.48 to 1.40.

The tension of feeling between France and England certainly has undergone abatement this week, for which the conciliatory article of the London Times is largely responsible.

The government's bill proposing amnesty in all criminal prosecution which have arisen out of the Dreyfus affair meets with vigorous opposition from the Dreyfusards, so which amnesty means the deprivation of means of redress. Dreyfus himself wrote protesting against the bill. The senate committee this week heard Col. Plouquet and M. Zola, all of whom warmly condemned this measure.

Telegraphic Briefs
It is said that William S. Taylor, of Kentucky, may again ask President McKinley for aid in retaining the governorship.

Persia will soon send us a minister, after leaving the post vacant for ten years.

It is proposed to make April 19, the Lexington battle anniversary, a legal holiday.

To Blow Up a Church.
Cedar Rapids, Ia., March 17.—Seven young men were arrested here to-night charged with placing dynamite with intent to destroy a church building. Last Sunday night following a canvass for a new petition of consent to operate under the school law here, an empty beer keg and a stick of dynamite with fuse and cap attached were found on the steps of St. Paul's Methodist church. The young men arrested to-night confess that they were the guilty parties. They claim they meant it with a joke, though it is believed they meant to intimidate the ministers who were to be active in opposition.

herself shortly at Doriam, with church and

PHENOMINAL MILL BUILDING.

The State's Record Now Over \$71,000 Per Day For This Year.

The record of South Carolina in the matter of the projection of new capital in cotton mills since Jan. 1 can no longer be classed merely as wonderful; it is phenomenal, and indeed it is to be doubted if there has ever been such a spurt in any industry during the same length of time in the world.

Surely the cotton mills are coming to the cotton fields. They are being moved from their old nests, but the people at home are building them and putting their money into them. The rate at which cotton mills are being established in South Carolina just now means that the State is in the midst of industrial revolution the like of which has not been known in the history of the State. The cold figures, officially recorded, in the office of the secretary of State, tell the tale more forcibly than it can be presented in any other way. They show that South Carolina at her present break-neck pace will not be long in standing at the forefront of the manufacturing districts of the country.

Taking into consideration Thursday's new mills, and the fact there have been ten Sundays since January 1st, the daily average of capital put into cotton mills since the opening of the year is very nearly \$71,000.

On Wednesday the papers filed in the office of the secretary of State showed \$300,000 put in new mills; Thursday the jump was a greater one, being \$450,000, making very nearly a million dollars of new cotton mill capital in two days.

This drives up the total capitalization of new mills since January 1, including the Easley mill, chartered a few days ago, to the astonishing total of \$4,525,000, over four and one-half million dollars. Thursday's official record was as follows:

A commission was issued to the Ice-man mills of McColl, Marlboro county, the capital of which is to be \$200,000. The incorporators are F. P. Tatum, T. B. Gibson, A. W. Morrison, Charles Iocman, and A. K. Odum.

Then a charter was granted to the Alpha cotton mills of Jonesville, Union county, capitalized at \$100,000. The officers are W. L. Littlejohn, president, and J. J. Littlejohn, secretary and treasurer.

The Anderson yarn and knitting mills filed with the secretary of State notice of the increase of its capital from \$50,000 to \$200,000, and the changing of the name of the concern to the Riverside Manufacturing company. This means \$150,000 of new capital. If the company continues in the knitting business it will perhaps have the largest knitting mill in the South.

The State Fair.
Secretary Holloway, of the State Fair Society, is very hopeful of a very successful fair this year, commencing on October 29th and ending November 2d. Letters from various officials in different sections of the State indicate the pulling off of coats and rolling up of sleeves. They say they expect to work as they have never worked before. In the matter of art, Charleston artists will make a superb display. The Art league of Columbia is diligent in assisting in making the art show surpass anything ever shown in the art gallery of the society. The Winthrop school and others will be extensive exhibitors. The society will pay railroad freight on all exhibits "released," which will be a great inducement for an unusually large exhibit of stock, field crops, machinery, etc. It is expected that a large number of counties will be competitors for the large premiums offered for county displays. "Upon the whole, the outlook is very encouraging," writes Col. Holloway.

Gold Democrats.
St. Louis, Special.—Ex-Governor Wm. J. Stone, Democratic national committeeman from Missouri, says that he believes there is truth in the statement that there is a movement among Eastern Democrats to elect Tom J. Johnson, of Ohio, chairman of the national committee, and eliminate silver from the platform.

The Constabulary.
Gov. McSweeney is now having Clerk Harris to rearrange the districts for the liquor constables. The force at present consists of 34 men of experience in the business. The assignments of the men to the new districts are now being made, and it is likely that they will be announced in a few days. Most of the members of the force have filed their bonds as required by the new act of the general assembly. In the next few days all of the bonds are expected to be on file, and then the work of reorganization will be completed.

TO PRETORIA NEXT.

Objective Point of the Next British Advance.

GENERAL ROBERTS TO HEAD GUARDS.

Three Columns to Unite and Replace His Force, While He Pushes on to the Front.

London, By Cable.—Lord Roberts' success in handling the civil problems at Bloemfontein and the manifest equanimity with which the residents of the capital of the Orange Free State accept the British occupation, momentarily eclipse in interest the military situation. It is believed here that the commander-in-chief of the British forces in South Africa will soon push on to Pretoria, but Great Britain is quite content to listen for a few days to the acclamations of the people of Bloemfontein and permit the troops to enjoy a few days of rest before expecting further success. Lord Roberts made a quaint speech to the Guards at Bloemfontein when in his first congratulatory words he expressed pride in their splendid march of 38 miles in 28 hours, and gave ample assurance of his ultimate design. "Through a small mistake," said Lord Roberts, "I have not been able to march into Bloemfontein at the head of the brigade, as I intended. I promise you, however, that I will lead you into Pretoria."

General Gatacre is holding Bethulie and the whole line of the railroad south of Bloemfontein is now in the hands of the British, and General Brabant's column having crossed the Orange river after an enforced march at All-worth North on Sunday, and General Clement's column being across at Vauzyl, the three columns will form an army of 12,000 to 15,000 men, which is expected to replace the forces of Lord Roberts at Bloemfontein as he pushes northward. Just where the Boers will attempt to oppose that march is an important question, but it cannot be easily answered until General Gatacre is more definitely located.

Further news has reached the outside world from Mafeking, dated Friday, March 9th, showing that though the garrison was in hard straits, they were buoyed up by the knowledge that their plucky fight was appreciated at home.

General Roberts reports that he found seven British officers and 43 men wounded in the hospital at Bloemfontein, and they were well cared for. He adds: "I rejected the wounded Boers by telling them, they will be allowed to proceed to their homes, instead of being made prisoners, as soon as they can leave the hospital."

Appeals to President.

Frankfort, Ky., Special.—Governor Taylor spent the entire day at the executive mansion Friday in conference with Republican leaders, chief among whom were John W. Yerkes, of Danville, and D. W. Lindsay, of this city. It is understood that a memorial to President McKinley, asking him to intervene, and take a hand in the political contests, was the subject of this conference. Governor Taylor refused to talk about the appeal to the President, but it is said that the governor has expressed a desire for the assistance of a small body of troops and also for support in the way of recognition of him as governor.

Telegraphic Briefs
Cronje's army imprisoned in Cape Town and turned 25 yards long with tin drinking cups and were within a few feet of liberty, when a non-Boer prisoner in their camp told on them.

A Turkish poet by the name of Nidjar, who is the Constantinople Kipling, has eloped to Paris with Miss Nadeia, favorite daughter of the Sultan's favorite wife. The runaways were helped by Osman Pasha, the hero of Pleven. They're after them.

Chester A. Melate, a Western Union operator, arrested at Kingston, N. Y., on charge of operating a green goods game, has gone to jail in default of \$2,500 bail.

Fears About Fruit Crop.

Americus, Ga., Special.—Much apprehension is felt here for the safety of the fruit crop and truck. Greenhous are in full bloom and Friday morning the temperature fell to the freezing point and thin ice formed in exposed localities.

Griffin, Ga., Special.—Fruit men here say little damage has been done to Elberta peaches and other hardy varieties, but they seriously fear the cold weather. The thermometer Thursday night was 30. A temperature of 25 will destroy the peaches.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Official Bulletin on Condition of Grain and Fruits.

Special inquiry, under date of March 6, 1900 was made by this office, as to the present condition and prospects of fruit, and the condition of what and oats. The replies received represent all sections of the State, and give the conditions up to March 10, 1900. They have been summarized as follows:

Fruits.—The cold weather during February kept fruit buds from developing prematurely. In the more southerly portions of the State, plum trees are in full bloom, and may have been slightly injured, while other fruit trees have not generally begun to bloom, and are apparently uninjured. In other portions of the State, the buds are only now beginning to swell. The prospects for fruit are very promising at this season, but the cold weather up to peaches may be slightly injured, but not enough to materially affect the size of the crop. The present indications point to large yields of peaches, plums, pears, and probably apples, as well as the several varieties of wild berries.

Wheat.—Where the lands were properly prepared and wheat properly seeded, it suffered little or no injury during the winter, and although small, is promising. Some fields have been slightly winter-killed, but good stands are common.

Oats.—The condition of oats varies but little over the entire State, and the reports relating thereto have practically the same tenor, although those from the southeastern portions represent slightly better condition than those from the northern and western counties. Such fields as were sown early in the fall on thoroughly prepared and well fertilized lands, are in fairly good condition, although the stands were somewhat thinned by the February frozes. Fields that were poorly prepared, that received little or no manuring, and were sown late in the fall, are in very poor condition. This is especially true of oats on light sandy soils. On many such fields the stand is practically all winter-killed, and the lands will be devoted to other crop. January and February sowings are just coming up, it having been too cold and wet for rapid germination up to March 1st.

Unless the subsequent weather conditions are extremely favorable, and the conditions materially improved it is thought there cannot be over half a crop of oats, in yield per acre, estimated on the entire average sown in the Autumn.

Palmetto Notes.

Mr. "Ducks" Bolt, a prominent farmer of Anderson county, was shot Wednesday afternoon by his son-in-law, George Keasler. The difficulty seems to have been the outcome of a dispute as to the position of a fence corner, and Mr. Keasler determined upon this sanguinary method of ending the affair. His threats aroused the fear of Mrs. Bolt, who dispatched one of her children carrying a pistol to her husband to use in his defense.

John Coleman, of Laurens, convicted on the chain gang for five years, early Wednesday morning assaulted Ike Ray, one of the guards, knocking him in the head with a rock, and then fled with the guard's gun. Mr. Ray is reported seriously hurt, not fatally it is thought. The sheriff and a number of citizens are on the ground in pursuit of Coleman. He is a bad negro and some trouble may be encountered in taking him.

Governor McSweeney has granted a pardon to James Boatwright, a negro convicted of larceny in Orangeburg county. Another negro was convicted along with him for stealing an overcoat; this fellow has since confessed that Boatwright had nothing to do with it, and the prosecutor asked the pardon.

There has recently been some inquiry as to when the new separate coach act, known as the Jim Crow law, goes into effect. For the information of all concerned it may be stated that the act provides that it go into effect 60 days after its approval. It was approved on February 19, and therefore is in effect on April 19. The roads are preparing to meet the change.

The governor has refused to grant a pardon in the case of John Carter, convicted in Orangeburg county for forgery and sentenced to pay a fine of \$1 and serve one year on the chain gang.

Dr. F. S. Earle was nominated last Wednesday in the Democratic primary for mayor of Columbia.

Brevities.

Lord Roberts' army had an all-day fight at Driefontein, Orange Free State, with the Boer rear guard, which retreat at night.

Thousands of organized Filipinos are resisting the Americans in the island of Panay.

ARP AS INSTRUCTOR

Answers Questions Sent Him Through the Mail.

THEY COME FROM ALL QUARTERS.

A Lady Wants To Know About "Needle's Eye"—Boy Bothered About Figures.

A lady writes to me and asks what I really meant by the "needle's eye" in the parable of the rich man. I remember reading somewhere that it was the smallest gate that gave entrance to the walled city of Jerusalem, and that a loaded camel had to be stripped of its burden and bend its knees to squeeze through. And so a rich man had to give up his riches and come to his knees before he could enter heaven. But I do not find that in any commentary. It was just one of the thousand proverbs that adorned the moral teachings of the Jews and the eastern nations. The writings of Job and Solomon and Confucius and Mahomet abound in them. In the Koran is found this proverb: "The impious man will find the gates of heaven shut and he can no more enter than a camel can pass through a needle's eye." There is another in the Koran which says: "You will never see a palm tree of gold nor an elephant pass through a needle's eye." These proverbs simply meant that it was impossible. Strange to say, the world has long since quit making proverbs. All proverbs have come down to us, even such as "A rolling stone gathers no moss," "Poor Richard" left us a few, such as "A penny saved is two pence gained."

A young man eager for knowledge writes to know why it is that when you reverse a number and subtract the less from the greater the difference is always nine or some multiple of nine, and nine will divide it without a remainder. He wants to know the reason why. This is rather complex, but the reason is plain when you see it. By reversing a number you change the numerical value of every figure in it; units become tens or hundreds or thousands, and vice versa; and hence if you subtract a unit from a ten it leaves nine. Take ten, for instance, and reverse it, and it is 01. It was ten before and it is 1 now, and the difference is obliged to be nine. Take 91 and reverse it and you change 9 tens to 8 units, and 1 unit to 1 ten; gaining 81 and losing 9, which makes 72; a multiple of 9. Now if you add instead of subtract the sum will be 11 or nine multiple of 11, 10 and 01; 13 and 31 make 44; 16 and 61 make 77, 24 and 42 make 66; all multiples of 11. The complexities and results of figures are many and very wonderful. They train the mind and strain the mind. I know they did mine when I was struggling through trigonometry and calculus. A boy can fudge and smuggle along through Latin and Greek with the help of translations, but he can't fool the professor on the blackboard.

Another enquiring mind wishes to know why it is that the first day of May and the following Christmas always come on the same day of the week. Well, it can't help but be so, for there are thirty-four even weeks from one to the other. But Christmas day had the first of the next May don't fit. February comes in and knocks the extra one out.

A Florida girl writes that her almanac is all wrong, for it gives February only twenty-eight days, notwithstanding this is a leap year. Yes, Miss, this is leap year, but it don't leap. The last year in every century has to be skipped as a leap year, for old father time gains a day in every hundred years, and the clock has to be set back twenty-four hours.

And here is a good humble, sensible letter from a Louisiana negro who says he has great respect for the white people, and loves to lean upon them, for they know best, and they have treated him kindly all his life. He wants to know where the word negro comes from, and what it means. He says: "I read all your letters, and you give us some awful blows, but you can't blow the monkey out of us." Well, the word negro is Spanish and Portuguese for black. The French is nigr, the Latin is niger, and the English corrupted it into nigger. The Century dictionary says that nigger is more English than negro; and was used without opprobrious intent; and can be found in writings of Tom Hood and Præd and Trevelyan. The Irish call them nagers. But as the Latin is the foundation of all these languages I would say that niger is really the origin and the most proper name for the race.

I was on the train once when good old Sanford Bell was very much perplexed about a miserable, cadaverous-looking foreigner who took a seat in the negro's car; and a negro preacher made a fuss about it. So Sanford asked him whether he was a negro or a white man. He shrugged his shoulders and grinned as he replied: "Mine fader was a Portugee, and mine mudder was a nager. 'What shall I do with him?' 'Let him stay, or pitch him out the window,' he replied. Sanford said to me, 'I think he is a cross between a baboon and an esquimo.'

I like such negroes as the one who wrote me that respectful and sensible letter. In fact, I know of many negroes who have not only my regard, but a share of my affections. How willing they are to oblige you. When

I am afar from home and want information about the trains or the boats, or the time I always ask a negro, he will tell me more willingly than some depot officials I have met.

But this is enough of answers to correspondents who request an answer your paper. I try to answer most of them by letter, but they accumulate nowadays more than ever, and it's hard to keep up. Some of your readers have got an idea that a man of my ought to know something about everything. Well, he ought to, and he lived in vain if he is no wiser off when he was young. I like to diff the knowledge that I have acquired and broadcast it among the people who have not the books nor had the advantage that a kind Providence has given to me. Especially do I appreciate letters from the boys and girls. I had a nice letter yesterday from two Mississippi girls, and they sign it Mabel and sister—nothing more. I would answer their questions if I knew their names. The older I grow the more my interest in the children; that notion that is soon to take out of my purest pleasure now is to p and fondle the little ones.

good children, of course—girls. When a dear little girl climbs my knees and puts a round my neck and says: "You good, old-for-nothing am happy. Another wedding sary passed us yesterday, and grateful the no calamity or has befallen us since the last. one years have passed since I surrendered and I became her p and time keeps rolling on.—Bites. Atlanta Constitution.

Dr. Jameson, who led the have raid upon the Transvaal, but com- quere things when he reflects once imagined that he could e of the Boers with a force of 50 Events have shown him to have ods the prize is calculator of the r

SOUTHERN RAIL Light for



Central Time at Jacksonville and Savannah Eastern Time at Other Points. Schedule in Effect February 25th, 1900.

SOUTHBOUND.	No. 34	No. 35	No. 36	No. 37	Mixed	
					Daily	Daily
Lv. Jacksonville (P. M.)	8:00	7:40	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Ar. Savannah (So. Ry.)	12:15	12:00	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Ar. Jacksonville (A. M.)	4:15	4:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00
Ar. Savannah (A. M.)	8:30	8:15	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Ar. Jacksonville (P. M.)	12:45	12:30	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Ar. Savannah (P. M.)	1:00	1:00	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Ar. Jacksonville (A. M.)	4:15	4:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00
Ar. Savannah (A. M.)	8:30	8:15	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Ar. Jacksonville (P. M.)	12:45	12:30	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Ar. Savannah (P. M.)	1:00	1:00	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00

SOUTHBOUND.	No. 34	No. 35	No. 36	No. 37	Mixed	
					Daily	Daily
Lv. Louisville	7:30	7:40	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Lv. Cincinnati	8:00	8:00	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Lv. Knoxville	8:30	8:20	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00
Lv. Asheville	9:00	8:45	11:30	11:30	11:30	11:30
Lv. Spartanburg	9:30	9:15	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Ar. Columbia	11:30	11:15	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Lv. New York (P. M.)	5:00	5:15	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Lv. Philadelphia	6:00	6:15	11:45	11:45	11:45	11:45
Lv. Washington (So. Ry.)	8:25	8:25	5:25	5:25	5:25	5:25
Lv. Richmond	9:00	9:15	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Lv. Danville	11:00	11:15	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Lv. Charlotte	1:00	1:15	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Lv. Rock Hill	9:00	9:15	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Lv. Chester	9:30	9:45	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Lv. Winnsboro	10:00	10:15	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Lv. Columbia (P. M.)	6:00	6:15	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Lv. Columbia (A. M.)	11:30	11:45	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Lv. Johnston	12:00	12:15	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Lv. Aiken	12:30	12:45	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Lv. Graniteville	1:00	1:15	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Lv. Augusta	1:30	1:45	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Lv. Columbia (P. M.)	6:00	6:15	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Lv. Columbia (A. M.)	11:30	11:45	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Lv. Orangeburg	6:00	6:15	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Lv. Spartanburg	6:30	6:45	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Lv. Charleston	7:00	7:15	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Lv. Charleston	8:00	8:15	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Lv. Columbia (So. Ry.)	11:30	11:45	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Lv. Perry	12:00	12:15	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Lv. Daily	12:30	12:45	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Lv. Springfield	1:00	1:15	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Lv. Beaufort	1:30	1:45	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Lv. Savannah	2:00	2:15	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00
Ar. Jacksonville (P. M.)	7:00	7:15	4:00	4:00	4:00	4:00