

The Leon Reporter.

O. F. HULL, Publisher. LEON, IOWA.

The higher you sit, the better you can drive.

The home is the headquarters of the humanities.

Consecration is not so much in getting, as in letting.

Usually there is more rattle than anything else in a rattling speech.

The prizes men pursue are often but the bubbles blown by their own breath.

You are good, your acquaintances bad, and the rest of the world indifferent.

The unexpected happens occasionally, but not so often as the expected fails to happen.

There should be no objection to a lady lifting her skirts a little over two feet on a rainy day.

Even the engagement ring is the outcome of a trust, and the wedding ring is the natural result of a combination.

There are times when this world seems very small—one of the times is when you are trying to dodge your creditors.

President McKinley has received a picture of the peace conference valued at \$20,000. It is supposed to be done in "protocols."

The practice of sending dead bodies in trunks is objected to by the St. Louis police. Live bodies, of course, are expected to look out for themselves.

Huntmen in Essex Union county, England, have seen a snow white fox. Probably like some of the other foxes hunted by these same sportsmen, it will die a natural death.

Prof. G. H. Pepper, an archaeologist of renown, who has been excavating in southern Colorado has discovered an ancient Indian city with an area of 400 square miles and evidences that it was once inhabited by about 9,000,000 people. The professor's announcement will probably bring tears to numerous aldermen of our larger cities as they realize what a field for franchises they would have had if they could have but lived in that pre-historic town.

France has a new submarine boat and will soon subject the invention to a series of trial tests to prove its superiority to recently constructed American vessels. The chief trouble with the submarine boats built up to date has been their tendency to be entirely too submarine—to stay down and refuse to come up again. If the French have really made a boat which will dive, swim under the surface and arise when due the art of naval warfare may be materially revolutionized.

The omnipresent microbe is making its disturbing influence felt in strange and unexpected quarters. Beards and mustaches are placed under ban as being nesting-places of errant intruders, some of them pathogenic, or, in everyday parlance, having the power to produce disease. Because of this, the London Globe states, on the authority of a French scientific journal, that on motion of the celebrated Dr. Hubenck, of Breslau, the leading surgeons of Austria and Germany are considering the adopting of a rule requiring surgeons to be clean-shaved, or to, at least, as a preventive of danger, disinfect the hair of the face before operating. Nothing is said as to the hair of the head, but if this, too, is included in the interdiction, bald-headed surgeons will enjoy a gratifying advantage.

The excessive candor which characterizes the criticism of men who hold public offices should not be considered proof that Americans do not respect such offices. Freedom of speech often degenerates into flippancy, but when a public man who holds an important place of authority appears in his official capacity the gathered crowds manifest a respectful deference. The highest illustration is furnished when the president of the United States is greeted at various points on a journey. Partisan violence ceases. No voice, no gesture expresses contempt or disrespect, although in each assembly may be many a political opponent whose private remarks may be uncomplimentary to the verge of savageness. The chief magistrate, who is officially the representative of all the people, moves through throngs which are cordial, appreciative, considerate. Antagonists may not like the man. They do not fail to honor the office. Tested with respect to their opinion of exalted station, Americans are to be judged by their behavior, and not by their talk.

A curious point of copyright law has been decided in England by the High Court of Justice. It appears that a volume of Lord Rosebery's speeches was prepared, in which were addresses, or portions of addresses, that had been reported from his lips for the London Times. As they were first put in literary or written form at the cost of that journal, the court decided that they were the property of the Times, and therefore granted an injunction to restrain his lordship from appropriating the report of his own words.

There is probably no truth in the report that Ambassador Choate in effect slighted ex-President Harrison on the occasion of the latter's visit in London by turning him over to the secretary of the embassy for the latter to arrange for Mr. Harrison's calls upon the prince of Wales and others. An ambassador, however, who directs the plain instructions of his superiors in office as to speech-making is not likely to be over-punctilious in matters of courtesy, even to an ex-president of the country he was so anxious to represent.

THE NEWS IN IOWA

GENERAL BYERS' REPORT

It is a Detailed Review of Iowa's Part in Recent Wars.

DES MOINES, Dec. 2.—Adjutant General Byers has submitted to the governor his biennial report covering the period ending November 30, 1899. It is one of the largest reports made to the governor from this office since the civil war and contains much of historical interest relative to the part Iowa troops took in the Spanish-American and Philippine wars. In addition there are some recommendations that will be of particular interest to members of the guard, among which are those that the election of officers be abolished and that they be appointed, that the guard be made a part of the national military forces in fact as well as name, some recommendations with reference to the re-organization, a recommendation that a new arsenal be built in Des Moines and another that a permanent camp ground with permanent improvements be provided for the troops and one that officers of the regular army be detailed to service with regiments and companies with a view of promoting their efficiency and several others of almost equal importance.

OFFICIAL CANVASS OF VOTE.

Judge Sherwin's Plurality is Nearly Sixty Thousand.

DES MOINES, Nov. 30.—Official canvass of the vote cast for supreme judge, superintendent of public instruction and railroad commissioner has been made by the state executive council. It shows that the republican for judge with four opponents, had 59,818 plurality, while the candidate for superintendent, with five opponents had 56,064. The candidate for railroad commissioner on the republican ticket, with five opponents, had 58,323 plurality. Judge Sherwin had no opponent on the socialist labor ticket, whose strength was about 750 votes only. His vote, therefore, is regarded as about the average strength of the ticket. The canvassing board does not go into the returns for governor and lieutenant governor. The legislature does this work. The secretary of state receives a semi-official return from the county auditors, upon which the people have to depend until the legislature canvasses the vote for the two highest offices. These returns are not yet within in hand.

NORTHWESTERN'S NEW LINE READY

Has Lensed Trackage Rights Over the F. D. & M. C. to Form a Connection.

DES MOINES, Dec. 2.—The Northwestern road has opened sixty miles of its Belle Plaine and Blue Earth extension between Mason City and Blue Earth and now has it in operation. The indications are that the section between Mason City and Belle Plaine will not be completed until next season. The section now in operation does not connect at any point with the Northwestern road proper so to operate it as a portion of its system the Northwestern has made a contract with the Mason City & Fort Dodge road for the use of its tracks between Mason City and Eagle Grove, at which latter point a junction is effected with its Tama and Dakota division.

ONE OF TWELVE BEST

Iowa Newspapers in The Highest Rank. DES MOINES, Iowa, Dec. 2.—The New York National Advertiser, a prominent journal for newspaper men, recently published a list of "the twelve best and most progressive American daily newspapers," including the Des Moines Daily News as one of them. This is considered a high compliment to the News, which is the only daily newspaper in the world offered to yearly subscribers for \$1 a year. The News now has over 27,000 circulation, which is more than any four other Iowa dailies combined. It belongs to the Associated Press and publishes all the news condensed for the busy reader. Its market reports are alone worth the price of the paper. It is a real miracle of journalism.

Desperate Cutting Scrap.

DES MOINES, Dec. 2.—A terrible cutting affray occurred at Schleswig, a new town on the Mondamin branch of the Northwestern railway. The fight had its origin in flipping a nickel for the drinks. One of the Mayne boys, living in Ida county, six miles north of Schleswig, lost, but kept the nickel and refused to pay for the drinks. A fight soon followed between the Mayne boys and Pat McDonough and Pete Gilmore, two railroaders. The Maynes had knives, but the railroaders were unarmed. Gilmore's throat was cut from the back of the neck to the chin and his face from the ear to the mouth. His jugular vein was also cut. McDonough was cut in the abdomen, making a gash through which his intestines protruded. His hand was also badly cut. Jim Mayne's hand was cut by broken glass. The two wounded men were taken on a special train to the hospital at Carroll, and it is reported that McDonough cannot live. The Maynes disappeared and at last accounts had not been captured.

Party Going to Washington Soon.

DES MOINES, Dec. 3.—An official party will go from Iowa to the capital at Washington about the middle of the month. Governor Shaw and Adjutant General Byers will go, at least, expecting to prosecute the claims of the state against the general government on account of war expenses.

Attempt to Dynamite a Home.

CEDAR RAPIDS, Dec. 2.—Some unknown parties made an effort to wreck the home of Attorney Cron. A dynamite package, containing about two pounds of the explosive was placed by the front door. The fuse burned to the cap but failed to explode. Personal enmity is supposed to be the cause.

Milwaukee Spencer Line.

DES MOINES, Dec. 3.—The grading of the new line of the Milwaukee from Fonda to Spencer will be completed within ten days. The track laying force has followed the graders pretty close, and it is expected the line will be ready to be opened for traffic December 15.

DEATH OF JUDGE WOOLSON.

He Had Been On the Federal District Bench Since 1892.

DES MOINES, Dec. 5.—John Simon Woolson, United States district judge for the southern district of Iowa, died at his residence in Des Moines yesterday, after an illness of about five weeks. Judge Woolson's death was unexpected up to Sunday by the attending physicians and the members of the family, and was a complete surprise to his many friends and acquaintances in the city. Five weeks ago, while holding court in Keokuk, he was taken suddenly ill and was compelled to adjourn the term and return immediately to his home in Des Moines. At that time he was suffering from a nervous breakdown, the result of overwork. Acting on the advice of his physician, he gave up his work and arranged with Judge Shiras, of the northern district of Iowa, to hold his court term in Des Moines during November. Almost from the time he returned to Des Moines until last Thursday he continued to improve, and had gotten along so well that he was able to walk about his room and to sit up for considerable periods at a time. Judge Woolson's home prior to his appointment to the federal bench was at Mt. Pleasant, where he was in the law business with his brother-in-law, Judge Walter L. Babb. He was elected to the senate from Henry county in 1876 and served that county in the upper house of the legislature continuously until 1891, when he was appointed to the federal bench. He was chairman of the senate judiciary committee for a number of years and was regarded as one of the strongest and most able members of the senate and a legislative leader practically the entire term of his service.

BILLS ALL PAID.

Rock Island Gets Its Money for Transportation of Soldiers.

DES MOINES, Dec. 4.—Adjutant General Byers, accompanied by Private Secretary Fleming, of the governor's office, called on the officials of the Rock Island road Saturday and presented them with a New York draft for \$31,097. This covers the figures of the contract made by state authorities with the Rock Island road for transporting the Fifty-first Iowa regiment from San Francisco to Council Bluffs, lacking \$253 which is withheld for the price of two meals caused by the delay of the last section on the Union Pacific road. The amount withheld will be taken from the sub-contract of the Union Pacific with the Rock Island, the former being responsible for the delay. Money has been advanced to meet all the bills incurred in bringing the soldiers home, including besides the transportation, \$7,400 for other expenses. The meals cost \$2,941, the Pullman charges were \$2,500, and there were smaller bills, including telegraph, etc., all of which have been met by the state through its governor. It is understood that the largest part of the expenses have been paid by the governor himself, and the remainder has been covered by temporary loans from different banks of the state. The entire sum, it is expected, will be refunded by the legislature, the majority of the members, it is understood, having already pledged themselves for its return.

A. O. INGRAM FAILS.

Was the Leading Merchant of Mt. Ayr—Liabilities, \$80,000.

MT. AYR, Dec. 5.—A. O. Ingram, proprietor of the Cash store, the largest mercantile establishment in Ringgold county, has assigned his stock to trustees for the benefit of all his creditors. The trustees are Homer A. Fuller, a local attorney, and ex-Sheriff James Beard. The liabilities are estimated at \$80,000 and the assets at \$30,000. Recent transfers of the Cash store, Shannon City, Union county, and the New store, Allendale, Mo., to local creditors may be contested by other claimants. Mr. Ingram has been in business in Mt. Ayr for 20 years.

Farmer Robbed of \$350.

LADORA, Dec. 2.—Ernest R. Gates, a farmer one mile north of Ladora, awoke yesterday morning \$350 short. Mr. Gates was about to move to Minnesota, and placed the money in a bureau drawer. During the night thieves broke the door lock, entered and took the money from the drawer within three feet of where Mr. and Mrs. Gates soundly slept. There is no clue.

Bad Fire at Boone.

BOONE, Dec. 4.—The lively stable of Payne & Sons was burned. Forty horses were cremated. Loss, \$20,000. Insurance, \$7,000. The fire was started by an incendiary.

BREVITIES.

New Muscatine recently Chas. Kuriger, a young farmer, aged 30 years, went out to the field to repair some fences on his farm, 6 miles west of here, taking his gun with him. About noon his body was found near a fence, with the head blown off and the gun lying near. The presumption is that the discharge of the gun was accidental.

It is stated that at present there is but one prisoner in the Warren county jail and that is a boy but seven years old. He is held on the charge of petty larceny. For some time the residents have been missing little articles and a watch was kept up till this little man was found to be the guilty party. He was selling his stolen goods to an old man for trifling sums. The last charge against him is that he stole a pair of shoes from one of the stores and sold them for eight cents.

Muscatine dispatch: A young man named Frank Weiser, employed in feeding a corn shredder machine on the Elicker farm, west of Muscatine, met with a terrible accident. Both hands were caught in the machine, and despite all his attempts to extricate them they were drawn into the merciless trap. His cries of agony brought help, and when the machine was stopped both his hands were gone and his arms torn and mangled within a few inches of his elbows, the muscles hanging in shreds. Physicians were summoned and both arms were amputated a little above the elbows, leaving him only stumps.

NEWS IN GENERAL

A NEW TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

Anglo-German-American Combination Suggested by Chamberlain.

LONDON, Dec. 1.—Joseph Chamberlain, the secretary of state for the colonies, in a speech at a luncheon at Leicester yesterday, said that ever since the great split in the liberty party he had found himself a mark for the slanders and misrepresentations of the "chaser sort of politicians," but that he had found compensation in the generous appreciation of the majority of his countrymen. Continuing, Mr. Chamberlain said he was deeply gratified that the foreign relations of Great Britain were so satisfactory, and asserted that the country owed a debt of gratitude to Lord Salisbury for the position it was in. It was especially gratifying, he said, to note the friendly relations existing between the Anglo-Saxon branches, saying that the understanding between the United States and Great Britain was indeed a guarantee of the peace of the world. A new triple alliance, between the Teutonic race and the two great branches of the Anglo-Saxons, would, said the colonial secretary, be a potent influence in the future of the world. The speaker explained that he used the word "alliance," but that it mattered little whether they had an alliance committed to paper, or "an understanding which existed in the minds of the statesmen of the respective countries."

GENERAL WOOD IS CHOSEN.

President Decides to Give Him Supreme Charge of Affairs in Cuba.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—General Leonard Wood will be the master of all Cuba under the direction of the president until the time comes when congress takes action by providing a new civil government for the island. General Wood is not to be called officially "civil governor." He will be military governor, in supreme command of the island, but in the absence of any insurrection or trouble—and none is expected—the administration—his duties will chiefly be civil. General Wood is to have the rank of major-general of volunteers, which will enable him to outrank the regular army officers who remain in Cuba under his command. Some of the generals now there are to be withdrawn, and those who remain will be placed under General Wood's orders. To appease those who are taken away the president will make several promotions to brigadier generalships of the regular army. Those to be thus honored are Generals Lee and Wilson.

ROBERTS WILL BE BARRED.

Polygamy Charges to be Investigated by the House.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.—At a conference of about twenty-five prominent house republicans, held at the capitol last night, it was decided that the eligibility of Representative-elect Roberts of Utah to occupy a seat in the house of representatives should be investigated and determined and that pending the decision he should not be permitted to take the oath of office. This decision was arrived at by those present without a dissenting voice. Representative Taylor of Ohio, who will have charge of the matter in the house, explained after the conference had adjourned that this proceeding does not involve a pre-judgment of the case, but irrespective of party will afford the members an opportunity to vote after a thorough investigation and complete presentation of the case for their consideration.

SCOFF AT "EMPTY THEATERS."

French Papers Discredit Anglo-American-German Alliance. PARIS, Dec. 3.—Some of the newspapers attach considerable importance to the utterances of Joseph Chamberlain at Leicester and consider that they show that Emperor William's visit to England was partially political. The majority, however, characterize certain of Mr. Chamberlain's declarations as empty threats and regard the suggestion of an alliance between Great Britain, the United States and Germany as simply eccentric. The Matin observes that Mr. Chamberlain alludes to the alliance as an accomplished fact and as being his work, and "seizes on the opportunity to address threats to France, which leave us as unmoved as does the famous prospect of a new triple alliance."

HEAVY FIRE AT PHILADELPHIA.

Business Houses and Contents Valued at \$2,000,000 Destroyed. PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 30.—Nearly \$2,000,000 worth of property was destroyed by two fires in the heart of the business section of the city yesterday. The greater of the two fires started in the big department store of Partridge & Richardson, the very center of the shopping district, and before the flames had been put under control they had spread to adjoining property and caused a loss of about \$1,700,000. While this fire was in progress and spreading every moment, another fire broke out four blocks away. The loss at this fire is estimated at \$110,000. The losses of the two fires are more than covered by insurance.

John I. Blair Passes Away.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.—John I. Blair, of Blairtown, N. J., a millionaire many times over and one of the oldest railroad builders and owners in the country, died at 5 o'clock yesterday morning.

[John I. Blair was a decided factor in the upbuilding of Iowa. He frequently made visits to the state in the years gone by and was a familiar figure along the Illinois Central railway. He built the Sioux City & Dubuque railroad, now a part of the Illinois Central system. He also constructed portions of the Northwestern in Iowa.]

Smallpox Epidemic in Illinois.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 1.—A smallpox epidemic is reported at Dixon, where some one hundred persons have become ill. Local physicians diagnosed the cases as chickenpox, but Dr. C. S. Nelson, the state board of health expert, who went to investigate the matter, writes that the illness is typhoid and that it is spreading at an alarming rate.

ADVANTAGES OF THE WAR.

Old Says It Has Taught the Philippines a Lesson.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The report of General Otis on the operations in the Philippines up to August 31 last has been made public by the war department. It is a volume of 273 pages, with an appendix of minor reports almost as large. The report is a chronological recapitulation of events in the islands since General Otis took command. General Otis says that it may prove fortunate that Aguinaldo's insurrection was not stamped out in haste, upon its inception. He says that the natives throughout the islands have peacefully, and even gladly, accepted American occupation of their towns whenever American troops appeared, and that they have learned by experience that the insurgents have made a specialty of murder, outrage and robbery, under the guise of establishing a free and independent government, and his opinion is that they will gladly submit to the former, so soon as they can be protected from the latter. A column of 3,000 troops, he says, could at any time during the insurrection have marched from one end of the island to the other without encountering any serious difficulty, but the insurgents would inevitably have closed in behind them as soon as they passed, showing the necessity of having sufficient troops to hold the country after it had been captured.

THE BUTCHER'S BILL.

British Losses at Modder River Reach Nearly a Thousand Men.

LONDON, Dec. 3.—As surmised, the British dead and wounded at the hard-fought battle of Modder river number only a bare total of 438, of which number 73 were killed, had been given out. So it is impossible to deduct from the "butcher's bill" such information regarding the nature of the fight as the details as to losses of different units generally indicate. From General Forester-Walker's dispatch it is proven that all reports of General Methuen's advance after the battle of Modder river were premature, though with the railroad working, he should not be long in constructing a temporary bridge. His enforced delay, doubtless will be of considerable service in giving his hard pushed column a needful rest and in allowing for the arrival of reinforcements, of which he must be sorely in need, after three such fights, placing hors-de-combat upwards of a thousand men out of less than seven thousand. General Forester-Walker's announcement that the Canadian marksmen and other reinforcements had been pushed forward to the neighborhood of Orange river, to protect Methuen's line of communications, has relieved much anxiety here, where it is fully expected the Boers would attempt to attack the vulnerable points of our line of communication.

MUST BRIDGE TUGELA RIVER.

British May Have to Construct a Pontoon Under Pitiless Fire of Boers.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—There is still a lull in the war news. One interesting item is to the effect that the Boers had a very bad time at Kimberley on Tuesday. One of their laagers was captured by the Beuchanaland police. Kimberley is now in searchlight communication with the relief force at Modder river. From Natal we hear that on Tuesday the enemy was located at Chevely station, on the railway between Frere and Colenso. The general body of the Boers fell back on Colenso and crossed the river. It would seem that the great railroad bridge was scientifically destroyed. The Boers are posted along Grobler's Kloof, on the north of the Tugela river, which they evidently intend to defend at all costs, so that it will become necessary to construct a pontoon bridge for the passage of the British troops. This operation, unless the enemy be first dislodged by superior artillery, will have to be performed under fire and amid considerable difficulties.

RAN A BLUFF.

That Was Why Bayambang Surrendered to Lieut. Munro.

MANILA, Dec. 3.—The capture by Lieut. Munro and fifty men of the Fourth cavalry of the Filipino general, Conon, with 800 officers and men with rifles, several Americans and seventy Spanish prisoners, at Bayambang, province of Nueva Viscaya, was a successful bluff. Lieut. Munro tapped the rebel wire and telegraphed to Conon that he was advancing with a large force and demanded his surrender. After negotiations Conon consented to capitulate to a superior force, whereupon Lieut. Munro telegraphed he would enter town with a small guard and receive the garrison's surrender. He captured the whole Filipino force and secured their arms, the rebels supposing Munro had an army behind him.

GREAT BRITAIN WARNS FRANCE

Plain Words Used in Public by Joseph Chamberlain.

LONDON, Dec. 2.—Referring to the attacks of the foreign press, Joseph Chamberlain, in his speech at a luncheon at Leicester, said these newspapers had not even spared "the almost sacred person of the queen." This, continued the speaker, provoked national indignation, "which may have serious consequences if our neighbors do not mend their ways." An outburst of cheering greeted this threat of the colonial secretary. It was a matter for congratulation, Mr. Chamberlain added, that the worst of these "disrespectful attacks" did not appear in the German papers.

Cape Colonists Declare for Boers.

LONDON, Dec. 5.—Serious news comes from the northern sections of Cape Colony. The whole border district between Colesburg and Burgersdorp has declared for the Boers. In Ventersdorp alone more than two thousand have joined the rebellion. General Buller's proclamation has been torn down and trampled upon and the loyalists are bidden to hurry to Cape Town and prepare coffee for the rebels. With regard to Natal it is still doubtful whether the bridge over the Tugela at Colenso has been destroyed.

TERRIBLE BATTLE.

It Is Said to Be the Bloodiest of the Century.

LONDON, Nov. 30.—The war office has received the following from Buller: "CAPE TOWN, Nov. 29.—Gen. Methuen reports as follows: Reconnoitered at 5 this morning the enemy's position on Modder river and found them strongly entrenched and concealed. There were no means of outflanking the river being full. Action was commenced with artillery, mounted infantry and cavalry at 5.30. The guard on the right and Ninth brigade on the left attacked their position in a widely extended formation at 6.30 and supported by artillery, found itself in front of the whole Boer force, eight thousand strong, with two large guns, four Krupp, etc. The naval brigade rendered great assistance from the railway. After desperate hand fighting, which lasted ten hours, our men, with no food or water, and in a burning sun, made the Boers quit their position. General Polocarewus was successful in getting a small party across the river, gallantly assisted by three hundred Sappers."

LONDON, Nov. 30.—General Methuen wires the queen that the battle at Modder river is the bloodiest of the century. He says the result is terrible.

LONDON, Dec. 1.—Although telegraph and railroad communication is open with Modder river, no further news of General Methuen's movement or the big fight has been given out. This is generally taken to indicate that General Methuen is again on the march and that, as heretofore, he will not again be heard from until he has fought another battle and gained another stage. Those who are acquainted with General Methuen think his terse description of the battle of Modder river forecasts "a fearful butcher's bill."

METHUEN WAS WOUNDED.

He Received a Bullet in the Thigh at Modder River.

LONDON, Dec. 1.—The Times publishes the following dispatch from Frere, Natal, dated Monday, November 27: "Ladysmith was heavily bombarded to-day."

LONDON, Dec. 1.—It is officially announced that General Methuen was among those wounded at the battle of Modder river. General Methuen, it developed later, was slightly wounded by a bullet which inflicted a flesh wound in the thigh. The war office makes public the following dispatch from the officer commanding at Cape Town, under date of November 29: "Kimberley all well to November 23. Rail and telegraph open to Modder river. Gatacre's column, November 28 that the situation is unchanged."

A dispatch from Estcourt says General Joubert has retreated to Colenso to oppose Colonel Baden-Powell.

CONGRESS.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The senate was called to order by Senator Frye of Maine. On motion of Cocke of Virginia, resolutions were referred to the committee on privilege and elections. Several presented dissenting opinions on the death of the vice president; the resolutions were ordered to be committed to the house of representatives, and as a mark of respect for the late vice president the session was suspended.

HOUSE.

The house was called to order by its clerk, Major McDowell. Taylor of Ohio offered a resolution providing that "the question of the impeachment of William H. Roberts be sworn in as representative, be referred to a special committee of members of the house to be appointed by the speaker, and until such committee shall report upon the case, the name of William H. Roberts shall not be sworn in or permitted to occupy a seat in this house, and said committee shall have power to send for persons and papers and examine witnesses on oath in relation to the subject matter of this resolution." Election of speaker resulted as follows: Henderson 177, Buchanan 161, Bell 4, Newlands 2. The clerk announced the election of Henderson. Richardson introduced Henderson, who made a brief speech, after which the oath of office was administered to the speaker. A protest by Taylor of Ohio, and McKee of Kansas, against the swearing in of Roberts of Utah, the oath was administered to the speaker, Gardner of New Jersey announced the death of Gen. President Hobart, and as a mark of respect the house adjourned.

AN AMERICAN NAVAL VICTORY.

Port of Vigan Captured by Blue Jackets and Marines.

MANILA, Nov. 30.—A dispatch from the Associated Press correspondent at Nampacan, province of Union, dated Sunday, November 26, says: "The Oregon captured the port of Vigan, province of South Iloos, north of here, to-day. The Samara and Callao ran close in shore, a few shots were fired, and then the Samara, Callao and Oregon engaged in a sharp bombardment of Vigan. The firing from the shore ceased almost immediately, and the sailors and marines, with a field piece, landed. It is reported that 1,700 insurgents under Generals Tino and Pilar were massed at Taguden, ten miles north, and it has been concluded to wait at Nampacan for reinforcements. The American military force was still at Nampacan Sunday, but a move north was expected to take place Monday. Two companies of the Thirty-third volunteers are on their way north to reinforce the troops at Nampacan."

TROOPS TO LEAVE CUBA.

Order to Be Issued Establishing Civil Government.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—General Leonard Wood, who reached Washington Friday night, had a two hours' conference with the secretary of war yesterday. After the conference Secretary Root announced that his recommendations as to the removal of troops from Cuba had been approved and that orders would be issued putting them into effect. It is stated that the president had decided on the reward to be allotted to General Wood when his term of service in Cuba is over. It is stated that the general is to succeed General Sternberg as surgeon general of the army when the latter retires by law next June. The surgeon general would place General Wood at the head of the medical staff of the army at but little over 25 years of age.

ABANDON MODDER RIVER.

Boers Concentrate at Spryfontein for a Final Struggle.

LONDON, Dec. 4.—The meager official dispatch giving a list of the British casualties at Modder river and announcing the bare fact that Lord Methuen is still there awaiting reinforcements, is only supplemented by a brief special message from Cape Town stating that the Boers destroyed the bridge over Modder river before the battle and are now concentrating at Spryfontein, where the final battle between Kimberley is expected to take place.

BOERS MEET WITH REPULSE.

Attack a Bridge at Colenso and Are Driven Back.

LONDON, Dec. 2.—A special dispatch received from Frere, dated Tuesday, November 28, says that while attempting to blow up a 500-foot bridge over the river at Colenso the Boers were driven back by both the artillery and mounted infantry.

Mafeking Believed to be Safe.

CAPE TOWN, Nov. 30.—The Cape Times has the following dispatch from Mafeking: "General Cronje, with 100 wagons and a large body of Boers, has left his laager, practically raising the siege, although desultory firing can be heard."

HENDERSON NOMINATED.

Republican House Caucus Does It By Acclamation.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The caucus of the republican members of the house last night nominated David B. Henderson, of Iowa, by acclamation for speaker. The officers of the last house, except Colonel Russell, the sergeant-at-arms, were re-nominated without opposition, as follows: Clerk Alexander McDowell, of Pennsylvania; doorkeeper, W. J. Glenn, of New York; postmaster, J. C. McElroy, of Ohio, and chaplain, Rev. Henry Couden, of Michigan. Colonel Russell was not a candidate for re-election, and Colonel Henry A. Casson of Wisconsin was nominated in his stead. The caucus was held in the house of representatives and was largely attended. It was presided over by General Grosvenor of Ohio, who was re-elected chairman of the caucus. Mr. Loudenslager of New Jersey was re-elected secretary. General Henderson's name was presented by Mr. Payne of New York and seconded by Mr. Hopkins of Illinois, both of whom had been candidates originally. The roll was not called, the nomination being by acclamation. After a short address in which Mr. Henderson expressed his appreciation of the honors conferred upon him, Mr. Payne of New York called attention to the narrow majority in the house and offered a resolution, which was adopted, that no leaves of absence should be granted except for urgent reasons and that one member should be appointed to look after the pairs. A resolution by Dalzell, declaring that the rules of the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth congressional (the Reed) should be adopted, after an attack by Hepburn, was also adopted.

AT MODDER RIVER.

story of the Bloodiest Conflict British Arms Ever Endured.

LONDON, Dec. 5.—The Chronicle's dispatch from Modder river says: "Our infantry advanced across the plain toward the river in two brigades. The guards on the right were met by an awful hail of bullets from the enemy's sharpshooters, who were posted close to the river on the opposite bank. Ours had no cover whatever and were simply mowed down. It seemed impossible to live through such a fire, but our brave fellows did not retreat a inch. The Boer fire was horribly accurate, and they must have numbered at least ten thousand. Scott's guard advanced 600 yards before they were fired upon. Then they had to lie down to escape the deadly fusillade, which lasted without intermission throughout the day. The Highlanders made several attempts to force a passage of the river, but they were exposed to such a murderous enfilading fire that they had to retire after they had suffered terribly. Subsequently a party of guards got over and held their own for hours against