The Leon Reporter.

O. F. HULL, Publisher.

LEON, - - - - IOWA.

CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Whether Admiral Dewey, acting for the United States government, formally or informally, recognized the Filipino republic at Manila, is a question which Pettigrew, of South Dakota, desires the navy department to answer. He introduced a resolution to-day directing the secretary of the navy to supply the senate with information on the subject, but Chandler, of New Hampshire, objected to its immediate consideration. Following this objection Pettigrew and Chandler had a sharp tilt over the resolution offered yesterday by the former, demanding from the secretary of war an explanation of certain charges against General Merriam in his conduct of the Coeur d'Alene troubles. Politics were injected into the controversy and the personal references made by each senator against the other lent some liveliness to an otherwise quiet session. Resolutions were adopted authorizing the committee on elections to proceed with the investigation of the election to the senate of Clark, of Montana, and Scott, of West Virginia.

HOUSE.

There is such great pressure for time on the part of members on both sides who desire to participate in the currency debate in the house, that three night sessions were ordered today. Interest in the debate is not keen, judging by the attendance in the galleries, although the members themselves are listening attentively to the speeches. The features of the debate today were the speeches of Mr. Grosvenor of Ohio for the bill and of Mr. Cochran of Missouri and Mr. Newlands of Nevada against it.

SENATE.

Washington, Dec. 13.—To-day's session of the senate consumed only a few minutes. Some routine business was transacted but beyond the introduction of bills, nothing of consequence was accomplished.

HOUSE.

The currency debate in the house lasted from 11 o'clock this morning until 10:30 tonight with a recess of three hours for dinner. The pressure for time to speak continues as most of the members desire to make contributions to the literature of the occasion. Much of it, however, seems to be for home consumption. There has been very little cross-firing thus far and no exciting or dramatic incidents.

SENATE.

Washington, Dec. 14.—On a motion of Senator Chandler, Pettigrew's resolution, asking whether the flag of the Philippine republic had ever been saluted by the American forces, was laid on the table, 41 to 20. The senate agreed to the house resolution for Christmas on adjournment December 20 to January 3.

HOUSE.

The debate on the currency bill in the house today was tame and prosaic. The attendance both in the galleries and on the floor was light and none of the speeches made attracted especial attention. Kelley (dem.) of Pennsylvania, who has publicly announced his change of views on the money question and who it was thought might vote for the bill, stated that he would vote against it.

SENATE.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Senator Aldrich, of Rhode Island presented an order fixing the committees and it was adopted without dissent. A few vacancies in the minority representation are yet to be filled. No other business of importance was transacted.

HOUSE.

The closing day of the general debate on the financial bill proved to be one of exceptional interest. At the outset a sharp personal colloquy occurred between Representatives Wheeler and Berry, of Kentucky, over the recent Kentucky election and the charges growing out of it. Considerable feeling was shown. Bailey, of Texas, received close attention in an hour's speech, vigorously presenting the democratic view and eulogizing the time-honored and undying democratic organization. In marked contrast with Bailey's utterance, Scudder, of New York, who followed him, announced that as a democrat he believed in the gold standard and would vote for the bill.

HOUSE.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The currency bill was read for amendment under the five-minute rule in committee of the whole. The bill was then reported to the house without amendment.

SENATE.

Washington, Dec. 18.—In opposition to the retention by the United States of the Philippine islands two resolutions were introduced to-day, one by Tillman and the other by Bacon. Each resolution purposes to yield the islands to a government to be established by the Filipinos themselves. Morgan called up his resolution "to prohibit combinations between corporations to control interstate commerce and transportation." Referred to the committee on judiciary.

HOUSE.

The currency bill, which was debated all last week, was passed to-day by the house by a vote of 190 to 153. It had the united support of every republican in the house and of eleven democrats, Messrs. Clayton, Driggs, Fitzgerald, Levy, Ruppert, Scudder, Underhill and Wilson, of New York; McAleer, of Pennsylvania; Denny, of Maryland, and Thayer, of Massachusetts. The death of Representative Bland, of Missouri, was announced, and as a mark of respect the house adjourned.

HOUSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN.

Very Few Changes Made by Speaker Henderson.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Speaker Henderson yesterday announced the committees of the house of representatives. It proved to have very few surprises, as the speaker preserved the time-honored custom of giving precedent as to old members, leaving them in their chairmanships and gradually advancing them. A few of the leading chairmanships are as follows: Ways and means, Payne; appropriations, Cannon; judiciary, Ray; banking and currency, Brosius; interstate and foreign commerce, Hepburn; rivers and harbors, Burton; merchant marine and fisheries, Grosvenor; foreign affairs, Hitt; military affairs, Hull; naval affairs, Boutelle; public lands, Lacey; coinage, weights and measures, Southard; pensions, Loudenslager.

ALLEN IS CHOSEN.

Goes to Washington as Senator From Nebraska.

OMAHA, Dec. 14.—Governor Poynter appointed ex-Senator Allen to fill the senatorial vacancy caused by the death of Hayward. The newly appointed senator announces his intention of proceeding to Washington at once and assuming the duties of his office.

Cape Colony in Rebellion.

STERKSTROOM, Dec. 19.—As a result of the British reverses the whole country northward is in rebellion. The natives there, as well as those in Basutoland, are said to be much disturbed and losing heart respecting the strength of the British.

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 19.—Secret meetings of Boer sympathizers continue to be held in various parts of Cape Colony and the attitude of the Dutch farmers is truculent.

Trade Marks and Inventions.

DES MOINES, Dec. 14.—Common words and pictures may be adopted as legal and patentable trade marks. Newly coined words and original pictorial representations may also be used advantageously for amusing and attractive trade marks and protected by law. A recent example is the word symbol "Otaka" for biscuits. On the 5th inst., 36 patents for trade marks were issued. Patents for important inventions have been furnished as follows: To G. M. Ross, of Grinnell, for an improvement in potato harvesters whereby potatoes are more thoroughly cleaned and the dirt deposited before the potatoes are dropped so that they will not be partially covered with loose ground as has occurred heretofore in the use of such labor-saving machines. To E. C. Fread, of Des Moines, for a road-grading machine. Valuable printed matter and advice for inventors, free.

THOMAS G. ORWIG & CO.,
Registered solicitors of patents.

THE NEWS IN IOWA

GOVERNOR SHAW GOES EAST.

Together With Adjutant General Byers He Presents Iowa's Claim.

DES MOINES, Dec. 16.—Governor Shaw and Adjutant General Byers have gone to Washington, D. C., where they will arrange for the proper disposal of the Iowa war claims. The government owes the state about $40,000 on account of the Spanish war. Governor Shaw said that his plan was to induce congress to pass a law general in its terms providing for all claims on account of the recent war which may be endorsed by the governors of the different states. This will include all the states, and it is thought that such a general measure will receive the unanimous support of the government. Congress has been passing laws authorizing the war department to pay war claims for specific items which have been named in the acts. The department, of course, has promptly interpreted the act as closely as possible and paid nothing that it didn't have to. The general law will be the proper thing in this case.

FEAR OF THE SAN JOSE SCALE.

State Horticultural Society Asks Congress for Protection From It.

DES MOINES, Dec. 15.—At the state horticultural society convention the San Jose scale came up for consideration. The last legislature passed a law providing a method of protecting Iowa orchards against the ravages of this pest, but the members of the society fear that still more is necessary. They believe the danger to Iowa orchards is serious, and that the state law cannot fully meet the demands of the occasion. For example, the state cannot exercise any control over plants and seeds sent by mail, and yet in these there is serious danger. The result was the adoption of resolutions calling on congress for protection. The scale has not done any serious damage in Iowa thus far, at least none has been reported. But its ravages have been discovered in other states of the Mississippi valley and Iowa is threatened.

IOWA'S RICH IRON ORE.

Allamakee County Products Better Than Expected.

DES MOINES, Dec. 19.—The state geologist is in receipt of a report that the Allamakee county iron ore, of which two train loads were shipped to Milwaukee for smelting, proves much richer than expected. The percentage of phosphate is so small it can be used for Bessemer steel, which was not expected. It ran from 50 to 55 per cent pure iron, and is a light, easily reduced ore. Capitalists have been buying options on mineral rights on considerable areas of the iron-bearing land. The amount of the mineral is said by the state geologist to be almost unlimited. A large part of Allamakee county is underlaid with it from 60 to 100 feet thick. It is now proposed to erect furnaces next year near Waukon and reduce the iron there instead of shipping it. Capitalists are investigating and endeavoring to buy mineral rights enough to support the plant.

ESCAPED ON TECHNICALITY.

Wrong Sort of Revenue Stamp on DocumentSaved Jack Shields.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Dec. 17.—Jack Shields, arraigned for forgery in the district court, owes his liberty to his ignorance of the different kinds of revenue stamps. It appeared in the trial that he had put a proprietary stamp on a forged check, which he passed. Judge Green held that inasmuch as the check bore a proprietary and not a documentary stamp, it could not be the subject of forgery and having no legal efficacy, could not have been passed as a forged instrument. He accordingly dismissed the case and ordered the jury discharged. The case will be passed up to the supreme court.

CONTEST WEBB BYERS' SEAT.

His Recent Opponent Files Notice of Contest With Secretary of State.

DES MOINES, Dec. 17.—Papers have been filed with the secretary of state inaugurating a contest for the legislative seat to which Webb Byers was recently elected in Shelby county by the narrow margin of twelve votes. George Battey is the contestant. The papers filed with the secretary are sealed and directed to the house of representatives, so that the specific claims made by the contestant are not known. It is presumed, however, that the usual claim of counting illegal votes is made.

Child Burned to Death.

SIOUX CITY, Dec. 16.—The 3-year-old child of C. S. Argo, of Chamberlain, S. D., was fatally burned in Sioux City. The child had evidently been playing with matches in a room alone, and when her little sister came in, attracted by the screams of the baby, found her wrapped in flames. Aid came at once, but it was too late, as the child's body was frightfully burned. Even in its mouth were great blisters. Her father is a prominent attorney at Chamberlain.

Officers of Fruit Growers.

DES MOINES, Dec. 16.—The State Horticultural Society elected the following officers: President, G. F. Gardner, Osage; vice-president, M. J. Wragg, Waukee; secretary, Wesley Greene, Davenport; treasurer, W. M. Bomberger, Harlan, directors, C. J. Blodgett, Mt. Pleasant; Abner Bransom, New Sharon; N. K. Fluke, Davenport; A. L. Plummer, Ivy; R. P. Speer, Cedar Falls; P. F. Kinne, Storm Lake; Eugene Secor, Forest City.

School District Loses $50,000.

SIOUX CITY, Dec. 17.—The Iowa supreme court has rendered a decision which costs the Sioux City school district $50,000. The district had secured judgment in the lower court against the American Surety Company for $50,000, which was surety on School Treasurer Hubbard's bond for that amount. The money was lost by failure of the Home Savings Bank. The supreme court reversed the lower court's decision.

WILSON IS ALL RIGHT.

Nothing in the Rumor of His Illness and Resignation.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The report sent out as to the illness of Secretary Wilson was simply born of the imagination of an irresponsible reporter on an evening paper. In speaking of the matter Mr. Wilson said:

"There is not a word of truth in the statement. I am as strong as a bull calf. I do a hard day's work every day, although I do sometimes get tired after being at it for a long time. I have not seen the president about it or talked with anyone on the subject, nor have I any intention of doing so. I have worked every day this summer and after getting out my report I did say to some of the boys that I intended to go a little slower. The clerks in my department had vacations. I had none and I felt I was entitled to a little rest. I think they might have telephoned me and asked me before publishing such a statement."

ACCOUNT SYSTEM IS FAULTY.

State Board of Control's Report On the University.

DES MOINES, Dec. 19.—Chairman Larrabee and T. G. Kinne, of the state board of control, visited and examined the accounts of the state university and their report is made public. The board confines its report to criticism of the method of keeping the financial accounts of the institution, which, in the opinion of the board, are not a sufficient check upon the officers handling the funds. The demonstrator of anatomy is allowed $3,000 a year for procuring dissecting material, and there is no showing that the money is expended. The board proposes to send bodies from state institutions for this purpose where it can lawfully be done. It is charged that bills are sometimes paid before they are properly audited, and that contractors have received money for buildings without the proper showing from the architect.

IOWA CRIMINALS.

Has Been a Slight Decrease in Them During Past Year.

DES MOINES, Dec. 16.—Criminal statistics for Iowa during the past biennial period show that there have been 2,444 prosecutions for offenses committed in the state. Of this number 1,191 occurred during the past year, a slight decrease from those of the year before. The state has collected $71,525.44 out of $175,525.37 fines imposed during the period. It cost the different counties for the above prosecutions $818,627, of which $171,100 constituted attorneys' fees. These figures were filed with the governor in the criminal report by the secretary of state.

NOVAK MUST STAY.

Petition for Rehearing in His Case Overruled by Supreme Court.

DES MOINES, Dec. 16.—The famous Novak case is practically ended, so far as the public is interested in it, for the supreme court has overruled the petition of Novak's attorneys for a rehearing in the case. This means that Frank A. Novak, made famous by the fire in the little village of Walford three years ago and his famous flight to the Klondike regions, will have to serve out the remainder of his life sentence for the killing of Edward Murray, unless the chief executive of Iowa may sooner or later see fit to look upon him with clemency.

College Must Pay Taxes.

DES MOINES, Dec. 15.—A decision has been rendered in the district court holding that Highland Park College of Des Moines was established for pecuniary profit and therefore should pay taxes. The college contended that it should be exempt from taxation for the reason that it was an educational institution. The decision will apply to a number of colleges in the state. An appeal will be taken.

Smallpox at Coalfield.

OSKALOOSA, Dec. 15.—The little mining town of Coalfield, twelve miles south of Oskaloosa, in the corner of Monroe county, is afflicted with smallpox. Five cases are already reported, and Dr. John A. McKiveen, of Chariton, a member of the state board of health, who was sent to the little town, reports all the cases genuine, although of a comparatively mild type.

Fire at Redding.

MT. AYR, Dec., 15.—Redding, a town of 300 inhabitants, fourteen miles southwest of Mt. Ayr, on the Chariton & St. Joseph branch of the C. B. & Q., had a bad fire. A lumber yard, general store and the postoffice were burned. The cause of the fire is not known. The loss was $6,000 and the insurance $3,600.

BREVITIES.

A fire at Sheldon recently destroyed three business buildings, entailing a loss of $50,000. It is believed that the fire is incendiary.

Robert Rush, a colored porter on the Illinois Central road, shot himself in a sleeping car lying at the company's depot in Dubuque recently. He was found unconscious and taken to the hospital, where he died. His home was in Chicago. It is stated he had been in an insane asylum.

Dubuque dispatch: A new mining discovery is announced. It is the finding of lead ore under zinc ore. The discovery was made in the Pike's Peak shaft, which had been operated by means of a pump for some time past. This mine is the deepest in the vicinity. Great results are expected.

An opinion was handed down by the supreme court recently favorable to the river fronters in the famous Des Moines court house site controversy. The opinion in short is that the board of supervisors have the right to sell the old court house site. The opinion of the court is based on the fact that the city has made special levies against the present court house site and in doing so has made the site county property. This removes any plea of dedication to the public. The decision is one of two cases now pending before the court. The latter will have but little effect for the reason that the decision of this case virtually settles the entire controversy. The board has the right to sell the site and use the money for the purchase of a new site.

NEWS IN GENERAL

PURSUIT ABANDONED.

Major March Abandons Pursuit of Aguinaldo.

MANILA, Dec. 17.—Major March, of the Thirty-third infantry, has abandoned the pursuit of Aguinaldo, and has reached Bagnen, in the heart of the Grand Cordillera, where the range is ten thousand feet high, food scarce and travel almost impossible. From native couriers and Spanish prisoners it is learned that Aguinaldo left Bontoc with three women and three days ago, headed southward, evidently for Bayombong, where it is thought he may encounter the Americans. March's command was depleted twenty per cent by the two days' march from Cervantes to Bagnen, so he returned to Cervantes December 10. General Concepcion, the Filipino officer who surrendered, insists that the insurgent organization will be maintained, even in districts where the Americans are operating. He suggests that the only method of terminating the war is to capture Aguinaldo and obtain an order from him for the troops to surrender, but, Concepcion believes, Aguinaldo will never be captured.

TROOPS TAKEN FROM INDIA.

All Available Forces Being Sent to South Africa.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The Daily Mail hears from a hitherto reliable correspondent that General Buller, after a stiff fight, crossed the Tugela river. The correspondent also states that General Methuen's communications are cut.

The war office last evening posted a revised list of the casualties in the battle of Magersfontein, giving fifty-one additional killed.

The war office has been in communication with General Sir William Lockhart, commander-in-chief in India, with a view of ascertaining what troops can be spared from his forces, and it is understood that as a result of these inquiries a force will almost immediately leave Bombay for Durban, including four regiments of seasoned troops, with an ammunition column, and a brigade of artillery, including horse and field batteries. It is hoped that this force will reinforce General Buller within a month.

GERMAN PEOPLE JUBILANT.

Congratulate Each Other Over the Boer Success in South Africa.

BERLIN, Dec. 17.—The German press and people are jubilant over the news from South Africa, and everywhere in the streets people stop each other and offer congratulations. Among the press comments is that of the Kreuez Zeitung, which says:

"Thus the fighting power of the third column is destroyed and the campaign of the Boers is disastrously ended. What, however, means more, is that England's decadence, long ago apparent to far-sighted statesmen, has thus become visible before the whole world."

The National Zeitung says:

"The second chapter in this war is now also ended and is much worse than the first. Its effect upon the Afrikanders in Natal and Cape Colony must be unfortunate for the English cause."

ANOTHER FIGHT.

At Zotspan Drift, Ten Miles from Orange River.

LONDON, Dec 16.—The war office received the following from the officer commanding at Orange River dated the 14th.

"Yesterday part of the mounted infantry under Captain Bradshaw, and the Yorkshires and the Lancshire guides patrolled in the direction of Ramah and Zotspan drift, ten miles east of Orange River, to reconnoitre and report the strength of the enemy reported to be holding the drift. The mounted infantry found a strong detachment of the enemy at the drift and a sharp engagement ensued. The enemy ultimately retreated to Goemansberg. Capt. Bradshaw and three men were killed, Lieutenant Gregson of the East Kents and seven men wounded. The Boers had five killed and several wounded."

COLONIAL TROOPS DESERT.

Reported to Have Joined the Boers in Great Numbers.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—A special telegram from London says: The following dispatch received here, dated Pretoria, December 13, added to the dismay caused by Buller's defeat:

"Nine hundred British colonial troops have joined the Boers at Barkley, 2,000 at Barkley East and 1,500 at Burghersdrop."

The Herald's special London bulletin says:

"It is thought that many more Cape Colony Dutch than at first supposed have already joined the Transvaalers. Some estimates claim that General Joubert has at least 100,000 men. A more conservative estimate places his force at 80,000."

Cronje's Report on Magersfontein Battle

PRETORIA, Dec. 16.—The following official announcement is made: "General Cronje reports yesterday there was desultory fighting till 6, when the heavy cannon fire was resumed. The Scandinavians were determined to hold their difficult position, but it became untenable and they suffered severely. I was unable to send help. The British were in overwhelming force, but must have had at least two thousand men put out of action, either killed or wounded." The official report from Captain Finnhart says: "There are no signs of surrender, the burghers fighting with conspicuous bravery and maintaining their positions under a heavy British fire. Our cannon is of very little use. Our loss is not definitely known, but will estimate it at 100 killed and wounded."

A French View.

PARIS, Dec. 18.—Le Patrie, newspaper, says: "The British army has lived a century on the reputation of the Duke of Wellington and perhaps the navy also lives on the reputation of Nelson. The war in the Transvaal has demonstrated the weak points of the British army, the weakness of the British empire, the incapacity of its military chiefs and the fictitious strength of its troops, who only had to fight savages."

BULLER LOST HEAVILY.

Reports a Loss of 1,150 Men in Friday's Battle.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—General Buller reports to the war office that his losses in Friday's engagement were: Killed, 82; wounded, 667; missing, 348, a total of 1,097. The revised list of the British casualties at the battle of Magersfontein shows the total to be 963, of which number seventy were officers. The Black Watch were the heaviest sufferers at Magersfontein, losing 42 killed, 182 wounded and 111 missing. Never within the range of the longest memory has Great Britain met with three such military reverses in a single week, and hence it is not surprising that notes of anxiety should be heard amid the general chorus of press expressions of grim philosophy and resignation. As might have been expected, the desperate state of the British arms in South Africa, as revealed by the defeat of General Buller at Tugela river, where at one stroke he lost treble the number of guns Wellington left in the hands of Napoleon during the six years' fighting in the peninsula, while adding to the determination of the authorities to send every available man to the front, caused something in the nature of a momentary panic among the public, which was reflected on the stock exchange. It is long since the tone of the newspapers and the comment in the clubs and other resorts has been so chastened and pessimistic. Some of the comments go so far as to say the crisis is so far-reaching that Great Britain stands "where she stood over a century back, when the American colonists, men of British and Dutch blood, were in arms."

The St. James Gazette is apprehensive of foreign complications and thinks France is preparing for some venture which will be in the nature of a defiance of Great Britain, and urges the admiralty to form a new squadron of the ships in the reserve.

A FIERCE ENGAGEMENT

British Mistake Enemy's Strength and Sustain Heavy Losses.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—The war office has received the following from Gen. Methuen dated December 12:

"Our artillery shelled a very strong position held by the enemy in Long High kopje from four until dusk Sunday. The Highland brigade was attacked at daybreak on Monday at the south end of the kopje. The attack was properly timed, but failed. The guards were ordered to protect the Highlands right and rear. The cavalry and mounted infantry with the howitzer artillery battery attacked the enemy on the left and the guards on the right were supported by the field artillery and howitzer artillery. They shelled our position from daybreak and at 1:15 I sent the Gordons to support the Highland brigade. Our troops held their own in front of the enemy's entreachments until dusk, our position extending, including the kopje, a distrnde of six miles toward Modder river. Today I am holding my position and entrenching myself. I had to face at least twelve thousand men. Our loss is great."

General Methuen, as expected, followed up his artillery with a general assault on the Boer positions Monday, and his report shows that the anxiety of the public regarding the result occasioned by the ominious silence of the war office was amply justified. The Highlanders, it is believed, must have stormed the Boer position more than once, while the fact that the guards were ordered to support the Highlanders looks as though the Boers may even have outflanked their attackers. One report says General Cronje attacked the British. The only compensation the British have been able to discover in the disheartening story is General Methuen's statement that he maintains his position close to the Boers, arousing the hope that he will retrieve the situation. It is apparent the bombardment of Saturday and Sunday did not shake the Boers' grip on the position and it seems certain they merely withdrew their guns and riflemen under cover while Methuen indulged in his usual artillery preliminaries Monday, and that when the British guns were compelled to cease firing for fear of hitting the advancing troops, the Boers speedily reoccupied their trenches, overwhelmed the Highlanders with a terrible fire, probably accompanying this by an attack on the British right flank and rear.

General Forestier-Walker, telegraphing from Cape Town, sends the following dispatch from Lord Methuen, dated Modder river, December 12:

"As the Boers occupied their trenches strongly this morning, I retired in perfect order here, where I am in security. I have gathered from some of the prisoners and from our men with the ambulance who talked with the Boers that the enemy's losses were terrible, some corps being completely wiped out. The Boers have been most kind to my wounded."

GENERAL PILAR KILLED.

Dies While Urging His Troops to Make a Stand.

MANILA, Dec. 15.—Major March with 300 men, arrived at Cervantes, in the heart of the Tilad mountains, on the evening of Dec. 3; about twenty hours behind Aguinaldo, who had believed he had found an inaccessible refuge. On December 2 the American commander had a wonderful fight in a cloud enveloped mountain pass, 3,000 feet above the sea, completely routing General General Gregorio del Pilar's forces of 200 picked men in a position almost strong enough to rival Thermopylae. General Pilar died at the front of his men, urging them to make a stand until the ball of a sharpshooter pierced his head. His followers tried to carry away his body, but were compelled to lay it down. Two of the Americans were killed and were buried by their comrades where they fell.

Filipino Secretary of State Captured.

MANILA, Dec. 15.—Mabini, former secretary of state in the so-called Filipino government, and Aguinaldo's ablest adviser, although of late withdrawn from official connection with the insurrection, has been captured by General MacArthur near Rosales. He will be brought to Manila. Mabini has been the leader of the extreme anti-American faction.

BULLER DEFEATED.

British General Driven Back and Loses Eleven Guns.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The war office has received a dispatch announcing that General Buller had met with a serious reverse, losing ten guns captured and one destroyed by shell fire. General Buller was attempting to cross the Tugela river. Finding it impossible to effect his object, he ordered a retreat in order to avoid greater losses. He left eleven guns behind.

The Tugela river crosses just north of Colenso on the railroad leading to Ladysmith and only about ten miles from that town. The bridges have been destroyed. Ladysmith is invested by the Boers and Buller has been endeavoring for some time to reach the city and relieve the garrison. The severe repulse which he has met renders his further advance impossible and places the British garrison at Ladysmith in a precarious situation.

General Buller's report shows that an attempt was made to ford Tugela river at three points. General Hart attacked with great gallantry, but was close pressed and Buller ordered him to withdraw. Buller fears his leading battalion, the Connaught rangers, suffered greatly. The Fourteenth and Sixty-sixth field batteries and six naval twelve-pounder quick-fires advanced close to the river in their desire to be within effective range. It proved to be full of the enemy, who suddenly opened a galling fire at close range, killing all the horses. Only two guns could be saved. The general realized that to send men to their rescue meant death and he ordered a general retreat. He reports that he abandoned ten guns and lost by shell fire one.

WORST SINCE INDIAN MUTINY.

Extent of the Disaster to Buller's Column Appalls London.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The news of General Buller's reverse was received so late that the morning newspaper comment is confined to perfunctory expressions of extreme regret and disappointment and of the necessity of calmness and redoubled efforts to retrieve the position. This latter check is regarded as the most serious event in Great Britain's military history since the Indian mutiny.

REPUBLICANS AT PHILADELPHIA.

Quaker City Gets the Republican National Convention.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The republican national committee decided to hold the next convention of that party at Philadelphia, June 19. The first ballot resulted as follows: Philadelphia 13, Chicago 20, New York 7, St. Louis 9. The last ballot: Philadelphia 25, Chicago 24.

RESERVE ORDERED OUT.

British War Office Makes Announcement of That Action.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The war office issued the following announcement:

"Acting upon the advice of the military authorities, her majesty's government has approved the following measure:

"All the remaining portions of the army reserve, including section 'D,' are called out. The seventh division, which is being mobilized, will proceed to South Africa without delay. The commander-in-chief in South Africa has been authorized to continue to raise at his discretion local troops, mounted.

"Nine battalions of militia, in addition to two battalions which have already volunteered for service at Malta and one for service in the Channel Islands, will be allowed to volunteer for service outside out of the United Kingdom, and an equivalent number of militia battalions will be embodied for service at home.

"A strong force of volunteers, selected from the yeomanry regiments, will be formed for service in South Africa.

"Arrangements are being made and will shortly be announced for the employment in South Africa of a strong contingent of carefully selected volunteers. The patriotic offers which are being received from the colonies will, so far as possible, be accepted, preference be given to offers of mounted contingents."

BIG FAILURE IN NEW YORK.

The Produce Exchange Trust Company Closes Doors.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—The Produce Exchange Trust company according to notice upon the door yesterday suspended payment pending examination of its books. The total assets are $11,360,500, and the liabilities $8,319,500. Later in the day the suspension of Henry Allen & Co., bankers, was announced. Panic conditions developed on the stock exchange in the afternoon with the imperative need of money developed by the violent contraction in values. Stocks were being thrown over without the slightest regard to the price they would bring. No end to the helplessness of the situation seemed in sight, when in the last half hour of the market some $10,000,000 was offered on the stock exchange by the concerted action of the clearing house banks to force the rate arbitrarily down to 6 per cent. The collapse in the money rate checked the decline and drove the bears to cover.

BULLER SUPERSEDED.

Baron Roberts of Candahar and Lord Kitchener go to Africa.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The following notice has been posted at the war office:

"As the campaign in Natal, in the opinion of her majesty's government, is likely to require the presence and undivided attention of Sir Redvers Buller, it has been decided to send Baron Roberts of Candahar and Waterford as commander in chief in South Africa, with Lord Kitchener as chief of staff."

Asks Million for Boers.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 18.—At the meeting of the county board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians the Boer-British war was discussed at length and the members decided to put on foot a movement to raise $1,000,000 for the purpose of equipping and transporting troops to South Africa to aid the Boers and Free Staters in their fight for independence.

BOIES ABANDONS FREE SILVER

Iowa Democrat States His Views on Campaign Issues.

New York, Dec. 19.—The World prints a signed statement by ex-Gov. Horace Boies of Iowa, in which he outlines the issues of 1900 from the democratic standpoint, urging the abandonment of silver as an issue. He says:

"The issues which should be pushed to the front in 1900 are: Unyielding opposition to a colonial system that requires for its maintenance the exercise in any degree of the military power of the government; an unqualified pledge that the future government of the Philippine islands shall upon honorable conditions be left exclusively to the people of those islands, uninfluenced by the exercise to any extent of the military power of this government; the inviolate keeping of the pledge of this nation that Cuba shall be free; opposition to a great standing army; ceaseless antagonism of trusts in whatever form organized, and the immediate removal of all protective tariffs from goods the manufacture or sale of which is now or may be controlled by trusts, however organized; a broad declaration that the issue of the currency of the country, both coin and paper, is rightfully a function of government alone, the volume of which should be controlled by the congress of the nation instead of by private corporations organized for individual gain; an unqualified declaration in favor of the continued coinage on government account of both of the money metals at the existing ratio, to the full limit required by the business interests of the country."

TO RELIEVE MONEY MARKET.

Additional Bonds to Be Purchased and Deposits to Be Increased.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The treasury department, it is said on good authority, will take decisive steps to relieve the money market.

Additional bonds to the extent of $25,000,000 will be purchased and the deposits of government money in national bank depositories will be increased by at least $50,000,000. An aggregate of $82,000,000 of treasury funds is carried in national bank depositories. The rule of depositing these funds was inaugurated when Charles Foster was secretary of the treasury. The amount so carried in recent years has been smaller than in years past. The department believes that by increasing these deposits and permitting the banks to have the use of the money much of the present trouble will be obviated.

Secretary Gage today received telegrams from bankers in all parts of the country urging him to take steps to put an end to the present stringency in the money market.

Rehearing in Ramsay Case.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 19.—The Supreme court has granted a rehearing to Witbeck and others of Chicago, bondsmen of former State Treasurer Rufus N. Ramsay, now deceased, in the case of the estate of Rufus N. Ramsay against Witbeck and others. The decision was rendered by the Supreme court last October, and was in favor of Ramsay's heirs. A large amount of property in Fayette county was involved and was claimed both by the heirs of Ramsay and by his bondsmen. The court held last October that the heirs had a prior claim to the property.

Pro-Boer Irish Suppressed.

Dublin, Dec. 19.—Acting under orders of the government, the police Sunday suppressed a mass-meeting of Boer sympathizers. The police freely used their clubs on the crowds of Irishmen who gathered in the streets cheering lustily for Kruger and the Transvaal. Heads were broken and the throngs dispersed only after vigorous action on the part of the police. The officers captured and destroyed several Transvaal and Irish flags.

Spain Will Hold Ceuta.

Madrid, Dec. 19.—Senor Silvela, the premier, replying to a question on the subject in the chamber of deputies, said that the report of an alliance between Spain and Russia based upon the cession of Ceuta, the Spanish seaport town in Morocco, opposite Gibraltar, was without foundation. "Neither now nor in the future," he declared, "will Spain on any account cede her African possessions."

Plan For National Meeting.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 19.—Republican National Committeemen Joseph H. Manley of Maine and H. C. Payne of Wisconsin, who are members of the subcommittee on convention of the republican national executive committee, arrived Sunday for the preliminary work of preparing for the convention which will be held in this city next June.

Hold Elections in Porto Rico.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Dec. 12.—The elections in Porto Rico are progressing slowly. The republicans carried Ponce on Dec. 9 by about 1,500 majority. The republicans claim that San Juan will give them a tremendous majority, and that the election throughout the island will result in an overwhelming federal defeat. The elections will last for at least two months more.

Will Increase Miners' Pay.

Lansford, Pa., Dec. 18.—Notices have been posted by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company to the effect that the market price of coal at tide is 6 per cent below the basis, and that all contract miners and inside laborers will be paid accordingly. This means an increase of 26 cents a week in the miners' wages and 21 cents for laborers. It will affect 3,000 employes.

Will Locate at Cleveland.

Cleveland, Dec. 19.—The executive committee of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers decided to look no further than Cleveland for a site for the big building which the brotherhood intends to erect for its permanent home. The committee had intended visiting a number of cities before coming to a decision, but concluded that Cleveland offers sufficient advantages. The land and building will cost $300,000.