

The Leon Reporter.

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

MOSES EXPANSION. United States to Acquire the Danish West Indies.

New York, Jan. 18.—Captain W. V. Christmas, of Copenhagen, who has been at the Hotel Manhattan for a few days, has gone to Washington. He is one of the accredited agents of the Danish government in the pending negotiations looking to a sale to the United States of the islands of St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix, known as the Danish West Indies.

"Denmark," said Captain Christmas, "cannot afford to be on bad terms with the United States. Several European powers want the Danish West Indies, but King Christian prefers they should be the property of the United States. In the event of the construction of the Nicaragua or Panama canal the islands will be of special value to the United States as a coaling station."

Excitement in Germany. Government is Interpellated on Seizure Question.

Berlin, Jan. 18.—In the reichstag an interpellation signed by Herr Meolner, national liberal, and all the members of the reichstag, except the social democrats and independents, was introduced. It was as follows:

"What steps have the federal government taken in regard to the seizure of German ships by agents of the English government?"

In view of the excited state of public opinion concerning the seizures, the interpellation will probably be speedily answered. The Hamburg Nachrichten advises German reprisals against Great Britain and expresses its belief that a coalition of neutral powers would be feasible. It goes so far as to suggest that Germany should head such a coalition. It is asserted by a high authority that if England much longer delays the satisfaction which Germany demands, the emperor would participate in a coalition movement to compel her to respect the commercial rights of neutrals at sea.

Give His Position in the Army and Will Re-enter Congress.

Florence, Ala., Jan. 18.—The first absolute news of the intended course of General Joe Wheeler came in a private letter to Hon. William J. Wood, a personal friend of the general. The letter, which is dated Manila, December 21, says:

"I saw in papers from the United States that the commissioner of the land office was again recommending that our mineral lands be sold under the act of March 3, 1893, and I wrote him urging that this be not done until we get our school lands out of it. I expect to leave in a few days for the United States and will devote myself to getting the bill through, which I think I can do now. I could not have left here while the campaign was on without being subjected to severe criticism. I have resigned my position in the army."

Buller Makes Advance. Occupies the Hills Beyond Poligeter's Drift.

London, Jan. 16.—General Buller completely surprised the Boers and occupied the hills beyond Poligeter's drift, fifteen miles west of Colenso on January 10. This intelligence is contained in a Times dispatch, dated yesterday. He followed up the movement by shelling the Boer trenches.

Against Roberts. Special Committee Against His Holding Seat in Congress.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The special committee of the house to investigate the case of Brigham H. Roberts of Utah, has reached a conclusion. On the polygamist status of Roberts the committee is unanimous in the affirmative. On the question of procedure to be adopted the committee is divided. A majority, consisting of all members except Littlefield, of Maine, and Deamond, of Missouri, favored exclusion at the outset. Littlefield and Deamond will make a minority report favorable to seating Roberts on his prima facie rights and then expelling him.

Bombardment at Mafeking. PERTORIA, Jan. 13.—As a result of the bombardment of Mafeking yesterday the British fort at Eastward was demolished and the British retired. One Boer was wounded.

Insurance Companies Must Fly. DUBUQUE, Jan. 21.—The Clayton case of Langan vs. several insurance companies, which refused to pay him for losses sustained by fire, was decided by Judge Shiras in favor of plaintiff for the full amount of his policies, \$29,000. The companies involved are the Aetna, Spring Garden, Palatine and Alliance. The case will be appealed to the supreme court.

Bank Robber Sentenced. SAC CRY, Jan. 21.—W. D. Sansom, who, a short time ago, compelled at point of a revolver, the assistant cashier of a Sac City bank to hand over more than \$500, was sentenced by Judge F. H. Hessel, of Sioux Rapids, to two years in the penitentiary. The defense sought in vain to prove that Sansom was insane.

Smallpox at Redfield. ADEL, Jan. 23.—Smallpox has appeared at Redfield, eleven miles west of Adel.

THE NEWS IN IOWA

MUSCATINE & NORTHERN ROAD.

New Road to Be Built from Muscatine to Independence. Des Moines, Jan. 19.—The extensive railroad building the past year does not seem to injure the prospect for an increased number of miles of new track in 1900. The latest in railroad construction is the building of the Muscatine, Tipton & Northern. The line will be built between Muscatine and Independence, via Tipton and Anamosa. The project has been talked of for several months, but late events give the story color of truth. It is thought that the management of this new line will be slightly related to the Chicago & Northwestern. While the roads may be operated separately yet it is understood they will have an "understanding" as to "freight connections." The old grade between Muscatine and Tipton will be utilized, with the exception of a few miles. Engineer T. B. Tobie has completed the survey between the two latter towns and if the weather permits the corps will continue the work to Independence. The road will touch but very few towns between Anamosa and the termination of the new line. The country which is to be tapped is very fertile and it is expected that many new towns will spring up. The towns that the new road will touch are Muscatine, Tipton, Olin, Newport, Anamosa, Prairieburg, Cogen and Independence.

CONSTITUTIONAL. Inheritance Taxes Upheld in the Supreme Court of Iowa.

Des Moines, Jan. 22.—An important decision has been handed down in the supreme court in the case of John V. Ferry et al., appellants, vs. S. C. Campbell, executor, et al. and John Ferriotti, treasurer of state, appellees. The court holds that inheritance taxes are constitutional and that the amendatory act passed by the Twenty-seventh general assembly in 1893 provides the defects of the original article, which it declares unconstitutional. The case declared from the Pottawattamie district, A. B. Thornell, judge. It was a suit in equity to enjoin defendants from collecting an inheritance tax upon the property of the estate of Frank C. Stewart. The court held that "in view of the subsequent legislation, the judgment of the trial court should be reversed and the cause remanded for further proceedings."

NORMAL SCHOOLS. Causes Held to Determine Text of Bill for New Schools.

Des Moines, Jan. 20.—The caucus of legislative members interested in the establishment of new normal schools in Iowa, indicated to the lobbyists for location of the new schools, who are much in evidence about the legislative halls, that it would be much to their liking if they would all go home and await the decision of the legislature on the question, as to whether any schools at all should be established. This was not done in a decisive manner. The message simply indicated to lobbyists by the terms of a resolution, the lobbyists quickly grasping the situation that there was danger of the main proposition being defeated if the fight on location was allowed to assume any larger proportions at present. A committee was appointed by the caucus to draft a bill for the establishment of the schools and report at another caucus.

IOWA ENGINEERS TALK ROADS. Favor the Lewis Bill Recently Introduced in the State Senate.

Des Moines, Jan. 21.—Without taking any action, endorsing any particular measure or adopting any resolutions, the Iowa Engineers' Society concluded its sessions, after discussing and showing a decided preference for the Lewis good roads bill, recently introduced in the state senate. This bill provides for county and state systems of taxation and road building, and the employment by the state executive council of an engineer to superintend the making of good roads. The bill was not formally considered, but it was discussed at great length. Officers were elected by the society for the ensuing year as follows: President, Anson Marston, Ames; vice-president, Lowell H. Stone, Des Moines; secretary-treasurer, Seth Dean, Glenwood.

Burlington Railway Improvements. BURLINGTON, Jan. 21.—Articles of incorporation for the Murray & Creston Railroad Company have been filed for record in Burlington, the authorized capital stock of the corporation being \$2,000,000. The incorporators are: C. P. Squires, W. N. McFarland, Wm. Carson, W. W. Baldwin and C. M. Levey, all stockholders and officers of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad. The incorporation is to cover the new tracks to be built by the Burlington road, between Murray and Creston, changing the present single track to a double track. The capital stock represents the amount of money to be spent in improvements by the Burlington system in addition to those already made.

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NEWS IN GENERAL

Legislative Committee Endorses Board of Control Recommendations.

Des Moines, Jan. 21.—About thirty-five members of the legislature, comprising of the house committee on industrial schools and members most interested in a change in the industrial school conditions, visited the institution at Mitchellville. The school was thoroughly investigated and after supper a conference was held with the leading citizens of the town at the hotel, where an exchange of views took place. As a result of the visit, the members of the committee came back with the idea that they will make numerous recommendations for changes in the institution, endorsing largely those made by the board of control. At the conference the fact was brought out that the citizens of the town are incensed at the reports sent out about the institution and believe that they have been grossly misrepresented. Members of the committee expressed the opinion that such was the case, and that the citizens of the town are to be credited with every laudable effort in placing the school on a proper footing.

SHAW DECLINES. He Will Not Be a Candidate for the Vice-Presidency.

Des Moines, Jan. 23.—It is stated decisively by Governor Shaw's friends at the state house that the governor will not be a candidate for the vice-presidency of the United States. They are free to say that in conferences with them Governor Shaw has asserted he would not permit his name to go before the national convention as a candidate for that office. As the statements made by the state officials are directly authorized by the governor, the statement of his position may be regarded as final.

A Woolen Mill Quits. CLINTON, Jan. 21.—The company operating the woolen mills at Maquoletta has decided to close the same and offer the machinery for sale. The mill is an old institution and has long been noted for its excellent work. Improved machinery of the later and larger mills has left it without a profit for several years, and the stockholders have decided to quit.

BREVITIES. Memories of the murder in Sioux City of the Rev. George C. Haddock, on August 3, 1886, have been revived recently by news from Oklahoma that Henry Peters, one of the men indicted for the crime was not burned in the furnace of a brewery, as had been supposed all these years, but is living in that territory. After the murder it was believed that because of his knowledge of who were the murderers of Haddock, Peters was put out of the way.

Lee A. Curtis, civil engineer, says a late dispatch, reports that the survey of the new Duluth & New Orleans railroad has just been completed. It is also reported that the contract for the beginning of the construction of the road has been let. The line of the road, as marked out in the preliminary survey, runs north from Des Moines to Osage, passing through Cambridge, Nevada, Metcalissburg, Hubbard, Iowa Falls, Hampton, and two miles east of Nora Springs.

Nate Lininger and Roy Sigafus, two lads from Savanna, while rabbit hunting, a few days ago, discovered the remains of a man on Pulford island, near Savanna. The body was in a rude box, the end of which protruded from the earth, near the Iowa shore. The decomposed remains were wrapped in an old carpet. The matter was reported to the police, but the officers have failed to identify the body. Only a few months ago another skeleton was found in that locality which was not identified.

Judge Prouty, of the criminal division of the district court of Polk county, wants to reach the person or persons, who, it is alleged, offered a bribe to a member of the Polk county board of supervisors, in consideration of securing a contract for making the plans and for the erection of a new court house. When the grand jury made its report, Judge Prouty detained the members for a few moments and especially charged them to make inquiry into the matter and to return an indictment if they find the published statements sufficiently well grounded.

The Pottawattamie county grand jury returned true bills against S. P. James, of South Omaha, a "divine healer," and Mrs. P. B. Yates, of Tabor, Iowa, on the charge of being criminally responsible for the death of the latter's daughter, Ethel Yates, which occurred in Council Bluffs January 5. The post-mortem examination held on the body of Miss Yates showed that death was the result of appendicitis. A physician who had been in attendance upon the case was dismissed and the girl was treated by faith cure. A deputy sheriff went to Tabor to arrest Mrs. Yates.

Des Moines dispatch: Iowa plaster manufacturers, who own and operate the seven stucco mills at Fort Dodge, have just succeeded, after considerable effort, in securing concessions from the supervising architects of the United States treasury department, which they believe will prove of great benefit to them. For a number of years the supervising architect has refused to specify Iowa plaster in submitting his plans to contractors for bids. He has favored adamant and other hard plasters to the exclusion of the brown coat stucco process. Repeated efforts have been made to secure a change by interesting Iowa members of congress but these have failed. Recently T. F. Brene, representing one of the larger companies, went to Washington with samples and endorsements of the well known brown stucco process and succeeded in getting several audiences with the supervising architect. He showed him what had been done with the stucco plaster, and pointed out its advantages, with the result that he secured a promise of the specification of Iowa plaster on all lettings of public work in the future. Since that time it has been specified in a number of buildings, with the result that considerable new business has been obtained.

RELIEF OF LADYSMITH.

Dundonald Reported to Have Entered With 1,600 Men. DURBAN, Natal, Jan. 23.—The statement comes from an excellent source in Pietermaritzburg that Lord Dundonald has entered Ladysmith with 1,600 men. This is not confirmed from any other quarter, but it is known that Lord Dundonald's flying column has been acting well to the left of the line of advance.

Monday's Fighting. LONDON, Jan. 23.—The Daily Chronicle has received the following, dated Spearman's camp, January 23, 4:15 p. m.:

"General Warren continues pushing, though he is necessarily making very slow progress, as the Boers are numerous and strongly entrenched. Our infantry are working over parallel ridges, while Lord Dundonald's cavalry is lying well on the left flank and awaiting developments. The Boers contest every inch of the ground. This morning General Warren's artillery opened fire, but the Boers did not reply and our fire became less hot."

BRITISH WOUNDED. Nearly Three Hundred Wounded in Saturday's Battle.

LONDON, Jan. 22.—The war office posted a dispatch from General Buller, dated January 21, 10 a. m., in which he gave the following list of wounded in the action near Venters Spruit Saturday: Colonel General Buller, staff officer; Major C. McGregor, staff officer; Major F. English, Second Dublin Fusiliers; Captain C. D. Vaughan, First Border Rifles; Captain R. B. Blunt, Second Lancashire Fusiliers; Captain C. A. Hensley, Second Dublin Fusiliers (since dead); Second Lieutenant M. P. Stewart, Second Gordon's; Second Lieutenant M. G. Crofton, Second Lancashire Fusiliers; Second Lieutenant A. H. Keirry, First York and Lancashire; two hundred and seventy-nine noncommissioned officers and men.

GREAT BATTLE IS NOW ON. Fighting is Reported South and East of Ladysmith.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—A special dispatch from Durban, dated Wednesday, says: "Advices from Potgieter's drift, dated yesterday (Tuesday), say that Sir Charles Warren has arrived within seventeen miles of Ladysmith, and that British wounded are arriving at Mooi river field hospital by every train from the front, indicating that there has already been severe fighting. Neither report has yet been confirmed."

The Daily Chronicle's military expert sees a curious analogy between General Buller's situation now and on the eve of Magersfontein. Now, as then, the Boers are making a stand with their backs to investing lines and a few miles. As Lord Methuen, after crossing Modder river, had to attack the Spioenkop and Magersfontein hills, so General Buller, after passing the Tugela, faces invisible intrenchments in a rough country.

GET A PACK TRAIN. Americans Abandon Twenty-two Horses to the Enemy.

MANILA, Jan. 23.—The escort of 50 men of Company C, Thirtieth infantry, Lieut. Rulston commanding, which was ambushed near Lipa, as already reported, consisted of 50 convalescents from the hospital, who were going to rejoin the regiment. The insurgents hid in the bushes along the road and opened fire upon the pack train from three sides. The Americans, in addition to their casualties, were compelled to abandon the train which consisted of 22 horses. The latter, with their packs, all fell into the hands of the insurgents, who pursued the retreating escort for three miles, until the Americans were re-inforced.

SITUATION OUTSIDE OF NATAL. All Forces Are Resting on Their Arms While Buller Fights.

LONDON, Jan. 23.—The British in the districts in South Africa continue inactive. Lord Methuen's thirteen thousand men remain behind their works. General French's four thousand and a half, were aroused Sunday by a general alarm that the Boers were at hand, but it turned out that there was no basis for this. General Gatacre is quietest at Colenso. At Ladysmith the death toll from enteric fever and dysentery averages ten a day. Some fears are expressed that the garrison may be so worn by privation and disease as to be unable to do much in the way of helping General Buller.

THE TOWN OF TAAL IS TAKEN. Insurgents Lost Ten Killed and Two Taken Captive.

MANILA, Jan. 23.—Two companies of the Forty-sixth infantry, under Major Johnson, and three companies of the Thirty-eighth infantry, commanded by Major Muir, defeated 800 insurgents at Taal, provinces of Batangas, Saturday, taking the town. The United States gunboat Marietta also shelled the place. The insurgents had four cannon, two of which were captured. Two Americans were wounded and ten insurgent dead were found on the field.

Asks for New Armament. STOCKHOLM, Jan. 23.—In the Swedish budget, which balances nearly 150,000,000 kroners, and which is the largest on record, King Oscar asks for forty-six new batteries of artillery by the end of 1903. One hundred thousand new Manners are to be manufactured, and 50,000,000 cartridges, to be in store within four years. A credit is asked for a trial mobilization of the army reserves. Another important item in the budget is the railway appropriation of 20,000,000 kroners, one-fourth of which is to be applied in the purchase of new rolling stock.

Another German Vessel Released. BERLIN, Jan. 23.—A dispatch received here from Durban says the German bark Marie, loaded with sulphur, which was captured early in January by the British cruiser Fearless and taken to Port Elizabeth, has been unconditionally released.

CONGRESS.

Washington, Jan. 16.—Pettinger's resolution of inquiry and Lodge's substitute for it were laid on the table and the general resolution of inquiry was taken up. An effort of Pettigrew to amend it so as to call for a presidential instruction to the Paris peace commissioners led to a long debate. After the vote had been taken on the matter, the president's instructions to the Paris peace commissioners led to a long debate. After the vote had been taken on the matter, the president's instructions to the Paris peace commissioners led to a long debate.

The urgent deficiency appropriation bill was taken up in the house. The bill was introduced which limited the general debate to today and tomorrow.

Washington, Jan. 17.—An agreement has been reached to take the final vote on the pending bill raising the rate of value of the United States on February 15. The general resolution of inquiry regarding the conduct of Pettigrew's plan of compulsory education introduced by Pettigrew and Lodge, beyond a vigorous speech by the resolution introduced by Hale of Maine, as to the seizure of information in the case of the resolution introduced by Hale of Maine, as to the seizure of information in the case of the resolution introduced by Hale of Maine.

During consideration of the sundry civil appropriation bill Sulzer attacked Gage for his position in the sale of the New York custom house. Sibley defended the secretary and these two speeches resulted in a debate which lasted almost three hours and after the bill was only one unimportant amendment.

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Des Moines, Jan. 16.—After the prayer the regular order of business was called by the legislative governor and a motion was made for the regular order of business to be called by the legislative governor.

Des Moines, Jan. 16.—After the prayer the regular order of business was called by the legislative governor and a motion was made for the regular order of business to be called by the legislative governor.

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Des Moines, Jan. 16.—After the prayer the regular order of business was called by the legislative governor and a motion was made for the regular order of business