

The Leon Reporter.

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LEON, IOWA.

APPALLING LOSS

TERRIBLE DEFEAT FOR THE BRITISH AT SPION KOP.

Dead Left on the Battlefield Said to Have Numbered 1,500—Buller Retires to the Tugela.

BOER HEAD LAAOER, Ladysmith, Jan. 25.—The British dead left on the battlefield yesterday, Wednesday, numbered 1,500.

LONDON, Jan. 29.—General Buller's dispatch to the war office states that Spion Kop was abandoned on account of a lack of water and inability to bring the artillery there and a heavy Boer fire.

The week has opened with the utmost gloom for the British and the reaction is all the stronger because of the high hopes that were reposed in General Buller's turning movement and of his announcement that there would be no turning back.

As it required a month for Buller to recover from his earlier defeat at Colenso, it is not thought he can pull his disheartened army together now in time to do anything for Ladysmith.

Following is the text of General Buller's dispatch, dated Spearman's Camp, Jan. 27, 6:10 p. m.

"On the night of Jan. 23 Warren attacked Spion Kop but found it very difficult to hold as its perimeter was too large and water was found very deficient.

"The crests were held all that day against successive attacks and a heavy shell fire. Our men fought with great gallantry.

"General Woodgate, who was in command at the summit, having been wounded, the officers and men were ordered to abandon the position and to do so before dawn Jan. 25. I reached Warren's camp Jan. 25, m. on Jan. 25 and decided that it was useless to hold Spion Kop.

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THE NEWS IN IOWA

THE IOWA FALLS RAILROAD.

Looks Now As Though It Will Be Built This Year.

DES MOINES, Jan. 28.—A meeting of the executive board of the Des Moines, Iowa Falls & Northern road was held in Iowa Falls at which it was reported that President Ellsworth has telegraphed that he completed arrangements for financing the road and that funds will be at the disposal of the company this season for the construction of the road from Des Moines to Iowa Falls.

The board decided to make another survey and engineers will be placed in the field at once to run a second line to Iowa Falls, the first survey not proving satisfactory.

The first survey passes through Cambridge, on the Milwaukee; Nevada, on the Northwestern; McCallsburg, on the Iowa Central, and Hubbard, on the Northwestern.

It is intended that the second line shall pass east of Hubbard, and through the towns of Zealring, Colo and Maxwell. It is thought that on this route easier grades and lighter work will be encountered and there will be no increase in the mileage.

Speculation continues as to the backing this company has. In some quarters it is regarded as an Illinois Central line, but generally this is not believed and the impression prevails, because of Ellsworth's connection with the project, that it is a Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern project.

Ellsworth is a director of the latter road and one of the incorporators of the company that built its Iowa Falls division. He is the senior member of Ellsworth & Jones, brokers of Boston and New York, commanding a great deal of capital and for a number of years has been one of the most successful promoters in Iowa.

His connection with the road and the fact that considerable money and care are being expended in securing a survey, lends to the impression that there is good reason to believe the road will be built.

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NO LEGAL SALOONS.

There Are None Operating in Des Moines at Present.

DES MOINES, Jan. 30.—There is not a legal saloon in the city of Des Moines, and there are few of them in the state of Iowa. This is the effect of a decision handed down by the supreme court.

The statements of consent, secured prior to the publication of the new code and upon which the saloons of this city have been operating ever since the new code went into effect, are held to be insufficient, and new ones must be secured before any local mullet saloon may operate legally.

The opinion which carries this effect with it is a most sweeping one and is a body blow at Des Moines saloons. It is written by Judge Waterman, but is the unanimous holding of the supreme bench.

It is the decision which has been anticipated by both saloon men and the prohibitionists of the city ever since the January term of court opened. The saloonkeeper who is made an example of is Lorenz Ill, on whom an application for an order was made to show why he should not be punished for violating an injunction against his maintaining a liquor nuisance.

Ill resisted the restraining order on the ground that he had complied with section 17, chapter 62, of the laws of the Twenty-fifth general assembly, which required the filing of a statement of consent signed by a majority of the voters at the last election, and he was therefore legally engaged in the liquor business.

The plaintiff in the case, O. C. West, set up a demurrer, declaring that the acts of the Twenty-fifth general assembly were repealed when the new code went into effect, and under the provisions of the new code Ill's statement of consent was insufficient because not canvassed by the board of supervisors. This demurrer was overruled by Judge Bishop, and the case was appealed.

The supreme court reverses the decision of Judge Bishop and holds that a new statement of consent is necessary.

Highwayman Attempts to Rob Two Men Near Peterson.

PETERSON, Jan. 26.—Charles Gronn and Alfred Peterson when driving up the hill south of Peterson were assailed by a highwayman, who, failing to find any money or valuables on their persons, ordered them to "git," and to do so quickly.

They went off in a hurry and at once organized a posse, who surrounded the robber and demanded his surrender. Finding escape impossible, he shot himself through the heart, dying almost instantly.

From papers found on his person it was ascertained that his name was Chris Nelson, but his place of residence is unknown, he being a total stranger in the vicinity.

Divine Healer James Surrenders.

NEWS IN GENERAL

RUSSIA IS EXPECTING WAR.

Firmly Believed That Japan Is Making Ready for Attack.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 29.—From an authentic source it is learned that in diplomatic and governmental circles here it is considered assured that Japan is ready for a war with Russia, and that the policy and efforts of Japanese statesmen are directed along the line of an alliance for offensive purposes between Japan, Great Britain and China.

Japan is plainly anxious to resist and paralyze Russia's successful invasion and predominant influence in eastern Asia, and as a preliminary to the desired conflict suggests to China the establishment of a military academy at Peking, where Japanese officials shall instruct the Chinese in the art of war.

This proposal, it is believed, will be accepted, despite the opposition of Russia, France and Germany. The Japanese arsenals are at their busiest—that is matter of Russian military information.

The army and fleet system of coast defenses has been developed and improved and recent inspections have shown that they are satisfactory to the mikado's war office. That Japan will obtain a certain portion of Korean territory has already been decided, but it will be done quietly so as to avoid premature trouble with Russia.

Japan knows that Russia is not going to make the first move toward war, and Japan, before war actually is precipitated, is doing its best by way of preparation. Russia is ready for any war in Asia or elsewhere. She now calmly awaits Great Britain's downfall.

Operations Will Be Suspended Till Roberts Gives the Word.

LONDON, Jan. 30.—History pauses for a time in South Africa. It is one of those unsatisfactory pauses that are nearly as trying to British nerves as a sequence of reverses and apparently it will terminate only when Lord Roberts gives the word for the forward movement into the Free State, which, according to the most cheerful view, he will be unable to do for a fortnight.

Whether he will permit General Buller to make another attempt to relieve Ladysmith is quite outside the knowledge even of those closely connected with the war office. With the troops due to arrive next month, he may think himself strong enough to try two large operations. Combining the forces under Generals Methuen, French and Gatacre and adding to them the arriving troops, Lord Roberts would have 70,000 for the invasion of the Free State, with 40,000 to 50,000 guarding communications and 40,000 trying to rescue Ladysmith.

The public burns with impatience that something should be done, but there is nothing to do but to wait on the preparations.

WILKINSON'S REVIEW.

THINKS ASSAULT ON LADYSMITH MAY BE HOPELESS FOR.

LONDON, Jan. 30.—Mr. Spencer Wilkinson in the Morning Post says: "Defeat is bitter. But it is right to face it and to take reasonable means to turn it into victory. It is wrong to try to conceal it from ourselves. The initiative is now again with the Boer commander, and the question is, what will he do next? He will either act against Ladysmith or against General Buller."

CONGRESS.

THE LEGISLATURE

DES MOINES, Jan. 30.—The senate received an invitation from the supervisors of Polk county to visit the county asylum for the insane in Iowa.

Porter's bill requiring that mine owners be prevented from keeping more than three weeks of a miner's pay at a time was passed. Bill reducing rate of interest on permanent school fund from 6 to 5 1/2 per cent was reported favorably.

Bill requiring that all professional clerks and stenographers of lawyers and doctors shall not be exempted from military service was passed. Bills were introduced as follows: By Healy, granting school corporations power to erect and capture for use by firemen, requiring that all fines derived from violations of liquor laws be paid into the county general fund; by Arthur, stipulating that threshing engines shall cross bridges at their own risk; by McClary, providing for robbery and train wrecking punishable by death or imprisonment at hard labor for life.

Clark, of Dallas, for the special committee to obtain from the board of control a report on printing and binding, submitted a report. The committee learned from the board of control that the latter had elected a printer and binder to bid on work in but two instances; that they had declined, claiming that they were entitled to be made under the statute and therefore did not care to enter into competition with the state printer and binder. The board of control's statement showed a considerable saving to the state by the adoption of a competitive bid system. The committee submitted the report to the board of control, and on the motion of Prentiss it was referred to the committee on printing. The senate bill, permitting the trustees of the state agricultural college to loan the endowment fund at any rate of interest deemed advisable was passed. Among bills introduced was the following: By Dows, for the establishment of a state library commission; by Payne, requiring that the quarterly division of annual reports to the board of supervisors; by Harrett, making a radical reduction in charges on some companies.

DES MOINES, Jan. 30.—The senate voted to print 2,000 copies of the board of control report. Bills were introduced as follows: By Emmert, providing for a change in the name of the Westchase lamp monopoly in all tests of oil made in the state; by Griswold, providing for clearing records of cancellations of mortgages, granting school directors permission to divide districts into as many parts as may be necessary; by Hason, the caucus normal school bill; by Moffit, providing a heavy fine for the use of opium, morphine and morphia to convicts; also providing punishment for use of blasphemous language around public buildings; by Hason, providing for the creation of second class authority to levy special tax for the purpose of erecting a monument costing \$2,000 for purpose of locating graves of Iowa soldiers at Vicksburg.

Bill for improvement of river front at Des Moines passed, as did also the bill permitting cities of 2,000 population to elect commissioners, report of committee on banks and banking, recommending for passage the bill providing for the amount of their capital stock to 20 times the amount of their capital stock, but not more than \$100,000. Bills were introduced as follows: By Clark, to abolish the office of state printer and binder and provide for a contract printer and binder; the caucus normal school bill; by Warren, to prohibit the marriage of divorced persons within one year in case of personal service of appearance by defendant, or two years in case of judgment; by Hason, providing for the appointment of public examiners and for a uniform system of keeping the books of counties and cities; raising the salaries of county recorders.

DES MOINES, Jan. 30.—No business of importance was transacted. Bills were introduced as follows: By Hason, providing for the removal of liquor dealers from other states from sending solicitors into Iowa to make a house to house canvass for the purpose of procuring a license; by Hason, providing that the amount of the special tax shall not be assessed for a greater amount than the property is benefited and levying a special tax of not more than five mills from which the difference between the actual benefit derived by property and the amount of the special tax shall be paid; by McClary, permitting the executive committee to print extracts from the code; by Young, providing that all papers shall be turned over to medical schools if the relative is willing; by Hason, providing for the prohibition of barbers who violate the Sunday law; by Griswold, providing that persons who are in possession of a license or certificate to sign affidavits that they will support the candidate.

A message was received from the governor announcing the death of Edward J. Townsend, one of the regents of the state normal school. Bill permitting cities of first class having less than \$500,000 population to elect commissioners was passed. Bills were introduced as follows: By Scott, to prohibit the selling or giving of morphine or whiskey to convicts; by Hason, providing for the creation of second class authority to levy special tax for the purpose of erecting a monument costing \$2,000 for purpose of locating graves of Iowa soldiers at Vicksburg.

DES MOINES, Jan. 30.—The appointment of Col. E. H. Rood to succeed Governor Harriman on the board of control was announced. Trewin introduced a bill which is intended to do away with the drawing party lines in the primary tickets for municipal elections. The bill provides that the names of all candidates shall be printed in alphabetical order, that no candidate shall be given a preference over his competitors, and that the names of candidates shall be printed in alphabetical order. Bills were introduced as follows: By Hason, providing for the establishment of a school for the deaf in the state; by Hason, providing for the consolidation of the state library and historical department; by Dunham, to regulate the sale and require the redemption of passenger tickets by common carriers.

DES MOINES, Jan. 30.—No business of importance was transacted. Bills were introduced as follows: By Hason, providing that diplomas from institutions having course equal to that of the state normal school shall be given the same consideration; by Hason, introducing a bill relating to the form, marking and counting of ballots. He also introduced a resolution expressing sympathy for the Boers.

SENATORIAL REORGANIZATION.

CAUCUS HELD AT WHICH NEW OFFICERS ARE CHOSEN.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—The republican caucus of the senate decided definitively upon the reorganization of the elective officers of that body and nominated Hon. Charles Bennett, of New York, for secretary to succeed Hon. William R. Cox, and Hon. Daniel M. Ramsdell, of Indiana, for sergeant-at-arms, to succeed Col. R. J. Bright. J. S. Clarkson, of Iowa, was a candidate for secretary, and tied Bennett on the first ballot. Alonzo Stewart, of Iowa, was a candidate for sergeant-at-arms and received 20 votes to 24 for Ramsdell.



THE APPLING LOSS

DES MOINES, Jan. 30, 1900.

The caucus committee to prepare a normal school measure has completed its work, drafting a bill to provide for three additional schools. The measure will be introduced, probably in both houses, as soon as possible. It provides that one school shall be established in 1901, one in 1902 and one in 1903. The schools shall be in charge of boards of trustees. The locations shall be determined by joint ballot in the legislature one week after the passage of the act. A majority of all votes cast will be necessary to fix locations, the first town receiving the necessary majority being the location for the institution founded in 1901; the next town receiving a majority shall be the seat of the school established in 1902, and the third town to receive a majority shall be the seat of the school established in 1903.

After the tenth ballot the places having the least number of votes may be dropped from the list. A site of not less than forty acres, not less than three-fourths of a mile nor more than two miles from the business portion of the town must be preferred. Each \$25,000 bond for the performance of the contract.

The result of a poll of the house by Stallop, of Sac, makes the future look black for the normal schools bill. Mr. Stallop has been quietly working the matter up for days, and he declares positively the three normal schools bill is beaten in the house.

A bill for a woman reformatory at Anamosa has been introduced in the house by Representative Stewart, of Polk. It has the sanction of the board of control and of the organizations such as the W. C. T. U., which have been opposing having more of the girls' reform school at Mitchellville. The bill is a long one, specifying in detail points regarding the organization and management of the proposed institution. The reformatory shall be in two divisions, the reformatory and a penitentiary section. Both shall be under the management of a woman superintendent to be appointed by the board of control with a salary fixed at \$1,000 per year. The departments are to be kept in separate buildings, the reformatory to occupy the entire building now used as the female department of the penitentiary and the penal department that portion of the criminal insane building now used by female convicts. In the history of the reformatory for the care of such women over 16 years of age as may hereafter be convicted of crimes other than murder or of such girls over 14 years of age as the board of control may see fit to transfer from the girls' industrial school at Mitchellville. The penal department is for the safe keeping of girls and women over 16 who have been convicted of the crime of murder or are for other reasons not eligible to the reformatory division.

The secretary of state says she has received during the month of January from the filing of articles of incorporation exceed those of any previous month in the history of the office. They have at present reached \$8,000 mark. This fund has been swelled by a large fee of \$3,017 paid the C. B. & Q. road in filing articles of incorporation covering the double tracking of its second division. It includes those of the company which will build the double track from Murray, Clarke county, to Creston, and other from Fairfield to Ottumwa. The first has a stock of \$9,000,000 and the second \$1,000,000.

The state board of control appeared before a joint meeting of the ways and means committee of the senate and house on the evening of the 24th and told its story. The members discussed every problem presented with ease, showing a remarkable fund of information, an intimate knowledge of what is being done along similar lines in other states, familiarity with every detail of conduct of institutions, and exhibited a record, in answer, of having bought 75 per cent of the supplies in Iowa, and yet never buying from an Iowa firm if another bid was lower. The session was held in the senate chamber.

Members of the Shiloh battlefield commission, appointed by Governor Jackson in 1896 to mark the ground at the battlefield, occupied by Iowa soldiers, met before the senate committee on appropriations and asked for an appropriation of \$65,000 to erect a monument to Iowa soldiers and to pay the expenses of demarkation of the ground. Commissioners Godfrey, Huston, Hays, Rood and Munroe made speeches favoring the plan proposed.

A great deal of interest is developing over the election of trustees for the three state educational institutions. It is probable that the convention for the election of these officers will be held during the next two weeks. The list of trustees whose terms expire includes four regents of the State University, four trustees of the State Agricultural College and two trustees of the State Normal School to be chosen. The regents of the Agricultural College are chosen from congressional districts. The normal school trustees are chosen from the state at large. All hold office for six years.

AGREEMENT REGARDING CHINA HAS BEEN REACHED IN DES MOINES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—The success of the negotiations instituted by Secretary Hay with a view of insuring the "open door" for American trade in China, may now be regarded as assured. The last phase of the negotiations was the reduction of the arrangements reached informally to the shape of what are known as definite notes. This work has been going on for some weeks, with the result that every one of the powers that participated in the negotiations has returned to the state department the written agreement, with the exception of Japan and Italy. There is not the slightest doubt in these cases, for Japan was one of the first of the nations approached by the United States to welcome our overtures, while Italy voluntarily entered the negotiation without waiting for advances from the United States. The non-receipt of their formal undertakings is believed to be due to a delay in the mails, for intimations have been given to the effect that they have already been dispatched.

HEAVY LOSS AMONG OFFICERS.

LONDON, Jan. 30.—General Buller reports casual loss among officers at Spion Kop. There were twenty-two killed, nineteen wounded and six missing.