The Washington Weekly Post.

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FIGHTING ON HIS LEFT

Roberts Reports One Wing of the Army Engaged.

HIS OWN ADVANCE UNOPPOSED

The British Main Body Marches to the Klip River, and Last Night Camped Eighteen Miles from Johannesburg—Result of the Action Between French and the Boers Not Yet Known—Conditions at Pretoria as Described by Correspondent.

London, May 28—Midnight.—The war office, just before midnight, published the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

"Klip River, Transvaal, May 28—5:25 p. m.—We marched twenty miles to-day, and are now eighteen miles from Johannesburg. The enemy had prepared several positions, where they intended to oppose us, but they abandoned one after the other as we neared them.

"We pressed them so hard that they had only just time to get their five guns into train and to leave this station as some of the West Australian Mounted Infantry dashed into it.

"French's and Ian Hamilton's forces are apperently engaged with the enemy about ten miles to our left, as firing has been heard since noon.

"H. J. Whigham has just returned to Lourenco Marquez from Pretoria, where he went disguised. He wires that Kruger has all the arrangements made for flight, presumably to Holland. A special train, provisioned, is always ready, with steam up. The train waits some distance from Pretoria.

"The farmers near our line of advance are surrendering with their arms and horses.

"Rundle occupied Senekal on May 24. No report of what took place has reached me yet."

General View of the Situation.

London, May 29, 3 a. m.—Lord Roberts is now within a day's march of Johannesburg, and Gen. French and Gen. Ian Hamilton fought the Boers from noon until evening on Monday, with what result is not known here.

The morning papers generally regard the Boer organized resistance as near an end. Predictions are made that the British flag will fly at Johannesburg to-day and at Pretoria Saturday. One view is that Lord Roberts may pass by Johannesburg and move straight on Pretoria.

The Times publishes the following from Newcastle, dated Sunday: "Four hundred Boers are advancing toward Dundee. There is no fear that our communications will be cut."

The burghers in Northern Natal are, according to Gen. Buller's spies, preparing to fall back to the Heidelberg hills. Probably they will not contest Laing's Nek stubbornly. A correspondent with Gen. Buller, wiring from Newcastle yesterday morning, said that Lord Roberts' advance had inspired the Boers with a desire to get back into Transvaal territory. Lord Roberts' latest movement was probably then unknown in the Boer and British camps in Natal. The military critics consider that Lord Roberts is in a position now easily to render Laing's Nek untenable, as he can cut off communications and take the Boers in the rear.

Gen. Buller is remaining quiet. The Boers fired six shells at the British camp from a six-inch gun on Pogwana Mountain.

British Losses at Senekal.

Gen. Rundle was shelling the suburbs of Senekal Saturday. In a skirmish Maj. Dalbiac and four men were killed, and Lieut. Kennard and three troopers were wounded. Several of the British were captured. The Boers disappeared to the northeast of Senekal, and the Grenadiers entered the town at dusk.

Three thousand Boers are reported to be at Jumming Kranz. One correspondent avers that a British patrol, on entering Senekal, was set upon by Boers concealed in a house. Gen. Rundle's prisoners tell the same story. All are tired of the war, and desire peace.

The whole number of belligerent Boers in the eastern part of the Free State, notwithstanding the estimates that place them at anywhere from 3,000 to 9,000, is according to Gen. Rundle's information not more than 1,000.

The war office announces that no further enlistments in the reserve regiments will be accepted after June 1.

In the House of Commons to-day, the government leader, Mr. A. J. Balfour, said he had no information in regard to the reported negotiations for peace with the Transvaal.

Found the Boers Demoralized.

H. J. Whigham, in a dispatch to the Daily Mail, dated May 28, says: "The demoralization of the Transvaal is remarkable. Panic and confusion prevail everywhere. Every one is weary of the war and full of fear as to the coming of the British. Operations were being carried on for encircling Pretoria with telegraphic communications. Fourteen points in the line of defenses were connected with headquarters and with the Staats artillery, but this apparently was the only defensive measure adopted. There were no other visible preparations.

"Not much gold is likely to be found in the treasury. The salaries of the officials and judges have not been paid, or have been paid only in national bank notes, which will be worthless when Lord Roberts arrives. The seat of government will be removed to Waterval Bovan, a small station on the Delagoa Bay Railway line, and then, if necessary, to Lydenburg.

"Both President Steyn and President Kruger complain bitterly of Lord Roberts' unfair tactics, in refusing to meet the Boers in positions chosen by them and in eternally turning them by flank movements.

"Around Johannesburg a few trenches have been dug, but no other steps have been taken for defense. The railway line is blocked with refugees from the west and southwest, who are packed like sardines in trucks.

Food Said to Be Scarce.

"The government is now endeavoring to reassure the public by telling them that the British will not outrage and plunder them, but it is too late. The previous misstatements are bringing their rewards. Food is very scarce, and prices rule high.

"The proposal to release the British prisoners of war is due to this cause. Members of the government and of the Volksraad express approval of the proposal, but President Kruger is violently opposed to it.

"One form of infernal machine which meets with much approval is to be laid under the rails of various lines. A pressure of some tons weight of the engine will cause this to explode with most terrible effect. Many of these machines are being made at the arsenal, and great caution will have to be employed in neutralizing them.

"There has been a decided change in public opinion, which has become quite English. The burghers on command sing "God Save the Queen," and they cannot be stopped. All are sick of warfare. In the towns the rabid anti-Englishism is less rampant. People are thinking of their property. The party eager for surrender is now very influential, and includes the principal leaders at the front. The intelligent public feel that the game is up. False news no longer has any effect, and the lying reports of the newspapers are universally disbelieved. Although the hand of the censor has been very heavy on news of all kinds recently, every one believes the worst.

Scheming for Intervention.

"The government has arranged to continue the agitation against the British occupation of the two republics on the continent of Europe, in Great Britain, and in the United States. Great efforts are to be made in this direction and no expense will be spared. I have excellent reasons for believing that the Bewaarplaatzen rights have been sold to a French syndicate without the sanction of the Volksraad. The government hopes by this means to bring about French intervention for the protection of French rights in the Witwatersrand, and thus to cause England grave difficulties.

"The conduct of United States Consul Hay is admirably discreet, and meets with universal praise alike from Boer and British sympathizers."

Another dispatch from Lourenco Marquez says:

"Passengers arriving at Lourenco Marquez Monday from Pretoria said it was believed there that the British would not be at the capital for a month. Nevertheless there was much unrest and anxiety."

Advices received here assert that supplies continue to go to the Boer front through Lourenco Marquez, and that foreign recruits for the Boer army proceed from the same point.

A dispatch from Mafeking, dated May 23, says the total casualties since the commencement of the siege were 83. Out of 44 officers, 22 were killed, wounded, or missing, and 190 men out of 975 white privates were killed, wounded, or missing.

IN TIME TO SAVE THE MINES.

Lord Roberts Is Expected to Occupy Johannesburg To-day.

SPECIAL CABLEGRAM TO THE POST.
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London, May 29.—The Times war leader contains the following:

"Without being unduly sanguine, we may hope to hear in the course of the next twenty-four hours of our vanguard having actually reached Johannesburg, where its presence will be exceedingly useful if only to put an end to threats of destruction of the mines. It may be noted that, even from his present position, Lord Roberts controls the railway to Natal, since the nearest point cannot be more than nine or ten miles from his headquarters. This fact will unquestionably exercise a great influence over the Boers now fortifying the position at Laing's Nek.

"Parliament adjourned last night for the Whitsuntide holidays, which will last until June 14. If any light was expected on the question of dissolution none was obtained, nor did the debate in the Commons turn, as might, perhaps, have been expected, upon considerations of that kind. It is obvious that the elements of judgment upon the expediency of any given course must vary with the news from South Africa, and with Lord Roberts making history with such rapidity, another fortnight may place us in possession of information much more definite than we have this moment."

HELD UP BY THE OFFICIALS

Complaints Against Paris Commission Reach This City.

The Matter Will Be Brought to the Attention of the State Department To-day, with Specific Charges from Would-be Exhibitors.

The State Department will to-day be asked to investigate some serious charges which have been sent to this city regarding the conduct of American officials connected with the Paris Exposition.

In view of the fact that no opportunity is afforded here for an investigation of these charges, the names of those who make the complaint, the Congressman to whose attention the matter has been brought, and the names of the officials concerned will not be made public. It can be stated, however, that the character of the complainants is vouched for in the highest terms, and that the charges are accompanied with many interesting details.

Briefly summarized, the main charge is that certain officials of the American department of the Paris Exposition are allotting space to the highest bidders, and are applying this extra money to their personal use. The complaint is made in these words:

"The French government gives the space free of cost to foreign exhibitors, but some of the representatives of our government, having supervision of United States sections, make the exhibitor pay whatever can be extorted from him ($150 and upward) before he is allowed to exhibit. As there are 7,000 exhibitors and over, the field for operation is enormous. Some of the exhibitors refuse to be held up, while others submit for fear of being compelled to remove their exhibits. The work of extortion is largely done through a third person. An acquaintance of mine, who secured his space nearly two years ago and has his exhibit installed, and for which the government of the United States has not expended one cent in the way of decorating either space or section, is threatened daily with removal unless he pays this third party $150. This third party is the spokesman of the official in charge of the section.

"I applied for a small space for a Chicago firm to place a show case occupying a floor space of seven square feet. I could have secured the space at once if I had agreed to being held up by the third party. The first proposition was that I should pay a bonus of $325, but this was dropped to $200, which was stated to be the ultimatum. I refused to accept the space and removed the goods to London, writing to the official that I objected to being held up by my own American people. He never replied, and I do not think the letter will appear in the file of official correspondence. In another section a space 6x6 feet was held at $00 as late as May 14, a month after the exposition opened."

The complainant in this case adds that he believes it the duty of Congress or of the State Department to act in a manner which will remedy these evils and relieve the officials of the American branch of the exposition from the criticism which is now current in Paris.

Not Authorized to Visit Lord Roberts.

If United States Consul General Stowe leaves Cape Town to visit Lord Roberts' headquarters, as is reported, he will do so in an unofficial capacity. It is said at the State Department that he has not applied for permission to make such a visit, nor has any instruction on that point been sent to him, so that his visit will be purely personal. The consul general is making ready to send his family to the United States.

Passage of the Alaska Bill.

The House yesterday resumed the consideration of those portions of the Alaskan civil government bill which had been passed over last week. The bill was completed and passed.

PROBING FOR FRAUDS

Treasury and Customs Accounts Under Scrutiny.

EXPERTS MAKE GUARDED REPORT

They Tell Gen. Wood that the Bookkeeping Is Above Reproach, and They Believe that Everything, So Far as They Have Gone, Is Satisfactory—Gen. Bristow Reducing Expenses in the Postal Service—Reeves to Be Put in Jail.

Havan, May 28.—Gen. Wood received today a report from the auditors who have been investigating the treasury and the customs departments. The auditors say they have not finished their work, but believe that everything, so far as they have gone, is satisfactory. At all events, the method of keeping the books is perfect, and does not present any difficulty to the examiner. The auditors are not Havana employes, but have been brought especially from the United States, because of their records as experts. Although the investigation has not been completed, much gratification is felt by the officials at the provisional report.

It is now believed that scandal does not touch any other branch of the service than the postal.

At the Cuban clubs, however, they say that the postal frauds alone "settle the question of American occupation," contending that this must cease as soon as the military are withdrawn, because, as the Cubans put it, "the only civil department not under military supervision turns out to be a gigantic fraud." The argument is that the Americans will not attempt, after these revelations, to impose civil government upon Cuba.

Bristow's Investigation.

The postal department investigation is proceeding. Reeves, as soon as his services are no longer required, will be removed to jail or placed under ball. This may take place almost immediately.

Acting Director General Bristow is still endeavoring to reduce expenses in the postal department. To-day he issued an order cutting down salaries in the Havana local office, the pay of the postmaster being reduced from $4,500 to $3,600, that of his assistant from $2,000 to $1,800, and that of ten other employes by amounts ranging from $200 to $400. Mr. Bristow says he is fixing the salaries at figures slightly above those paid in the United States because of the abnormal conditions existing here.

Seven clerkships have also been abolished, making a reduction of another $6,500. In the order Mr. Bristow says that additional reductions can be made in the local office without detriment.

The printers Ruis have been called upon by Mr. Bristow to explain their connection with the postal department, as many of their contracts are suspiciously low, and the firm is charged with getting paper cheap from Neely, who did not have to pay duty on paper, as he brought it in for the ostensible use of the department.

Professors Lose Sinecures.

The recent decree of Gen. Wood ordering professors in the University of Havana who are without pupils to cease to hold their positions had the effect of causing many to lose sinecures. In one branch of the university there were eleven professors, whose compensation aggregated $40,000, teaching only nine pupils.

Gen. Wood has ordered the secret police to be placed under the direction of Capt. Pitcher.

Mgr. Sbarretti, bishop of Havana, to-day protested to Gen. Wood against the confiscation of church property by a number of municipalities. Gen. Wood replied that this was a matter for the courts to decide, and that he did not feel he had a right to make a military order on an ex parte statement.

NEELY HEARING GOES OVER.

Waiting the Decision of Gov. Roosevelt as to Granting Extradition Papers.

New York, May 28.—The arraignment of Charles F. W. Neely, which was to have been made before Commissioner Shields, in the United States District Court, today, on the criminal charges pending against him in connection with the Cuban postal frauds, was adjourned until June 5. The adjournment was taken to await the decision of Gov. Roosevelt in regard to the power of the State of New York to issue extradition papers against Neely.

ANOTHER COTTON FAILURE.

Seymour, Johnson & Co. Bankrupted by Recent Operations.

New York, May 28.—The failure of Seymour, Johnson & Co., was announced on the New York Stock and Cotton Exchanges to-day. The firm was organized in March, 1899. Its members were Frederick W. Johnson, Henry A. Seymour, and David Webster. Alfred Hays, jr., is the assignee.

It is said that the troubles of the firm are due to commitments in the cotton market. They had been long of cotton, but turned to the short side two weeks ago. In the stock market they have been bears.

Rumors of financial trouble regarding the firm, which were circulated at the time of the Price, McCormick & Co. failure precipitated the suspension. Transactions for the account of the failed firm under the rule in the Stock Exchange amounted to about 8,000 shares in the course of half an hour after the failure was announced.

It was stated that the firm's outstanding contracts on the Cotton Exchange are small, and that these are well margined.

The failure did not come as a total surprise to the cotton trade and caught very few houses with claims against that concern. The house had just taken over the wire service abandoned by Price, McCormick & Co. While the firm was reported to have made large profits on the break in cotton which wrecked Price, McCormick & Co., it was said to have been caught heavily short on the recent rally of 25 points. Cotton houses were careful to keep all accounts thoroughly margined, which explains the comparative indifference with which the failure was received.

Special Partner Webster's interest is said to have been $200,000, and the firm's capitalization was something like $500,000.

Baltimore, May 28.—Henry Prag, Aaron Prag, and Moses Prag, co-partners, trading as H. Prag & Brothers and as individuals, applied to the United States District Court to-day for the benefit of the insolvency laws. The liabilities are listed at $37,797.34, while the assets are stated to be $11,527.69. The firm has been in the German produce business for twenty-five years. The failure is attributed to general decline of the business in recent years.

Mrs. Jefferson Davis Not Ill.

New York, May 28.—At the Gerard Hotel to-night it was said that Mrs. Jefferson Davis, who was reported as being sick, was very well, and was receiving callers. No other information could be obtained.

Congressman Showalter Renominated.

Newcastle, Pa., May 28.—J. B. Showalter was to-day renominated for Congress by the Republicans in the Twenty-fifth District, the deadlock being broken on the ninety-ninth ballot.

ARBITRATE ST. LOUIS STRIKE.

Labor Commissioner and Business Men Act—Car Dynamited.

St. Louis, May 28.—State Labor Commissioner Rixey has sent letters to President Whitaker, of the St. Louis Transit Company, and Chairman Edwards, of the strikers' grievance committee, requesting each to appoint two arbitrators to act with himself, as chairman of a board, to settle the present strike. This is done in compliance with the State law. The labor commissioner stated in his letter that if the request was not complied with in twenty-four hours, he would make the appointments himself, as the law provides.

A meeting attended by the presidents of mercantile organizations and clubs and representatives of the daily newspapers of St. Louis was held this afternoon to discuss the strike situation. This meeting appointed a committee of seven to call upon the St. Louis Transit Company and the strikers' committee and ascertain whether both sides are willing to submit their differences to a board of arbitration.

A car on the Bellefontaine line of the Transit Company was partly wrecked by an explosion of dynamite placed on the tracks by unknown parties at Newhouse avenue and Twentieth street this evening. Officers Stellaine and O'Keefe, who were detailed to protect the car, were seriously injured, Officer O'Keefe sustaining a fracture of the right leg above the knee and Officer Stellaine being badly bruised and shaken up. The wheel which came in contact with the explosive was shattered. The car lurched and then fell, untrucked, to the ground. The occupants were all hurled against the platform of the car, but the passengers and crew escaped injury.

COUNT BONI'S COUP FAILS

French Ministry Emerge Victorious from the Dreyfus Affair.

Chamber of Deputies the Scene of the Most Uproarious Proceedings in Its History — Government Sustained by a Majority of 41.

Paris, May 28.—There was a crowded attendance in the Chamber of Deputies today in anticipation of an important session arising from Count Boni de Castellane's interpellation taking the government to task for its relations with M. Reinach. The chamber decided upon an immediate discussion of the matter, whereupon the minister of war, the Marquis de Gallifet, rose and repeated his declarations of last Friday regarding the Fritsch affair. He said he hoped the army would not listen to those who preached insubordination and would not allow itself to be imposed on by an adventurer, as was the case fifteen years ago.

This denunciation of Boulangerism brought forth ringing cheers from the Socialists and vehement protests from the Nationalists.

Count Boni de Castellane followed. He asked the premier, M. Waldeck-Rousseau, what measures he intended to take against M. Reinach for the insinuation which he had made that the government had agreed that the Dreyfus affair should be revived after the exposition, provided the Dreyfusards maintained a truce during that period.

M. de Castellane intimated that the action of Tomps, the detective, was part of this arrangement, because, he added, Tomps could hardly have gone abroad and made money propositions to spy without Waldeck-Rousseau knowing it.

M. Waldeck-Rousseau replied to M. De Castellane, denying there was any agreement with M. Reinach, whose words, he asserted, were entirely contrary to the sentiments of the cabinet.

A dreadful uproar, which led to the suspension of the session, was provoked by the following declaration of the premier when repudiating the charge that he had engineered the efforts to revive the Dreyfus affair:

"The spying was not done at the ministry of the interior, but at the second bureau of the war office, and against the detective service, in order to establish against Tomps the basest accusation. They waited for a moment to produce the documents and to make their coup de theater. These documents were divulged by the felony of an officer."

A perfect pandemonium followed. Members of the opposition rose and hurled invectives and denunciations at the head of the premier.

In the midst of the din Gen. de Gallifet rose and picked up his portfolio and left the hall.

The Nationalists interpreted his action as a protest against the warmth of the premier's allusion to the war office, and redoubled their fulminations against M. Waldeck-Rousseau. Some of the most violent threatened to strike him, but the ushers barred the way.

Finally one of the most disorderly scenes ever witnessed in the chamber was ended by M. Deschanel putting his hat on, thereby suspending the session.

During the suspension there were rumors of the resignation of Gen. de Gallifet, to which color was lent by the hasty visit of M. Delcasse and M. Monis to Gen. de Gallifet. Subsequently, M. Delcasse again conferred with Gen. de Gallifet, and, according to reports, succeeded in inducing him to abandon the idea of resigning, on the understanding that the premier would withdraw what Gen. de Gallifet considered a reflection upon the army.

In view of these reports the resumption of the session was awaited with feverish interest. When the doors were reopened, the deputies and public flocked into the hall, and it was immediately remarked that Gen. de Gallifet was absent.

M. Waldeck-Rousseau ascended the tribune, and his first words tended to confirm the lobby reports, as he immediately made an apologetic explanation of his previous remarks.

An extreme Socialist motion urging a strong labor, Socialist and revolutionary policy in order to arrest reactionary plots was then put to vote and rejected by 43 to 3 votes. A motion implying censure upon the government on the acts of Detective Tomps was also rejected by 291 votes against 246.

Then the first part of the motion of M. Bougeois "approving the acts of the government"—was adopted by 288 votes against 247, and the second portion was passed unanimously.

The session was then adjourned until Thursday next, and the chamber emptied amid ministerial shouts of "Vive la republique." The Waldeck-Rousseau cabinet thus emerged victorious from the most vigorous assault yet delivered against it.

Changes in Norfolk and Western Directory.

New York, May 28.—It was published today in Wall street that at a meeting of the Norfolk and Western Railroad directors to be held on June 6, three and possibly four members of the board would resign. Their places will be taken, it is said, by Vice Presidents Prevost, Pugh, and Rea, of the Pennsylvania Railroad. There is also some talk of electing James McCrea, first vice president of the Pennsylvania lines west of Pittsburg, a member of the Norfolk and Western board.

Fatal Row Over Pretty Italian Girl.

New London, Conn., May 28.—Rafael Rion, an Italian, twenty-two years old, was shot and killed in a row in Mrs. Zucardy's boarding-house here early this morning, and Frank Debiace was stabbed a dozen times with a stiletto, and may die as the result of his injuries. The cause of the trouble is said to have been Catharine Zucardy, an attractive young woman, about twenty years old, with whom Rion had been keeping company.

FINE VIEW OF ECLIPSE

Scientists Jubilant Over Result of Observations.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CORONA

Government Astronomers at Barnesville, Griffin, and Pinehurst, in the South, and in North Africa, Report More Complete and Satisfactory Observations Than Ever Before Known—Similarly Successful Results Obtained at Many Other Points.

Atlanta, Ga., May 28.—In every section of the Southeastern States to-day over which the belt of totality of the sun's eclipse extended the weather was ideal for the observation of this remarkable phenomenon.

In the southern portion of Alabama there was some haziness, but other than this the astronomers and scientists who located their observatories in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Louisiana report that the weather could not have been more auspicious for the study of the sun's eclipse, and to secure splendid photographs of the details attending the passage of the great orbs.

From the many stations of observation established by universities and scientific and private parties the reports indicate that the taking of scientific data was entirely successful, and no incidents occurred to mar in the smallest degree the full benefits that were expected to be derived from the event by the scientists, many of whom made long journeys to view the eclipse for eighty-five seconds.

The two most notable features of the day was the discovery by Prof. Lord, of the Ohio State University, who believes he obtained results that tend to prove that the mysterious matter which forms the corona is to be found also in the solar prominences and the existence of protuberance on the sun as reported by Prof. Pickering, of Harvard.

From the standpoint of grandeur the spectacle was awe-inspiring. The movements of the heavenly bodies were rapid. Not over five seconds elapsed from the time of first contact until the great shadow was seen sweeping over the earth from the southwest. Just as the moon covered the face of the sun, Mercury came into prominence. What constitutes the gaseous element surrounding the sun, however, has not been determined, and if any astronomer has solved this problem, he has not committed himself to-night.

Prof. Updegraff's Statement.

The United States Naval Observatory achieved splendid success at both Barnesville and Griffin. Following is a part of the statement given out by Prof. Updegraff, who directed the work at the government station at Barnesville:

"The weather was very favorable, and the conditions under which observations were made were good. Our programme was carried out without interruption, without accident or delay. We secured twenty photographs on the five cameras mounted on the polar axis, and four photographs with the large photo-heliograph. The transparency of the sky was good, and the steadiness of the air was excellent, in fact, it was unusually good. We feel as far as we can tell at this time that the observations were entirely successful."

The work of Prof. H. C. Lord, of the State University of Ohio, in which considerable interest has been centered, was successfully carried out. In his spectroscopic observations and visual work he believes he has obtained results that tend to prove that the mysterious matter which forms the corona is to be found also in the solar prominences, a fact hitherto unknown and regarded as of great importance by the astronomers.

At the stations of the Philadelphia High School and University of Pennsylvania exhibition of the work was attended with very gratifying results.

The accuracy of the results at Griffin will not be known for some time, as the photograph plates will not be developed at present. A few minutes before totality one of these clouds drifted across the sun's face and cut off a good portion of the light. It is a disputed question as to whether there was any haze before the sun during the totality.

Sought by the Scientists.

While great interest attached to the eclipse itself, the object of the astronomers composing the "eclipse expeditions" from all parts of the country was not alone to observe the passing of the moon before the sun, but the study of the corona.

This particular branch of the many phenomena generally attending an eclipse has always been an unsolvable problem. It is the belief of many astronomers that the corona is a product of the sun and has nothing to do with the earth or moon, as formerly suspected. Two spectra, one of bright lines and the other continuous, have been revealed at former eclipses. Hydrogen gas has been indicated and an element called helium, recently detected in the volcanic rocks on the earth, has been seen. Of whatever substances the corona may be composed, and whatever may be the true nature of its physical and chemical constitution, it is certain that it is of extreme tenuity. So rare is it that comets, in their swift flight around the sun, have been known to pass through it without sensible resistance.

Surrounding the sun is a gaseous substance termed by astronomers the "chromosphere." It is believed to be from five to ten thousand miles deep. Projecting through this chromosphere are observed with total eclipses the shoots, or limbs, which rise often to a height of 100,000 miles with amazing rapidity. To the accurate observation of this paramount feature of the eclipse, every appliance of the instrument-makers' art, combined with the astronomer's knowledge, was directed with the hope of reaching a solution of this phenomenon. Generally speaking, the observations taken by the astronomers to-day were confined to the stupendous grandeur of the phenomenon.

Observations Taken in a Balloon.

New York, May 28.—William A. Eddy, kite flyer, took observations of the condition of the air at the time of the eclipse to-day in Bayonne, N. J. Mr. Eddy says the moon's shadow decreased the electricity in the air, increased the moisture of humidity, and lowered the temperature three degrees. It also increased the wind velocity from ten to forty miles an hour aloft. Immediately after the eclipse the wind declined to about fifteen miles an hour.

CLEAR SKY AT BARNESVILLE.

Data of the Greatest Scientific Value Believed to Have Been Secured.

Barnesville, Ga., May 28.—Amid perfect arrangement of detail, with good weather conditions, and with no hindrances or defects to prevent success, the varying phases of the solar eclipse were observed by the government astronomers at the United States observing station here to-day. The photographic work was unusually successful. Five cameras made twenty exposures, all of which are believed to be good, the large photo-heliograph producing three perfect negatives and one flash negative just as totality ended.

Prof. Milton Updegraff, director of the station, gave the following statement:

"The work of Prof. H. C. Lord, of the Ohio State University, which was of a most intricate and delicate nature, was successfully accomplished, and the results of our observations have more than exceeded our most sanguine expectations."

At the expected minute the corona flashed out in double fan-like form of great beauty. Several solar prominences were distinctly observed on both the following and advancing limb. Those on the approaching limb, however, were more distinct and continuous. The corona extended about half a degree from the sun's limb in the direction of the eclipse, with streamers plainly visible.

Prof. Otis Ashmore, of the Naval Observatory party, describes the eclipse as follows:

"The great total eclipse of the sun passed off to-day on schedule time under the most favorable conditions, and the hearts of the astronomers are happy with the hope that the results will prove a great contribution to astronomical science.

"The first contact was observed by Prof. Hill, of the Naval Observatory, and Ashmore, of Savannah. In both instruments the contact was sharp and distinct, and both observers were in close accord with each other and with the computed time.

"Within half an hour after the first contact the landscape began to take on a peculiar, gloomy appearance, and a slight chilliness was noticeable. As the time of totality approached every observer was in position, and nothing but the measured beats of the electric sounder marking off time in unison with the great Observatory clock in Washington could be heard. Every eye was directed to that position of the sun's limb where the contact was to appear.

"Suddenly the black ragged edge of the moon obtruded itself upon the bright disk of the sun, gradually stealing across its surface, and the eclipse was on. For the next hour but little observation was made or needed. During this time, however, the observing party went through another drill to get ready for the supreme moments of totality.

"Over on a high hill, one mile to the north, an observer was stationed to announce the coming shadow from the southwest. The horizon was clear for many miles, and soon the black wall of the on-rushing umbra was seen approaching with the velocity of a cannon ball. In a few seconds it overwhelmed our station and the total phase was upon us. Instantly from all sides of the sun there flashed a beautiful corona of a wonderful pearly lustre, extending itself on opposite sides of the sun in the shape of a double fan. It was just such a corona as I had expected.

"The solar prominences were plainly visible, and especially were they marked in extent on the western limb. I saw but few polar streamers, but these were distinct.

"In the brief space of eighty-three seconds twenty photographs were obtained on the solar axes and four in the photo-heliograph. I succeeded in getting a good crayon sketch of the corona and prominences by special arrangement with Dr. Aiken, of Savannah, and Prof. Chappell, of Milledgeville. The shadow bands were carefully observed, and Dr. Aiken, in his own skillful way, photographed them, but it is not yet known that this was successful. If so, Dr. Aiken will have the distinguished honor of being the first to succeed in this delicate work.

"Soon the flash of the sun as it reappeared announced the end of totality, and the corona disappeared as suddenly as it came into view. For an hour or more the moon slowly crawled off the disc of the sun without special incident. Many amateur photographers took snap shots at the corona, and it is to be hoped with some success. The whole phenomenon was most beautiful and most impressive.

"Some of the photographs will be developed here, but most of them will be taken to Washington for more careful manipulation. The observing party will leave for Washington in a few days."

VIEWED BY THE PRESIDENT

Officials and Scientists from This City at Newport News.

Tragic Incident of the Weird Hour—Body of Drowned Man Thrown Up by the Sea in the Shadows—Women Are Made Hysterical.

Special to The Post.

Newport News, Va., May 28.—Thousands of people from various parts of the country flocked to the Virginia peninsula to witness the eclipse. Scientists, members of the faculties, half a score of institutions of learning, fellows of the National Geographic Society, and representatives of the Smithsonian Institute touched elbows with statesmen, tourists, and sightseers on the piers and other points of vantage looking out upon the waters of Hampton Roads and Chesapeake Bay.

The eclipse was witnessed by a distinguished assemblage. President McKinley view the impressive spectacle from the deck of the dispatch-boat Dolphin, off Lambert's Point. The period of totality had scarcely passed before the Dolphin steamed out of the Roads, past Old Point, en route to Washington. As the trim little vessel passed the battle-ship Kearsarge, anchored in the Roads, the big fighter fired the Presidential salute of twenty-one guns. The Dolphin seemed to pause a minute or two, then passed swiftly on.

Hon. Harry Libby was the guest of a party of Congressmen at the Chamberlin. Among the party were Speaker of the House Henderson, Congressman Howell, of New Jersey; Congressman Stuart, of New York; Congressman Clark, of New Hampshire; Mrs. Howell, and Miss Overstreet, of Indiana. This party observed the eclipse from the Chamberlin Hotel.

Secretary Gage's party viewed the eclipse from the deck of the light-house tender Holly, and later left for Washington. A number of prominent Mystic Shriners, returning home from the conclave at Washington, came down to witness the eclipse.

Just before the period of totality a tragic incident occurred, which came very near throwing a number of ladies into hysterics. As the shadows were growing darker and darker, a huge wave cast up the dead body of a man in front of the veranda of the Hygeia Hotel. The ladies near the point screamed, and even their escorts blanched and beat a hasty retreat. After the period of totality was past, an investigation was made. The body proved to be that of George McGhone, a colored oysterman, who was drowned while crabbing last Thursday. The weird and uncanny conditions existing when his corpse was cast up by the sea made a powerful and vivid impression upon those who witnessed it.

Norfolk, Va., May 28.—On the roof of the Weather Bureau building, besides a number of local people, were a large party of scientists from Hartford, Conn.—the Hartford Scientific Society—and the following from the United States Weather Bureau: Prof. Willis L. Moore, Chief of the Bureau; S. L. Mosby and Charles Fitzhugh Talman, all of Washington; J. J. Gray, observer in charge; J. W. Cronk and J. F. Newsone, of the Norfolk weather station; Prof. Henry and Mr. Clarvet, of the bureau at Washington, were at Cape Henry.

Mr. Herbert L. Rice, of the Naval Observatory, Washington; Prof. D. C. Humphreys, of Washington and Lee University, and Prof. Ragland, of Randolph-Macon College, Virginia, were also among those on the building. The National Geographic Society, some 250 in the party, arrived here this morning on the Washington steamer, and viewed the eclipse from the deck of the steamer, which took a good position at the navy yard for the purpose.

RISING OF THE BOXERS

Increased Excitement Caused by Their Depredations.

MARCHING TOWARD THE CAPITAL

Reports that the Fanatics Are Wrecking the Railroad and Murdering Employes as They Proceed—Diplomatic Corps Certain to Ask that Troops Be Sent to Pekin—The Flagship Newark at Taku, Prepared to Land a Party of Marines.

SPECIAL CABLEGRAM TO THE POST.
(Copyright, 1900, by Chicago Tribune Company.)

London, May 29.—A Pekin special to the Times says:

"There is much excitement in Pekin, and alarming reports reach us of the destruction of railway property between Pekin and Paotingfu by the 'Boxers.' Refugees in large numbers are arriving at Pekin.

"'All the legations regard the position as one of increasing gravity."

(By the Associated Press).

Pekin, May 28.—The diplomatic corps is now in session, considering the situation caused by the "Boxers." The foreign guards will certainly be brought here. The position of affairs is alarming. Railway communication with Tien Tsin is interrupted.

Tien-Tsin, May 28, via Shanghai, May 29.—It is reported that while retreating several Belgians and their families were cut off at Chang-Hsin-Tein, ten kilometers from Feng-Tale. They are now defending themselves on a hill. No Peking trains are running. The Boxers are now burning Feng-Tale. It is reported that the safety of the Belgian engineers is doubtful. Several missionaries have been cut off at Pao-Ting-Fu.

The "Boxers" burned the Liulino station, on the Luhan Railway, twenty-nine miles from Peking, last night. They also wrecked the track, destroyed a number of cars, and murdered several Chinese employes. The "Boxers" are marching on toward Peking.

Train service between Peking and Tien-Tsin has been suspended since noon today.

The United States cruiser Newark and a French man-of-war have arrived at Taku.

A cablegram received at the Navy Department yesterday stated that the Newark has been assigned to act as flagship of the senior squadron commander, and that vessel sailed from Nagasaki last Saturday and arrived at the Taku Forts Sunday. Rear Admiral Kempff is the senior squadron officer described in the dispatch, and his visit to Teku, the nearest point to Pekin attainable for large vessels, has attracted much attention. It is understood that there is already a formidable fleet of European warships gathered at Taku.

While prepared to act concurrently with though independently of the European powers in the protection of the life and property of foreigners in China, Admiral Kempff has not at present any intention of making a hostile demonstration in the Pei-Ho River. It is more probable that he is at Taku solely with the purpose of getting as near as possible to Minister Conger and the American legation at Peking and it may be that he is simply placing himself in readiness to rapidly dispatch a marine force from his ship to Peking to guard the American legation, just as it was protected two years ago when riotous conditions prevailed near the Chinese capital.

Mr. Wu Ting-Fang, the Chinese Minister, called at the State Department yesterday and had a long conference with Acting Secretary Hill, but neither of the parties would make any statement as to what was talked about.

GOV. ALLEN'S DILEMMA.

Porto Rico Virtually Without a Government—Non-Action at Washington.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

San Juan, May 21.—Charles H. Allen, governor of Porto Rico, is really governor only in name. According to the provisions of the Porto Rico government bill, he has no power to act without the executive council, and he has no council. The position he holds is unique. His desk is heaped daily with petitions, complaints, suggestions, some criticising and some commending. He can do nothing, and yet he is governor. Delegations of country people march from an interior town, perhaps twenty miles away. They bring a petition to the civil governor, as they formerly brought to Gen. Davis, the military governor. Some demand work, others bread; all tell a tale of starvation. It cannot be expected that the governor receives these people personally. His private secretary attends to them, and they are turned away diplomatically.

Since May 1 the people of Porto Rico have been waiting expectantly the president's appointment. The treasurer, the auditor, and, at last, the secretary of state are accounted for. The other appointments are not made, and the general supposition is that they will not be made until Gov. Allen returns to consult with the President.

Post-office Inspector Sinclair and his assistants have taken over the former department of posts. They are examining the books, and up to this writing have reported no irregularities.

Judge William H. Hunt, the newly appointed secretary of state for Porto Rico, has arrived in Washington from Montana, and has been making arrangements to reach his post. Gov. Allen is anxious to make a flying visit to the United States on personal business but cannot leave the island until the secretary of state arrives to take up temporarily the duties of governor. Judge Hunt finds that the earliest date at which he can sail from New York will be next Saturday.

DARKNESS CRAZED NERGOES.

One Woman Dies in Richmond from Fright—Old War Signal Flies Again.

Special to The Post.

Richmond, Va., May 28.—The eclipse was attended by fatal results in this city. Emma Hill, a colored woman, became violently excited as the sun began to darken, and as the shadow moved across the orb her excitement increased, and terminated in an apoplectic stroke. She never spoke thereafter, and died to-night. A number of persons were made sick through fright.

From all parts of Virginia come reports of negroes terrified by the strangeness and to them miraculous nature of the spectacle. In some localities prayer and praise meetings were held, and in others dumb, frantic terror led the more ignorant to throw down their tools and flee, they knew not whither.

Raleigh, N. C., May 28.—The conditions for observing the eclipse here were very favorable. Lieut. George C. Round, who was in 1865 Gen. Sherman's signal officer here, was alone on the top of the dome of the capitol.

A few minutes after totality ended, Lieut. Round, using the same flags as in 1865, duplicated the message he then gave Sherman's army: "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

United States Laws in Porto Rico.

A letter from the governor general of Porto Rico suggesting the publication in Spanish of the United States laws relating to Porto Rico was yesterday transmitted to Congress by the Secretary of State.

"Catch the opportunity." By taking Hood's Sarsaparilla now you may build up your health and prevent serious illness. (3)