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MACRUM TESTIFIES.

TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

A LETTER FROM SECRETARY HAY

He Repeats the Charge of Letters Opened and Cables Sent by British Censor in Possession of Our Cable Cipher—Official Notice to State Department of British Apology for Opening Letters to Consular Agent Stowe—The Boer Request for Intervention.

Washington, March 28.—Charles E. Macrum, of East Liverpool, Ohio, the American ex-consul at Pretoria, appeared before the house foreign affairs committee today and told of the alleged indignities he suffered at the hands of the British during his incumbency.

He was asked by Chairman Hitt to make such statement as he saw fit regarding the opening of his mail by the British censor. He explained that when he asked for a leave of absence he desired to come home for private business reasons and also because he desired to place before the United States government certain facts which he deemed it essential should be known here. He understood, he said, that the British had possession of our cable cipher. He was not certain of this, but he had since had information which convinced him that his suspicions were correct.

He also desired information as to his course when the settlement came at the end of the war. Further, he had a petition from some American residents in the Transvaal asking that the United States maintain absolute neutrality, which he wanted to present to the state department. The petition he read to the committee. It was signed by Gordon, the consular agent at Johannesburg.

Asked as to when he was first satisfied that his mail was being tampered with he said that war was declared October 12th. He did not receive any mail between that date and the second week in November. Ordinarily he had a box of mail every week.

"Did other people receive mail during that period?" asked Mr. Williams, of Mississippi.

"Not that I know of," replied Mr. Macrum.

Pressed for specific information as to how he got the intimation that the British were opening and delaying his mail he replied that when his mail did not arrive he telegraphed our consul at Lourenço Marques requesting him to inquire of Cape Town why it was being delayed. The consul at Lourenço Marques replied that he also had had no mail.

Mr. Macrum said the delay of his mail created a conviction in his mind that the British authorities were responsible. The first actual evidence he had was the receipt of two opened letters. He produced the envelopes which he said contained those letters. One was from a private citizen addressed to the United States consul at Pretoria and the other was to him by name from Consul Stowe, at Cape Town.

Mr. William Alden Smith, of Michigan, interrogated the witness sharply on the reasons for stating his belief that the British authorities had possession of the state department's cipher.

Mr. Macrum said he could not affirm that fact from actual knowledge, but there were certain facts which convinced him that such was the case. He explained that on November 6th he had cabled the state department in cipher asking for a leave of absence. That message had gone through Durban. The next day, November 7th, he said he had been informed a newspaper at Durban printed the fact that he had asked for leave of absence.

Mr. Smith was proceeding to interrogate Mr. Macrum as to the character of the code used by him in this dispatch, especially as to whether he had used what was known as the Slater code, a common code purchasable anywhere.

Mr. Hitt thought it improper to touch the matter of the codes employed by the government, but it was finally agreed that no harm could come from a direct reply as to whether the Slater code was used.

"The message," said Mr. Macrum, "was sent in the Slater code, the cipher of the Slater code."

"And you claim the substance of that dispatch was made public?" asked Mr. Smith.

"I do not know."

"Where?"

"In Natal."

"Was it an accurate publication?"

"I do not know."

Mr. Macrum said he had never seen the publication. He had only been informed that the fact that he had asked leave of absence had been printed. He affirmed that no one knew of this fact save himself.

At this point, Mr. Howard, of Georgia, interposed to question the utility of the examination of Mr. Macrum. "It looks to me," said he, "like an effort to concoct a sensation out of nothing."

But the committee decided to proceed and in reply to some questions from Mr. Burleson, Mr. Macrum stated that he had been granted leave of absence by Secretary Hay on November 15th. He read to the committee a message from the cable company, saying a cipher cable sent by him to the secretary of state, November 14th had been held up by the military censor until December 2nd. Asked if other censors had suffered any inconvenience in the matter of communicating with their home governments, Mr. Macrum said they had. The Belgian and German consuls both told him that no cipher telegrams were allowed to go through.

"Did you report to the state department that your mail had been opened?" asked Mr. Berry, of Kentucky.

"I did not."

"Did you mention it upon your arrival in Washington?"

"I did not."

"Why?"

"I would prefer not to answer that question." This reply raised a general laugh in the committee room.

Mr. Adams, of Pennsylvania, then proceeded to cross question Mr. Macrum severely upon the duty of a consul to remain at his post during complications.

Mr. Macrum proceeded to describe an alleged meeting between President Steyn, of the Orange Free State, and Consul Stowe, of Cape Town, at which he was present, in which he said Steyn was very anxious that Stowe should do something to settle the difficulty which was brewing. He said that President Steyn suggested an appeal to the President of the United States and that Mr. Stowe had replied that he would be glad if some such thing could be done. "And I have reason to believe that the question was submitted to the president of the United States," added Mr. Macrum, "and that he returned an unfavorable reply."

"What makes you say that?" inquired Mr. Hitt.

"I was told so by Colonel Stowe."

"Was that statement in writing?"

"It was."

"Have you the letter?"

"No, it is in the files of the Pretoria consulate."

After further questioning Mr. Macrum said he might have a copy of the letter; he could not say positively. Subsequently he said he thought he could produce it in a short time.

Mr. Macrum went over the exchange of telegrams with the state department relative to his leave. But as these were in the cipher of the department the committee did not call for them. He stated that his reason for not making a report to the state department on the conditions in South Africa was that when he called on Assistant Secretary Hill, he said to Mr. Hill that he understood he had been relieved. Mr. Hill responded that this was true. Under such circumstances, Mr. Macrum said, he had no report to make to the department. He endeavored, however, to see the secretary of state, but was told that Mr. Hay was out.

After hearing Mr. Macrum, the committee went into executive session. Chairman Hitt presented a letter from Secretary Hay, giving in detail the department's view of the subject and this was subsequently made public. The committee took no action as to making a report and it was stated by members that there was nothing to be done beyond taking the testimony.

Secretary Hay's letter giving the official view of the case is as follows in part:

"Washington, March 24, 1900.

"Hon. R. R. Hitt, Chairman Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives:

"Sir: In response to your inquiry of this morning, I have the honor to report that up to this date, Mr. Macrum, late consul of the United States at Pretoria, has made no representations to this department in regard to the opening of his mail by the British authorities. Although without any information except the allegations of Mr. Macrum, to which a reference was made in a resolution of the house of representatives, making certain inquiries of this department, I mentioned the matter to the British ambassador, who made inquiry in regard to it of the British government and was informed in return that the British government was not aware of any such thing, and that the sort had occurred, it was contrary to the instructions of that government."

"I received no further information in regard to the matter until the 21st of this month, when the British ambassador informed by a dispatch from Mr. J. G. Stowe, consul general of the United States at Cape Town, that two letters from this consulate, one to Pretoria and one to Lourenço Marques, were opened by the British authorities. He also informed me that the British government was not aware of any such thing, and that the sort had occurred, it was contrary to the instructions of that government."

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TO BEGIN NEW CAMPAIGN

ROBERTS' ADVANCE ON PRETORIA TO COMMENCE IN A FEW DAYS.

LABORIOUS TASK BEFORE HIM,

One Hundred and Thirty Miles to be Traversed Before the Boer Position is Reached—An Immense Army Assembled for the Movement—Increased Activity of Boers at Kimberley. Destruction of Coal Mines in Natal Continued—Boers Concentrating.

London, March 28.—The British high commissioner, Sir Alfred Milner, arrived at Bloemfontein last night and was met by Lord Roberts and his staff.

According to a dispatch from Bloemfontein published in the second edition of The Times the high commissioner's visit is of a private nature. It is thought this can scarcely be anything but an official subterfuge, the question of the pacification of the Free State and the treatment of the insurgents, doubtless, being discussed between Lord Roberts and Sir Alfred Milner.

According to the same dispatch General French, previous to returning to Bloemfontein, occupied the four miles near Batter, which is considered an important acquisition.

Reports from Rouxville and other towns say the surrender of arms to the British continues satisfactorily.

General Clements' column entered Fauresmith Tuesday, March 27th, having previously occupied Jagersfontein. Magistrates were appointed, the proclamation was read, bands of music met the troops and flags were flown. The scenes resembled the American occupation of Porto Rican towns.

Further advices from Mafeking, dated March 16th, reiterate that all was well there and that the cordon was not so tightly drawn, the Boers allowing natives to pass through their lines.

The foreign office, according to The Daily Chronicle, is arranging with Portugal for some thousands of British troops to be landed at Beira and sent by the Rhodesia railway from Massi-Kesse to Umtali. A permanent arrangement is understood to exist for the use of this route to transfer the Rhodesia police. The possibility of foreign protest is suggested by the Daily Chronicle. Among the items which the foreign office is stating that prominent residents there object to a defense of Pretoria and desire that President Kruger should retire to Lydenburg. It is alleged that the principal buildings at Johannesburg have been undernourished by order of Kruger.

Questions Answered.

Yes, August Flower still has the largest sale of any medicine in the civilized world. Your mothers and grandmothers never thought of using anything else for indigestion or biliousness. Doctors were scarce, and they seldom had of Appointments, Nervous Prostration or Heart Failure, etc. They used August Flower to clean out the system and stop fermentation of undigested food, regulate the action of the liver, stimulate the nervous system and break up the system. The men are all they took when feeling dull and bad with headaches and other aches. You only need a few doses of Green's August Flower, in liquid form, to make you satisfied there is nothing serious the matter with you. For sale by R. R. Bellamy.

THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO.

Reorganized in the Interest of the Pennsylvania and the Vanderbilts.

New York, March 28.—At a meeting held in this city today the board of directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad was re-organized, presumably in the interest of the Pennsylvania railroad and the Vanderbilts, by the election of the following as directors: S. M. Prevost, Samuel Rea, N. H. Parker Shorthridge, Chancey M. Depew, H. McKay Tombs and H. J. Hayden. The three first named are said to represent the Pennsylvania and the three latter the Vanderbilts. The other directors are G. W. Stevens, president; Decatur Avetel and H. T. Wickham.

Rumors have been in circulation for several days regarding a proposed extension of the Chesapeake and Ohio, and including the acquisition of the Toledo and Ohio Central and Kanawha and Michigan railroads.

President Callaway of the New York Central, when asked today about these reports said:

"There is not a word of truth in it. A majority of the stock of the Chesapeake and Ohio is owned by the New York Central and Pennsylvania railroads and there are to be no extensions. The Chesapeake and Ohio is now in a position where each of the other two roads named has a close interest in its policy and management and it will not figure in any outside deals. The fact that the Chesapeake and Ohio is a natural feeder as well as an outlet of the Big Four system makes it necessary that the Vanderbilts should have a voice in its management."

Another influential officer in the Vanderbilt system said: "The time has gone by for the Chesapeake and Ohio system to be used in any new deals. It is the property of the Vanderbilts and the Pennsylvania and a majority of the stock is put away where speculators cannot reach it. Undoubtedly such traffic alliance as the Chesapeake and Ohio has which are of advantage will be maintained and strengthened."

The Chesapeake and Ohio runs from Newport News to Cincinnati and it is composed of a number of subordinate lines, including the Elizabeth, Lexington and Big Sandy, the Ohio and Erie, Sandy River, the Kentucky and South Atlantic and the Virginia Midland. There has also been close traffic relations between the Chesapeake and Ohio and the Kanawha and Michigan.

REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE VARIOUS BANKS OF THE REPUBLIC SHOW THAT THE CASH HOLDINGS AMOUNT TO \$2,233,057 sterling. The government has commandeered a portion of the gold reserve of all the banks. Bar gold has been given as security to the amount of about \$300,000.

MAPEKING BOMBARDED.

London, March 29.—A Pretoria dispatch to The Daily Mail, dated March 28th, says:

"An official dispatch reports a heavy bombardment of Mafeking in progress on Monday, March 26th, which was met with a spirited response."

Michael Davitt had an interview with President Kruger today.

Brussels, March 28.—A private dispatch has been received here from Pretoria, which says that President Kruger will now take chief command of the Transvaal forces.

ROBERTS PREPARING FOR HIS ADVANCE.

London, March 29.—General French, who has arrived at Bloemfontein from Thaba Nchu, says that Commandant Olivier has 6,000 men and is north of Ladybrand.

now been accumulated at Bloemfontein, and Lord Roberts' infantry is seemingly about to move. An impression which can be traced to the war office, is abroad that the advance will begin next Monday. Boer observation parties are hovering near Bloemfontein, but Lord Roberts has 135 miles to cover before reaching the great position which the Boers are preparing at Kromstadt.

Moving ten miles a day is probably the best he can do with field transport. Therefore, he can hardly engage the Boers in force for two weeks. The construction of the railroad behind him may even delay an invasion of the Transvaal until May.

Meanwhile, all the important towns in the Free State within Lord Roberts' reach are being garrisoned. Thaba Nchu, Philippolis, Fauresmith and Jagersfontein are thus held.

Sir Alfred Milner is touring in the disturbed newly acquired territory, investigating conditions and arranging the administration. He is understood to be getting materials for a report to Mr. Chamberlain concerning a plan of civil government.

IN PRAISE OF THE LATE GENERAL AL JOUBERT.

All the morning papers print singularly kind editorials concerning General Joubert. They praise his military skill, uphold his chivalrous conduct, and regret that so strong and moderate a mind should be absent from the final settlement of the dispute.

Although some of the younger commanders thought that the Boers were in a dash and enterprise, his raid into the country south of the Tugela is considered the best piece of Boer leadership during the whole war. It is now known that he crossed the Tugela with only 3,000 riflemen and six guns, but so bold and enterprising was his movement that the British commanders thought 10,000 Boers were marching on Pietermaritzburg. For a few days, although in the presence of greatly superior forces, the isolated General Joubert's brigade at Eastcourt, and at the same time threatened General Barton's camp at Mool river. Then, as British reinforcements were pushed up, Joubert recrossed the Tugela without losing a prisoner, a wagon or a gun.

General White's estimate of him, pronounced on Tuesday before he died, as a gentleman and a brave and honorable opponent, strikes the tone of all British comment.

The foreign office, according to The Daily Chronicle, is arranging with Portugal for some thousands of British troops to be landed at Beira and sent by the Rhodesia railway from Massi-Kesse to Umtali. A permanent arrangement is understood to exist for the use of this route to transfer the Rhodesia police. The possibility of foreign protest is suggested by the Daily Chronicle. Among the items which the foreign office is stating that prominent residents there object to a defense of Pretoria and desire that President Kruger should retire to Lydenburg. It is alleged that the principal buildings at Johannesburg have been undernourished by order of Kruger.

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"An official dispatch reports a heavy bombardment of Mafeking in progress on Monday, March 26th, which was met with a spirited response."

Michael Davitt had an interview with President Kruger today.

Brussels, March 28.—A private dispatch has been received here from Pretoria, which says that President Kruger will now take chief command of the Transvaal forces.

ROBERTS PREPARING FOR HIS ADVANCE.

London, March 29.—General French, who has arrived at Bloemfontein from Thaba Nchu, says that Commandant Olivier has 6,000 men and is north of Ladybrand.

FREE RUM, TAXED FOOD.

SENATOR DAVIS' SUMMING UP OF THE PORTO RICO BILL.

TIME FIXED FOR VOTE ON BILL