

FIGHTING IS SEVERE

British Attack the Boers Along the Modder River.

RESUMPTION OF BATTLE.

Natives Meet a Repulse at Mopolo, North of Mafeking.

Pretoria, Dec. 12.—The telegraph operator at Modder river wires: "Gun and maxim firing since 5:30 this morning and at 10 o'clock cannonading proceeded. At 2 o'clock the fighting was reported very severe. The Boer force along the river bank is being heavily attacked and is receiving assistance from other Boer forces." This is a resumption of fighting between Methuen's forces and the Boers.

Pretoria, Dec. 11.—Mopolo, west of Mafeking, was bombarded today. There was sharp fighting. The Boers attacked the British post at Mafeking last night. After severe fighting the Boers were repulsed and retired to Snyman's fort.

London, Dec. 15.—Col. Kekewich telegraphs from Kimberley under date of Dec. 10: "Boers reattacked Kuruman and were again repulsed by Loyalists and Bechuanas. Kimberley forces made a demonstration northward yesterday and drove out 500 Boers with three guns. Fighting ensued, lasting several hours. The British casualties were one killed and seven wounded."

Pretoria, Dec. 12.—The following official announcement is made: "Gen. Cronja reports yesterday that was desultory fighting till 6, when heavy cannon fire was resumed. The Scandinavians stormed a difficult position, but it became untenable and they suffered severely. I am unable to send help. The British must have had at least two thousand men put out of action, either killed or wounded."

WHITE STRIKES AGAIN.

Commander at Ladysmith Makes a Fortie and Destroys a Bridge.

Frere Camp, Wednesday, Dec. 13.—Firing can be heard this morning in the direction of Colenso, and an artillery duel is expected today.

London, Dec. 15.—A special dispatch received here from Weenen, Natal, dated Monday, Dec. 11, says that the Ladysmith garrison had made a sortie and destroyed the Modderspruit bridge. London, Dec. 15.—The war office has received the following dispatch from General Forester-Walker at Cape Town: "General French wires under date of Dec. 13, reporting a skirmish at 4 o'clock in the morning with 1,800 Boers who were advancing southward toward Naauwpoort. The skirmishing continued all the morning, the Boers fighting on a front of fourteen miles. The enemy retired with a loss of forty killed and wounded. Our casualties were one killed, seven wounded, including one officer, and two missing."

Long List of Officers Killed.

London, Dec. 15.—General Methuen's losses in the battle of Magersfontein are beginning to come in detail. The total casualties, including missing, are put at 832 for the British. Among these are the following officers in the Highland Brigade: Killed—General Wanchope, Lieutenant Colonel J. N. C. Coode, Captain Elton, Lieutenant Edmunds, Captain J. R. Clark, Lieutenant Cox, Captain Cowan, Captain Lamberton, Lieutenant Colonel Goff, Major Robinson, Captain Wingate, Lieutenant Cowie. Wounded—Colonel Kelham, Major Berkeley, Major Duff, Captain Featherstonhaugh, Captain Noyes, Captain Wolfe-Murray, Captain Richardson, Captain Campbell, Captain Gordon, Captain McNab, Lieutenant Hon. W. C. Baillie, Lieutenant Scott, Lieutenant Waterhouse. Many of the above-mentioned officers are dangerously wounded. There were fifteen officers killed.

Further Casualties Among Officers.

Other officers killed, wounded or missing are as follows: Killed—Marquis of Winchester, Major Milton and Major Hay. Wounded—Lieutenant

ROYAL Baking Powder

Made from pure cream of tartar. Safeguards the food against alum.

Alum baking powders are the greatest menaces to health of the present day.

Wanchope, Major Cuthbertson, Captain Cameron, Lieutenant St. J. Harvey, Lieutenant Berthon, Lieutenant Tait, Captain J. Sterling, Lieutenant Colonel Codrington and Major The Hon. W. Lambton. Missing—Captain the Hon. Cumming-Bruce, Captain McFarlane, Lieutenant Ramsay, Major K. R. MacKenzie and Captain Brodie.

False Report About Ladysmith.

London, Dec. 15.—The report received yesterday afternoon that Ladysmith had fallen and 10,000 Boers been captured would have been good news here if true, but there was no such good luck for John Bull. The war office did not credit the report.

It is reported via Lourenco Marques that Winton Churchill has escaped from Pretoria.

General Gatacre reports his losses at Stormberg prisoners not included, as follows: Killed, 22; wounded, 500, all the wounded being prisoners. A number of the missing men have reached camp safely.

FIELD OF MAGERSFONTEIN.

Where the Dead Were Thickest—Boers Probably Lost Heavily.

Modder River, Dec. 13.—Ambulances started early yesterday morning under a flag of truce to collect the wounded and bury the dead who fell at Magersfontein. Brigadier General Wanchope, led the Highland Brigade, and the field the Boer losses must exceed 700. The British troops have returned to Modder river, owing to the lack of water near the position held yesterday.

London, Dec. 15.—The correspondent of The Standard at Modder river, describing the fight at Magersfontein, says: "Six miles had to be covered before the Highland Brigade could reach the Boer stronghold. It is not yet clear through what substance the force, which was led by guides, came upon the Boer trenches so unexpectedly and so suddenly. Beyond question the Boers were aware of the approach of the British, and had prepared to receive them. According to one version two Highlanders, through nervousness or clumsiness, discharged their rifles prematurely, but it is equally probable that the advance Boer scouts betrayed the intention of the main force."

"Our men were totally unprepared. They had not even fixed bayonets. The disaster was all the more exasperating because of the consciousness that had the British been extended along the trenches fixed the trenches might have been successfully rushed with far less sacrifice of life."

Queen Sends Her Deep Sympathy.

London, Dec. 15.—The queen has sent a message of deep sympathy to the widow of General Wanchope.

Complications in Moody's Case.

West Northfield, Mass., Dec. 15.—Dr. N. P. Wood, the family physician of Dwight L. Moody, the evangelist, issued the following bulletin yesterday: "Dwight L. Moody has not been as well during the past few days. Complications have arisen which have caused much anxiety. His lower extremities are swelling and albuminuria has appeared which is considered to be due to the cardiac or heart trouble."

Decision in a Strike Case.

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 15.—An important decision was rendered by Vice Chancellor Held yesterday, in a labor strike in which glass blowers were involved. The vice chancellor in his opinion holds that a combination to strike or to induce others to strike is made lawful under a New Jersey statute, provided that the means used be those of persuasion and not coercion.

International Shoot Arranged.

Fanklin, Pa., Dec. 15.—An international shooting contest between teams representing American volunteer soldiers and English volunteers has been arranged by General Willis J. Halling, who was colonel of the Sixteenth Pennsylvania regiment during the Spanish war. He has just returned from Europe, where he attended to all the preliminaries.

Big Seizure of Oleomargarine.

Detroit, Dec. 15.—Collector of Internal Revenue Charles Wright has seized 900 casks of oleomargarine, valued at about \$10,000, which were en route from Chicago to Liverpool. The reason for the seizure is said to be that the manufacturer had evaded the special oleomargarine tax and is so doing violated the revenue laws.

Report on New Richmond Relief.

New Richmond, Wis., Dec. 15.—The tornado relief committee has wound up operations. In all \$120,000 was contributed in cash and \$20,000 in supplies. Of this amount the largest share, \$87,000, went to aid individuals in rebuilding homes and re-establishing business. The expense of administration was about \$1,600.

Good Will Not an Asset.

Chicago, Dec. 15.—The good will of a commission firm doing business on the Board of Trade is not an appreciable asset to which the heirs of a deceased partner can assert a valid claim, according to an opinion announced by Judge Windes, of the appellate court.

Navy Is Short of 25,000.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The navy is 4,000 men short of the legal minimum and this in spite of the best efforts of the recruiting officers.

"Doing nothing is doing ill." Impure blood neglected will become a serious matter. Take Hood's Sarsaparilla at once and avoid the ill.

END OF THE DEBATE.

House Winding Up Discussion on the Currency Bill.

CLASH BETWEEN TWO CONGRESSMEN

Berry and Wheeler, of Kentucky, Indulge in an Exchange of Personalities—Senate Tables Pettigrew's Resolution—Williams, of Mississippi, Introduces a Resolution Outlining Democratic Position in Philippines.

Washington, Dec. 15.—In the house this is the closing day of the general debate on the financial bill, but there is little interest manifested either on the floor or in the galleries. Jones, of Virginia, opened the debate in opposition to the bill, and was followed by Rhea, of Kentucky, and Williams, of Illinois, on the same side. Then followed acrimonious exchange of personalities between Berry and Wheeler, both democrats of Kentucky, over a recent state election there.

In the senate Aldrich, of Rhode Island, presented a special order fixing standing committees and their personnel, and it was adopted.

Squeezes War Debate.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The senate yesterday by a decisive vote and practically without discussion laid on the table the Pettigrew resolution of inquiry as to whether or not the United States forces had recognized the Filipino insurgents' flag and had turned over Spanish soldiers to the insurgents. The resolution said that the whole debate on the resolution would be cabined to Manila, and for that reason, it seems, the debate was "squeezed." The senate agreed to the house Christmas recess resolution.

Democratic Position Outlined.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Williams of Mississippi introduced two resolutions in the house yesterday that are taken to state the Democratic position on existing issues. One pledges our withdrawal from the Philippine and the other recognition of their independence when they agree to refund the \$200,000,000 we paid for them, to give us coaling stations and grant us perpetual leases on their ports; we on the other hand agreeing to assist them against foreign aggression for ten years, during which time their foreign affairs shall be under our control. The other provides for an inquiry into slavery and polygamy in the Sulu islands.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORMERS.

Openly Attack McKinley's Administration.

Indianapolis, Dec. 15.—At the open meeting held yesterday afternoon the National Civil Service League openly attacked the administration of President McKinley in regard to the order of May 29, removing officers from the list. The report of Secretary George McAneny, of New York, said the league had attempted to find out the facts regarding certain violations of the rules of the service in the treasury department of the national government. He had written, he said, to Secretary Gage for the information and received a letter in reply stating that it was not proper to give information to the public which was of a private nature.

Some Senate Confirmations.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The senate yesterday confirmed the following nominations: United States minister, John N. Irwin, of Iowa, to Portugal. Secretaries of legations, Spencer F. Eddy, of Illinois, to Paris (second secretary); Arthur M. Beaupre, of Illinois, at Bogota, Colombia.

Another Body from the Niagara.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 15.—A body, evidently from the wrecked steamer Niagara, was washed ashore at Patton's Point yesterday. It has not yet been identified.

League Magnates Tell Nothing.

New York, Dec. 15.—The base ball magnates were in session all yesterday, and are again in session today, but they will say nothing as to what they are doing.

Dead and Dumb Institute Burned.

Pittsburg, Dec. 15.—The Western Pennsylvania Institute for Deaf and Dumb, situated at Edgewood, was completely destroyed by fire last evening. The 500 pupils in the building were panic-stricken, but the teachers quickly secured control of them and it is believed all were saved.

Male and Female Pumpkins.

At this time it may interest makers of good pumpkin pies to know that a Brooklyn farmer, near Central Village, Conn., has, after many years' study, found that there are male and female pumpkins, says the New York World. He attests to the fact and swears, too, that only the female variety make the nice, sweet, tender pumpkin pies of our mothers. He feeds the male gender to the cattle and cooks only the feminine pumpkins.

Nothing to Be Said.

The colossal statue of De Lesseps, just dedicated at the entrance to the Suez canal, is described by an enthusiastic admirer of the distinguished Frenchman as the grandest monument in Egypt, says the Boston Herald. What's the matter with the sphinx?

Brazil's Snake Exhibit.

Brazil will exhibit 500 varieties of serpents, big and little, at the Paris exposition.

DOINGS OF THE FEDERATION

Refuses to Dine to Non-Union Musical Accompaniment.

Detroit, Dec. 15.—The annual banquet of the American Federation of Labor, held in the Griswold House last night, lacked the usual accompaniment of orchestral music. The reason was that the orchestra provided for the dinner was discovered to be non-union. The latter fact was duly reported in the convention yesterday, along with a resolution declining the invitation to the banquet tendered by the local committee.

Despite assertions of the Detroit men that it was the best they could do under the circumstances the difficulty would not down until it was announced that the music would be left out of the programme.

Nearly all of yesterday's session was taken up with discussion and action upon resolutions, some of which were as follows: Indorsing the boycott on the New York Sun; declaring against an army of more than 25,000 men; urging state legislatures to outlaw all kinds of competitive convict labor; re-affirming the Federation's demand for the same leaves of absence for employees of naval yards and arsenals as for other government employees; appropriating \$500 in aid of Cramp shipyard strikers; inviting the letter carriers to affiliate with the federation.

TELEGRAPH BRIEFS.

Switzerland elected a new President yesterday—Walthor Hauser.

One carload of ore from the Isabella mine, Cripple Creek, Colo., netted its owners \$200,000 in gold.

Melvin W. Holmes, of Cumberland, was instantly killed in the woods near Superior, Wis., a tree falling on him.

Peter Gray, 60 years old, employed by the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad, was run over and killed at Chicago.

For assaulting non-union workmen in violation of an injunction Judge Holden sentenced five union men to the county jail.

All the big coal mines in Webster county, Ia., are to be tied up by the strike of about 500 men at Kalo, Coalville, Lehigh and Carbon.

Editor Caserio, of the Osservatore Romano, official organ of the Vatican, says the pope considers Jan. 1, 1901, the birthday of the twentieth century.

The famous "goose plant" in the Washington park, Chicago, tropical house in now in bloom for the first time since it was brought from Guatemala.

The Woman's Relief Corps gave a reception to Governor and Mrs. John R. Tanner and Mrs. Harriet J. Dodge, of Hartford, Conn., national president of the organization, at Memorial hall, Chicago, Wednesday night.

Is He Lucky or Unlucky?

Auburn, Ind., Dec. 15.—Dec. 13, 1899, will long be remembered at the home of Win. Gatsch, a farmer living west of here in Ohio. On his farm Wednesday his wife had triplets; twin calves, a litter of pigs, colt, a litter of pups and two lambs were also born. Dec. 13 was the birthday of the eldest son and it was the thirtieth anniversary of the farmer's married life. Gatsch is happy and firmly believes in thirteen as a lucky number.

Old Calves of Victory.

Washington, Dec. 15.—General Otis cabled the war department as follows: "General Lawton reports Bulacan province freed of insurgents. Yesterday the troops of the Fourth cavalry captured the strong mountain position of Bionabato, with food supplies, clothing, cartridge factory and barracks."

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PRODUCTION OF COAL

Increase from the Prairie State Mines Was 5,000,000 Bushels.

OTHER OFFICIAL MINE STATISTICS

Assessment of Railway Property in the State—Mandamus for the Treasurer of Cook—Two Men Killed by Hunting Accidents—Springfield Suicide's Identity Not Quite Established—Editor Bowen Takes a Wife.

Springfield, Ills., Dec. 15.—Secretary David Ross, of the state board of labor statistics, has prepared a summary of the Illinois coal report for the year ended July 1, 1899, and it shows that the year's production of bituminous coal is 5,000,000 bushels in excess of any previous year. The average number of days of active operations for ship piling mines, 206 days, is more than for any other year, except 1893, when it was 226 days. Illinois now ranks next to Pennsylvania in the production of bituminous coal.

Details of the Summary.

The summary shows: "Number of counties producing coal, 52; number of mines and openings of all kinds, 889; new mines or old mines reopened, 120; mines closed or abandoned since last report, 121; total output of all mines in tons of 2,000 pounds, 23,464,445; total tons shipped, 20,019,147; aggregate home value of total product, \$18,443,946; average number of miners employed during the year, 26,449; average number of other employees, 10,542; total wages paid all employees, excepting office help, \$14,739,173; number of men at work underground, 33,190; number of accidentally killed, 99."

Equalization of Railway Properties.

Springfield, Ills., Dec. 15.—A tabulated statement was issued yesterday by the state auditor showing the assessment by the state board of equalization of the railroad property in the state. It shows that there are 9,932 1-3 miles of main track, assessed at \$75,920,422, or an average of \$7,642 per mile. The total assessment in 1898 was \$76,554,845, the decrease this year from last being \$632,893.

Writ of Mandamus for Raymond.

Springfield, Ills., Dec. 15.—The supreme court has issued a writ of mandamus to compel Sam P. Raymond, treasurer of Cook county, to pay over to the state treasurer \$190,995 of inheritance taxes collected by him. The proceedings were begun by the attorney general in relation of the state auditor. Raymond withheld paying the money over on the ground that it was not due the state until he made his semi-annual report to the auditor next April. The court held that the collections were due and payable to the state as soon as made.

MYSTERY AS TO A SUICIDE.

Identity of the Man Who Took Strychnine at the Illinois Capital.

Decatur, Ills., Dec. 15.—Coroner Baer, of Sangamon county, arrived in the city last evening to try to establish the identity of George Hahn, who committed suicide at Springfield.

Accused of Murderous Assault.

Springfield, Ills., Dec. 15.—In the Sangamon circuit court the jury rendered a verdict of not guilty in the case against Samuel P. Raymond, a former member of the police force, who was charged with assault with intent to murder. Waters was charged with shooting Pearl Scott, a member of company H, Fourth regiment, I. N. G.

Colonel Julius Walker Adams died.

at Brooklyn, aged 87 years. He was the pioneer engineer of the Brooklyn bridge.

To Cure a Cold in One Day.

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25 cents.

Subscribe for THE ARGUS.

GOES TO QUAKER CITY

Next National Convention of the Republican Party.

JUNE 19 IS THE DATE.

Fixed Today by the National Committee at Washington.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The republican national committee met today for the purpose of fixing the time and place of holding the next national convention. Representatives from Chicago, New York, St. Louis and Philadelphia, presented the claims of their respective cities for the honor of entertaining the convention, and at the conclusion the committee took a recess until 2:35, when in executive session it will fix time and place. Chicago claims to have enough votes to secure the convention, but it is said there will be a strong undercurrent in favor of Philadelphia.

When the committee reassembled, an impression prevailed that Philadelphia would be chosen.

Date and Place Decided.

The committee decided on Tuesday, June 19, as the date for holding the convention.

The last ballot stood, Philadelphia 25, Chicago 24.

THREE DIE AT A FIRE.

Two Women and a Man, One Woman Being 85 Years Old.

New York, Dec. 15.—At Williamsburg last night three people were killed in a fire which broke out at 300 South First street. The fire was in a room tenement. Two women and one man were killed.

The dead are: Mrs. Goscher, 65 years old; Mrs. Susan Smyth, 85 years old; Luke Freen, 51 years old. Mrs. Goscher and Mrs. Smyth were found on the top floor suffocated to death. The body of Freen was found on the second floor badly burned.

Mrs. Freen, the wife of Luke Freen, jumped from the second-story window and broke her legs. She was otherwise seriously injured. The fire burned very fiercely with a great deal of blinding smoke, and it was with difficulty that some of the other tenants were brought out in safety by the police and firemen.

Alcohol was first distilled by the Arabs, and when we talk about coffee and alcohol we are using Arabic words.

THE LONDON

Is full and running over with the best selected stock of Xmas presents for men, boys and children. We have a full assortment of the following articles suitable for Xmas gifts.

Smoking Jackets.

House Coats.

Bath Robes.

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Square Mufflers.

Puff Ties.

Imperial Ties.

Teck Ties.

Bow Ties.

Club Ties.

De Joinville Ties.

Fancy Shirts.

White Shirts.

Fancy Vests.

Suits and Overcoats.

Silk Handkerchiefs.

Trunks.

Valises.

Hats.

Caps.

Flannel Night Robes.

Muslin Night Robes.

Woolen Gloves and Mittens.

Kid Gloves and Mittens.

Underwear.

Umbrellas.

Sweaters.

Cardigan Jackets.

Jersey Jackets.

Fancy Suspenders.

Reefers.

Linen Handkerchiefs.

Cut This Out and Bring it Along. We May Help You. We Undersell Everybody.