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BRITISH POWER IS TOTTERING

Dominion in South Africa Seems to Be Shaken to Its Foundations.

MILNER WOULD PROCLAIM MARTIAL LAW

Claims It is Now the Only Way to Hold the Cape Dutch in Line.

SALISBURY LOTH TO GRANT REQUEST

English People Are Struck Dumb by the Defeat of General Buller.

STAND AGHAST AT THE TERRIBLE NEWS

Friends of Boers Believe the Transvaal Will Gain Its Independence.

WORST DEFEAT SINCE INDIAN MUTINY

Great Britain Must Now Assert Its Power Not Only in South Africa, but Before the European Nations.

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LONDON, Dec. 15.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—British dominion in South Africa has been shaken to its foundations.

I hear that Sir Alfred Milner, British high commissioner in South Africa and governor of Cape Colony, demands the assent of the Imperial government to the proclamation of martial law throughout Cape Colony.

Lord Salisbury is unwilling to grant the request, save as the very last resort, as such a dangerous confession of gravity of the British position would be offering a positive inducement to England's enemies to take advantage of its extremity.

Sir Alfred Milner reports that Dutch disaffection has now reached a point where ordinary law is useless to stem it. He wants the power not only of summary arrest without warrant of suspected persons and the right to detain them without trial, but also the power to suppress the Dutch newspapers throughout the colony which insist upon publishing accounts of British reverses and criticisms of the war.

Rigorous as is the censorship of dispatches to England, it is liberal compared with the wholesale suppression of unfavorable tidings by the British authorities in Cape Colony. The Rhodes papers concur in this policy, but the Dutch give stories that filter through from the front, though they often have had to rely more than once for news from English papers three weeks old.

Milner is declared to be in a state of hysteria over the awful miscarriage of his policy and the ruinous price England is paying for following his advice. He sees none but members of his staff. The government of Cape Colony is largely run by Sir Forestier Walker, commander-in-chief of the Cape.

England is Stunned.

The war office made public the report of Buller's defeat shortly after midnight. The ticker service for some reason broke down after the first 100 words.

The war office was crowded in twenty minutes by men who drove in cabs from the United Service club, the National Liberal club and other public resorts, clamoring for news. The report was posted and the crowd stood about cursing. There was no clamor, but men with oaths in their mouths declared that this means the calling out of all the militia and that the volunteers must be summoned at once for duty. Nearly every man who looked over the report on the war office bulletin board went away disgusted. Some said:

"Why in —— didn't he sit right down. What we wanted was time or a victory. All the disloyal Cape Dutch will be up now. It's serious. It's awful."

Mr. Clarke, M. P., holding power as a Transvaal representative, said tonight: "It appears to be a Boer victory. I can't tell yet. We must be calm. Let us wait and see."

In the Liberal club and other late resorts friends of the Boers said: "It is just the same old trap. The British have not fought white men unaided in this century. The Boers will win their independence. Isn't this the basis for foreign intervention? What more do they want? It's like the American revolution. Chamberlain and the stock brokers brought on this war and they're getting enough of it."

Sad News for England.

The News' military expert declares Buller's repulse the saddest news received in England since the Indian mutinies, and adds that the present war presents many analogies to the civil war in America and the Peninsular war, but for the present Buller has only been repulsed, not routed.

The Mail says: "Buller, according to the war officials, was to be in Pretoria by Christmas. His army corps was described as a steam roller that would advance in triumph over the Free State and Transvaal hence red tape officials ignored the suggestion to enlist South African Englishmen and volunteers both from home and from the colonies. At present England is very denuded of troops by reason of the ignorance, tardiness and miscalculations of some officials."

The Chronicle says: "We wanted victory sorely and we have not got it. Three reverses in a few days makes this the gloomiest week since the war began."

The Telegraph says: "The moral fibre of the British empire is now being tested as it has not been since Crimea and the mutiny. It is necessary to convince now not only the Boers, but the disloyal Cape Dutch and continental Europe of the strength of our military resources."

The Standard says: "The sacrifices already made in the lives, health and liberty of our countrymen are painful. It will be a sad Christmas in many English homes. Success somewhere was wanted alike for direct and indirect consequences."

Expert Opinion.

The Post's military expert says: "Buller yesterday was defeated with heavy loss in attempt to force a passage of the Tugela Langso. The brief dispatch which I only at the last moment mentions brigades of infantry and mounted troops under Lord Dundonald. There were two fords two miles apart. Hart was to try to force that on the left, Hildyard that on the right and General Lyttleton to support one or the other, while Barton's brigade and mounted men protected the right flank.

Early in the day it was seen that Hart's task would be too heavy. He was ordered to draw back and Hildyard to press on, the artillery being ordered from left to right to support the new attack. The artillery moved close to the river bank and the river proved to be lined by the enemy's riflemen, who were thus within short range of the guns. Horses and gunners were shot down and, as the heavy musketry fire continued, it was impossible to move guns, most of which were abandoned. Sir Buller decided that for the infantry to attempt to force a passage without the support of the artillery would be useless bloodshed and ordered a retirement to camp at Cheveley.

"The impression made by the dispatch is that the action was rather a repulse than a defeat. Buller's attack was not pushed home but broken off in the middle, owing to the loss of three batteries. He can and will renew the attempt, and until that has happened it is premature to suppose that a decisive battle has taken place. But the repulse is a very serious matter, for it must react on the situation in Cape Colony. It does not directly endanger the position of White's force, which may yet be saved."

Advices from Modder River.

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MODDER RIVER, Dec. 15.—11:55 a. m.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—A reconnaissance in force toward Magersfontein began this morning. A big naval gun, four twelve-pounders, one howitzer and one field battery, supported by Grenadiers of the Ninth brigade. The naval guns opened fire at a range of 7,000 yards, the howitzer at 4,000 yards and the field battery at 3,000. They shelled the trenches and the kopjes with shrapnel and lyddite. The Boers made no sign except by occasionally firing two guns stationed in the center of the kopjes. The infantry skirmished out within a mile and a half of the trenches without drawing fire. Evidently the Boers are making no attempt to close on Modder camp. The whole force was withdrawn at 7 o'clock, the big gun on the enemy's left taking the opportunity to shell the retiring limbers of artillery and infantry. There were no casualties, although the enemy's shells were accurate.

IRISH HATE MR. CHAMBERLAIN

Propose to Give Him a Warm Reception When He Visits Dublin on Monday.

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LONDON, Dec. 15.—(New York World Cablegram — Special Telegram.) — Colonial Secretary Chamberlain's visit to Dublin promises to be signalized by serious disturbances. He has announced his intention of traveling over tomorrow (Saturday) to stay with Viceroy Cadogan Sunday and take the honorary degree of LL. D. at Trinity college on Monday.

The Irish Transvaal committee has issued a proclamation calling an indignation meeting of the citizens of Dublin Sunday to disassociate themselves from the act of Trinity college, by which it proposes to do honor to Mr. Chamberlain, "the author of the robber war being conducted today by England."

Another nationalist body, the Irish socialist republican party, has issued placards for a monster demonstration outside Trinity college on Monday "to celebrate Gatacre's defeat at Stormberg." This demonstration is timed for the hour when Mr. Chamberlain will be receiving his degree inside the university.

The ministerial papers call upon Viceroy Cadogan to prohibit both meetings, but no prohibition can prevent crowds from assembling. Disorderly scenes seem inevitable unless Mr. Chamberlain takes advice and defers his visit.

The Freeman's Journal publishes a scathing editorial on Mr. Chamberlain's shifty career, entitled "Iscariot, LL.D."

Viceroy Cadogan, an extremely nervous man, is said to be ill at the prospect of the visit and to have implored Arthur Balfour to induce Mr. Chamberlain to abandon it.

Mr. Chamberlain thinks this violent Irish nationalist hostility will arouse English sympathy for him, therefore he is unwilling to cancel the engagement.

A Dublin mob is dangerous to trifle with. The extremists have not been so strong there since 1880 as now.

ATTACKS DISGUST THE KAISER

Emperor William Withdraws German Military Attache at Paris—Dreyfus Affair the Cause.

BERLIN, Dec. 15.—Emperor William's intention to withdraw Baron von Sueskinne, German military attache in Paris, as cabled some time ago, has just been carried out. The event is considered of prime importance.

His majesty had become thoroughly disgusted with the attacks and insinuations of the Paris press regarding the activity of the German military attaches and with the numerous private and official reports which had reached him on the subject, bearing out, partially at least, the newspaper charges.

His keen sense of honor was aroused, especially as he considers that German officers, who are popularly regarded by their countrymen as above reproach in military matters, ought not to be expected to furnish to the home government information inconsistent with a nice sense of honor.

This view the emperor wants practically borne out. He met with a determined opposition on the part of some of his principal military advirers, General von Hanke, Count von Schlesfen and Count von Waldersee, but succeeded in having his own way. It goes without saying that the Dreyfus affair was the immediate cause of the order of withdrawal.

A high government official did not deny this when questioned. The correspondent of the Associated Press also understands that the duties of all German military attaches are likely to be modified and brought more in consonance with modern days of gentlemanly honor, the emperor hoping, moreover, that the example given by Germany will be imitated by other powers, especially France.

QUAKERS WIN BY ONE VOTE

Philadelphia to Entertain Republican National Convention June 19, Next.

M'KINLEY'S REMOMINATION IS CONCEDED

Senator Hanna Presides Over National Committee—Forty-Three States and All the Territories Represented.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The republican national convention will be held at Philadelphia on Tuesday, June 19, next. The place and date were decided upon by the national republican committee today after a friendly contest for the honor of entertaining the convention between the city selected and Chicago, St. Louis and New York.

The meeting of the committee was held at the Arlington hotel and was presided over by Senator Hanna, chairman of the committee. Forty-three of the forty-five states and each of the territories were represented, Senator Foraker, proxy for Charles L. Kurtz, the national committeeman from Ohio, and Senator Wolcott, proxy for J. F. Saunders of Colorado, being the only absentees.

The proceedings throughout were enthusiastic and harmonious, every speech that was made emphasizing the fact that President McKinley will be renominated and the convention will be in effect simply a ratification meeting. The claims of the rival cities were presented by distinguished citizens of each in open session. The balloting occurred in the afternoon behind closed doors.

Upon the first ballot Philadelphia received 13 votes; Chicago, 20; New York, 7; St. Louis, 9.

On the second ballot the contest narrowed to Philadelphia and Chicago, the New York votes went to Philadelphia and the St. Louis vote was split between the City of Brotherly Love and the Windy City of the Lakes. An amusing incident occurred in connection with this ballot. After it was concluded and announced as Philadelphia 25 and Chicago 23, T. N. Jamieson, the national committeeman from Illinois, suddenly discovered that in the excitement he had forgotten to vote. He demanded that the vote should be recast and this was accordingly done, but it did not change the result, Chicago gaining only the vote of the committeeman from Illinois. Philadelphia won by the narrow margin of one vote.

Call on the President.

Immediately upon the announcement the Quaker City boomers who had been waiting in the lobby broke out in ringing cheers and the hotel was soon given up to their jubilaticus. Later, many of them went to the White House and called upon the president. As the ballot was secret there is no record of the city for which each committeeman voted.

It was the desire of the leaders of the meeting today that the convention should be held June 12 and that date would have been selected had not it conflicted with the date of the Rhode Island elections. June 5 was then selected, but the date was reconsidered and changed to the 19th in the hope and belief that before that date congress will have adjourned.

After the time and place had been selected the committee considered a request from Delaware that the committee take some action to straighten out the factional fight in that state to prevent two contesting delegations appearing from that state. The committee decided it had no jurisdiction.

After the Delaware case had been disposed of the chairman was authorized to appoint a subcommittee of five to make arrangements for the convention; also, a committee to prepare and distribute literature. Chairman Hanna and Secretary Dick were made ex-officio members of all subcommittees.

Messrs. Manley of Maine, Long of Florida and Simon of Oregon were appointed a subcommittee to consider the election of delegates in the district of Columbia.

Adjournment was taken until 11 o'clock tomorrow, when the Payne resolution for changing the system of representation will be brought up for consideration.

At 9 o'clock tomorrow the committee will call on the president to pay their respects to him in a body.

Resolutions in Memory of Hobart.

The republican national committee today adopted the following resolution in memory of Vice President Hobart:

The republican national committee assembles under conditions which cause poignant grief. It mourns the death of one who was its distinguished associate in the years which have passed and who died second only in position of honor, rank and station in this country—Garret A. Hobart of New Jersey, late vice president of the United States.

For nearly twenty years this committee enjoyed his wise counsel and his unfailing support in every emergency. His judgment was always sound, and his tact and discretion unerring.

Ever courteous and affable, his urbanity never ceasing, it was a pleasure and a privilege to be associated with him in any capacity. There was no spot or blemish on his pure private life; and the nation's sympathies have gone out to those whom he has left bereaved. Not even a whisper was ever heard against him in his long political career. He was a sturdy republican and gave and took hard blows in many a political fight. He never avoided an issue, nor evaded a responsibility. He commanded the respect and esteem of his political opponents in almost equal degree with the devoted loyalty of his friends. Enemies, he had none, public or private.

His great heart was never closed to any just appeal for aid or sympathy. Every act of his busy life dignified American citizenship and in his closing years he conferred honor upon the high office he held.

Every attribute of his character drew him close to those with whom he was associated. Every act of his public life, in a long and distinguished career of usefulness, justified the confidence which his fellow-citizens reposed in him.

The republican national committee extends to his family its most profound and sincere sympathy and directs that a copy of this memorial be engrossed and transmitted to them.

PAYNE ABANDONS HIS RESOLUTION.

Wisconsin Man Decides Not to Push Reapportionment Plan.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The Payne resolution for the reapportionment of delegates to the national republican convention on the basis of the republican vote cast in the states and territories will not be pressed at this meeting of the national committee.

Up to tonight Mr. Payne, the author, had fully intended to offer the resolution tomorrow and to urge its adoption, but after a conference with the president at the White House tonight, at which Secretary Dick and Governor-elect Nash of Ohio were present, he decided to abandon the effort to have it acted on at this meeting. Much opposition had developed to the proposed change and the conclusion reached that it was inexpedient to push the matter at this time.

Mr. Payne will make a statement before the committee in the morning setting forth the reasons which prompted him to reach the decision stated.

Augurs Well for Success.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—(Special Telegram.)—If there is anything in precedent it ought to be a happy augury for the republican party in deciding to hold its convention in Philadelphia. Every republican president who has been re-elected has been renominated in the east. Harrison was renominated at Minneapolis and was defeated; Lincoln was renominated at Baltimore and was elected; Grant was renominated at Philadelphia and was elected. On the democratic side Cleveland was renominated at St. Louis and was defeated.

Philadelphia won the convention through the help of the south, St. Louis and New York, with votes here and there from the west to give it a majority. Chicago rooters, after their defeat, took the matter philosophically and said that although they were "gold bricked" Illinois would be for the republican ticket with a bigger majority than in 1896.

TWO BRUSHES WITH REBELS

American Sergeant, with Less Than Forty Men, Attack Four Hundred Insurgents.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The War department received a cable message today giving the latest developments in the situation in the Philippines. The cablegram:

"MANILA, Dec. 15.—Batchelor, Twenty-fourth infantry battalion, reports on 7th inst., had an engagement at the junction of Magat and Rio Grande rivers, Isabella province, enemy leaving four dead and five mortally wounded in trenches. Our loss was one drowned and four wounded. Says he is in need of clothing, provisions and money. Will reach Tuguegaro, Cagayan province, shortly. Doubtless the navy relieved him yesterday.

"Four hundred and seventy-five Spanish prisoners arrived this morning, among them the sick at Vigan, numbering 120. Young at Banqui, northwestern Luzon, reports that his troops are still pursuing the remnant of the insurgents, who have twenty-three American prisoners in their possession. The country is exceedingly rough. Our men, without shoes, are still persistently pursuing. Few Spanish prisoners now in hands of insurgents, probably 1,000, mostly in south. Expect to effect their relief in a few days.

"Negros reports Sergeant Alfred Roeder, Sixth infantry, twenty soldiers and eighteen native police attacked 400 insurgents at Madrigal, Negros, this morning. No casualties. Enemy's loss twenty-eight killed and many wounded. OTIS."

TO GO HARD WITH BUSHWHACKERS.

Philippine Officers Hereafter Will Deal Summarily with Them.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Isolated bands of bushwhacking insurgents who are caught by our forces in the Philippines are likely to be summarily dealt with. At the cabinet meeting today the matter was discussed at some length and it was the general sentiment that the situation demanded vigorous treatment. As long as the insurgents keep up a show of an army under a semblance of discipline they will be treated as prisoners of war when captured, but when they degenerate into isolated bands of marauders, harassing our forces by cold-blooded assassinations, it is the judgment of the officers in command in the Philippines and of the president and the members of the cabinet that the situation demands summary action.

In the discussion of Cuban affairs it was developed that General Wood in taking command of the island as military governor would pursue practically the same course that he followed in Santiago province. Capable and trustworthy citizens from time to time will be given positions of responsibility and so gradually become identified with the civil administration of the island. The rigor of military rule will be lessened as rapidly as the situation safely warrants.

NATIVES LEARN SECRET ORDERS.

American Naval Officer Says Spies Make Secrecy Almost Valueless.

BOSTON, Dec. 15.—A letter received from one of the officers of the United States ship Monterey, at Manila, dated November 3, says:

"The Princeton today was ordered to coal to go to some unknown destination. Great secrecy is maintained nowadays—even misleading statements are published in the papers. They do not fool the wily natives, however, who get information from the main source of orders. It is said, with reason for absolute belief, that spies have been caught with copies of orders which had not yet reached the person to whom they were addressed and that detachments of soldiers ordered by telegraph to move have been ambushed in places which the insurgents could only have reached by being informed of the intended movements. Secrecy at present is more of a pretence than a reality."

Regiment Arrives at Manila.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—General Otis notified the War department today that the transports City of Sydney and Pathan with the Forty-sixth infantry volunteers arrived at Manila this morning. No casualties are reported.

PRINCE OF WALES' SCANDAL

Biography of Late Archbishop of Canterbury Reveals Interesting Letter Written by the Prince.

LONDON, Dec. 15—The biography of Dr. Benson, late archbishop of Canterbury, just published, reveals an interesting letter which the prince of Wales wrote to him after the Tranbycroft scandal. It is as follows:

My Dear Archbishop: Your kind letter has touched me, as I know the kind feelings which prompted you to write to me on the subject, which we have discussed together and which, as you are aware, has caused me deep pain and annoyance. A recent trial, which no one deplores more than I do and which I was powerless to prevent, gave occasion for the press to make most bitter and unjust attacks on me, knowing I was defenseless, and I am not sure politics were not mixed up in it. The whole matter has now died and I think therefore that it will be inopportune for me in any public manner to allude again to the painful subject which has brought such a torrent of abuse on me, not only by the press, but by the low church and especially the nonconformists.

They have a perfect right, I am well aware, in a free country like our own to express their opinions, but I do not consider that they have a just right to jump at conclusions regarding myself without knowing the facts. I have a horror of gambling and should always do my utmost to discourage others who have an inclination for it, as I consider that gambling, like intemperance, is one of the greatest curses which any country could be afflicted with. Horse racing may produce gambling or it may not, but I have always looked upon it as a manly sport which is popular with Englishmen of all classes and there is no reason why it should be looked upon as a gambling transaction. Alas! those who gamble will gamble at anything. I have written quite openly to you, my dear archbishop, whom I have had the advantage of knowing so many years. Believe me, sincerely yours,

ALBERT EDWARD,
Royal Yacht Osborne, Cowes.

New Peruvian Ministry.

LIMA, Peru, via Galveston, Dec. 15.—The new cabinet succeeding the ministry which tendered its resignation December 2, owing to the attitude of the chamber of deputies, is constituted as follows: President of the council of ministers and minister of foreign affairs, Dr. Rivaguro; minister of home affairs, Colonel Parra; minister of justice, Dr. Romeri; minister of finance, Dr. Belaunce; minister of war, General Velarge; minister of public works, Colonel Zegarra.

ENGLAND BIDS HIGH FOR GOLD

Raises the Price for American Eagles One Penny an Ounce.

ANNOUNCE SHIPMENTS AT NEW YORK

Causes Little Surprise on Wall Street, as the Change in Foreign Rates Makes Export of Gold Inevitable.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The Statist says: The prospects of gold coming from the United States are more hopeful. To induce shipments the Bank of England has raised the price it is willing to pay for eagles 1 penny, to 76s 5½d per ounce. At the same time it has offered to lend money at only 2½ per cent on the security of gold the moment it is shipped.

On the other hand the reaction in exchange has, we learn, prevented anyone as yet from taking advantage of this offer. The sharp advance in exchange Wednesday was due to very heavy selling of Americans. The decline in exchange yesterday was caused by London's renewed purchases.

Should London again sell Americans, as may occur in case the report of a British victory in Natal is confirmed, exchange would rise to the gold point and gold would come. In the event of the absence of gold arrivals from New York, London will be left to its own resources and consequently there would be a great demand for money at the end of the year.

Engage Gold for Shipment.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Wall street received with little surprise today announcements of gold shipments to Europe. There has been talk to that effect all through the week and with the change in foreign rates it was declared that exports were inevitable.

The first engagement announced was that of $500,000 by the banking house of Belmont & Co. and, although the news came from the subtreasury, it was announced the gold would not be drawn from that place. The second announcement was from Baring, Magoun & Co., for $100,000, and the third and last announcement was of Koen, Loeb & Co., who engaged $700,000 in double eagles. The gold engaged today will leave on tomorrow's steamers and it is believed that further engagements will be made tomorrow.

Report had it that one of the biggest banks in the city had completed arrangements to ship a big sum from the reserve in its vaults, and two prominent foreign exchange houses, not yet down for shipments, are likely to be heard from.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Late yesterday afternoon the Bank of England made a further advance in the buying price of American eagles to 76s 6d per ounce, which with the special facilities granted by the bank in the way of advances makes the price nearly 76s 6½d. No engagements for American gold are announced at that price.

WILL GIVE WOOD AN OVATION

Society of Cuban Veterans and Other Organizations to Welcome Him.

HAVANA, Dec. 15.—The Cubanito today expresses great satisfaction at the approaching change in the Cuban side of the administration, stating that the change is satisfactory on account of the character of General Wood, from whom good government is expected.

Much curiosity is expressed at the significance of the change, most people inclining to the view that General Wood is considered in Washington the best man for the place. It is not expected there will be any substantial change of policy. The Society of Veterans and other organizations are preparing a great ovation for General Wood on his arrival. His pronounced friendly feeling for the Cubans, as well as his record at Santiago, appeals strongly to popular favor.

The bishop of Havana has agreed to waive all cemetery charges in connection with the Colon cemetery in the case of the victims of the Maine disaster. Chaplain Chadwick is indignant at a charge made by a local paper that the department demands $2 for a permit to remove each body. This state is absolutely false and the bishop is lending all assistance in the undertaking.

At today's meeting of the Havana convention of delegates of the Cuban league and national party it was decided to send a petition to Washington requesting that the mayors of municipalities be elected by the direct vote of the people and that their election should not need to be confirmed by any higher authority.

Colonel Bacallao, chief of the secret police, has discovered that some of the detectives are in the pay of Havana merchants and allow the latter to adulterate their goods. He has discharged thirteen members of the force for this reason.

Former Lieutenant of Police Cassin, at one time a bugler in the Rough Riders, who has been on trial for killing a Cuban major, has been sentenced to imprisonment for two years and four months and to pay the heirs of Martinez $1,000. Cassin has already been nearly a year in prison and this time will be deducted from the sentence.

TO CONTROL OHIO COAL MINES

Morgan Interests Are Making Negotiations to Buy Fifteen Hocking Valley Coal Mines.

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 15.—Negotiations are pending here, with indications of being successful, by which the Morgan interests expect to gain control of the mining interests in the Hocking valley.

The deal is for the purchase of fifteen of the leading coal mines in the valley. Some time ago the Morgan people decided to secure the control of the coal business in Ohio and at that time bought up the Hocking Valley railway, but failed to close the deal for the mines.

At the same time, it was said, they made an offer for the Ohio Central railroad and the mines of the Sunday Creek valley, which the road taps. They secured the Sunday Creek mines, but failed to secure the road. The negotiations are being conducted secretly.

HILL IN A BIG LUMBER DEAL

Great Northern a Factor in Buying One Million Acres of Washington Timber Land.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 15.—A special from Seattle, Wash., says:

Most of the property owners of the Everett (Wash.) Land company, including the holdings of John D. Rockefeller, have been sold to a New York and Boston syndicate whose membership includes James J. Hill and other Great Northern factors.

Frederick Weyerhauser, the lumber king of Wisconsin, who bought 1,000,000 acres of timber land in Washington for several million dollars, is now negotiating for immediate tracts in Snohomis and contiguous counties. He is a warm friend of J. J. Hill. It is said there is co-operation between the two, causing Weyerhuser to buy the timber and get it ready for the market and Hill to furnish transportation and terminal facilities at Everett.

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—
Snow; Colder; Northerly Winds.

Temperature at Omaha Yesterday:

Hour.	Deg.	Hour.	Deg.
5 a. m.....	14	1 p. m.....	23
6 a. m.....	13	2 p. m.....	25
7 a. m.....	12	3 p. m.....	27
8 a. m.....	12	4 p. m.....	26
9 a. m.....	15	5 p. m.....	26
10 a. m.....	19	6 p. m.....	25
11 a. m.....	20	7 p. m.....	24
12 m.....	21	8 p. m.....	24
		9 p. m.....	23

FEAR GREAT LAKE DISASTER

No Tidings Received of Whaleback Barge 125, Which Broke Away From Sinking Steamer.

MARQUETTE, Mich., Dec. 15.—A special to the Mining Journal from Houghton tonight contains a statement from Captain James Burr of the American Steel Barge company's No. 137, in which he expresses the opinion that the barge 115 and barge Colgate Hoyt, which, with his barge, were part of the tow of the McDougal have gone down in the open lake.

Nothing has been heard from them since Monday night, at which time all three tows broke loose from the steamer. Barge 135 has since been picked up and brought into Houghton. Captain Burr says the storm was terrific. The other barges broke loose first and being older than barge 137 were not so well able to stand it.

If they have gone down it will be one of the greatest lake disasters in years. Each had a crew of twenty men of its own and was carrying down an extra crew. Total, about fifty men. The McDougal has passed the Soo, going down without any of her tows, leaving 137 to winter at Houghton. The fate of the other two is unknown.

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—The Lake Marine News bureau says: "There is but one whaleback missing—barge 115. It carries a crew of six or eight men."

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich., Dec. 15.—No tidings have been received here of the whaleback barge 115, which broke away from the whaleback steamer Colgate Hoyt on Lake Superior in Monday night's storm. The tugs which were sent out by Captain W. W. Smith, marine superintendent of the whalecacks, in search of the missing boat, have not yet returned. The Hoyt was sighted by the whaleback steamer McDougal near Michipigoten island yesterday morning. It was at that time in search of the barge. If the barge has been lost it will be the first whaleback to founder in a storm.

OUTLINING MOLINEUX DEFENSE

Attorney Weeks Attempts to Introduce the Name of J. Morton Riggs in Expert's Testimony.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—When the trial of Roland B. Molineux was adjourned today until Monday William J. Kinsley, the handwriting expert, was still on the witness stand, undergoing a severe re-cross-examination at the hands of Mr. Weeks, the attorney for the defense. It is expected that the work of cross-examining Expert Kinsley will not be completed before Tuesday evening next.

Perhaps the most important point, certainly the most interesting point, insofar as it is supposed to outline the possible policy of the defense, was the attempt today of Mr. Weeks to introduce the name of J. Morton Riggs, a name not heretofore mentioned during the present trial.

Mr. Weeks handed Expert Kinsley a small slip of paper and inquired:

"Does not that purport to be the signature of J. Morton Riggs?"

To this Mr. Osborne objected and the objection was sustained, but after long arguments Recorder Goff ruled that the paper could be marked for identification.

Riggs is said to be at Hong Kong, or at least was there a few weeks ago, having been discharged from the navy at that post.

BIG BOSTON FIRM ASSIGNS

John B. Squire & Co., Engaged in Meat Packing Business, Fails—Liabilities Estimated at $3,000,000.

BOSTON, Dec. 15.—John B. Squire & Co., corporation allied companies, engaged in the meat and provision and meat packing business, assigned today to Lawyer Herman W. Chaplin. The liabilities are estimated at $3,000,000 and assets at $5,000,000. The business will be carried on without any change by Mr. Chaplin as assignee.

A meeting of the creditors will be called at an early date and Mr. Chaplin is of the opinion that all will agree on some plan that will allow the business to proceed without interruption.

The creditors are mostly banks, the Globe bank of this city being one of the heaviest creditors. Other Boston banks are involved, but the indebtedness is largely outside of Boston, divided for the most part among banks in New England in which the Squire company has branch stores. The estate of the late John P. Squire is not involved in any way in the assignment.

TELLS ON DEKALB ROBBERS

George McCarroll Confesses to Assaulting Thoson Family—Names Northwestern Train Robbers.

JEFFERSON, Wis., Dec. 15.—George McCarroll, who was arrested at Fond Du Lac for assaulting the Thoson family near Concord, has confessed that he and Billy Bennett, his partner, are guilty of the murder of the Thosons and in addition to that, has admitted that he is wel acquainted with the gang who held up the Northwestern limited train near DeKalb, Ill., on October 13 and for whose arrest a reward of $5,000 has been offered.

Carroll has furnished an excellent description of all of them, in addition to their names, and has also told the sheriff where they said they were going from Fond Du Lac. The robbers are said to have plenty of money.

Kansas Physician Accidently Killed.

FORT SCOTT, Kan., Dec. 15.—Dr. F. C. Rainier, a physician of this city, was accidentally shot and instantly killed today while hunting with a party of friends near here. The trigger of his gun caught on a post and his head was blown off. Dr. Rainier was a graduate of the Sterling Medical college of Columbus, O.

Movements of Ocean Vessels Dec. 15.

At Bremen—Arrived—Aller, from New York, via Southampton.

At Havre—Arrived—La Champagne, from New York.

At Kobe—Sailed—Arab, for Portland, Ore.

At Manila—Sailed—Olympia, for San Francisco.

At New York—Arrived—State of Nebraska, from Glasgow.

At Rotterdam—Arrived 14th—Spaarndam, from New York. Sailed 13th—Maasdam, for New York.

At Copenhagen—Sailed 13th—Thingvalla, for New York.

At Queenstown—Arrived—Umbria, from New York, for Liverpool, and proceeded.

At Genoa—Arrived—Ems, from New York.

BULLER FALLS BACK

English General Regrets Reporting a Serious Reverse at Tugela River.

BOERS CAPTURE TEN OF HIS FIELD GUNS

British Are Only Able to Save Two of Their Artillery Pieces.

ENEMY KILL NEARLY ALL THE HORSES

Connaught Rangers Suffer Heavy Losses in Leading the Attack.

COLONEL BROOKE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

Day Intensely Hot and Most Trying on English Troops—General Hunt's Brigade is Reported to Be Badly Cut to Pieces.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—12:47 a. m.—The War office has received a dispatch announcing that General Buller has met with a serious reverse, losing eleven guns.

General Buller was attempting to cross the Tugela river. Finding it impossible to effect his object he ordered a retirement in order to avoid greater losses. He left eleven guns behind.

LONDON, Dec. 13.—The following is the text of General Buller's dispatch announcing his reverse:

"CHEVELEY CAMP, Dec. 15.—6:20 p. m.—I regret to report a serious reverse. I moved in full strength from our camp near Cheveley at 4 this a. m. There are two formidable places in the Tugela river and it was my intention to force a passage through one of them. They are about two miles apart.

"My intention was to force one or the other with one brigade, supported by a central brigade. General Hart was to attend the left drift, General Hildyard the right road and General Lyttleton was to take the center and to support either. Early in the day I saw that General Hart would not be able to force a passage and I directed him to withdraw. He had, however, attacked with great gallantry and his leading battalion, the Connaught Rangers, I fear, suffered a great deal. Colonel I. G. Brooke was seriously wounded.

Orders an Advance.

"I then ordered General Hildyard to advance, which he did, and his leading regiment, the East Surrey, occupied Colenso station and the houses near the bridge. At that moment I heard that the whole artillery I had sent to support the attack—the Fourteenth and Sixty-sixth field batteries and six naval 12-pounder quick-firers, under Colonel Long—had advanced close to the river, in Long's desire to be within effective range. It proved to be full of the enemy, who suddenly opened a galling fire at close range, killing all their horses, and the gunners were compelled to stand to their guns. Some of the wagon teams got shelter for troops in a donga and desperate efforts were being made to bring out the field guns. The fire, however, was too severe and only two were saved by Captain Schofield and some drivers whose names I will furnish.

"Another most gallant attempt, with three teams, was made by an officer whose name I will obtain. Of the eighteen horses thirteen were killed and as several drivers were wounded I would not allow another attempt, as it seemed that they would be a shell mark, sacrificing life to a gallant attempt to force the passage. Unsupported by artillery, I directed the troops to withdraw, which they did in good order.

"Throughout the day a considerable force of the enemy was pressing on my right flank, but was kept back by mounted men under Lord Dundonald and part of General Barton's brigade. The day was intensely hot and most trying for the troops, whose conduct was excellent. We have abandoned ten guns and lost by shell fire one. The losses in General Hart's brigade are, I heavy, although the proportion of severely wounded I hope, is not large. The Fourteenth and Sixty-sixth field batteries also suffered severe losses. We have retired to our camp at Cheveley. BULLER."

Fighting at Zoutspan.

It is understood that the first War office dispatch announcing fighting at Zoutspan drift indicated that General Methuen had been forced to return to the Orange river. But apparently it only involved a brush with the troops protecting the line of communication, as Zoutspan drift is considerably southeast of the Orange river base.

Some of the specials estimate the Boer loss at Magersfontein at 2,000 men.

Considerable satisfaction is felt both in military and civilian circles by the announcement that General Hector McDonald, whose splendid defeat of the dervishes' flank attack at Omdurman turned a critical situation into a British victory, has been ordered to leave India immediately to succeed the late General Wauchope, in command of the Highland brigade. General Tucker, commanding at Zecunderabad, has also been ordered to the cape to command a division.

The War office has a dispatch from Colonel Kekewich, dated Kimberley, Sunday, December 10, saying: "The Boers have reattacked Kuruman and have again been repulsed by loyalists and Bechuanas.

"The Kimberley forces made a demonstration northward December 9 and drew 500 Boers and three guns. Fighting ensued for several hours. The British casualties were one man killed and seven wounded."

Artillery Duel at Ladysmith.

A special dispatch received here today from Frere camp says that simultaneously with the bombardment of Colenso a furious artillery duel commenced between the garrison of Ladysmith and the Boers on Umbulwan hill.

The following named officers of the Highland brigade, who were reported missing after the battle of Magersfontein, were killed:

Captain Cumming-Bruce, Captain MacFarlane, Lieutenant Ramsay and Captain Brodie.

Those who subsequently died of their wounds were:

Colonel Downman and Lieutenant Campbell.

The war office this afternoon received an unimportant dispatch from General Buller under today's date. This indirectly gives