

DECEMBER—1899.

Calendar table for December 1899 with days of the week and dates.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

England Was Caught Napping. For several years past the South African republic has paid out an average of \$6,000,000 for war preparations.

Thirst Is Unknown to Them. There are certain lucky creatures who never feel the pangs of thirst, for they are so constituted that drink is unnecessary to them.

All Minted in England. It is a curious fact that the official money of the Transvaal was coined in Birmingham. The so-called Kruger pennies are now selling at a large premium in Great Britain.

Col. W. J. Bryan's Accumulations. W. J. Bryan is the only man who has made running for office and getting beat. He has made more than \$60,000 out of his books.

More Money and Fewer Saloons. Under the present law with its higher rates the revenue collected in the state of New York from liquor licenses is four times what it was under the old law.

The Railroads of Iowa. The full report of the Iowa railroad commission for the year ended June 30, 1899, shows an increase in business in Iowa of a little over \$3,000,000.

A Pacific Cable to Be Laid. It has been learned that a bill will be introduced in congress providing for the laying of a cable across the Pacific.

Presiding Officers of Congress. The house of representatives can elect anybody speaker and the senate can elect anybody president pro tem.

Verdict by a Jury of Nine. A suit for damages brought by Charles W. Rugg against the Boston & Maine railroad for personal injuries in a collision was submitted to a jury of nine members in Boston last week.

PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN

Gen. Young Believes Aguinaldo to Be in Benguel Mountain Pass.

REBELS DRIVEN FROM ILDEFONSO.

The Residents of Tagudin Receive Americans with a Brass Band—Young's Command About Famished and Horses Worn Out.

Manila, Dec. 5.—An Associated press dispatch from Dagupan containing advice later than those from Santa Cruz says that Gen. Young hopes to find Aguinaldo in Benguel mountain pass.

Col. Hood, while reconnoitering near San Miguel, drove a force of insurgents from Ildefonso, killing several. Five Americans were slightly wounded.

The residents of Tagudin received the Americans outside the town with a brass band. They had been robbed of almost everything by the insurgents.

Gen. Young's command was almost without food. The men had been living on the country, which affords but little, and the horses were completely worn out.

The inhabitants of Santa Cruz and of other towns through which the Americans passed say that Aguinaldo and his entire refugee army have gone into the mountains eastward since the Oregon, Samar and Callao attacked Vigan island and landed a force there.

In several towns Gen. Young was shown letters written by Lient. Gilmore, showing that he had been kindly treated by the citizens and had been entertained by them when he passed through last May.

Reports indicate that all of the American prisoners, some 25 or 30, were at one time in Benguel province, but it is supposed now that they have been removed into Lepanto province.

Gen. Young's desire is to pursue the rebels into the mountains. There is no communication between his small command and any of the other American columns, except indirectly, perhaps, by sighting and signaling United States gunboats bound to or from Manila.

Capt. Rubold, with 25 men of company G, Thirty-second infantry, while escorting the signal corps laying the wire from Porac to Florida Blanca, charged and routed 70 insurgents, killing a captain and several privates.

STRUCK BY A TRAIN.

Eleven Persons Injured by a Street Car Being Demolished by a Train at Chicago.

Chicago, Dec. 5.—A Wabash passenger train struck a Thirty-first street electric car at seven o'clock last night, injuring 11 persons and demolishing the car. The passenger train was running at a high rate of speed and was two blocks from the crossing when the conductor of the electric car gave the signal to the motorman to cross.

Henderson Presented with a Flag. Washington, Dec. 5.—A pretty incident preliminary to the meeting of the house of representatives occurred in the speaker's office, where Gen. Henderson was presented with a handsome silk flag on a staff cut from the campus of his old college at Fayette, Ia.

Negro Wants to Be Hanged. Oklahoma, City, Ok., Dec. 5.—This city has a negro who wants to be hanged. He is John Wilson, who pleaded guilty to the charge of killing Will Austin, another negro, in an agreement to receive a life sentence. He insisted that the killing was in cold blood, and that he ought to be hanged for it.

Shot His Brothers. Mobile, Ala., Dec. 5.—At State Line, Miss., Edmund, the five-year-old son of Dr. W. H. Boykin, shot and instantly killed his brother Roderick, aged 11, and severely wounded in the right arm his brother Tom, aged 13. The older boys were playing with an air-gun which Edmund wanted and, when refused, he shot them.

UNITED STATES MAILS.

In His Annual Report Postmaster General Smith Gives Interesting Facts and Makes Several Recommendations.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The annual report of Postmaster General Charles Emory Smith was made public last night. Its chief feature is a plea for congressional action to stop the abuse of second-class mail privileges, which he says results in an annual waste of upwards of \$20,000,000.

The most urgent need of the postal service is the rectification of the enormous wrongs which have grown up in the perversion and abuse of the privileges accorded by law to second-class matter. There are many improvements and advantages waiting development and application; opportunities for speedier transmission and delivery; fields for broadening the scope of the mail service and bringing it closer home to the people.

For this costly abuse, which drains on the department and weighs down the service, trammels its power and means of effective advancement in every direction, involves a sheer waste of \$20,000,000 or upward a year. The postal deficit for the current year is \$3,000,000. But for this wrongful application of the second-class rate, instead of a deficit there would be a clear surplus of many millions.

Mr. Smith concludes that over one-fourth of the entire volume and weight of the mails pays as second-class matter when it should pay third-class and that this furnishes only one-fifty-fifth part of the postal revenue and its carrying, reckoning at eight cents a pound, costs \$14,108,129 while revenue from it is \$1,763,516, thus causing a loss of over \$12,000,000.

There is to be a favored class, let it embrace all the people. With this class paying properly its own postage, with reasonable limitations could be applied to letters without entailing a deficit far in excess of the last few years, and possibly with none at all.

Regarding our new possessions the postmaster general says: The presence of United States troops in the new island possessions and Cuba in constant communication with home, constrained the establishment of mail facilities for their needs and the practical obliteration of the old local postal system with extrajurisdiction of Spanish authority compelled a re-organization of the whole service for the requirements of the native population.

LETTER FROM GEN. WHEELER

If the Americans Should Withdraw from the Philippines There Would Be Anarchy in the Islands.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Gen. Joe Wheeler, in a personal letter received here, dated at Angeles, Luzon, says: There are more than 20 different tribes in this island and very few of them would submit to Aguinaldo's rule. Aguinaldo and his generals would like to govern, because it would give them great power, and many of his soldiers like the war because for the first time in their lives they have authority to carry a gun.

Aguinaldo publishes a paper, which is filled with expressions from people of the United States who are called anti-imperialists, and I think were it not for these expressions the insurrection would be closed.

A Great Sale of Wool. St. Louis, Dec. 4.—A syndicate of eastern mills has consummated a deal here for 1,250,000 pounds of wool. The terms of the sale were private, but it is said the wool sold for four cents a pound more than the price at which the same lot was offered a short time ago, and the deal amounted to more than \$250,000.

Centennial of Washington's Death. Washington, Dec. 4.—Arrangements are about completed for the masonic celebration of the centennial of the death of Worshipful George Washington on December 14. The principal ceremonies will be at Mount Vernon and will include masonic rites at the new tomb and an address at the mansion by President McKinley.

He Invented the Fetter Press. New York, Dec. 4.—Charles Potter, Jr., the printing press inventor, died at his home in Plainfield, N. J., Saturday, aged 75. He had been sick some time with a complication of diseases. He had amassed a fortune.

MODDER RIVER FIGHT

A Feeling of Disappointment in London Over the Result.

PRETORIA EQUIPPED FOR A SIEGE.

Boers Reported in Full Retreat to Bloemfontein—Gen. Cronje Raises the Siege at Mafeking—The Wreck of the Ismore.

London, Dec. 5.—There is little further news from the seat of war. Even the latest accounts of the battle at Modder river fail to give an intelligent idea of what happened. There is a feeling of disappointment and a continuing anxiety respecting Gen. Lord Methuen. The Times says, editorially: "The battle affords splendid proof of the unsurpassed qualities of the British soldier, but while victories won solely by the exercise of these qualities are indeed magnificent, they are not war. They fill us with pride, but with pride not unmingled with regret at the persistent perversity of circumstances which, apparently, prevents us obtaining equal or greater results by processes savoring a little of that military science of which we hear so much."

Mafeking is safe, or was so on November 24. The British had captured 25 burgers of Commandant Dutoit's forces. An Associated press dispatch from Durban says that persons arriving there from Pretoria assert that the Boers are full of confidence and are well prepared for a six months' siege of Pretoria.

The Times has the following from Frere camp, dated Wednesday, November 25: "The Boer camp at Colenso is visible from a point near Chieveley. It is a strong position and difficult for a direct front attack."

The Cape Times correspondent of the Standard says: "The government intends at an early date to send one of the ministers to England to urge upon the imperial authorities the acceptance of the Cape cabinet's view regarding the final settlement after the war."

The special correspondent of the Daily News with Gen. Methuen, telegraphing from Modder river on the day after the battle, says: "I hear that the Boers are in full retreat to Bloemfontein."

The Cape Times has the following dispatch from Mafeking, dated November 30: "Gen. Cronje, with 100 wagons and a large body of Boers, has left his laager, practically raising the siege, although desultory firing can be heard."

London, Dec. 5.—It is now said that most of the guns, swords and carbines and a portion of the ammunition have been landed from the British transport Ismore, ashore in St. Helena bay. An official dispatch from Cape Town announced that the Ismore broke up yesterday evening. Her stern is out of the water, but her bow is gone. All hands and 29 horses out of 350, were saved. The loss of the Ismore's horses is quite serious at the present moment, when they were particularly needed. They consisted of selected, trained chargers and gun teams. It is not yet clear whether the six field guns on board the transport were saved. In any case much war material and hospital equipment were lost.

AUTOMATIC TELEGRAPHING.

The Pollack-Virag Machines to Be Introduced into the United States—Low Rates for Messages.

Chicago, Dec. 5.—The Tribune today says: Uncle Sam's post office will be the first to feel the effect of competition with the Pollack-Virag automatic telegraph system, according to the plans under way for the introduction of the machines in the United States. It is intended to establish a service with this device which will enable merchants and other business men to send long letters at such low rates as to make the plan acceptable. The rate is to be made so low that a merchant could afford to send messages 1,000 words in length.

The sort of wires that best serve these machines are those used by telephone companies. For that reason it has been proposed that the system be adopted by the telephone companies. One such company has been negotiating for several days for the right to use the machines.

A Fireman Killed and Horses Lost.

Chicago, Dec. 5.—During a fire which last night burned one of the two buildings occupied by John A. Gaugh & Co., and Hardy Bros. & Foley, moiding factories at Twenty-first place and Loomis street, John Bohannon, a fireman, was killed and James E. Donnelly, another fireman, was seriously injured by the falling of a wall. Five horses were burned to death. Gougher & Co.'s loss is \$30,000 and Hardy Bros. & Foley's \$25,000.

William E. Miller Reported Captured.

Chicago, Dec. 5.—In a telegram received here last night at the local offices of the Mooney & Boland detective agency the capture of William E. Miller, accused of having been connected with the Franklin syndicate swindle in New York, was announced as having been effected at Montreal by the agencies' operatives, who have been in pursuit of the fugitive since his disappearance ten days ago.

Non-Sinkable Boats.

The latest invention for saving life comes from London, and is a non-sinkable boat. If people would pay as much attention to the preservation of life in other ways, there would be a great improvement. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is a life preserver, discovered 50 years ago. It cures dyspepsia, indigestion and all forms of stomach trouble. It is an excellent tonic for the whole system and may be had from any druggist.

Scows That Pass in the Night.

Jacques leaned over the gunwale of the flatboat as she floated lazily down the Detroit river. He smoked his pipe. Pierre hung over the rail of the scow that was upwind bound. He also was enveloped in a lazy smoke. In the moonlight the two boatmen recognized each other. "Hello, Pierre. How you get along?" "Oh, I been get along. How you get along?" "Oh, I been get along, too." "How your seek fairer get along, Jacques?" "My fairer? Oh, she get along. She been died last week."—Detroit Free Press.

Deafness Cannot Be Cured

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube gets inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Sent for circulars, free of charge. F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

For the Grave.

A solicitor in a Georgia court is responsible for the following: He overheard a conversation between his cook and a nurse, who were discussing a recent funeral of a member of their race, at which there had been a great profusion of flowers. The nurse said: "When I die, don't plant no flowers on my grave, but plant a good old water-melon vine; and when it gets ripe you come far, and don't you eat it, but jus' bust it on de grave and let dat good old juice dribble down through de ground."—Youth's Companion.

Every reader of this paper should give special heed to the offers which are appearing from week to week by the John M. Smyth Co., the mammoth mail order house of Chicago. In this issue will be found their advertisement of a thoroughly up-to-date, first-class sewing machine, at the astounding low price of \$14.25. Coming as this offer and other offers do from a house with a commercial rating of over one million dollars, and of the highest character, they mark an opportunity that the shrewd buyer will not be slow to take advantage of. The John M. Smyth Co., 150 to 160 West Madison street, will send their mammoth catalogue, in which is listed at wholesale prices everything to eat, wear and use, on receipt of only 10 cents to partly pay postage or expressage, and even this 10 cents is allowed on first purchase amounting to one dollar.

His Ability.

Seldum Fedd—Dat fellow, Hungry Hooks, is a credit to de profession. Soiled Spooner—You bet! He could steal de soda right out of a biscuit widout breakin' de crust.—Judge.

Give the Children a Drink

called Grain-O. It is a delicious, appetizing, nourishing food drink to take the place of coffee. Sold by all grocers and liked by all who have used it, because when properly prepared it tastes like the finest coffee but is free from all its injurious properties. Grain-O aids digestion and strengthens the nerves. It is not a stimulant but a health builder, and children, as well as adults, can drink it with great benefit. Costs about as much as coffee. 15 and 25c.

A lot of the conversation worked off in society ought to be dumped in the garbage can.—Chicago Daily News.

Ayer's Pills advertisement with illustration of a person and text describing the benefits for various ailments.

Buckingham's Dye for Whiskers advertisement with text and small illustration.

Sour Stomach advertisement with text and illustration of a person.

Cascarets advertisement with text and illustration of the product box.