

CRONJE DYING HARD

His Desperate Resistance After Failure to Escape from Roberts.

ASKS FOR ARMISTICE TO BURY THE DEAD

Kitchener Replies, "Fight or Surrender Unconditionally"

CRONJE SAYS THAT IS HIS INTENT

Roberts Wires that He Has Scattered Boers, Inflicting Great Loss.

HEAVY CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES

General Kelly-Kenny Orders an Advance Across the Open to Capture Two Drifts—Have from Lyddite Guns.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—A. m.—General Cronje is seemingly making his last stand.

He is dying hard, hemmed in by British infantry and with shells from sixty guns falling into his camp.

On the third day of the fight the Boer chief asked for an armistice to bury his dead.

"Fight to the last or surrender unconditionally," was Lord Kitchener's reply.

General Cronje sent back word that his request for a truce had been misunderstood and that his determination then as before was to fight to the death.

The battle went on. This was the situation of General Cronje Tuesday evening, as sketched in the scanty telegrams that have emerged from the semi-silence of South Africa.

Officially Lord Roberts wires that he has scattered the advance commands of the relief columns and that the Boer force is a long line on the left, which rested on the river, the extreme right being the Welsh.

The whole line was ordered to envelop the Boers, who lined both banks of the river.

General Cronje's position, covered the left of the Highland brigade, which advanced partly up the riverbed and partly in the open, while the rest of the brigade with the Welsh regiments swung round the front.

General Cronje's laager, full of carts, ammunition and stores, could be plainly seen near the north bank.

Boer Force Cut in Two.

General Smith-Borrien collected a large force of Boers, including the Canadians, and crossed the river at Paardeburgdrift, advancing toward the laager, which was being vigorously shelled.

This force made a gallant attempt to charge into the laager, but failed. Before seizing the western drifts the Boers sent a couple of their men to the river, where they were captured.

The Boers held the kopje and have one Vickers-Maxim and probably one or two other guns.

Toward evening the battery on the south side of the river, including the Canadians, crossed the river at Paardeburgdrift, advancing toward the laager, which was being vigorously shelled.

The shells fell with amazing precision along the river bed, opposite the laager, which was shelled thoroughly, galling everything it contained. One shell set on fire a small ammunition wagon, which burned nearly all day.

Many other wagons were set on fire and the glare was visible at a considerable distance far into the night.

The infantry also maintained a terrible fire, which was answered vigorously. The scene toward nightfall was terribly picturesque with the lighting wags, the firing artillery and the crackling rifle fire.

EDITING ROBERTS' MESSAGES

War Office Believed to Be Withholding Unfavorable News—Rumors of Disaster.

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LONDON, Feb. 23.—(New York World Telegram)—Special Telegram.—London's enthusiasm over Roberts' operations in the Orange Free State was struck all of a shiver shortly after the dinner hour today by rumors that ran about public places that the British were retreating.

It was said that the Highland brigade had met another disaster in the attack upon the Boers in strong positions. Reports could not be traced to any definite source, but men in a position to know declared that the war office knew that the Highland brigade had been again trapped and that the Black Watch and another regiment of the same brigade had been nearly wiped out.

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CONVENTION AT KANSAS CITY

Milwaukee Beaten in the Contest for the National Democratic Gathering.

WILL MEET ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

Gorman's Speech in Favor of Holding to Precedent and Naming Later Date Than Republicans Has Influence.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The next national democratic convention will be held at Kansas City, Mo., July 4.

This was the decision of the democratic national committee which met at the Hotel Raleigh today to fix the time and place of holding the convention.

Milwaukee was the only city which competed for the honor of entertaining the convention and the poor showing it made when the vote was taken (the result, Kansas City 40, Milwaukee 9), caused general surprise.

The claims of the rival cities as to hotel accommodations, railroad and telegraphic facilities were presented in open session by representatives of each city, and subsequently in executive session.

Senator W. J. Stone on behalf of Kansas City and National Committeeman E. C. Wall, on behalf of Milwaukee, explained the financial inducements which the city he represented was willing to make.

Each offered the committee \$50,000, but in addition, Kansas City was willing to furnish hotel accommodations for the members of the committee and the hall, with decorations and music free.

Milwaukee's strongest argument was the political effect which the holding of the convention in that city would have.

It was pointed out that the city would have a large number of voters, who were represented to the committee as wavering in their allegiance to the republican party.

No Allusion to Free Silver.

It seemed to be taken for granted by at least two speakers that Bryan would be nominated and that the Chicago platform in substance would be reaffirmed.

Reference to trusts, expansion and "imperialism," together with every mention of Bryan and the Chicago platform aroused enthusiasm, but during the open session there was no allusion to the issue of free silver.

Three dates for holding the convention were proposed, May 9, by Townsend of Oregon; June 14, by Senator Tillman of South Carolina; and July 4, by McGraw of West Virginia.

A speech by ex-Senator Gorman in favor of holding to precedent and naming a date later than that for the convention was warmly received.

His influence in causing Independence day to be chosen.

After the committee had selected the "Gate City of the West," the Kansas City boomers held a justification meeting in their rooms at the Raleigh.

Governor Stone addressed the gathering, dressed the gathering, predicting that those who attended the convention would depart with praises upon their lips for the hospitality they had received and that the nominee of the convention would be the victor at the polls in November.

The vote upon the date of the convention was: In favor of July 27; June 14, 21 votes; May 9, 1 vote.

Ex-Senator Gorman said that four years ago it might have been well to hold the convention early as the party then took a new position, one which drove many of the leaders out of the party or into temporary retirement.

The organization then went into new hands, into the hands of able men, but many of whom had not been active in control of party affairs.

It took them some time to organize. Now there was a good organization, the party was ready and equipped to enter upon its campaign.

The party in power should be allowed to hold its convention first and the indictment of that party could be made as it has been in times past.

McLean of Ohio also favored the latter date.

The committee decided the District of Columbia contest for national committeeman in favor of James L. Norris.

A sub-committee was named to audit the accounts of the committee. Chairman Jones was authorized to appoint a sub-committee of seven to make arrangements for the convention. It is probable that Stone of Missouri and Johnson of Kansas will be members of the committee.

Formal Call Is Issued.

The national committee issued the following call:

The national democratic committee, having met in the city of Kansas City, Mo., on Wednesday, the 14th day of July, at the time and place appointed in the call, and chosen the city of Kansas City, Mo., as the place for holding the national democratic convention of the party, do hereby call a representation therein to be held at Kansas City, Mo., on Independence day, July 4, 1900.

The District of Columbia shall have seven delegates, and the states and territories, and the District of Columbia shall have five delegates, and the states and territories, and the District of Columbia shall have five delegates.

The effort for pure, economic and constitutional government, and the effort for the republic and the people, are hereby called upon to join in sending delegates to the convention.

The committee at 6:30 p. m. adjourned to meet at Kansas City July 3.

James A. Reed, prosecuting attorney of Kansas City, made the opening speech, presenting the claims for the meeting of the party on Independence day.

He presented came not only from the citizens of Kansas City, but from the unflattering, triumphant democracy of Missouri.

In the contest of 1896, when some of the leaders in other sections of the union were faltering and hither to democratic states were staggering and weak Missouri increased her popularity 20,000.

Milwaukee, he said, was a worthy opponent and was represented by a splendid set of worthy gentlemen, but he submitted that comparison of her facilities with those of Kansas City would show the immeasurable superiority of the latter.

Kansas City's Good Points.

Kansas City has thirty-nine lines of railroad and her telegraphic facilities are excellent. Her hotels are more than ample.

Outside of the great hotels of New York there are in Kansas City seven hotels that will rank as high as any in the United States.

The committee, he said, should have the first choice of rooms at these hotels, the delegates the second choice. Hotel rates, he promised, would not be raised.

Mr. Reed was especially full in his eulogy of the convention city, which he said would seat 25,000 people. He quoted Mr. Bryan as having stated that the hall could hardly be surpassed. The mention of Bryan's name drew the first applause of the meeting.

He also quoted the late Dwight L. Moody as having said that no hall in this country or Europe could equal it. This hall will be given free of charge. He appealed to the members of the committee in the name of the democracy of Missouri to come to a decision in favor of the convention city.

He did not come begging for the convention in the hope of carrying a doubtful state. Whether the convention went to Kansas City or not, Missouri would be true to democracy.

When the name of New York was called.

PROGRAM FOR CONVENTION

Plans for New York State Republican Meeting for Election of Delegates to Convention.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—The republican state convention for the election of delegates-at-large to the national republican convention in Philadelphia will be held at the Grand Central palace in this city on April 18.

The delegates-at-large will be Senators Platt and Dewey, Governor Roosevelt and the chairman of the state committee, E. B. O'Dell.

The alternatives have been selected, but it is thought they will be defeated.

Francis Hendrick, Lemuel Quigg, and Speaker of the Assembly S. Fred Nixon, or Louis F. Payn.

This practically, together with the selection by districts of presidential electors, is the program that the republican state committee will lay out at its meeting tomorrow at the Fifth Avenue hotel.

Senator Platt is not in the city and will not be here during the meeting tomorrow and Governor Roosevelt is also out of the committee.

The committee will meet at noon and will carry out an agenda program. It is possible that some friction may occur over resolutions endorsing the administration of Governor Roosevelt, there being tonight intimations in certain quarters that the Payne election has decided to bolt the endorsement of any such resolutions.

Offering in their place resolutions denouncing the governor's course. It was said tonight on the part of authority that no policy for the disposition of pending legislation in the legislature now sitting would be adopted, but it is understood from the same source that the legislature is not expected to adjourn before April 12.

The convention to meet on April 18 in this city will pass resolutions endorsing the present national administration.

The convention will name presidential electors and will elect a national committee.

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BRYAN IS HELD RESPONSIBLE

Governor Says His Influence Aided Paris Treaty Ratification.

PRESENT CONDITIONS AS A RESULT

Reasons for Bryan's Leaving His Regiment—Paymaster Present at Conference of Governors of Arid Land States.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—(Special Telegram)—Congressman Grover of Ohio, in a speech today on the Porto Rican tariff bill, paid a compliment to Colonel Bryan and his efforts in behalf of the ratification of the Paris treaty.

Grover said in beginning his speech: "Last fall in the campaign in Nebraska members of a gallant colonel's regiment criticized his conduct in resigning and coming home and a good deal of jeering and laughter was going on over the state and the lieutenant colonel of his regiment wrote a letter, which was widely published in Nebraska, explaining why the colonel resigned."

He said that the colonel had information that there was critical danger that the treaty with Spain would be defeated and fled from his regiment and came to Washington as a patriotic duty to secure a vote or two in favor of ratification, and he secured it.

"One senator, at least, who was opposed to ratification when he came voted for ratification and made it a supreme law of this land. And now his followers are coming before the people of this country and saying that it is a condition into which the country has been thrown by the act of the republican party."

It Was Patriotic Then.

"At that time it was legitimate. At that time it was good politics and good patriotism to have shut out of the union the Philippines and all these colonial people that these two hours of essay have been aimed at. Everybody knows that it is a question of fair and just deliberation. If you were to select today one man of all other men on the continent of America who is responsible for the condition that we are in regarding the Philippines and Porto Rico it would be William J. Bryan of Nebraska."

When Neville of Nebraska asked if Grover expected to embalm the Filipino along with the Declaration of Independence in the Philippines, the Ohio member answered that when the democratic party got together with the Filipino it would need embalming.

An informal conference of governors of the following states was held this afternoon upon matters affecting arid land states: Thomas, Colorado; Lee, South Dakota; Richards, Wyoming; Poynter, Nebraska; Steunberger, Idaho; Smith, Montana; Murphy, Arizona, and Wells, Utah.

Discussion was upon questions of the cession of arid lands to the several states and leasing of unoccupied lands for grazing purposes.

It was the unanimous opinion of the governors that the state should cede unoccupied lands, but the meeting decided to adopt no formal memorial at this time.

Convention of Governors.

A resolution was, however, adopted providing for a meeting of governors of arid land states at Salt Lake April 16 and requesting congress not to take any action pending this meeting. Two reasons were given for deferring action at this time, the first being that it was the desire of those present to have North Dakota, Oregon, Washington and Nevada represented today, and secondly, it was the general opinion that too much discussion could not be had among the people previous to the meeting at Salt Lake.

Governor Poynter and Mrs. Poynter leave for Chicago tomorrow evening. They will spend Sunday there and return to Nebraska Monday.

Colonel French of Chicago, representing allied interests of agricultural implements and iron manufacturers, and W. H. Alexander of Omaha, representing lead smelting and sulphate of copper interests, presented their arguments in favor of the ratification of the French reciprocity treaty to the committee before the treaty was reported yesterday.

His errors of judgment, his failures and afflictions only mark him as human. His great work shows the touch of divine inspiration.

His strength of character, tenacity of purpose and wonderful endowments are referred to and it is pointed out that at all times grateful people have erected monuments to the memory of their illustrious dead.

"That no monument or memorial has ever been erected at the national capital to the memory of this great man," says the report, "seems almost incredible. The parks and reservations of Washington everywhere erected monuments to great men who served under General Grant, while the greatest of them all is not remembered in this way."

AIMED AT TIN PLATE TRUST.

Richardson Follows Up Anti-Trust Resolutions with Another.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Representative Richardson of Tennessee, the democratic floor leader, today introduced a resolution in regard to tin plate trusts similar to those recently introduced in relation to trusts in sugar and paper.

The resolution states that because a recent rise in the price of tin plate indicates that trusts or combines exist for the purpose of destroying competition, the products manufactured by the American Tin Plate company and other manufacturers of tin plate shall, six months after the passage of the resolution, be prohibited by the Interstate Commerce commission from transportation in any manner whatever from one state to another, until the commission is satisfied that such products offered for competition have not yielded a profit to the manufacturers of more than 4 per cent.

Holiday at the Capital.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—In accordance with custom all of the executive departments of the government were closed today in honor of the birthday of Washington.

MORE PLAGUE AT HAWAII

New Cases Are Reported as Having Broken Out in the Pacific Islands.

HONOLULU, Feb. 15.—(Via San Francisco, Feb. 22.)—The black plague has broken out at both Kahului, on the island of Maui, and Hilo, on the island of Hawaii.

The latest report shows deaths at Kahului, all Chinese, and at Hilo, a Chinese and a woman, the wife of A. G. Seno. The letter was received here February 19, in a letter from Sheriff Baldwin.

Chinatown in Kahului, which had about 300 inhabitants, had been destroyed by fire. The sanitary conditions were worse than in Honolulu. The towns of La Haine and Hauha have established quarantine against other portions of Maui.

An unfortunate feature of the case is the proximity to Kahului of several large plantations, with their thousands of laborers. It is thought that the plague reached Kahului through the shipment of Chinese new-year goods.

In Honolulu the health situation is better than at any time since the outbreak of the plague. Not a case has developed in the last ten days.

The penniless condition of thousands of Chinese and Japanese who lost their homes in the recent fire in Chinatown is growing to be a matter of concern to the officials.

A council of state appropriated an additional \$10,000 for the completion of camps for them.

COMMITTEE FIXES SCALE

Prices Are Named for Hand Mining in Most of the Districts.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 22.—The sub-committee of coal operators and miners in Illinois this afternoon agreed on a scale in all districts but two. The prices fixed by the subcommittee for hand mining follow: Second district, Danville and Associated mines, 40 cents; third district, Springfield and Associated mines, 40 cents; fourth district, Odin, Sandvol, Carbondale and Associated mines, 45 cents; seventh district, Williamson and Salline counties, 45 cents; ninth district, Mount Olive, Coffey and Vandavia and Associated mines, 40 cents.

In the district comprising Peoria and Associated mines no agreement has been reached. In the first district, comprising the northern Illinois field, Broadwood, Spring Valley and La Salle, operators and miners agreed on a scale of 40 cents over the scale of last year, or 4 cents more advanced elsewhere in the state, but the operators demand certain minor conditions, which the miners are not disposed to grant.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The house committee on library today favorably reported a bill making an appropriation of \$5,000 for the preparation of plans or designs for a memorial or statue of General Grant, to be erected at Washington. The bill upon which the report is based was introduced by Representative Mercer of Nebraska, chairman of the house committee on public buildings and grounds. The report reviews the life of General Grant, saying in part: "His errors of judgment, his failures and afflictions only mark him as human. His great work shows the touch of divine inspiration."

His strength of character, tenacity of purpose and wonderful endowments are referred to and it is pointed out that at all times grateful people have erected monuments to the memory of their illustrious dead.

"That no monument or memorial has ever been erected at the national capital to the memory of this great man," says the report, "seems almost incredible. The parks and reservations of Washington everywhere erected monuments to great men who served under General Grant, while the greatest of them all is not remembered in this way."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—(Madame Patti sang this evening for the first time at Covent Garden, the scene of her former triumphs. The Prince of Wales and other members of the royal family were present, together with an immense audience, including many of the most distinguished persons in England.

Madame Patti also sang in a duet with "Home and Juliet," with undiminished sweetness and purity of tone. Johannes Wolff and Edward Lloyd took part in the concert, the gross receipts of which were £12,000.

Officers for Wheelmen.

BALTIMORE, Md., Feb. 22.—Judge Conroy of the Baltimore Circuit Court today appointed the following officers for the Baltimore Wheelmen: President, Herbert W. Kuhn; Treasurer, S. J. Chairman of the rights and privilege committee, William A. Chairman of the membership, J. J. Chairman of the New York, chairman of the press committee. The two last named were reappointed.

Movements of Ocean Vessels, Feb. 22.

At New York—Arrived—Edms, from Genoa; Teutonic, from Liverpool.

At Liverpool—Arrived—Cuba, from New York; Westland, from Philadelphia.

At Glasgow—Arrived—Anchorage, from New York.

At Queenstown—Sailed—Germanica, from Liverpool for New York; Rhyndland, from Liverpool for Philadelphia.

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—Much Colder; Variable Winds.

Temperature at Omaha yesterday:

Hour. Deg. Hour. Deg.

6 a. m. 18 1 p. m. 40

7 a. m. 17 2 p. m. 41

8 a. m. 18 3 p. m. 42

9 a. m. 22 4 p. m. 41

10 a. m. 26 5 p. m. 40

11 a. m. 30 6 p. m. 38

12 m