THE NORTHWESTERN.

BENSCHOTER & GIBSON, Eds and Pubs.

LOUP CITY, - - NEB.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Thirty Chicago printers were painfully hurt by the falling of an elevator.

Letter carriers' registration service will be established at Lincoln on April 1.

It is reported that President Romana is making arrangements to liberate all the political prisoners in Peru.

Arthur P. Greely, assistant commissioner of patents, resigned his position to embark in private business.

The directors of the New York Central railroad have declared the regular quarterly dividend of 1¾ per cent.

Dr. J. Albert Williams, a physician of Wellington, Kan., killed himself at South Haven by drinking wood alcohol.

Three hundred students in Columbian university were vaccinated because of smallpox appearing in the institution.

Smallpox has broken out in the Great Northern grading camps near Fort Benton, where about 1,200 men are at work.

Mayor Van Wyck has vetoed the bill empowering the governor to appoint a commission to revise the Greater New York charter.

The directors of the American Bell Telephone company declared the regular quarterly dividend of $3 per share, payable April 16.

General Z. B. Tower, U. S. A., (retired) died at Cohasset, Mass., aged 81 years. He saw active service in the Mexican and civil wars.

Sydney, capital of New South Wales, and Adelaide, capital of South Australia, have been declared infected with the bubonic plague.

The navy department has issued orders for the repair of the cruiser Boston, now at the Mare Island navy yard, the cost of which will be about $300,000.

The Prince of Wales is to be reinstated as grand master of the English Free Masons an April 25, the anniversary of the 26th year of grand mastership.

In anticipation of the probable increase of the capitel stock of the Hartford Life Insurance company, the directors have directed a dividend of 100 per cent.

Histories of England were dropped from the lists of supplementary reading for the Chicago public schools at the meeting of the Chicago board of education.

The treasury department has canceled all obligations in reference to the postoffice site at Blair, Neb., as the owners have failed to give a clear title to the land.

Secretary Hay and Ambassador Cambon have signed the protocol extending the time allowed for the ratification of the French reciprocity treaty for twelve months.

Beginning next month seventy-three additional postoffices will adopt the system of registering letters by carriers. The new system then will be in operation in 297 cities.

The house pension committee has determined to increase to $40 per month the pension of the widow of Lieutenant Colonel John Hamilton, who was killed at the battle of San Juan.

The house committee on public lands has directed a favorable report on a bill allowing single women who locate a homestead entry on unplatted lands to complete the entry after her marriage.

As soon as the war in South Africa is over and the Boers defeated, if such should be the result, the Burlington road will have its agents in that country, working up emigration to the United States.

The amount of bonds so far presented at the treasury department for exchange for the new 2 per cents is $122,285,400, of which $10,520,450 have been received from individuals and institutions other than national banks.

It has been estimated that the sales of cattle made at Fort Worth, Texas, during the cattle convention will aggregate over 100,000 head, the value of which is about $1,250,000.

Representative Burkett of Nebraska has introduced a bill for the improvement of the Missouri river at Nebraska City in Otoe county and appropriating $50,000 therefore, to be immediately available.

A bill favorably passed upon by the senate committee on foreign relations authorizes the president to invite the international congress of navigation to meet in Washington in 1901. The congress meets this year in Paris.

Advani, the "Indian Prince," who has been touring the United States and leaving in his wake a trail of worthless checks and unpaid bills, has come to grief in New Haven, Conn.

Although there has been no authentic case of plague discovered in San Francisco, the municipal department is taking every precaution to guard against its introduction to the city. A large force of men was set to work to hunt out disease-breeding spots and have them cleansed. Three deaths among Chinese are being investgated, but so far nothing has developed to lead to the belief that the deceased men died of the black fever.

Sir Edmund Douglas Veitch Fane, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the court of Copenhagen, is dead in his 63d year.

The Astoria, Ore., council has passed an ordinance providing a bounty of 5 cents a head for all dead rats delivered to the chief of police.

The Ninth regiment of infantry, stationed at Monterey, Mex., has received orders to proceed immediately to the scene of the Yaqui Indian war and join the forces of General Louis Torres.

The American Bell Telephone company has declared the regular quarterly divident of $3 per share, payable April 16.

W. L. Caddis has been awarded the contract for carrying the mail from Harwood to Clay Center, Neb.

Representative Burkett of Nebraska introduced a bill extending the pension laws of 1890 to the officers and privates of the Nebraska territorial militia, who served from 1864 to 1865.

Mrs. Joseph Creacroft, the largest woman in the state, died at Russiaville, Ill. She was seated at the table with her husband, enjoying a game of dominoes, when she reeled and fell from the chair, death coming almost instantly. She was 32 years old and weighed 546 pounds. Dropsy and heart trouble caused death.

It is probable that permission will be asked of the United States government by President Diaz for military forces to pass through the United States by way of Eagle Pass, Tex., and Nogales, A. T., as that is the only railway route to the scene of the Yaquis rebellion.

PORTO RICO QUESTION

It is Again to Demand the Attention of the Senate.

AN EFFORT TO DELAY ACTION

Those for Free Trade Hope to Receive More Encouragement From the Country, Thus Causing Them to Postpone Vote—A Determination for Amendment.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Again this week the senate will give the greater share of its time to the Porto Rico question, and the outlook is for a continuation of the animated scenes of last week.

Porto Rico, however, according to present indications, will step aside temporarily at the beginning of the week in order to afford Senator Carter an opportunity to secure consideration for his Alaskan code bill. The present condition of affairs in Alaska and the prospect of a still greater influx of the people into that territorry, make the Alaska legislation very important, and the condition of Porto Rico legislative affairs is such as to make it convenient to give Alaska the much desired opportunity.

The republican caucus will take the Porto Rico question in hand again tomorrow and until it acts the senators having charge of the measure will not desire to press it. The republican senators who support the house tariff bill hope to get the measure out of the caucus after only one sitting, but the free traders are not so anxious on that score, and the latter element may delay matters there, as they are disposed to do in the senate, with the hope of receiving still further encouragement from the country at large.

Some of the members of the free trade republican element declare their purpose to vote against the bill if reported without amendment. They threaten to offer many amendments and to make speeches in opposition and otherwise to do all in their power to prevent the passage of the bill as it stands, but the caucus of course may find a means of preventing this open rupture. At any rate strong effort will be made in that direction.

The democratic senators will support a free trade amendment when presented, but they prefer to have the bill voted upon unamended.

According to a certain man the nomination of Bynum to be appraiser at New York should be taken up in the executive session tomorrow, but the republican caucus may cause postponement for a day or two. The democratic leaders will oppose confirmation.

The committee on privileges and elections will hear the argument of counsel in the case of Senator Clark beginning on Wednesday. The report on the case is not expected for several

The navy appropriation bill will be taken up in the house tomorrow and doubtless will serve as a text for a wide latitude of discussion on military affairs in general and the cost of military establishment under the new condition of alairs. In anticipation of this an understanding may be reached that three days will be given to the debate. The bill itself covers no legislation on the organization of the army, but is strictly a supply measure for the army on its present basis.

The latter part of the week will be devoted to the naval, the agricultural or the fortifications appropriation bills, although no exact order has yet been fixed for taking them up. The naval bill and report are ready and Acting Chairman Foss is rather desirious of having the naval discussion follow that on the army, that the agricultural bill can be taken up on short notice. The fortifications bill is already on the calendar.

BOERS SEND WOUNDED BACK.

Officers Who Ventured From Bloemfontein Return.

BLOEMFONTEIN, March 26.—The Boers who yesterday killed Lieutenant Lygon of the Grenadier Guards and wounded Lieutenant Colonel Crabbe, Lieutenant Colonel Codrington and Captain Trotter of the Coldstream Guards, who had ridden eight or nine miles beyond their camp on the Modder river, without escort except one trooper, were members of the Johannesburg mounted police.

After dressing their wounds, they sent them to the British camp in an ambulance.

LONDON, March 26.—Except for the "unfortunate occurrence," as Lord Roberts describes it, which resulted in the killing of Lieutenant Lygon and the wounding of Lieutenant Colonel Crabbe, Lieutenant Colonel Codrington and Captain Trotter, the campaign presents no new features. The mishap to the Guards' officers is a testimony to their bravery, but not their discretion. They met a party of five Boers, whom they tried to capture. The Boers took refuge on a kopje, where three of their comrades were hidden, and within five minutes every member of the British party was hit.

The Coming Commercial Congress.

HOUSTON, Tex., March 26.—Assurances have been from every state and territory west of the Mississippi river that delegates will be present at the Trans-Mississippi commercial congress to be held here April 17-21 inclusive. While the program has not been finished, replies have been received from many distinguished men accepting invitations.

WILL AFFECT 30,000 MEN.

New York Machinists Likely to Go Out During This Week.

NEW YORK, March 26.—A strike of 30,000 members of the International Machinists and the Amalgamated Engineers in the New York district may be precipitated this week by the action of the New York and New Jersey Machinery Manufacturers' association in organizing to resist the demand for a nine-hour day, which was to have been made on April 1.

Reaches $143,400.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The exchange for the 2 per cent issue authorized by the new currency law up to date aggregates $143,870,400. Of this sum $130,550,750 were offered by national banks and $13,290,650 by individuals.

For Cuban School Ma'ams.

HAVANA, March 26.—Alexis E. Frye, superintendent of the Cuban schools, left today for Boston. He will go to Harvard to make arrangements for the trip of the Cuban school teachers to the United States.

CLASH TO BE AVOIDED.

Adjutant Generals of Dual Military Forces at Frankfort Confer.

FRANKFORT, Ky., March 26.—Notwithstanding that troops recognizing the dual governors were quartered within two squares of each other, the republican troops at the state house under orders from Governor Taylor, and the democratic troops at the court house, guarding the Goebel suspects, Powers, Culton and Davis, under orders from Democratic Governor Beckham, the day was quiet. The republican adjutant general, Collier, and Democratic Assistant Adjutant General Murray were together some time this morning.

General Collier called to disclaim responsibility for the mine before the state arsenal, which some of the soldiers made a pretense of laying, but it is understood their talk took on a wider scope and that they discussed and mutually agreed upon plans to avoid possibility of any sort of a clash between the troops.

The examining trial of Powers, it is believed, will be completed either Tuesday or Wednesday, and that if Powers is held over the other defendants will waive examination. Wharton Golden, the state witness for the commonwealth, whose illness on the stand yesterday forced an adjournment of the court twice, is reported by his physician as very much improved tonight and in better condition to go into the witness box than he was yesterday.

If Witness Golden really goes on the stand for the cross-examination tomorrow the defense hopes to conclude the examining trial on Tuesday. Golden is the last of the prosecution's witnesses, so it has been understood. Yesterday afternoon and today he has been seen on the streets. It was stated today that he went to Georgetown.

It is the general impression that the defense may make no effort to controvert Golden's statement in the examining trial. An examining judge needs to have only a reasonable suspicion of guilt to bind a prisoner over to the grand jury and as it is evident Judge Moore has this, it would be folly for the defense to show its hand before the real trial.

OTIS SUPPRESSES A PAPER.

Spanish Organ of the Extreme Filipino Party Too Critical.

MANILA, March 26.—La Patria and El Liberal, Spanish organs of the extreme Filipino party, have recently been publishing articles inimical to the military government. General Otis has suppressed the former journal for sedition and imprisoned the editor, at the same time issuing a warning to the extreme party that it should exercise greater moderation. Senor Paterno, at one time president of the so-called Filipino cabinet, is expected to present himself at San Fernorda, province of Union.

The rebels in Young's district are becoming aggressive. The American battalion garrisoning the town of Namagapacan was attacked on four consecutive nights recently. Reinforcements are now arriving there. General Young proposes to pursue the rebels aggressively before the rainy season sets in.

BOOM IN IMMIGRATION.

Increasing Number of Foreigners Coming to the United States.

ALBANY, N. Y., March 26.—The report of John McMackin, state superintendent of labor statistics, says:

Immigration returns for the quarter ended December 31, 1899, show an increase of 19,914 arrivals at New York over the preceding quarter, and 23,912 more than in the last three months of 1898. In the latter quarter the arrivals numbered 51,880; in the same three months of 1899, 74,892, and for the quarter ended in September, 1899, 56,978.

Comparing the returns for the closing quarter of 1899 with those of the corresponding period of 1898, it is seen that the largest proportionate gain of these races records at least 2,000 arrivals were made by the Slovaks, whose increase was 3,418, 121.7 per cent.

The Polish race was second with an increase of 94.2 per cent, or 3,105 in number; the Croatians and Slavonians being third, showing a gain of 1,845, or 85.4 per cent.

Taussig Goes to Manilla.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 26.—Commander Edward Taussig is to be sent to Manila in April, to take command of the gunboat Yorktown in place of Commander Sperry. The latter officer is near the head of the list of commanders and is about to become a captain under the terms of the personnel act.

Mormons Going to Mexico.

CHIHUAHUA, Mexico, March 26.—The several Mormon colonies in this state have been increased in population by the arrival of over 5,000 Mormon immigrants from Utah during the last two months. The colonies were established under concessions granted by the Mexican government.

To Increase Refund to States.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The army appropriation bill will be taken up by the house on Monday and in anticipation of this the house committee on military affairs revised the bill Saturday, making some minor changes, the most important being an increase of $500,000 in the refund to states for expenses incurred during the war with Spain.

MUST POUR IN SOLDIERS.

Churchill Shows Need for England to Have More Help.

LONDON, March 26. — Winston Churchill, in a dispatch to the Morning Post, says:

"It is imperative to continue shipping troops to South Africa. The stream should never cease until the Boers surrender unconditionally. At the end of the war Great Britain will possess the finest army in her history. This, however, must not lure the nation from the fertile fields of trade and commerce into the stony wastes of militarism."

Gen. Woodgate Dies of Wounds.

LONDON, March 26.—Advices received here announce the death in the Mooi hospital yesterday of General Sir Edward Woodgate, who was wounded in the engagement at Spionkop on January 24.

Texas Populist Date.

WACO, Tex., March 26.—The state executive committee of the populist party of Texas today selected Waco and July 24, as the time and place of holding the state convention. C. B. Harris resigned as state chairman and Hon. A. W. Cunningham of Waco was elected as his successor.

BILL IS AGAIN PASSED

Senate Adopts Conference Report on Porto Rico Measure.

STEWART VOTES WITH MAJORITY

Tillman Occupies Most of the Time, but is Called Down by Some Other Senators—Tariff and Beet Sugar, and Other Matters Touched Upon in Discussion.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—The senate today adopted the conference report on the Porto Rico relief bill by a vote of 35 to 15, practically a strict party expression. No democrat voted for the report, but Stewart of Nevada voted with the republicans.

The time of discussion was consumed principally by Tillman, who made a fierce attack upon the measure as agreed upon in conference, and accused the republican senators and republican party of indiscretion, hypocrisy and "dirty work."

Gallinger followed with a temperate statement of those who not only favor the report but the passage of a Porto Rico tariff bill.

Spooner closed the debate with a forceful statement in opposition to Tillman's speech, in the course of which he took occasion sharply to criticise the South Carolina senator for dragging the measure into politics. His colloquial tilts with Tillman were immensely enjoyed by the auditors.

Tillman sharply criticised the method adopted by the United States of extending hands full of food to the people of Porto Rico as a gratuity.

"As long as you continue to feed these people down there," declared Tillman, "you may feed them. So long as the freedmen's bureau was maintained in the south the colored race there amounted to nothing. That's a race characteristic. This government will set itself up as an elemosynary institution by the message of this bill and I do not believe we would stand on any such ground."

Perkins of California inquired if Tillman was in favor of free trade with the Philippines, knowing that those islands had the advantage of peon and Malay labor.

Tillman—If we are to continue to hold the Philippines I'm in favor of free trade with those islands. Those who voted to bring into the country those islands at their cheap contract, peon and Malay labor were told of the results that would follow the ratification of the treaty, and you could not get the votes necessary to make that treaty law until you had bought some men to vote for it. If it is now proposed to send a horde of carpetbaggers over there, backed by the bayonet of soldiers, so long as I have a voice I shall protest.

"The people," Tillman shouted, "will teach you next November that trade and the flag and liberty and the constitution go together."

Disclaiming any authority to speak for the president, Mr. Perkins of California said that the belief that the sugar trust had acquired a greater part of the sugar product of Porto Rico and his desire to build up the best sugar industry in the United States had induced the president, he (Perkins) believed, to favor a tariff if it were true that he did favor it.

TO INVESTIGATE COUER D'ALENE.

Senator Allen Introduces a Resolution in the Senate.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Senator Allen today introduced in the senate a bill to provide for pensions to certain prisoners of war; also a resolution for an investigation of the Couer d'Alene matter. He called up and at his request the senate passed these pensions: Charles A. Perkins at $36 per month, Oliver Doman $30 H. K. Willliams $30, J. W. Blake $72, Hannah G. Huff $12, Marie Wilersang $12, David Tolman $24, and John M. McCord $24.

WANT TREATY DECLARED VOID.

Sioux Indians Claim that Only One-Third of Tribe Signed It.

FORT YATES, N. D., March 24.—The Sioux have ust finished a protracted council at Oak Creek with Maor Bingenheimer, the Indian agent, over the Black Hills treaty of 1876. The Indians have long claimed that this treaty was signed by only one-third of their number instead of three-fourths, as required by law.

Major Bingenheimer corroborates the claim. The Indians will employ legal aid to have the treaty declared null and void.

Middle Roaders Laying Plans.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 24.—Secretary Walter of the middle-of-the-road populists is preparing to leave for an extended visit to the various state organizations. He is said to be slated for national chairman and says if he is selected he will have the national headquarters moved to this city.

"Tom Watson of Georgia can have the nomination for president if he wants it" said Major Walter tonight, "and I believe Dr. B. F. Jay of Minneapolis will be his running mate. He is a close friend of Ignatius Donnelly."

Jack Graham Put Out.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., March 24.—Jim Scanlan of Pittsburg knocked out Jack Graham of South Omaha in ten rounds before the Hot Springs Athletic club tonight, after both had made a hard battle.

Argentine Nice to Spain.

MADRID, March 24.—The president of Argentine, Lieutenant General Roca, through the minister at Buenos Ayres, Senor Del Aleno, has cabled thanks to the Spanish government for the enthusiastic reception given to the crew and officers of the Argentine training ship Presidente Sarmiento.

Cannibals Devour Seamen.

VANCOUVER, B. C., March 24.—The steamer Warrimoo today brings from Dutch New Guinea the shocking account of the devouring of three officers of the steamer General Pell by cannibals, who caught them while on shore taking photographs. Ernesa Wiegan, one of the party, was wounded by arrows and while hiding saw the barbarians tie his three companions to trees cut off portions of their living flesh and finally roast and devour them. The Dutch man of war, Sumatra, is reported as prepared to avenge the atrocities.

STEYN ISSUES A PROCLAMATION.

Warns Burghers Who Lay Down Their Arms to Help the English.

BOER CAMP, Kroonstadt, Thursday, March 24.—Affairs are being put in proper shape and the Free Staters who had to leave are returning in crowds. The president's proclamation has shown the burghers that the government is standing firm.

The commands are mobilizing in great numbers and the men are more determined than ever.

President Steyn has issued a proclamation in which he warns the burghers who lay down their arms and help the English that they are liable to the utmost punishment as traitors.

LONDON, March 24.—The war office has issued this bulletin:

"CAPETOWN, March 23.—The following telegram has arrived from Nicholson, Buluwayo, March 16:

"The following is from Plumer:

"LOBATSI, March 14.—The Boers advanced from the south in considerable force this morning. They first advanced from Goode's Siding. After a sharp little engagement Lieutenant Colones' advanced post was compelled to retreat. The retirement was excellently carried out as to our main position. The casualties included Lieutenant Chapman and a corporal, prisoners, and two missing, probably prisoners. Five troopers were wounded. Chapman's horse fell with him close to the enemy, who immediately surrounded him. The exact Boer casualties are unknown, but several were shot at close range. In the afternoon the Boers advanced further north and shelled our position from a ridge on our left. Our twelve and one-half pounder replied, the artillery duel continuing until sunset. Lieutenant Tyler has since died of wounds. One native was killed."

Colonel Plumer apparently has retired to Crocodile pools, and Mafeking seems further off than ever from relief. This news was contained in a dispatch from Buluwayo, dated Monday, March 19, and published in the second edition of the Times. These advices add that the base hospital has been brought back to Gaberones, though the correspondent further says it is thought the object of the Boer demonstration on March 15 and 16 was to cover the removal of the siege guns from Mafeking.

COURT GUARDED BY MILITIA.

Preliminary Examination of Secretary of State Caleb Powers Begins.

FRANKFORT, Ky., March 24.—The preliminary examination of Secretary of State Caleb Powers, charged with abetting the assassination of William Goebel, began today before Judge Moore. The court house was guarded inside and out by milita and scores of deputy sheriffs armed with Winchester rifles to prevent possible interference from "mountaineers" who were reported on their way to Frankfort, but their presence was unnecessary, as the mountaineers failed to appear and no disorder occurred.

The witnesses today included Warden Eph Lilliard, Detective Doc Armstrong, Sheriff Bosworth of Fayette county, who arrested Secretary Powers and Captain John Davis and Silas Jones, who is now under bonds, charged with complicity in the murder. The testimony tended to show that the shots came from that section of the executive building in which Secretary Powers' office is located, although no one swore that the shots were, from the secretary's office.

BRYAN'S NEW YORK FRIENDS MEET

Lincoln Platform Adopted by Executive Committee at Albany.

ALBANY, N. Y., March 24.—The executive committee of the "Chicago platform" democrats of the state met here today. After adopting the platform as adopted in Nebraska last week it was resolved that the rank and file of the democracy of the state of New York demand that the delegates selected to attend the state and national conventions be men who are known and above suspicion and loyal to the platform and ticket of 1896, and that such delegations be instructed to vote for the reaffirmation of the Chicago platform and for the renomination of W. J. Bryan of Nebraska as the Empire state's choice for president.

It was also resolved that a state delegation of two delegates from each congressional district be selected to attend the convention and contest the seat of any delegate who did not loyally support the ticket of 1896.

Train Holdup at Hamburg.

ST. JOSEPH, Ma., March 24.—A lone robber, wearing a false face, with a huge black moustache painted on the mask, held up the southbound Kansas City, St. Joseph & Council Bluffs train four miles south of Hamburg, Ia., at 1:30 o'clock in the morning. The train was in charge of Conductor Billy McGee. Flagman Moore was first accosted by the robber at the rear end of the train. Using Moore as a shield the robber went through the sleeper and chair car, getting $200 in cash and a gold watch. He pulled the bell cord and, when the train slowed down, jumped off and escaped in the darkness.

Mount Recognizes Taylor.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 24.—Governor Mount today issued a requisition for the return to this state from Kentucky of a man wanted on a criminal charge. Governor Mount decided W. S. Taylor was Kentucky's chief executive and the papers were accordingly forwarded to him.

Macrum Summoned to Testify.

WASHINGTON, D. C. March 24.—Former Consul Macrum was at the capitol today, having come from his home in response to a telegram from Representative Wheeler of Kentucky, bidding him to appear before the house committee on foreign affairs.

Mr. Wheeler says he will urge that the inquiry take place before the full committee. The Macrum evidence probably will be taken early next week.

Forgery can usually be detected because the imitator has certain characteristics of his own of which he is not aware.

Sapho Not Fit for the Mails.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 24.—Mr. Fitzgerald, (Mass.), introduced in the house today a resolution directing the postmaster general to exclude the book "Sapho" from the mails. A preamble to the resolution says that an indictment has been found against persons in the city of New York connected with the play "Sapho" as being immoral and as against public decency.

Near Newtown, O., live Mr. and Mrs. Uriah Burdsal. They were both born, christened and wedded on Christmas day, are both 91 years of age and have been married sixty-eight years.

RELIEF IS HELD BACK

While Mafeking Suffers, Burghers Keep the British Forces in Check.

COLUMN FROM KIMBERLY STOPPED

Has Its Hands Full at Warrenton and at Fourteen Streams — Plummer Being Very Hard Pressed—Instead of Aiding Garrison is Fighting in Self-Defense.

LONDON, March 23.—Again there is a persistent rumor that Mafeking has been relieved. It is even asserted that the war office has received a dispatch announcing the relief, but that publication is withheld because the form of the message admits the possibility of a mistake.

The war office, however, declares that there is no confirmation of the rumor, and no further news is on hand.

It seems certain that Mafeking's only chances for relief are by the column supposed to be advancing from the south or the possibility that Colonel Baden-Powell is still strong enough to attempt a sortie with a view of capturing the Boer guns at a time when Commandant Synman has withdrawn his men to oppose Colonel Plumer.

It is reported from Lourenzo Marquez that Pretoria is prepared to stand a siege of two years and that the Boer women, frantic at the reverses to the Boer arms, are entreating to be allowed to shoot the British officers imprisoned at Pretoria.

It is also announced from the Transvaal capital that the Italian government has declined to intervene.

A dispatch to the Times from Kimberley, dated Thursday, says:

"The date of the departure of the Mafeking column from Warrenton has not yet been fixed. The pont at Fourteen Streams is guarded by our troops. Skirmishing continues around Warrenton. The Boers are reported to have fou guns, but this is doubtful."

KIMBERLEY, March 23.—There was a smart artillery duel at Warrenton yesterday. A battery under Major Blewitt, supported by the Kimberley Light Horse, located the Boers, who had four guns, two of which used cordite, but ineffectively. The British battery replied with effect and silenced the Boer fire. The Boers sent two shells near the railway station, which was not damaged.

A scouting party got too close to the bank of the river and encountered a hot fire. The men were unable to get away and it was impossible to relieve them without loss, the party being obliged to wait for darkness in order to escape. The reconnaissance succeeded, and Major Blewitt retired with only one wounded.

This morning brisk firing was resumed at Warrenton at 6:30, but it has now slackened up. A detachment of fusileers has arrived. A detachment of Vryburg inhabitants who had been imprisoned by the Boers was sent in to Warenton under a white flag after being taken from laager to laager around the district. They say the big gun from Kimberley has been taken through Christiana to Pretoria. There are women and children in nearly every laager.

LOUD BILL IS RECOMMITTED.

Decisive Vote Believed to Have Knocked the Measure Out.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—After a spirited discussion extending over three days the Loud bill, relating to second class mail matter, was recommittee on postoffice and post roads.

The majority in favor of the motion to recommit was so decisive that it is regarded as unlikely that the measure will appear again during the present congress. Loud said after the vote was announced that this was the "third time and out," so far as he was concerned. The vote on the motion was 148 to 96, with sixteen present and not voting.

Ridgley of Kansas declared that railroad companies were today telegraphing members to support the bill. He deemed this particularly significant of the interest the railroads had in the matter.

A telegram from the Ohio Farmer, saying, "Our 100,000 subscribers ask you to support the Loud bill," was presented by Burton, who declared that it was high time special classes which had grown up in the country should be forced to pay their way as other people did.

Cowherd of Missouri, speaking in support of the bill, said every official who had investigated the subject had given his approval to the measure. He held up to the view of the house a copy of the "Velvet Hand, or the Life of Injun Dick," paper bound, which he said was entitled to second class rates, while a cloth bound copy of "Rob Roy," which he had purchased for 5 cents, could not be sent as second class matter. His argument elicited much applause. A number of minor amendments were adopted before the final vote.

White Confers With Hay.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Montagu White, the Boer agent in this country, called at the state department today and spent some time in conversation with Secretary Hay. Nothing was said about mediation, nor about the fate of Johannesburg and it was intimated that the subject of the conversation was purely personal in character.

Osman Pasha Not Dead.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 23.—There is no truth in the report published in the United States that Osman Pasha, the hero of Plevna, is dead. The famous Turkish general has been sick for a week past, but his health is now improving.

Condition of the Treasury

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Today's statement of the treasury balances in the general fund exclusve of the $150,000,000 gold reserve in the division of redemption, shows: Available cash balance, $160,460,843; gold, $90,294,315.

Affects Northern Pacific.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23.—Senator Penrose (Pa.), today introduced a bill reciting the history of the Northern Pacific railroad, especially with reference to its recent reorganization and declaring that the sale of certain property was illegal and resolving that "all transfers of land to or by the said Northern Pacific Railroad company to be illegal and void, and that the committee on Pacific railways be hereby empowered to send for persons and papers, and are requested to examine into these charges and report thereon at an early date."

VOTE TO BE ON THE HOUSE BILL.

Republican Peace Committee Decides to Separate Measures.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The republican peace committee of the senate met after the adjournment of the senate today and practically ratified the offer of Senator Foraker in the senate to separate the house Porto Rico tariff bill from the senate government bill and to take a vote on the house measure. The peace committee is willing that a vote should be taken upon the house bill as it was passed by that body, provided it becomes apparent that it is impolitic to attempt to amend it, but an effort will be made to ascertain whether the house will consent to consent to any modification.

Some of the republican senators think the bill should be so changed as to provide for the continued exemption from duty of the articles which were exempted by the president's order. They also find the house bill deficient in that it fails to provide any means of collecting the duty which it imposes. There will be a conference with members of the ways and means committee of the house and if the latter does not discourage amendments these will be offered. There is, however, an acknowledged fear that if the bill is amended in any respect it may be difficult if not impossible to secure its acceptance by the house on a conference report. On this account there may be no effort to modify the bill.

The free trade senators say there is a stronger determination now than ever before to resist the bill as it came from the house. It is asserted there are eight senators who will not support it unless amended. These are said to be Davis and Nelson of Minnesota, Wellington of Maryland, Hoar of Massachusetts, Mason of Illinois, Beveridge of Indiana, Proctor of Vermont and Simon of Oregon. What they will do in case the bill is amended cannot be stated, but it is evident they expect a compromise which they can support.

GUARDING AGAINST PLAGUE.

Report of Several Suspicious Deaths in San Francisco.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—A report has been received at the marine hospital bureau from San Francisco to the effect that several suspicious deaths have occurred in that city, but that a medical examination gave only negative results and it was not positively known whether the patients died from plague or some other disease. The health authorities have placed guards at the railroad and water exits of the city to examine Chinamen who may attempt to leave.

No reports have been received in regard to plague at Port Townsend, Wash., and it is thought there have been no new cases there since the death from that cause several weeks ago of a passenger on the Japanese vessel Nanyo Maru.

The British Columbia authorities have decided to quarantine against vessels from San Francisco.

ISLANDERS STARVING.

San Juauan Merchant Talks of Conditions There.

NEW YORK, March 23.—A special meeting of the Board of Transportation to consider the Porto Rico matter was held today. There was an attendance of prominent New York business men that filled the room to the doors. Nicholas' Oyangeren, a merchant of San Juan, P. R., addressed the board.

"Never in the history of the island of Porto Rico," he said, "has there been known such extreme general misery, such want of credit and absolute stagnation. The people are starving there by hundreds daily in the interior districts."

A resolution was adopted declaring that the policy of the United States toward Porto Rico should be definitely and immediately determined on conditions which relate to that island alone, should not in any particular or degree be affected by considerations which may be involved in the relations of the United States to Cuba and the Philippines, and that due regard for pledges given demand an extension to Porto Rico of free commercial intercourse with the United States and a civil form of government.

Congress for All America.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The state department has been notified by the government of Mexico that it accepts the president's invitation to hold a second Panamerican congress and will in turn invite the republics of North, South and Central America to send their representatives in such congress to the City of Mexico. Thus, it is believed, the success of the movement is assured.

Now that Mexico has entered so earnestly into the project it is believed that all the republics of the three Americas will send delegates to the congress.

Claims Will Be Arbitrated

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Secretary Hay and Senor Correa, the Nicaraguan minister, today signed a treaty providing for the settlement by arbitration of the claims of two American concerns against the government of Nicaraugua.

One of the claims is that of Orr & Laubenheimer of New Orleans for damages sustained through the temporary seizure by the Nicaraguan government of some tugs belonging to the firm at Bluefields. These tugs were used to tow lighters laden with bananas from the shore to vessels lying out at sea, and in their absence a stock of bananas accumulated for shipment decayed.

Shoots Himself.

YANKTON, S. D., March 23.—Emil Corson, a partner in the largest business firm in Gayville, committed suicide last night by shooting. His wife died last fall and he has been in low spirits ever since. He was seen in Gayville at 11:30 last night, but soon after must have started to walk to the cemetery at Mission Hill, where his wife was buried,, about six miles away. He was found there this morning, his feet on the grave of his baby and lying on his wife's grave, with a bullet hole in his left temple.

One Squadron Coming Home.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23.—By direction of the war department, one squadron of the Fifth cavalry, in the department of Puerto Rico, will be relieved from duty in that department and sent to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. This detachment will serve as a depot squadron for the Fifth cavalry, and all officers and enlisted men who are unfit for duty with the active squadrons, and enlisted men having less than six months to serve, and who do not intend to re-enlist, will be transferred to it.