

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871.

OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 24, 1899—EIGHTEEN PAGES.

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PROTEST BY FRANCE

Cabinet Considers the Possibility of England Seizing Delagoa Bay.

OPPOSITION TO ANY SUCH AN ATTEMPT

Diplomatic Agent Sent to Portugal to Confer with Authorities.

DIRECTED TO OBTAIN LIGHT ON MATTER

Wants to Know Intentions of the Lisbon Government in that Direction.

WAR ON NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS

French Government is Considering the Advisability of Expelling Some of the Obnoxious Writers from the Capital.

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PARIS, Dec. 23.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Newspapers are discussing seriously the contemplated seizure of Delagoa bay by the English in order to put a stop to the importation of men and munitions now going on. I have it on safe authority that the same question was discussed at yesterday's cabinet meeting, the ministers unanimously deciding that such an attempt on the part of England should be immediately met with the most positive objection. If the English official who stands very close to M. Delcasse, French minister of foreign affairs, confides to the World correspondent that a diplomatic agent was specially dispatched to Portugal four days ago to confer with the Lisbon government as to its intentions in any eventuality.

In view of the persistent attacks made upon France by several foreign correspondents, the government is discussing whether it should not expel a few of the most venomous among them. It is said that Max Nordau is most likely to be chosen to make an example of.

In a recent article in the Deutsche Review Nordau once more assailed the whole French race, urging as additional proof of their degeneracy what he calls the "morbid sentimentality" shown by the French people in sympathizing blindly with the Boers because they are a weaker nation.

I received a telegram today from Cressat saying Filipino agents are now there buying guns, for which they are required to pay cash. The firm of Schneider & Co. refuses to undertake delivery. Further inquiry tends to prove that Krupp's German establishment is also making a similar transaction, the Filipino agents having already bought and are still buying guns and ammunition there.

Derouled's Bluff.

When Paul Derouled virulently insulted the magistracy, senators and President Loubet, he is evidently expected to arouse France and see the realization of his boast of eight months' imprisonment for the first time in France two months ago, during nine-tenths of the population would rise and come to my rescue." But his noisy manifestation fell flat. It is hard to remember when Paris was more calm than on the evening when it was learned that the great professional of the "Frodo" had just been sentenced to two years' imprisonment. Even the friendly papers acknowledged that Derouled's outburst was puerile and silly.

Jean Lamoureux, the best known orchestral leader in France, who died suddenly on Thursday, was mainly responsible for the production of Wagner's "Parsifal" for the National Opera house in the face of a riotous opposition some years ago. Lamoureux directed the most perfect orchestra in the world, his series of concerts every winter being a great social as well as musical event. He produced "Parsifal" and "Yeule" for the first time in France two months ago, during three days after the last performance. On the same day Joseph Dupont, the famous Belgian orchestra leader, died suddenly in Brussels, two hours after Lamoureux, whose friend he was. Dupont occupied a musical and moral place scarcely second to the French leader.

Mrs. Walden Pell's funeral took place today at the American church on Avenue de l'Alma. All the notabilities of the American and British colonies were present, as well as innumerable friends. The body will be taken to Newport for interment.

An American magazine published here recently put forward a project to have the music for the exposition cantata selected after a competition open to the musicians of all countries. I conducted an inquiry among musicians and composers in England and they unanimously against the project. They want to have the music written by a Frenchman. The poem which has already been accepted is by Borrel, an eccentric character known all over Paris as the "Breton Bard."

Theatrical Gossip.

Mrs. Langtry is stopping at the Hotel Ritz until she departs for London tomorrow for New York. She was the main feature of a benefit given by the Paris Thespians, a body of British resident amateurs organized for theatricals. The proceeds of the evening went to aid the English wounded. The performance was attended by the English ambassador and members of the English colony. A few Americans were present. Mrs. Langtry, clad in blue satin, recited Kipling's "Absent-minded Beggar," and then passed among the audience with a tambourine, retreating the refrain line, "pay-pay-pay." Coins rattle like the tambourine, the collection exceeding \$400. Mrs. Langtry when asked whether it was true that she had come especially to recite, laughed and said: "No, I really came to get a lot of new dresses previous to going to America. I was glad enough to lend what help I could at the benefit." She added that her husband, Sir Hugo de Bathe, who left Paris Saturday night to go to England and thence to the Transvaal, was going to fight with her consent and with his mother's approval.

Sylvia Sanderson's stepdaughter, and the whole Terry family are temporarily opposed to her return to the stage. The Californian beauty submissively sticks to her project, declaring the need of something to fill her empty life. Hence a serious conflict which threatens to degenerate into an open war.

Two Clowns Meet Death.

"Brandy and Soda," two American clowns who for years have been great favorites at the fashionable Nouveau Cirque, were both killed today at Lille, North France. A rope of a high trapeze broke while the performers were swinging head down and holding only by the tips of their toes, facing toward each other and each playing a violin behind the other's back. The bodies, still embraced, were projected violently against the canvas of the circus entrance, fortunately not landing among the spectators. "Brandy and Soda" both died within two hours after the accident. They were twins. They had begun with Barnum and had traveled all over the world. The pair

ENEMY FOR ALL TIME

McCarthy Sees Beginning of Unlimitable Strife in South Africa.

DUTCH RACE WILL PROVE AN ETERNAL FOE

Historian Believes Great Britain Has Made Proud Mistake.

PUBLIC CONSCIENCE IS AROUSED TOO LATE

War is Said to Have Been Forced by Jingoism and Speculators.

ENGLAND'S FINAL TRIUMPH IS FORECASTED

Famous Statesman, Historian and Novelist Believes, However, New and Lasting Enemy Will Be Bequeathed to England.

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LONDON, Dec. 23.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Justin McCarthy, M. P., the famous statesman, historian and novelist, has given the following signed statement on "England's Dilemma":

"While attempting to review the nature of the task England has undertaken in South Africa, I may say I should do my best to regard the subject from the point of view of an unprejudiced observer. I think the English government made a profound mistake when it allowed itself to be drawn into such a war. I feel convinced that if the heart, the conscience and the intelligence of the English people in general could have been aroused in good time to the real character and policy of the small group of men who were pressing the war it would never have taken place.

"About the ultimate success of British arms in South Africa there can be no manner of doubt. Nothing but a combination of the great powers against England could prevent her ultimate success. Such a combination is not likely to take place.

Prize for Statesmen.

"How to get out of the difficulties certain to arise when the war is over is a problem which will test the greatest British statesmanship and which, for myself, I am convinced British statesmanship will not be able to accomplish. I am not sure that the fight has been from the first for complete sovereignty on the one side and independence on the other. The Boers had been making preparations because they knew there were men in England who would never be satisfied until England obtained absolute dominion over South Africa. Some of these were inspired by the reviving passion for imperialism and by the almost mechanical reaction against the noble, peaceful, conscientious policy of Gladstone; some, again, were inspired by the more ignoble passion for ownership of the gold fields. The preparations for the war were made in the name of the policy of the war party in this country, and thus the two parties to the quarrel day by day were stimulating each other.

Chance for Magnanimity.

"The English government would have done a wise and noble act if it had offered to refer the whole matter to arbitration and had tendered such an offer as the first fruits of the peace convention at the Hague. But that was not in the humor of the men who were pushing things forward on this side, and the result is a prospect of almost limitless strife between England and the South African republics will be inevitable. The English War office will pull itself together somehow before very long and make an end of the resistance offered by the Transvaal republic. The English War office will pull itself together somehow before very long and make an end of the resistance offered by the Transvaal republic. The English War office will pull itself together somehow before very long and make an end of the resistance offered by the Transvaal republic.

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Notable Gathering to Witness Departure—Trophy Jostled by the Crush.

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Given a Major General's Salute as Steamer Leaves Havana Harbor—Consuls Call on Wood.

HAVANA, Dec. 23.—General Brooke left at noon for Florida, receiving a major general's salute as the steamer left the harbor. A squadron of the Seventh cavalry and two batteries of artillery escorted the retiring governor general to the wharf. All the ceremonies were purely military.

BRYAN TO STUMP IN THE EAST

Nebraska to Meet Democratic Leaders at Washington—Will Invade New Jersey.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Regarding the arrangements for W. J. Bryan's proposed trip to New Jersey and New York, Congressman William D. Daly said today:

"Bryan has arranged to meet the democratic leaders in Washington next month, and the itinerary will be mapped out. I have agreed to accompany Bryan on his trip through New Jersey. I understand his topic will be imperialism and trusts and that he is to speak in Camden, Trenton and Jersey City before going to New York. He will reach New Jersey probably before February."

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SAD CHRISTMASTIDE

Queen Victoria's Palatial Castle the Gloomiest Home in All England.

DESPAIRING GLOOM PERVADES IT ALL

Horrors of the Transvaal War Welligh Overwhelm the Aged Queen.

ALMOST BESIDE HERSELF WITH GRIEF

Visands for Christmas Feast Filled High Are but a Solemn Mockery.

S-TILEMENT WITH POLITICIANS COMING

Men Responsible for the Outbreak of Hostilities Will Be Called to an Accounting After the War is Over.

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LONDON, Dec. 23.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—No home in England at Christmastide is in a profounder or more despairing gloom than Queen Victoria's Windsor castle. Unfortunately the venerable queen is far more gravely afflicted by the South African disasters than is thought discreet the public here should know.

It is learned from an unimpeachable source that when the tidings of Buller's reverse came at midnight Friday week the queen was almost beside herself with grief. Wolsley, who happened to be staying at the castle, was sent for and a special train immediately ordered to take him to London to confer with further particulars. Wolsley in trying to console the queen spoke of the war being a necessity as a discipline for the nation, whereupon the queen rebuked him in the presence of her ladies, saying: "War is only justifiable to establish peace and for other ends."

Profoundly Agitated.

The queen remained up some hours waiting further news. As throughout Saturday none came she was profoundly agitated and restless. Even her afternoon drive was reduced to a third its usual length, so great was her anxiety to hear the tidings the first possible minute. As night came on without relief her anguish became intensified. Regarding all persuasions of her attendants she sat up throughout the entire night weeping and praying. Sunday she was completely worn out and slept in the afternoon instead of driving. Only under the influence of her principal dresser, Lady Stewart, who has more weight with the queen than any of her daughters, she was induced to go to bed Sunday night.

The War Feeling.

The war feeling has now entered a new phase. All questions of antecedent policy are sunk. It is a universally recognized necessity that Britain must assert its supremacy in South Africa or submit to a complete disintegration of the empire. That conviction accounts for the enthusiastic response to the call for volunteers and the present temper of the English people is that no sacrifice is too great to enable them to win back their shattered prestige.

BULLER A GREAT GOURMAND

British General is Noted for the High Quality of His Dinners—He Eats.

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LONDON, Dec. 23.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—General Sir Buller is noted for the high quality of his dinners. He eats.

Denial of the Peace Story

French Foreign Office Says There is No Truth in the Report.

PARIS, Dec. 23.—The French foreign office denies the statement of the Paris correspondent of the Daily Mail of London that Dr. Leyds, the Dutch representative of the Boers, has asked the services of M. Delcasse, the minister of foreign affairs, in the cause of peace.

Recruits for Boer Army

CINCINNATI, Dec. 23.—Thirty-five recruits for the Boer army were examined here today. Those who passed will be forwarded tomorrow. It is believed Dr. Leyds, the European representative of the Transvaal, is furnishing the means. The recruits will go from here to New York and expect thence to go via Antwerp to Delagoa bay.

Irish Raise Money for Boers

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—At a meeting of the United Irish societies tonight \$5,000 was pledged toward paying for an ambulance company to be sent to the Boers. It is expected \$100,000 will ultimately be realized in Chicago and vicinity.

THE BEE BULLETIN.

Weather Forecast for Nebraska—Fair; Calmer; Northern Winds.

EXPLOSION WRECKS COAL WORKS NEAR TOWN OF BROWNVILLE, PA.

Explosion Wrecks Coal Works Near Town of Brownville, Pa.

MINERS ARE OVERCOME BY AFTER-DAMP

Heardrending Scenes Among the Relatives of the Buried Miners.

RESCUING PARTY DOES HEROIC WORK

Fourteen Bodies Brought Out of the Mine Through Ventilation Shaft.

MINER'S LIGHT CAUSE OF EXPLOSION

Main Shaft Totally Wrecked—Thirty Victims Still Out of Reach of the Rescuers—Little Hope that Any Are Alive.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Dec. 23.—A report to the Post from Brownville, Pa., says:

"There is scarcely any hope that any man in the pit is now alive."

These were the words of Mine Inspector James Blik, uttered by him at 10 o'clock tonight as he stood at the mouth of the Brazzelli mine, in whose depths thirty men are entombed. That they will get out alive is exceedingly improbable and their mothers, wives and sisters mourn them as dead. The imprisoned men have been without air or food. They are separated from eager searchers by walls of debris which fell when the explosion took place and blocked the road to liberty.

At 7:30 this morning the death-dealing blast was loosed. Owing to a shortage of cars, less than the usual number of men entered the pit. The mine is that of the Stockdale Coal company, and lies four miles from Brownville and fourteen miles from Uniontown. It is known as the Brazzelli mine and lies near a station of that name on the Redstone Creek branch of the Pennsylvania railroad.

At 5 o'clock this morning Fire Boss James Radcliffe went through the mine as usual, and found gas, or "fire-damp," in two places. He noticed about four inches of gas in the main entry about 100 yards from the main shaft and about an equal quantity in a room on a side entry a short distance away. The fire boss reported the presence of the gas, but informed the superintendent that it was all right for the men to enter. The men were lowered into the mine in the cage, descending the main shaft, which is vertical.

From forty to fifty men had entered the mine and dispersed through it when the gas was ignited in some manner not yet discoverable. A tremendous explosion occurred. Its force must have reached every man in the mine. The cage in the main shaft, which was at the bottom, was blown into splinters and the hoisting machinery wrecked. About 1,000 feet from the main entrance was an air shaft, also vertical and brick lined. It was torn by the blast and the bricks were blown to the very top.

Altogether there were forty-five to fifty workers in the mine. The men descended in the cage of the main shaft from eight to ten at a time.

Ret-ives Frantic with Grief.

A moment after the fifth load had descended there was a roar that shook the immense iron tangle above the shaft and reverberated from the hills. There was no need to tell what had happened. Frantic women and frightened children dashed out of their dwellings just across the railroad tracks and rushed toward the mouth of the shaft. They were driven back by the smoke that poured up from the mine. A minute later everything was quiet. A moment later the big engines stopped and the fans were hushed.

There was no possible way of aiding the imprisoned men through the main shaft and a rush was made for the ventilating shaft 150 yards away. This is 112 feet deep, bricked inside to strengthen it, and had iron steps from top to bottom. A shout came from below and it was known that not all were killed, but who had drawn the few prizes in the lottery of life and death? The anxious ones at the top waited a few moments for the men to appear. They were not come and an investigation was made. It was discovered that the explosion had torn away the brick lining of the shaft, taking with it about twenty feet of the iron steps. The men below were in a trap.

Promptly a rope and bucket were lowered and the men brought up. The first was Albert Moses, 17 years old, a trapper. He was unscathed and was tied in the bucket. Tenderly he was lifted out and remedies applied, but without avail. He gasped once or twice and was dead, a victim of after-damp. That told the whole story of the disaster. Fire-damp had exploded in the mine. Fourteen men were rescued by the bucket and rope. All of them were sick and some half fainting. They were given restoratives and sent to their homes, several having to be carried.

Main Shaft Receives Attention.

No more men appearing at the foot of the main shaft, attention was turned to the main shaft, from which the after-damp was pouring out in a thick volume. The fans were stopped and the cages would not work. The first thing to do was to start the fan. This was accomplished by 10:30 a. m. and the after-damp began to force its way out of the ventilating shaft. The brattices in the mine which guide the air through the workings had been wrecked by the explosion.

Gradually the air around the main shaft became purer and at 2 o'clock the first body of rescuers descended, the cages having been temporarily repaired. When they got within ten feet of the bottom the cage stopped. A mass of wreckage was piled up at the bottom of the shaft. With their faces blackened and burned and their bodies distorted and covered men. The rescuers started to clear away the debris, but it was slow, hard work.

Fit Boss William Thomas and three men

ENTOMBS FIFTY MEN

Explosion Wrecks Coal Works Near Town of Brownville, Pa.

MINERS ARE OVERCOME BY AFTER-DAMP

Heardrending Scenes Among the Relatives of the Buried Miners.

RESCUING PARTY DOES HEROIC WORK

Fourteen Bodies Brought Out of the Mine Through Ventilation Shaft.

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At 5 o'clock this morning Fire Boss James Radcliffe went through the mine as usual, and found gas, or "fire-damp," in two places. He noticed about four inches of gas in the main entry about 100 yards from the main shaft and about an equal quantity in a room on a side entry a short distance away. The fire boss reported the presence of the gas, but informed the superintendent that it was all right for the men to enter. The men were lowered into the mine in the cage, descending the main shaft, which is vertical.

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IRISH WARRIORS LUKEWARM

Half-Hearted Service of Ulster is Bitter Disappointment to the War Office.

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