

PREPARING FOR FIGHT.

BOERS CONTINUE THROWING UP STRONG ENTRENCHMENTS.

England Now Realizes That She Has No Easy Task in South Africa—News From the Front.

London.—(Special.)—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Pietermaritzburg dated Saturday, December 23, says: Every day reveals some new fact regarding the strength of the Boer position at Colenso. Thanks to the services of continental officers, the character of the campaign has changed. We are no longer fighting a foe who relies upon guerrilla tactics, but we have to deal with what is rapidly becoming a disciplined army, enjoying the advantages of knowing the country and of selecting the scene of contest without the burdensome commissariat.

The Boers have converted the hills near Colenso into fortresses of immense strength. Everywhere they have splendid trenches, many of them bomb proof. Tramway lines permit the shifting of guns with astonishing rapidity. The main positions are connected with the outlying positions by underground passages, but the forts proper bristle with machine guns that command the approaches. Probably mines are laid.

One hears less nowadays about Boer shells not bursting. Observers of the Colenso fight say the Boer shell fire was very effective. This is due largely to the fact that the distances are marked off with shells. The enemy's discipline is improving. The trenches represent great manual labor, for which they have a keen dislike and the way in which they restrained their fire when our troops were advancing is another proof of improved soldiering.

CLOSELY INFORMED.

A correspondent of the Standard at Lourenço Marques says:

"Delagoa Bay is the residence of Herr Pott, a Hollander, who is consul general for the Transvaal and consul for the Netherlands. Pott is the principal medium between the Boers and the Europeans in Europe. He controls the Netherlands railway through the Transvaal and is the head of the Boer customs. He is also head of the Dutch East Africa company.

"It is openly asserted that Pott has a private wire to the frontier and knows twenty-four hours before others what is happening. About him gather all the other consuls, the Portuguese officials and the German forwarding agents.

"If Delagoa Bay is closed the Boers will retaliate by raiding Portuguese territory."

The Standard says: "Lord Salisbury would be reluctant to bring pressure to bear upon Portugal, except in a case of urgent necessity. Great Britain would prefer to place herself in the invidious position of using force toward another petty country and there is no temptation to raise any further international questions.

"No credit should be given to the rumor from Berlin of a secret British-German-Portuguese agreement."

FEVER IN LADYSMITH.

According to a dispatch from Ladysmith, dated December 20, the heat was then intense, being 104 Fahrenheit in the shade. There were many cases of enteric fever in the town at that time, but not enough to cause alarm. On the other hand reports from Boer sources on the continent represent that typhoid fever is epidemic in Ladysmith.

The Transvaal government, according to information supplied by Boer sympathizers, threatens to "reduce the conditions of British prisoners of war. Great Britain stops the entry of food by way of Delagoa Bay."

GERMAN OFFICIAL DENIES.

Berlin.—(Special.)—Regarding the statement by the Lokal Anzeiger that a secret Anglo-German-Portuguese treaty exists for the division of the Portuguese colonies in South Africa, the correspondent of the Associated Press is able to assert on the highest authority that the story is a pure fiction and in all its claim without foundation. The high official who authorizes this denial made the following statement:

"There is no objection to stating that the understanding had by Great Britain, Germany and Portugal refers only to Africa, and leaves Asia entirely out. It is quite certain that Germany, under no consideration, would include such a bargain with Portugal as the Lokal Anzeiger sets forth. Anyone with the slightest political sense ought to see that these tiny enclaves in the midst of British India are the last colonial possessions Germany would even dream of."

The German press continues to comment on the war in South Africa. The Militar Wochenblatt, the military organ, contains a severe criticism by a high officer, in which the writer claims that hitherto Boers, both leaders and men, have proved better in every way than the British. The National Zeitung publishes a similarly severe article. The Kreuz Zeitung says editorially:

"The best solution for Germany would be a peace guaranteeing the Boers their independence and securing the future, that is, creating a state whose frontier touches the sea in order to enable it to adapt itself to the new times upon which Africa is entering. That must be the policy of the Boers. We do not desire the British to be wholly expelled from Africa, but we do not see the necessity for making the entire African continent British. The ideas of Cecil Rhodes will split on the rock of Boer courage."

METHUEN REPORTS SITUATION.

London.—(Special.)—The war office has received the following from Cape-town, dated Wednesday, December 27: Methuen reports as follows: At 3:30 yesterday evening the Boers on the south side of Magerfontein opened a very heavy fire for some time. This morning the naval brigade fired at the enemy at the west part of Magerfontein. The cavalry brigade is reconnoitering in a northerly direction. Lieutenant Masters has made an extended reconnaissance westward and northward of Enslin and reports all well. The farmers were glad to see our men. They were suffering from want of food.

have established a market here, where I can purchase fresh milk and vegetables, selling to the farmers tea and other articles which they cannot otherwise purchase. Heavy rain fell last night. Galsore and French report no change in the situation. Baden-Powell reports all well December 31.

BADEN-PAWELL IN SORE STRAITS.

London.—(Special.)—The latest intelligence from Baden-Powell says: "The Boer fortifications would now be completely organized, and the Boers are now in a position to attack the British at any time. There are no reports from the Boers for the month."

The question of forage might be troublesome, but since the rains there has been some grazing within the British lines. There is no horse sickness. The casualties caused by our shell fire are increasing and the Boers are reported to be becoming nervous. They are night sorties and constantly open a heavy fusillade on an imaginary foe."

TALKS OF COMPROMISE.

Durban, Natal.—(Special.)—Mr. Winter Churchill, on arriving here after his escape from the Boers, received a tremendous ovation. He says that from conversations with members of the Transvaal executive in Pretoria he learned that the Boers began the war with trepidation, but that President Kruger is now confident Great Britain will soon sue for peace. In the highest Transvaal circles, Mr. Chamberlain asserts, there is serious talk of a compromise by which Great Britain would cede the territory now occupied by the armies of the two republics, pay an indemnity of \$100,000,000 and acknowledge the complete independence of the Transvaal.

MUST BE SOMEWHAT WEARYING.

Chieveley Camp, Natal, Wednesday, December 27.—A heavy Boer gun on Bolwahnahua hill fired steadily on Ladysmith throughout the morning. Ladysmith did not respond.

The enemy having been again detected attempting to improve trenches facing General Buller, the British heavy guns opened upon them and the Boers scampered back into the hills.

The British patrols sighted the enemy in force on the extreme left. Nine Boers were killed in a skirmish that followed and a number of Boer wagons were captured.

WASHINGTON IS IGNORANT.

Washington, D. C.—(Special.)—Nothing is known here of the reported intention of Great Britain and Germany to partition Portuguese East Africa between them. Great Britain taking the country around Delagoa Bay and southward, and Germany the northern half of the territory, which adjoins the German East African possessions. The officials here attach no credence to the story, because, as they point out, a movement of this kind disturbing the balance of power in Africa, would lead almost certainly to complications between the principals and the other powers of Europe. Moreover, the old project of a secret treaty between England and Portugal, whereby the former might for a proper consideration possess itself of Delagoa Bay whenever the place is needed for military purposes, has always been credited to some extent here and if such treaty really exists, there would be no need for Germany's participation as reported.

DROPPED DEAD IN DURBAN.

Durban, Natal.—(Special.)—Harry Escombe, formerly premier of Natal, died suddenly on the street.

The Rt. Hon. Harry Escombe was born at Nottingham, London, Eng., in 1838. He entered the legislative council of Natal in 1872, was created attorney general in 1893, and later became prime minister of the colony. He was the commander of the Natal volunteers during the relative rank of lieutenant colonel in the volunteer force.

WILL SUMMON PARLIAMENT.

Ottawa, Ont.—(Special.)—At a cabinet meeting it was decided to summon parliament. The date was not given out, but it will be about the last of January or the first week in February.

WARREN TO THE FRONT.

Pietermaritzburg, Dec. 26.—General Sir Charles Warren, commanding the Fifth division, arrived here last evening with his staff, and immediately proceeded for the front.

OPPOSITION WINS IN CANADA.

Winnipeg.—(Special.)—The opposition to the present administration polled a majority of 144 in the total vote cast at the recent Manitoba election.

FENIANS TO RE-ISE.

Prominent Irish Nationalists in the Movement.

Boston, Mass.—(Special.)—A movement looking to the invasion of Canada by the Fenians and Advanced National Colonists, has been agitated for some time by leaders of the organizations known as the Fenians. Colonel Roger Scannell, who has been identified with Irish agitators for many years, said that there was to be a meeting of prominent Irish nationalists in Philadelphia at once to discuss the question of invading Canada.

"The meeting," Colonel Scannell says, "will be followed by another in Boston, when reports from the Philadelphia meeting will be made by the Boston delegates."

Colonel Scannell says the present would be a good time for the invasion, as the troops of Canada are being sent away to take part in the African war. "It has been agitated for years," continued the colonel, "that Canada should either be annexed to the United States or should have an independent government of her own. The present African war will, in my opinion, see the first break in the British empire. With an army of 100,000 Irish nationalists engaged in the invasion of Canada, it would make things interesting for the English government."

Referring to the Fenian invasion of Canada of many years ago, Colonel Scannell said it was a failure because there were too many generals and no discipline. This would not happen now, he said, since the men are well organized all over the country and have confidence in their leaders.

Enlisting at Kansas City

Kansas City, Mo.—(Special.)—The British vice consul here, Mr. Burroughs, made the statement today that agents of the Boers are at work in Kansas City, getting recruits for the South African war, under promise of free transportation, free lands and honorable citizenship after the war is over. The plan, he states, is to forward such recruits to Philadelphia, which, he says, is the rendezvous of the Boer recruits. It is his belief, however, that not very many men have been sent from here to Philadelphia.

The British consul secured the names of the Boers recruiting agents here by having some one write to the Boer agents in Washington, asking for authority to recruit a force in this city, with the result that the applicant was put in communication with the Boer agents here. Consul Burroughs states that scores of men have applied at his office for enlistment in the British army.

Kansas City, Mo.—(Special.)—The Star has forwarded to General Corbin at Washington \$1,000, the net result of a week's soliciting for the general fund for the widow and children of the late Boer General Lawrence.

WEST OPPOSES THE ADVANCE.

Shippers Strongly Object to an Advance in Freight Charges.

Kansas City, Mo.—(Special.)—Representatives of the commercial interests of Omaha, St. Joseph, Atchison, Leavenworth and Kansas City, pursuant to a call issued by the Kansas City Transportation bureau, gathered here for the purpose of effecting an organization of Missouri river shippers, and also to protest against the recent changes in official and western classifications. The matter was discussed at length and the Missouri River Shippers' association was organized with these officers: W. W. Wheeler, St. Joseph, president; vice presidents, T. Richards, Kansas City, Ed E. Smith, St. Joseph, A. O. Smith, Omaha, W. F. Dolan, Atchison, W. N. Roud, Leavenworth, O. O. Fullerton, Sioux City, W. P. Trickett, Kansas City, was elected secretary and treasurer.

The executive committee consists of the officials and Samuel M. Nave, H. M. Hundley, O. V. Wilson, Jacob Barzen, Frank A. Faxon, Euclid Martin, C. H. Pickens, F. P. Kirkendall.

The first official act of the association was the sending of a telegram to Attorney General Griegs urging immediate action in line with the petition filed by commercial interests with the interstate commerce commission last week. The classification was then taken up and the changes thoroughly discussed. The principal theme for discussion was the wide differences between the carload and less than carload ratings and the effect they would have on the jobbing interests.

At the conclusion of the discussion the following resolutions were adopted: "Whereas, the Missouri river shippers favor reasonable differences between carload and less than carload ratings in classifications, and

"Whereas, we believe present classification rating to be sufficiently remunerative to the carriers, therefore be it

Resolved, by the Missouri River Shippers' association, that the changes agreed upon to become effective in January, 1900, are unreasonable and unjust, and be it further,

Resolved, that we hereby protest against any changes calculated to disturb present relative adjustment between carload and less than carload rates; and be it

Resolved, that the railroads be requested to postpone the date effective of the classifications in order to afford all parties a reasonable time for present evidence showing effect of proposed changes."

The association will take up only matters of common interest. Headquarters will be in Kansas City. The following are the delegates present: St. Joseph—E. C. Smith, J. C. Letts, R. W. Parnell, E. F. Westheimer, A. J. Warner, Louis Motter, J. J. Sheridan, J. L. Davidson, C. E. Woodbury, T. C. B. Yerne, W. W. Wheeler, E. M. Wray, Robert Winning, H. M. Hundley, F. J. Moss, F. W. Maxwell, John Donohue, Jr., and C. A. King.

Atchison—Arthur Kinney, W. F. Dolan, J. C. Postlewaithe and D. E. Good. Omaha—A. C. Smith, J. E. Baum and J. E. Utt.

Live Stock Men's Annual.

Denver, Colo.—(Special.)—President John W. Springer of the National Live Stock association has issued the official call for the big annual convention of his association to meet in Fort Worth, Tex., on January 15, 1900. The session will last four days. The convention will be composed of delegates representing all of the largest live stock associations in the country, all the big stock yards companies and many of the big railroads. It is expected that there will be over 1,000 delegates, representing every state and territory in the union. According to the call, among the subjects to be discussed are the questions of leasing the public lands to stockmen for grazing, grazing reserves of the west, the taking of a complete census of live stock next year, the work of gathering of vital statistics relative to live stock of commerce by the associations, matters relating to transportation of live stock by railroads and subjects of a general nature. Low rates have been made on all railroads for this meeting and it is expected to be the most important gathering of stockmen ever held in the country.

Many matters of importance to the industry will be considered and passed upon by the convention.

Currency Bill Will Pass.

Indianapolis, Ind.—(Special.)—Senator Charles W. Fairbanks has arrived home and given the following interview, outlining the relative merits of the currency bill upon national questions. He said:

"The first thing after the holiday recess will be the consideration of the currency bill. This matter will be taken up on January 4 and there will in all probability be a month of discussion before its passage. It will not take longer than that, however, and the bill will pass the senate beyond all doubt.

"After that there may be some discussion about the Maxington questions if the resolutions of Senator Hoar receive attention. However, the opportunity of discussing the question will be given during the next presidential campaign. It will be one of the leading questions. The phase of the question which will receive attention at the hands of the senate will be the best way in which to immediately cease hostilities and bring the islands under the subjugation of the United States. The question of annexation will be discussed by the people at large during the next campaign.

"The investigation of the Roberts case is in the hands of the court appointed for that purpose, and the final decision will likely be made in the near future. There can be but one outcome, and that is that he will be instructed to the state of Utah."

TO EQUIP THE PANAMA CANAL.

Trenton, N. J.—(Special.)—The Panama Canal company of America, with an authorized capital of \$300,000,000 was incorporated this afternoon. The object of the company, as shown by the articles of incorporation, is to acquire by purchase the ship canal of the Compagnie Nouvelle du Canal de Panama and the railway across the isthmus of Panama; also to construct, equip and operate said canal and railway and the various enterprises connected therewith.

The articles also empower the company to enter into arrangements with any government that may seem conducive to the company's object. The capital stock is divided into first and second and preferred common. The incorporators are three New York and New Jersey men.

OTIS' DEADLY LIST.

Latest Report of Killed and Wounded in Philippines.

Washington, D. C.—(Special.)—General Otis at Manila sent to the war department the following list of casualties not previously reported:

"Killed in action, engagement near Banna, December 11, Third cavalry, company A, Harry Swever, Charles W. Frazer, acting against Romblon, Dec. 7, 1899, December 19, Eighteenth infantry, company C, Charles J. Feley.

"Wounded: William J. Sheehey, hospital corps, abdomen and head, slight; attacked on train near Angeles, September 22, and captured during engagement near Mangaratian, November 28, action near Almodian, Panay, November 29, Twenty-sixth infantry, company F, Thomas Russell, foot, slight; company H, John Nadeau, thigh, severe; Nineteenth infantry, company A, William Hicks, acting against Romblon, Dec. 7, 1899, December 19, Eighteenth infantry, company C, Charles J. Feley.

"Wounded: William J. Sheehey, hospital corps, abdomen and head, slight; attacked on train near Angeles, September 22, and captured during engagement near Mangaratian, November 28, action near Almodian, Panay, November 29, Twenty-sixth infantry, company F, Thomas Russell, foot, slight; company H, John Nadeau, thigh, severe; Nineteenth infantry, company A, William Hicks, acting against Romblon, Dec. 7, 1899, December 19, Eighteenth infantry, company C, Charles J. Feley.

ELDER POYNTER LAID AWAY.

Albion, Neb.—(Special.)—The funeral of Elder Poynter was held in the Methodist church here Tuesday afternoon, services being conducted by Elder Lemmon, assisted by Elder Houtz, both preachers of the Christian denomination.

The lesson was from First Corinthians, the fifteenth chapter, and was treated in a forcible manner. It was stated during the services that Elder Poynter had kept a diary from youth till a few days ago, and extracts were read, showing his faith in Christ and his belief that a crown was laid up for him among the saved.

Interesting mention was made of many things connected with his long and busy life, and the services closed with a strong admonition to the living to profit by his example, and with words of consolation to the survivors of the family.

The church is the most capacious in the city, but was taxed to the utmost to accommodate the congregation, many of whom came to the city six miles through the cold for the scene of the proposed funeral. He returned in the evening with a live panther in their possession, having captured it during the day.

HUNDRED THOUSAND SHORT.

Middletown, N. Y.—(Special.)—The defalcation of Assistant Cashier Louis E. Goldsmith of the Port Jervis National bank, which was first announced to be \$200,000, is now declared by the bank committee to be \$101,587. The money was taken through draft account and manipulation of the general ledger. The Washington authorities recommended an assessment of the stock to make good the deficiency and to resume the business of the bank.

BRINGING HOME THE SLAIN.

Washington, D. C.—Quartermaster General Ludington received a cable message from Colonel Miller of the quartermaster's department at Manila, saying that arrangements have been made for sending home the remains of Major General Lawton, Major John A. Logan and Major Armstrong on the transport Thomas, which will leave on the 30th inst. for San Francisco.

SENATOR BUTLER TO POPULISTS.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—The Post says: Senator Butler of North Carolina, the chairman of the people's party, has just sent out a letter to each of the national committees of that party, asking them a number of questions, the answers to which will declare the plans and purposes of the populist party. As long ago as the spring of 1888 the populists decided to hold their national convention at the same place as a concession to the middle-of-the-road, or radical faction of the party.

MODERN MONTE CARLO.

City of Mexico.—(Special.)—There is much excitement in the city of Mexico, Mexico being charged by a visiting friend with having cheated him at a game of poker out of \$4,500. The accused is a gentleman recently arrived from Puerto Rico, where he had made a fortune, and he charges that, promptly after his arrival, he was invited to play the sum mentioned, to pretend to act as a "capper" for the rich gambler, and discovered that great sums had been won from resident Americans, ranging up to \$50,000. The games employed for inducing these large sums were roulette and poker, and it is charged that the roulette wheel was controlled by an electric device, while the poker game was worked by a card shark, the victims being gotten under the influence of liquor.

It is also charged that there is an extensive system of card sharpening being carried on here, and confederates have won millions of dollars from men who have patronized their game. The matter will be thoroughly investigated by the authorities.

Morton at Head of Pittsburg.

Chicago, Ill.—(Special.)—Paul Morton, third vice president of the Santa Fe road, may be asked to accept the position of president of the reorganized Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf system. His name was seriously considered at a meeting of the executive committee, lasting from early afternoon until nearly midnight, and plans were discussed which, if carried out in their entirety, will result in a new railroad system, which will reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific seaboard and to the Gulf of Mexico on the south.

The proposed transcontinental system necessitates a combination between the Harriman syndicate and James J. Hill. A man who is in the confidence of the men who are engineering the deal explained it as follows:

"As soon as the reorganization of the Gulf road and its associated properties is completely effected there will undoubtedly be a combination with the system controlled by James J. Hill. By the Port Arthur route the Gulf road people will have lines running from St. Louis to Kansas City and from Kansas City south to the Gulf. Hill will complete lines from the Gulf to the Pacific coast. Coming east the combination would have the Omaha & St. Louis road and at the latter point the Hill system would again come in.

SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICANS.

Sioux Falls, S. D.—(Special.)—Under the leadership of Senator R. F. Pettigrew about 200 fusionists met here and organized an American league as a protest against "imperialism, militarism and the control of all industrial institutions and government itself by organized capital."

All the officials are fusionists and supporters of Mr. Pettigrew in his fight for re-election. Governor E. A. Lee spoke briefly against the principals. Senator Pettigrew made the principal speech. He said:

"If I were a Filipino I would fight until I was a G.I. I would not be killed sooner."

He declared that President McKinley was elected and owned by trusts. He denounced the pending currency bill as the greatest outrage of this generation and declared that the republican senators were so completely under the administration's whip and lash that his resolution for information about the alleged salutation of the Filipino flag by Admiral Dewey was tabled.

Before the meeting adjourned a resolution of sympathy for the Boers, calling on the administration to offer its good offices to stop the war in South Africa, was adopted.

MAY LOSE THEIR EYES.

Hot Springs, S. D.—Lee Hart and Louis LePage, blacksmiths of Hot Springs, may lose their eyes as a consequence of a serious accident. They were working with molten rabbit metal when in some manner a portion of the liquid struck them in the face. Harry Tullison, the young man who was lost in a blizzard in a snow storm of some time ago, has lost both of his feet. As a consequence of the freezing which they got it became necessary to cut off both feet at the instep.

REFINERY FOR DEADWOOD.

Deadwood, S. D.—Harris Franklin, vice president of the Golden Reward Mining company, states upon his return from New York City that the company has appropriated \$50,000 for the erection of a wild and copper refinery in this city. Appropriations have also been made for opening up the mines in the Strawberry gulch district. It is also rumored that the company has purchased the Kildonan Chlorination works near Deadwood.

BRYAN HUNTS FOR BIG GAME.

Austin, Tex.—(Special.)—W. J. Bryan was the central figure in a big panther hunt in the mountains near this city. The hunt had been especially arranged for him and something like 500 sportsmen, headed by Bryan and Former Governor Hogg, left the city early in the morning for the scene of the proposed hunt. They returned in the evening with a live panther in their possession, having captured it during the day.

HUNDRED THOUSAND SHORT.

Middletown, N. Y.—(Special.)—The defalcation of Assistant Cashier Louis E. Goldsmith of the Port Jervis National bank, which was first announced to be \$200,000, is now declared by the bank committee to be \$101,587. The money was taken through draft account and manipulation of the general ledger. The Washington authorities recommended an assessment of the stock to make good the deficiency and to resume the business of the bank.

BRINGING HOME THE SLAIN.

Washington, D. C.—Quartermaster General Ludington received a cable message from Colonel Miller of the quartermaster's department at Manila, saying that arrangements have been made for sending home the remains of Major General Lawton, Major John A. Logan and Major Armstrong on the transport Thomas, which will leave on the 30th inst. for San Francisco.

SENATOR BUTLER TO POPULISTS.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—The Post says: Senator Butler of North Carolina, the chairman of the people's party, has just sent out a letter to each of the national committees of that party, asking them a number of questions, the answers to which will declare the plans and purposes of the populist party. As long ago as the spring of 1888 the populists decided to hold their national convention at the same place as a concession to the middle-of-the-road, or radical faction of the party.

MODERN MONTE CARLO.

City of Mexico.—(Special.)—There is much excitement in the city of Mexico, Mexico being charged by a visiting friend with having cheated him at a game of poker out of \$4,500. The accused is a gentleman recently arrived from Puerto Rico, where he had made a fortune, and he charges that, promptly after his arrival, he was invited to play the sum mentioned, to pretend to act as a "capper" for the rich gambler, and discovered that great sums had been won from resident Americans, ranging up to \$50,000. The games employed for inducing these large sums were roulette and poker, and it is charged that the roulette wheel was controlled by an electric device, while the poker game was worked by a card shark, the victims being gotten under the influence of liquor.

Morton at Head of Pittsburg.

Chicago, Ill.—(Special.)—Paul Morton, third vice president of the Santa Fe road, may be asked to accept the position of president of the reorganized Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf system. His name was seriously considered at a meeting of the executive committee, lasting from early afternoon until nearly midnight, and plans were discussed which, if carried out in their entirety, will result in a new railroad system, which will reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific seaboard and to the Gulf of Mexico on the south.

SENATOR BUTLER TO POPULISTS.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—The Post says: Senator Butler of North Carolina, the chairman of the people's party, has just sent out a letter to each of the national committees of that party, asking them a number of questions, the answers to which will declare the plans and purposes of the populist party. As long ago as the spring of 1888 the populists decided to hold their national convention at the same place as a concession to the middle-of-the-road, or radical faction of the party.

MODERN MONTE CARLO.

City of Mexico.—(Special.)—There is much excitement in the city of Mexico, Mexico being charged by a visiting friend with having cheated him at a game of poker out of \$4,500. The accused is a gentleman recently arrived from Puerto Rico, where he had made a fortune, and he charges that, promptly after his arrival, he was invited to play the sum mentioned, to pretend to act as a "capper" for the rich gambler, and discovered that great sums had been won from resident Americans, ranging up to \$50,000. The games employed for inducing these large sums were roulette and poker, and it is charged that the roulette wheel was controlled by an electric device, while the poker game was worked by a card shark, the victims being gotten under the influence of liquor.

Morton at Head of Pittsburg.

Chicago, Ill.—(Special.)—Paul Morton, third vice president of the Santa Fe road, may be asked to accept the position of president of the reorganized Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf system. His name was seriously considered at a meeting of the executive committee, lasting from early afternoon until nearly midnight, and plans were discussed which, if carried out in their entirety, will result in a new railroad system, which will reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific seaboard and to the Gulf of Mexico on the south.

"GRAY FOX."

Gen. Charles King's Reminiscence of Major General Crook—The simplest Soldier He Ever Knew.

Young officers fresh from West Point looked at him in wonderment. Instead of a somewhat unapproachable dignitary, in precise uniform and epaulets and embroidered sash and belt, they were welcomed by a cordial handclasp from a tall, bushy bearded man, with twinkling gray-blue eyes, in an old slouch hat, flannel shirt, rough canvas shooting coat and trousers and common soldier's boots.

Generally his beard was tied up with string or red tape—the only use he had for that usual military indispensable. He sat at camp fire or in the simply furnished parlor of his Army home, listening to the chat about him, rarely speaking, and assiduously playing solitaire with a pack of cards propped from an inner pocket. He could play a capital hand at whist, but fought shy of a game with careless or forgetful players. He heard everything going on about him, but seldom gave a sign.

From the so-called pleasures of society, dinners, dances and receptions he shrank in dismay. He ate only the simplest food. He never smoked. He hated wine. He wouldn't touch spirits; he marvelled that any man should. "It spoils his shooting," said he; and our general was a capital shot. He could foot it through an old-fashioned quadrille or Virginia reel, but nothing else, and would always get away on social occasions in to the first obscure corner he could find, and then out would come the old pack of cards.

He rarely read anything but nature's books, although he had a mathematical gift, and not only stood well in scientific studies at the Point, as did Grant, but he helped along his unmathematical roommate, Sheridan. Writing was something Crook abhorred. He could hardly decipher one of his own pages, and his letters and dispatches, like those of old "Rough and Ready," General Zachary Taylor, were generally penned by some brilliant staff officer.

Children he loved and treated with a shy tenderness that was sweet to see, but he had none of his own. His wife was a Maryland girl, who won his heart during the war days, while her brother and other enterprising "rebs" made way with his body, capturing him by a daring night raid into Cumberland.

Like Grant, he was simplicity itself in speech, rarely lifting up his voice, and only once did I hear him speak an impatient word or one that fairly resembled an expletive, but that was in the thick of the Sioux campaign of 1876, and when he had much to try him.

We had to eat our horses that year to keep alive. We had no trusts, and hardly a change of underwear could be found in the whole column. We were wet, bedraggled and dirty when we reached the Yellowstone, but the general was as badly off as the humblest trooper, and minded it less. There we met the spruce command of General Terry, and Terry himself, in handsome uniform, the picture of the gentleman and soldier, came over to our bivouac to call on Crook. I was drying my buckskins at a fire as he approached, and stepped forward to salute him.

"Where shall I find General Crook?"

"Where shall I find General Crook?" said he. "For a moment I could not answer. Then an old trooper grinned and nodded toward the river, and there, squatted on a rock, well out in the stream, stripped to the waist and scrubbing away at his shirt, was our general, and Terry was too much of a gentleman even to look amused at the sight."

The Indians called him the "Gray Fox." The soldiers had their pet names, but we, his officers, who followed him over all the West, from the Mexican border to the upper Yellowstone, spoke