

DEFENDS THE BOERS

Webster Davis Who Resigned His Office to be Free to Talk Addressed an Immense Audience

An immense audience gathered at the Grand opera house Sunday evening to listen to an address on "The War in South Africa" from Hon. Webster Davis, ex-assistant secretary of the interior, who has just returned to the United States from that country.

Every available bit of standing room in the opera house, the largest auditorium in Washington, was filled with auditors, who paid close attention to every word uttered by the speaker and manifested their appreciation of his telling points with frequent and generous applause.

A score of more of public men, mainly senators and representatives, occupied seats on the stage and in the audience, among whom were the following: Senators Clay, Daniel, Teller, Bacon, Allen, and Mason, and Representatives Talbert, Jett, Littlefield, Bridgeley, Robinson of Indiana, Burke of Texas, Ball, Gilbert, Latimer, Cox of Tennessee, Cowdard, Clark of Missouri, Bartholdt, and others.

Davis was introduced by P. T. Moran, the chairman of the executive committee, who made a few introductory remarks. Davis delivered his remarks in an offhand, easy style, referred to his notes only occasionally and mainly when it was necessary to read an extract from some document or speech.

"The Boers of South Africa," said Mr. Davis, "are among the pioneers of freedom—heroes of civil and religious liberty. They were the torch-bearers who blazed the pathway for civilization through the primeval forests of the southern part of that great 'dr. k' continent' which has been the marvel of the ages."

"Years ago," Mr. Davis continued, "the Boers planted the seed of liberty in the fertile valleys of the Cape of Good Hope where a strong national spirit developed as early as 1806, when the colony passed into the hands of England. Soon thereafter ill-feelings arose between Britain and Boer."

Mr. Davis entered upon an exhaustive review of the relations between the Boers and the British government from that time to the present. He described the "great trek" northward after the emancipation of their slaves, the foundation of the republic of Natal and its absorption by England and the rise of the South African republic. England's acquisition of the diamonds at Kimberley Mr. Davis characterized as a transaction without a parallel "for cupidity, dishonor and injustice."

"But finally this period of peace and rest was broken by the discovery of gold in the Transvaal. Then it was that the British government determined to seek a pretext for obtaining control of the richest gold fields in the world, as it had before secured the richest diamond fields."

Referring to the Jameson raid and certain incidents connected with it, Mr. Davis asked: "How long would the people of our republic stand it if foreigners from any country in the world were to come here after getting rich in our gold mines would undertake to control our government, and falling to do so, would endeavor to destroy it?"

to force the yoke of slavery upon men determined to be free. "Then why should we not sympathize with them? Why should not the greatest republic in the world assist the smallest of republics? Is the word 'liberty' to become obsolete in our national lexicon? Must this greatest republic of the world's history chain its destiny to the chariot-wheels of the British empire in her mad race for land and gold? Shall the fair name of this great republic, whose prowess on land and sea has been the marvel of the century, be used in Europe, by British press as a menace to other European powers who are anxious to assist the Boers in their brave struggle for freedom and independence?"

"Let us not drift away from the principles and doctrines of our fathers. Let us listen to the cry for help from all who struggle for liberty and justice. Let not be said by future historians that this great republic arose in splendor and grandeur that made the world stare, but it hated justice and liberty; it halted on its bright and shining march; it fell, and as it was going down the despotism of earth, grinning from the tops of bloody thrones, shouted, 'We told you so, we told you so.' Oh, may the eighty millions of American freemen see to it that the world may know that their sympathies are not with Great Britain, but with the struggling Boers, and let it be known that they believe the cruel war waged in South Africa should stop and stop at once."

At the conclusion of Mr. Davis' address P. Louter Wessels, special commissioner from the South African Republic, made a brief address and resolutions of sympathy for the Boers were passed.

Special Offer

The People's Party had its origin and growth through the Alliance organizations among the farmers. It is essentially a party of education, and its progress is all of the principles which it originally put forth have steadily grown in favor. Many of them have been recognized and made a part of the platforms of one or both of the old political parties. The People's Party has grown and prospered greatest in the states where it has pursued a policy of education—where it has taught the people in principles of government. There is no class of people so thoroughly acquainted with political affairs as the members of the People's Party in Nebraska. With this point in view, the party has brightened in the United States, and its leaders to whom oppressed people in all other states are turning for relief. It was the People's Party in Nebraska that first championed the principles and put forth the men who are destined to bring relief to the common people. In Nebraska the People's Party is not only the champion of the people but the champion of the people has changed its policy and is now only an "agricultural or family paper." The populists of Indiana are without a paper, and in all of those states the party of gold, trusts and imperialism is in power. In Nebraska where the state paper of the party has been educational and has been loyal, courageous and energetic at all times the People's Party has prospered as nowhere else. The greatest battle is yet to be fought. Presidential elections, state elections, congressmen, the legislature and two United States senators depend on the result of the contest. Education has been the most effective weapon in the past and it should not be neglected now. The Nebraska Independent has been the most successful in the past, is now, and will continue to be.

It is always a leader in the struggle for "equal rights to all and special privileges to none." The trust has doubled the price of white paper but that is only a reason why the fight will be the harder. The special rates announced for new campaign subscriptions are proportionately lower than any that have ever been announced in the past. Hundreds have taken advantage of the special offer and have sent in clubs of five. Many loyal populists have paid these subscriptions from their own pockets. They realize that it is the surest way to get results at the election this fall. To encourage this plan of campaign the Independent proposes to make a rate that is at this time Below Actual Cost with the hope that the circulation may be sufficiently increased to bring the average cost per copy down to the special rate announced. It costs less per copy to print 50,000 papers than it does to print 40,000. To meet the rate we have announced we must add 6,000 new subscribers. Will you help? Will you do your part? Will you get five or ten of your neighbors to subscribe? If you do not care to take the time or if you cannot get them to subscribe will you pay for it and send it to them anyhow? We have met you more than half way. Here is the offer:

The Independent every week from now until after the election, seven months. To one new subscriber 35c, to three new subscribers \$1, to five new subscribers \$1.50. For single subscriptions at 35 cents, and for clubs of five for \$1.50 (30 cents each) we do not give any premium. For a club of 12 taken at 35 cents each a total of \$4.20 we send a PREMIUM WATCH—a perfect time-keeper, durable, guaranteed one year, more fully described in the article "Watches for Everybody" on page 7.

No other reform paper in the United States has made any such offer as this. The Independent has the best facilities in the state for printing papers in large numbers. It is printed on the largest and fastest Press west of Philadelphia, a quadruple Hoe perfecting machine with a capacity of 48,000 eight page papers printed and folded in one hour. When you are in Lincoln you are invited to call and see it in the Press building 13th and N streets. When all these facilities the Independent has announced the lowest rate possible, even allowing for the increased circulation. It's up to you now—will you do your part?

Independent Publishing Co. 13TH AND N STREETS LINCOLN, NEB.

THE LAW IN THE CASE

The Famous Letter of Senator Edmunds That Senator Proctor Had Read in the Senate

Ex-Senator Edmunds has been held up to the public by every republican paper in the land as one of the greatest lawyers that this country has produced. When Senator Proctor was making his speech in the senate against the Porto Rican tariff bill he had the clerk read and inserted as part of his remarks a letter from ex-Senator Edmunds giving the law in the case. It was as follows:

Philadelphia, Pa., March 21, 1900. My Dear Sir: I have yours of the 20th instant, and, both as an American citizen and an original and constant republican, am very glad to learn that you are opposed to legislation having the effect of imposing on the people of Porto Rico (whether we call them citizens or subjects of the United States) any kind of revenue burden or benefit that is not common to the whole people of the United States. Any such measure, if enacted, will, I believe, be unique in our whole history. It will imitate and parallel the acts of the British Parliament which forced our fathers to just resistance and revolution, and led them to establish a constitution which in studied and explicit terms forbade and such discrimination.

I know there are many gentlemen engaged in public affairs whose intelligence and patriotism are above question who believe that our constitution does not embrace the territories, and that as to them the president and congress are not bound by its provisions. I believe in and practice or not, are still aving and will live and bear fruits more and more among men, in spite of all the tyrants—well-meaning or otherwise—in the world. I need not weary you by referring to the stated arguments on the general subject, but I will mention one aspect of it which, so far as I have noticed, has not been particularly adverted to. Congress is the creature of the constitution and not the reverse. A law passed by congress is its creature and equality of rights we profess to believe in, and which, whether we believe in and practice or not, are still aving and will live and bear fruits more and more among men, in spite of all the tyrants—well-meaning or otherwise—in the world.

But the constitution as such, I suppose all admit, is not subject to the control of congress, either to enlarge or diminish, to expand or contract, or to apply to one territory more than any people or place. It is not a movable thing, like the Ark of the Covenant of the Israelites, to be set up and moved here or there, as the tribes might wander. It is the actual event and condition and not the legislative or executive will that determine the nature of things determine the status of a man or a country under it. The instances in which congress has declared in statutes organizing territories that the constitution and laws should be in force there are no evidence that they were intended there, for congress and all legislative bodies have often made enactments that in effect merely declared existing law. In such cases they declare a preexisting truth to ease the doubts of casualists. Porto Rico and its people came under the sovereignty of the United States by force of the treaty with Spain, and I think all will agree that if any part of the people of the island levied war against the United States or adhered to our enemies, etc., they would be guilty of treason. But treason is an exclusively defined constitutional crime, and it cannot exist in Porto Rico unless the constitution that defines it is in force there.

Apart, however, from considerations of fundamental equal law for all who owe allegiance to our flag of liberty and justice, there are, it seems to me, other very important and commanding reasons why it should treat the people of Porto Rico on the basis of absolute civil equality of right and circumstances with citizens of our states and home territories, and in doing so, if, as is contended, the constitution is in force there, we make no precedent for the territories on the other side of the globe; for, like all measures within the discretion of congress, each subject must, of course, be dealt with when it arises under its own peculiar circumstances and conditions. These people gladly yielded to our dominion on assurances, never disowned or withdrawn, of our commanders and other officers that they would become free and equal citizens of the republic with all the rights implied by that term.

The geographical position of the island makes it, to my mind, especially important that its people should become and remain completely and earnestly loyal, and intimately acquainted and interested with the people here and bound to us by ties of business and friendship common to all. If we do not abandon or impair or imperil our supremacy in maintaining an exclusive interests—common between our country and the Central American Republics and outer American states—in relation to the Nicaragua canal, Porto Rico will in times of stress be the key of the situation. It was for this reason that before peace with Spain was attained, I was earnestly in favor of holding the island, although I was opposed to taking dominion over the Philippines, excepting Guam.

Pardon this too lengthy note, and believe me, Faithfully yours, GEO. F. EDMUNDS. Hon. REDFIELD PROCTOR, United States Senate, Wash., D. C.

"Procrastination is the thief of time." Is your subscription past due? If so, well you know the rest. Patronize our advertisers.

Much Tobacco Burned.

The large leaf tobacco factory of W. G. Dunnington & Co., at Petersburg, Va., containing over one million pounds of fine tobacco, purchased recently for the Austrian government, has been, with its contents, totally destroyed by fire. Loss, \$100,000.

Queen Expresses Delight.

Queen Victoria, through the authorities, has informed the citizens of Dublin of her delight at the reception accorded her. Her majesty took her customary drive in her chair in the vice regal grounds Wednesday.

LOSS OF LIFE FULLY FIFTY

Full Effect of the Floods in Texas Being Realized.

An Austin, Texas, dispatch says: The flood situation here is improving somewhat, but the reports from points below indicate that the full effect of the immense volume of water is being felt in Wharton and Lafayette counties, everything being inundated and much loss of property and live stock being reported. In Bastrop county the flood has caused much damage to property interests and something like fifty washouts and losses of bridges are reported by the railways. Ad-ices from the area surrounding the county seat of Bastrop county are to the effect that there has been some loss of life among the farming class, as their homes were inundated without warning by the tidal wave, but outside of an unconfirmed report that eight lives were lost nothing can be learned. In the southern part of this county several people are missing, the number representing a family of six Italians and two negro families.

BURNS IN THE NIGHT

Elevator at York Entirely Destroyed by Fire.

The elevator at York was entirely destroyed by fire. The fire occurred during a heavy rain, which was accompanied by considerable lightning and many are of the opinion that the building was struck and set on fire by lightning. The elevator was owned by G. P. Chessman and is a total loss, as he carried no insurance. McCloud and Miller, who operate the east elevator, had about \$12,000 worth of grain, principally wheat and rye in the elevator destroyed, which was covered by \$6,000 insurance. Their loss is quite heavy. The rain which was falling during the fire saved, as other buildings from being destroyed, as a strong wind prevailed.

Examine the date with the address on your paper, or on the wrapper, and if delinquent please pay. Remember, "Now's the accepted time."

PUERTO RICAN BILL PASSES

House Concurs in Senate Amendments—Vote 161 to 153.

The Puerto Rican tariff bill passed the house Wednesday, the vote being 161 for and 153 against. Upon the final vote nine republicans voted against the bill, while two or three democrats voted for it.

HARDLY WORTH HER DEBTS

Newspaper of Havana Declares the Island Bankrupt.

The Nuevo Pais, a Havana, Cuba, newspaper, says of Cuba: "Taking \$31,800,000 as the annual assessed income of urban and rural properties of the island, according to the assessment of 1897, and capitalizing it at 10 per cent, \$318,000,000 would be obtained as the total value of the properties of the island. Subtracting \$248,000,000, the amount of the existing mortgages on said property, about \$70,000,000, the value of the unincumbered property, would remain. This, however, does not take into account the properties destroyed during the war, which far exceed that amount. It would therefore appear that the actual value of the properties does not equal the amount of the mortgages existing on them."

MUST REMAIN OPEN SUNDAY

French to Have Their Own Way at Paris Exposition.

The French authorities have decided that all exhibits at the exposition are to be open to the public on Sundays, and the United States exhibits are, naturally, within this regulation. These exhibits are under cover in buildings erected by the French government, over which the United States authorities have no control, therefore they must abide by the rules established. The United States pavilion is not within this category and the question of its being opened or closed on Sunday the French officials have left entirely to Commissioner Peck's desire. He will probably announce his final decision in the matter soon.

Attempt to Wreck a Train.

An attempt was made to wreck an International & Great Northern passenger train near Taylor, Tex. An extra freight train was ditched instead. Fireman Lyons was killed and Engineer Ackerman and Brakeman Jacobs each had a leg broken.

Baden-Powell Reported Dead.

A dispatch from Pretoria, dated Tuesday, April 10, says: It is reported here that Colonel Baden-Powell, the British commander at Mafeking, is dead.

Bank Glass Down.

The bank of Reinhard & Co., at Columbus, O., founded in 1866, has suspended business. The bank was closed at noon and the same time John G. and Henry A. Reinhard filed deeds of assignment to Thomas J. Abernathy, who qualified by giving bonds aggregating \$325,000.

John G. Reinhard, cashier of the bank, made the following statement: "The suspension was caused by persistent rumors which have been afloat for about four weeks reflecting on the financial condition of the bank and its owners. In one month's time our deposits have dwindled down from \$350,000 to \$86,000, and there were scarcely any new deposits. Depositors will be paid dollar for dollar."

Aged Farmer Falls Dead.

Carl Hofer, a well known and well to do farmer, living a few miles east of Creighton, Neb., fell dead from heart trouble. He ate a hearty dinner and went out to the field to work and had only driven a few rods from where he had hitched on to a disk when he fell over dead. He was an old soldier, about sixty-five years of age, and leaves a wife and children. He was buried by the Masons Thursday.

House is Built of Steel.

A complete house, built of steel, is a portion of the cargo of the Dutch ship Wilhelmina, which has just sailed from Philadelphia for Japan and Russia. The structure is in sections and when erected will be two stories in height. It is consigned to Prince Yoshitomi of Tokio, who believes a steel residence will better withstand the earthquakes which are characteristic of the district in which he lives, than one of native construction. The steel house was built at Pittsburg at a cost of \$21,481.

Feeding Value of Sorghum.

The Nebraska Experiment Station has just issued Bulletin No. 62. This treats of the feeding value of the sorghum plant both for summer pasture and winter feed. It shows the best stage of growth at which to pasture sorghum and the best time to cut it for fodder. The bulletin may be obtained free of cost by writing to the Agricultural Experiment Station, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Found Dead by the Lake.

The body of Truman D. Harker, president of the First National Bank of Storm Lake, Ia., was found in about ten inches of water on the lake shore near that city. After the bank closed he took his gun and started duck hunting. There were no marks of any kind on his person and the gun by his side had not been discharged. His accounts are in excellent shape.

CRUSHING DEFEAT

British Badly Whipped in Battle at Brandfort.

600 KILLED; 900 TAKEN PRISONERS

Third Victory of Boer General De Wet—Three Reports Received in London Confirming Disaster—"Bobs" in Serious Straits.

A London, April 11th special says a dispatch to the Daily Mail from Brandfort, dated Sunday, says: "Yesterday General De Wet inflicted the third defeat of the British within a week at Meerkaatsfontein, killing and wounding 600. He captured 900 with twelve wagons, losing five Boers killed and nine wounded."

The Daily News has the following from Pretoria, dated Monday, by way of Delagoa bay: "It is officially announced that a battle has been fought south of Brandfort, in which 600 British troops were killed and wounded and 800 taken prisoners."

"Lord Roberts is declared to be in great difficulty, owing to scarcity of water."

The Daily Mail publishes the following, dated April 10, from Lorenzo Marques: "The Netherlands Railway company professes to have received a telegram reporting a Boer victory near Kroonstad, the Boers capturing 900 British."

Commenting upon this, the Daily Mail remarks: "There is a Meerkaatsfontein about five and a half miles southeast of Kroonstad, but if the report be true, this can hardly be the place."

A Pretoria, April 9, dispatch says: The British casualties in the fight at De Wet's camp were 100 killed and wounded and 459 captured. The Transvaal volksraad has been summoned to meet in ordinary session on May 10. Heavy cannonading is reported at Fourteen Streams. The British are using a naval gun. Lord Methuen is moving in the direction of Hoopstad.

Fat Man Out of Misery.

Bud LeCompte, a young man living near Frankfort, Ky., walked into the home of his brother-in-law, Hiram Stafford, and fired three bullets into the latter, who had been sick in bed a month past, killing him instantly. The neighbors believe LeCompte crazy. He said to Stafford when he walked in to the room, "You are going to die, anyway; I will just put you out of your misery."

There is Money IN THEM



THIS SPRING we have the best Shoes for the money ever sold. Our \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$2.50 Men's and Women's Shoes have as much wear and style as \$3.00 and \$4.00 shoes.



Our Boys' and Girls' Shoes Have No Equal

Every Pair is Guaranteed to give Perfect Satisfaction. With each pair we give FREE a good two blade Knife.

Come in and see what we have. We don't ask you to buy if you don't find just what you want.

SANDERSON'S FOOT-FORM STORE 1213-O STREET LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.

Easter Greeting advertisement for Sewing Clothing Co. featuring illustrations of men and women in suits, a list of clothing items and prices, and contact information for 1115 and 1117 O Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.