

# LOOK FOR A SIEGE

## Englishmen Forced to Admit Boers Can Fight.

### BAD NEWS COMES FROM THE CAPE

Native Dutch Tear Down and Trample the Proclamation of General Buller—The Appointment of Hay Popular.

A London, December 4 dispatch says: The week opens without a word of news such as the British public is anxiously awaiting. With a larger army in the field than the country ever before mobilized, it can only be said that the loss of 3,500 men, entailed before the enemy's borders have been crossed, is a serious matter, and while there is no feeling of despondency as to the eventual result of the war, it is regretfully admitted on all sides that the strength of the Boer resistance has been woefully underrated.

It is now seen that the attempt to hold a useless position at Mafeking was a serious tactical mistake, as was also the endeavor to keep the large civil population in Kimberley.

South African news is now six days in arrears. The censorship does not permit details of the Modder river battle to be transmitted. Some vague statements have been published in the Capetown papers, and according to the Boers numbered 8,000 men and were entrenched on both banks of the stream, although mostly on the northern bank. The British, according to the papers, drove the enemy across the river, compelling them to retreat and established themselves on both banks. These details, however, are too meagre to enable an accurate idea of the engagement to be formed.

A dispatch has reached London announcing that Lord Methuen is again in the field, and it is also said that Count Gleichen, who was wounded in the fighting at Modder river, was struck by a bullet in the neck.

Serious news comes from the northern sections of Cape Colony. The whole border district between Colesburg and Burgersdorp has declared for the Boers. In Venterstad alone more than 2,000 have joined the rebellion. The farmers have formed a commanding committee and talk confidently of a triumphant march on Capetown. General Buller's proclamation has been torn down and trampled upon, and the loyalists are bidden to hurry to Capetown to prepare coffee for the rebels.

### MUST MUTILATE STAMPS

Some New Requirements for the Cancellation of Revenues.

The commissioner of internal revenue has issued a circular amending regulations as to cancellations of documentary and proprietary stamps, providing that "in all classes where documentary stamps of the denomination of 10 cents or any larger denomination shall be used for denoting any tax imposed by the act of June 13, 1898, the person using of affixing the same shall, in addition to writing or stamping thereon with ink, the initials of his name and the date when affixed, mutilate the stamp by cutting three parallel incisions lengthwise through the stamp, beginning not more than 1/4 inch from one end thereof, and extending to within one-fourth of an inch of the other end.

Where such stamp is cancelled by cutting or perforating in any manner authorized by existing regulations, as aforesaid, the mutilation herein provided will not be required.

This provision shall take effect and be in force on and after December 15.

### HOME FOR CUBAN ORPHANS

Will Bear the Name of First Wife of Senator Thurston.

A movement for the raising of funds for a memorial orphan asylum for Cuban children which shall bear the name of Mrs. Thurston, the first wife of Senator John M. Thurston and who died shortly after a trip she made Cuba, was started in the Madison Avenue Presbyterian church, New York, under the auspices of the Thurston Memorial association.

The name of the proposed home is to be "The Thurston Home for Orphans and Homeless Children in Cuba," and General Vandervoort of Nebraska, one of the managers of the Cuban Mail Steamship company, has offered a tract of ground for the institution.

The collection was devoted to the fund, and subscription slips were handed around upon which a large number of the members of the church pledged themselves to large amounts.

### Call Typothetae a Trust.

A suit has been filed in the circuit court at Kansas City on information of E. C. Crow, attorney general of the state, charging that the Kansas City Typothetae is a trust and as such ought to be dissolved and its members fined the franchises of the corporations that compose it revoked.

The Kansas City Typothetae is composed of sixteen of the leading job printing firms of this city.

### Loving Cup for Sweeney.

In honor of his completion of fifty year continuous service in the Chicago fire department, the Chicago Underwriters' association gave a silver loving cup to Fire Marshal Denis J. Sweeney, who is now the head of the fire department.

### Train Hands Killed.

A wreck on the Nebart branch of the Great Northern near Great Falls, Mont. resulted in the death of three men and the destruction of an engine and ten cars. The engine struck a steer and left the track.

# CONGRESS IS ASSEMBLING

It is Getting Ready to Start an Eventful and Stirring Session.

The opening week of the session in the house promises to be filled with stirring events, says a December 4, Washington dispatch. At the very threshold of the session will come the contest over the admission of Representative-elect Roberts of Utah, and later in the week, the house will plunge into an important and possibly a protracted debate upon the financial bill which was prepared by the republican leaders last spring at Atlantic City. The Roberts case has attracted the attention of the whole country. The republicans have adopted a course which is designed to keep Roberts from taking his seat. Mr. Taylor of Ohio will make objections to the oath being administered to him until the charges against him are investigated. There is opposition to this, however.

The announcement of Vice President Hobart's death will be made probably immediately after the Roberts case is disposed of, and the house will adjourn out of respect to his memory. The drawing of seats and the reading of the president's message will occupy Tuesday.

While the session promises to be upon the whole a busy one in the senate the first week will probably be marked by considerable lethargy. On Monday (today) the new senators will be sworn in, but beyond this nothing will be done. The senate will adjourn out of respect to the memory of the late Vice President Hobart. Tuesday little will be done beyond the receipt of the president's message, the present purpose being to adjourn immediately after the reading of the document. Wednesday and Thursday will be devoted largely to the introduction of bills. There will probably be no session Friday or Saturday.

### FATALITIES IN A COLLISION

Passenger and Freight Come Together in New Mexico.

A rear-end collision between a south-bound Los Angeles passenger train and a local freight occurred near Isleta, twelve miles south of Albuquerque, N. M., with fatal results.

The names of the injured so far as known are:

C. Hutchinson of Winslow, A. T., badly crushed; will die.

Head brakeman Planey of freight train, caught between cars, chest and legs badly pinched.

Conductor Davern, face badly cut and bruised otherwise.

A lady passenger whose name cannot now be ascertained, received injuries that required immediate medical attendance.

It is believed that many passengers were cut and bruised and received other injuries. Full details are not at hand.

A wrecking outfit with surgeons has gone to the scene of the wreck.

### KILLING OF THE KHALIFA

He Gathers His Emirs Around Him and Calmly Awaits Death.

Officers from the Sudan who have arrived at Cairo say that when General Wingate's force overtook the khalifa the latter tried to outflank the Anglo-Egyptians, but failed. Seeing his position was hopeless the khalifa told his emirs to stay with him and die. He then spread a sheepskin on the ground and sat down on it, with the emirs on either side of him. The khalifa was found shot through the head, heart, arms and legs, and the emirs were lying dead beside him. The members of his bodyguard were all dead in front of him.

General Wingate's force swept over them without recognizing the khalifa and his emirs, but they were identified later. The khalifa is described as of medium height, strong and stout, of light brown color and wearing a long grey beard.

### HIS CONDITION UNCHANGED

The Bulletin of Senator Hayward About as Usual.

A Nebraska City, Dec. 3, special says Dr. Whitten's bulletin tonight is as follows: "Senator Hayward passed a restless night. He slept only three hours. His temperature is 101, pulse 109, respiration 33. His mental condition and paralysis remain unchanged."

### Kills a Wildcat.

Jim Cady a Beatrice taxidermist is mounting a wildcat which was killed a few days ago on the old Chantanooga grounds at Crete by A. Vavra, the owner of the land. The cat is as large as a mountain lion. While at work on the grounds the other day, Vavra had his attention called to a spot where his dogs were barking furiously at the foot of a tree. The cat was in the limbs with its head extended through a fork. He secured a gun and shot it in the head.

### Statement of Mint Director.

The monthly statement of the director of the mint shows that the total coinage executed at the mints of the United States during November was \$9,511,970, as follows: Gold, 6,643,700 silver, \$2,612,000; minor coins, \$253,370.

### Burkett Gets Down to Business.

Congressman Burkett of the First Nebraska district has got down to active work at Washington, his first move being to arrange for a full set of public documents for the city library of Lincoln. In this he has had splendid success and the library will have the best collection of this sort in the west. Mr. Burkett also visited the pension departments and arranged to go over the claims emanating from his district in order to be able to hurry up all the worthy ones. He is already looked upon as one of the most active of the new members.

# MR. ROBERTS OUT

## Member From Utah Not Permitted to Take Oath.

### HE YIELDS WITHOUT A PROTEST

Protest Against Him From His Own Party—Henderson Elected Speaker and Usual Routine Marks the Proceedings at Opening.

Enormous crowds witnessed the opening scenes in the house Monday. The principal interest centered in the disposition of the case of Mr. Roberts, the Mormon representative from Utah. Those who anticipated a sensational denouement were disappointed. The program outlined by the republican leaders at their conference on Friday night was partially carried out. The objection to the administration of the oath to Mr. Roberts was entered by Mr. Taylor of Ohio, as predicted, and he stepped aside without protest, except to ask if by doing so he waived any of his rights. To this the speaker responded in the negative.

There was not a protest from any quarter against the objection to the administration of the oath to Mr. Roberts, the only voice raised besides that of Mr. Taylor being that of Mr. McRae of Arkansas, who joined Mr. Taylor with his protest. Mr. Taylor offered his resolution to refer the case to a special committee, but by mutual arrangement the consideration of the resolution was postponed until Tuesday in order that the routine business in connection with the organization might be transacted.

Although Mr. Roberts was not sworn in Monday, he secured a seat, this, however, was by an accident pure and simple. In the seat-drawing lottery no provision had been made for Mr. Roberts, but when the drawing was completed two others, as well as himself, had not been provided with seats, and the speaker asked and secured from the house general permission for those members who had not drawn seats to make such selection as they could. Under this authority Mr. Roberts got a seat in an obscure portion of the hall. His daughter sat in the gallery and watched the proceedings from beginning to end.

The election of Speaker Henderson and his induction into office, the appointment of the usual committees to wait upon the president, the seat-drawing contest, with the usual amusing features, went off without a hitch. The only other feature out of the ordinary was the adoption of the Reed rules for the present congress.

### Farmer Loses by Fire.

F. L. Meter, one of York county's largest land owners and farmers, living near Nero, suffered loss by fire on wheat stacks burning to the amount of about \$500. The German Mutual Insurance company has asked Mr. Meter to wait for his pay until they can get judgment against Chris Workertine, owner of a threshing machine. The insurance company make oath that it was the fault of Workertine that the stacks caught fire from the threshing engine and that Workertine should pay the loss. The case will be tried before a justice court at McCool, and no doubt will be carried up to higher courts, where a decision of great interest to threshing machine men and insurance companies will be rendered.

### Short Session of Senate.

Appropriate tribute to the memory of the late Vice President Hobart was paid by the senate Monday at its first session of the Fifty-sixth congress. The session lasted only thirty three minutes and only the most formal and necessary business was transacted. After the adoption of the usual routine resolutions and the administration to the new members of the oath of office, Senator Sewell of New Jersey presented fitting resolutions upon the death of the vice president, the resolutions were ordered to be communicated to the house of representatives, and the session, on motion of Mr. Keane of New Jersey, was suspended.

### Deed of a Five-Year-Old.

Monday, at State Line, Miss. Edmund, the five-year-old son of Dr. W. H. Boykin, shot and instantly killed his brother Roderick, aged eleven, and severely wounded his brother Tom, aged thirteen. The boys had quarrelled over the possession of a toy when Edmund went to the house, secured a shotgun and used it with the above results.

### Dies at Ninety-Eight.

Mrs. Bridget Fitzgerald of Lincoln, mother of the late John Fitzgerald, the well known contractor of Lincoln, died Sunday morning at her home of old age. She was ninety-eight years old.

### Iowa Merchant Assigns.

F. C. Ingram, a general merchant at Mt. Airy, Ia., has assigned. The liabilities are placed at \$39,000 and assets \$30,000. The creditors consist mainly of Chicago and Des Moines wholesale houses.

### Six Are Killed.

A rear-end collision occurred between two passenger trains on the Denver & Rio Grande railroad, in which six persons were killed outright and several others were severely injured. The accident happened at English Switch, about six miles east of Salida.

### Shot by Farmer.

At Creston, Ia., Deputy Sheriff Tom Walsh was murdered by George Williams on the latter's farm. Walsh made a visit to Williams' farm to serve attachment papers. Williams gave himself up.

# A FIELD FOR REFORM

Postmaster-General Tells of the Abuses of Second-Class Mail Privileges.

The annual report of Postmaster-General Smith opens with a statement of the financial operations of the department for the past fiscal year. The revenues and expenditures are given as follows:

Ordinary postal revenue, \$93,734,719.57  
Receipts from money or business, 1,286,664.60

Total receipts from all sources, \$95,021,384.17  
Total expenditures for the year, 101,632,169.92

Excess of expenditures over receipts, 6,610,776.75

The first fact connected with this statement which commands attention is the large decrease in the annual deficiency. As compared with the deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898, which was \$9,020,905.96, it shows a reduction of \$2,422,746.86, or 26.7 per cent.

The most urgent need of the postal service is the rectification of the enormous wrongs which have grown up in perversion and abuse of the privilege accorded by law to second-class matter. This reform is paramount to all others. Careful inquiry has been made through experienced postmasters and by an examination of the records of the department, and it is believed that fully one-half of all the matter mailed as second class, and paid for at the pound rate, is not properly second class within the intent of the law, and ought justly to be paid for at the third-class rate. This gives the enormous quantity of 176,351,613 pounds from which the department derives only a fraction of the revenue to which it is fairly entitled.

Had this 176,351,613 pounds of mail matter, really of the third class, but transmitted at the pound rate, paid, as it should have been paid, the average third class rate, the financial exhibit would have been this:

Receipts, as above given, \$95,021,384.17  
Additional revenue from 176,351,613 pounds third class matter, at 14.7, 24,243,340.79

Total receipts, 119,264,730.96  
Total expenditures, 101,632,169.92

Surplus, \$17,632,570.04

Or, if it be assumed that the matter would pay only the normal rate of 8 cents a pound, this would be the showing:

Receipts, as given above, \$95,021,384.17  
Additional revenue from 176,351,613 pounds third class matter, at 8 cents, 12,344,612.91

Total receipts, 107,365,997.07  
Total expenditures, 101,632,169.92

Surplus, \$5,733,826.16

This is what the financial exhibit of the postal service for the year would be if the matter carried through the mails were classified and rated as the law intended it should be. It would show a large surplus instead of a large deficit.

### Several Injured.

A Wabash passenger train struck a Thirty-first street electric car at Chicago, injuring eleven persons and demolishing the car. None of those injured will die. The passenger train was running at a high rate of speed and was two blocks away when the conductor gave the signal to the motorman to cross. The fact that no one was killed is considered miraculous.

### Immense Cotton Sale.

A syndicate of eastern mills has consummated a deal at St. Louis for 1,250,000 pounds of territory wool. The terms of the sale were private, but it is stated the deal amounted to more than \$25,000. This is the largest sale of wool ever made in the west.

### NEWS IN BRIEF.

Four steamers from Santos, Brazil, with coffee, are detained at Quarantine, N. Y., having come from a bubonic plague port.

Private L. D. Merritt, Third artillery committed suicide at San Francisco by shooting. He enlisted last April at Indianapolis.

Owing to the attitude of the Peruvian chamber of deputies the members of the cabinet have tendered their resignations to the president.

A peculiar malady is attacking the cattle in the vicinity of Morgan, Minn. They are seized with abnormal bloating and die within an hour.

Charles Z. Dressel, deputy United States revenue collector, committed suicide at Le Sueur, Minn., by shooting. He had become involved in his accounts with the government.

Melvin L. Fuller, who ran the Alaska Commercial and Mining Company, was held to the federal grand jury at Chicago on the charge of using the mails to defraud. He is charged with duping relatives of dead persons.

A pension of \$30 a month has been granted to the widow of Captain Nichols, who died in Manila bay as a result of overheating himself during action against the insurgents.

Sunday the family of Willis Fox, of Mitchell, Ind., were poisoned by eating bologna sausage. One child is dead and other members of the family are in a critical condition.

Webster Davis, assistant secretary of the interior, sails from New York Wednesday for a three months' trip to South Africa. He will spend a portion of the time in the Transvaal.

Arrangements are about completed for the Masonic celebration at Washington, D. C., of the centennial of the death of Worshipful George Washington on December 1.

# COUNT IS COMPLETE

## Contest in Kentucky May be Settled Today.

### COMMISSIONERS MAY DECIDE THE CASE

Not the Slightest Indication of Trouble Thus Far—Attorney General Griggs Takes up the Trust Problem—The Situation in General.

The state board of election commissioners at Frankfort, Ky., has finished its work and is sitting as a contesting board to hear arguments in the case of eleven contested counties. The first fight will come up on whether or not the board has the right to go behind the certified returns filed with the secretary of state by the different counties. Upon the issue of the argument on this point will rest the name of the next governor of the great state of Kentucky. On the face of the returns now on file with the secretary of state, Mr. Taylor has a plurality of 2,383. If there is to be no "going behind" the returns the board will have no option but to issue the certificate of election to Taylor.

### LITTLE DONE IN THE SENATE

Adjournment Follows Announcement of Hayward's Death.

Tuesday's session of the senate lasted two hours and forty minutes, practically the entire time being consumed in the reading of the president's message. The reading was largely perfunctory few senators according it any attention.

At its conclusion the death of Senator Hayward of Nebraska was announced, and the senate adopted resolutions of regret presented by Senator Thurston of Nebraska, and as a mark of respect adjourned immediately.

To most senators the death of Senator-elect-Hayward of Nebraska had been communicated. While he was not officially a member of the body, he was in every other way regarded as one. Reference was made by the blind chaplain to the death of Senator Hayward.

### THE RESOLUTION UPHELD

But Thirty in His Favor With Three Hundred and Two Against.

A Washington, December 5, special says: After an interesting debate of three hours the house, by a vote of 302 to 30, adopted the resolution offered by Mr. Taylor of Ohio yesterday, for the appointment of a committee to investigate the charges against Brigham H. Roberts, the Mormon representative-elect from Utah. Previously the house had rejected a substitute resolution offered by Mr. Richardson, the leader of the minority, to allow Mr. Roberts to be sworn in and to send the whole case to the judiciary committee. Mr. Roberts took the leading part in the struggle to unseat him. He said he was not defending polygamy, as polygamy was dead.

### BULLETIN OF KANSAS CROPS

Largest Corn Crop, With One Exception, in the History of the State.

The crop bulletin of the Kansas board of agriculture for the present year just issued, shows final returns of the state agricultural products as follows: The winter wheat yield amounts to 42,815,471 bushels. The yield of corn is 225,183,432 bushels. Exceeding that of 1889 (273,888,321), this is the largest corn crop the state has yet produced and exceeds in value any preceding crop by \$1,134,637.

The combined home value of the three grains, wheat, corn, and oats, is \$80,888,622, or a total increase over the 1898 value of the same crops of \$13,384,621.

### Nebraskans Fare Well.

In the drawing for seats in the house the Nebraska members in congress fared well. The names of the fusion members were called early. Sutherland and Neville selected seats on the front row, just to the right of the center. Robinson and Stark chose places about four rows back, being near neighbors to Richardson and Bailey, the democratic leaders. Burkett had an early choice and took a place in the second row from the rear center. Mercer is located farther back, also on the left side of the chamber.

### Robbed of \$5,000.

The bank at Cornell, Ill., eight miles from Pontiac, was robbed of \$5,000 in currency. The robbers secured entrance through the front door of the building and blew the large safe open with dynamite. The force of the explosion partially wrecked the building and left the contents of the safe exposed. Two men suspected of the crime have been arrested and the sheriff is confident that the two men under arrest had one or more confederates.

### Decides Against the Trust.

In the United States supreme court at Washington Tuesday the Addystone pipe case was decided. This case involved the constitutionality of the combination of pipe manufacturers to manufacture pipe which it was charged was a trust. The decision was handed down by Justice Peckham and was adverse to the combination. It was, therefore, in opposition to the trust.

### Assistant Postmaster General Heath

announces that when a female postal clerk marries she forfeits her position.

# ENGAGEMENT NOT DECISIVE

The Battle of Modder River, While Terrible, Was a Drawn One.

A London, Dec. 5 dispatch says: The later details received from Modder river seem to show that even the desperate courage the attacking force displayed all day long (November 28) failed to drive the Boers from their strong entrenchments, and night fell on an undecided battle. But apparently during the course of the night General Cronje, commanding the Boers, who are said to have numbered 11,000 men, decided that the struggle was hopeless, for the British found the town and surrounding positions evacuated when daylight broke and the whole British army crossed the river and encamped on the Boer positions. The experts here are unanimous in expressing the opinion that Kimberley's needs must be very pressing to induce General Methuen to expose the whole of his command to the Boer marksmen, snugly entrenched in a semi-circular position. So deadly was the fire zone that the Scots guards were compelled to leave their Maxim guns behind when they were forced to seek less exposed ground. It was only after dusk that a portion of the British troops succeeded in crossing the river by a mill dam on the extreme left. When night fell the Boer artillery fire was still as vigorous as in the morning, but the Boers' retirement in the night saved the situation for the British. The exhausted condition of the British troops precluded the possibility of a pursuit of the enemy.

The conclusions of the correspondents that the Boers must have suffered heavily must be confirmed from official sources before it is accepted as fact. In any case, the Boers retired without any sign of disorder, carrying off their guns and equipment. Thus General Cronje's force is still intact. The fact that General Methuen and Colonel Kekewich are now in communication may cause a reconsideration of the Boer commander's plan to give battle at Spytfontein, where he might be simultaneously attacked by both British forces.

### STILL PURSUING THE CHIEF

Aguinaldo Said to Be in the Mountains Eastward of Santa Cruz.

An associated press dispatch from Santa Cruz province of South Ilocos, forwarded by courier to San Fabian, says that General Young, with three troops of the Third cavalry, and Major Peyton C. Marsh's battalion of the Thirty-third infantry arrived at Santa Cruz today. The Americans left Hama-pacan, province of Union, this morning, expecting to have a hard fight at Tagudin, in South Ilocos province, but they found on arriving there that 600 rebels under General Tino had evacuated thirty-six hours before, deserting an almost impregnable position. The insurgents had been entrenched at Tagudin, on the north side of the river, where a hundred well disciplined troops could have slaughtered a whole brigade crossing the river with the men up to their armpits in water.

The inhabitants of Santa Cruz and of other towns through which the Americans have passed say that Aguinaldo and his entire refugee army have gone into the mountains eastward since the Oregon, Samar and Callao attacked Vigan and landed a force there.

In several towns General Young was shown letters written by Lieutenant Gilmore showing that he had been kindly treated by the citizens and had been entertained by them when he passed through last May. Reports indicate that all the American prisoners, some twenty-five or thirty, were at one time in Benguen province, but it is supposed now that they have been removed into Lepanto province.

### Ordered to San Domingo.

A special from Washington says that instructions have been sent to Minister Powell at Port au Prince directing him to proceed to Santo Domingo and make investigation to determine the stability of the Jimenez government. The minister will also make representation to General Jimenez to ascertain his intentions with respect to the American syndicate which controlled the finances of the island and to other Americans.

### Accident Causes Death.

Mrs. Charles Best of Tecumseh has received the news of the death of her son, Charles Best, at Norton, Kas. Mr. Best was the victim of an accident, a gun which he was handling exploding prematurely. The deceased was about forty years old and leaves a wife and several children. He formerly lived in Tecumseh, moving from there about sixteen years ago.

### THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

The natural gas supply of Crawfordsville, Ind., has failed.

Maj. Frank C. Armstrong, surgeon in the regular army, is dead at Manila.

London papers comment freely on the president's message; generally favorably.

The movement to advance wages in the cotton mill centers has become general throughout the New England States.

The torpedo boat destroyer Bailey was launched at New York.

Near Cleveland, Tenn., James Mowry, a farmer, killed his wife and himself.

O. D. Saunders, a Kentucky school teacher, was stabbed to death by one of his pupils.

Congressman Cannon succeeds Congressman Grosvenor as republican caucus chairman.

At Assumption, Ill., Amos Finley committed suicide by blowing his head off with dynamite.