

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

The house has passed the pension bill for Mrs. Stotsenburg.

Rabbi Isaac M. Wise, one of the most noted Jewish rabbis in the United States, is lying at the point of death in Cincinnati.

The Ohio Gas Light association will unite with the electrical companies of Ohio to combat municipal ownership of public utilities.

More than 5,000 women have registered in Cleveland, Ohio, in regard to being eligible to vote for director of schools at the spring election.

Reuben Griggs, colored, aged 16 years, was hanged at Cumberland Court House, Va., for criminal assault upon a girl of his own color, aged 7 years.

Oliver D. Weeks, postmaster at Grigan, a suburb of Columbus, O., was arrested by Deputy United States Marshal Bauer, charged with embezzlement of \$850.

Mrs. Vesta Hogg of Vienna, Ill., shot and killed Mrs. Clara Gurley of that city in a fit of jealousy.

Information has reached Cleveland railroad officials that the Clover Leaf railroad when it is disposed of by foreclosure sale April 2, will be bought in by the Erie company.

Representative Aldrich of Alabama has introduced a bill for the establishment of a "diplomatic, consular and civil service college of the United States" at or near Washington.

The Stoughton (Wis.) academy was totally destroyed by fire. The institution was run under the auspices of the Norwegian Lutheran synod and was attended by 112 students hailing from Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas.

The parliamentary secretary of the British war office, Mr. Wyndham, announced that it was proposed to give a total of 276 commissions in the army to the colonies and fifty to Lord Roberts for distribution to the forces in the field.

Mayor Ashbridge of Philadelphia says that the third \$25,000 to be raised by that city for the republican convention is now in hand and will be forwarded in a few days.

Edward Leasure, New York, twenty-two years of age, killed George Crotty, thirty-eight years of age, an electrician, in Brooklyn.

A death blow was given cigarette smoking in the weather service at Washington when Chief Willis L. Moore issued an order prohibiting persons connected with the service from smoking cigarettes during office hours, and stating, further, that those who smoked cigarettes at any time would be mentioned in the confidential reports.

The supreme court decided the case of the Houston & Texas Central Railway company vs. the State of Texas. The case involved the validity of payments made in the state warrants issued during the civil war.

General Lee recently ordered an investigation into serious trouble between the mayor and police of Maricao, Cuba, on one side and about 200 citizens on the other.

The 17-year-old son of J. H. Lester of Colfax received a very serious gun shot wound in the foot while hunting for ducks on the river.

Plague Hunts Its Course. HONOLULU, April 2.—(Via San Francisco, Cal.)—The board of health has practically decided that the plague has run its course.

Chief Would Change Reservations. WASHINGTON, April 2.—Chief Joseph of the Nez Percés, located on the Colville reservation, Washington, has filed with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs a petition to remove his band to Oregon.

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Three of the leading commercial houses of St. Louis have adopted a memorial to congress favoring a change in the law which will give to the interstate commerce commissioners a life tenure of office.

To Aid Sheldon's Scheme. TOPEKA, Kan., April 2.—Governor Stanley has given his personal endorsement to Rev. Charles M. Sheldon's proposal to send 1,000,000 bushels of Kansas corn to the starving people of India and will preside over a mass meeting in encouragement of the movement to be held Sunday night.

Portugal Opens The Doors. LONDON, April 2.—The Lisbon correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "The Portuguese government has wired orders to Beira that British troops and ammunition be allowed to pass through freely to Rhodesia."

It's a Ten Pound Girl. HAVANA, April 2.—Mrs. Wood, wife of the governor general, gave birth to a ten pound girl at the palace.

Transvaal Commissioner Extraordinary Confers with President. WASHINGTON, March 31.—General James R. O'Beirne, who was appointed by President Kruger commissioner extraordinary of the Transvaal, had long interviews today with the president and Secretary Hay about affairs concerning the Boer government.

CAUGHT IN BOER TRAP

Two British Batteries With Six Guns and Convoy Captured.

FEW MILES FROM BLOEMFONTEIN

Boers Drive British Battery From Thaba Nohu Into Ambush—Only Rear Guard Makes Its Escape—Division Under Gen. Colville Leaves Bloemfontein to Effect a Recapture.

BUSHMAN KOP, Saturday, March 31.—The British force commanded by Colonel Broadwood, consisting of the Tenth Hussars, Household Cavalry, two horse batteries and a force of mounted infantry under Colcol, Pilscher, which had been garrisoning Thaba Nohu, was obliged, in consequence of the near approach of a large force of Boers, to leave last night.

Colonel Broadwood marched to the Bloemfontein water works, south of the Modder, where he encamped at 4 o'clock this morning.

At early dawn the camp was shelled by the enemy from a near point. Colonel Broadwood sent off a convoy with batteries, while the rest of the force remained to act as a rear guard.

The convoy arrived at a deep spruit (stream) where the Boers were concealed and the entire body walked into ambush and was captured, together with six guns.

The loss of life was not great, since most of the British had walked into the trap before a shot was fired.

General Colville's division, which left Bloemfontein early this morning, arrived here at noon, and he is now shelling the Boers.

LONDON, April 2.—General Buller's anxious inquiry, whether British officers will ever learn the value of scouting, comes back with enforced emphasis to the British public today on receipt of tidings that a convoy with guns has walked deliberately into a Boer ambush within about twenty miles of Bloemfontein.

Lord Roberts' own report of the affair, if yet received by the War office, has not been published and no account is available to the public except the dispatch from Bushmankop. Nothing, therefore, can be said regarding the details.

Evidently Colonel Broadwood thought it necessary to retreat in haste from Thaba Nohu, as he marched all through Friday night, apparently followed by a large force of the enemy.

The forces and guns had to pass through a deep spruit, which the Boers had occupied.

Six of the twelve guns, comprising two batteries, all the wagons, and, it is feared, many men fell into the hands of the Boers, whose daring, displayed so near Bloemfontein, shows that they are rapidly recovering heart after their recent reverses.

The hope is expressed here that General Colville will recover the convoy and guns, but this is hardly likely in such a difficult country, and it is probable that the next news will be that after a stiff fight General Colville has extricated Colonel Broadwood from his difficult position, but failed to retrieve the guns.

Severe criticisms are heard regarding the renewal of the old mistake of underrating the Boers and the absence of proper precaution. No doubt the affair will revive Boer hopes and inspire confidence among the enemy at a critical moment.

Great things are expected by the Boers of the new commander-in-chief, General Botha, who has made his reputation wholly during the present campaign. Foreign officers serving with the Boers have expressed surprise at his clever tactics. The proof of continuing Boer activity in the Free State will compel greater circumspection on the part of the British and will probably delay the march of Roberts northward.

Detailed accounts of the fight at Karee siding estimate the Boer forces variously from 3,000 to 5,000 men.

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TARIFF BILL STILL IN FRONT.

Intention is to Vote on the Measure Tuesday Afternoon.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—The senate will vote upon the Porto Rican bill Tuesday at 4 o'clock and, previous to that time, each session of the senate, beginning at 11 o'clock Monday and Tuesday, will be devoted wholly to this bill.

Speeches will be made by Senators Bate, Depew, Spooner, Cullom, Mason, Clay and Culberson, and probably by other senators.

There will be a great rush of speakers toward the close and the time allowed is considered too short to accommodate all who will desire to be heard. There is, however, no disposition to extend the time agreed upon for taking the vote.

All but two of the committee amendments have been agreed to by the senate. These two relate to a delegate in congress and to citizenship, and probably will be voted upon Monday.

The friends of the bill count upon its passage by a handsome majority, but it is now expected that seven republican votes will be cast against it, the seven comprising Senators Davis, Hoar, Mason, Nelson, Proctor, Simon and Wellington. Senator McEnery, democrat, and some independent senators will vote for the measure, but until the exact number of such votes is known the majority for the bill cannot be predicted.

The taking of the vote on the Porto Rican bill on Tuesday will displace the Quay resolution, which was set for that day, and Senator Chandler, chairman of the committee on elections, has given notice that he will postpone calling it up until Wednesday.

The committee will adjourn the Clark hearing in order to give its attention to the Quay resolution Wednesday, but as it is not expected that the latter matter can be disposed of in one day it is probable that the necessity for going on with the Clark case after Wednesday will cause another postponement of the Quay resolution.

There are several speeches to be made on the Quay case and there is quite a noticeable disposition on the part of some senators still further to postpone the vote on it.

Senator Penrose, however, announces his purpose to press the consideration as rapidly as possible after it is once taken up.

The Quay resolution is subject to displacement by appropriation bills, conference reports and the Spooner resolution for the temporary government of the Philippines.

The Philippine resolution will be made the unfinished business after the vote is taken on Porto Rico, and it will give way to the Alaska code measure.

After that it will divide the time with appropriation bills and conference reports. No prolonged discussion is expected on the Philippines resolution, owing to the fact that it is considered a temporary matter, and for the further reason that the Philippines policy has received considerable attention in connection with Porto Rico.

The committee on order of business is not yet thoroughly decided what subject to take up after the disposal of the Philippines resolution. There is strong pressure to secure first place for the shipping subsidy bill, and at present the indications are somewhat favorable to that measure.

The Nicaragua canal bill is also pressing for first place and Senator Morgan expresses strong hope of success.

DAVIS TO PLEAD FOR BOERS.

He Will Resign as Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

KANSAS CITY, April 2.—A Journal special from Washington says: "Webster Davis of Kansas City will tomorrow tender his resignation to the president as assistant secretary of the interior."

Mr. Davis decided to take this course as the result of his visit to South Africa. He will deliver a public address tonight touching the entire scope of the present war and believes that he can best do so while free from any restraint which his present position would impose upon him.

When taking his departure for home from Pretoria 2,000 people gathered to take leave of him at the station. They appealed to him in tears to state their cause to the American people and Mr. Davis says his conscience would haunt him if he proved recreant to that pitiful appeal.

He believes the American people are not truly informed on the situation. He will therefore avail himself of an early opportunity to relate his experience and observations at a public meeting that shall be free to all.

China 'Settles' for Murder. PEKIN, April 2.—The Chinese government has 'settled' the controversy over the murder of December 31, last, of the Rev. Mr. Brooks, of the Church Missionary society on the following terms: Two of the murderers will be beheaded, one imprisoned for life for ten years, another for two years, a memorial chapel will be erected upon the site of the murder and a tablet will be placed in Canterbury cathedral, England, at the expense of the Chinese government.

ROBERTS IN A FIGHT

Boers Draw His Forces Out From Bloemfontein and Battle Follows.

A NUMBER OF BRITISH CASUALTIES

One Captain Killed and Seven Officers Are Among the Wounded—English Capture Several Koppies—Boers Report that the Burger Army Has Retreated to Brandfort.

LONDON, March 31.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Chronicle, telegraphing Thursday, March 29, says: "President Kruger's latest proclamation warns the women and children to leave Bloemfontein within five days, as he intends to bombard and destroy the city and to shoot the burghers whom he captures there."

LONDON, March 31.—The war office has issued the following: "BLOEMFONTEIN, March 29.—2:15 P. M.—Owing to the activity of the enemy on our immediate front and their hostile action toward burghers who surrendered, I found it necessary to drive them from some koppies they had occupied near the Karee siding station, a few miles south of Brandfort."

"The operation was successfully carried out by the Seventh division, assisted by the First and Third cavalry brigades, under French, and Le Gallais' regiment of mounted infantry. The enemy retreated to Brandfort and our troops now hold the koppies. Our casualties were: Killed, Captain Going, Scottish Borderers; wounded, Captain Sellar, Luard, Peebles, Curgenven and Edwards, Lieutenants Coulson and French and about 100 rank and file."

The reports that Lord Roberts will remain at Bloemfontein another month are probably intended for Boer consumption and the recent movement of troops and other indications point to preparations being well advanced for a forward movement.

The head of the army of Lord Roberts is now about twenty-one miles north of Bloemfontein. It occupies a cluster of hills won from the Boers.

The Boers have been using these hills as a base in beating up the country, in driving off cattle and forcing non-resistant Free States into the ranks again. The enemy must have been in considerable force, for Lord Roberts sent 8,000 infantry and 3,000 cavalry against them.

Lord Roberts' advance to Pretoria will probably consist of a series of rapid forward movements, in which Boer positions will be attacked by a portion of the army advancing rapidly with wheel transport, the main army coming up as the railway is repaired. Lord Roberts is stripping the forces in the minor spheres of operations of their wagons and transport animals in order to hasten the advance. This is understood to be the reason why he recalled Lord Methuen from Barkly West to Kimberley.

The reason why a hot chase was not made after Commandant Olivier is that Lord Roberts did not wish to wear out the cavalry transport. General French lost 3,000 horses in the relief of Kimberley and the pursuit of General Cronje. Lord Methuen has lost 1,500 transport cattle and probably 4,000 other animals since the forward movement began on February 12.

The advance around Bloemfontein is through a barren country and supply officers see an increased difficulty for a great army moving along a single line of railway, even when the latter is working smoothly and with ample rolling stock.

CULTON HAS NOT CONFESSED. Wires His Father that Reports to that Effect are False.

RICHMOND, March 31.—Rev. J. N. Culton, father of W. H. Culton, charged with being an accessory to the murder of Goebel, is deeply incensed at what he declares is an attempt to drag his son into an alleged conspiracy. He has received a telegram from his son saying: "I have made no confession. I have nothing to confess."

Cleveland Denies a Story. PRINCETON, N. J., March 31.—Former President Grover Cleveland said to an Associated Press correspondent relative to the reports that have been circulated that he had announced his intention of supporting W. J. Bryan for the presidency in the coming campaign: "I do not think these reports are worthy of denial, but I will simply say that I have not in any way signified to anyone what course I shall take in the next campaign."

BOTHA SUCCEEDS JOUBERT. Appointed to Succeed the Veteran Who Died.

PRETORIA, March 31.—General Louis Botha has been appointed to succeed General Joubert.

BERLIN.—I have been informed by a military authority, who has had occasion to read through all the reports of the German attaché with the Boer forces, that they all go to show that General Louis Botha has the greatest military capacity on the Boer side.

O'BEIRNE TALKS TO M'KINLEY. Transvaal Commissioner Extraordinary Confers with President.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—General James R. O'Beirne, who was appointed by President Kruger commissioner extraordinary of the Transvaal, had long interviews today with the president and Secretary Hay about affairs concerning the Boer government. He was cordially received.

While General O'Beirne discussed the Transvaal matters with Secretary Hay the latter is authority for the statement that he was in an informal and unofficial capacity entirely.

SENATE FOR A TARIFF.

Test Vote on an Amendment to the Porto Rico Tariff Bill Shows This.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—A direct vote was taken by the senate today on the proposition to strike from the Porto Rico measure the provision levying 15 per cent of the Dingley law duties on Porto Rico products. The proposition was defeated by a vote of 16 to 33.

The feature of the debate today was the speech of Beveridge of Indiana. While he advocated reciprocity between the United States and Porto Rico he announces that if all efforts to secure free trade should fail he would support the pending bill. The bill was under discussion throughout the session, several important amendments being agreed to.

The first amendment was one imposing a duty of 5 cents per pound upon coffee imported into Porto Rico. Petrus of Alabama moved to strike out the amendment, which motion involved the question whether a tax could be imposed on products imported into Porto Rico which was not imposed on the same products imported into other parts of the United States.

Gallinger defended the amendment of the committee. During the Spanish regime, he said, a tariff had been imposed on coffee imported into Porto Rico because the coffee raised there is regarded the best in the world and it was desired to prevent it from being spoiled by being blended with inferior brands.

"If you have a free trade to mutilate the constitution," Petrus said, "then you can pass this bill, but if the constitution means anything when it says that taxes and duties shall be uniform then you have no such right."

Petrus' amendment was defeated, 13 to 32.

Bacon offered an amendment in the form of a substitute for sections 2 and 3 of the committee bill, establishing the regular Dingley tariff rates of duty on articles imported from foreign countries into Porto Rico, and providing that no duties shall be levied on articles imported into Porto Rico from the United States, nor into the United States from Porto Rico.

Bacon explained that it was his purpose to establish in Porto Rico the tariff system in vogue in this country.

Gallinger said the bill as it stood was infinitely more liberal than was the amendment offered by Bacon. The committee, said he, had only one object in view and that was to legislate for the Porto Rican people as to render them happy, contented and prosperous.

Lindsay of Kentucky offered an amendment to Bacon's amendment providing for absolute free trade between the United States and Porto Rico, saying:

"I offer this amendment because Porto Rico is an American island; because its inhabitants are American citizens; because the people were promised the rights of American citizens by General Miles and because the president and secretary of war declared it was 'our plain duty' to give the Porto Rican people free trade."

Petrus then moved to strike out the provision in section 3 providing for a duty of 15 per cent of the Dingley law rates on products of Porto Rico imported into this country. The motion of Petrus was defeated, 16 to 33.

HARRISON'S HEART WITH BOERS. Said to Have Written Personal Letter to Secretary Hay.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 30.—A special wire from Washington to an afternoon paper today, says that General Harrison has expressed some pretty blunt views on the Boer question and has written a friendly, personal letter to Secretary Hay on the subject. Either in this letter or in some communication, he is accredited with having said he "hoped the Boers would find some place on the green earth where they would have a right to live unmolested by the British."

Quiet Funeral for Joubert. PRETORIA, March 30.—General Joubert was taken ill Sunday morning. He was at his office the previous day. He suffered great pain, but became unconscious some time before death. The complaint was acute inflammation of the bowels.

The body will lie in state tomorrow and will then be taken by special train to the farm at Rustfontein, near Wakkerstroom, where it will be buried quietly, as Joubert often requested, and without military honors.

Commander Very Ordered Home. WASHINGTON, March 30.—Commander S. W. Very has been relieved of the command of the Castine and ordered home from Manila by regular steamer. He will be relieved of the command by Commander C. G. Bowman, now at the Mare Island navy yard.

Commander Very has had some trouble with officers attached to the Castine, due, it is said, to his methods of enforcing discipline aboard ship. Commander J. B. Briggs will take the place of Commander Bowman as equipment officer at the Mare Island navy yard.

Trying to Stir Up Germany. BERLIN, March 30.—The efforts of influential Russian newspapers to show that Germany's interest lie with Russia and France against England are attracting some attention here. The Krone Zeitung quotes an article by Prince Zubetzky, showing that the Franco-Russian alliance does not now have a threatening character, but England is threatening the peace of the world and that Germany, seeking a new weapon in its augmented fleet, needs an ally in order to enable it to withstand British pressure.

Nebraska in Washington. WASHINGTON, March 30.—Representative Burkett has introduced a bill to grant a pension of \$12 a month to Mary Ann O'Leary of Plattsmouth, Neb.

Attorney General Griggs sent to congress a claim of \$2,809.10, due L. B. Shepherd, formerly of Omaha, as United States commissioner at St. Michaels, Alaska. Part of this sum is for recovering the body of V. F. Maidhat, part for coroner's inquest on death of and recovery of Robert Patterson, and \$1,173.50 for expense to Cape Nome.

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**Try Grain-O!**  
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