

THE NORFOLK WEEKLY NEWS.

NORFOLK, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1899.

BRITISH ON DEFENSIVE

London Has Grave Fears For Safety of Methuen.

BOERS ARE IMPROVING POSITION.

Are Strengthening Modder River Entrenchments—No News Since Sunday. Boers Say Their Loss Is Small—Another Killed at Stormberg.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The gravity of the military situation is again becoming accentuated in the public mind, owing to the complete absence of news. Nothing has been heard from Lord Methuen since Sunday and it is feared that his communications have been cut. If this be so, his position is dangerous.

The Daily News has the following dispatch from Cape Town, dated Dec. 16: "The Boers intend to make a big stand at Stormberg and are massing a great force at abandoned British camp. One commando of 2,000 consists chiefly of rebel Dutch."

A correspondent of the Daily News, telegraphing from Modder River last Saturday, says: "The Boer position, already formidable on Dec. 11, has since been greatly strengthened, extending for an area of 12 miles. It is entrenched according to the most modern methods throughout its entire length, wire fences have been placed before all the trenches at every point, guns have been got into position, and there is every evidence that the Boers are well supplied with ammunition. Only a powerful attacking force can hope to make a successful assault."

The Times, in an article from the pen of a military expert, laments the dispersion of the British forces, quotes the maxim of Napoleon in favor of concentration and regrets that Lord Methuen did not retire to Orange river a week ago.

The latest dispatches received seem to show that the British forces are standing on the defensive at all points. General Buller is ordering the troops now arriving at Cape Town to proceed to Durban to reinforce the Natal column. Absence of news from him has led to a surmise that he is trying to join General White by a flank movement.

The appeals for yeomanry and volunteers are being responded to with the greatest enthusiasm in all parts of the country.

The papers are now generally joining in free criticisms of the government and the war office, as day by day fresh proofs of unpreparedness come to light. Special stress is laid upon the failure to provide proper transports, which compels the columns to stick tight to railways, and upon the inferiority of the British artillery.

The Australian colonies are responding eagerly to the imperial government's appeals for second contingents. It is reported that the queen will abandon her proposed visit to Italy in consequence of the war.

Boer Loss Is Small.

CHIEVELEY CAMP, Dec. 16.—The ambulance train is taking the British wounded in yesterday's battle to East-court and Pietermaritzburg. An armistice has been asked for until midnight to bury the dead. The Boers state their loss is small. They can be seen today placing guns in fresh positions commanding our camp. The heat is intense.

There was heavy firing at Ladysmith this morning. Colonel Devon, with three officers and 40 men, were surrounded and taken prisoners. The Boers are flying a flag of truce looking for their wounded.

HAS FAITH IN TRANSVAAL.

Consul of Orange Free State Confident of Defeating the English. NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Charles D. Pierce, consul in this city from the Orange Free State, said that applicants for enlistment in the Boer army were still visiting his office in a steady stream. "I cannot do anything for them," said he, "because I have no authority to take such a course. I refer them to our consul at The Hague."

Mr. Pierce was asked who paid the expenses of the men to The Hague. "They pay their own expenses," he said. "Somebody in the city, though, is furnishing them with money to get to the Transvaal. I don't know who it is."

Asked what he thought about the way things were going in South Africa, Mr. Pierce said: "The British can send 1,800,000 troops down there instead of 180,000 if they want to and still they won't get the upper hand for a year or two. It is not the side with the most troops that is going to win, but the side that shoots the straightest."

Sends Protest to Washington.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—A. J. Twomey of the Pennsylvania Milling and Export company sent a protest to Washington yesterday against the seizure by the British of flour sent to South Africa by his firm. He received information by cable that the ship Beatrice with a cargo had been seized in Delagoa bay and sent to East London, while another ship, the Maria, had been sent to Port Natal. A week ago the Mashona with 14,000 sacks of flour was stopped and sent to Cape Town. The flour, it was suspected, was for the use of the Boers.

Mrs. Sanderson on the Stand. MARSHALL, Mich., Dec. 21.—Mrs. Sanderson was on the stand yesterday and had a chance to reply to the allegations of her servant, Marie Robertson, that she had killed her old husband by feeding him ground glass in his oatmeal. She denied feeding the glass.

SHOT DOWN FOR A NICKEL.

South Omaha Saloon Keeper Mortally Wounded by Unruly Customer.

SOUTH OMAHA, Dec. 21.—An exciting shooting affray occurred at the old Kirby hotel, Twenty-seventh and L streets, shortly after 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. Two men were injured and a policeman received a bullet through his clothing. John Fyda, the proprietor of the saloon, is seriously, if not fatally, wounded and Frank Pyszka, the man who started the shooting, is suffering from a slight flesh wound.

The trouble started over the payment for a glass of beer. Pyszka entered the saloon in an intoxicated condition and asked for a glass of beer, which was drawn for him by Fyda. The saloon man asked for his money. The customer replied that he had paid and was waiting for his change. He then demanded change for \$1, which he asserted he had laid on the bar when he came in. Fyda insisted that he had not been paid and made another demand for the nickel. Pyszka whipped a revolver out of his pocket and fired, at the same time saying, "I will give it to you."

As soon as he had fired the shot, Pyszka rushed to the front door and was into the street in a moment. When Officer LaDuke attempted to stop him, he fired a shot at the officer and started down the hill under the viaduct on a run, with the policeman after him. La Duke finally saw a chance and fired a shot, which took effect, and he was captured.

CHOOSE THE OLD OFFICERS.

Federation of Labor Delegates Re-Elect Gompers and Others.

DETROIT, Dec. 21.—The American Federation of Labor unanimously re-elected its old officers. The only contest occurred in selections of fraternal delegates to the foreign trade congresses. The election resulted as follows:

President, Samuel Gompers of Washington; vice presidents, P. J. McGuire of Philadelphia, James Duncan of Boston, James O'Connell of Washington, John Mitchell of Indianapolis, Max Morris of Denver and Thomas I. Kidd of Chicago; secretary, Frank Morrison of Washington; treasurer, John B. Lennon of Bloomington, Ill.; fraternal delegates to British congress, John B. Lennon, Bloomington, Ill., secretary of the Journeymen Tailors' union, and W. C. Pearce of Indianapolis, secretary of the United Mine Workers.

Louisville, Ky., was selected as the place of the next convention.

Killed by a Baby Brother.

ST. EDWARD, Neb., Dec. 21.—A 4-year-old son of William Cruise, who lives west of St. Edward, was shot and killed by his 5-year-old brother yesterday. Mrs. Cruise had loaded the gun and placed it under the bed. Her husband was absent during the night. The boy got up in the morning while his mother was busy preparing breakfast and pulled the gun out from under the bed and handed it to his brother, who was still in bed, telling him to play he was a soldier and snap it, which he did. The contents entered the boy's head just above the right eye.

Meeting of Stock Breeders.

LINCOLN, Dec. 21.—At the meeting of the improved stock breeders of Nebraska Dr. Victor A. Norgaard of the department of agriculture at Washington read a paper on the subject of "Infectious Diseases in Cattle; Nature, Treatment and Prevention." Other papers were read by L. E. Shattuck of Missouri, N. H. Gentry of Missouri, Harvey Johnson of Iowa and George W. Hervey of Nebraska.

Supreme Court Grants a Supersedeas.

OMAHA, Dec. 21.—The supreme court has suspended the sentence of Judge Scott passed on Rev. T. J. Mackay, Rev. H. C. Herring and Mr. Harford for contempt of court. Clerk Campbell of the supreme court telephoned the sheriff's office advising it of the action the court had taken on the application of Mr. Mc Gilton, representing the defendants, for a supersedeas.

New Fast Mail Service.

DES MOINES, Dec. 21.—It is announced the Illinois Central, whose new line to Omaha has just been opened, will on Jan. 1 inaugurate a new fast mail service to Sioux City and Omaha out of Chicago. The train will leave Chicago about 2:30 a. m., run solid to Fort Dodge and then split, one division going to Sioux City and the other to Omaha.

Oldest Traveling Man in Iowa Dead.

DUBUQUE, Dec. 21.—News was received here today of the death at Nashua, Ia., of A. W. Fleming, the oldest traveling man in Iowa, if not in the United States. He was 88 years of age and was a member of the Dubuque Traveling and Business Men's association.

Lincoln Stays Out of the League.

LINCOLN, Dec. 21.—The directors of the Lincoln baseball team, at a meeting held yesterday afternoon, decided not to enter the Western league. The reason impelling this action is said to be that there is not enough money in sight to justify the venture.

Car Shops at Dubuque Burn.

DUBUQUE, Dec. 21.—The car shops of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad, the largest plant here, was completely destroyed by fire shortly after midnight. Loss \$100,000, and 300 men will be thrown out of employment.

Four Miners Entombed.

STOCKTON, Cal., Dec. 21.—A telephone message from Angeles Camp, says: A cave-in occurred in the Lightner mine yesterday. Four miners are buried and it is feared they are lost. The cave-in was in the 300-foot level.

WOOD IS IN COMMAND.

New Military Governor Warmly Welcomed to Havana.

GENERAL BROOKE STEPS OUT.

Formally Turns Over the Governorship of the Island to His Successor and Will Sail For Home on Saturday—Customs Funds Unearthed at Havana.

HAVANA, Dec. 21.—The welcome given General Wood yesterday on entering Havana was, according to all the old residents, without parallel in the history of the island. The elaborate display of bunting in the harbor and the multitude of boats and bands showed that the hastily formed reception committee had done excellent work. Moreover, there was a heartiness in the cheering that was quite unusual.

The battleship Texas hoisted her flag to return the Morro's salute, and a number of bands played continuously around the steamer so long as General Wood remained on board.

Very beautiful was the procession of launches which escorted the new governor to the shore.

During the morning there was a constant stream of callers at the Hotel Inglaterra, where General Wood will remain until General Brooke departs.

GENERAL WOOD.

Accompanied by General Chaffee and Lieutenant Brooks, General Wood called on General Brooke at noon, when the governorship was officially transferred. The retiring governor general will leave for the United States on Saturday.

An immense sensation was caused in Havana yesterday by the arrest of 10 of the chief appraisers of the customs house staff, on a charge of being in collusion with many Havana merchants to swindle the government out of large sums. It is asserted that the fraud has been practiced for two weeks at least, and probably for a longer period, and it is believed that thousands of dollars have been corruptly diverted.

Colonel Bliss obtained evidence enough to warrant the arrests and, as he believes, to insure conviction. The swindle was caused by a classification of articles under which valuable goods went into cheap classes. Many merchants are likely to be arrested within the next few days.

Three Men Carried Under the Ice.

VANCOUVER, Dec. 21.—A dispatch from Dawson, dated Dec. 14, recounts a terrible tragedy which took place near White Horse, where three men named T. Smith, Fred Batty and McIntosh were engaged in salvaging the cargo of the steam scow Linderman, their boat being unexpectedly struck by a heavy swell and sunk. The men were not seen after the boat disappeared and it is supposed they they were carried under the ice.

John L. Sullivan is Broke.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—John L. Sullivan, who is being sued by a liquor firm for \$1,600 for goods purchased, testified in court yesterday that he was without money or property. Afterward he stated that his earnings in his professional career had exceeded \$1,000,000 and that he made \$400,000 in the winter of 1883-84. He said: "I have been a good fellow and I am broke. If anyone I knew needed money and asked me for it, he got it."

Butchell College Burns to the Ground.

AKRON, O., Dec. 21.—The main building of Butchell college, including all the laboratories, library, men's and women's dormitories, was burned to the ground last night. The fire started in the men's dormitory at 6 o'clock and spread to the other portions of the building rapidly. Much of the personal property of the students and a large number of valuable books from the library were saved. The loss is fully \$100,000, with \$65,000 insurance.

Safe Crackers Use Dynamite.

BEMIDJI, Minn., Dec. 21.—The Great Northern express office and depot at this place was entered by safe crackers last night and the safe wrecked by dynamite. The safe is a total wreck and a miscellaneous number of express packages were either destroyed or damaged. The robbers made their escape with considerable booty, leaving no clue to their identity.

Bodies of Maine Victims.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Secretary Long called at the white house yesterday and informed the president that the bodies of the victims of the Maine disaster probably would reach Washington Wednesday of next week for burial at Washington. The president will attend the burial services, if nothing occurs to prevent.

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FIGHTING THE PAPER TRUST

Lithographers Combine to Protect Their Trade Interests.

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—The commercial lithographers and printers of the central west met at the Auditorium hotel to consider means of combating the present conditions of the writing paper market. The sessions were secret. One of the members said that the price of paper had been forced up more than 25 per cent, though the basic material is just as cheap as ever.

The object of the meeting was either to advance the price of the output of the lithographers and printers or to combine and patronize only independent mills. The lithographers and printers at the meeting represented about three-fourths of the material used in the country.

Trainer Killed by an Elephant.

COLEMAN, O., Dec. 21.—M. J. Meagher, an elephant trainer, better known as Patsy Forepaugh, was instantly killed by an elephant yesterday at Sellersville. The elephant, known as "Sid," has been in captivity for 20 years and was never regarded as vicious. Meagher led the elephants into the training circle for their daily exercise, when "Sid" became unruly and the trainer jabbed the animal with his stick. "Sid" became furious and hurled the trainer to the ground with his trunk. The elephant then fell on his victim, piercing Meagher's body with one of his tusks, on which was a brass ball six inches in diameter.

Pingree After the Military Board.

LANSING, Mich., Dec. 21.—Governor Pingree sent a special message to the house yesterday asking for the passage of a joint resolution that would authorize Attorney General Oren to institute proceedings toward recovering the money claimed to have been lost by the state through the military board's alleged transaction with the Henderson-Ames company of Kalamazoo.

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