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WHOLE NUMBER 1,672.

PEACEABLE LOOK

SETTLEMENT OF BOER AND BRITISH TROUBLES.

ONLY TECHNICALITIES DELAY

Both Sides Anxious for the War to End, but South Africans Have Some Difficulty in Pacifying Certain of Their People.

LONDON, May 24.—The Associated Press has every reason to believe that peace in South Africa is practically secured. How soon, depends, apparently, more upon convenience of the Boer leaders than upon the inclination of the British government. The private and official advisers received in London from South Africa all point to the same conclusion. The delay is technical, and to end the long war seems to be the desire of both British and Boer leaders. The latter, however, are unable to convince all of their followers of the wisdom of acquiescing in the terms of peace.

Information as to what transpired at yesterday's meeting of the cabinet is closely guarded, but it is not likely that the cabinet transactions were of vital import. The surmise of one well informed person places the sum total of the deliberations of the cabinet ministers at a decision regarding points of the peace agreement of entirely minor importance. Another surmise is that the cabinet merely sent a rather mock ultimatum to South Africa, which can be used by the Boer leaders in explanation to their forces.

Both these surmises probably contain an element of truth, but neither can in any way offset the widespread belief in the best informed quarters that the end of the war has come. In fact those persons who are best acquainted with the actual details of the present negotiations only qualify this optimistic expression of opinion by guarded reservations concerning the extent of the personal control of the Boer leaders over their commands. Were the Boers a thoroughly disciplined force, dependent on the action of their general officers, peace would probably be now proclaimed, but both Dewet and the other generals seem themselves to positively guarantee the degree to which their example will be followed.

The delegation at Vereeniging, according to the information of the war office are fairly evenly divided. Accordingly extreme precautions are exercised in London and Pretoria to prevent any premature report which might adversely influence the Boers. Advice received by the war office indicate that whatever decision the Vereeniging conference may arrive at, most if not all, of the Boer leaders who went to Pretoria will not continue the fight. The present negotiations were merely for the purpose of enabling the Boer leaders to "save their faces." After they learn the results of this afternoon's meeting of the cabinet the Boer leaders are expected to announce their reluctant acquiescence with the British terms. The war office does not expect any serious defections from the rank and file on the action taken by Generals Botha and Dewet.

Kansas Democrats Adjourn.

WICHITA, Kan., May 24.—The democratic state convention has adjourned after naming six of the four teen places to be filled at the November election. W. H. Craddock, mayor of Kansas City, Kan., was named for governor. Other nominations are: James McCleverty, Fort Scott, and J. C. Cannon, Mound City, for supreme justices; Claude Duvall, Hutchinson, for secretary of state; J. M. Love, Kinsley, for auditor.

A Veteran Passes Away.

OMAHA, Neb., May 24.—Warren Woodard of Exeter, Neb., an old soldier and a member of the department of Nebraska Grand Army of the Republic, who came here to attend the state encampment, died at the Paxton hotel. He was 87 years of age and had resided here for thirty years.

Drops Dead at Son's Grave.

WILBER, Neb., May 24.—While visiting his son's grave with his wife, Bartholomew Zoubek fell dead over the grave from heart disease. He was 72 years of age and had resided here for thirty years.

Japan Wants Large Loan.

SEATTLE, Wash., May 24.—Count Matsukawa the prime minister of Japan, with the Japanese minister of finance, is in the United States for the purpose of negotiating a loan of \$100,000,000 with which to build ships and railways and to carry on mining operations in Japan. This statement is made upon authority of Theophile Gollier, attaché of the Belgian legation in Tokio, who, with his wife, arrived in Seattle.

Worst Floods in Oklahoma.

GUTHRIE, Okl., May 24.—The rivers yesterday reached the highest point since the flood began and the present indication of more rains is alarming, as it means that the Cottonwood and the Cimarron will flood the entire country, and like reports are received from the Canadian and Washita rivers. At no time have such floods been known in Oklahoma. Near Virginia City, Peter Barry, a farmer, was killed by lightning.

MURDERER TELLS IT ALL.

He Details to the Court the Killing of Michael Sierka.

ALLIANCE, Neb., May 26.—District court for Box Butte county convened here, and when the case of the state of Nebraska against August Jahnke for the murder of Michael Sierka came up it brought out a confession from Oliver Olson, who is charged as an accessory to the crime. Olson's confession is as follows:

"We had entered into an agreement to kill Mike Sierka and I was to have half of the old man's insurance, for which Jahnke was the beneficiary, and a share in the old man's estate, which was to be previous inducement also devised by Jahnke. We made three attempts upon his life which were unsuccessful. The first time we let him fall into a 120-foot well onto a piece of pipe projecting four feet from the bottom. The second time we put our corrosive sublimate in his coffee at two different times, but this failed, as the old man vomited it all up, and we played sick, placing the cause with the whiskey we had been drinking. The third was to shoot him with a revolver, and he was gotten drunk and forced to stagger in front of the revolver in my hands which I discharged, apparently by accident, but the shot miscarried and went under his arm, failing to do the work. The last and successful attempt was well planned. Jahnke said to me: 'We will have to shoot him with a shotgun.' We came to town and procured a gun and went back. The next morning, as Mike was at the breakfast table, I got the gun and loaded it in an adjoining room and returned, and as I came out of the door behind the old man I pulled the hammer and let the whole charge into his back, whereupon Jahnke shouted: 'Come, help me, Mike is shot!'"

On cross-examination Olson said he was under the hypnotic influence of Jahnke, who is his brother-in-law.

COLEMAN KEPT HIS MONEY.

And Sent Officers to the Designated Stump at Night.

ADAMS, Neb., May 26.—H. Coleman, living three miles southeast of town, received a letter some days ago in which he was told to go to a certain stump in the timber about half a mile from his home and there deposit \$300, and failure to do so would cost him his son's life, his house and barn would be destroyed and other dire calamities befall him.

Mr. Coleman came to town and reported the matter to Constable Medical and Deputy Sheriff Galloway, who went to the place designated and watched a couple of nights, but no one appeared. In the letter, which was mailed at Sterling, Mr. Coleman was directed to go to the stump unarmed and at night.

Farmer Loses His Barn.

BASSETT, Neb., May 26.—Word was brought in of a disastrous fire in the burning of a large barn and all its contents, except two horses, belonging to Joe Stolp, seven miles east of here. No one was at home at the time. Mr. Stolp being in Bassett. Upon reaching home he found many suspicious circumstances and a careful investigation will follow. He carried \$400 insurance.

Snake in Letter Box.

LINCOLN, Neb., May 26.—Mail carrier Warnke took a small and active snake out of a mail box. A youth named Henry Ernst was found to be the party who introduced the snake into his new home, but he insisted that he only put the snake on the box and that the reptile crawled in of its own accord.

Preparing for State Fair.

LINCOLN, Neb., May 26.—The state board of agriculture met and contracted for the construction of four new live stock barns on the state fair grounds. The board also authorized the various live stock associations to hold auctions on the state fair grounds during the next fair.

Long Pine Has Commercial Club.

LONG PINE, Neb., May 26.—The business men and property owners of Long Pine have organized a commercial club, with officers as follows: President, W. A. Bucklin, secretary, J. S. Davison; treasurer, R. S. Hall.

Independent Telephone Company.

BRAINARD, Neb., May 26.—The village of Ulysses recently organized an independent telephone company to cover the entire town and also making connection with many of the nearby farmers' houses.

A Young Man in Trouble.

BEATRICE, Neb., May 26.—A young fellow by the name of Grover Brown from Hubbard, Neb., was arrested here last night on a charge of forging a check on some party for \$140.

Liquor Dealers to Meet.

OMAHA, May 26.—The sixth annual convention of the Nebraska Retail Liquor Dealers' association will be held in this city June 4 to 6 inclusive.

Requisitions for Authorities.

DAKOTA CITY, May 26.—Sheriff John Sides has gone to Lincoln to secure requisition papers for the arrest of Sheriff Lewison and Deputies Homer Robb, Alfred Griffith and Sam Holliday, South Dakota officers. The three Turgon brothers, who were recently mixed up in a fight with these officers, claim that they were on Nebraska soil when the officers attempted to arrest them and that the sheriff and posse were in the wrong.

IN GREAT TERROR

INHABITANTS OF MARTINIQUE WANT TO LEAVE.

DECLARE THE PLACE IS CURSED

Second Eruption of Mount Pelee Causes Population with Fear—Tuesday's Explosion More Violent Than That Which Effaced St. Pierre.

FORT DE FRANCE, Island of Martinique, Wednesday, May 21.—A p. m.—The second eruption of Mount Pelee, which occurred yesterday, is said to have been many times more violent than the fatal explosion which effaced the beautiful city of St. Pierre and swept its 30,000 people from the earth. The volcano is described as a seething furnace, whose deadly tongues of flame are expected to lick up life and property at any time. Indeed, the people of this section are in absolute terror over what they resolutely believe to be their impending fate. They are thrown this city by the hundreds and crying, not for food, not for clothing, but to be taken far away from this island, which they declare has become the object of God's wrath and that He has determined to sweep its people out of existence.

Streams of people have been pouring into Fort de France from all over the surrounding country. The people are not destitute, but they are terrified. They want only one thing, and that is to be taken far away from this island, with which they say the gods are angry and which they will destroy by fire before it sinks under the sea. The consuls here and the officers of the war vessels in the harbor are waylaid by persons crazed with fear and begging to be carried away.

The weather is now calm and beautiful, but the mountain is veiled in volcanic clouds, which often assume a very threatening aspect, and occasional rumblings are heard. Some heavy and very welcome rains fell this morning.

The United States steamer Dixie, Captain Berry from New York, arrived today after a quick and safe passage. Its passengers include many world-famous scientists. Prof. Robert T. Hill, government geologist; Prof. C. E. Borckgraven, Messrs. George Curtis and George Kennan and many magazine writers and correspondents are also among those who arrived on the steamer.

Dixie began landing its enormous cargo of supplies early and the storehouse on shore soon became congested, and this is the greatest difficulty of the distribution.

The United States steamer Potomac went to inspect St. Pierre with the commanders of the war vessels now here. With the greatest difficulty the party succeeded in making a landing. The effect of the outbreak of yesterday was tremendous.

This second eruption was many times more violent than that which effaced St. Pierre and swept its people from the earth. Nor has all volcanic activity ceased. Vast columns of smoke and gas still pour from the great crater and new fissures have opened on the mountain sides and are vomiting yellow whirlwinds, which rush intermittently now from one point and now another. Boiling mud also is thrown out at times in torrents that reaches the sea and produce small tidal waves.

More Trouble in Moscow.

ST. PETERSBURG, Tuesday, May 23.—Reports have reached here of fresh labor disorders at Moscow. No details are obtainable, but it is known that Grand Duke Sergius, governor general of Moscow, who has come to Tsarskoe-Selo to be present at the reception of President Loubet, left hurriedly for Moscow last night, without waiting to participate in the military review. The imperial family has abandoned its intention of visiting Moscow.

Rates Probably Will Stand.

CHICAGO, May 23.—Unless the executive officials of the western lines force the matter there will be few if any withdrawals of reduced tariffs which have been put in force since the issuance of the injunctions of the United States circuit court. This fact developed today at a meeting of the freight officials of the western lines. After an all-day session practically nothing in the line of discarding low rates was accomplished.

May Wants to Extend Time.

WASHINGTON, May 23.—Secretary Hay has requested the Danish government to enter into a protocol extending for one year the period of time allowed for the ratification of the treaty of cession of the Danish West Indian islands. This action is necessary to keep alive the treaty as ratified by the United States senate until the Danish rigsdag can act finally upon it at the next session, which does not occur until September.

Former Banker Indicted.

HELENA, Mont., May 23.—H. H. Matteson, former cashier of the First National bank of Great Falls, was today indicted on ninety counts on the charge of embezzling \$155,000 while cashier of the bank. The testimony before the grand jury disclosed the fact that Matteson was at one time \$235,000 short. It is expected he will plead guilty to one count and it is likely the district attorney will quash the others.

Disappointment at the Vatican.

ROME, May 23.—Doubt is felt in Vatican circles as to whether the pope, after all, will give an official reception to the Taft commission. Official notification of the arrival of the commission here at the end of May has been received at the United States embassy, and has caused not a little disappointment at the Vatican, as it specifically eliminates all the political aspects sought to be attached to the commission.

Swedish Ministers Must Refrain.

SIODUX, May 23.—Ministers of the Swedish Baptist church in Iowa cannot in future belong to secret orders, under the revised constitution of the association.

Bard Ordered to Vacate.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., May 23.—I. N. Bard, who owns a large ranch about thirty-five miles north of this city, reports that on last Saturday he received warning to leave the country in the form of a note on his doorstep. According to Bard's statement, large areas of government land, as well as county roads, are fenced in and in order to get to his ranch he is compelled to cut fences.

ALL SIGNS POINT TO PEACE.

British Officials, However, Give No Indication of Negotiations.

LONDON, May 26.—The consensus of opinion here is that all the signs are propitious, but up to 2 o'clock this afternoon the British officials had given no indications of the course which the negotiations between Lord Kitchener and Lord Milner and the Boer delegates at Pretoria were taking.

That conferences are occurring regarding the basis upon which peace shall be declared is the sum total of the information which the war office has vouchsafed up to the present, though it is intimated that a definite announcement of the result, peaceful or otherwise, may speedily be expected.

The expression that peace is close at hand has obviously taken a strong hold of operators on the stock exchange. The buying of consols and gilt-edged South African shares continues. It is believed, in behalf of well informed interests.

PALMA EXPRESSES GRATITUDE.

President of Cuban Republic Sends Message to Secretary Root.

WASHINGTON, May 23.—The secretary of war has received the following message from the president of Cuba:

Ellis Root, Secretary of war, Washington: I am deeply moved by your hearty messages of congratulation on the inauguration of the republic of Cuba, to the birth of which the people and the government of the United States have contributed with their blood and treasure. Rest assured that the Cuban people can never forget the debt of gratitude they owe to the great republic with which we will always cultivate the closest relations of friendship and for the prosperity of which we pray to the Almighty.

(Signed) "T. ESTRADA FALMA."

TOWN ISOLATED BY STORM.

Decorah Cut Off by Flood, Which Does Great Damage.

CONOVER, Ia., May 23.—The town of Decorah, Ia., the county seat of Winneshiek county, has been cut off from communication with other points for the last forty-eight hours. The storms of Tuesday night flooded the valley from Conover to Decorah, sweeping away railroad bridges, tracks and telegraph poles and flooding the town.

Two men drove from Decorah to Conover this afternoon and reported that water ran through the streets, carrying away bridges and some of the smaller houses. They said that two lives had been lost and that possibly others had been lost. People were driven to the hills. The Milwaukee road has a crew at work repairing its line and expects to open communication with Decorah tomorrow night.

PRICE OF COAL IS ADVANCED.

Radical Action Taken by the Retail Dealers in New York.

NEW YORK, May 23.—Convinced that weeks, and possibly months, may elapse before the miners' strike shall have been settled, retail coal dealers here have advanced the price of anthracite coal to a maximum of \$8.50 a ton, and at the same time marked up bituminous to \$4.50 when purchased in small quantities. To consumers of large quantities of soft coal a rate of \$3.85 is quoted.

Only once before have those prices for fuel been exceeded. That was in 1871, when the price of anthracite reached a maximum of \$11 a ton.

Bad Hail Storm Hits Iowa.

PERRY, Ia., May 23.—The town and vicinity of Dawson, six miles west of here, was visited by a severe hail and rain storm. Hail stones measuring three inches across were picked up after the storm. Not a pane of glass was left on the south side of buildings in the town, even large plate glass windows in stores being broken. Trees and growing crops are damaged badly.

Think Pfeister Insane.

WILBER, Neb., May 23.—Complaint has been made before the insanity board against a man named Pfeister, who it is said is roaming around the country south of Swanton in a crazed condition and afflicted with the small-pox.

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ERUPTION AGAIN

MOUNT PELEE AND SOUFRIERE BREAK FORTH.

TERROR AND AWFUL DREAD

Frenzied Population, Appalled by Fiery Clouds, Hot Stones and Swirling Ashes, Flees to Cities for Refuge Amid Indescribable Consternation.

FORT DE FRANCE, Island of Martinique, May 22.—Yesterday's eruption from Mount Pelee was violent in the extreme. Colossal columns of volcanic matter were ejected from the volcano, which rained huge, hot boulders, many feet in diameter, upon the ruins of St. Pierre and the surrounding country, from an enormous elevation and with fearful velocity. The volcanic clouds advanced as far as Fort de France.

The spectacle was appalling and beyond description. The whole population of Fort de France was thrown into a frenzy of panic, during which soldiers, police, men and women, all terrified, frantic weeping and praying, rushed through the streets, while overhead the growling, fiery clouds rolled relentlessly and rained down stones, still hot, amid the swirling ashes.

The steam launch of the United States cruiser Cincinnati took some refugees to the French cruiser Suetet, and nearly 100 persons sought refuge on the Cincinnati and United States steamer Potomac. At 10 o'clock the Potomac went to investigate matters and all reports agree that Lieutenant Benjamin B. McCormick, the commander of the steamer, did excellent work. He went in close to St. Pierre and found that that city had been bombarded with enormous stones from the volcano and that the ruins left standing after the first great disaster had been nearly razed. Millions of tons of ashes then covered the ruined city.

Further smaller stones had destroyed the houses of the brave villagers who had stuck to their homes. Lieutenant McCormick took on board the Potomac 180 refugees. The lieutenant fed them and brought the party to Fort de France. This work of rescue was difficult and dangerous. It is reported that the whole population of the island is fleeing toward Fort de France. The consternation prevailing is indescribable. Mount Pelee is still very threatening.

The French cruiser Suget went on another tour round the island and did not take part in the rescue work of the Potomac.

The United States steamer Sterling has returned from San Juan de Porto Rico.

The United States steamer Dixie is expected here this afternoon from New York.

POLICE BOARD STAYS.

Supreme Court Again Decide in Favor of Present Incumbents.

LINCOLN, May 22.—The supreme court has denied the application of C. C. Wright for a writ of mandamus to compel the governor to appoint a board of fire and police commissioners for Omaha. Two questions were involved in this case. One was the authority of the supreme court to mandamus the governor, and the other was the right of the governor to make appointments. The opinion was written by Chief Justice Sullivan, Judges Holcomb and Sedgwick concurring.

Baby Smothered to Death.

BENEDICT, Neb., May 21.—The 8-month-old baby of Rev. D. W. Wirtz, pastor of the Methodist church, was smothered to death. The child, which had been left on a bed, was found some time afterward wedged in between the bed and the wall, with the head pressed close to the covers. Vain effort was long made to resuscitate the child.

Seward Will Pay Water Bonds.

SEWARD, Neb., May 24.—The city council ordered \$1,000 of water bonds paid, which, with \$2,700 of registered warrants also ordered paid, makes a good record for the year.

Madison Teachers Get More Pay.

MADISON, Neb., May 24.—The board of education elected teachers and increased their salaries quite considerable for the ensuing year.

Flag Day in Iowa.

DES MOINES, Ia., May 24.—Governor Cummins has issued a proclamation naming June 14 as flag day in this state.

Woman Adjudged Insane.

HASTINGS, Neb., May 24.—Miss Sarah Grabbill of Ayr was brought to Hastings and adjudged insane. She will be taken to the asylum at Lincoln.

Farm Hand Drowned in the Blue.

SEWARD, Neb., May 24.—Osa Gigg, a young man, who has been working on a farm near Stapleton, was drowned in the Blue river. He was 25 years of age.

To Push Farmers' Telephone Line.

WYMORE, Neb., May 24.—At a conference of representatives of the Independent Farmers' Telephone company, with headquarters at Blue Springs, and a number of Wymore business men, it was decided to cooperate in bringing the company's line to this city. This move will connect Wymore with more than one hundred of the best farmers east of town, also with the towns of Blue Springs, Holmeseville, Liberty and Barneston.

AS TO COUNTY STATISTICS.

It Will Be Costly to Comply with the Court's Mandate.

LINCOLN, Neb., May 24.—County commissioners throughout the state are awakening to the meaning of the recent decision of the supreme court which upheld the law requiring precinct assessors to gather information for the state bureau of labor and industrial statistics. In many of the counties extra assessors have been employed to do the work.

"One county clerk has informed us that it will cost his county at least \$500 to comply with the law," said Chief Clerk Hodge. "The authorities of this county have heretofore disregarded the provisions of the act, but are now willing to do as commanded. The expense is for additional men to do the canvassing."

We find there is a very general sentiment throughout the state to obey the mandate of the court. Several county clerks have asked for more schedules and others are seeking instruction as to how to proceed with the work. We have yet to find any county wherein the commissioners are intending to disregard the law. If all of the counties return the schedules with the industrial and agricultural information properly recorded, we will be able to present within the next few months statistics that will be more nearly accurate than any of the same character ever compiled by the department."

CROP CONDITIONS ARE GOOD

Reports from All Sources Show a Flattering Outlook.

OMAHA, Neb., May 24.—Crop reports from all sources are of the most optimistic kind. Rumors of damage due to the dry, warm weather of April have been dispelled by the copious rainfall of May, and throughout Nebraska, South Dakota, western Iowa and northern Kansas the conditions now prevailing are most promising. The government reports, made up till Monday, give the information that the stand of winter wheat through this region is excellent. While the straw will be short, owing to the retarded growth during April, the stalks are heading well and there is now sufficient moisture to insure a large yield. An increased acreage over last year is reported. Rye is in good condition, though not so favorable as winter wheat. Spring wheat and oats are well up and thrifty.

Rains have interfered somewhat with the planting of corn, but the work is generally well advanced and the early planted is already up and growing finely. Potatoes are also up and promise well. An unusually large acreage of potatoes has been planted this year.

From railroad and other sources is gained information which more than substantiates the government reports. Agriculture in the country tributary to Omaha never gave more promise of a bountiful yield than at present.

An Ad. Man from Nebraska.

OMAHA, Neb., May 24.—Warwick Saunders, for a number of years identified with the publishing business in this city, has become a resident of Kansas City, where he assumes the position of secretary and treasurer of the Mutual Advertising Agency. Mr. Saunders' experience in the advertising line will serve him to good purpose in his new field and a wide acquaintanceship in the state from which he goes will wish for him full measure of success.

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BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

A slight shock of earthquake was felt in California.

A snow storm in Wyoming resulted great loss of sheep.

Ear Costello, of old-time circus fame, is dangerously ill in Chicago.

Agents of the British government in this country have been ordered to stop buying horses.

The Boer delegates who are assembled at Vereeniging, Transvaal, held prolonged conferences.

At Casterville, Cal., John McCarty, aged 22, shot and killed his mother and then gave himself into custody.

It is possible President Roosevelt will attend the Philippine reunion in Council Bluffs, to be held in August.

Senator Teller of Colorado said that the session of congress would be likely to continue sixty days from the first of June.