

HELD FOR TREASON

British Officers in Transvaal Arrested on a Capital Charge.

BOERS NOT IN MOOD TO BE TRIFLED WITH

Accused Said to Have Enlisted Men to Cause a Rebellion.

INCRIMINATING DOCUMENTS ON PERSONS

Seven Are Already Apprehended, with Others Under Suspicion.

TWO THOUSAND ARE SAID TO BE ENROLLED

Plot Thought to Have Been Maturing for Four Months—News Causes Excitement in London, Though Details Are Unknown.

CAPTOWN, May 16.—The Argus of this city today publishes a dispatch from Pretoria, capital of the Transvaal, or South African republic, saying that P. W. H. ...

LONDON, May 16.—The foregoing dispatch probably explains the telegram received by the Argus of Capetown today from Pretoria saying the Transvaal secretary of state confirmed the report that a number of unusual arrests had been made and that it was rumored that the prisoners were British officers.

The advisers from Johannesburg are also probably connected with a mysterious dispatch received at Johannesburg from Pretoria on May 12, saying a special train fully equipped with Boer artillerymen, guns and a searchlight apparatus was being held in readiness at the capital of the Transvaal.

The afternoon newspapers today print special dispatches from Capetown, saying seven men have been arrested at Johannesburg and have been taken to Pretoria.

The Standard and Diggers' News, the Boer's organ in London, has a dispatch from Pretoria which says that warrants were issued yesterday evening by the Lancashire attorney and were executed at midnight.

The news has caused great excitement throughout South Africa.

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Cecil Rhodes, the former premier of Cape Colony and resident director in South Africa of the British Chartered South African company, informs the Associated Press that he has heard nothing about the arrests.

Joseph Chamberlain, secretary of state for the colonies, who was interviewed in the lobby of the House of Commons this evening, said he had heard nothing officially regarding the arrests in the Transvaal and did not think that too serious significance ought to be attached to them.

No information had reached him from South Africa, he asserted, that could lead him in any way to anticipate or to explain the arrests.

The news caused excitement among the members of the house, but little disposition was manifested to credit the rumors of a rebellious conspiracy.

The British agent and charge d'affaires, Cunningham Greene, had an interview with President Kruger this afternoon, who expressed regret that men who had worn the queen's uniform should be concerned in such a movement.

It is said that the commissioner of police who had the affair in hand had been working up the case four months. Mr. Beatty, the detective who effected the arrests, received his instructions last week. A secured the necessary warrants Thursday.

The executive of the Transvaal is sitting in secret session this evening, considering the arrests.

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MAJOR VAN WYCK UNDER FIRE

Maast Committee Examines Yew York's Executive on Party Methods.

WITNESS ADMITS ALLEGIANCE TO NO ONE

Asserts that He Was Put in Mayor's Chair by the People and Not by Tammany—Police Are Discharged for Cause.

NEW YORK, May 16.—The Maast investigating committee resumed its session today after a prolonged recess. A full-sized crowd was on hand early, among them being Mayor Van Wyck, who, with the heads of various city departments, had been summoned to appear today. It was announced that the committee will sit daily Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays until its work is concluded, but this program will be interfered with by the extra session of the legislature which begins on Monday next.

Mayor Robert A. Van Wyck was in the witness chair before the assembly committee appointed to investigate the workings of the municipal departments. He was questioned as to whether he consulted with Richard Croker regarding the conduct of the city government, and flatly denied that he did so. Neither Mr. Van Wyck said, had he consulted with Mr. Croker regarding the removal of city officers from the New York Life Insurance building to the new syndicate building on Park Row. He was very well satisfied with the efficiency shown in the various city offices. Mr. Van Wyck said he had not consulted with Mr. Croker at Lakewood in December, 1897, on the subject of the selection of heads of departments, but he had a "running conversation" on that subject with John P. Carroll, who is close to Mr. Croker in political matters.

Lack of Support to Pettie Cable is Charged to Negligence of Chancellor of Exchequer.

LONDON, May 16.—The correspondent here of the Associated Press learns on unauthorized authority that the chancellor of the exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, is responsible for the negligible financial support offered by the imperial government to the Pacific cable project, but that the high commissioner of Canada and the other interested agents general are apparently satisfied with the conduct of the last few days that the secretary of state for the colonies, Joseph Chamberlain, who is prepared to do far more toward fostering the scheme than some of his colleagues, will ultimately prevail on the home government to contribute a considerable portion of the capital required for expenditure in establishing the projected cable.

Ex-Premier Attempts Suicide. LONDON, May 16.—Special dispatches from Vienna say it is reported there that Count Baden, the former prime minister of Austria, recently tried to commit suicide on account of losses sustained on the race course.

Count Baden, who formed a cabinet in 1895, and whose ministry resigned on November 28, 1897, comes from an Italian family which migrated into Poland in the sixteenth century and succeeded in obtaining large estates. After graduating from the Croasuniversity, Baden entered the diplomatic service and rose rapidly in official life. The fortune of the former premier has been estimated at \$2,000,000.

Noted Woman Remarried. ST. PETERSBURG, May 16.—A trial which has caused a great sensation here owing to the high station of the prisoner has just been concluded. The evidence disclosed that the accused, Maria Merzhvika, a woman of noble birth, had led an extraordinary career of intrigue and crime. The court found her guilty of poisoning her lover and two women owing to jealousy; with kidnapping a child and with forging documents and bills of exchange. She was sentenced to five years penal servitude in Siberia and to be deprived of her title of nobility.

Running Away from Mendicants. LONDON, May 16.—Andrew Carnegie left London today for St. Ivo castle. In an interview just published he is quoted as saying: "I am looking forward to protection in my Highland solitude from the army of mendicants that every here is importuning me for subscriptions to erect a commemorative object. Even were I disposed to accede to these applications for promiscuous assistance, my resources for philanthropy have already been fully hypothecated and bombarding me with further appeals is simply adding to the postal revenue."

General Porter Entertains. PAIRIE, May 16.—United States ambassador, General Horace Porter, gave a dinner this evening to a number of his guests. Included Count and Countess De Castellane, Count and Countess Torelli, Mrs. Astor, Mr. and Mrs. Potter Palmer, Prince Cantacuzene, Miss Julia Dent Grant, the duke of Arcos, the newly appointed Spanish minister to the United States, and the duchess of Arcos.

Disarms Chinese Garrison. HONG KONG, May 16.—Part of the British troops sent into the disturbed territory near here have returned after taking possession of Kw Loon city. The Chinese garrison was disarmed, the British flag hoisted without disturbance and fifty men of the Welsh Fusilier regiment were left to garrison the town. No news has been received from the hinterland expedition.

Steps Its Sunday Edition. (Copyright, 1899, by Press Publishing Co.) LONDON, May 17.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram)—The Daily Mail announces the cessation of its Sunday edition and states that the action is due to hostile public opinion, but is also influenced by the appearance from its own employees of a newspaper weekly edition will be published instead.

Boundary Question Settled. NEW YORK, May 16.—Dispatches from the Tribune from Porto Plata, Haiti, say: The Haitian government accepts the delimitation of the frontiers by President Heuveux of Dominica, and the presidents of both republics will meet in conference at Mole St. Nicholas.

Leader of Revolution Released. CARACAS, Venezuela, May 16.—General Hernandez, the leader of the revolution in 1858 in Venezuela, who was captured near Yama on June 12 last, has been released from captivity.

Prussians Reject Canal Bill. BERLIN, May 16.—The committee of the Prussian Diet has rejected the canal bill by a vote of 17 to 11.

Silver Goes to Europe. NEW YORK, May 16.—Dispatches sailing Wednesday for Europe will take out 437,000 ounces of silver.

DAVE MERCER COMES HOME

Hustling Congressman of the Second District Returns to Omaha.

TALKS OF WORK OF THE LAST SESSION

Nebraska Fortunate in Securing So Many Appropriations for Public Buildings—Devey May Yet Visit the Gate City.

Congressman David H. Mercer returned Tuesday afternoon from Washington, having been detained there several weeks after the adjournment of the house by business of a practical nature necessitating his attention. The many months' labor in the nation's halls of legislation evidently agreed with him, for he enjoys the best of health and is as general and cordial as ever. Mr. Mercer spent the evening chatting with old friends. He told of Nebraska's good fortune in the matter of congressional appropriations and commented upon many subjects of lively general interest.

Several plums fell in Nebraska's lap when the appropriation plum tree was shaken. Mr. Mercer remarked: "I think we received our share of the distribution. Omaha was given half a million with which to complete the new postoffice and Blair got \$43,000 for the erection of a public building. Hastings and Norfolk were given \$10,000 each for the purchase of sites."

Reporters Painted Black. "That is the way they make their living," said the mayor, referring to newspaper men. "They have got to do so or they cannot live in the newspaper business." The mayor said he would make his living the same way if he could not do it in any other way.

By telling this," asked Mr. Moss. "I think so," said the mayor. However, he said that he was telling the truth while on the stand and reiterated the statement that a young man in a newspaper office once was a man of high character and that he knew him more intimately than he did his own brother. The appointment of Mr. Hess as police commissioner was gone into minutely, but revealed nothing startling. Mr. Abell was appointed a commissioner, the mayor testified, because Mr. Lauterbach had said that Mr. Platt wanted the appointment filed in that way.

And you looked upon Mr. Platt as a man authorized to speak for the republican party in a bi-partisan matter?" asked Mr. Moss. "Not in a bi-partisan matter," said the mayor. "I thought he was the boss of the republican party. Whatever he said they would believe and I would believe, too."

Mr. Van Wyck added that he had a very high regard for Mr. Platt. The mayor said he spent less than \$300 or \$400 in his election campaign. He stated that after his nomination he had given \$2,000 to the Democratic club organization. The money was not given by Mr. Croker. The mayor was then excused. Mr. Moss saying that he would not need him again this week.

Police Commissioner Sexton was called. He said he might have heard of perhaps half a dozen alleged gambling places in the city. He did not know their exact location. He had told Chief Devey that they ought to be closed up.

Mr. Sexton quoted a statement from a democratic daily paper which said that there was in Greater New York more than 200 pool rooms. Mr. Sexton did not know if it was true. He had spoken to Chief Devey about it.

Sexton Feels Insulted. Mr. Moss and Mr. Sexton had an angry conversation regarding to answer questions which he said were insulting. Mr. Moss subjected the witness to a long series of questions regarding the removal of ex-Chief of Police McCullagh. For some time Mr. Sexton declined to state reasons for his action against McCullagh, but finally said: "Well, I wanted to make Devey chief. Devey was my friend, and I wanted to make him chief of police, and I retired McCullagh."

Commissioner York was examined on the same line as Sexton. Ex-Chief of Police John McCullagh, now state superintendent of elections for the metropolitan district, said that while chief he had had no political understanding with anyone. McCullagh confirmed the testimony of the mayor and said that after he had told the mayor that he could not state the politics of the higher officers in the department he told the mayor that neither Platt nor Croker had any right to transfer the chief to do with the transfer of the police captain.

The mayor said that if Devey was as bad as McCullagh he ought to be "kicked out, too." Whether Devey was better than McCullagh the mayor did not know. He had tried to find out, but all he knew was that the city was in a more orderly condition than it ever had been in its memory and that the laws were better enforced. The mayor was questioned about his personal experiences regarding the immorality in this city and retorted that Mr. Moss was morbid about vice.

"Have you any idea how many pool rooms there are in the city of New York?" asked Mr. Moss. "I don't know that there is a single one," was the reply.

The mayor said he knew James A. Mahoney and that he had business dealings with him ten or twelve years ago. Mahoney had seen him several times lately. "Have you ever heard that your friend, Mahoney, is the chief of the greatest pool room syndicate in this city?" asked Mr. Moss.

"I know he made books on the race track," replied the mayor. "Did you know that he was running rooms and receiving bets in those rooms in New York City?"

"The mayor had never heard that Mr. Mahoney, Mr. Carroll and Mr. Sexton were jointly interested in the pool rooms. "Have you ever heard," sneered Mr. Moss, "that a gentleman named Van Wyck was interested in them?"

For the first time the mayor was aroused. "That is absolutely false," he shouted. He wanted to know who told Mr. Moss anything of the kind. "These things are not easily proved," retorted the counsel.

Mayor Pleads Innocence. "I call having any connection with any illegal calling anywhere in the world, shouted the mayor. "You know that I was not interested in pools when you asked that question. You knew that and you wanted to bring it out for the purpose of creating the impression that I was. I demand that you bring out the evidence here and show that I am connected with anything of the kind in the world or with anything else of an illegal character, and I think the chairman of the committee ought to enforce that request."

Mr. Moss told the mayor to wait a day or two with the committee and he would learn something that he evidently knew nothing about now. The mayor insisted that Mr. Moss be made to call a witness to prove the insinuation.

Mr. Hoffman backed up the request. "If we are here to suit honest men's reputations," said the democratic member of the committee, "I want to get on record as saying that the mayor is guilty unless he can prove the insinuation."

There was applause and Mr. Maset ordered the sergeant-at-arms to clear the room if there was another demonstration. Mr. Maset said that the mayor himself had accused Hamilton upon what he admitted was only rumor. Mr. Maset maintained that the mayor's strenuous denial was all that was required. Mr. Hoffman again insisted that the matter be at once investigated. Mr. Maset ended the matter by saying that Mr. Moss had distinctly disapproved any insinuation and Mr. Moss interjected the remark that he thought he had done the mayor a service. The mayor said that if he knew of the existence of gambling houses he would order them closed and that if they were not closed he would "come pretty near removing some of 'em."

Referring again to ex-Chief of Police McCullagh, the mayor said he believed him to be a "fakir." Referring to an article in the newspapers regarding Devey's appointment, Mayor Van Wyck said the story was manufactured and that he had helped to correct it.

On the committee on public buildings and grounds many of the members were from Chicago. A report was made by Chairman C. W. Bell that he had given a most exhaustive charge of the appropriations, an opportunity to look out for individual interests.

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—Northernly Winds. Temperature at Omaha yesterday.

Table with 4 columns: Hour, Deg., Hour, Deg. Data points for various hours and temperatures.

WATSON LEAVES FOR HIS POST

Rear Admiral Takes Passage on the Peking to Command Fleet at Manila.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 16.—Rear Admiral J. C. Watson, who will succeed Admiral Dewey in command of the Asiatic Squadron, sailed for Manila via Hong Kong on the City of Peking today. The rear admiral came from Mare Island on the navy yard tug Unadilla this morning and was landed at the Pacific Mail dock. He went on board the Peking at once.

About an hour before the steamer sailed a small crowd assembled on the dock to bid farewell to Watson. The admiral left Manila in the afternoon at 3 o'clock and the steamer's bridge waving farewell to his friends. Admiral Watson was accompanied by his staff, and five mechanics from Mare Island, bound for Manila, were also passengers on the Peking.

Members of the Manila board of general release were also present. The admiral was last seen standing on the steamer's bridge waving farewell to his friends. Admiral Watson was accompanied by his staff, and five mechanics from Mare Island, bound for Manila, were also passengers on the Peking.

RELEASES THE CIVILIANS

General Luna Sends Them Through the Lines—Lawton Advances in a Rain Storm.

MANILA, May 16.—6:25 p. m.—Messrs. Carrick and Holmes, the American and Canadian civilians captured at the Calumpit rice mill, have been released by the rebel general Luna, who saw them through his lines with several Englishmen who received forty-eight hours' notice to leave rebel territory.

The United States cruiser Charleston has arrived here from Hong Kong. It touched at Manila on its way from Hong Kong to the United States gunboat Concord, stationed at the mouth of the harbor. Some native archers shot arrows at a man-of-war's boat which was sent ashore for sand and no further attempt to land was made.

The Charleston also spoke the United States gunboat Wheeling at Lingayen. All was quiet there. General Lawton's advanced force has left San Miguel and is moving in the direction of San Isidro. A rain storm impeded the progress of the troops and severed the line of communication when the force was within seven miles of its destination.

WITHDRAWS SPANISH TROOPS

Americans Will Occupy Jolo and Zamboanga Will Be Temporarily Abandoned.

MADRID, May 16.—General Rios in command of the Spanish troops remaining in the Philippine islands, has called to the war office here announcing that he has entered into an agreement with Major General Otis, the American commander, for an immediate evacuation of Zamboanga and Jolo. Consequently, the dispatch adds, the steamer Leon XIII, which has started with American troops who will occupy Jolo and render honors to the Spanish flag on the departure of the Spanish troops.

The Leon XIII will proceed from Jolo to Zamboanga, where the vessel will be met by General Rios with the steamers Porto Rico and Uranus. The Spanish general will superintend the evacuation. The dispatch further says the Americans will not occupy Zamboanga.

AGUINALDO'S WISE STRATEGY

His Retreat to Mountain Fastnesses Said to Be Part of His Military Plan.

LONDON, May 16.—The Filipino junta has informed the Associated Press that on receipt of the news saying all foreigners had been ordered from the Philippine lines a cable message of inquiry was sent to Aguinaldo, who replied that he intended to declare his retirement to the Caralinas mountains is part of his strategic plans, and that the mountains are almost inaccessible and inhabited by savages who use poisoned arrows, and that it is absolutely impossible for the Americans to follow him there.

The Filipinos, it is added, ridicule the statement that Aguinaldo is a fugitive and declare his retirement to the Caralinas mountains is part of his strategic plans, and that the mountains are almost inaccessible and inhabited by savages who use poisoned arrows, and that it is absolutely impossible for the Americans to follow him there.

Funston Does Not Want Office. KANSAS CITY, May 16.—A special to the Star from San Francisco says: Captain E. B. Luskman of the Twentieth Kansas, who arrived from Manila yesterday, said regarding the future of General Funston of that regiment: "General Funston has no political ambitions and does not care to mingle in politics in any way. He would have been glad to accept a job, but I don't think he would be a man to do so. When I last saw him, just before leaving Manila, April 18, his plans were to go to Cuba as soon as the Filipino rebellion was over and engage in cattle ranching in one of the interior provinces. He said that he had all the adventures he wanted."

Mountain Offer No Refuse. CHICAGO, May 16.—Captain John C. Dent of the Twentieth United States Infantry, which is a part of Wheaton's brigade of the American division now operating in the Philippines, arrived in Chicago today. He left Manila April 1 on sick leave. Captain Dent said today: "I don't think the war in the Philippines will last long. The impression seems to be here that they will return to the mountains and maintain some sort of a war for a long time to come. But the truth is the mountain people are our friends and even offered to raise regiments to help put down Aguinaldo."

Hamborn Pays for His Threats. HAMBURG, La., May 16.—H. B. Fitzgibbon, a lumberman, was shot and instantly killed by his brother-in-law, Ed Strahlman. Fitzgibbon was in his cups and threatened to murder his wife, a sister of Strahlman, when the latter picked up his gun and did the shooting. The principals have lived in Hamburg for some years. Strahlman is from California and Fitzgibbon from Michigan.

Movements of Ocean Vessels, May 16. At New York—Arrived—Westernland, from Antwerp; Celtic, from Liverpool. At Liverpool—Arrived—Sylvania, from Boston. At Boulogne—Arrived—Rotterdam, from New York for Rotterdam.

At Sydney—Arrived—Mariposa, from San Francisco for Sydney. At Auckland—Arrived—Alameda, from San Francisco.

Banquet to Minnesota Legislators. ST. PAUL, May 16.—The commercial bodies of this city tonight tendered a banquet to United States Senator Cushman K. Davis and Congressman E. C. Stevens, both of whom are residents of this city. Prominent citizens of the State were in attendance.

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GOMEZ IS DISGUSTED

Cuban Leader is Sick and Tired of the Wrangling of the Generals.

WILL ISSUE MANIFESTO IN A FEW DAYS

Says that Three Million Dollars Has Only Proven a Curse to Him.

WISHES HE HAD NEVER SEEN THE MONEY

Agitators Hold a Meeting and Say Harsh Things About Americans.

ARMY URGED NOT TO SURRENDER ARMS

Feeling Among the Cuban Soldiers and Their Supporters is Ugly and There Appears to Be Danger of Trouble.

(Copyright, 1899, by Press Publishing Co.) HAVANA, May 16.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram)—For the first time since the trouble over the distribution of the \$2,000,000 to the Cuban army, or at least since the agitators have tried to down General Gomez, he has spoken for publication. This time it was through Mrs. Frances Drake, who called on him at the Quinta de las Molinas. The party was given by General Colonel Cooper, who acted as interpreter, General Gomez said: "I have decided to issue a manifesto to the people in three or four days. I have had several talks with General Brooke. I mean fight, he means right. I have a great many enemies, I know, but I will stand for the right of my people."

"And now about that money lying in the harbor on the government boat Burnside, which is costing the United States much money to hold here. To be frank, I will not give the \$2,000,000 has come. First of all, it has been a curse to me. Three is supposed to be a lucky number, because it stands for the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. To me it is like a death-knell. It is like the three nails on the cross of our Savior. Every one of those millions means a nail for me. It is the three nails which will crucify me. I wish I had never seen or heard of the money. It is very bad."

At Cerra a meeting of the agitators was held to discuss telegrams and letters from friends in Santiago. These messages bade all "patriots" in Havana and the west end of the island to stand fast and not surrender their arms to the Americans. General Lawton presided at the meeting, and among those in attendance were Sangulley, Andrade, Vidal and Juan Gomez.

Gomez's Manifesto. HAVANA, May 16.—The manifesto which General Maximo Gomez is preparing to issue will not only review his own position as to the payment of the \$2,000,000, but probably will direct the forces to disband. Following its publication, Governor General Brooke will issue a modified order eliminating the necessity for the participation of any Cuban commission in the distribution of the \$2,000,000 as having acted improperly throughout and believes that his withdrawal from the question of distribution to an attitude of "friendly inactivity" has been forced upon him by the desertion of those generals upon whom he had relied.

Members of the Cuban military assembly and other disaffected persons belonging to the new revolutionary club, styled the Veterans' association, met at Cerra last night and indulged in a prolonged debate on the question of the Cuban troops surrendering their arms. One great objection in favor of entrusting the arms to the brigade chiefs of Cuban municipalities. Another group was opposed altogether to surrendering the arms, saying it might be necessary to "use them against American pretensions." The meeting was adjourned by General Brooke.

The meeting was attended by Sangulley, Andrade, Vidal and Juan Gomez. Telegrams from all the provinces were read opening giving up the arms. The so-called weakness of General Maximo Gomez was contrasted with Aguinaldo's patriotism and General Brooke was rebuffed. During the meeting Colonel Myrores proposed to send the following telegram to Santiago: "General Disposition. We refuse to surrender arms. Opinion unanimous."

Message is Modified. General Andrade declined to agree to the suggestion, saying it would not be advisable to send such a message to General Brooke. The dispatch proposed by Myrores the following was sent: "Reunited. Decided to agree to muster out on the basis of the degree of former assembly. Announced that Brooke will modify his decree. Await to see if satisfactory. Concert with you in final pro-ceedings."

The voting on this dispatch was 59 in favor against 33 opposed. Such meetings as the one just held at Cerra would be regarded in a less inflammatory way, as an occasion, and outside observers might think that a Cuban military assembly and other disaffected persons belonging to the new revolutionary club, styled the Veterans' association, met at Cerra last night and indulged in a prolonged debate on the question of the Cuban troops surrendering their arms. One great objection in favor of entrusting the arms to the brigade chiefs of Cuban municipalities. Another group was opposed altogether to surrendering the arms, saying it might be necessary to "use them against American pretensions." The meeting was adjourned by General Brooke.

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STRIKERS FIRE ON MINERS

One Striker and One of the Mine Guards Killed—More Trouble is Feared.

ST. LOUIS, May 16.—A special to the Post-Dispatch from Little Rock, Ark., says: Forty strikers attacked twenty-five colored miners behind a stockade at mine No. 53, near Huntington, today, firing volley after volley at them