

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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QUEEN TAKES A HAND

Colonial Secretary Chamberlain is Given a Direet

GREENE SUMMONED TO WINDSOR

Command to Appear Goes Through Prime Minister Salisbury.

STINGING REBUKE TO LORD CHAMBERLAIN

Has Not Received Late British Agent at Pretoria Since His Return.

GREENE GIVEN AN AUDIENCE BY QUEEN

She Makes a Scorching Inquiry Into Origin of the Transvaal War—Greatly Interested in Welfare of Mrs. Keuger.

(Copyright, 1899, by Press Publishing Co.) LONDON, Dec. 29.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—This week the queen gave Chamberlain a direct snub, as a stinging rebuke for his course in forcing the war. As the cable dispatches have shown, Colonial Secretary Chamberlain has never received Comynham Greene, lately the British agent at Pretoria, since the latter's return to England, after his recall from his post on the breaking out of the war. The irreconcilable inference was that Greene's sincere efforts to maintain peace had nearly frustrated the Chamberlain-Milner scheme to provoke war.

But though Chamberlain has never received Greene, that official was specially "commanded" by the queen to appear at Windsor Wednesday to dine and sleep. Chamberlain, as Greene's departmental chief, should have been the channel through which such a command would be forwarded, but by the queen's orders it went through the prime minister, who throughout was also a staunch advocate of peace.

The queen gave a long audience to Greene before and after dinner, and made scorching inquiries into the origin of the war. She manifested deep interest in Mrs. Keuger, asking about her influence with her husband, the president of the Transvaal, and her feeling about the war. The circumstances connected with Greene's visit to Windsor have occasioned much comment in both official and court circles.

Confirmed by Paris Dispatches.

(Copyright, 1899, by Press Publishing Co.) PARIS, Dec. 29.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—A French diplomat who writes articles for the Figaro on the signature of "Whist", and whose information always proves strikingly accurate, publishes an article asserting that both Queen Victoria and the prince of Wales had recently snubbed Mr. Chamberlain hard. "Whist" adds:

"The queen has charged the colonial secretary with having purposely misled the country and deceived her every time she asked for information about South African matters."

"Whist" is known to be the closest among the prince of Wales' French chums, consequently the article is regarded here as directly communicated by the prince in order to assuage the French feeling against himself and his august mother.

BOERS PLACING NEW GUNS

Get the Range of the British Artillery at Their Camp at Modder River.

(Copyright, 1899, by Press Publishing Co.) BRITISH CAMP ON THE MODDER RIVER, Cape Colony, Dec. 28.—(1:15 p. m.—New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The Boers developed a new gun position along the British front yesterday afternoon. They have now at least five guns which have found the range of the British naval guns on the ridge north of the camp.

The Boers, shelling at an average of 4,000 yards, have made beautiful practice, but their guns are mostly nine-pounders throwing small segment shells which seldom burst unless they hit a rock. Consequently their shelling is about as useful as throwing stones. In spite of the splendid practice yesterday and this morning there was not a single casualty on the British side.

LAWTON SUBSCRIPTION FUND

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 27, 1899.—To the Editor of the Bee: The committee having in charge the raising of a fund for the benefit of the widow and four young children of the late Major General Henry W. Lawton, who was killed in action at San Mateo, Luzon, December 19, 1899, request you to solicit and receive contributions and act for and represent the committee in your city and vicinity. It is promised to keep the subscription lists open until the sending of the fifth of January, General Lawton's anniversary, and to have his country's flag and his expressed concern for the care of his family is the most fitting appeal that can be made.

H. C. CORBIN, Adjutant General, for the Committee.

Pursuant to this dispatch The Bee asks subscribers to the Lawton fund from public spirited citizens in Nebraska, Iowa and adjoining states, who feel able to assist in recouping in this way the invaluable services rendered the country by the late General Lawton. Make checks payable to the Merchants National bank, Omaha. Receipt of same will be acknowledged by the editor. The Bee in these columns, as well as by the committee at Washington.

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BOERS DO GOOD SHOOTING

One of Their Shells Kills Nine British Soldiers and Wounds Seven Others.

(Copyright, 1899, by Press Publishing Co.) LADYSMITH, Dec. 28.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The shelling by the Boers has increased in the few days. The twelve-pounder at Blaauwbank on the west, which had been silent since General Buller's successful sortie on November 14, is now in lively activity. One shell struck near headquarters, but did no damage.

Yesterday a single shell from Bulwana hill hit Colonel Faucett of the Fifth lancers, Major King, the commander in chief of the adjutant and squadron officers and the sergeant major of the same regiment. All were slightly wounded. Another shot killed nine Gloucestershire privates and wounded seven. This is the record for a big single shell.

The Gloucesters were cleaning their rifles outside the trenches. The Boers were firing from the direction of Colenso every morning. The authorities are extremely reticent; therefore town and camp are full of rumors.

GENERAL OPINIONS ON THE WAR. Newspaper Writers Tell What They Think They Know About It. (Copyright, 1899, by Press Publishing Co.) LONDON, Dec. 29.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The Post war expert says: "Great Britain is slowly coming to see that she too, is, in a sense, fighting for her political existence and must make exertions adequate to the stakes. A decisive victory on Tugela river would put a different face on the matter. Yet with 50,000 troops and 25,000 colonials in the whole field Buller is not strong enough."

The Standard war expert says: "The Boers cannot be satisfied with attacking unless the American colonies in the war for independence, they should find allies among the European powers."

PRISONERS WELL TREATED

Captive British Soldiers at Pretoria Have the Comforts of Life.

HEALTH OF THE MEN REPORTED GOOD

Boers Are Determined to Drive the British from Africa or to Absolutely Annihilate as a Republic.

(Copyright, 1899, by Press Publishing Co.) BRITISH CAMP, Cape Colony, Natal, Dec. 28.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—There is no cause for any anxiety about any British officer or soldier held by the Boers at Pretoria. The Boers certainly are not a bloodthirsty people and they are very desirous of deserving the respect of European nations by correct conduct. The only behavior is by Irish renegades whose cowardice and brutality excite the disgust of the real burghers.

The British officers are confined in the state's model school. They are strongly guarded by police sentries armed with rifles and revolvers and are frequently visited. A small yard with a few trees is available for exercise, a game of rounders is played there every day and the officers are permitted to become members of the state library, which contains many good books.

The Transvaal government allows a daily ration of "bully" feed and grubs, but anything may be brought from the local tradesmen by writing an order. No pay is given to troops while captives by the queen's regulations and therefore many of the officers are very poor just now. But the mess is well managed and food, monotonous but plentiful, may be had for three shillings a day.

All the officers are very dependent because of inactivity. Their prison life is dull and gloomy. Reports of Boer victories, continually exaggerated, aggravate the general melancholy. But relatives need not fear for the life or health of the prisoners.

The non-commissioned officers and privates have been moved because of their great number, to a special camp ten miles east of Pretoria, at a waterfall. They remain surrounded by numerous sentries with two maxims and a bright electric light. The Boers are very anxious to see the prisoners, but they are very reticent. Having no money, the soldiers are unable to buy tobacco and are very unhappy.

Efforts are now being made to obtain a small compassionate allowance to obtain the funds newly raised. The health of the prisoners is good.

The Transvaal government will never make peace and forgive the officers of the war. Victory for the Boers means the practical end of Natal, even if it is not ceded to the Transvaal. Many hundreds of burghers in the Transvaal secretly sympathize with the British and have either bribed the Boer recruiting officers to omit them from the Boer lists or are fighting under compulsion. For both these classes the continuance of the republic will be a terrible blow. As long as the independent flag flies at Pretoria it is a national center of Dutch republican sentiment, producing a good interest in the Boers to the British to be ambitious in what they will get their money's worth. The Boers are prepared to lose independence if defeated. They recognize the terms of the quarrel and said to me:

LARGE OCEAN LINER ASHORE

Terrific Gale Drives a Big Ship Aground in English Channel.

WORST STORM FOR YEARS NOW RAGING

Big Vessel at Stacks of Dungeness, Twenty-Six Miles Off Dover—Constant Gusts Unable to Reach It.

(Copyright, 1899, by Press Publishing Co.) LONDON, Dec. 29.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—A large ocean liner, believed to be a German mail ship, outward bound, has gone ashore in the terrific gale that is raging in the English channel, off Dungeness, twenty-six miles west of Dover.

The first dispatch to communicate with it in any way. Its signals cannot be seen. The coast guard at Dover and at Folkestone have made repeated efforts to reach the ship, but have been driven back by the fury of the hurricane.

The plan of the Pennsylvania is facing a little better, although the trains are late. On all roads huge snowpuffs, such as are used in the west, are running, but fall to keep the tracks clear.

It is not known what the outcome of the storm will be for the snowfall continues. No loss of life is reported. The thermometer registers about zero.

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—Snow Saturday; Variable Winds.

Hour	Temp.	Wind
5 p. m.	0	1 p. m. 11
6 p. m.	0	2 p. m. 15
7 p. m.	0	3 p. m. 13
8 p. m.	0	4 p. m. 15
9 p. m.	0	5 p. m. 15
10 p. m.	0	6 p. m. 14
11 p. m.	0	7 p. m. 13
12 m.	0	8 p. m. 12

Fire Destroys Big Buildings. Several Firemen Injured in New York Conflagration—Loss Half a Million Dollars.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The two ten-story buildings at 415 to 425 East Fourth street, occupied principally by the wall paper factory of William Campbell & Co., were destroyed by fire tonight. The loss is fully \$500,000.

FIGURES THAT TALK

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Bradstreet's Reviews the Remarkable Business Record Made This Year.

BEST IN THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY

Volume of Domestic and Foreign Trade the Largest Ever Recorded.

SHOW A GENERAL ADVANCE IN WAGES

Prices for Products of Labor Are Higher Than for Eight Years.

BANK CLEARINGS SHOW A BIG INCREASE

Small Number of Failures with Disabilities Light—Broadly the Only Staples Showing a Decrease—Good Outlook for Future.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Bradstreet's review of "The Year in Business" tomorrow will say: Rarely have sanguine commercial and financial hopes or predictions found such adequate realization as they did during 1899. These results have come to pass in spite of the widespread and general upward movement of prices, alike of staples and of securities such as are concerned, which could not have been foreseen. Linked with an immense business and record-breaking production in nearly all lines of business and industry except, perhaps, in some products of the agricultural interest, there was with it an advance of staple values, either of which alone would have made the year notable, and combined they have served to establish the year as a record-breaker and set up new standards.

General Advance in Wages. In industrial affairs the year has been one of enormous expansion. Certainly nothing like the general advance in wages of industrial employes has been witnessed for many years and this has been accomplished with a minimum of friction excepting the year to "spin" position on this, if on no other account. The close of the year finds order books filled to from three to six months ahead in nearly all lines. Distributive trade was naturally of immense volume throughout the year, and the entire year, if not close tended to modify the satisfaction with which retail trade in winter fabrics was regarded. This was, however, partly compensated for by a holiday business surpassing all previous records.

STATE ARRESTS REGULARS. Corporal Fair and Private Jockens Arrested at Papillion for Shooting Private Morgan.

PAPILLION, Neb., Dec. 29.—Special Correspondent. Corporal Fair and Private Jockens of the regular army were arrested here today by Judge Edgar Howard this afternoon at 2 o'clock. The complaint was filed by Louis Lessor at the request of County Attorney Hassett, and the defendants were charged with the murder of one Morgan, a man who was deserting from the army October 27, 1898, and who was killed by the defendants.

TEN MORE HURRICANE VICTIMS. Another Vessel Reported Lost Off Cape Hatteras—Most Dangerous Point on Atlantic Coast.

GEN. DAVIS SAILS FOR HOME

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