THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871. OMAHA, FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 19, 1900—TWELVE PAGES. SINGLE COPY FIVE CENTS.

BIG BATTLE IS DUE

Buller in Position to Strike Decisive Blow at Boers.

Relieve Ladysmith.

HIS ENTIRE COLUMN FACING THE ENEMY

Lytleton's Brigade Crosses the Tugela River at Potgietersdrift.

ENEMY'S POSITION IS BEING BOMBARDED

Five Miles Higher Up General Warren Crosses with Pontoon.

BULLER ISSUES APPEAL TO HIS TROOPS

Gatacre Reports Movement of Troops in Vicinity of Sterkstrom—London Military Expert Confident British Will Win.

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LONDON, Jan. 18.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The London Morning Post's war critic writes in the issue of today (Friday):

"The expected battle was not fought yesterday (Thursday), but it can hardly be delayed beyond today.

"General Buller has five-sixths of his force with him and will strike with all his might. The plan is to flank the new position prepared by the Boers and to attack the enemy from the west and south in the trenches they hold north of the Tugela river."

Rumor of Relief at Ladysmith.

(Copyright, 1900, Press Publishing Co.)

LONDON, Jan. 18.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The rumor early this morning that Ladysmith had been relieved after the battle the War office would not confirm or deny. The clerk on duty said the rumor was premature, but he hoped it was true. Figuring on the latest positions with maps the experts think Warren was about seventeen miles from White's outposts late Wednesday night.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—12:30 a. m.—At midnight the War office announced that it had no further news for publication.

When questioned with regard to the rumored British victory and the relief of Ladysmith the officials replied that they had received no information to bear out either feature of the rumor and were inclined to think that serious fighting must precede the relief of the town.

A special from Durban, dated Wednesday, says: Advices from Potgietersdrift, dated yesterday (Tuesday), say that Sir Charles Warren has arrived within seventeen miles of Ladysmith and that the British wounded are arriving at Mool River hospital by every train, indicating that there has been severe fighting. Neither report is yet confirmed.

LONDON, Jan. 18.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The Leader expert predicts that General Buller's force is able and willing to threaten both passes to the Orange Free State and the roads to Ladysmith. He declares they are in a position to flank the Boer entrenchments on the pont and west of Potgietersdrift and expects Generals White and Buller to join forces in a day or two without great difficulty.

Battle Expected Today.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—4 a. m.—Military critics in affiliation with the war office consider that the expected battle south and west of Ladysmith can hardly be delayed beyond today. From Durban it is reported that fighting has already begun. General Buller's forces in the flanking operation across the Tugela are some 1,300 or 1,400 bayonets. The disposition of his other 15,000 or 20,000 men is not known, but the assumption is that the whole army will be in action when the hour for combined movement arrives.

Three weeks ago General Buller had 30,000 men. Considerable reinforcements have since reached him, giving him probably 35,000 men and eighty guns all told. Estimates as to how many men and guns the Boers have to oppose him are mere guesswork.

In not replying to General Lytleton's shelling they are using the tactics that proved so successful in the battle of Magersfontein and Colenso, lying low in their trenches, hoping thus to conceal their precise position until the infantry advances.

Expert Sees an Analogy.

The Daily Chronicle's expert sees a curious analogy between General Buller's situation now and the eve of Magersfontein. Now, as then, the Boers are making a stand with their backs to investing lines within a few miles. As Lord Methuen, after crossing Modder river, had to attack the Spyfontein and Magersfontein hills, so General Buller, after passing the Tugela, faces the invisible Boer entrenchments in a rough country.

One correspondent mentions General Buller's wheeled transport of 5,000 vehicles, which connect him with the railroad, about thirty miles to the rear. Among these vehicles are thirty traction engines, which draw from ten to fifteen wagons each.

General Buller's warning as to the misuse of the white flag by the Boers in his proclamation to the troops is considered a rather broad hint to give no quarter. His phrase "there will be no turning back" is played upon editorially by the morning papers as presaging cheerful announcements.

The absorbing interest felt in Natal makes other theaters of the war seem microscopic.

Lord Methuen lies behind his works at Modder river. It is estimated that his forces will have to be nearly or quite doubled before he can relieve Kimberley. British reinforcements are moving toward General French at Rensburg. With these he is expected to advance. General Gatacre's men occupy Lopezburg, a slight advance. The war office announces that next week will be embarked 72 guns, 3,710 men and 2,210 horses. This is the largest consignment of artillery ever sent abroad. The War office invites volunteers for a sharpshooters battalion of yeomanry.

Shows Rifle Marksmanship.

Sir William McCormick, in the Lancet, says of the 300 wounded in the hospital visited by him, only eight had been hit by shells.

Mr. Kipling has written the following characteristic letter to the British Guiana branch of the Navy league, in recognition of a contribution to the war fund:

"Bravo! British Guiana. Seeing what they have had to contend with lately in the sugar line, they have done uncommonly well. Please convey to them my best thanks—first as vice president of the league, second as perpetrator of 'The Absented Beggar,' and third as a fellow-contributor to the big jackpot which we are betting upon Thomas' behalf. Have you seen Brazil and Trinidad come into the game?"

Volunteers for Boer Army.

NEW YORK, Jan. 18.—George W. Van Sicklen, treasurer of the American Transvaal fund, said today that between ten and twenty able-bodied young men apply in person to him every day to be sent to South Africa to fight on the Boer side.

BULLER'S FORCES CROSS TUGELA.

Lytleton's Brigade at Potgietersdrift—Warren Six Miles Away.

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SPEARMAN'S FARM, Jan. 18.—7:15 a. m.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Tuesday evening General Lytleton's brigade, with howitzer battery, crossed the Tugela at Potgietersdrift and took kopjes facing the Boer position without opposition. On Wednesday Warren's brigade also effected a crossing at Trichardsdrift, six miles higher up. The naval guns and howitzers have been bombarding the Boer position all day. CHURCHILL.

SPEARMAN'S FARM, Natal, Jan. 18.—10 a. m.—General Lytleton's brigade, with a howitzer battery, crossed the Tugela river at Potgietersdrift on Tuesday, January 16. The water rose above the waists of the men. The Boers fired two shots and then recalled their forces to the trenches, the passage being uninterrupted. The British advanced in skirmishing order and the small kopjes on the summits were occupied by 6:30. During the night it rained heavily.

Yesterday (Wednesday) the Boer trenches were vigorously shelled in front of Mount Alyo, while the British remained in possession of the kopjes and plains. Heavy mists enveloped the hills, but the naval guns and the howitzers made good practice, thoroughly searching the trenches. On the Boer right a breach was made in a sandbag emplacement, where it is supposed Boer guns had been placed. The cannonade was heavy and continuous and the Boers were observed leaving the trenches in small parties. The hill facing the British position was shelled next.

General Warren has forced a passage of the Tugela seven miles to the left.

Buller's Official Report.

LONDON, Jan. 18.—9:37 p. m.—The War office has issued the following:

"From Buller, Spearman's Camp, January 18:

"'One field artillery, howitzer battery and Lyttleton's brigade are across the Tugela at Potgietersdrift. The enemy's position is being bombarded by us.

"'Five miles higher up Warren has crossed the river by a pontoon eighty-five yards long. He hopes his force will, by evening, have advanced five miles from the river to his right front. The enemy is busily entrenching.'

"From Roberts, Capetown, January 18:

"'Gatacre reports that 300 men of all ranks have been moved from Bushman's hoock to Hoperberg, and the Seventy-fourth field battery and one company of mounted infantry from Sterkstrom to Bushman's hoeck. Otherwise there is no change.'"

Movement to Relieve Ladysmith.

MOUNT ALICE, near Potgietersdrift, Natal, Monday, Jan. 15.—The forward movement for the relief of Ladysmith began on Wednesday, January 10, from Frere and Chieveley. Lord Dundonald's mounted brigade, with the Fifth brigade under General Hart, comprising the Dublins, the Connaughts, the Inniskillins and the Border regiment, proceeded northwesterly to Springfield. The position had previously been thoroughly reconnoitered. A few miles outside of Frere Lord Dundonald passed targets erected by the Boers to represent a force advancing in skirmishing order. Evidently the Boers had been firing at these from the adjacent hills.

Lord Dundonald pushed on and as the main column advanced it was notified that Springfield was not occupied by Boers and that the Fifth brigade had taken possession. The British transport extended for several miles and comprised some 5,000 vehicles.

The mounted brigade advanced rapidly, not meeting with any opposition. The British scouts had minutely searched all the suspicious country, but there was no sign of the enemy. The column advanced to Mount Alice, facing the enemy's mountain fortress.

Boers Leave Potgietersdrift.

The Boers had been at Potgietersdrift the previous day, but a body of South African horse swam the stream under fire and brought over the pont from the Boers' side.

The Boers were evidently surprised at the appearance of the British on the scene. A long camp could be seen on Tugela heights, facing Mount Alice, but the enemy quickly struck camp and cleared off into the mountains. A buggy was seen leaving for the hills on the right, presumably with General Joubert, or some other commandant. General Buller took up his quarters in a pleasantly situated farm house belonging to Martinus Prectorus, who had disappeared.

On Friday a loud explosion was heard. Subsequently it was found that the Boers had destroyed a bridge under construction seven miles above Potgietersdrift.

General Buller has issued a spirited appeal and instruction to the forces, beginning:

"We are going to the relief of our comrades in Ladysmith. There will be no turning back."

The order proceeds to advise the men when they charge and are given the conditions under which they should receive the surrender of any of the enemy. It also warns them that the Boers are treacherous in the use of the white flag. This order has been received with enthusiasm in every camp.

The march was very trying, but the troops are now encamped amid very pleasant surroundings. Their health is excellent and all are confident.

SAME OLD STORY FROM MAFEKING.

Tells of Harmless Bombardment, Killing Mules and Children.

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MAFEKING, Jan. 3.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—(Via Mochudi, Rhodesia, Jan. 9.)—The Boers completed on New Year's day what may prove to be their last year of independence by a heavy, but comparatively harmless, bombardment. Four men and four mules were killed and much damage was done to property.

The familiar "entertainment" was given yesterday, though with perceptibly flagging energy.

Today the Boers succeeded in killing three children. It seemed like merely atrocious murder, for the burghers appeared to be firing deliberately on the women's laager—with courage and gunnery about on a par.

Fortunately for the British here the victims were Dutch children, poor little things, and their killing will afflict the Boers themselves. MAJOR MAILLEY.

HOPE THE TIDE HAS TURNED

Report Ladysmith Has Been Relieved Considered Premature—Expecting a Stubborn Fight.

LONDON, Jan. 18.—A Capetown special dispatch, dated today, says it is persistently reported there that Ladysmith has been relieved.

The rumors from Capetown that Ladysmith is already relieved are apparently ahead of the facts. In any case Field Marshal Lord Roberts, whose report was dispatched this morning, was not aware of it and his dates preclude the possibility that the troops mentioned in his dispatch have

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

CASTELLANE IS BANKRUPT

Anna Gould's Dapper Foreign Count Makes Sensational Failure.

HE DROPS MILLIONS IN SPECULATION

Toys with Stocks on the Bourse and is Shorn of His Wealth—Sails for America with His Countess.

(Copyright, 1900, by Press Publishing Co.)

PARIS, Jan. 18.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—All Paris is discussing the reports published today that Count Boni de Castellane, husband of Anna Gould, has lost several millions in stock speculation in the last two months. Just how many millions it is difficult to ascertain. Some say 20,000,000 and some only 5,000,000 francs. What is said to be certain is that the count found it impossible to settle and that his powerful connection begged for time and that finally several brokers consented to organize a temporary rescue. The count and countess sailed last Saturday for New York for the purpose, it is said, of appealing to her brothers for aid.

NEW YORK, Jan. 18.—(Special Telegram.)—George Gould, brother-in-law of Count Castellane, declined to see newspaper callers at his office in the Western Union Telegraph building. Through a representative he sent word that he knew nothing beyond what he had seen in the newspapers about the alleged financial troubles of Count Castellane.

Miss Helen Gould said she expected the Count and Countess Castellane to reach New York on the Lucania on Saturday. On their visit here they will stop at a hotel.

Associated Press Version.

PARIS, Jan. 18.—Alleged heavy losses of Count Boni de Castellane on the bourse were made a sensational feature by some of the papers here today. Both the Temps and Figaro spoke in a guarded way of the collapse of a bull speculator, whose position is said to have been badly shaken at the last settlement by the decline of certain stocks in which he is said to have plunged. The Figaro also indicated Count Boni de Castellane fairly and clearly by describing the speculator as a member of the Chamber of Deputies and a prominent society man who had not disguised his sympathies for uncompromising nationalism. Moreover, it was added, he had started on a long voyage "to find resources to repair his broken fortunes."

The Figaro added, perhaps a little maliciously, that his friends hope he will not meet with disappointment, saying: "Some 'patriotic' causes are very expensive and for want of a better excuse this pretext can always be put forward to those who, owing to distance, are ignorant of many things."

The Matin openly mentions Count de Castellane's name and nothing but disastrous speculations, the crashes and losses reaching as high as 20,000,000 of francs, were talked of yesterday. Respecting the count, the Matin said:

"But our own inquiries show his losses do not exceed 3,000,000, he having succeeded in getting 'straight on seven or eight transactions.'

Sails for New York.

"Count Boni de Castellane left for New York a few days ago with his wife, and it is probable the assistance of his brother-in-law will not be found wanting and that he will tide over the situation of monetary embarrassment."

Marquis de Castellane, father of Count Boni de Castellane, denies most emphatically the story that Count Boni has failed to meet his obligations due to bourse transactions, for the simple reason, he adds, that his son has never taken part in the alleged speculations. The marquis explains that the fact that Count Boni and his wife are on their way to America has been taken advantage of and furnished the opportunity for false rumors.

In the face of this denial by the marquis it is remarkable that papers of the standing of the Matin, Figaro and Temps should give currency to such allegations, and some explanation on their part will doubtless be forthcoming.

The Matin took the opportunity to make the following interesting remarks concerning Count de Castellane's position. It informed its readers that his wife's "dot" was $15,000,000, which gave an income of over $800,000, and that even at Paris he could cut a figure with that, adding:

"All Parisians know the grandiose mansion on the Avenue du Boise be Boulogne, which is the hobby of his wife, who dreamed to outvie the Vanderbilt palace on Fifth avenue by a perfect reproduction of the celebrated castle of Blois. Count Boni's well-known generosity probably explains his contribution of 50,000 francs to M. Deroulede, which figured in the police chief's report on the anti-republican conspiracy."

Not a Member of the Bourse.

Count de Castellane has not been posted on the bourse, as he is not a member. If the allegations were true he would be simply a private speculator, acting through a broker and unable for the moment to meet his obligations.

The Marquis de Castellane has written to the Matin the following letter: "Your good faith has been abused. My son, Count Boni, never indulged in any bourse speculations and consequently cannot have been proceeded against. If he were in Paris he himself would dispose of this invention. In his absence his father begs to repair the involuntary wrong you have done him."

Inquiries made at the best sources of information, which, however, are not willing to be quoted, infer that Count de Castellane was involved in speculation in anticipation of a rise in stocks on account of the expected easy British victory in the Transvaal, and the British reverses caused such a depression that it was impossible for him to meet his losses with ready money. The speculations are understood to have been through private sources and therefore it is difficult to secure absolute confirmation of the reports. The matter probably will be settled privately.

TALK PEACE, PREPARE FOR WAR.

King Oscar Tells the Riksdag How Much He Loves Peace.

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 18.—King Oscar, in the speech from the throne at the opening of the Riksdag today referred to his love of peace, to which he had testified, he declared, by appointing delegates to the peace conference to The Hague. His majesty, however, went on to say:

"But even if a satisfactory solution of the arbitration question should be reached, no country would be absolved from the duty of taking defensive measures. Nor will the existence of an arbitration tribunal release any country from the obligation imposed by the maintenance of neutrality."

The budget provides for the appointment of a military attache in Berlin.

Russian War Ship Aground.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 18.—The Russian ironclad Poltava, of 10,960 tons, is dangerously ashore near Libau, on the Baltic. The Poltava was built at St. Petersburg in 1894. It is 367 feet six inches long and sixty-nine feet wide and has a depth of twenty-six feet. Its indicated horse power is 11,255; its armament consists of four twelve-inch guns, twelve 5.9-inch quick-fire guns and thirty-four smaller guns. It also has six torpedo tubes. The cost of its construction was $5,400,000.

VENEZUELAN CRISIS PASSED

President Castro Assures Minister Loomis No Demand Will Be Made on Foreigners.

CARACAS, Venezuela, via Haytien Cable, Jan. 18.—The political and financial crisis, involving tension between the Bank of Venezuela and the government, has apparently passed. It is now understood that the bank directors who were arrested had become politically involved.

President Castro today assured United States Minister Loomis that money would not be demanded from foreigners.

The report that a French squadron has been ordered here is denied.

MANAGUA NEGOTIATING FOR WATER

English Concern After a Contract to Supply the City.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Jan. 18.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—The municipal government of Managua and the Nicaraguan company, limited, an English concern, are negotiating as to terms for supplying the city with pure water from Lake Asozia, a volcanic crater two miles southwest of here. According to the plans of the municipality, the company, if it undertakes the work, must, fifteen months after acceptance, complete the water plant and furnish a full supply from the lake.

The Nicaraguan company, whose head office is in London, owns the water works, mains and supply pipes and the reservoirs now supplying the city with water from Lake Managua, just in front of this place. It is claimed that this water is not pure, owing to filth of the city being washed down by rains into the lake.

Against Canadian Eight-Hour Law.

VICTORIA, B. C., Jan. 18.—A petition has been presented to the legislature from all the leading mines of West Kootenai, representing $50,000,000 of capital, seeking the repeal of the eight-hour law and declaring it had been prematurely and improperly introduced and had excluded capital and deprived mine owners of working at a profit. Its constitutionality is challenged and the declaration is made that unless it is repealed or amended it will be necessary to close the mines or cut the wages.

Willing to Surrender Moore.

SANTIAGO, Chili, Jan. 18.—Court of first instance has acceded to the proposal to deliver to the United States authorities Frank T. Moore, accused of embezzling $53,000 from the National Bank of Commerce in Boston. Moore has appealed to the supreme court, which will render a decision next Monday. The press condemns the Chilian authorities and expresses the hope that the supreme court will not confirm the decision to surrender the accused.

United States Would Reciprocate.

BERLIN, Jan. 18.—Referring to a Washington dispatch concerning the open door in the Philippines United States Ambassador White informed the correspondent of the Associated Press today that in all discussion with Count von Buelow regarding the open door in the east it had been assumed that such a policy would be reciprocated in the Philippines, although no formal request for a promise had been made.

Agrarians Pushing Meat Bill.

BERLIN, Jan. 18.—A largely attended meeting, promoted by agrarian members of the Reichstag and the principal butchers, was held today in Berlin in the interest of an early consideration of the meat inspection bill. The promoters expressed confidence in their ability to pass the measure in a shape not acceptable to the government and hostile to the United States.

St. Mary's Wreck Still a Mystery.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., Jan. 18.—No additional facts in connection with the steamer wrecked in St. Mary's cove have been developed today. The agents in New York of the whoso steamer Heligeland is supposed to be German-American Petroleum company, the ill-fated vessel, have telegraphed to the German consul here to use every endeavor to recover and bury the bodies from the wreck.

Victory for the Government.

PARIS, Jan. 18.—The promised interpellation of the government's attitude concerning the strikers of St. Etienne directed against M. Millerand (socialist), the minister of commerce, came up in the Chamber of Deputies this afternoon and resulted in a victory for the government.

Steamer Paris is Floated.

LONDON, Jan. 18.—The American line steamer Paris, recently ashore off the Manacles, was today successfully floated out of the dock at Milfordhaven, where she had been undergoing temporary repairs, previous to being taken to Belfast for a thorough overhauling.

Empress Returns to Dresden.

BERLIN, Jan. 18.—Empress Augusta Victoria hurriedly returned to Dresden this afternoon on learning that her mother, Dowager Duchess of Schleswig-Holstein, had suffered a relapse. Former Empress Frederick is said to be suffering with kidney disease.

Russia Makes Corean Loan.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—A Shanghai special says: It is reported here that an agreement has been concluded under which Russia will lend Corea $12,000,000, of which $5,000,000 will be paid immediately, Corea having unsuccessfully applied to Japan for a loan.

Confidence in the Government.

PARIS, Jan. 18.—The Chamber of Deputies today passed a vote of confidence in the government by 329 years to 74 nays, on an interpolation criticising the government's indecision in the recent strike of miners at St. Etienne.

Tidal Wave on Chilian Coast.

SANTIAGO DE CHILI, Jan. 18.—Tidal waves, higher than have been known for a long time, have swept along the coast, doing considerable damage.

Vanderbilt Yacht at Gibraltar.

GIBRALTAR, Jan. 18.—William K. Vanderbilt's steam yacht Valiant, from New York January 8, has arrived here.

TWO KILLED BY AN ELEVATOR

Manager of the New York Storage Warehouse is Arrested After the Accident.

NEW YORK, Jan. 18.—A freight elevator in a storage warehouse at One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street and St. Nicholas avenue fell today, killing two persons and injuring three others. The dead are:

MICHAEL M'LEAN, 22 years old.
PATRICK LEDDY, 27.

The three injured were: Bernard Cahill, 35 years old; James Riley, 35; Richard Burne, 40.

They were taken to a hospital. Thomas Berry, manager of the storage warehouse, was arrested.

REFORMS IN CUBAN COURTS

Senor Lanuza Suggests Commission of Cuban and American Lawyers.

WOOD CONGRATULATES GENERAL LEE

Governor General Pleased with Result of His Visit to Province of Pinar del Rio—Tobacco in Good Shape.

HAVANA, Jan. 18.—Senor Lanuza, who was secretary of justice in the advisory cabinet of General Brooke, said today:

"Three American and three Cuban lawyers, acting as a commission could reform certain abuses in Cuban laws without injuring the general consistency of the system and the whole country would gain by such a reformation. This work of reform is only a question of time, as the abuses must be swept away. Many of the well-established legal institutions and principles of the United States would work well here, especially as Americans are coming in large numbers to the island, but in the reconstruction of the Cuban legal system the guiding principle must be the character of the Cubans themselves.

"In Cuba it is extremely difficult to get witnesses against persons charged with offenses. Take these alleged customs house frauds as an illustration. A Cuban judge has a serious difficulty to contend with in the fact that Cubans have not been taught the sanctity of an oath. For a few centenes witnesses can be purchased right and left.

"At the same time legal proceedings in the provinces would be greatly facilitated by the establishment of the circuit courts, which would reduce the traveling expenses of litigants as well as save the time of people who live in out of the way places."

The customs house fraud cases, it is expected, will be brought to a hearing next week.

Wood Congratulates Lee.

General Wood expresses himself well pleased with the result of his visit to the province of Pinar del Rio yesterday. He says he found the tobacco in good shape, although sugar was not so far advanced as it should be, owing to the expensive machinery necessary. Tobacco growers have all the plants they need, and these require little attention while growing. He found no evidence of any suffering among the people, there being work enough, apparently, for all. General Wood congratulated General Lee on the "magnificent showing" of the section of the island under his administration.

An order has been issued by the governor general, directing that the cases of the employes in the customs and other branches pertaining to the department of war, which exercises direct jurisdiction over the customs of the island, there shall be exemption from prosecution, when any such employe turns state's evidence in connection with attempts to defraud the customs.

General Wood has decided that Senor Fryas, mayor of Cienfuegos, who was recently tendered a professorship in the University of Havana, may not hold both positions.

A commission from Trinidad today waited upon General Wood and asked that public works be begun in Trinidad in order to furnish employment to men now idle.

KOBBE RULES THREE ISLANDS

Sails with Brigade and Will Establish Civil Governments in Places Under His Jurisdiction.

MANILA, Jan. 18.—5:25 p. m.—Brigadier General Kobbe has been appointed governor of Albay province and Catanduanes island and has temporarily been placed in charge of the islands of Samar and Leyte. His command embraces the principal hemp producing country. He has been instructed to establish civil governments in the places under his jurisdiction.

General Kobbe sailed yesterday on the transport Hancock with a brigade consisting of the Forty-seventh and Forty-third infantry and a battery of artillery.

Generals Bates, Wheaton and Schwan have occupied the principal towns in the Cavite and Batangas provinces. A majority of the insurgents have returned to their homes and have secreted their guns. All southern ports will be opened soon. General MacArthur's troops are pursuing many small bands, killing numbers of the Filipinos and securing guns.

PROTECTIVE TARIFF LEAGUE

Holds Its Fifteenth Annual Meeting—Puerto Rico and Philippines Tariff Laid Aside.

NEW YORK, Jan. 18.—The American Protective Tariff league held its fifteenth annual meeting today. Among those present were William L. Strong, Cornelius N. Bliss, Homer Laughlin of California and Charles Laughlin of Maryland. There was a disposition to discuss a tariff policy for Puerto Rico and the Philippines, but it was decided that the time was not ripe and the subject was laid on the table.

This resolution was adopted:

Whereas, The scarcity of American-built vessels carrying the American flag available for use by the United States in any emergency is an element of danger that should no longer be ignored or disregarded; and

Whereas, It is not creditable to us as a nation that we are carrying in American vessels not more than one-eighth of the total volume of American commerce; therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the duty of congress to heed the recommendation of President McKinley in his last message, and to enact legislation that will remedy such defect and place the American merchant marine upon the footing demanded by the possible exigencies of war and the pressing requirements of our increasing export trade.

These officers were elected: Board of managers, Charles L. Sanders, E. L. Harlshort, A. D. Guillard, Thoe N. Ives, J. E. Thropp; president, W. L. Strong; vice presidents, LeGrand Cannon and Joseph E. Thropp; treasurer, Chester Griswold.

MUST PAY DUTY ON RAW SUGAR

General Appraisers Announce Decision on Countervailing Duty on German Sugar.

NEW YORK, Jan. 18.—The Board of Classification of the United States general appraisers today announced a decision overruling the protest of the Franklin Sugar company relative to the assessment of a countervailing duty on raw sugar imported by the company from Germany.

The German government pays a bounty on sugar made in Germany, but under section 5 of the Dingley act it is provided that in case of the importation of such goods a countervailing duty equal to the bounty paid shall be assessed in addition to the ordinary duty.

The question at issue in the present case was as to whether this countervailing duty should be assessed on the weight of the sugar when it left Germany or on its weight when it reached this country.

General Appraiser Howell, who wrote the opinion of the board, pointed out that the law provides that the additional duty must be paid no matter "whether such article or merchandise is imported in the same condition as when exported from the country of production or has been changed in condition by manufacture or otherwise."

The bounty paid was estimated on the original weight and to calculate it on a less weight, Mr. Howell points out, would prevent the collection of a sum equal to the full amount of the bounty. The case was appealed to the decision of the collector at Philadelphia.

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska:
Fair; Winds Shifting to South.

Temperature at Omaha Yesterday:

Hour.	Deg.	Hour.	Deg.
5 a. m.	32	1 p. m.	34
6 a. m.	32	2 p. m.	32
7 a. m.	32	3 p. m.	33
8 a. m.	31	4 p. m.	35
9 a. m.	31	5 p. m.	36
10 a. m.	31	6 p. m.	35
11 a. m.	31	7 p. m.	34
12 m.	31	8 p. m.	33
		9 p. m.	33

EUROPEAN WAR WOULD ENSUE

Conflict Between Russia and Japan is Looked for as Inevitable—Both Preparing.

CHICAGO, Jan. 18.—"War between Russia and Japan is looked for as inevitable by the naval officers of these countries who have been nearest the probable scene of future operations," said Lieutenant W. Romanoff of the imperial Russian navy, who arrived in Chicago today. The lieutenant has just completed a three years' cruise in Asiatic waters on the Russian battleship Sizoi Veliky and is on his way to St. Petersburg. He continued:

"Just how soon such a war may begin it is difficult to say, but events little short of miraculous must occur to avert it. The Japanese are building war ships as rapidly as possible in anticipation of the outbreak of hostilities and Russia is strengthening her navy as fast as she can. That Russia must have a naval base between Port Arthur and Vladivostock is conceded and that she will try to get one in Korea is certain. In the event of such a war it is considered probable in Russian naval circles that Russia will have the aid of Germany and that England will take the other side. European war will follow the outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Japan.

"The movement of Russian troops toward the Afghanistan and British India borders, the mobilization of Transcasplan troops at Baku and Herat and other military maneuvering on the part of Russia are taken by official Russia to mean the beginning of a movement to eliminate English influence in territory heretofore held by her, beginning at Kabul. It is certain that England will have to fight to retain her territory in the east."

GROWERS AND SHIPPERS UNION

Fruit Men and Handlers of Farm Products Form a Permanent Organization.

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 18.—The fruit growers and farm product shippers have formed a permanent organization, to be known as the Growers' and Shippers' National Protective union. The capital stock is placed at $50,000, in shares of $1 each. Headquarters are to be in Kansas City, with branch offices in other cities.

Any grower or shipper may become a member by paying for one or more shares. The officers are: J. K. Saunders, Pierce City, Mo., president; J. C. Evans, Kansas City, vice president; S. M. Barrick, Kansas City, secretary; John P. Logan, Siloam Springs, Ark., treasurer.

Vice presidents chosen from each state represented are: H. M. Foote, Sulphur Springs, Tex.; J. C. Williams, Fayetteville, Ark.; J. A. Jones, Rocky Ford, Colo.; Oscar Hayes, Webers Falls, I. T.; J. T. Halsey, Holden, Mo.; E. Bales, Linwood, Kan.; William Powers, Marion, Ill.

HEPBURN SPEAKS AT NEWARK

Iowa Congressman Responds to Toast, "How Shall We Enlarge Our Labor Fields."

NEW YORK, Jan. 18.—The thirteenth annual dinner of the Newark, N. J., Board of Trade was held tonight. Among those in attendance were Governor Voorhees, Mayor Seymour and Congressman W. P. Hepburn, R. Wayne Parker and Charles N. Fowler.

One of the guests of honor was ex-Governor William A. McCorkle of West Virginia, who spoke upon the topic, "The Attitude of the Progressive South in Promoting the Country's Foreign Trade."

Following the West Virginian came Congressman W. P. Hepburn, who spoke on "How Shall We Enlarge Our Labor Fields?"

HONOR COADJUTOR WILLIAMS

Western Theological Seminary Confers Degree Upon Coadjutor Bishop of Nebraska.

CHICAGO, Jan. 18.—The trustees of the Western Theological seminary of Chicago have conferred the degree of doctor of sacred theology upon Rt. Rev. Samuel C. Edsall, bishop of North Dakota, and Rt. Rev. Arthur L. Williams, bishop coadjutor of Nebraska. These are the first degrees the institution has conferred.

Goebel Testimony All In.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Jan. 18.—The hearing of evidence in the contest on behalf of Goebel and Beckham, the democratic contestants for governor and lieutenant governor, before the joint executive contest board, was completed today and the hearing of evidence for Governor Taylor and Lieutenant Governor Marshall will begin tomorrow. They have five days set apart to them, after which Goebel and Beckham will have one day in rebuttal.

Cole Arraigned for Embezzlement.

BOSTON, Jan. 18.—Charles H. Cole, formerly president of the Globe National bank, appeared before Commissioner Fisk today on the charge of embezzlement and misappropriating $900,000 of the bank's funds. The case was continued to February 1, as counsel for the defendant desired more time to prepare his case. The previous bail of $50,000 stands.

Reed Slowly Improving.

NEW YORK, Jan. 18.—Roland Reed, the actor, who is ill in St. Luke's hospital, is improving slowly. He is now able to sit up in bed for a short time during the day, though it will be some time before he can leave the bed.

Movements of Ocean Vessels, Jan. 18.

At Bremen—Arrived—H. H. Meier, from New York.

At Hamburg—Arrived—Phoenicia, from New York.

At Rotterdam—Sailed—Maasdam, for New York.

At Liverpool—Arrived—Sylvania, from Boston.

At Philadelphia—Arrived—Belgenland, from Liverpool.

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

At Kinsasan—Sailed—Ness, for Portland, Ore.

At Queenstown—Sailed—Rhynland, for Philadelphia; New England, for Boston; Teutonic, for New York.

At New York—Sailed—La Gascogne, for Havre; Willehad, for Bremen. Arrived—Lahn, from Bremen.

ROADS IN BIG POOL

Combine in Order to Carry Out Anti-Commission Agreement.

ALL ROADS SHARE ALIKE IN EARNINGS

Fifty Thousand Employes of Trunk Lines Will Lose Their Jobs.

ABANDON ALL CITY TICKET OFFICES

Syndicate Will Substitute Joint Offices in the Larger Cities.

TO ABOLISH MANY OF THE FAST TRAINS

As Soon as Eastern Combination is Perfected Leaders in Consolidation Will Turn Attention to Western Roads.

CHICAGO, Jan. 18.—The Tribune tomorrow will say:

In order to carry out their anti-commission agreement it is proposed now to combine all the railroads in the country in a big passenger pool and operate it in such a way that each road will get an agreed percentage of the earnings. By such action no possible credit can accrue to any of the roads from ignoring the agreement. Each road is to be allowed to carry all the passengers it can secure, but any road that should manage to get more than its allotted proportion would have its labor for its pains, as the profits would go to the competing roads, which have failed to carry their proportion of the business.

The eastern roads have all voted in favor of this scheme and a committee of western railroads' executive officers is now at work to get all the western lines into the combination. This committee is composed of S. M. Felton, president of the Chicago & Alton; Paul Morton, vice president of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe; J. M. Hannaford, vice president of the Northern Pacific; J. A. Harahan, vice president of the Illinois Central, and J. Ramsey, jr., general manager of the Wabash.

The railroad magnates do not admit that the formation and maintenance of a passenger pool would constitute a violation of the law. It has always been the contention of the railroads that the section of the interstate commerce act forbidding pools relates only to freight traffic and does not affect passenger business in any way and it now seems to be their determination to act and fight it out on this presumption. The fact that President Felton of the Alton is chairman of the committee insures the co-operation of the Alton and Union Pacific railroads, which have been opposed to pools heretofore. The Great Northern, which always has been a stumbling block in the way of pools and steadfastly refused to join combinations of that kind, is said to have been won over.

FIFTY THOUSAND MEN ARE LET OUT.

Result of Consolidation of Great Trunk Railways East of Chicago.

CHICAGO, Jan. 18.—The Chronicle tomorrow will say: As a result of the recent consolidations and agreements among the owners of the great trunk railways east of Chicago the entire transportation system between the Mississippi river and the Atlantic seaboard is to be reorganized, involving the following changes: The abandonment of the city ticket offices of all the roads in the syndicate in Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Buffalo, Baltimore, Washington, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Peoria and St. Louis, and the substitution of joint offices in each city.

The discharge of all city, general traveling and district freight and passenger agents and solicitors of the eastern roads in all parts of the United States, Canada and Europe. This will affect nearly 50,000 men.

The abolition of all forms of commissions heretofore paid for the sale of tickets over these roads. This will affect the incomes of 10,000 agents and eliminate the scalpers.

The establishment in Chicago and New York of joint auditing agencies that will apportion to each road an agreed percentage of the total competitive business.

The discharge of all superfluous assistants to the heads of departments of the individual roads. Later the heads of these departments may be abolished and the work done by clerks who will report to the two joint agencies.

The establishment in New York of a Board of Control made of persons representing the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania, Morgan and Harrison properties, the rulings of this board on all questions to be final.

The abandonment of a number of through fast passenger trains put in service during the last few years as the result of sharp competition. The establishment of common schedules for passenger trains between Chicago and New York and between all of the principal terminals of the combination roads in the territory east of this city and St. Louis. The abandonment of all fast freight trains and the fixing of common time for these trains between competitive terminals.

Following are the roads now in the combination: New York Central, Pennsylvania, Boston & Albany, Boston & Maine, Fitchburg, New York, New Haven & Hartford; Erie, Lehigh Valley, Lackawanna, West Shore, New York, Ontario & Western, Rome, Watertown & Ogdensburg, Lake Shore, Michigan Central, Nickel Plate, Baltimore & Ohio, Wabash, Big Four, Chesapeake & Ohio, Lake Erie & Western, Monon, and all auxiliary lines of these systems.

When all details for the future management of the roads in the eastern combination have been perfected the leaders in the consolidation movement will turn their attention to the territory west of Chicago and attempt to bottle up the Chicago-St. Louis-Rocky Mountain country in like manner. The combining process may extend ultimately to the Pacific coast. The Harriman-Vanderbilt syndicate owns and controls the Illinois Central, Union Pacific, Northwestern, Oregon Short Line and Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf. All the big competitors of these systems are in with the combining movement and stand ready to go into any deal that will maintain stable rates and reduce expenses. Several small independent roads in the west and northwest territory are to be purchased.

The failure of congress to legalize pooling is given as the cause of the consolidation, as the owners