THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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FRENCH ROUTS BOERS

Lord Roberts Reports Capture of Five Boer Laagers Along the Modder.

BRILLIANT WORK BY BRITISH TROOPS

Gordon with Hussars Aids Cavalry and Mounted Infantry of French.

OPERATIONS IN BLINDING DUST STORM

English Losses Small, but One Officer Being Killed, Another Wounded.

SIXTH AND SEVENTH DIVISIONS MOVING

Commander-in-Chief Terms French's Performance a Brilliant Military Feat—News to Change England's Gloom to Joy.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—11:35 p. m.—The War office has issued the following message from Lord Roberts, received this evening:

"DEKIELSDRIFT, Feb. 14.—8:10 a. m.—General French left this point at 11:30 yesterday morning with three brigades of cavalry, horse artillery and mounted infantry, including several colonial contingents, in order to seize a crossing of the Modder, distant about twenty-five miles.

"He reports by dispatch at 5:35 p. m. that he had forced a passage at Clipdrift and has occupied the hills north of the river, capturing three of the enemy's laagers, with their supplies, while General Gordon of the Fifteenth Hussars, with his brigade, who made a feint at Rondevaldrift, four miles west, has seized it and a second drift between that and Clipdrift, together with two more laagers.

"General French's performance is brilliant, considering the excessive heat and a blinding duststorm which raged during the latter part of the day.

"Owing to the rapidity of his movements General French met with but slight opposition and his losses were small. Lieutenant Johnson of the Inniskillin Dragoons is the only officer reported severely wounded.

"The Sixth division was last night on the north bank of the Riet, at Waterval-drift, and is moving to support the cavalry. The Seventh division is here and will go on this afternoon.

"Four officers and fifty-three men had to be sent last evening in the returning wagons to the railway line, prostrated by heat and exhaustion."

According to later reports the casualties were two troopers killed and Captain Majesndie of the Rifle Brigade wounded. He has since died. One trooper was wounded.

INSIDE THE BOER FRONTIER

Lord Roberts with Forty Thousand Infantry at Last Enters the Enemy's Country.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—4:20 a. m.—The British army, for the first time since the war began, is inside the Boer frontier. Lord Roberts, with at least 40,000 infantry, 7,000 cavalry and 150 guns, has turned the Magersfontein lines before which the British forces have been encamped for ten weeks and with half of his corps he is already operating on Free State territory. A battle has not yet been fought, but large tactical advantages have been gained. The relief of Kimberley is within measurable reach and the way to Bloemfontein is appreciably easier.

The dispatches of Lord Roberts sketch three days' work. The forward movement began on Sunday, when Colonel Hannay set out with a brigade of mounted infantry for Ramah on the Riet, eight miles from Jacobsdal, one of the Boers' supply stations. On Monday General French, with the cavalry division, seized the crossing of the Riet river at Dekilsdrift, south of Jacobsdal and eighteen miles east of Honeynestkloof. He skirmished with the Boers and cleared the way for 20,000 infantry, who followed across. On Tuesday, with his three cavalry brigades and the horse artillery, General French rode to the Modder river, a distance of twenty-five miles, and took three fords with high ground beyond the river, and five Boer camps. He had a few casualties in brushes with the Boer horse.

French on Cronje's Trail.

General French has now fixed himself on General Cronje's main line of communication with Bloemfontein, and 20,000 infantry, with seventy-two guns, are being pushed up to support him there.

Lord Roberts' dispatches wired from inside the Free State and on the Riet river left him Wednesday morning. His advance had not been opposed by the Boers in force. Their patrols melted away as the British moved forward. The Boer army is likely to be felt in a day or two and a battle is consequently imminent. As to what forces General Cronje has now at his disposal and as to where he purposes making a stand against the invaders, no one here connected with the war office knows anything. The data for conceptions are wholly wanting.

The forces immediately at the disposal of Lord Roberts are placed at 50,000 in a general way. These figures are revealed by the commands mentioned in the dispatch as having been added to the divisions known to be with Lord Methuen. Quite possibly Lord Roberts has 10,000 or 20,000 more.

It is now realized that the incidents at Rensburg have been seen out of all proportion. Merely skeleton lines were obtained there, while troops were being secretly and rapidly concentrated on the Modder river.

The facility with which 30,000 men have already been sent beyond the rail terminus shows that Lord Kitchener has been fully successful in organizing transport. He is now supposed to be down the line, sending forward more troops and getting together more transport. About five miles of ox and mule-wagon trains are estimated for each division, so that Lord Kitchener, who is reported to have more skill than a circus manager in handling field transport, has immense labors in hand.

The London morning papers take rather sober views of the situation, but are greatly pleased and hopeful of what is to come. They have been fed, however, on such a low diet of British successes that they are disposed to caution and given to measuring developments with considerable reserve. They fully realize that serious fighting is yet to come. Lord Roberts' announcements make the minor operations in other parts of the field shrink.

Lady Wilson Wounded at Mafeking.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—The Daily Chronicle publishes the following dispatch from Mafeking, dated January 29:

"The Boers shelled the women's laager for two hours on Saturday, January 27. Boer women, warned by spies evidently, went into the trenches, clapped their hands and hurrahed when the shells fell near the English women. Lady Sarah Wilson was slightly wounded.

"Major Gould-Adams and Captain Wilson received contusions from shell fragments."

OPINIONS OF THE EXPERTS

Military Writers Take Heart at the Good News from the Modder River Country.

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LONDON, Feb. 14.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The Leader [illegible] says: "Roberts' advance began on [illegible] he shifted his headquarters to the [illegible] Hannay having a brigade of mo[illegible], on that day marching from Oran[illegible] camp near Orange River station to Ramdam, engaged the enemy who occupied the hills, cleverly holding them with part of his brigade. He got the main body of troops and his baggage through to the objective and has therefore the credit of the first part of the big operation that is to relieve Kimberley and invade the Orange Free State. The next day French seized with his cavalry division, consisting of Brabason's and Babington's brigade and some mounted infantry, an important crossing of the Modder river, clearing the way for the Sixth and Seventh divisions, one of which had encamped on the Modder and the other upon the Riet. Ramdam we take to be ten miles almost due south of Jacobsdal and Dekilsdrift, the main crossing of the road leading from Fauresmith by the Koffyfontein diamond diggings to Jacobsdal, with two divisions and a cavalry division, thus threatening the Boer left on the position stretching from Spytfontein and Magersfontein to Jacobsdal.

"Roberts has put the question very brusquely to Commandant Cronje, Will he go or stay? If he elects to go he will be able to stand another day. But then Kimberley will have been relieved. If he chooses to stay he will have to entrench his rear or his works will be carried. If his rear is entrenched he will be held while Kimberley is relieved. But it looks as though French's activity had enveloped him and made it difficult to break away at all, while with the whole division of cavalry under a leader like French on his tracks he may have a good deal of difficulty in making himself scarce. The ideal thing is that he should be brought to battle in an open country. He will avoid that if he can, for the Boers have no formation that can be used on anything like level ground.

"Methuen has apparently been left to hold his entrenchments on the Modder river and if the Boers break away from Magersfontein to advance by railway to the formal relief of Rhodesund beyond the city. But the real work will have to be done by Lord Roberts' immediate forces. It is a puzzle whether Kitchener is with his chief or not, but we are told that Kitchener is still down the line organizing the transport service and forwarding reinforcements about Zouthpandrift on Orange river, which Elliott would have seized Monday. Is it held merely to prevent the Boer force from coming down on our lines of communication south of the Orange River station? Hardly. Then, perhaps, it is to be a second line of supply, the first being by the Kimberley railway as far as Graspan. Possibly, but we still think it means the advance of a third column direct on Fauresmith."

The Post expert says: "There is good news today, for the new campaign has begun. On Tuesday 20,000 British troops were encamped on the Boer side of the Riet river and 20,000 more perhaps a march away from them, possibly in the old camp at the Modder River station. The presence of the Sixth division is the first surprise to observers at home, for this division or part of it have lately been heard of at the Ebus and at Colesberg."

The expert suggests further lines of a campaign on about the same lines as those suggested by the Leader expert.

BOERS PUSH BRITISH BACK

Little Affair Near Springfield Bridge in Which the Queen's Troops Are Worsted.

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CHIEVELEY CAMP, Feb. 13.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Parties of Boers varying in strength have crossed the Tugela, occupying our old camping ground at Spearmans. This morning at Murdoch they attacked the outpost beyond Springfield bridge, compelling a squadron of the Royals to retire, but on prompt arrival of support, including the Fourteenth Hussars, the Boers were compelled to retreat. The British casualties are Captain Hamilton Russell and five men wounded and Lieutenant Pilkington and six men missing.

This morning Dundonald conducted a reconnaissance to the hill east of Chieveley. By 10 o'clock the South African Light Horse had taken possession of Hussar hill, firing on the Boer pickets and wounding two Boers and one horse. The Boers kept up a desultory musketry fire with our outpost line. At 1 o'clock the return to camp began. The Boers pressed the rearguard of the South African Light Horse, who were rather slow in falling back, and there was a sharp musketry duel carried on at 2,000 yards. The Colt battery under Captain Hill, M. P., came into action with excellent effect, checking the Boer fire. Our artillery and mounted infantry under Captain Gough co-operated. The Boers abandoned the pursuit and were soon content to permit the troops to continue their retirement unmolested and the whole force returned safely to camp. The ease and comfort with which the regular corps can deal with Boers in these little affairs are very satisfactory. Only four men were wounded, most of them of the South African Light Horse, including Mr. Garrard of the Colt battery and Lieutenant John Spencer Churchill, brother of the special correspondent, South African Light Horse, shot through the right leg.

WINSTON CHURCHILL.

Associated Press Version.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—An official dispatch from General Buller at Chieveley announces a reconnaissance at Springfield, resulting in no gain of ground on either side. Captain Hamilton Russell, Lieutenant G. Churchill and ten men were wounded and Lieutenant Pilkington and six men were captured by the Boers.

The dispatch contains detailed accounts of what appear to be unimportant operations. They only tend to throw light over the situation by proving that the Boers are actively following General Buller's every move.

General Buller's dispatch from Chieveley, dated Monday, February 13, says:

"The commanding officer at Springfield reports this morning that a squadron of the First Dragoons, moving to the outpost line covering the right flank of the camp, met a party of Boers near Fustenberg. The Boers, reaching the crest of a hill first, opened a heavy fire on the squadron, which retired. He sent out supports and the Boers retired."

The dispatch then gives the casualties as already cabled.

Continuing, the Chieveley dispatch says:

"Dundonald, with 700 mounted men, a field

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

ANTI-TRUST MEN DISAGREE

Stormy Scenes Mark the Close of the Conference at Chicago.

ADJOURNMENT TO STOP THE DISORDER

Middle-of-the-Road Populist Stirs Up Bryan's Supporters by a Resolution—Monnett Tries to Offset Partisan Effect.

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—Stormy scenes characterized the sessions of the national anti-trust conference preceding the final adjournment tonight. The climax came when Delegate Joseph Parker, a middle-of-the-road populist, surprised the conference with a resolution pledging the delegates to vote for no party that does not stand for government ownership and the principle of direct legislation.

The democratic leaders interpreted this as an attack on W. J. Bryan and were on their feet in an instant to block the move. A score of delegates took the floor and all tried to talk at the same time.

"You must not stifle free speech here," was shouted. "Everybody must be heard," was the warning that came from a delegate in the gallery.

Chairman Monnett was in doubt as to what to do. Disorder reigned for ten minutes and then Chairman Monnett used the gavel and temporarily adjourned the convention.

Another whirl of excitement took place after the reading of the report of the committee on resolutions, when Delegate Quinn of Illinois offered an amendment to the declaration of principles, calling for the repeal of all laws sustaining the right of citizens to private property, with a view to giving every citizen a free home. A long wrangle ensued over the disposition of the amendment. Captain W. P. Black, Tom L. Johnson and others appealed to Quinn to withdraw the amendment, but he refused.

Roars of Disapproval at the Chair.

After much discussion, during which Quinn was denounced as a disturber by delegates on the stage, Chairman Monnett put the resolution to adopt the amendment. Two ballots were taken. Finally he declared the report of the committee adopted and the ruling caused a thunder of disapproval. Delegate Quinn, during the uproar, appealed from the decision of the chair and his motion was seconded. The vote was put and Chairman Monnett was sustained by a large majority.

A strong effort was made at the conference today to offset the partisan effect of the resolution adopted yesterday denouncing the currency bill. Monnett made a speech in which he declared that the movement for public ownership of public utilities was being carried on by the republican party as well as the democratic party.

"In the republican northwest," said he, "60 per cent of the public utilities are owned by the public, whereas in many southern democratic states less than 5 per cent are so owned.

"I would remind the convention that Ohio, which is the state of the president, is also the state of the Sherman anti-trust act. If we have an Attorney General Griggs, we also had an Attorney General Olney."

Attacks Trust Endowments.

The convention was enlivened also by an attack by Prof. Bemis on "universities whose endowments come from trust magnates." The professors in these institutions, said the ex-professor of political economy at Chicago university, "do their best, but cannot overcome this handicap." As a remedy he advocated the establishment through the state legislature of chairs in state universities devoted to the study of the trust question.

A number of set speeches were heard at the morning and afternoon sessions and the night session, which wound up the three days' conference and heard as many of the remaining speeches as could be read in the time that was left.

Upon reconvening at the afternoon session Chairman Monnett ruled that the report of the committee on national organization is privileged business. He called on the chairman of the committee, General J. B. Weaver of Iowa. General Weaver stated that the report had been unanimously agreed to in committee and asked the convention to adopt it in the same manner.

General Weaver moved the adoption of the report. I. G. Donnelly got the floor and pleaded with delegates to do something tangible. The desired movement, he said, could not be brought about by leagues. He called on the conference to now form a new party and call for a national convention. Unless that was done, he asserted, the conference "would not amount to as much as a last year's bird's nest."

The middle-of-the-road populist faction in the convention cheered these sentiments wildly.

Jerry Simpson of Kansas followed. He challenged the statement of Parker of Kentucky, "that this convention has fallen into the hands of a lot of cowardly politicians." He declared that no delegate had asserted party preference, but every one was entirely unselfish. He demanded that Parker apologize for his statement instead of attempting to align the conference in partisan movement. Simpson was cheered repeatedly.

"This movement," he declared, "is solely educational. When the people understand the purposes for which we are here they will stand by the party that stands for their principles."

Donnelly Denounced by Sulzer.

Congressman Sulzer of New York was then recognized. He called on the delegates to adopt the report verbatim. He denounced Donnelly as seeking personal support, saying this conference stood for principles and not for men. He faced Donnelly and shouted: "You are doing more than any man here to help Mark Hanna."

Delegate Parker was then recognized on a question of personal privilege. He utterly disregarded the opinion of Jerry Simpson, he said, and he did not propose to take back a word he had uttered. Anyone could see the hand of the politician in the hall. This statement was greeted with mingled hoots and cheers.

After five minutes of disorder, Mr. Parker was permitted to proceed. He defended his position at length, concluding:

"Let us all unite for the people and let the old, ballotbox stuffing parties go to the devil."

General Weaver Scores a Few.

General Weaver scored Parker and his resolution as "an evident attempt to bind the delegation to support the middle-of-the-road platform."

Judge Cannon of Chicago followed on the same line. Parker appeared to be rapidly losing the affection of the delegates. A delegate moved to have a vote of thanks for his "attempt to enlighten the conference."

Mayor Jones of Toledo followed. He hoped every delegate would be true to his own best principles. The resolution already adopted was the best that could be framed. "In the word education," he said, "is our only hope."

At the close of Mayor Jones' remarks the report of the committee on national organization was unanimously adopted.

M. L. Lockwood of Pennsylvania was unanimously elected president. Franklin Wentworth of Chicago was chosen secretary. C. T. Bride of Washington, D. C., was elected treasurer, and W. B. Fleming of Kentucky, financial secretary.

This committee was appointed to bear the protest of the convention against the passage of the currency bill to Washington: W. B. Fleming, William Sulzer, George Fred Williams, Mrs. Helen Gougar, F. R. Ridgeley, Willis J. Abbott, T. Carl Spelling, Judge William Prentiss, J. B. Weaver, J. R. Sovereign, W. H. Harvey, J. B. Romans, J. W. Wilson, John J. Lentz, M. C. Wetmore and C. A. Towne. The committee decided to meet at Washington next Monday afternoon.

ALL ENGLAND IS SNOWBOUND

Street Traffic in Cities Either Blocked or Greatly Impeded—Many Accidents.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—The effects of the blizzard which started Tuesday are felt throughout Great Britain. Great Britain is snowed up in all directions. Street car traffic is blocked, telegraph and telephone wires are down, delaying communication in all directions. There have been a great number of accidents due to falling chimneys and roof slates and similar causes. Mail vans and people traveling by the in-country districts are reported missing and several persons have been found frozen to death in exposed places.

The streets of London are in a fearful condition from the snow and sleet and many pedestrians have sustained fractured limbs from falling on the icy pavements. The horses have suffered greatly, many having to be shot after breaking their legs. Severe gales have swept the coasts.

Snow Prevails in France.

PARIS, Feb. 14.—A serious storm prevailed throughout France last evening and today. Telegraph lines are broken everywhere and communication by wire with Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and part of Germany is interrupted. Considerable damage has been done and a number of fatalities have occurred, due to falling roofs and trees. The seaside towns have suffered badly and shipping casualties are feared.

PARIS, Feb. 15.—Great damage has been done to shipping along the French coast. Many fishing smacks have gone ashore, especially near Dunkirk, Cherbourg and Brest. Near the last named port ten wrecks have occurred. Several fatalities are reported.

CHICAGO STRIKE SPREADS

Men Employed by Building Contractors' Council in Other Cities Will Be Ordered Out.

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—The Building Trades council today announced through its secretary that the National Building Trades council would be called upon to call strikes in other cities upon all buildings being constructed by Chicago contractors who have locked out union labor.

A committee was appointed today to ascertain what work was being done by the contractors outside Chicago. Its information will be presented to the national organization, which has already expressed its desire to aid the local men in every way, and strikes will be ordered. Buildings in New York, Boston and Philadelphia, as well as in many other cities, it is believed, are in course of construction by firms which are members of the Building Contractors' council.

A serious blow was dealt the contractors today by the Independent Brotherhood Building Trades council. This organization was recently organized, announcing that the contractors could, by applying at the new headquarters, secure men to replace members of the older union, who were locked out. Today a statement was issued declaring that it was the belief of the Independent council that the Contractors' association was using them as a means to their own ends—the subjugation of all union labor. In view of this it was stated the brotherhood had decided to stand by the Building Trades council.

SAYS MAUD GONNE'S A BRITON

Mrs Adair, Who Comes to Work for Maine Hospital Ship, Will Come West.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—Mrs. Cornelia Adair, who comes here as the head of the hospital ship Maine committee, seeking American subscriptions in aid of the sick and wounded in South Africa, was a passenger on the Oceanic which arrived here today from Liverpool. Mrs. Adair said:

"I shall be here three weeks and during that time I expect to visit Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Chicago and possibly other western cities. It is my intention to hold drawing room meetings in the houses of my friends here and in the other cities, at which I will explain the work and set forth our needs. The money which I expect to raise at these meetings will not come in the form of a collection. I am not here on a begging expedition and I want whatever is given to come as spontaneous expressions of sympathy."

It was pointed out to Mrs. Adair that while she in her appeal to American women, which has been published, called upon Irishmen to help her cause, Miss Maud Gonne was here to stir up Irishmen against England. She said he had nothing to say on the subject, though she added:

"Why, Miss Gonne is not even Irish; she is English."

START BIG BLAST FURNACE

Fires Lighted in the Largest One in the World—Capacity Six Hundred Tons a Day.

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Feb. 14.—The largest blast furnace in the world was lighted last night when stack No. 1 at the Ohio plant of the National Steel company was put in operation. The furnace is 106½ feet high, fifteen-foot crucible and twenty-two-foot bosh. The capacity of the furnace is 600 tons every twenty-four hours. Two other furnaces of similar dimensions are under construction and will be completed in two or three months. The output of these furnaces will be used by the National Steel company.

Brassmakers in a Trust.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Feb. 14.—The leading brass manufacturers of the country are in session here for the manifest purpose of forming a combine. The proceedings are secret. It is known that twelve of the large brass industries in the country are represented. A combination which will probably be known as the American Brass company was decided upon. Another meeting will be held within the next two weeks. Francis J. Torrence is one of the principal local parties interested. George F. Ross of Chicago, W. T. Doyle of Milwaukee and H. M. Brewster of Springfield, Mass., are among the promoters.

Chinaman's Verdict Against a Road.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 14.—Mon Fung Young, a Chinese doctor, was awarded $8,95[illegible] by a jury in the circuit court today in a verdict against the Kansas City, St. Joseph & Council Bluffs railroad because a negro porter of the railroad company would not permit him to ride in the parlor car of the train. Young sued for $20,000 damages.

THAT OMAHA SUPPLY DEPOT

Commissioner Jones Opposes the Project Before Senate Indian Committee.

SENATOR THURSTON SETS HIM RIGHT

Amendment Making an Appropriation of $8,000 for Establishing the Depot is Allowed to Stand in the Bill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—(Special Telegram.)—The sub-committee on Indian affairs of the senate, Thurston, Platt of Connecticut, Quarles, Jones of Arkansas and Pettigrew, having consideration of the Indian appropriation bill, heard Commissioner of Indian Affairs Jones today on certain features of the bill. The subject of the Indian supply depot at Omaha came up during the course of the hearing, when the commissioner somewhat astonished the committee by stating that he had never heard that the city of Omaha had complied with the provisions of the law relative to the tender of a building for depot purposes. He said an agent of the department had gone to Omaha for a number of years and had received bids for supplies for delivery at either New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha or St. Paul; that so far as he was concerned he was opposed to the erection of an Indian supply depot at Omaha.

Senator Thurston stated to the committee that the provision in the Indian bill was simply carrying out former legislation; that the bill creating a supply depot at Omaha passed congress in 1897, but that both Secretaries Bliss and Hitchcock had found it impossible to carry out the provisions of the act because of the failure of congress to appropriate money sufficient to maintain such a depot. He read a letter from Secretary Hitchcock recommending an appropriation of $8,000 for the establishment of a supply depot which greatly disconcerted the commissioner, who frankly stated that he did not know the matter had gone this far. The amendment was allowed to stand.

There is considerable opposition developing to the confirmation of Dr. McChesney as Indian agent at Rosebud, the assertion being made that the Indian office dominated the appointment two months before McChesney's term expires. Colonel Clapp of the Pine Ridge agency, who was in the city on matters connected with his office, said today it would be a great mistake not to confirm McChesney. Said he: "There are so many conditions at present operating against the Indians at Rosebud that they are growing just a trifle restless and only some such competent man as Dr. McChesney has proven himself to be able to control turbulent spirits."

The Rosebud Indians are close to the "Bad Lands" of South Dakota, a tract of country which while it is mostly unknown is inaccessible to white men, offering fine inducements to rebellious Indians should they decide to rise up against the Great Father because he has decided to cut down their rations, annuities, etc.

As a Blackleg Vaccine.

The delegation in congress from Nebraska has been receiving during the last month from all over the state inquiries as to the rumor in circulation in Nebraska that the Department of Agriculture had decided to suspend the issue of blackleg vaccine. There seems to be but one opinion among farmers and cattlemen that blackleg vaccine, as issued by the government, has done untold good for herds and instead of abandoning the issue it should be enlarged. A cattleman, writing to Senator Thurston, says that he had a bunch of young cattle last spring which commenced to die with the blackleg. "I at once made a request from the department at Washington for vaccine, received it and after using it lost no more. Since then I have vaccinated about 550 head and in no instance have I met with a single loss after using vaccine."

A. G. Hagadorn of Curtis says: "I protest against doing away with government vaccine. Protect the people in preference to the monopolies. Let the government furnish free vaccine to every one who will use it for blackleg. Go farther; try to find a remedy for hog cholera."

These reports having been shown Secretary Wilson he stated today that a new rule had been established, as follows: All persons desiring blackleg vaccine, by writing to the bureau of animal industry will receive a department blank, which shows the number of cattle to be inoculated and ownership. This blank, when properly filled out, is then to be sent to the senator or member of congress, who will countersign the application for vaccine, which will be sent at once to the applicant.

Senator Thurston today introduced a petition of the Farmers' institute of Dodge, Washington, Saunders, Douglas and Colfax counties, protesting against any modification of existing tariff laws whereby the products of Porto Rico and other tropical islands shall be admitted to the United States on any lower duties than those now imposed.

Congressman Sutherland introduced a bill to increase the pension of Horace P. Smith.

Congressman McPherson of Iowa introduced a bill for the relief of John Patterson of Pottawattamie county.

Permanent Post Near Sheridan.

Congressman Mondell today was given permission by the committee on military affairs to call up his bill establishing a permanent military post at Fort McKenzie, near Sheridan, Wyo.

Senator Lodge introduced today during the consideration of the financial bill an address of the National Business' Men's league on maintaining the gold reserve between national banks and the government. The following Omaha firms are signers of the address: First National bank, Carpenter Paper company, Lee-Glass-Andreesen Hardware company, Paxton-Gallagher company, M. E. Smith & Co. and Rector & Wilhelmy company.

Andrew McLeod was today appointed postmaster at Moingona, Boone county, Iowa; also E. L. Hugins at Bixby, Choteau county, S. D., and Ethel Shedd at Redfern, Pennington county, S. D. An order was issued today establishing a postoffice at Ells, Crawford county, Ia., with Benjamin F. Ells as postmaster.

John W. Clendening of Ohio was today appointed teacher in the Rosebud (S. D.) Indian school, at $60 a month.

Mrs. A. J. Keller of Hot Springs, S. D., state representative of the Daughters of the American Revolution, is in the city.

House Pension Bill Amended.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—The senate committee on pensions today reported the pension appropriation bill. The committee increased the total appropriation as made by the house bill to the extent of only $16,000 and struck out the house proviso making it discretionary with the commissioner of pensions to refuse to pay the fees of attorneys in pension cases.

Abolish Small Packages.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—The ways and means committee of the house today agreed to report a bill of much interest to the brewing interests, abolishing what are known to the trade as sixth and eighth barrels, making quarter-barrels the smallest packages of this character authorized by congress. The small sizes have been easily lost, and as the commissioners of internal revenue reported that no denomination of revenue would ensue from the change, the committee decided to yield to the request of the trade in this particular. Mr. Dolliver was authorized to report a substitute which differs from the original only in phraseology.

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—
Fair and Cold; Brisk Northerly Winds.

Temperature at Omaha yesterday:

Hour.	Deg.	Hour.	Deg.
5 a. m.	4	1 p. m.	3
6 a. m.	4	2 p. m.	3
7 a. m.	3	3 p. m.	3
8 a. m.	3	4 p. m.	4
9 a. m.	3	5 p. m.	4
10 a. m.	3	6 p. m.	4
11 a. m.	3	7 p. m.	3
12 m.	3	8 p. m.	2
		9 p. m.	2

GORMAN IS FOR BRYAN NOW

Says He is Convinced Nothing Can Prevent Nebraskan's Renomination by Democrats.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Former Senator Gorman, who was at the capitol today for the first time since the present session of congress assembled, in an interview with a Post reporter said that all his efforts heretofore had been directed against the renomination of W. J. Bryan as the democratic candidate for the presidency, he believing it would not be wise, but that he was now convinced "that nothing can prevent his selection as the head of the democratic ticket. He certainly," added Mr. Gorman, "has the people behind him to a remarkable degree."

Asked if he would support Bryan if nominated, he replied:

"Certainly, I supported him in 1896 and I shall support him again this year. I do not propose to desert my party."

LUDLOW ON CUBAN AFFAIRS

Military Control of the Island Should Continue for a Number of Years.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—In the course of an interview with a Commercial-Advertiser reporter today Brigadier General William Ludlow, military governor of Havana, who arrived from Cuba last night, said:

"After the municipal elections, which are set for May, have been held and the new elective districts have been organized, I think it quite possible that the expense of maintaining United States troops in the island can be materially reduced."

As to the probable duration of American occupation of Cuba General Ludlow said: "I do not think that at this time anyone believes the population of this island, with its entire inexperience and a formidable percentage of illiteracy, to be capable offhand of maintaining a stable and responsible government. All, I believe, assent to the present necessity for the continuance of the American occupation, but they want this while it shall continue to be fundamentally a military control and not a civil control.

"In Havana it is recognized that some time, several years, will be needed to organize a complete insular government, and I have heard five years spoken of as a reasonable period for this purpose. It all depends upon the Cubans themselves and upon the aptitude and conscientiousness they shall exhibit in the untried and perilous field of political administration."

LEE FOR WAR WITH BRITAIN

South Dakota's Governor Asserts Treatment of Consul Macrum is Enough Excuse for It.

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—"War with England should be the policy of this government," said Governor Andrew E. Lee of South Dakota tonight, "if the facts set forth in ex-Consul Macrum's open letter issued to the American people are found to be correct.

"The action of the British authorities at Durban in tampering with mail matter addressed to Macrum is damnable and an outrage against the rights of neutral powers. If the facts as stated in that letter are true the American government instantly should call Great Britain to severe account. That may mean another war on our hands, I know, but war is preferable to national dishonor. The spectacle of an American citizen, be he in private or public life, having to sit idly by and see his mail opened by an official of a foreign power is too humiliating for American blood to stand."

Almost equally as radical comments were made by several of the leaders in the anti-trust conference who were shown the dispatches from Washington tonight, setting forth the experiences of the ex-consul. All were emphatic in saying that the rights of citizens of neutral powers should be protected and that England should be condemned strongly for her high-handed methods.

DIRECT VOTE FOR SENATORS

Pennsylvania Legislative Committee Proposes a National Convention to Work for It.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 14.—The joint committee of the Pennsylvania legislature appointed at the last session to consider the election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people with a view to submitting an amendment to the national constitution has completed its work and today forwarded copies of its resolutions to the secretaries of state of New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Maryland, Iowa, Kentucky and Mississippi, where legislatures are now in session.

The resolutions refer to the national house of representatives having on three occasions passed bills favoring the change and the defeat of those by the senate nonconcurring, and also to various state legislatures favoring the change. The provision of the national constitution requiring the calling of a convention for proposing amendments on the application of two-thirds of the states is quoted and the resolutions ask that the several legislatures make this request.

Hilton Pictures All Sold.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—The sale of the Hilton collection of pictures was finished tonight at Chickering hall. The total sum realized tonight was $63,250, making a grand total of $118,715 for the 169 pictures sold. The gem of the collection was Meissonier's "L'Ami one," which cost A. T. Stewart $24,000. Tonight it brought $18,300, J. W. Gates being the purchaser. "Sheep in the Woods," by C. E. Jacque, was sold to H. Springer for $7,000. As a rule the prices were low.

Movements of Ocean Vessels, Feb. 14.

At New York—Arrived—Marquette, from London; Labn, from Bremen, via Southampton; Oceanic, from Liverpool; Noordland, from Antwerp; Darmstadt, from Bremen.

At Philadelphia—Sailed—Switzerland, for Antwerp.

At Southampton — Arrived — Saale, from New York, for Bremen. Sailed—Aller, from Bremen, for New York.

At Liverpool — Arrived — Michigan, from Boston.

At Nice—Arrived—Augusta Victoria, from New York, via Algiers (on Oriental cruise).

At Plymouth—Sailed—Pennsylvania, from Hamburg, for New York.

At Antwerp—Arrived, January 12—Southwark, from New York.

POPS PASS THE HAT

Call for Blood Money from Officeholders for Political Purposes.

EDMISTEN KEEPS THE LIST OF EMPLOYES

Calls on Every Mother's Son of Them for Liberal Contributions.

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE IS HARD UP

Chairman Tries to Touch for More Cash the Feeders at the Trough.

MAILS JOB LOT OF BEGGING LETTERS

Pleads for Ducats for Campaign Expenses, but the Pie Consumers Simply Respond with a Loud, Heartrending Wail.

LINCOLN, Feb. 14.—(Special.)—A loud wail is going up from the ranks of officeholders and employes under the populist dispensation because of another assessment that was recently made for the campaign fund by the populist state central committee. Several statehouse employes have refused to contribute any more to the fund until the campaign opens, and as a similar disposition has been exhibited by other popocratic employes and officeholders in various parts of Nebraska, the state central committee is reduced to sore straits. Chairman J. H. Edmisten has a list containing the name of every person in Nebraska who holds office by virtue of the party now in control of the state government, and all have been asked to contribute their share toward defraying the expenses of the next campaign. At the same time an effort is being made to clear up the existing indebtedness of the committee, which now amounts to considerable.

The populist headquarters in the capitol building have been practically deserted since The Bee called attention to the fact that one of the best rooms in the statehouse was being used by the populist state central committee. By keeping the outside door locked, Chairman Edmisten hoped to keep from the public the real nature of the business transacted in the room, but there are many leaks in the populist machine and the secrets soon became common property. The room occupied by Edmisten was one of the best on the lower floor of the capitol and it has been much in demand, owing to the overcrowded condition of the building.

Sample Begging Letter.

The following is a sample of the assessment letters that are being sent out from the capitol building by Chairman Edmisten:

"LINCOLN, Feb. 10, 1900.—Headquarters of the People's Independent Party of Nebraska—Mr. ——, Dear Sir: Your assessment for the last campaign is in part unpaid and our committee finds itself with a number of debts yet on hand, which were made for the benefit of the party during the campaign, in good faith, and these obligations are unpaid [illegible] on the faith of the payment of the assessments by those who are drawing salaries by virtue of our party in power.

"We have, therefore, sent out letters asking for money and have received no responses from the same. I sincerely hope that it will be unnecessary for me to have to repeat this request in order to raise funds from those who have been recognized by our party and who are drawing salaries at the present time.

"The committee is acting in these matters with the full belief that when reasonable assessments are made that they will be complied with at once, and that the interests of the party would not be permitted to suffer on account of the failure to make such payments. I, therefore, urge upon you to remit the following amount....., which is the balance due from you and which is necessary in order to place us in a position to clear up the obligations of the committee which now exists. A prompt reply and remittance will be highly appreciated. I am, respectfully yours,

"J. H. EDMISTEN, Chairman."

NECESSITY OF THE CANAL

Secretaries Long and Wilson Write Their Views—"Invaluable for Commercial Purposes."

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—On the "Necessity of the Isthmian Canal," Secretary of the Navy Long and Secretary of Agriculture Wilson have written their views for the next issue of the Independent as follows:

Secretary Long: "I am heartily in favor of the Nicaragua canal and of a Pacific cable. They are both necessities in this progressive age and they are sure to come. Without having made a thorough study of the question and holding my views subject to further light, I think they should be constructed and controlled by the government of the United States."

Secretary Wilson: "I believe in the Isthmian canal. It will be invaluable for commercial purposes. It will greatly lessen the expense of transportation from ocean to ocean. When I was at Tacoma not long since I saw in the harbor a vessel of about 3,500 tons burden loading for the China trade. It had railroad ties and flour, which it got on the Pacific coast; Milwaukee had sent, I should say, 1,000 barrels of beer across the country; Chicago had sent canned beef and oleomargarine; Philadelphia had sent sugar-making machinery clear across the country; Virginia and Kentucky had 1,200 hogsheads of tobacco in that vessel going to Japan; Alabama had sent iron and steel away north to the latitude of Tacoma and west to reach that port on the Pacific; North Carolina had bales of cotton goods going to Shanghai; New England had boxes of notions and bicycles; all these in a single vessel. Now when I reflected on the expense of shipping all these goods to put them on to a boat at Tacoma I concluded that we ought to have that ditch dug across the isthmus. The trip of the Oregon converted the nation."

Porto Rico Still Outside.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—The Board of Classification of the United States general appraisers today announced a decision in the Porto Rico case of Mosle Brothers and John H. Goetz & Co., protestants, who claimed that Porto Rico is already a part of the United States and that no duties can be levied on goods from there. The board unanimously overrules their claim so far as it relates to goods imported while the military occupation lasts. The opinion of the board is written by General Appraiser Henderson H. Somerville, who was for many years a member of the Alabama supreme court.

Inheritance Tax Law Void.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 14.—The supreme court this afternoon in a case brought up from McLeod county, declared the Minnesota inheritance tax law to be unconstitutional, being contrary to the constitutional provision requiring equal taxation because it exempts real property and assesses such a tax on personal property and because of other exemptions. The law was passed in 1897 after the adoption of a constitutional amendment permitting such a law.