THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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HELP FOR LADYSMITH

Persistent Rumors in London that the Town Has Been Relieved.

SURRENDER OF CR[illegible] REPORTED

Boer General Said to Have Cap[illegible] Eight Thousand Men.

LORD KITCHENER IS REPORTED WOUNDED

Earlier Advices State that Cronje and His Men Still Hold Out.

PUTTING UP A MAGNIFICENT DEFENSE

Big Guns of the Boer Commander Believed to Have Been Removed from the Scene of the Recent Fighting.

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LONDON, Feb. 23.—(New York World Cablegram — Special Telegram.) — Strong rumors that Ladysmith has been relieved have just come in.

DURBAN, Feb. 23.—Evening.—The rumor gains credence that Ladysmith has been relieved. It is also reported that General Cronje has surrendered 8,000 men and that General Kitchener has been slightly wounded in the left arm.

Crowds throng the streets, shouting and cheering because of supposed victories. Seventeen hundred Boers have been killed or wounded, the latter, it is reported, including General Cronje.

Cronje's Strategy.

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LONDON, Feb. 23.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—It is believed here by war experts who do not print views or criticisms that Cronje is playing a desperate game on slim Boer tactics. So far no report contains any mention of the capture of the Boers' big guns. Of all the artillery about Magersfontein and Kimberley only one disabled twelve-pounder was found when the British occupied the ground. It is said Cronje started all his guns from the place with orders to get across the Vaal as soon as he learned that Roberts was in command at Modder river with reinforcements, and that he moved himself with all the mounted Boers as soon as he learned of French's movement to the rear. Observers here think he went as far as he could, then picked his position and determined to sit tight until assured that the artillery had escaped. The reinforcements Roberts reports having scattered so easily are said to have been the rear guard of the artillery train, which was covering the movement north and east. No reports of any artillery appear in response to the British attack at Koodoosrand. Cronje's plan appears to be to hold all the British possible about his camp till certain the artillery's retreat is assured. The proposed armistice would have gained twenty-four hours for the retreat of the guns, while the agreement would only have covered the fighting force engaged at that point. Boer sympathizers think Cronje will hold fast until the last moment, then the order will be given, "Every man for himself," with instructions to rally at a point north, where the artillery is safe in a new position. It is insisted that the same plan is being followed about Ladysmith, the guns being slowly and safely removed to defend the Transvaal passes while the mobile force is left in the trenches to prevent a sudden attack by the British.

Published Opinion.

The Post expert says: "The absence of news from the battlefields in the Free State and Natal points to actions in process. We heard from Roberts Wednesday that while the Boers, who were surrounded at the drifts along the Modder, were being cannonaded to ward off Boer reinforcements. De Wet telegraphed from Pretoria Tuesday that he expected a big fight Wednesday at Petrusberg. De Wet may have assembled a considerable force for a big fight. Telegrams from Chieveley, Arundel and Sterkstrom all point to a depletion of the forces opposing the British at those points. There is in the news and in the silence of the cables nothing that need cause alarm. The warm events of the week hardly tend to discredit the view that while the war lasts there should be a constant stream of reinforcements."

The Leader expert says: "As Roberts has wires into his tent we may be justified in believing that Cronje, a few miles off, has not yet succumbed to the bombardment to which he has been subjected since Sunday. Cronje is bent, like Uhrich at Strasburg in 1870, on holding out to the last cartridge. Roberts appears to have got up more guns and he can easily get up more men, for the Boers are apparently weakening in the northeast of Cape Colony. The story that Methuen has been entrusted with the relief of Mafeking we need not worry about. Snyman's men can't hold out there much longer, and Baden-Powell will not be far off on their heels. Buller is not making as much progress as could be desired, but if any one supposed the Boers would fail to make a good rearguard fight until they got away their heavy guns that ingenuous mind knows better now."

Cronje Still Unbeaten.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—4 a. m.—Mr. Balfour announced in the House of Commons at 12:30 this morning that no further news regarding General Cronje had been received by the government.

General Cronje, therefore, is presumably still unbeaten. No other construction is placed on the three days' silence of Lord Roberts. Yet no one sees how it is humanly possible, judging from the descriptions of his situation Wednesday morning, for him to resist so long. Great Britain does not withhold admiration for the valor of a losing fight against such odds.

"Englishmen feel something like pride in Cronje, even as a foe," says the Daily News. "In a position covering only a square mile, hemmed in on all sides, circled with a chain of fire from rifle, Maxim and Howitzer, played on by deadly lyddites bursting in its own sickly green light, his hastily-built trenches enfiladed by a storm of lead sweeping down the river from the north bank, General Cronje still elects to fight. It is a magnificent courage."

General Cronje's wife is described by the prisoners as urging him to surrender in order to save the lives of his men, but he would not.

The British cavalry patrols sent by Lord Methuen north of Kimberley discovered the Boers concentrating, whether for offense or defense is simply conjecture. The Boers seem to be retiring from General Gatacre's front in order to reinforce the Free Staters.

Ladysmith had not been relieved when the latest news left Natal two days ago. The Boers had returned half way between Ladysmith and Colenso. If only 6,000 went to the Free States, as both the Boer and the British accounts assert, the 12,000 men who are left may purpose to maintain the siege and to resist General Buller within contracted lines, although the impression at General Buller's headquarters is that the Boers are merely covering a retreat.

Kelly-Kenny's Severe Losses.

The severe losses incurred by General Kelly-Kenny Sunday have produced some adverse criticism, but it is pointed out that had he fought less furiously he would have given the Boers the opportunity to entrench themselves and perhaps effect further flight to a more advantageous position.

General Buller's progress towards Ladysmith is so slow that it scarcely appeals to public interest. General White appears to be still full of fight and to be endeavoring to assist General Buller by a vigorous bombardment.

Advices received at Capetown yesterday said it was reported the British were gradually driving the Boers out of northern Cape Colony and that many of the burghers had recrossed the Orange river.

DRIVEN BACK, SAYS PRETORIA

Official Bulletin from Transvaal Capital Announces British Unsuccessful Up to Wednesday.

PRETORIA, Wednesday, Feb. 21.—The following official war bulletin has been issued here:

A report was received this morning of cannon firing west of Colesberg.

At Petrusberg cannon firing commenced at 6 in the morning. A big fight was expected today.

De Wet telegraphed yesterday from Petrusberg that all was quiet, except several cannon shots and small skirmishes. Yesterday evening the British stormed the federal positions as far as Schauser, but were driven back.

A message from Cronje is to the effect that his loss yesterday was fourteen dead and wounded.

De Wet's loss was nil. Commandant Fronoman reports that from February 15 to February 20 he was almost surrounded by the British at Modder river, when with a small number of men he broke through the river.

On Sunday there was a heavy fight. The British prepared to lay siege to the Boer laager, with fighting general. We were surrounded by 2,500 British five miles from the chief laager. At night we cut our way through with the loss of seven dead and sixteen wounded. The loss of the British was heavy. Yesterday we cut our way through to reach De Wet, who was in the neighborhood. Fifty-three prisoners formerly taken have been forwarded.

It is reported that the British were continually attacking Koodoosrand yesterday with infantry and lancers, but that they were driven back.

BULLER IS STILL ADVANCING

Dispatches Dated Wednesday Tell of the British Movements in the Vicinity of Ladysmith.

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CHIEVELEY CAMP, Feb. 21.—7:35 p. m. —(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Buller continued his advance on the 14th. Hildyard on the British right made himself master of the whole of Monte Cristo ridge and under the features of the northern end this is within long range of Bulwana hill. On the left Barton's brigade occupied Hlangwana hill, which the Boers had evacuated during the night, leaving their camp standing and with every sign of extraordinary haste. During the day the enemy maintained a brisk artillery fire from long range and automatic guns. Our losses were slight. Only a few Boer riflemen remain south of the Tugela and these could be driven back any moment but for the fact that it is undesirable to press further into the tongue of land captured until heavy artillery is in good position. Besides the advance described all the heavy guns were pushed forward and camp and headquarters advanced three miles. The five captured Boer camps are very foul-smelling, like Omdurman, littered with half-cooked food, ammunition, rifles, clothing and flour sacks. CHURCHILL.

ADDING TO THE QUEEN'S NAVY.

Estimates for 1900-1901 Published—Success of Marconi System.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—The naval estimates for 1900-1901 show a total of £27,522,600, an increase of £928,100, providing for an addition of 200 officers and 4,020 men for new ships. It is proposed to build two new battleships, six first-class cruisers, a second-class cruiser, two twin-screw sloops, two gunboats and two torpedo boats. Of the 108 destroyers the Viper's preliminary trial reached thirty-five knots. Exhaustive experiments will be made with it, as great importance attaches to its novel system of propulsion.

The Marconi system of wireless telegraphy was tried in the naval maneuvers and proved very successful. As long as only one ship was signaling, signals were successful for sixty miles. Negotiations are in progress between the government and Signor Marconi, but the terms are not decided.

Negotiations are in progress for the formation of a naval reserve in Canada, the difficulty created by the requirement of six months' training on a man-of-war being one of the conditions of service in the United Kingdom which, it is thought, will be overcome. There will be under construction in 1900 seventeen battleships, twenty armored cruisers, a first-class protected cruiser, two second-class protected cruisers, a third-class cruiser, eight sloops, two gunboats, four torpedo boats and twenty-one torpedo boat destroyers.

Petitioned to Stop the War.

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LONDON, Feb. 23.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—One hundred and fifty clergymen of the Unitarian non-conformist sects sent a petition to Salisbury to stop the war and effect a permanent peace and good will between the Dutch and English in South Africa.

The crusade against Chamberlain's presence at the Wesleyan memorial still continues.

Austrian Press Favors Intervention.

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VIENNA, Feb. 23.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The Austrian press continues to insist on intervention. Vaterland, the conservative organ, declares the European powers have an interest in seeing the independence of the Boer republic preserved. The Osterdeuche Rundschou says the Boers must be protected from the tyranny of Great Britain.

Methuen Commands at Kimberley.

KIMBERLEY, Feb. 23.—Lord Methuen arrived here Tuesday. He will act as administrator of Kimberley district, extending southward to the Orange river. Colonel Kekewich will remain in command of the local forces.

The issue of siege soup ceases today. There are sixty-four Boer prisoners here.

Report British Casualties.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—The official report gives 146 men killed at Paardeberg drift Sunday February 18, including sixty-three Highlanders and eighteen Canadians.

WOULD AID ORIENTAL TRADE

Senate Committee Reports Favorably on Gallinger's Bill for a Commission.

WORK OF THE COMMISSIONERS OUTLINED

Suggestion that They Be Business and Agricultural Men and Be Given Plenty of Time for Investigation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Senator Gallinger today favorably reported from the committee on commerce the bill for the appointment of a commission to visit Asia in the interest of trade. In support of the bill the report states:

"During the last few years the attention of the American people has been forcibly directed to the necessity of increasing the foreign commerce of the United States and it has already been demonstrated that by properly directed efforts we shall be able to secure a largely increased export trade, both of our manufactured goods and the products of American farms. It goes without saying that the growth of our foreign trade will largely promote the prosperity of all classes of our people and the Orient, by practically common consent, holds the largest promise for our commercial expansion."

After presenting commercial statistics of the Orient the report continues:

"The bill contemplates that the commission shall be composed of representative business men selected from the five geographical divisions of the country, so that they shall represent all our people and all our industries. It is proposed to make such an appropriation as will enable the commission sufficient time in the Orient to acquire in detail all information needed by our exporters for the intelligent and successful prosecution of the business, and the purpose is also to gain information that will open the markets of the Orient to the product of our farms and to this end it is to be hoped that at least one representative of the agricultural interests of the country shall be appointed on the commission.

"The purpose is to make it a business commission, the chief end in view being to gain desirable information and secure concessions that will result in the widening of our markets in this most inviting and attractive field. It is hoped that under the direction of the president of the United States, and acting in conjunction with our diplomatic and consular agents, the commission will be able to secure modification of some of the existing conditions and thus open the way to the expansion of our products."

MINISTER DISCREDITS RUMOR

Representative from Nicaragua Does Not Believe War is Probable in Central America.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Senor Don Luis F. Corea, the Nicaraguan minister, said today in regard to the reported revolutionary invasion of Costa Rico, that, in the absence of any official information on the subject, he gave little credence to the probability of the trouble assuming the shape of a serious rupture between the countries concerned. He regards the reported invasion as merely the movements of a revolutionary band of exiled politicians who have crossed the Nicaraguan boundary line into Costa Rica. Senor Corea said that in his belief neither nation could be held responsible for the banding together of their political exiles into revolutionary bodies, nor of their movements.

MEETING OF DEMOCRATIC CLUBS.

National Association Will Gather at Indianapolis September 5.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The executive committee of the National Association of Democratic Clubs met here today, Chairman McMillan presiding, and decided to hold the next meeting at Indianapolis September 5. A delegation from that city appeared before the committee and promised the members a royal welcome. It was stated that a meeting there would have an excellent effect on the democratic situation in Indiana. Former Governor Black of Pennsylvania tendered his resignation as president and it was accepted with reluctance. Chairman McMillan will act in that capacity until a president is selected. Joseph C. Sibley of Pennsylvania tendered his resignation as a member of the executive committee and it was accepted.

A committee was appointed to co-operate with Secretary McKean in making preparations for the celebration of Jefferson's birthday in this city on April 18. It is the purpose to make the celebration an elaborate affair. A committee composed of former Governor Stone, Missouri; Senator Money, Mississippi; Representative Livingston, Georgia; ex-Representative James H. Lewis, Washington, and Governor Black, Pennsylvania, was appointed to confer with the national democratic committee in order to ascertain by what means the two organizations can best co-operate for the good of the party. This committee will also have charge of the selection of a president. His name will be announced at the dinner on Jefferson's birthday.

Many prominent members spoke to the effect that the democratic clubs throughout the country were performing excellent work and it was urged that the national executive committee should continue to put forth efforts to strengthen these organizations and have them co-operate and work in harmony. The meeting was largely attended and the speakers all said that the outlook for democratic success was good.

Amend Army Regulations.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—By direction of the secretary of war paragraph 158 of the army regulations has been amended to read:

"When a soldier is killed in action or dies at any post, hospital or station, it shall be the duty of his immediate commander to secure his effects and to prepare the inventory required by the 126th article of war, according to the prescribed form, and to notify the nearest relative of the fact of death. Duplicates of the inventory, with final statements, will be forwarded direct to the adjutant general of the army."

Heretofore there has been no requirement as to notification of the relatives.

House Agrees on Commission.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The house committee on commerce today acted favorably on the bill providing for a committee of five members to be appointed by the president to visit China, Japan and other Oriental countries to investigate their commercial resources and the opportunities for the extension of American trade. The bill was changed so as to conform to a like bill in the senate, one of the changes being a limitation of the salaries of the commissioners to $5,000 annually.

Name Post After Lawton.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—By direction of the president the new military post at Magnolia Bluff, near Seattle, Wash., will hereafter be known and designated as Fort Lawton, in honor of the late Major General Lawton, U. S. V. (colonel and inspector general U. S. A.), who was killed in action at San Mateo, Philippine Islands, on December 19, 1899.

BRYAN ON GROSVENOR'S TALK

He Explains Why He Favored the Ratification of the Paris Treaty.

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 22.—W. J. Bryan addressed a crowd which tested the capacity of the hall of the house of representatives tonight. About 1,500 people were turned away. He was asked tonight if he had seen Congressman Grosvenor's statement yesterday to the effect that he (Bryan) was equally responsible with the democrats who voted for ratification of the treaty and was estopped from opposing any of its legitimate effects.

"It is true that I favored the ratification of the treaty," said Mr. Bryan, "but I stated in my interview, published by the Associated Press on December 14, four days after the treaty was signed, or nearly two months before it was ratified, that in my judgment we should not only ratify the treaty, but that we should declare the nation's purpose to give the Filipinos independence upon the same terms that independence was promised to the Cubans. This opinion was reiterated time and again.

"The Bacon resolution made the promise of independence. It was introduced more than a month before hostilities began and there was a tie vote in the senate until the vice president cast the deciding vote and defeated it. If that resolution had been passed at the time Senator Bacon introduced it there would not have been any war in the Philippines.

Mr. Bryan said the location of the national convention would have but little effect on the attendance.

Arthur Sewall of Maine, Mr. Bryan's running mate on the ticket four years ago, left for New York at noon today.

Mr. Bryan denied that their conversation, which took place in a private car, chartered for the purpose, had any political significance.

TAMMANY ON CANAL TREATY

Denounces the Hay-Pauncefote Convention as a Violation of the Monroe Doctrine.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—At a meeting of the executive committee of Tammany hall held today these resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we denounce the so-called Pauncefote-Hay treaty as a violation of the Monroe doctrine, establishing an entangling alliance with Great Britain as depriving us of rightful commercial advantages that ought to accrue to us as constructors of the canal, and as not only robbing us of these advantages which it should give us, but as being a menace to the safety of the country by leaving open our Pacific possessions to an enemy's attack. We demand an American canal, built by America, free only to American ships, protected by American forts, mounted by American guns and manned by Americans. In demanding the defeat of this unpatriotic treaty in the senate, we recommend to the scorn of an indignant people the supine republican administration which has thus sought to sign away not only our rights, but our safety.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to our senators and representatives in congress.

The question of the selection of delegates to the national democratic convention then came up, but no definite action was taken.

"SAPPHO" HEARING IS BEGUN

After Two Witnesses Case is Continued Until Tuesday—To be Heard in Private.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—The case of Olga Nethersole, whose production of "Sappho" caused her arrest on Wednesday, was today adjourned in the Center street court until next Tuesday. The magistrate decided that the hearing should be private.

Several well dressed and refined looking women who had been summoned as witnesses protested vehemently that they had been "dragged into the case" through being induced to sign a petition against the play, not thinking that it would get them into court.

The first witness called was Robert McKay, a reporter. Abraham Hummel, attorney for Miss Nethersole, had her read a passage from the play, in which she says she will marry the man who is the father of her child. McKay said he did not think it immoral. He was then excused.

The next witness, Rev. Phoebe Hanna Fords, denounced the part where Fanny Le Grande (Sappho) is carried upstairs by Jean.

SUES SPAIN FOR DAMAGES

Indiana Man Charges Ill-Treatment While a Member of the Red Cross.

SPENCER, Ind., Feb. 23.—Victor Hochenstein has filed a claim for $200,000 against the Spanish government for treatment received from Spanish soldiers in Cuba while he was in the service of the Red Cross society. He served in the Soudan campaign in the British army and is an English pensioner.

He publicly charged in Havana that the Spanish blew up the Maine, was seized and confined in Moro castle.

WANT NEW CONVENTION DATE

Western Passenger Association Instructs Agents at Kansas City to Influence Local Committee.

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—At a meeting of the executive committee of the Western Passenger association held today it was decided to issue instructions to the various passenger agents at Kansas City to wait upon the citizens' committee in charge of the democratic national convention and urge that the convention date be changed.

Construction May Soon Begin.

SIOUX CITY, Feb. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—There are persistent rumors in railway circles in Sioux City today that the work of construction of the Omaha Northern will begin in about thirty days. E. P. Reynolds, jr., of Wymore, Neb., is in Sioux City tonight. He is one of the principal promoters of the road, but he declines to discuss the matter. Great interest in this much talked of air line is manifest in Sioux City, but no one seems to know or will tell who is behind the scheme.

New Trial for Essex.

OTTUMWA, Ia., Feb. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—Charles Essex, the young man who was convicted at the present term of the district court at Chariton on the charge of attempting to wreck the Burlington fast mail train on the night of November 23, has been granted a new trial. Judge Eichelberger's decision to that effect is said to meet with general approval and it is doubtful if the case ever comes up in court again.

Movements of Ocean Vessels, Feb. 23.

At New York—Arrived—Aller, from Bremen and Southampton.

At Havre — Arrived — La Gascogne, from New York.

At Hamburg—Arrived—Patricia, from New York.

At Yokohama—Arrived—Algoa, from San Francisco, for Hong Kong.

At Genoa — Arrived — Fuerst Bismarck, from New York, for Naples.

At Alexandria—Arrived February 17—New England, from Boston, via Funchal, on a cruise.

At Gibraltar — Arrived — Columbia, from New York, for Naples and Genoa.

At Antwerp—Sailed—Nederland, for Philadelphia.

PORTO RICAN BILL MAY FAIL

Motion to Recommit the Measure Will Command Strong Support.

LITTLEFIELD'S SPEECH AGAINST IT

Successor of Dingley in the House Makes a Brilliant Argument—Republicans to Caucus This Evening.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—An agreement was reached in the house today that the vote on the Porto Rican tariff bill be taken at 5 p. m. next Tuesday, general debate to close Monday.

Formal announcement was made that a republican conference would be held at 8 p. m. tomorrow. The leaders continue to express the belief that the bill will pass, but the impression is growing that a motion to recommit the bill to the committee on ways and means will command strong support and may prevail. Underwood, the democratic "whip," today sent out telegrams to all absent democrats to be present on Monday, when the voting may begin.

The speech of Littlefield of Maine was the feature of the day. He added to his laurels won in the Roberts debate by a speech against the bill, which for brilliancy, wit and logic rivals the best efforts of the recognized orators of the house. He made a profound impression and when he concluded it was several minutes before the demonstration that followed could be quelled.

Among the others who spoke today were: Jones of Virginia and Maddox of Georgia, against the bill, and Russell of Connecticut, Bartholdt of Missouri, Gardner of Michigan and Lacey of Iowa, for it. The debate continued at a night session.

Bartholdt, republican of Missouri, supported the bill.

Expansion Shibboleth of the Hour.

"The constitutional lawyers," said he, "are busy proving that we can hold outside possessions by treaty and govern them by the authority of congress, not regardless of the constitution, but rather without stretching it to cover such territory. I am inclined to agree with them.

"There is room in the United States for millions, yet expansion is the shibboleth of the hour. It has taken hold of men's minds. As lawmakers and politicians you must reckon with it and if existing laws and constitutions do not cover it they must give way.

"The material welfare of the American people depends upon commerce and trade and in the internal struggle, as much as philosophy and philanthropist may deprecate it, political systems are questions of no consideration. The Russian absolutist, the American democrat, the French republican and the German monarchist are on an equality. He alone has the advantage, who, by right of sovereignty, can control the great markets to the exclusion of the other. It is indeed a question of custom laws, the same as presented in this bill.

"To withdraw from the Philippines would be a crime against the Filipinos and a disgrace in the eyes of the world."

Bartholdt in closing referred to the remarks of Mr. Clark of Missouri a few days ago, saying the democrats were dexterously propagating the insinuation that a secret Anglo-American alliance existed in order to arouse the resentment of the Irish and German voters. Secretary Hay's reply to the Macrum resolution, he said, had nailed that lie.

Russell of Connecticut, a member of the ways and means committee, defended the bill, saying that if he felt reprehensible for his support of the measure it would be because it would give to the island a protection for the time being which would militate against the industries of the United States, but he thought the island at this time was entitled to some consideration in order that it might sooner or later become fit to enter the American union. The tobacco growers of Connecticut, he declared, had no interest in excluding Porto Rican tobacco.

Points Made by Littlefield.

Littlefield of Maine followed, speaking in time yielded to him by Richardson, the democratic leader.

"I oppose this bill," he began, "because it is unrepublican, unamerican, unprecedented, unwarranted and unconstitutional."

He occupied a painful position, he said. He was compelled to dissent from the policy advanced by distinguished men of his party, whose long experience in legislation made them worthy leaders. He was a republican and should support republican doctrines, but when a great question of right and wrong, of principle, was presented he should do right, as God gave him to see the right. (Democratic applause.) Moreover, he submitted that there were reasons why the pending bill should not receive the approval of the republican party. He was not aware, he said, that any section of the republican party, at any spot or place, had justified it.

Proceeding, Littlefield argued that the regeneration of the island of Porto Rico could be brought about by a loan which the United States could authorize it to raise. In 1893 Porto Rico had manumitted 39,000 slaves without tumult or bloodshed, the people paying $12,000,000 to free the bondmen. Could not these people, he asked, be trusted to repay a trifling loan to be used for the relief of the island.

All the people of Porto Rico asked was a stable government and "hands off." They could take care of themselves. Porto Rico could repay a loan of $10,000,000 if operating under free trade in free markets.

Calamity Overshadows the Party.

"I assert," added Littlefield, "that this bill is drawn against the advice of General Davis, governor general of the island, against the protest of the people of Porto Rico, against the counsel of Secretary Root, against the recommendations of the president and against the original recommendations of the chairman of the ways and means committee."

Littlefield chided Mr. Payne with not making public the reasons for his change of heart. He thought he knew the reason, but he would not suggest it. But the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Connecticut (Russell), he said, had declared that the importation of sugar and tobacco from Porto Rico would not interfere with our industries. If that were true, it would be interesting to know who suggested the change of base. He yielded to no man in his devotion to his party and it was better for his political friends to hear these things now than later on the stump, where they would be judged by the enlightened conscience of the American people. The greatest calamity which ever overshadowed the republican party, he said, was the calamity involved in the pending bill. (Applause.)

Littlefield said he would waste no time in quoting Jefferson, Jackson or Benton. For him it was sufficient if William McKinley had followed in the footsteps of Washington and Lincoln. And President McKinley had said that it was "the plain duty" of congress to give free trade to Porto Rico.

He directed his sarcasm against the bill, taking as an illustration a case of shipping

(Continued on Second Page.)

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—
Fair; Warmer; Northerly Winds.

Temperature at Omaha yesterday:

Hour.	Deg.	Hour.	Deg.
5 a. m.	35	1 p. m.	25
6 a. m.	33	2 p. m.	24
7 a. m.	30	3 p. m.	25
8 a. m.	29	4 p. m.	24
9 a. m.	28	5 p. m.	23
10 a. m.	26	6 p. m.	22
11 a. m.	24	7 p. m.	22
12 m.	25	8 p. m.	20
		9 p. m.	19

DEATH IN TWO TRAIN WRECKS

Two Trainmen Killed on the Big Four—Smashup on the Panhandle Road.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 23.—Big Four freight train No. 96, eastbound, went through a bridge over the Wabash river at the western limits of Terre Haute this afternoon, resulting in fatal injuries to Fireman Ruddle of this city and Brakeman John Whiteman of Mattoon, Ill. The train consisted of forty-nine cars and thirty-eight of them went into the stream. They were loaded with cotton, lumber and wheat and the loss will not be less than $200,000.

Engineer Harry Adams of this city went down with the wreck, but forced his way through the ventilator at the top of the cab of the engine and escaped with serious injuries.

STEUBENVILLE, O., Feb. 23.—A wreck on the Panhandle road tonight near Dinsmore, just east of this place, resulted in the probable fatal burning of one man, a passenger, unidentified, the burning of one coach and one baggage car and the complete demolition of two engines.

A westbound freight train struck a landslide in a deep cut, throwing the engine and several cars over onto the eastbound track just as the "greaser," a passenger train from Denison, which left here at 6:50 p. m., came around the curve. The "Greaser" crashed into the wrecked freight. The baggage car and forward coach of the passenger train soon caught fire, but it is believed all the passengers escaped, except one man.

BRINGS BACK DEAD SOLDIERS

Transport Hancock Arrives at San Francisco with 504 Bodies—Two Die En Route.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 23.—The United States army transport Hancock arrived today, twenty-six days from Manila, via Nagasaki. It had on board five army officers, including Brigadier General Gilbert S. Carpenter, retired, formerly colonel of the Eighteenth infantry on the Island of Panay, also about 100 discharged soldiers.

Two deaths occurred on the Hancock between Nagasaki and San Francisco. Lieutenant Charles H. Munton of the Twelfth infantry died from the effects of typhoid fever and sunstroke, and Sergeant Godwin F. Lane of the Twenty-first infantry died of typhoid fever. The bodies of both were embalmed and brought here.

The Hancock also brought the bodies of 504 American soldiers who had died in the Philippines, some killed in battle, others whose death resulted from wounds or disease. The names of the officers whose bodies have been returned on the Hancock are:

Lieutenant Colonel John Brierton, Thirty-third volunteer infantry; Major James Drennan, First Montana; Captain Woodbridge T. Geary, Thirteenth infantry; Captain Marion B. Saffold, Thirteenth infantry; Lieutenant Richard Wesnedde, Third infantry; Lieutenant Julian L. Davis, Thirty-sixth volunteer infantry; Lieutenant Fred A. Pierce, Third artillery; Lieutenant Charles H. Munton, Twelfth infantry.

AGAINST NEW CUBAN BISHOP

Leaflet Circulated Calling Upon the People to Show Sbaretti He is Unwelcome.

HAVANA, Feb. 23.—Today a leaflet was scattered broadcast calling upon Cubans to meet Mgr. Sbaretti, recently appointed bishop of Havana, upon his arrival at the wharf and to show him by their actions the indignation they feel at the appointment. The leaflet says:

"The bishop intentionally insults the people of Cuba in having arranged to land here tomorrow, which is their independence day."

No signatures are appended, but the leaflet purports to be issued by "various leaders of the revolution."

Civil Governor Nunez announces that he will not authorize any celebration tomorrow, except demonstrations of joy over the anniversary. He regards the outcry against Mgr. Sbaretti as not raised by genuine Cubans and says that he will take care that the bishop is neither molested nor insulted.

WESTERN UNION IS ENJOINED

Temporary Order Against it and Chicago Board of Trade Secured by Kansas City Firm.

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—Judge Tuley of the circuit court today granted a temporary injunction enjoining the Board of Trade and the Western Union Telegraph company from discontinuing the telegraph circuits over which general market information passes from the Board of Trade. The bill for injunction, which was presented by the Christie-Street Commission company of Kansas City, also seeks general relief from the effects of the alleged discrimination which it is asserted is planned against it and others by the Board of Trade in accordance with a policy of limiting the advantages of the daily market report to members of the board and a favored few. It is said that restraint of the free dissemination of the reports would be detrimental to public interest, and in restraint of trade. The order of the court was issued without notice to the defendants.

FATAL FIRE AT PHILADELPHIA

One Woman Loses Her Life, Other Strawgoods Factory Employes Injured.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23.—A fire which broke out at 7 o'clock tonight in the strawgoods manufactory of S. May, 721 Arch street, resulted in the loss of a woman employe's life, the injury of several girls who jumped from windows and the destruction of property valued at several hundred thousand dollars. The fire extended to the adjoining buildings and about twenty firms were burned out.

The fire was under control in about two hours and was confined to the buildings from 715 to 729 Arch street.

Ferryboat Watchman Robbed.

COLUMBUS, O., Feb. 23.—A special to the Dispatch from Bellaire, O., says: Four masked men held up the two watchmen on the ferryboat Charon here today and, after binding both with ropes, they dynamited the safe, securing about $200. After getting the money they forced the watchmen to row them across the river through ice that threatened to crush the frail boats.

GAMBLE FOR SENATE

South Dakota Congressman a Likely Successor to Senator Pettigrew.

STANDS A GOOD CHANCE OF ELECTION

Republicans of the State Dead Set Against Pickerel Statesman.

BOUND TO DEFEAT HIM IF POSSIBLE

Will Make the Fight of Their Lives for Solid Delegation.

MANY CANDIDATES FOR GAMBLE'S SHOES

Hot Campaign in Sight, with Good Chances for Republican Success All Along the Line—Gubernatorial Gossip.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—The political situation in South Dakota is becoming one of deep consideration to republicans in Washington, who purpose to make what they say will be the "fight of their lives" for a successor to Pettigrew and a solid delegation in the lower house.

While Congressman Gamble has not made a public announcement as to his intentions it is pretty generally understood here that he will shortly announce his candidacy formally for the senate against Pettigrew and will decline a renomination for congress.

Already a number of candidates from Gamble's section of South Dakota are in the field for the congressional nomination and lively times may be looked for in the Black Hills. W. S. Glass of Watertown, S. D., who has served in the legislature of the state three times, is ambitious to receive the nomination, which will probably go to the Black Hills section of the state. Walter S. Mead of Lead is also a candidate for Gamble's seat and there are those who believe that he will come pretty near landing the nomination. According to those well informed in South Dakota politics, Erwin Vancise, who contested the delegation with Phillips, will also be in the running. W. G. Rice of Deadwood is also a receptive candidate. He, too, has had experience in the state legislature and would like to come to Washington.

For governor there is even greater uncertainty as to the outcome. Names are not being used with as much freedom as candidates for congress. It is thought, however, that Charles N. Herreid, chairman of the republican state central committee, will be nominated, although he is not a candidate. He is regarded as an exceptionally strong man and is most favorably looked upon by the people of the state. It is believed that Charles J. Burke will be renominated for congress by acclamation.

Not Considered Decisive.

The vote today on the Quay case, while having a strong moral effect for Pennsylvania, is not considered decisive. Senator Tillman announced that Senators Thurston and Allen, who were absent from the senate, would be paired on a motion for consideration, Allen having stated to Tillman that he desired to be paired with his colleague in his absence. It was stated about the senate today that Allen had intimated he would vote for consideration, but would vote against seating Quay. It was this statement that probably led to a pair being arranged between Thurston and Allen, as it was believed Thurston would have voted against consideration of the Quay case had he been present.

W. H. Thompson of Grand Island, democratic national committeeman for Nebraska, who was defeated in his efforts to have an early democratic convention, was the guest of the Nebraska populist delegation at dinner today. He leaves for Nebraska tomorrow.

Governor and Mrs. Poynter have changed their plans about returning to Nebraska and will not leave before tomorrow afternoon. The governor will call on the Department of Agriculture tomorrow upon matters affecting the interests of his state.

Congressman Mercer, with members of the public buildings and grounds committee, has gone to New York on business connected with the committee.

ON THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION.

Three Men Whom the President Will Probably Appoint.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The president has about decided on the appointment of Henry C. Ide of Vermont and General Luke E. Wright of Tennessee as members of the Philippine commission and unless something now unforeseen occurs their selection probably will be announced shortly. He has also summoned Prof. Bernard Moses of California to Washington for a conference on the Philippine question and has in contemplation the tender of a place to him. Ide is a lawyer by profession, a native of Vermont and is 56 years of age. He was United States commissioner to Samoa in 1891 and chief justice of Samoa under joint appointment of England, Germany and the United States.

General Wright is a distinguished lawyer of Memphis, a veteran of the civil war and a friend of Judge Taft, the head of the commission, before whom he has practiced.

Bernard Moses of Berkeley, Cal., has been professor of political economy in the University of California since 1875. He is the author of several works on political economy and kindred subjects.

MAY BE TWO POLYGAMY REPORTS.

Probably a Disagreement by House Committee on Utah Charges.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—There are likely to be two reports on the investigation of charges that certain federal appointees in Utah are polygamists. The house committee on postoffices and postroads took the testimony and Messrs. McPherson and Brownlow have drawn a report. But the democratic members of the committee are not disposed to accept this report on the ground that it goes too far in dismissing the charges and at a meeting today it was decided to ask that the report be divided. In case this is not done a minority report will probably be submitted.

Increasing the Small Notes.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Beginning tomorrow the issue division of the Treasury department will put on a double force to increase the supply of notes of small denominations of ones, twos, fives and tens. About $480,000 in sheets of four notes each will be turned out each day. This action is taken with a view to meeting promptly the increased demand for small notes, which has been much greater this year than ever before in the history of the country.

Postmasters Appointed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—Iowa postmasters appointed: C. I. Cowell, at Bryantburg, Buchanan county; S. I. McKee at Elkhart, Polk county; W. S. Berry, at Letts, Louisa county, and W. C. Worley at Sylvia, Linn county.