

BOERS TO TAKE VOTE

South Africans Allowed to Submit the Proposals of Peace to a Plebiscite.

LEADERS WILL CONFER AT PRETORIA

Action Decided on After Two Conferences with Kitchener and Milner.

BRITISH REFUSE TO GRANT AN ARMISTICE

Concede Instead Right of Burghers to Hold a Popular Election.

RESULT EXPECTED IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS

English Authorities Deeny that Boer Leaders Joined Conferences at Pretoria at Suggestion of British Commanders.

LONDON, April 18.—The government leader, A. J. Balfour, in the House of Commons today made the following important statement:

After two conferences between Lord Milner, the British high commissioner of South Africa, and Lord Kitchener and the Boer delegates, the British government has decided to grant an armistice, on military grounds, has agreed to give facilities for the Boer and British representatives of the various Boer commandos to continue their negotiations. The Boer leaders have, therefore, left Pretoria to carry out this plan.

Mr. Balfour added that it was not expected that communication between the British and Boer leaders would be resumed in less than three weeks' time.

Mr. Balfour's statement made a generally favorable impression. It was argued among the members that the action of the Boer leaders demonstrates that at any rate a majority of the delegates favor the acceptance of the suggested British peace terms. The submission of the question to a plebiscite of the Burghers is according to Boer law, which requires leaders of armed forces in the field to take the opinion of their followers in concluding peace.

Boers Act on Own Impulse. It is officially asserted that the contentions of the Boer leaders to the effect that the Boer leaders want to negotiate with the British authorities are absolutely unfounded. The action of the Boers was entirely spontaneous, and this is regarded here as the best evidence of a genuine desire to bring about a settlement by peaceful negotiation, and as being indicative of the character of the advice which will be given to the burghers by the leaders, who are now returning to their various commands.

THE HAGUE, April 18.—A. D. W. Wolmarans, the Boer delegate, said today that he had no knowledge whatever of any particulars regarding the South African peace negotiations, nor of the report published in Amsterdam to the effect that the negotiations had been broken off.

INCREASES CAPITAL STOCK

Holland-American Steamship Company Decides to Expand to Eight Million Dollars.

ROTTERDAM, April 18.—At a meeting here today of the shareholders of the Holland-America Steamship company it was decided to increase the capital of the concern from 5,000,000 to 8,000,000 florins (\$3,000,000 to \$3,000,000).

LONDON, April 18.—Mr. Pierce of Harland & Wolff said to a representative of the Associated Press tonight:

There is no association of steamship lines connected with the plan for the improvement of the Holland-America Steamship service. We have just completed six new steamers for the American trade of the company and, in the event of a portion of their stock which otherwise they would have put on the market.

FRIENDLY TO FOREIGNERS

Chinese Rebels in Steadily Growing Insurrection Do not Molest Christians.

HONG KONG, April 18.—Rev. Mr. Lentin, an American missionary, who has arrived here from Nan-Ning, province of Kwang-Si, confirms the reports of the seriousness of the rebellion in southern provinces of China. He says all trade beyond Nan-Ning is paralyzed. The stores there are packed with goods stopped on their way to the interior.

TWO NATIONS NOW AT PEACE

France and Venezuela Sign Protocol Terminating Long Suspension of Diplomatic Relations.

CARACAS, Venezuela, Thursday, April 17.—The congress of Venezuela having yesterday adopted the French protocol providing for a renewal of diplomatic relations between France and Venezuela, the ratification of the protocol was signed today by St. Quentin, the French chargé d'affaires for France, and Senor Pachano, the Venezuelan minister of foreign affairs for Venezuela. This terminates the suspension of relations between France and Venezuela, which were broken in 1895.

To Continue Strike Peacefully.

BRUSSELS, April 18.—The general council of the labor party met this morning and decided to continue the strike, but peacefully. Numbers of strikers, however, are resuming work and tranquility is reported from all parts of the country.

Successor for Spingaline.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 18.—Senator Von Plehwa, secretary of state for Finland, has been appointed minister of the interior to succeed the late M. Spingaline, who was assassinated April 13.

Texas Knights Templar.

EL PASO, Tex., April 18.—The Texas Knights Templar, in session here, have elected their officers and elected officers Jacob F. Zorn of Fort Worth was elected grand commander. Austin was elected grand secretary. The order is in a very flourishing condition in the state, with 12 commanderies. There will be a parade and a banquet will also be given at the Sheldon hotel tonight.

METEOR HAS EVENTFUL TRIP

Safety of Emperor William's New Yacht on One Ocean Was Endangered.

LONDON, April 18.—The voyage from New York of the German imperial yacht Meteor III, which anchored off Hythe in Southampton water yesterday evening, was by no means uneventful. It had plenty of bad weather and once even the safety of the yacht was endangered. Lieutenant Commander Karpf, Emperor William's representative on board, in an interview with a representative of the Associated Press, said:

With a strong northeast wind the yacht was under its own canvas for the first couple of days, leaving the steamer Meteor III, which accompanied us, to follow in tow until April 8, when, owing to a heavy swell, the yacht was carried away. Toward evening of the following day when the wind had fallen, the yacht was again in a hard westerly gale. On April 11, while again towing, a hard easterly blow sprang up, blowing the yacht away from the steamer, which was only just able to keep steering way in the heavy sea.

The weather became so bad that we were obliged to stop for the night. Thereafter the weather was generally fine. We towed the rest of the way to port. The behavior of the yacht splendidly and remained dry throughout the bad weather. It is a fast sailer.

SIBERIAN PEASANTS STARVE

Famine and Disease Devastate a Once Rich and Fertile Section.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 18.—The reports received here from the famine-stricken districts of Russia more than justify the anticipation of acute suffering, those localities. Scurvy and typhoid fever are devastating the peasantry throughout the whole of the Altai (highlands of Siberia) region, formerly the chief granary of Russia. The starving people there have consumed their last remnants of their seed grain and no spring crops have been sown. The last wheat sold in Altai was at 2 1/2 roubles per pod, against the normal price of 16 to 20 copecks per pod. In some places the scarcity of fodder is so great that the cattle have been unchained to save the lives of the cattle and horses.

The gravity of the situation is evidenced by the latest disease statistics. At Menzliak, government of Cufa, there have been upwards of 4,000 cases of typhus, hunger and scurvy; at Belbeky, 682 cases have been reported and at Akmolinsk 1,000 cases have occurred. Similar reports come from Vorezh, Kazan and Saratoff.

The Red Cross society is furnishing all the aid at its command, in the way of rice kitchens and medicines.

SUPPLIES FOR COLOMBIA

Troops and Funds Are Received and Government is Now Ready to End Rebellion.

COLON, Colombia, April 18.—A thousand government troops from the Department of Santander reached Colon last night by way of Barranquilla, on board the former French steamer St. Jernain and the Colombian general Paz, who is in command of the troops under the command of General Luis Morales Bertel.

At Barranquilla he has 2,000 additional soldiers ready to send to the isthmus at the first opportunity. The government is now able, owing to the defeat of the insurgents in the interior of the country, to send any necessary reinforcements to the isthmus, to put an end to the insurrection in the Department of Panama.

The government is also receiving large sums of money from Bogota, Antioquia, Barranquilla and Cauca, to meet the necessary war expenses.

COOK MUST STAND TRIAL

Lieutenant of Scouts to Answer Charges Similar to Those Against Walter and Day.

MANILA, April 18.—Lieutenant John A. Day of the marine corps testified today at his trial by court-martial, charged with the murder of Samar without trial, that the president of Batey, Samar, and his fellow plotters were shot, as he believed, by the orders of Major Glenn.

The trial was adjourned until April 22. Lieutenant Day of the scouts is to be tried by court-martial on charges similar to those brought against Major Walter and Lieutenant Day.

Oppose American Capital.

LONDON, April 18.—During the course of today's session of the select committee of the House of Lords appointed to inquire into the merits of various proposed railway schemes for London, the opponents of some of Charles Yerkes' plans objected to the introduction of American capital, contending that all orders for the machinery and equipments required for Mr. Yerkes' scheme were going to the United States. Lord Nuffield said the committee did not care whether the capital was American or British so long as the committee was satisfied that the line would be properly financed.

Cable Communication Suspended.

NEW YORK, April 18.—The Western Union Telegraph company's central cable office issued the following notice this morning:

All telegraphic communication with the interior of the republic of Colombia is suspended. The only cities not affected by this advice are Colon, Panama and Buena Ventura.

Marquis of Downshire Divorced.

LONDON, April 18.—The marquis of Downshire was granted a divorce today because of the misconduct of the marchioness, who was a Miss Hare, with Captain Joseph Laycock, of the Yeomanry. The case was not defended, counsel for the respondent admitting the truth of the charges made.

No Rebate Duty on Flour.

LONDON, April 18.—The chancellor of the exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, announced in the House of Commons today that no rebate of duty would be allowed on re-exported flour made from imported wheat on which the new duty of 4 pence (6 cents) per hundred weight had been paid.

Loan Applications Closed.

LONDON, April 18.—The list of applications for the issue of the new loan, £18,000,000, offered to the public, were closed this morning owing to the heavy oversubscription and the inconvenience to the market arising from locking up such a large amount of money.

CHINA RAISES A PROTEST

Complains of Injustices Practiced by American Exclusion Officers at Ports.

PLEADS AGAINST HARSH RESTRICTIONS

Petition Presented to Minister, Congress and Signed by Prince Ching, Asks Exception of Philippines from Operation of Bill.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The secretary of the United States Department of State today received a protest from the Chinese government against the exclusion of Chinese from the Philippine islands. The communication is as follows:

On the ninth of the first moon of the twenty-eighth year, Kwang Hsu (February 18, 1902), received a petition from certain Chinese merchants in the Philippines, saying that the United States officers are obstructing the entry of Chinese into their ports and that when Chinese arrive they are treated with harshness and are not allowed to trade with the natives. It is there is any mistake made by them in their verbal statements they are not allowed to land, but are compelled to return to China. I find on examination that the Philippines are not far from China, and that from the time of the Ming dynasty, which preceded the present day, a large number of emigrants have gone there from Fukien and the two Kwang, amounting to 10,000,000, more or less, and that it is very difficult to put a stop to the coming and going of their families, fellow citizens and relatives.

Says Emigrants Were Ill Treated.

These emigrants were formerly ill treated and harassed by the Spanish government, but they were never forbidden to land or forcibly driven back to China. Our honorable country has usually the reputation of being lenient and at present our relations with China are especially friendly. There are places to which the restrictions agreed upon in past treaties apply, but while the restrictions of the Philippines may be entirely abrogated, there has never been any treaty applying the restrictions to those who are already in the islands. It is to be made between the United States and the Philippines, and all are to be subjected to these harsh restrictions. The humane consideration of your honorable country will hardly be able to escape injury.

As in duty bound, I send this dispatch to your excellency, requesting you to transmit to your government and ask them to adopt some plan to withdraw the Philippines from the operations of this harsh regulation, which will be amicable and just. The communication is signed by Prince Ching, president of the Chinese Board of Foreign Affairs.

SEES POLITICS IN EULOGY

Champ Clark Picks Flaw with Hay's Oration on Late President McKinley.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The joint special committee of congress on the exercises for the late President McKinley, today adopted a resolution, which will be reported to the house by Representative Champ Clark, giving the thanks of congress to Secretary Hay for the oration delivered on the occasion of the exercises.

Representative Champ Clark of Missouri stated that he might determine to make a minority report. He referred to Mr. Hay's oration as a literary gem, in which a complete report in the interest of harmony, but there is a possibility of a rupture in the organization over this very matter. There are judges which have instructed their delegates to withdraw from the convention if any concessions whatever are made to the strikers. It is a serious phase on the situation and adds much interest to the convention proceedings today. While it is hardly probable that the delegates instructed to withdraw will adopt such extreme measures, they are apt to stir up a row. The feeling in the convention is at a white heat, on this as well as other questions, and stormy times are ahead. The situation presents so many possibilities that the finest grade of diplomacy will be required of the officers and cooler heads to preserve harmony.

The program, as arranged for the convention, provides for a reception to the women tomorrow afternoon. The convention will close with banquet at the National hotel tomorrow evening.

The business sessions of the convention will be held at the Coliseum, where the annual election will occur tomorrow.

A W. Doolittle of Quincy, probably succeeded J. C. Peoria for president, and J. C. Jones of Peoria will probably be re-elected treasurer.

TRAVELERS ARE IN SESSION

Illinois Members of T. P. A. Accompanied by Wives, Meet at Peoria in Annual Convention.

PEORIA, Ill., April 18.—The annual convention of the Illinois division of the Travelers' Protective Association of America, begins at the National hotel in this city this afternoon at 8 o'clock and the 250 delegates who are expected to attend, began arriving, accompanied by their wives, early this morning.

The program, as arranged for the convention, provides for a reception to the women this afternoon at the parlors of the National hotel, a musical program and reception in the Elks club rooms this evening and a trolley ride about the city for the women tomorrow afternoon. The convention will close with banquet at the National hotel tomorrow evening.

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SPINAL CORD IS SEVERED

Man Lives and Case is One of the Most Remarkable on Record.

HELENA, Mont., April 18.—Four physicians who were called in consultation last night in the case of Thomas Crystal, who was shot last Friday by J. S. Keefe, former president of the Montana Engineers' society, are unanimous in their finding that Crystal's spinal cord was completely severed by a bullet, an injury that usually causes instant death.

The physicians declare that it is a most remarkable case. It was agreed that an operation would be useless as well as extremely dangerous. Aside from this very serious injury Crystal's condition is not dangerous. His temperature and pulse are not normal, but neither indicates that there is danger of death in the immediate future.

ALLEGES BREACH OF TREATY

Van Velsinger Sends Letter to President, Saying British Mute Transfer Contrary to Washington Treaty.

CHICAGO, April 18.—Peter Van Velsinger, who has been one of the most active friends of the Boers in Chicago, today sent to President Roosevelt an open letter advancing an argument against the British mute transfer from the Philippines.

He declares that the transfer is in violation of the treaty of Washington. "Article 6 of that treaty," the letter says, "lays down three rules, by which the arbitrators are to be governed. The second rule declares a neutral government is bound to permit its ports neither belligerent to make use of its ports or waters as the basis of naval operations against the other or for the purpose of renewal or augmentation of military supplies or arms or the recruitment of men."

Further along the letter says: "Great Britain made no scruple of asserting the terms of the treaty of Washington against this country on the first and only occasion when our government was at war with a foreign state. April 26, 1868, the United States and Great Britain signed a treaty of amity, commerce and consular rights, which was proclaimed by the president of the United States on June 12, 1868. This treaty provided that the United States should not be bound to permit its ports or waters as the basis of naval operations against the other or for the purpose of renewal or augmentation of military supplies or arms or the recruitment of men."

In this proclamation Great Britain insists that her ports and waters shall not be used to abet the military activity of belligerent powers, and we now request the enforcement of that rule in the case of the Philippines. The classification prepared by the State department, published by Secretary Long June 20, 1898, in his "instructions to blockading vessels and cruisers" (General order 492, paragraph 29), horses are designated as "absolutely contraband" of war.

If absolutely contraband of war, it is necessary to prove that horses have been considered contraband of war by the United States government the following instances in which they have been so classified might be cited:

In the treaty between the United States and Bolivia (treaties and conventions, 1839, page 96, article xvii) horses, with their furniture, are comprehended as contraband of war. In the following other treaties a similar specification is made:

Treaty between United States and Brazil (treaties and conventions 1859, page 105) article xv.

Treaty between United States and Colombia (treaties and conventions 1859, page 185) article xvii.

Treaty between United States and Haiti (treaties and conventions 1859, page 541) article xv.

Treaty between United States and Peru (treaties and conventions 1859, page 1191) article xvii.

Treaty between United States and Sweden and Norway (treaties and conventions 1859, page 1142) article xv.

As in duty bound, I have been at work for months preparing material for this letter. He concludes with a request that the president give the matter "earnest consideration and early attention."

MUCH TACT IS REQUIRED

Fine Diplomacy is Necessary to Preserve Harmony Among Amalgamated Delegates.

WHEELING, W. Va., April 18.—At today's session of the Amalgamated association convention the report of the committee on contested seats is being made. It is a complete report in the interest of harmony, but there is a possibility of a rupture in the organization over this very matter. There are judges which have instructed their delegates to withdraw from the convention if any concessions whatever are made to the strikers. It is a serious phase on the situation and adds much interest to the convention proceedings today. While it is hardly probable that the delegates instructed to withdraw will adopt such extreme measures, they are apt to stir up a row. The feeling in the convention is at a white heat, on this as well as other questions, and stormy times are ahead. The situation presents so many possibilities that the finest grade of diplomacy will be required of the officers and cooler heads to preserve harmony.

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KNOCKS SUGAR TRUST PLANS

Nebraska Beet Sugar Producer Gives His Views on Results of House Action.

CHICAGO, April 18.—(Special Telegram.)—Howard G. Leavitt of Leavitt, Neb., president of the Standard Beet Sugar company, a friend of Mr. Oxnard, who has been in Washington in the interest of the beet sugar throughout the fight on the Cuban sugar tariff reduction, was in Chicago last night. He said:

"The house vote is a victory for American sugar producers and a defeat for the Sugar trust. The proposed 20 per cent reduction would by itself not have benefited Cuba, but would have helped the Sugar trust in its war against the beet sugar producers."

"That trust last year sold sugar on the Missouri river for 3 1/2 cents, which they sold in New York for 5 cents, and which cost them 4 cents."

"Under the bounty system and the 'Kartel' in Europe, soon to be abolished by the results of the Brussels conference, the continent of Europe was producing sugar at 1 1/2 cents less in cost than the selling price fetched. That sugar, shipped to England free of duty, killed the refineries there, but built up a great preserving business. Now the English refiners will again spring up, create a world demand for Cuban sugar and a competition with the American Sugar trust. It is estimated that continental beet sugar production the next year alone will fall off \$40,000,000 tons."

"Hence Cuba, it appears, is bound to be relieved soon by the action of world causes, whereas the much trumpeted 20 per cent reduction of duty here would have helped it not at all, but on the other hand, would have aided the Sugar trust to complete its war of extermination against the beet sugar producers in our west."

VICTORY FOR BEET SUGAR

Hopeful of Iowa Votes with 'Insurgents' to Overrule Ruling of Chair.

BURKETT AND MERCER EXPLAIN VOTES

Opinion General that the Bill in Its Present Form Cannot Secure Enough Votes to Pass in the Senate.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, April 18.—(Special Telegram.)—The first skirmish between the beet sugar men and the ways and means committee was fought today and the beet sugar men of a decisive victory. Until last night there seemed to be no ground for the optimism of Messrs. Tawney of Minnesota, Smith of Michigan and their followers who have insisted for several weeks past that they would knock out Payne, Dalzell, Steele and Gronover, ways and means leaders. But last night the democrats in caucus decided to vote solidly against the chair, if the chair ruled that the proposition to abolish the differential against refined sugar was "not germane."

That action by the democrats gave the so-called "insurgents" renewed hope. Then followed the convincing speech of Hepburn of Iowa and the scholarly argument of Littlefield of Maine in support of the amendment of Morris of Minnesota absorbing the differential against refined sugars. The fight was won before the vote was taken. But the great majority in favor of American interests against the Insurgent vote was unexpected under Cuban reciprocity was unexpected.

Messrs. Mercer and Burkett voted with the ways and means committee to sustain Mr. Sherman's ruling against the Morris amendment to abolish the differential being germane. In this they were with the Iowa Insurgents, but the scholarly argument of Hepburn, who remained an "insurgent" to the finish. But they all joined in and supported the bill after it had been amended, in explaining his own vote and that of Mr. Mercer. Mr. Burkett said to the Bee correspondent:

Burkett and Mercer Explain. "The beet sugar men said that taking off the differential would not hurt the beet sugar industry. We believe it would help the consumer, but neither of us thought it was in order as an amendment to this bill. After the house decided it was in order, we could only vote for it or against it. We voted for it, believing it to be in the interest of our constituents."

The four fusion members from Nebraska, Messrs. Millard and Dietrich, ready to vote against the bill as it was reported from the ways and means committee, and now that it has been amended disassociated from the sugar refiners, who hoped to profit to the extent of 20 per cent, and who are, as their own program, there seems to be no hope of its passing at all.

Senators Watch Fight. Among the senators who were conspicuous on the floor of the house during this memorable debate were Messrs. Dietrich, Millard, Dooliver and Clark of Wyoming, who showed intense interest throughout the discussion, remaining in the chamber until the final vote was taken.

Senator Weaver introduced a bill today providing for the appointment of an additional circuit judge for the eighth circuit.

Representative Tongue of Oregon introduced a bill today authorizing the census department to collect statistics relative to irrigation and crops raised by irrigation during the crop year of 1902. Should this bill pass it will give employment to a number of special agents.

Miss Gertrude Dietrich, daughter of Nebraska's senior senator, joined her father today on a short visit from her school at Bryn Mawr.

Miss Almeta B. Houtze, daughter of J. E. Houtze of Lincoln, arrived in Washington yesterday and is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Andrews.

John Alphe of Wist, S. D., has been appointed a railway mail clerk.

Postmasters appointed: Nebraska, F. C. Walker, vice Willmore county, vice R. G. Williams, Jr., resigned. South Dakota, Ole Aune, Mariandah, Yankton county, Wyoming, Mattier Johnson, Corbun, Big Horn county.

The postoffice at Dairville, Grundy county, Ia., has been ordered discontinued April 19.

A postoffice has been ordered established at Houck, Natrona county, Wyo., and Edward O. Houck appointed postmaster.

A civil service examination will be held June 3 for an assistant matron in the Indiana school at Rapid City, S. D.

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CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—Fair Saturday! Cooler in Southeast.

Table with 4 columns: Temperature at Omaha Yesterday, Hour, Deg., and Hour, Deg. Rows show temperatures for 5 a.m., 8 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m., and 11 p.m.

EDITORS WARM UP ON MADDEN

Delegates to National Convention Severely Arraign Third Assistant Postmaster General.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., April 18.—Today's sessions of the National Editorial association was a lively one and for a short while the assembly was like a political convention. The storm arose after a paper had been read by W. H. Tuttle of Chicago, attorney for the National Publishers' bureau on "The Postal Laws." Mr. Tuttle severely arraigned Third Assistant Postmaster General Madden on account of the rulings he has recently made with regard to the mailing of certain classes of publications.

Avery Moore of Idaho moved that the convention pass a resolution asking congress to investigate the acts of the third assistant postmaster general and take summary action. It was then pointed out that Mr. Moore's motion was of order. A motion to suspend the rules was lost by a narrow majority.

Mr. Moore vigorously attacked the methods of Assistant Postmaster General Madden.

Ex-Congressman Owen Scott of Illinois asked the convention to take no harsh action. Hon. Lefe Young also advocated a little less speed in condemning Mr. Madden and begged the delegates not to rush to the conclusion that Mr. Madden was entirely wrong.

By unanimous vote G. A. Willard of Roosevelt, N. Y., was elected president of the association. Mr. Willard is a state senator.

PROTEST ON RE-INSPECTION

Montana Stockmen Think Federal Certificate of Health a Sufficient Guarantee.

HELENA, Mont., April 18.—The North Montana Range association today adopted a resolution protesting against the reinspection of stock by the inspectors of Colorado and Wyoming while in transit from the south to northern ranges, when federal inspectors have given a certificate of health for them. The association also asked congress to amend the law requiring the unloading and feeding of stock in transit every twenty-six hours, so that the limit will be placed at forty-eight hours, endorsed national irrigation, protected against the oleomargarine bill and endorsed W. E. Skinner, manager of the Chicago International Livestock show, for the position of manager of the livestock department of the St. Louis fair.

DEWEY INVITED TO DENVER

Want Hero of Manila to Attend Banquet in Honor of Funston.

DENVER, Colo., April 18.—Admiral Dewey has been invited to come to Denver and be a guest of honor at a banquet which the first regiment, Colorado National Guard, will