

IT WAS TOO HOT.

Boers' Fire Repulsed an Attack Upon a Fort.

SORTIE FROM MAFEKING.

Britons Could Not Endure the Hail of Boers' Bullets.

SEVERAL OFFICERS KILLED.

A Correspondent of the London Times Who Witnessed the Fray Asserts that the Boers Used Explosive Bullets, Causing Frightful Wounds.

London, Jan. 6.—The Times publishes the following dispatch from Mafeking, dated December 26: "At dawn to-day Col. Powell organized an unsuccessful attack upon a strong position of the enemy at Gametree, two miles from Mafeking, from which the Boers have been maintaining a desultory fire for several weeks. The railway has recently been reconstructed between the town and Gametree, where the Boers had destroyed it, the final repairs being made in preparation for the sortie. During the night the armored train with Maxim and Hotchkiss guns and troops took up positions for attack from two sides.

"Emplacements were thrown up during the night, the orders being to attack at dawn and the artillery fire to desist upon prolonged tooting from the armored train. At daybreak the guns opened fire and rapidly drew the reply of the enemy, our shells bursting within effective range. Capt. Vernon gave the signal to cease firing and to advance, his squadron leading off. As our men engaged the position with their rifle fire, it was soon found that the strength of the fort was greater than we had supposed. The enemy concentrated such an exceedingly hot fire that the advance of Capt. Vernon was almost impossible, but with remarkable heroism Capt. Sanford and Vernon, Lieut. Patton and Scout Cook, who guided the squadrons, and a few men reached the sandbags of the fort within 300 yards of the fort. But nothing living could exist there, since the ground was swept by Mause and Martini bullets.

"The men who charged through this zone of fire suffered terribly and in following their officers to capture the fort 20 men lost their lives. Capt. Sanford was the first to fall and Capt. Vernon, already twice wounded, and Lieut. Patton were killed at the foot of the fort. These two officers, climbing a ditch which surrounded the fort, thrust their revolvers through the enemy's loopholes only to be shot themselves the next minute. Gametree is surrounded with scrub which contained many sharpshooters, and their accuracy of fire confused the men.

"Being without commanders they were driven off at one point, but they endeavored to scale the fort at others. They found the position of the Boers, however, almost impregnable. When we retired under cover of the armored train so many men had been wounded that a suspension of hostilities occurred. We had almost completely surrounded the fort, and had it not been so well protected we would now be in possession. The fort is circular in form, with a wide interior and narrow frontage, between 6 and 7 feet high, pierced with triple tiers of loopholes and surrounded by a ditch.

"I was permitted to assist in dressing the wounds, a majority of which appeared to have been caused by explosive bullets, the point of entry being small, but the area of injury covering a wide region. While the wounded were being attended numbers of Boers left their trenchments and gathered around. They referred me to the field cornet, who denied the use of explosive bullets. He admitted that at one time explosive bullets had been served out, but he said he was certain they had all been previously expended and none could have been used on this occasion.

"No decisive operation is reported from South Africa this morning, the military activity being confined to points of subsidiary importance. In the central theater of operations the British apparently have secured no substantial gains.

"The question of contraband seizures takes the paramount place in the thoughts of the public, the possibility that these may be made a pretext for continental intervention disturbing official and private observers. The government's purpose to enforce the right of search has been set forth in instructions sent yesterday by the admiralty to the British naval commanders in South African waters, giving them warnings to uphold the government measures for suppressing the importation of contraband by way of Delagoa bay.

A Daring Dash for Liberty.

Chicago, Jan. 6.—Thomas Downs, sentenced from here to the Joliet penitentiary, escaped from his custodian Thursday night by jumping from a passenger train going at full speed about ten miles from Green Castle, Ind.

A Big Smoke.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 6.—Richmond last night suffered the severest fire loss it was had for years. The fire broke out in the Merchants and Planters' Tobacco Co. warehouse, in which was stored 3,600 hogsheds of tobacco, and the building and contents were destroyed. Loss \$400,000; insurance \$350,000.

Roberts Argues in His Own Behalf.

Washington, Jan. 6.—The Roberts investigating committee continued its session yesterday and Mr. Roberts argued his side of the case for almost five hours.

BUBONIC PLAGUE.

The Disease Appears at Honolulu and Results in Five Deaths in the Hawaiian City.

Manila, Jan. 4.—The health officers have found a native with all the symptoms of bubonic plague in a house in the walled city, where two suspicious deaths have occurred. The patient has been isolated and every precaution has been taken to prevent a spread of the disease.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Surgeon General Wyman has no confirmation of the report that three suspected cases of bubonic plague have been discovered within the walled city of Manila, but no attempt is made to conceal the gravity of the situation should the report prove true. Still it is said that a few sporadic cases need not necessarily result in an epidemic in the islands.

The methods of fighting it are isolation, disinfection and sanitation. The greatest danger is due to its possible introduction into new localities through walking cases which defy the surveillance of the authorities. One feature of the disease which is gratifying in view of the possible outbreak of an epidemic in the Philippines, is the fact that it does not attack Europeans as readily as natives.

Surgeon General Wyman has received a long report from Surgeon Carmichael, at Honolulu, bearing on the condition of affairs there regarding the bubonic plague. Under date of December 18, the report says that five cases and five deaths from what is pronounced to be bubonic plague have occurred in Honolulu. Dr. Carmichael says the presence of the disease was not suspected until the 12th, when a Chinese patient died.

The duration of illness in two of the cases was three days and from three to four in the other cases. Strained preparations from juice expressed from the enlarged glands showed the presence in large numbers of short bacilli rounded at both ends and closely resembling that of bubonic plague. Cultures from the first case showed the bacillus of bubonic plague.

The bodies of the deceased have been cremated. All the places where the deaths occurred have been quarantined and disinfected. The Hawaiian board of health surrounded Chinatown by a sanitary cordon, the district was divided into sections and a house to house inspection at once begun. The state council appropriated \$25,000 to begin the necessary sanitary work. Communication with the other islands except under quarantine restrictions have been prohibited and all vessels plying between island ports must undergo a detention period of at least seven days before proceeding to their destination.

WAS FILLED WITH GAS.

Coroner's Inquiry Into the Brazel Mine Horror Brings Out Sensational Testimony.

Uniontown, Pa., Jan. 4.—The first day's inquiry by the coroner's jury into the Brazel mine horror in which 19 lives were lost, developed some surprising testimony and revealed the fact that there had been gas in explosive quantities in the mine at various times before the explosion. The most important witness yesterday was James Radcliffe, the fire boss, whose duty it was to examine the mine every morning before the men went to work. His explanation of how he measured the amount of gas was a relation to mine inspectors present, and they quickly wanted to know how he could report only four inches of gas when the flame of his safety lamp was 12 inches from the roof and they called that 12 inches of gas instead of four, making three times the amount he reported finding.

It was also shown that at various times he had found several feet of gas covering a large area in rooms close to the main passageway, and the inspectors declared that this was sufficient to cause as disastrous an explosion as the one now being investigated. It was also shown that the men were allowed to work with the mine in this condition, and the fire boss told how he had posted the danger signal in gaseous portions of the mine while safety lamps were being used, which sign was changed to a notice prohibiting any one from entering that section of the mine on the day open lamps were allowed to be used.

PRISON DOORS OPENED.

Gen. Wood Orders the Release of 40 Prisoners in Santa Clara Province.

Havana, Jan. 4.—Gen. Wood issued an important order yesterday giving freedom to 40 men in the province of Santa Clara. Some of them had been detained without trial and others were suffering excessive punishment. All had been released ten months before by an order issued by Gen. Bates, but they were immediately rearrested by orders from division headquarters, on the ground that a department commander did not have the power to pardon. After looking carefully into the cases, Gen. Wood decided that the judgment of Gen. Bates regarding their release was wise and consequently an order setting them at liberty was promulgated.

Reports from other departments are daily expected, and it is believed that before the end of the month a large number will be released, especially in the province of Havana. The cases of those who have been held for a long time in detention without trial will be the first to be investigated.

A New Batch of Generals Named.

Washington, Jan. 4.—The president yesterday sent the following nominations to the senate: Brig. Gen. J. C. Bates to be major general of volunteers; Brig. Gen. Lloyd Wheaton, to be major general of volunteers by brevet; To be brigadier general: Col. S. B. M. Young, Lieut. Col. Arthur MacArthur, Lieut. Col. William Ludlow.

Man and Wife Asphyxiated.

Austin, Pa., Jan. 4.—Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Southwell were found dead in bed yesterday. The house is heated and lighted by natural gas and it is believed death was caused by asphyxiation.

LAWMAKERS' LOTTERY.

Kentucky Democrats Secure a Majority of Members on the Committees Which Will Hear Contests for State Offices.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 5.—The joint legislative committees which will sit in the contests for governor and lieutenant governor were yesterday drawn by lot, as provided by law. The democrats were lucky, as the drawing gave them ten out of the 11 members of the committee on the governor's contest and nine out of 11 on the lieutenant governor's contest.

The house members of these two committees were sworn in last night and it is probable that the joint committees will organize and begin taking evidence to-day.

In the drawing over the formation of the legislative contested election committees the results were somewhat more evenly divided. In the case of the two senatorial contests the republicans got only one member out of nine on each committee, but in the house they got majorities on ten out of the 18 committees which try contests.

The house was occupied until late in the evening with the drawing of the legislative committees and there was nothing noteworthy in the proceedings until after the governorship committee had been announced and just before the drawing of the committee on lieutenant governor's contest. Representative Haswell, leader of the republican minority, charged Chief Clerk Ed O. Leigh with manipulating the ballots so as to give the democrats the advantage. Haswell and Representative Berry, representing the republicans, stood at the clerk's desk as the names of the members were placed in the box, and when the last name was placed in it, Haswell walked to his seat and addressed the house, charging that Leigh had, in placing the names in the box, systematically thrown the names of the democratic members on the right side of the box and in like manner had thrown the names of the republicans to the left.

He said he did not know how it happened that the democrats got such a majority on the governor's contest committee, drawn a few minutes before, but he did know how the ballots had been put in the box for the drawing now on, and he asked that the clerk be required to at least shake the box thoroughly, so as to mix the names as contemplated by law. Speaker Trimble invited Haswell or any other republican member to shake the box, but they declined to do this, saying this was the duty of the clerk.

Mr. Berry, republican, asked the speaker to allow members to inspect the box in order to verify the charge made by him and Haswell, mentioning the alleged manner in which the names had been placed in the box, but Mr. Cantrill, democrat, said the charges made by Haswell and Berry were serious and that as long as they had waited until the drawing was practically complete, he thought they should be compelled to file them in the proper way and not make them verbally as they were doing. Speaker Trimble finally ordered the box thoroughly shaken and this was done, with the result that six democrat and two republican names were drawn out.

It is unofficially announced that the Franklin county grand jury has found indictments against John H. Whallon and Charles Ryan, who, it is alleged, attempted to bribe Senator Harrell in the governorship contest. The indictments are based on conspiracy and will be similar to those returned against W. G. Hunter, John H. Wilson, E. T. Franks and others in the Hunter alleged bribery cases growing out of the Hunter-Blackburn senatorial contest in 1897. The safety deposit box which Harrell designated as holding the money was turned over to the grand jury. It was found to contain four \$1,000 bills and five \$100 bills. The money was sealed up in a plain white envelope without writing. This in part corroborates Harrell's story.

ALASKAN TRAGEDIES.

Four Men Freeze to Death During a Blizzard that Swept Over the White Pass.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 5.—The steamer City of Topeka, from Alaskan ports, brings information of five recent tragic deaths in the north, four of which were due to freezing. The bodies of two men were found frozen on the day the Topeka sailed. They died on the summit of White Pass, apparently overcome by a blizzard. In a belt tied around the body of one man was found a check on the Alaska Commercial Co. for \$8,000, dated November 7. The check was issued in favor of R. C. Jennings. His residence was not given. The bodies were discovered by a party of snow shovelers. The men are believed to have been returning Klondikers.

Another man, D. R. Ritchter, of San Francisco, was reported frozen in his cabin near White Pass.

William Somerville, a well-known Dawsonite, was picked up by a squad of the northwest mounted police just below White Horse. He had been frozen during the night. Somerville was superintendent of the British-American corporation's extensive copper mines back of White Horse Rapids. He left White Horse about December 20. Andrew Andochwitz, a laborer on the White Pass and Yukon extension to White Horse, was killed by a stone from a blast last week.

A Big Sugar Beet Plant.

Chicago, Jan. 5.—It was announced Thursday that the American Beet Sugar Co. had contracted for the establishment of a sugar beet plant at Rockyford, Col. The plant will be next to the largest in the world, will cost \$1,500,000 and will have an annual capacity of 18,000 tons of refined sugar, using 100,000 tons of beets. Farmers in the valley adjacent to Rockyford have arranged to plant 60,000 acres of beets the coming season, from which it is expected a profit of \$40 an acre will be derived.

AN EVIDENCE OF PROSPERITY.

Railway Receiverships Were Fewer During 1899 than for Many Years Past.

Chicago, Jan. 5.—The Railway Age says: The best evidence that the year 1899 was one of general prosperity is found in the fact that it was a year almost without any railway receiverships. In only two years since 1875 have the roads for which receivers were appointed been so few—and in only three of those years were the mileage and capital involved so small. Only one road of importance is found in the list, the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf, which defaulted in its obligations before it had time to demonstrate its earning capacity, and was placed in the charge of receivers early in the year.

Of the nine others in the list two are short logging roads, belonging to private companies, one is an old narrow gauge road that has never been profitable, and is owned by a great railway company which now proposes to straighten out its title by foreclosure, and the others are short local lines, mostly in the experimental stage. The totals, covering all these conditions, represent ten companies, with 1,019 miles of road and a capitalization of a little over \$52,000,000.

The long, dark era of railway receiverships which culminated in 1893, when 74 companies, with nearly 30,000 miles of lines were handed over to receivers, has ended and the new year starts with the railways of the United States, with very few exceptions, in a solvent condition.

The record of foreclosure sales also shows a large decrease in number of roads and mileage over immediately preceding years, indicating that the supply of bankrupt companies is being steadily reduced. Nevertheless the foreclosures for the year included 32 roads, with 4,294 miles of line and \$267,000,000 of capital, of which \$155,000,000 was represented by bonds.

While most of these roads are small, there are several very important properties in the list, including Central Vermont, Baltimore & Ohio Southern, Wisconsin Central, Wheeling & Lake Erie, Cleveland, Canton & Southern, Columbus, Hocking Valley & Toledo and Jacksonville, Tampa & Key West. These seven roads have 3,360 miles of line and represented an apparent investment of over \$220,000,000.

An appalling proportion of our railways have now gone through the costly experience of foreclosure sale. For the past 24 years the foreclosure sales have averaged more than 24 a year, the largest number in one year being 65 and the smallest 15. In the last six years 273 roads have been sold, not counting a number of insolvent companies that have been reorganized without sale.

ALL GERMANY IS AROUSED.

Second Seizure of a Ship by Englishmen Fans the Flames of Hatred for Britons to White Heat.

Berlin, Jan. 5.—The German steamer General has been detained at Aden and occupied by British troops, with the object of searching her cargo, which is to be discharged. The General is owned by the German East African Line, the owners of the Bundesrath, previously captured by the British cruiser Magicienne off Delagoa bay.

The seizure of the steamer General has considerably aggravated the situation here and the indignation against England is intensified. The government is still endeavoring to preserve correct official relations, but England will do well to hasten to make the amende honorable to Germany. Emperor William is thoroughly aroused by the repeated seizures of vessels, not one of which, he has been assured, is guilty of carrying contraband. He regards the seizures as high-handed proceedings which England would not have dared to undertake if the German navy was more powerful than it is. He instructed Count Buelow, the foreign secretary, to demand full reparation for the outrages.

Significant of the intensity of Germany's indignation against England in this matter is a declaration published by the German Colonial society, among whose 80,000 members are a number of reigning German princes, which says: "England's recent proceedings against German vessels are an outrage. The small respect which the English people feel for Germany because of her deficiency in naval power has taken such deep root that the commanders of English warships hasten to commit breaches of international rights so long as only Germany is thereby touched."

Otis to Have 65,000 Soldiers.

Washington, Jan. 5.—With the arrival at Manila of the transport Grant, which left San Francisco on the 21st ult. with the Forty-eighth volunteer infantry (colored), Gen. Otis will have command of about 65,000 men. The army now in the Philippines aggregates 62,500 men, of which 31,000 are regular troops and 31,500 are volunteers. With the arrival of the Grant the entire volunteer strength of 34,000 men will be in the Philippines.

Will Fight the Drainage Canal.

Jefferson City, Mo., Jan. 5.—Attorney General Crow is preparing to institute proceedings in the supreme court of the United States to stop the people of Chicago from alleged polluting of the waters of the Mississippi river by means of the sewage of the Chicago drainage canal.

Arguing the Roberts Case.

Washington, Jan. 5.—The Roberts investigating committee yesterday resumed its session for the purpose of hearing arguments. Mr. Schroeder, head of the Gentile delegation here to oppose Roberts, opened the argument against Roberts. The afternoon hearing was enlivened when Senator Rawlins, of Utah, was drawn into a discussion of polygamy. Mrs. J. Ellen Foster addressed the committee in behalf of the great number of women interested in the case and who were not represented before the committee. This concluded the day's proceedings.

FRANCIS W. CUSHMAN.

Newspaper Correspondents Have Already United in Calling Him the Humorist of Congress.

A new star has appeared in the house. He shone out suddenly and brilliantly the other afternoon in the midst of a dull debate on the currency bill. He may prove a fixed star of the first magnitude or a comet shooting with brief brilliance athwart the leaden skies of monotonous talk. Who may say? Dropping metaphor, whether mixed or straight, it is a fact worthy of other than congressional notice that Francis W. Cushman, of



FRANCIS W. CUSHMAN.
(Congressman at Large from the State of Washington.)

Washington, made the first hit of the season by a new member. Cushman is only 32 years old, yet he has lived in four states. Born and educated in Iowa, he was a cowboy at 16 in Wyoming, a lawyer in Nebraska at 21, removing to Tacoma, in Washington, at 24. At 31 he beat James Hamilton Lewis, the democratic shooting star of the last congress, on a gold standard platform. Hence he is a republican of purest ray serene. He came to Washington heralded as the Abraham Lincoln of the Pacific slope. And he looks the part. That is, he looks as Lincoln probably did at Cushman's age. He is tall, lank and as homely as a rail fence. He is fluent and forcible of speech and humorous withal. Without this latter quality he would be a dismal failure as a Lincoln rememberer. But he has the saving grace of humor.

BISHOP HENRY TURNER.

Distinguished Colored Divine Who Was Refused a Berth in a Georgia Sleeping Car.

Bishop Henry M. Turner, who was refused a berth in a sleeping car on the Georgia Central railroad because of his color, is one of the most famous negroes in the United States. He was born in South Carolina in 1834, and from his earliest childhood showed unusual talent. Before he was 11 years old he had, entirely by his own efforts, learned to read, and at 15 secured employment in a law office at Abbeville. His employers quickly recognized that the young negro had unusual powers of intellect and assisted him in his studies, so that he ac-



BISHOP HENRY M. TURNER.
(Colored Divine Who Was Refused a Sleeping Car Berth.)

quired a good common school education. His memory was so remarkable that in the course of a single evening he could memorize three or four chapters of the Bible. He was licensed to preach when he was 20 years of age, and soon afterwards studied Latin, Hebrew and Greek, becoming proficient in all. In 1862 he became pastor of the largest colored church in Washington, D. C., and in 1863 was appointed chaplain in the army by President Lincoln, being the first colored man appointed to such a position. In 1886 he was elected bishop of the Methodist church. Bishop Turner, who had been given the titles of LL. D. and D. D. by universities of the highest standing, is one of the principal agitators for the return of his race to Africa. He thinks their prospects in this country are poor.

Where Soap is Unpopular.

In spite of British rule, India is virtually a soapless country. Throughout the villages of Hindustan soap is, indeed, regarded as a natural curiosity, and it is rarely if ever kept in stock by the native shopkeeper. In the towns it is now sold to a certain extent, but how small this is may be gathered from the fact that the yearly consumption of soap in India is about 100,000 hundredweight; that is to say, every 2,500 persons use on an average only 112 pounds of soap among them; or, in other words, considerably less than an ounce is the average consumption of a person.

Pretty Ancient Ceremony.

One part of the wedding ceremony among the Babylonians was very significant. The priest took a thread from the garment of the bride, and another from the garment of the bridegroom, and tied them into a knot, which he gave to the bride. This is probably the origin of the modern saying about tying the knot in regard to marriage.

A NEW DREIBUND.

Germany, Russia and France May Join Hands.

ANTI-BRITISH FEELING.

It Grows Steadily in the Kaiser's Dominions.

HER ANSWER IS DELAYED.

England's Reply to Germany's Request for Explanation of the Seizure of the Bundesrath Has Not Been Given.

Berlin, Jan. 6.—The seizure of the Bundesrath remains the dominant topic of the German press. Influential papers strongly hint at the possibility of Germany forming an anti-British coalition with Russia and France. The anti-British feeling is clearly growing. A series of anti-British demonstrations in the various cities is being organized by the Pan-Germanic league.

A prominent official of the German foreign office, who was interviewed last evening, said England had not yet answered Germany's request for an explanation of the seizure, but that the reply was expected in the course of a few days. The foreign office, according to this official, has not yet concluded that England is trying to ride rough shod over Germany.

The correspondent asked what position Germany takes regarding England's right to search German ships on the high seas. The official answered that nothing could be divulged at this stage of the negotiations, but he pointed out that the Bundesrath was sailing for a Portuguese port. On being asked what Germany would do should it turn out that the Bundesrath was carrying contraband, he conveyed the impression that such a discovery would seriously damage Germany's case.

The correspondent then asked whether Germany had taken steps to be represented at Durban during the investigation of the cargo. To this inquiry an evasive answer was given, but the official implied that Germany would undoubtedly take this course if the British report should be adverse.

Referring to the rumor that the Swiss commission had decided to award damages to England in the Delagoa bay arbitration, the foreign office official intimated that such a decision might not mean that England would secure Delagoa bay, inasmuch as France might advance to Portugal the money to pay the award and thus England might be shut out, with no choice but to accept the situation.

The Hanover Courier, confirming earlier reports regarding the shipment of arms and ammunition from Germany, asserts that German rifles have been sent to Transvaal since the outbreak of the war. It says: "We know from a trustworthy source that 40,000 German rifles of the newest and best construction have arrived at Pretoria in good condition."

The Leipzig Neueste Nachrichten asserts that Herr Krupp is making steel shells for England at Essen. Another newspaper makes a similar statement, alleging that 45,000 shrapnel shells are in preparation for Lyddite filling.

The Berliner Tageblatt has a dispatch from Papenburg, Hanover, the home of Capt. Muhlmann, of the German bark Hans Wagner, of Hamburg, which was seized by the British at Delagoa bay on December 21, saying that the bark had powder and dynamite in her cargo.

Pennsylvania Buys C. & O. Stock.

Philadelphia, Jan. 6.—The Press says: "It was reported in railroad and financial circles yesterday that the Pennsylvania railroad has completed negotiations for a large block of Chesapeake & Ohio railroad stock. It was stated further that other railroad companies have also secured interests in the Chesapeake & Ohio. A few weeks ago it was announced that the Pennsylvania had invested several millions of dollars in the stock of the C. & O. and the purchasing of stock of the Chesapeake & Ohio is in line with a plan mapped out by the leading trunk lines to prevent cutting of freight rates."

Is a Great Success.

Pittsburg, Jan. 5.—The world's first aluminum telephone system is in operation between this city and New Kensington, a distance of 18 miles, and is so much of a success that it is said the Pennsylvania company, operating lines west of Pittsburg, has ordered a similar system to be used in connection with the heavy copper system now in use.

Another Boom in Broom Prices.

Chicago, Jan. 6.—At yesterday's session of the Broom Manufacturers' association of the United States and Canada resolutions were adopted endorsing the action of the Union Broom Corn Supply Co. in advancing the cost of the raw material. It was decided to advance all grades of brooms 25 cents a dozen.

Death of Dr. Hammond.

Washington, Jan. 6.—Dr. William A. Hammond, ex-surgeon general of the army, died here last night. Dr. Hammond conducted a sanitarium here for some years. He had a notable and somewhat checkered career. He was on the retired list at the time of his death.

Ex-Bank Teller Sentenced.

Boston, Jan. 6.—Joel Tyler, late teller of the National bank of Fitchburg, was on Friday sentenced in the United States court to serve five years in Worcester jail for embezzling the funds of the bank.