

LATEST FROM AFRICAN CONFLICT

The Boers Replace One Gun Taken by the British.

LADYSMITH OPERATIONS

Pietermaritzburg, Wednesday, Dec. 27.—A dispatch from Ladysmith, dated Dec. 27, says:

"The Boers have mounted another howitzer on Surprise Hill, replacing the gun captured in the sortie of the Rife brigade. While they watch us nightly with a searching eye, they show no signs of assaulting the town. They probably think they can starve us out, but we have plenty of provisions. The total casualties since the siege are seventy men killed and 236 wounded."

Pretoria, Monday, Dec. 25.—General Schalknappe reports, under date of Dec. 23, that trains are running to Colenso, indicating that the Boers have built a connection around Ladysmith.

It is reported that General Methuën's big naval gun has exploded.

The Transvaal government has promulgated a new gold tax law, by which individuals and companies working their own mines are taxed 20 per cent. of the output, while mines worked by the government will pay 25 per cent. Suspended mines will pay 20 per cent. on their probable output, calculated on three months' workings. Reducing works will pay 20 per cent. of their net profits. The law is retroactive to Oct. 11.

London, Dec. 29.—Despatches from all parts of South Africa confirm the reports of the enthusiasm among the troops and public occasioned by the appointment of General Roberts and Kitchener.

Fighting at Kimberley.

Advices from Cape Town, dated December 24, say an investigation shows that the report of a disaffection among the Dutch in the Victoria West district has been overdrawn.

A dispatch from Lorenzo Marques, dated December 23, says a curious report is current, emanating from Boer sources, that Matt Steyn, brother of the president of the Orange Free State, and 800 Free Staters have definitely refused to continue the war.

Kimberley, Friday, Dec. 22, via Modder River, Wednesday, Dec. 27.—Before dawn today a detachment of the mounted force, with artillery and light infantry, moved out in a westerly direction. Boer artillery from Kamperdam opened fire at Otes Koros, Kimberley, but replying with twenty shells.

Pretoria, Tuesday, Dec. 26.—(By way of Lorenzo Marques, Thursday, Dec. 28.)—Commandant Snyman reports as follows from Molopoepo:

"On Monday morning the enemy from Mafeking attacked one of our forts in force, with cannon, Maxim and an armored train and so persistently that there was fighting right on the walls of the fort. But we have retained our fort. The British loss is reported at fifty-five."

INTERESTING POINT IN MOLINEUX TRIAL

IT OCCURS DURING HEARING OF EVIDENCE OF CORNISH

The Court Interferes with the Dumb Show in Giving the Testimony.

Very Few New Facts Are Elicited.

New York, Dec. 29.—The most interesting incident today in the trial of Roland B. Molineux, charged with the murder of Katherine J. Adams, occurred during the cross-examination of Harry Cornish by Bartow S. Weeks, defendant's counsel.

GENERAL BULLER'S PLANS.

It Is Believed That He Intends Making Another Attack.

London, Dec. 30, 5 a. m.—The latest special despatches from Chiveley camp hint darkly at some important movement as imminent. This is interpreted, with some misgivings, to mean that General Buller contemplates a renewal of his attempt to relieve Ladysmith.

It is reported by the same despatches that the Boers have now retired to the north bank of the Tugela, being afraid that the swollen river may bar their retreat. They are also moving their magazines to Ladysmith, probably with the intention of putting further pressure on the garrison, which now seems to be suffering pretty heavily from the bombardment.

It is difficult, however, to conceive that General Buller would make another frontal attack, especially now that the river is in rising, and an additional indication that this is not his purpose is the fact that he has removed his headquarters back to Freeburg. The Boer movement northward from the Tugela is quite in keeping with the enemy's usual plan of securing a safe line of retreat.

BROAD DEFEATS HAMILTON.

Interesting Contest at the Broadway Athletic Club.

New York, Dec. 26.—Kid Broad got a well-earned decision over Jack Hamilton, of Troy, through the latter's foul tactics at the Broadway Athletic club on Friday night.

Reply of Kentuckians.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 29.—The address of the Republican leaders in reply to the recent address of the Goshel leaders, endorsing the contesting candidates on the Democratic state ticket, was given out tonight. It replies specifically to the Democratic charges of fraud and makes a number of counter charges. It is signed by Governor Taylor, Chairman Barnett, Senator Deboe, Congressman Pugh and others, including all members of the state central committee.

Killed by a Train.

Indianapolis, Dec. 29.—Dr. Wickliffe, a surgeon of the One Hundred and Sixty-first Indiana regiment, was killed this afternoon, together with his Cuban boy, Francisco Sousa, three miles from Delph, by a Wabash train. On account of the cold weather they were bundled up so they did not hear the train. Both were instantly killed.

Asaph Light Appointed.

Lancaster, Pa., Dec. 29.—Asaph Light, ex-postmaster of Lebanon, and formerly editor of the Lebanon Courier, has been appointed chief deputy collector of internal revenue for the Ninth district. He succeeds Pierce Lesher. Mr. Light is a brother-in-law of Judge Weiss, of Dauphin county.

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DAWES OUTLINES A POLICY.

His Speech at the Republican Love Feast at Springfield.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 28.—Charles G. Dawes, comptroller of the currency, made a speech at the Republican state love feast in the assembly hall today, which was regarded by many as outlining President Taft's policy of administration on two points, the Philippine policy and the attitude of the Republican party toward trusts.

Speaking on trusts, he said, was the duty of the Republican party to conserve public interests. Wherever trusts proved themselves inimical to the public welfare they must be restrained and controlled, and if necessary laws passed that would so much encourage active competition as to bring about the disintegration of the trusts.

FIRE IN NEW YORK.

Two Seven-Story Buildings Are Consumed by the Flames.

New York, Dec. 29.—The two seven-story buildings at 475 to 485 West Twenty-fourth street, owned principally by the Wall Paper factory of William Campbell & Co., were destroyed by fire tonight. The loss is fully \$200,000.

FATALLY BURNED.

Terrible Death of Miss Bridget Ellen Kerwin, of Pittston.

Pittston, Dec. 29.—A most distressing fatality was that which befell Miss Bridget Ellen Kerwin, aged about 29 years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Kerwin, of Scarsdale, this city.

RE HOPES FOR PEACE.

President Mitchell, of United Mine Workers Tired of Strikes.

Indianapolis, Dec. 29.—John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers, said today:

"The coming convention will demand that the delegates fully expect to receive a substantial advance in wages for coal mining. There is every assurance that we shall have our demands granted by the operators."

STRIKE AT PITTSBURG.

Pittsburg, Dec. 29.—The printers' strike in Pittsburg has not affected the business of the city in any way.

Decision for White.

Sloux City, Iowa, Dec. 29.—The bout between Tommy White and Dick Green, held in the Grand Opera house here tonight, resulted in a decision for White.

GERMAN LINER ON THE ROCKS

BIG MAIL STEAMER GOES AGROUND.

The Position of the Strange Vessel Is Very Serious—Heavy Seas Are Breaking Over the Ship and Life Boats Are Unable to Reach Her. Signals of Distress Out.

London, Dec. 29.—A large German mail steamer, whose name has not yet been ascertained, has gone aground during a terrific gale in East Bay, about a quarter of a mile from Dungeness, the southern extremity of Kent.

THOMAS MACKELLAR DEAD.

The Well Known Type Founder Passes Away.

Philadelphia, Dec. 29.—Thomas MacKellar, senior member of the firm of MacKellar, Smith & Jordan, type foundry, died today of pneumonia at his home in Germantown.

Mr. MacKellar, who was a printer, poet and author, was born in New York, Aug. 12, 1812. At the age of 14 years he evinced an adaptability for the printing craft and was given employment in the office of the New York Spy and later in the publishing house of J. & J. Harper.

LIVINGSTON RELEASED.

Evidence Shows That the Wife Murderer Acted in Self-Defense.

Baltimore, Dec. 29.—Franklin B. Livingston, the blind man who laid on Christmas night strangled his wife, Dora Livingston, and on the following day laid a man a dollar to find him to the police station, was discharged from custody today by Judge Stockbridge.

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THE NEWS THIS MORNING

Weather Indications Today:

- 1 General—Americans Carry a Filipino Stronghold.
- 2 General—Northern Pennsylvania, Financial and Commercial.
- 3 Local—The Bachelors' Ball.
- 4 Editorial.
- 5 Local—Social and Personal.
- 6 Local—Lupinski Not Guilty of Larceny by Bailor.
- 7 Local—Big Increase in Capital Stock of the L. I. & S. Co.
- 8 Local—West Scranton and Suburban.
- 9 Round About the County.
- 10 Local—Belgium News of the Week.
- 11 Story—"Brandon's Daughter."
- 12 Local—Live Industrial News.

DUN'S REVIEW OF TRADE

Collapsing in Copper—Stock Swells the List of Failures—Commercial Liabilities Small.

New York, Dec. 29.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade will say in tomorrow's issue:

"No correct report of failures in 1899 can be made until the year has closed. A collapse of speculation in copper stocks has swelled the aggregate at Boston alone over \$18,000,000 within a few days, and might yet add to the record. The failures thus far reported are fewer in number than in any year since 1893, and smaller in amount of commercial liabilities than in any year since 1881."

The week has been exciting only at Boston, where the failures growing out of speculation and the efforts to re-establish banks and firms suspended have not given the week a holiday character. Yet general business is thoroughly safe and prosperous, and no important firms have failed since some which were individually connected with concerns involved in speculation. Wheat and cotton speculation has taken a holiday, prices scarcely varying, and the movement of both is surprisingly small. Atlantic exports of wheat, flour include, have in four weeks only been 8,278,618 bushels, against 18,747,557 last year, and Pacific exports 3,344,231 bushels, against 3,536,888 last year.

The industries are closing the most extraordinary year of their history. The increase in demand for iron and steel products is the great feature of the year. With 415,731 tons unsold and 243,376 tons produced weekly January 1 last, the industry is now producing about 306,000 tons weekly and unsold stock are reduced to 122,923 tons, and yet orders unfilled will require six or eight months to work from most establishments. Prices have advanced since the past week, though demand for some products improved a little. The average of prices closed 11.5 per cent. higher than January 1 for pig and 10.8 per cent. higher for products.

Industries which depended on individual consumption have gained less, though more than population. Consumption of cotton has been larger than ever, with an average advance of 29.5 per cent. Wool has been raised by speculation 55 per cent., but has been largely consumed, with great demands for wool, which have advanced 17 per cent. of hosiery and shawls, and 17 per cent. of coats and shoes. East has shipped 400,000 cases, or 9 per cent. more than last year, and 275 per cent. more than in 1897, but prices have advanced about 11 per cent. since January 1. In all these products trade shows a moving strong demand, although a glut in the holiday week. Prices for the week have been 22 in the United States, against 252 last year, and twenty-five in Canada, against twenty-two last year.

SAMOANS BECOMING HOSTILE.

Englishman Murdered and Many Foreign Residents Threatened.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 29.—Details of the murder of Frank Cornwall, the richest English miner in the Samoan island, in his Samoan home, November 12 last, were brought by the steamship Anorani. Cornwall was murdered by natives while he was asleep. Hitherto foreigners have felt secure in Samoa in times of peace, because the Samoans have looked on foreign lives as sacred and would never approach a white man with the deliberate purpose of harming him, no matter what aggravation he might have caused them.

Tim Pleased the Crowd.

Detroit, Dec. 29.—Reference The Harst pleased 1,309 spectators tonight when he gave Curley Supple, of Buffalo, the decision over Emil Sanchez, the "Cuban wonder" at the end of their ten-round bout before the Cadillac Athletic club.

Another Kid Put Out.

Sarasota, N. Y., Dec. 29.—Arthur Jones, of Washington, put out Kid Gaultie, of Rochester, in the first round of a bout with a left hand, with a right swing on the jaw.

State Treasury Reports.

Harrisburg, Dec. 29.—The state treasury reports that at the close of business for December there was \$1,505,265.29 in the general fund.

CAPTURE OF A REBEL FORT

Americans Carry a Filipino Stronghold by Assault.

COL. LOCKETT'S VICTORY

Large Number of Insurgents Killed, Several Taken Prisoners—One Cannon, Forty Rifles and 20,000 Rounds of Ammunition Captured. Casualties Among United States Troops Slight.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The adjutant general received a cable message from General Otis this morning, telling of the capture of a mountain stronghold formerly Montalban, northeast of San Mateo, beyond supposed to be impregnable, and the capture of several prisoners and a large quantity of arms and ammunition. The dispatch is as follows:

Terrorizing Natives.

Manila, Dec. 29, 10 p. m.—The insurgents who evacuated the coast towns between Dagupan and Vigan, fleeing to the mountains before the advancing Americans, are returning in small bands to the towns the Americans do not occupy, terrorizing the natives and Chinamen who showed friendship for the Americans. The natives and Chinamen are seeking the protection of the American garrisons.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Towanda, Pa., Dec. 29.—J. Perry Van Fleet, who since 1883, with the exception of one term as sheriff, has been deputy sheriff of Bradford county, died at his home here this evening, aged 69 years. Consumption was the cause of death. In 1891 Mr. Van Fleet was elected sheriff and served three years. Previous to that he was county treasurer for two years.

Negro Routers Drowned.

Shreveport, La., Dec. 29.—The steamer Linda, of Shreveport, burned to the water's edge and sank off Vanhook, on the Red river, today. The officers and crew were compelled to take to the water and swim for shore, as it was impossible to run the boat ashore when the fire was discovered. Five negro routers from Shreveport were either burned to death or drowned. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Lieutenant Taylor Dead.

Washington, Dec. 29.—General Otis at Manila, with self instructor today that First Lieutenant Edward R. Taylor, Twelfth Infantry, was run over by a train crossing the Arno river, near Bantista, on the 26th inst., and died in a few hours. Lieutenant Taylor was born in Illinois and was appointed to the army from Idaho in June, 1889.

Pennsylvania Postmasters.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Postmasters for offices of the fourth class in Pennsylvania were appointed today as follows: William Thompson, Bowman Creek, Wyoming county; E. O. Dimmock; Elmer Slaughenhaupt, Schuylkill county, Lackawanna county.

WEATHER FORECAST.

- Washington, Dec. 29.—Forecast for Saturday and Sunday—Eastern + Pennsylvania—Fair; continued cold + Saturday and Sunday; fresh west + to north winds.

STEAMSHIP ARRIVALS.

New York, Dec. 29.—Cleared: Maasdam, for Rotterdam; Campania, for Liverpool. Hamburg—Arrived: Palatia, from New York.