

GATACRE FIGHTING Boers Attack Molteno, Near Stromberg. BRISK FIGHT YESTERDAY Action in Progress as Dispatch Was Sent—Fighting Around Coleberg. Boers Resist General French's Attack, but Retreat Gradually. London Pleased by the Success of Colonel Pilscher.

Sterkfontein, Cape Colony, Jan. 3.—The Boers attacked Molteno this morning. A brisk action is in progress. Naauwpoort, Cape Colony, Jan. 4.—There was brisk fighting today in the hills around Coleberg. The Boers stubbornly resisted the British at every point, but gradually retreated. The British held the extreme position to the south and east, overlooking the town.

Military Mine Ignited. Kimberley, Dec. 26.—The Boers last night evinced considerable interest in the premier mine, using their search lights. This morning they actually shelled the fort. The royal artillery replied, our shells were well placed and dropped amid the smoke of the enemy's guns.

PRAISE FOR COLONIALS. London Pleased by the Success of Colonel Pilscher. London, Jan. 3.—Lacking news from the main British camps in South Africa, the future action of whose commanders can have an important effect on the larger issues of the campaign, the British public is making the most of Colonel Pilscher's success. Unbounded tributes are paid to the prowess of the Canadian and Australian, and graphic accounts are published of the business in the hands of the victorious troops entered the place. The representative of the Associated Press, with the flying column, says: "The immediate result of Colonel Pilscher's success is the entire dispersal of the rebels who have been governing the country since the six weeks after Sunnyside had been captured. The Toronto occupied the laager for the night and joined the main body the following morning, bringing the whole of the Boer tents, wagons and loot, and leaving the Cornwalls in garrison at Sunnyside. The British force then started for Douglas, the Toronto bringing up the rear in wagons. In the afternoon the troops entered the town unopposed and amid extraordinary scenes. The inhabitants were joyous. They crowded about the soldiers and shook hands with them. When they learned that their captives were Canadian and Australian, the enthusiasm became frenzied. Deafening cheers were given as the troops traversed the main street, and it was almost impossible for them to make progress, the crowd being so eager to shake hands with the captives. It appears that the Landrost and all the mounted rebels evacuated the place on the previous night. The unopposed rebels, it is reported, are entrenched in the vicinity. Quantities of ammunition were captured and destroyed.

AUSTRIAN WAR TALK. The Government Will Spend Large Sums to Increase the Army. Budapest, Jan. 3.—The Pestle Herald says that the Austro-Hungarian government contemplates spending £20,000,000 for increasing the army and navy, in consequence of the grave European situation.

Superintendent of Venango Schools. Harrisburg, Jan. 3.—Mr. Ladd, of Franklin, was today appointed superintendent of the public schools of Venango county, vice John F. Bigler, resigned.

McLaurin for Senator. Jackson, Miss., Jan. 3.—The Democratic caucus here today unanimously nominated ex-Governor McLaurin for the long term of United States senatorship.

dated Tuesday, Jan. 2, says a supply train without a locomotive was set in motion within the British lines near Coleberg, and proceeded so near the Boer position that it was impossible to recover it. The British gun, therefore, destroyed the trucks. Treachery is suspected.

WILL ASSIST THE BOERS. The Knights of the Red Branch of Philadelphia Will Furnish Recruits and Money. Philadelphia, Jan. 3.—The movement in this city to send assistance to the Boers received renewed impetus last night, when the association known as the Knights of the Red Branch held an adjourned meeting here and decided to extend all possible aid to President Kruger. Resolutions of sympathy for the Boers were adopted.

NAVAL OFFICERS DEAD. Commander Carlin and Captain Ingate Pass Away. Washington, Jan. 3.—The navy department has been advised by a cable message from Admiral Watson of the death of Commander James W. Carlin, on board the Calgosa, from an attack of peritonitis. He was on his way to the naval hospital at Yokohama for treatment when he died, December 30, last.

COL. BRYAN AT LINCOLN. After an Absence of Six Weeks He Returns for a Conference. Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 3.—Colonel W. J. Bryan returned to Lincoln today, after an absence of six weeks. He found a number of leading Democrats from other states awaiting him and conferred with them in an informal way. Mr. Bryan will remain in Lincoln until Saturday.

Challenge from Jeffries. Hot Springs, Ark., Jan. 3.—Tom Sharkey tonight received a challenge from James L. Jeffries to fight twenty rounds within thirty days. This winner to take all, provided Tom O'Rourke is excluded from Sharkey's corner. Sharkey said he was glad of an opportunity to fight Jeffries on the terms stated, but would insist that George Siler should not referee the fight.

Cooper Succeeds Fetterolf. Harrisburg, Jan. 3.—A. D. Fetterolf, resident clerk of the house of representatives, today tendered his resignation to Speaker FARR, to take effect immediately. Mr. Fetterolf has occupied the place for several years, having previously been chief clerk. The last vacancy in the office of resident clerk occurred when John A. Small died in office. By agreement the speaker appointed William L. Cooper.

DEATHS OF A DAY. Chambersburg, Pa., Jan. 3.—One of the most familiar names in Cumberland county valley business circles and the same as it was in Franklin county, Jacob Le Master, died at his home today, at Le Master, a town named after him, aged 81 years. Le Master's fortune amounted to \$150,000, and he owned most of the town in which he lived and died.

London, Jan. 3.—Rev. George Buckley, father of George Parle Buckley, editor of the Times, died today.

BETWEEN SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS POSITION OF ENGLAND ON DELAGOA BAY AFFAIR.

The Official Representations of Mr. Choate Causes Embarrassment in Official Circles in London, but Will Not Be Likely to Cause International Friction—New Regulations Regarding Contraband May Be Arranged. London, Jan. 3.—The United States ambassador, Joseph H. Choate, visited the British premier, Lord Salisbury, for the purpose of making the first official representations on the subject of the Delagoa bay seizures. Mr. Choate received no definite reply, as the premier informed him that the British government had not yet arrived at any decision as to whether or not foodstuffs were contraband of war, but Lord Salisbury assured Mr. Choate that the commercial rights of the United States would be equitably considered and that a decision in this important matter would be reached as soon as possible. The interview was brief. The Associated Press learns that Lord Salisbury has not only got the attorney general, Sir Richard Webster, working hard on the question of the Delagoa bay seizures, but that he is consulting with the ablest lawyers in Great Britain. A high official said: "England is between Scylla and Charybdis. If we declare foodstuffs contraband we put ourselves in a most awkward position should we be a neutral power in some future war. We are most anxious to conserve the interests of the United States, yet self-preservation must necessarily come first."

NEW REGULATIONS. It was further learned by a representative of the Associated Press that Great Britain may lay down new regulations regarding contraband, making a distinction between foodstuffs intended for domestic purposes and foodstuffs intended for field rations. Under the latter head might come certain classes of canned goods. The British government fully realizes that the representations of Mr. Choate will compel it to decide this far-reaching matter, and while his request has been made and received in the most friendly spirit, the quandary is not relieved by Lord Salisbury, though it is not regarded as likely to cause international friction. One thing is certain, the question will not be settled hurriedly, though it is impossible even for the cabinet ministers to forecast the date when Mr. Choate will receive a definite answer, which must settle Great Britain's stand upon the question of contraband.

GOEBEL-TAYLOR CONTEST. Colonel Whallen Held to Bail in the Sum of \$10,000—Taylor's Attorneys Are Active.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 3.—The joint committee, which will hear evidence in the Goebel-Taylor contest for governor, and also for lieutenant governor, will be formed tomorrow. The law provides that the members of the committee shall be drawn by lot, three in the senate and eight in the house. The policy of the Goebel leaders will be to push the contest to a final issue as speedily as possible. Governor Taylor's attorneys are preparing not only for rebuttal evidence to offset the charges of fraud set forth in Goebel's notice of contest, but according to Senator Deboe, are going much farther and attempting to show counter frauds of a glaring nature on the Democratic side.

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THE MOLINEUX TRIAL. Interesting Testimony Given by Chemist Youem.

New York, Jan. 3.—In the trial of Roland Molineux for the murder of Mrs. Katharine Adams, the most interesting testimony today was that of John H. Youem, a chemist and a warm friend of Harry Cornish. He said that any chemist could make cyanide of mercury, the poison which is alleged to have caused the death of Mrs. Adams. He had made it himself and the process was easy. He took prussian blue and yellow oxide of mercury, boiled them together, filtered the mass and the precipitate contained cyanide of mercury. Still other drugs would yield cyanide of mercury. All the drugs required were what is known as dry colors. Molineux, it will be remembered, was superintendent of a dry color factory in Newark. Youem testified that any man known to a chemist can procure the ingredients of cyanide of mercury, even without registering his name. Alvin A. Harpster, who has figured in the case as a friend of Cornish and an object of Molineux's hate, had been expected to give important testimony as to Molineux's ill will toward Cornish, but his examination today developed nothing important. Andre Bustanoby, an employee of the Knickerbocker club, and who had been a friend of Molineux, testified that when the formula of the poison package address was published he recognized the handwriting as that of Molineux and told Secretary Adams, of the club, of the discovery. Other witnesses were policemen who were connected with the case after the murder, clerks in patent medicine houses who handled the "Cornish" and "Barnett" letters alleged to have been written by Molineux, and members of the Knickerbocker Athletic club to whom Cornish had shown his "Christie" letters, whose contents afterwards killed Mrs. Adams. Their testimony built up the case of the prosecution. Some of them were not cross-examined. Court adjourned until tomorrow.

GEN. WOOD'S GOVERNMENT. Freedom Given to Political Prisoners. Public Meetings Held to Express Satisfaction at His Appointment.

Havana, Jan. 3.—Today General Wood issued an important order directing that forty 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, but they were immediately re-arrested by orders from division headquarters, on the ground that a department commander did not have the power to pardon. After looking carefully into the case, General Wood decided that the judgment of General Bates regarding their release was wise, and consequently today's order setting them at liberty was promulgated. Representatives 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. An Indianapolis dispatch says that a large public meeting today to express satisfaction at the appointment of General Wood as governor of the island and at his selection of secretaries, all of whom are regarded as capable of handling General Wood materially in establishing a permanent form of government.

TRAINMEN HAPPY. Advances in Wages on the Pennsylvania Lines.

Pittsburg, Jan. 3.—A general advance in the wages of trainmen on the Pennsylvania lines seems assured, but the exact amount of the increase cannot be stated as yet. Following went the series of conferences between trainmen and officials which have been held recently, another committee representing the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, composed of Frank E. Page, of Indianapolis; W. P. Ward, of Donnington, Ohio; W. E. Leonard, of Columbus, and others, met General Manager L. F. Loree at a conference. While no information was given out, owing to the failure of F. P. Sargent, an Indianapolis member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, to arrive, yet it was understood that the increase demanded by the trainmen, with certain modifications, dependent upon prosperous conditions would be granted. A general advance in the wages of the trainmen on the Pennsylvania system is now probable.

BIG GAS WELL. The Greatest Find Since the Famous Karg Well.

Toledo, Jan. 3.—A special to the Commercial from Findlay, says: A ten million cubic feet gas well was struck four miles east of here at noon today, by operators who are "wild-cats" in new territory. All tools, casing and tubing were blown out of the well, and the roar of escaping gas can be heard for five miles. This is the greatest gas well in Ohio since the famous Karg well of ten years ago, which started the natural gas boom in Northwestern Ohio. Bridge Builders Strike. Philadelphia, Jan. 3.—It was announced today by officers of the National Association of Bridge Builders, that the men who struck yesterday had returned to work, their employers having agreed to the union demands of 28 cents an hour for a nine-hour day. This leaves from 20 to 200 men still on strike. Money for the Boer Sufferers. Grand Rapids, Jan. 3.—John Stoketos, vice consul of the Netherlands, today forwarded to Holland a draft of \$20,000 gold, Grand Rapids Hollanders latest contribution for the widows and orphans of Boers killed in South Africa. The sum amounts to \$2,500 American money. Astor's Contribution. London, Jan. 3.—William Waldorf Astor has contributed £1,000 to the Prince of Wales' hospital fund.

BRAZNEILL MINE INVESTIGATION. FOURTH SESSION OF THE CORONER'S INQUEST.

Interesting Features of the Case Brought Out by the Testimony of Fireboss Radcliffe—Peculiar Method of Measuring Mine Gas. Danger Signals Written with Chalk. No Gas Reported on Day of Disaster. Uniontown, Pa., Jan. 3.—The fourth session of the coroner's inquest into the Brazneill mine disaster began this morning in the large court room in the presence of a large crowd. The three previous sessions were devoted to the work of viewing the bodies of the victims as they were removed from the mine. Today's session was given over to the taking of the testimony of the officials of the mine and others who knew of the condition of the mine, after as well as before the explosion. An interesting feature was brought out today during the examination of Fireboss James Radcliffe by Inspector James H. Black. Radcliffe testified that he measured the gas by reckoning the distance from the top of the lamp to the roof and whatever that distance was, he said, was the depth of the gas. The answer looked Inspector Black by surprise and he had the fireboss repeat his theory, to make sure there was no mistake. When the fireboss had concluded his explanation, Inspector Black asked: "How far was the flame down in the lamp—that is, from the top of the lamp?" "Eight inches," was the reply. "And the top of the lamp was four inches from the roof of the mine?" asked the inspector, in a surprised tone. "Yes, sir." "And you would call that only four inches of gas?" "Yes." "Well, I would call that twelve inches of gas," replied Inspector Black, with some emphasis. The witness replied that Mr. Black probably knew what was right in the matter, but that he had stated his calculations as he had always made and reported them.

DANGER SIGNALS. The Daily Report of Mr. Radcliffe for Dec. 23, the day of the explosion, showed that gas was found in room No. 2, third level heading, in a volume measuring four inches at the face and "tailing" back possibly eighteen feet. The witness said he put up danger signals at the entrance to this room at the "neck" and the other two at the cut-throughs into rooms No. 1 and 3. Gas was also found in the main heading, about four hundred feet from the shaft. At the point indicated there had been a fall in the roof some time ago, leaving a "pot" in which gas had been standing for a month. The place was protected by timbers. A month before the explosion, Fireboss Radcliffe testified he had put up a danger signal at that place forbidding anyone to pass the point with open lamps. The signal was printed with chalk on a piece of brattice cloth, which was tacked upon the timbers. On the morning of the explosion, witness said, he had changed this signal, making it read: "No one must pass this section."

The fireboss' report on the day before the disaster showed no gas in the mine, but on the two days preceding that his report showed four inches in the right main entrance "tailing" back thirty to thirty-five feet. Fireboss Radcliffe testified that the roof in room No. 2, in which gas was found the morning of the explosion, was in bad condition. There had been no fall when he made his routine that morning, but the roof was always considered bad, the witness said, and a fall may have occurred after he left.

CHINESE WEDDING. A Christianized Couple Will Be Married at Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, Jan. 3.—The first marriage in the city of a Christian and a Chinese couple will take place here next week. The fact that the prospective bride and bridegroom have never seen each other lends additional interest to the event. The future husband is Wung John, proprietor of a Chinese restaurant in this city, and his fiancée is Su Ting Fu, who is now on her way to Philadelphia from San Francisco, where she was a pupil in the Presbyterian School for Chinese Girls. The wedding will be solemnized in the Arch Street Presbyterian church and the pastor, Rev. James J. Eckels, D. D., will perform the ceremony. Elaborate preparations are in progress for the unusual affair and the nuptial knot will be tied amid gorgeous floral decorations to the accompaniment of the Loheingrin wedding march. Some time ago Wung John applied to Rev. Frederick Poole, in charge of the Chinese mission here, with the request that the latter endeavor to secure a wife for him. Mr. Poole went to San Francisco and selected Su Ting Fu. She and Wung John exchanged photographs and the engagement was made by mail. Wung John forwarded \$200 to his affianced wife, which was purchased her wedding gown and pay her expenses to this city.

SEVERAL ASPHYXIATED. Bodies Found in Apartments Occupied by Them.

New York, Jan. 3.—The dead bodies of George F. Gallagher, a special policeman, and Nellie Walsh, were found today in a Second Avenue apartment occupied by them. They had been asphyxiated by gas, turned on by them during a New Year's carouse. Gallagher was formerly a member of the New Orleans police force. The bodies of two men found asphyxiated by gas in a room on Twenty-fourth street last night have been identified as those of Wiro Walpuski, son of a wealthy manufacturer of Morocco jewel cases, and a window cleaner with whom he had been living. It is believed the men committed suicide. Steamship Arrivals. New York, Jan. 3.—Arrived: Turic, from Liverpool. Sailed: New York, for Southampton; Kensington, for Antwerp; Cleared: La Normandie, for Havre; Kaiser Wilhelm Der Grosse, for Bremen via Cherbourg and Southampton. Southampton—Arrived: Steamer St. Paul, from New York. Arrived: Steamer Southampton, from New York via Southampton. Queenstown—Arrived: Teutonic, from New York. Plymouth—Arrived: Patricia, from New York for Hamburg. Southampton—Sailed: Trave, from Bremen for New York. Kent Sentenced. Jamestown, N. Y., Jan. 3.—Alba M. Kent, Jr., of this city, who was recently arrested in Japan and extradited, charged with forging notes and obtaining \$10,000 therefor, today pleaded guilty to two indictments for forgery, and was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labor for three years and two months.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING. Weather Indications Today: FAIR, VARIABLE WINDS.

- 1 General—Battle in Progress in South African Plague in Manila. The Seizure of American Flour. Investigating the Brazneill Mine Explosion. 2 General—Northern Pennsylvania. Financial and Commercial. 3 Local—Day's Work in Equity Court. 4 Editorial. News and Comment. 5 Story—"The Iron of Romance." 6 Local—Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever Spreading. W. S. Latstaff Resigns. 7 Local—Attorney Harris Explains. County Commissioners Say Increase of Office Force Means Economy. Died from Exposure. 8 Local—West Scranton and Suburban. 9 Round About the County. 10 Local—Live Industrial News.

IMPORTANT WORK IN THE SENATE. Foundation Laid for Proceeding on Financial Bill—The House in Session but Fifteen Minutes.

Washington, Jan. 3.—The senate evinced a disposition today to take up the work of the session in earnest, and, while the sitting was of only a little more than an hour's duration, a large number of important bills were introduced and a definite foundation laid for proceeding with the financial bill. The hour for the beginning of the debate on this measure was fixed for 2 o'clock tomorrow. The most notable event of the day was an objection entered by Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, to the summary disposition of resolutions asking for information about the conduct of the Philippine war. He indicated a purpose to demand consideration for such measures even at the expense of the financial bill. The tenth instant was named as the day for the delivery of eulogies in honor of the memory of the late Vice President Hobart. The house was in session but fifteen minutes today and during that time had a little flurry over an attempt by Mr. Sulzer, of New York, to secure consideration for a resolution asking information concerning the relations of the treasury department with the National City bank, of New York. This resolution was referred to the committee on ways and means. Mr. Glines, of Tennessee, rose to a question of personal privilege respecting his vote on the Roberts resolution. These events and the prayer of the chaplain occupied the brief time the house was in session. Among the bills and resolutions introduced were the following: By Mr. Cooney, of Missouri, joint resolution for a constitutional amendment providing that "no new state, the territory of which is not contiguous to the United States, shall be admitted by the congress into the Union." By Mr. Bromwell, of Ohio, joint resolution proposing the following amendment to the constitution: "Congress shall have power to define trusts and to regulate, control or prohibit the same within any state, but not within any other place subject to its jurisdiction."

THE FINANCIAL BILL. Amendments Authorized by Republican Members of Committee.

Washington, Jan. 3.—The Republican members of the senate finance committee authorized Senator Aldrich to present amendments to the financial bill which he offered in an attempt today. The most important relate to the greenbacks and is as follows: After the word "authority" on the five, page 12 strike out the remainder of section and insert: "And the gold coin received from the sale of said bonds shall be covered into the general fund of the treasury and then exchanged in the manner hereinbefore provided, for an equal amount of the notes redeemed and held for exchange, and the United States notes exchanged in accordance with the provisions of this section shall, when covered into the treasury, be re-issued as now provided by law, and the gold coin in the reserve fund, together with the redeemed notes held for use as provided in this section, shall at no time exceed the maximum sum of \$150,000,000." It is stated by members of the committee that the amendments are for the purpose of making more clear the intention of the bill and to leave no question as to the construction of the law when enacted.

BODIES FOUND IN APARTMENTS OCCUPIED BY THEM. Derouled and Guerin So Adjudged, with Extenuating Circumstances.

Paris, Jan. 3.—The high court (senate) today, rendering its verdict in the conspiracy cases not previously disposed of, decided by a vote of 138 to 37 that M. Derouled was guilty, and by a vote of 200 to 1 deciding on extenuating circumstances. Later the court acquitted M. Dubuc and M. Barillier and found M. Guerin guilty. The sentences have not yet been pronounced. TWENTY-TWO DROWNED. British Steamer Borkese Founders Off Cape Finisterre. London, Jan. 3.—A dispatch from Bristol announces that the British steamer Borkese, of Glasgow, founded off Cape Finisterre last Friday during a hurricane. Twenty-two of the crew were drowned. The survivors, nine in number, have just arrived at Bristol.

THE PLAGUE AT MANILA. Man Found Who Has Symptoms of the Disease.

Manila, Jan. 3.—The health officers have found a native having all the symptoms of bubonic plague in a house in the walled city, where two deaths which may have been due to the plague have occurred. The patient has been isolated and every precaution taken to prevent a spread of the disease.

WAR DEPARTMENT ACTS. Rigid Steps Will Be Taken to Prevent the Introduction of the Plague to the Philippines—Marine Hospital Service Already Has Two Quarantine Plants at Manila—The Bubonic Plague at Honolulu.

Washington, Jan. 3.—The war department is taking steps to prevent the introduction of the plague in the Philippines. Secretary Root this morning called a consultation Surgeon Wyman, of the marine hospital service, to discuss the establishment of a quarantine system for the islands. It was decided that the war department should adopt toward the Philippines a sanitary policy similar to that pursued in Cuba, and confer the maintenance of a quarantine system to the marine hospital service. Quarantine Plants. The marine hospital service has already two quarantine plants in the Philippines, while two of its surgeons are now on their way to Manila, so that little delay will be encountered in beginning to draw a rigid quarantine line in the islands.

The reports received by the state department and Surgeon-General Wyman from Honolulu confirm the newspaper despatches relative to the existence of the plague there. Surgeon General Wyman has no information of the report that three suspected places 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 there would be no need to necessarily result in an epidemic in the islands.

Senator Hanna Declines. Will Not Be Permanent Chairman of Republican Convention. Cleveland, Jan. 3.—Senator Hanna declared today that although he had been urged to stand for the permanent chairmanship of the next Republican national convention he would not do so. "There are other men," he said, "who are more ambitious than I am, who value that honor more than I do, I will give way to them." He also declared that he will not be one of the delegates at large from Ohio to the convention. "I greatly desire that General Dick shall have an unopposed place in the Ohio delegation at large," he explained, "and I am glad to step out in his favor. If I am to be considered as one of the delegates at large, president giving the place to me as a senator, there will be a contest between General Grosvenor and General Dick. I being out of it, there will be room for both of them, as there should be, and friction will be avoided."

FRENCH CONSPIRATORS GUILTY. Derouled and Guerin So Adjudged, with Extenuating Circumstances.

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WEATHER FORECAST. Washington, Jan. 3.—Forecast for Thursday and Friday: For east—increasing cloudiness Thursday; increasing cloudiness Friday; variable winds in the afternoon; light variable winds becoming westerly.