

SUPPOSED TO BE FIGHTING

Gen. Buller Has Made Another Advance on Ladysmith.

NOTHING DEFINITE KNOWN

General French on His Return to Rensburg After His Conference with Lord Roberts Sent an Overwhelming Force of Infantry to Seize Norval's Point—Many of the Guns That Have Heretofore Been Used Against Lord Methuen Are Believed to Be Now at Norval's Point—Some Hard Fighting Is Promised.

London, Feb. 6.—A military opinion in London continues to assume, from very slender materials, that General Buller is again throwing his army against the Boer works. A retired general, Sir William Henry Green, whose distinguished career gives weight to his opinion, thinks that General Buller with 25,000 men is making a wide detour to the west and north, in order to avoid the roughest parts of the country. As General Buller must have some thousands of wagons, Sir William Green points out that the advance would necessarily be slow.

No authentic word is at hand, save that the war office reaffirmed orally the newspaper inquiries at a late hour that it could not confirm the reported advance. There the Natal situation rests.

It is from the western field that more definite statements come. Large operations are apparently about to begin. General French, who has now returned to Rensburg from his conference with Lord Roberts, has sent what is described as an overwhelming force of infantry to seize Norval's Point.

Where Railway Crossed. This is where the railway, before it was destroyed, crosses the Orange river and connected with the Free State trunk line with Bloemfontein. Norval's Point is nineteen miles north of Colonsburg and twenty-five miles from Rensburg. The Boers at Colonsburg have been in danger of being surrounded by the largely reinforced and extending lines of Norval's Point.

The Boers are showing great activity in the Naanpoort and Colonsburg districts. Many of the guns hitherto facing Lord Methuen are believed to have gone to Norval's Point. An occupation, therefore, may find formidable bodies of Boers there.

The censorship seems to have completely shut down the correspondents at Spearman's Camp. No dispatch from that point appears in this morning's papers. A bar has been allowed to issue since Sunday evening.

Hard Fighting Promised. A dispatch to the Times from Queenstown, Cape Colony, dated Monday, says: "General Buller, while addressing one of the regiments of the Colonial division, on parade yesterday, said they were leaving the next morning for the front, not to return, he hoped, until the task entrusted to him by Lord Roberts had been successfully accomplished."

He could not disclose the plan of operations, but if his intentions were carried out the greatest slaughter of fighting among them would have his fill."

CHAMBERLAIN'S ADDRESS.

He Dealt with the Broad Issues Arising from the War.

London, Feb. 5.—In the house of commons in the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, Sir William Vernon Harcourt, liberal, declared the war was due to a reversal of the policy laid down by the government in 1870. He contended that the war was an unhappy business it must be fought out to the bitter end. Mr. Chamberlain followed. The house was packed and several members of the United States embassy were present.

The colonial secretary spoke for forty minutes, dwelling on the broad issues and not dealing so much with details. He was enthusiastically cheered by the ministerialists and occasionally interrupted by the Irish members. Mr. Chamberlain paid a glowing tribute to the colonies and the promise of the future federation of the empire.

Critical Stage Reached. Mr. Chamberlain admitted that a critical stage of the war had been reached and that the situation was undeniably serious, though, he added, he did not believe the country was in danger. He refused to discuss the South African committee, and briefly summarized the negotiations with the Transvaal, pointing out that the issues between the Boers and British were real and great and inherent in the differences between the Boer and British civilization. If the preparations for war were insufficient, he continued, it was wholly due to the fact that the government was determined to do everything to secure peace and to do nothing to endanger it.

Mr. Chamberlain further declared that the war was just, necessary and righteous. He regretted the proposed amendment to the address, because, he said, it would throw doubt upon the usefulness of the kingdom.

Mr. Chamberlain asked the opposition whether they believed in the proposition that the war was necessary, and said the opposition proposed to call the war "unjust and unnecessary," and then vote for its vigorous prosecution.

Could Not Be Avoided

The war, the secretary claimed, could not be avoided except by the absolute surrender on the part of Great Britain of all which she attached importance. Believing the war inevitable how could they vote for amendment that said the war was avoidable. A policy of that sort was said to unite the party, but in the eyes of Europe it threw doubt upon the union of the United Kingdom.

"We have suffered checks," said Mr. Chamberlain, "and have made mistakes. I am not anxious to dispute as to the blame. Let the government bear the brunt until the times come when, under happier auspices, we can see the light between the system and those administering it. In the meantime blame us."

"What is now urgent is to repress those checks and to repair mistakes. You say we have sent out few troops, but we are pouring them into South Africa. In a few weeks we will have 200,000 men there. We will have as many mounted men as there are mounted Boers. Our colonies are multiplying their offers every day. I am grateful to accept, and Lord Roberts has selected from among the colonials his guard of honor.

Spirit is Unbroken. "Meanwhile the spirit of the nation is unbroken. There is no sacrifice which we are unwilling to make. There is no sacrifice we are unwilling to ask of the colonies. If we think it necessary to succeed, I must go further than this and admit this war, under new conditions, in a new country, with new arms, against a new people whose tenacity and courage are admirable, and the same of our own soldiers, has required a larger scheme than any the government has yet been called upon to meet."

No National Gloom. Referring to statements regarding "national gloom," Mr. Chamberlain said: "I do not accept the phrase. I know of annoyance and of irritation, perhaps, but not of vacillation approaching gloom." The colonial secretary concluded with a glowing eulogy in the manner in which the colonies have rallied to the empire.

WAY CLEARED FOR NICARAGUA CANAL

Great Britain Relinquishes All Voice in the Matter and Without Compensation—A Great Diplomatic Triumph.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The final papers relating to the convention which abrogates the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, signed this morning in the state department by Lord Pauncefote for Great Britain and Secretary Hay for the United States respectively. The new treaty, which clears the way for construction of the Nicaragua canal, is to be sent to the senate for ratification at once. That body will, it is almost certain, approve it promptly. Secretary Hay's success in making the convention is regarded at the state department as a crowning diplomatic triumph for the McKinley administration.

Members of the foreign relations committee who are in Secretary Hay's confidence say that the convention gives absolutely nothing to Great Britain by way of compensation. It is understood that there is nothing in the treaty to protect the fortification and protection of the canal by the United States. On the contrary, the United States government is expected to fortify and maintain it. All European nations are expected to join in the guarantee of neutrality, but the polling of the canal, the protection from attack by land and sea, is incumbent on the United States. Any provision in a convention forbidding such fortification and protection would be opposed in the senate and it is doubtful whether any bill can go through congress which does not contemplate such protection of capital investment.

MORMON CONVERTS ARRIVE

Thirty-five Come Over on the Steamship Anchora.

New York, Feb. 5.—Thirty-five Mormon converts, many of them women, arrived here today on the steamship Anchora from Glasgow. The party are on their way to Utah. They are from Belgium and Switzerland. There are some young girls in the party who are pretty and refined looking. As the immigrants fulfill all the conditions of the immigration law, they were allowed to proceed west.

Big Deal in Coal Land.

Pittsburg, Feb. 5.—A syndicate of Pittsburg, Pa., and western capitalists has secured options on about 3,000 acres of coal land between Pittsburg and Lake Erie railroad and the Hancock road. The property has a frontage on the Ohio river. It is proposed to develop this property. The syndicate is represented by John Blythe, an old coal operator, and R. J. Bailey, agent for W. P. Reid & Co.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Chambersburg, Pa., Feb. 5.—Rev. H. A. Haster, one of the best known ministers of the Reformed church in this section of the country, died suddenly today at his home at Fort Union, Rev. Haster was born in Mercersburg, Pa., in 1824.

New York, Feb. 5.—William Henry Gilmer, the explorer, a brother of Richard Watson Gilmer, died at his home in Morristown, N. J., today. He was born in Philadelphia in 1828.

AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED

TROOPS TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM FRANKFORT.

Order Convening the Legislature at London, Ky., Is to Be Revoked and the Regular Sessions Are to Be Resumed at the State Capitol Without Molestation—This Is Said to Be the Result of a Conference Between Republicans and Democrats Held at Louisville.

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 5.—A conference between accredited representatives of the two state governments was held at the Gault house in this city tonight as a step toward bringing about a peaceful settlement of the disturbed political conditions now existing. After four hours of preliminary talk, the conference adjourned at 10 o'clock for one hour. When the recess was taken all the participants were very reluctant to talk about what had been done. Governor Taylor was represented by Lieutenant Governor John Marshall, Attorney General Joseph H. Marshall, Daniel Lindsay, T. H. Edlin, Judge Robert Barr and Postmaster T. H. Baker, of this city. For the Democrats were present Senator-elect Blackburn, ex-Governor J. B. McCreary, Judge Robert J. Breckinridge, Democratic ex-Attorney General, and Colonel Phil Thompson.

Shortly after midnight the conference came to an agreement. It is said the agreement is decidedly favorable to the Democrats. Governor Taylor is to withdraw the troops from the state buildings at Frankfort and send them home. The order convening the legislature at London, Ky., is to be revoked and the regular sessions of the general assembly are to be resumed at the state capital without molestation.

It is believed the understanding arrived at tonight will result in an amicable settlement of the dispute between the two parties in this state and do away with the dual governments now asserting themselves.

Governor Taylor's Offer.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 5.—Governor Taylor tonight made a distinct and positive offer to submit the merits of his claim to the gubernatorial chair of Kentucky to any three fair-minded men in the world, those three men to be selected by the United States Supreme court. He will allow them to arbitrate the case and will abide by their decision. This announcement he made to a correspondent of the Associated Press at 6 o'clock tonight in his office at the executive building. The declaration made by Governor Taylor regarding arbitration was immediately wired by the Associated Press to Lieutenant Governor John Marshall, Attorney General David W. Farley, Republican members of the political conference held tonight at Louisville.

Chaotic is the only word that will describe the political situation as it existed today in Frankfort. This condition arose not from anything that was done by either side at the conference, but from the rumors that were spread broadcast during the day.

Superabundant Rumors.

Early in the morning it was positively asserted by the Democrats and confirmed by a few Republicans that the legislative session in London was about to be called off. The Democrats claimed to have had the highest possible assurance that Governor Taylor would take such action and that the session of the legislature would be held in Frankfort in the capitol building tomorrow morning. Governor Taylor late in the morning, however, altered the situation entirely by declaring that nothing had been published revoking the meeting at London and that it would proceed as originally intended by him. He denied in the most emphatic manner that there had been any intention on the part of the Republican party to abandon the London session.

This was a bombshell to many of the Democratic members of the legislature, who, acting on the advice of their attorneys, had left the city Saturday night and Sunday morning in order to be away from the capital in case it was decided by Governor Taylor to convey them to London for the purpose of helping out a quarrel. They had left the city and directed, and today this morning a large number of them were told to return, as everything had been settled and an agreement reached which would allow the legislature to occupy the chambers in the capitol building.

On a Vain Errand.

They came in from all directions and by noon fully thirty of them had arrived. They knew nothing of the situation except what has been contained in messages received by them, and those were found to be misleading, when they were confronted on their arrival in Frankfort by the statement of Governor Taylor. They immediately began preparations to leave the city and at nightfall Democratic members were as scarce as they were in the morning before the first train arrived. Late last evening word came that an adjustment favorable to the Democrats might be made at a conference at Louisville, which was expected, however, to last through the night. By this time the Democratic members were planning faith once more to legal advice, and were beyond the reach of reassuring telegrams.

TAYLOR INTERVIEWED.

Gives Reasons Why He Will Not Yield to Rump Dictation.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 5.—In an interview today Governor Taylor said: "No acts of the legislature in regard to my case have been legal because no meeting of the legislature has been held according to law. The constitution provides that the legislature shall consist of two bodies, the senate and the lower house, and shall sit at the seat of government. That seat of government is in Frankfort, unless the governor convene the legislature at some other point. I have convened the legislature at London, where it will continue to sit for the

MR. SIBLEY ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE

GOADED INTO MAKING SUCH DECLARATION YESTERDAY.

Democrats Consume the Hours of the Sessions in Making Assaults on the Administration's Philippine Policy—Senator Caffery Breaks New Ground in Developing His Position as an Anti-Expansionist.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The Democrats of the house continued their assault upon the Philippine policy of the administration during the general debate upon the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill today. Two speeches were made by Democratic members of the foreign affairs committee, Mr. Dismore, of Arkansas, and Mr. Champ Clark, of Missouri, opposing the speech of Mr. Clark, which lasted almost two hours, was a notable effort, replete with unique epigrams, and attracted much attention. No Republican spoke in defense of the administration's policy today.

Mr. Sibley, of Pennsylvania, who was elected as Democrat, but who made a speech last week, defending expansion, was goaded today into an announcement that the Democrats could consider his seat constructively on the Republican side. Before the debate began an effort was made to pass a bill looking to the appointment of an expert commission to examine into the pollution of the water supply of cities, but it was defeated. The Chicago members considered that it was aimed especially at the Chicago drainage canal.

HERMIT BROTHERS BURNED TO DEATH

One Was Worth a Million and a Half Dollars and the Other Was Well to Do They Had Lived Alone and Apart.

Portland, Ind., Feb. 5.—William and John Newton, wealthy bachelor brothers, were burned to death in the home of the former, one mile west of here today. The fire was discovered by a neighbor, but when he reached the burning house he was too late to render any assistance. No evidence of foul play has been discovered. William Newton was 75 years old and one of the wealthiest men in the state, his estate being estimated at \$1,500,000. Both men were eccentric and lived in the most frugal manner.

LAWTON FUNERAL PLANS.

Honorary Pall-Bearers Announced. Naval Salute to Be Fired.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Adjutant General Lawton was today informed that the funeral train bearing the body of General Lawton and Major Armstrong will arrive in this city Thursday. It was arranged today that the navy and the marine corps shall take part in the ceremonies. A full battalion of marines, headed by the Marine band, has been assigned a place in line and a warship, probably the Dolphin, will fire minute-guns as the funeral cortege passes over the Aqueduct bridge on its way to the cemetery.

WANT EARLY CONVENTIONS.

Organization of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The newly organized Republican national congressional campaign committee held its initial meeting today for the selection of officers and adoption of general plans. Representative Babcock, of Wisconsin, was elected chairman for the third time. Representative Overstreet, of Indiana, secretary, and W. E. Thompson, treasurer. Mr. Babcock was empowered to name the executive committee, which was given authority to carry on the work in the absence of the full committee. The full committee will assemble once a month during the session of congress.

CLARK'S MEN DENY.

Swear They Did Not Receive Any Money in the Montana Fight

Washington, Feb. 5.—The two most important witnesses before the Clark investigating committee of the senate today were Representative Jaquith, of the Montana legislature, and A. B. Cook, ex-state auditor. Mr. Jaquith, one of the members in whose name Mr. Whiteside claimed to have received \$5,000 for voting for Mr. Clark for the senate, and Mr. Cook had been represented by Speaker Stiff of the Montana house as having tried to induce him to vote for Mr. Clark for a money consideration.

Nicaraguan Canal Treaty

Washington, Feb. 5.—The Hay-Pauncefote treaty, amending the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, relative to the construction of the Nicaragua canal was signed in the state department today by Secretary Hay of the United States and the Rt. Hon. Lord Pauncefote, of Preston, for Great Britain.

Two Men Drowned.

New York, Feb. 5.—During the heavy rain early today the bridge over second river at Newark, N. J., was washed away. Louis Giger was drowned and James Daley, who had charge of the mill dam gate at the bridge, is missing, and was probably drowned.

Steamship Arrivals.

New York, Feb. 5.—Arrived, Steamship from Rotterdam. Cleared, Saale, Bremen via Southampton. Lizard—Passed Hoiland, Antwerp for New York. Liverpool—Arrived, Campania, New York. Rotterdam—Arrived, Amsterdam, New York.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING

Weather Indications Today: FAIR; VARIABLE WINDS.

- 1 General—Belief that Buller Has Made an Advance on Ladysmith. General Kobbé Garrison's Philippine Towns. General Expansion Debate in Congress, The Kentucky Situation. 2 General—Northwestern Pennsylvania Financial and Commercial. 3 Local—Circular with Reference to Rural Free Postal Delivery. The Heavens in February. 4 Editorial. News and Comment. 5 General—Career and Methods of Leonard Wood. 6 Local—Purgaria Plead Guilty. Quarter Sessions Court Proceedings. 7 Local—Lively Little World War. Judge Archibald's Opinion in an Assessment Case. Big Real Estate Deal. 8 Local—West Scranton and Suburban. 9 Round About the County. 10 Local—Live Industrial News.

MOLINEUX TRIAL AGAIN UNDER WAY

Prosecution Rests, After Having Called Nearly 200 Witnesses and Consumed Sixty Days—Defense to Begin Today.

New York, Feb. 5.—The trial of Roland H. Molineux, charged with the murder of Mrs. Katherine J. Adams in December, 1888, by poison, began today after an interval of nearly two weeks, caused by the illness of a juror. The state called a few unimportant witnesses and then rested. It had been expected that Assistant District Attorney Osborne would introduce some sensational testimony, but he did not. He even recalled a handwriting expert. When the court reassembled at 2 o'clock this afternoon Mr. Weeks, counsel for the defense, asked an adjournment until tomorrow morning and the request was granted.

The state has consumed sixty days. Nearly 200 witnesses have been examined for the prosecution and Mr. Osborne contends that he has proven the case in all particulars. Mr. Weeks says that he does not expect to take up as much time as the state occupied.

SIBLEY WILL BE A CANDIDATE

He Makes Reply to an Address from His Constituents.

Oil City, Pa., Feb. 5.—The Derrick will tomorrow publish a letter from Congressman Joseph C. Sibley, addressed to the voters of the Twenty-seventh district, written in response to a call from friends in the various counties of the district, asking him to be a candidate for congress on the Republican ticket.

"When a candidate for your suffrages, I pledged myself to support measures coming before congress, regardless of political bias, and to give to their consideration the best qualified heads and hearts which in my possession. This pledge I have honestly and earnestly attempted to maintain. I have supported the administration because I am in sympathy with its action of the past, the present and the aims for the future so far as they are outside of my measures which in their tendency threaten present prosperity are to be avoided."

STRIKE AT SHIPYARDS.

Threatened Break Did Not Occur at Cramp's Yesterday.

Philadelphia, Feb. 5.—The threatened break in the strike at Cramp's shipyard did not take place as was expected today. It was announced at the plant on Saturday that the men had declared the strike off and those still unemployed, numbering about 150, would return to work today. Instead, a largely attended meeting of strikers was held and addresses were made by George Warner, New York business agent of the machinists international association, and William J. Boyle, representing the New York boilermakers and iron ship builders union.

Contributions of \$150 from the New York machinists and \$100 from the United society of boilermakers and iron-steel ship builders of Great Britain were received for the support of the strikers. Accompanying the latter contribution was the announcement that an assessment of twelve cents a member had been decided upon to assist the dissatisfied Cramp employees.

Fraudulent Banker Pardoned.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The president has granted a pardon to William M. Cotter, who pleaded guilty in 1888 to the charge of defrauding the National Bank of Delaware at Dover, and was sentenced to eighteen months in the penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$5,000. The pardon was granted on the recommendation of the district attorney, the trial judge, and ten of the jurors in the case, it appearing that the prisoner is afflicted with an incurable disease of the heart and that his life would be endangered by further confinement.

Bryan Talks On.

Pittsfield, Mass., Feb. 5.—William J. Bryan this afternoon addressed a mass meeting in the Casino, attended by people from all parts of western Massachusetts. Mr. Bryan declared that the only question at issue today is whether this nation shall stand on the Declaration of Independence or off it. This declaration states that we cannot buy governments with or without the consent of their people. But the purchase of a people and their conquest by war are against the Declaration.

The Plague at Honolulu.

Washington, Feb. 5.—United States Agent Haywood has called the state department today. He dated January 24, as follows: "Since the 17th of January there have been twelve new cases of bubonic plague at Honolulu and six deaths."

California Hotel Burned.

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 5.—The Echo Mountain House, a large hotel on Mount Lowe, near Pasadena, was destroyed by fire today. All the guests escaped unhurt. The loss is about \$100,000.

GEN. KOBBE'S EXPEDITION

Nine Towns Are Permanently Garrisoned by Our Troops.

FILIPINOS FLEE TO HILLS

Americans Capture \$9,000 in Gold, Enemy's Money, and Forty Muzzle Loading Brass Cannon—At Takloban Several Non-Combatants Are Accidentally Killed—Visayans Indifferent or Antagonistic to American Occupation—Tagalog Chiefs Have Influenced Them Against Americans—Rush to New Ports.

Manila, Feb. 5.—3:35 p. m.—Brigadier General Kobbé's expedition in the islands of Luzon, Leyte, and Samar, has occupied permanently and garrisoned nine towns with the Forty-third and Forty-seventh regiments. This has placed on the market 150,000 baales of hemp. A thousand insurgents armed with rifles and over five thousand armed with wooden swords, bows and arrows, were encountered during the entire trip. The troops killed 75 natives, eleven of whom had rifles. The others were villagers armed with wooden swords. The American loss was one man killed and nine men wounded. The Americans captured \$9,000 in gold, enemy's money, and forty muzzle loading brass cannon.

At Catbalogan and Samar the enemy evacuated the towns, the Americans chasing, fighting and scattering them to the mountains. At Catbalogan, Lukban, the Tagalog general, fled the place with keroseene just before the Americans landed, and then fought for two hours with cannon and rifles from the hills entering the town. When the Filipinos were driven out the Americans did their best to save the town, fighting the fire for several hours. Thirty stone and sixty other houses, half the business portion of the place, were consumed. The soldiers prevented the fire from spreading. The next day Major Allen, with three companies of the Forty-third regiment, pursued Lukban to the mountain fastnesses and thence to the coast town where Lukban was hiding in hopes of escaping. Lukban, by taxing the natives, has accumulated \$100,000 in gold. His capture is probable.

At Takloban, island of Leyte, the enemy evacuated the town and the Americans pursued them to the hills. Several fleeing non-combatants were killed, including three women.

Palo, seven miles distant, the enemy was found entrenched and resisted. Lieutenant Johnston and twelve scouts of the Forty-third regiment drove out 150 of the enemy and captured the town. The insurgents in these towns were mostly Visayans who have been impressed by the tendency toward present prosperity are to be avoided."

He concludes by announcing that he will be a candidate for re-election.

HARRY DIDDLEBOCK DEAD.

A Well-Known Base Ball Magnate Passes Away.

Philadelphia, Feb. 5.—After an illness of less than a week Harry H. Diddlebock, known in local sporting and newspaper circles, died today at his home in this city. Death was primarily due to a heavy cold contracted last Monday night. This developed into erysipelas, which attacked the heart. Mr. Diddlebock was 46 years of age.

His first venture in the base ball line was as manager of the famous old Athletics, and later he served through successive years as president, secretary and treasurer of the Eastern Base Ball league. As a sporting writer he occupied positions in nearly all of the local newspaper offices until 1896, when he removed to St. Louis and assumed the management of the St. Louis base ball team. He returned a year later and up to his death was on the staff of the Inquirer.

MYSTERIOUS MR. MACRUM.

He Carries His Burden of Knowledge to His Home.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Mr. Macrum called on the state department today at 3:30 o'clock and spent about half an hour in consultation with Dr. Hill, assistant secretary of state. Secretary Hill having left his office for the day, he still refuses to make any statement explaining his reasons for leaving Pretoria.

Mr. Macrum did not enlighten Mr. Hill as to his motive for leaving Pretoria. He asked permission to go to his home in East Liverpool, Ohio, and it was granted.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Forecast for Tuesday: For eastern Pennsylvania, fair Tuesday, increasing cloudiness Wednesday; variable winds, shifting to southerly.