

BOERS IN BURROWS

The Shell Proof Position Enables Cronje to Hold Out.

INEFFECTUAL SHOOTING

May Not Surrender Until Ammunition Has Been Exhausted—Has Plenty of Food—Lord Roberts' Reason for Not Pressing His Advantage—Engineers Working Forward Steadily—An Estimate of the Number of Troops in the Field.

London, Feb. 26.—If the latest dispatches from Paardeberg show any light on the situation they show that general Cronje's forces have far more position than they were credited with. Lord Roberts' heavy fire, than the first dispatches indicated. A special dispatch from Paardeberg, dated Saturday, February 24, published in the second edition of the Daily Chronicle today, says:

A balloon has discovered the enemy well covered by a system of burrowing in the river bank, which resembles a rabbit warren and affords shell-proof positions.

That, perhaps, more than any other circumstance, explains the prolongation of what is regarded here as General Cronje's death struggle. It was not cause astonishment if today and tomorrow—the anniversary of Majuba Hill—pass without being marked by the surrender or annihilation of the gallant band so overwhelmingly hooped in.

The military critics, although but little better informed than the public as to the commander-in-chief's motives, are inclining to the view that the main reason for the Paardeberg affair being so long drawn out is Lord Roberts' unwillingness to risk the great cost of life which an attempt to take the vicinity as well as reinforcing and relieving Boer units as will come, feeling strong enough to treat them as General Buller treated General Buller's attempts to relieve Ladysmith. In other words, and according to a special dispatch from Paardeberg, dated Sunday, February 25, the cordon is gradually being drawn closer.

Troops in the Field. London, Feb. 27.—A dispatch from Bloemfontein with which to dispute the invasion of Lord Roberts. This intelligence comes from Pretoria, by way of Lourenço Marques. The commandos are described as hastening from all quarters of the two republics. No estimate is made of their numbers, but the withdrawal of the Boers from most of the places where they have been in contact with the British, except the district near Ladysmith, may raise the remaining force to 40,000 men. This figure assumes that the Boers have between 60,000 and 70,000 men in the field.

The gathering of this army across the path of Lord Roberts gives significance to General Cronje's steadfast defense. He has engaged the corps of Lord Roberts for ten days now, and whether he is relieved or not, he has alive time for the dispersed Boer factions to get together and the propositions the British advance when Cronje is overcome and Lord Roberts moves forward.

It is difficult to conceive that the Boers are strong enough to take the offensive and to rescue General Cronje from his precarious situation. The war office had nothing after midnight to indicate his position. The correspondents seem to have an exact information respecting his resources. Some say he has plenty of food but is short of ammunition. Others assert that he has abundant supplies of cartridges.

Strenuous Fighting. General Buller on Saturday faced the last and strongest positions of the Boers who bar his way to Ladysmith. The strenuous fighting indicates a battle between armies, rather than a mere guard actions protecting retreat.

On Thursday and Friday he lost forty-three officers killed and wounded, representing probably a total loss of from 100 to 500. General White's guns worked on Saturday upon the Boer position and shells from the Ladysmith reported that the Boers were retreating and that large quantities were being issued in view of the fact that relief seemed at hand. Nothing has been heard from Mafeking since February 12. The movement on the Veldt away from the railway is becoming increasingly difficult for large bodies of troops, as the grass is burned up. General French has to wagon forage for his horses, and even the infantry finds the long marches harder than before, as forage for the transport animals must be carried. This requires the formation of garrisoned depots.

The ordinary campaigning season is over, and the sickly season for both men and animals has set in. Technical military writers take these things into consideration in forecasting events.

The Daily Chronicle says it learns from private letters that British rifles and ammunition have been landed on the southern coast of Cape Colony, presumably for the Dutch colonists.

Lord Roberts has recently received seventy-two additional pieces of artillery. Whether all have been sent to Paardeberg is not known. Probably the Eighth division will leave England next Monday.

Cronje Frustrated. London, Feb. 27.—A despatch to the Daily Chronicle from Paardeberg, dated Friday, Feb. 23, says:

"General Cronje's attempt to mount guns was frustrated by our artillery." London, Feb. 27.—The Daily Mail has the following despatch from Paardeberg, dated Sunday:

"There are about 4,000 men hooped in General Cronje's camp, exclusive of the losses he has hitherto sustained. His wife is not with him, although there are women and children in the camp."

"The Boer position now is almost exclusively confined to the river bed. The enemy is entirely at our mercy, but Lord Roberts is treating them with great consideration, from motives of humanity."

Boers Concentrating. London, Feb. 27.—A despatch to the Daily News from Lourenço Marques, dated Friday, Feb. 23, says:

"It is reported here that 5,000 burghers have left Ladysmith for the Free State. The Boers are concentrating their forces thirty miles outside of Bloemfontein and the Free State government is moving to Winburg."

ADMIRAL DEWEY'S PRIZE CLAIMS

OPINION RENDERED BY UNITED STATES COURT.

Decision of the Lower Courts Reversed—The Admiral's Claim Is for \$200 for Each Man Belonging to the Enemy's Crew—Court Holds That the Claimant Has Right to \$100 for Each Man.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The United States court of claims today rendered an opinion on the claim of Admiral Dewey, his officers and men for naval bounty under section 433 of the revised statutes for the destruction of the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay, May 1, 1898, the court holding that the claimant has a right to recover for each person on board the enemy's ships, the sum of \$100. This decision is upon the basis that the Admiral's fleet was superior to the Spanish fleet, excluding the snore batteries, the torpedo boats and the mines in Manila Bay. Admiral Dewey's claim was for \$200 for each man belonging to the enemy's fleet, including the supporting shore batteries, mines and torpedoes.

The principal question involved in the case was whether in determining the enemy's force the supporting shore batteries and mines and torpedoes should be included. The government insisted that the statute failed to provide for the contingency of the co-operation of land batteries with the naval forces destroyed and the mines in Manila Bay are to be supplied to the omission.

The court, in deciding the case held that the law applied only to the force of the vessels engaged in the action, and that in this instance, taking the number and character of the vessels into account, the strength of their batteries on board and all other matters which properly go toward the determination of the actual fighting strength of the two opposing fleets, that of the United States was the superior. It is understood that counsel for Admiral Dewey will take an appeal to the supreme court of the United States. Under today's decision Admiral Dewey is personally entitled to \$2,500.

The general debate on the Puerto Rican tariff bill in the house was today extended until tomorrow night, when the conference report will be taken up. The bill is now being considered by the conference committee, and the dissenting Republicans in their efforts to compromise their differences upon the bill. The speakers today were Messrs. Boutwell (Ill.), Brown (Ohio), Mendon (Wis.), Gault (Pa.) and Messrs. Bartlett (Ga.), Latham (Texas), Moon (Tenn.), Williams (Ill.), Johnson (West Va.), Sutherland (Neb.), Jett (Ill.), Noonan (Ill.), and Wilson (Ark.), against it.

PENNSYLVANIA NEW LINE

It Will Soon Run Direct to Buffalo. Philadelphia, Feb. 26.—The Pennsylvania Railroad company will within a short time have a line of its own to Buffalo, and the work of locating the new road will begin shortly. The first step towards the building of the new line was made a few days ago, when the company announced it would purchase the stock of the Erie and Western Transportation company. It was stated today that the reason for securing the stock was to prevent the line from passing into other hands, or eventually going into liquidation.

At the present time the Pennsylvania Railroad company has no outlet of its own into Buffalo. It is for this reason that the company is building a new line from Kane or Wilcox, on the Philadelphia and Erie railroad, to Buffalo, a distance of about 125 miles. This road will give the Pennsylvania Railroad company a good line to Buffalo.

Besides the construction of this line the Pennsylvania Railroad company will build other sections of road and it is contemplated to construct a line from Mt. Jewell to Lemont and then to Emporium on the Philadelphia and Erie line. This will cut off a number of miles and will give the company a shorter haul to the seaboard. When the new line is completed all the business for Buffalo from Pittsburgh will be taken over the Allegheny Valley division to a point on the Philadelphia and Erie road.

Death of George Wooley Allen

Philadelphia, Feb. 26.—George Wooley Allen, for more than thirty years one of the editors of the Evening Telegraph of this city, died at his home here yesterday in the sixty-second year of his age. Mr. Allen had been in failing health for some time past, and a few weeks ago fell on the snow covered pavement in front of his residence, the shock resulting in death. Mr. Allen joined the staff of the Evening Telegraph in 1889 and was continually engaged in editorial labor upon that paper until within a week of his death.

Pure Food Delegates

Harrisburg, Feb. 26.—The governor appointed these delegates to the pure food and drug congress which meets in Washington D. C. March 7: Thomas Martin, Philadelphia; George A. Kelly, Pittsburg; J. L. Witham, Pittsburg; A. Kayser, Philadelphia; William Smalley, Philadelphia; A. S. Deber, Reading; C. A. Galesy, York; H. Nelson, Chester; C. E. Woods, Allentown; Thomas Cassidy, Wilkes-Barre.

Desperate Character Arrested

Harrisburg, Feb. 26.—Local detectives tonight arrested Melvin Mann, a desperate character, charged with attempting to murder and rob Farmer Lawrence Crupper, of York county, last September. Before Mann was taken he tried to shoot the officers but his pistol missed fire. Detective Wallick, of York, took him to that place late tonight.

"Uncle Alvin Joslin" Ill.

Pittsburg, Feb. 26.—Charles L. Davis, proprietor of Alvin theater, this city, and well known throughout the country for his impersonation of "Alvin Joslin," is lying dangerously ill at his home at Avalon, Pa. He is suffering from an attack of pneumonia, and the four hundred apprehensions are felt by his obstinate.

FARRERO ELECTROCUTED

An Italian Murderer Suffers Death Penalty in Sing Sing.

Sing Sing, Feb. 26.—Anton Farrero, an Italian murderer, was electrocuted in the prison administered today. The execution was taken by the sidewalk. Farrero was led into the death chamber shortly after 8 o'clock this morning. At twenty-five minutes past the hour the death current was turned on. The voltage was 1,540. Five shocks were administered and at 8:25 Farrero was pronounced dead.

The crime for which Farrero paid the death penalty was the murder of Luciano Marchio, an Italian laborer in Brooklyn, Sept. 4, 1898. A dispute arose over a game of cards and an adjournment was taken by the sidewalk. Here Farrero drew a razor and cut Marchio's throat, killing him instantly. The fight was witnessed by a policeman and a speedy arrest and conviction followed. Farrero seemed to take no interest in his trial.

A plea of insanity was raised in his behalf, but a commission pronounced him sane. The court of appeals refused to grant him a new trial. Farrero has given more trouble to his keepers than any other condemned man ever had in Sing Sing. For the first week he has raved, screamed and yelled, causing much discomfort to the other condemned prisoners. No man ever met death in the chair with greater indifference than Farrero. A half-hour before he was led into the death chamber, Father Allusi, of New York, and Rev. Father Smythe pleaded with him to accept religious consolation, but without avail.

Farrero walked into the executive chamber holding the arm of Keeper Conner, who had been in charge of the execution and inury prisoners ever confined in Sing Sing. He made no sign or utterance and took his seat with sullen indifference. Father Allusi cried continually: "Antonio, listen to me," but the Italian paid no attention. The current was turned on five times before he was pronounced dead. He was one of the hardest men to kill ever executed here. It is a peculiar fact that the man believed electricity could not kill him. He had said this to his keepers frequently and last night he boasted of the current was turned on for periods varying from ten to twenty seconds before the physicians pronounced Farrero dead.

When Farrero started for the death chamber the curtains of the other condemned men's cells were drawn. Warden Johnson said he felt sure that the other condemned prisoners, including Roland B. Molinoux and Dr. Kennedy, knew nothing of what was going on.

DAILY ON THE STAND

Mr. Clark's Political Ego as a Witness. Washington, Feb. 26.—Marcus Daly, the millionaire miner of Montana, was the principle witness before the senate committee on privileges and elections today. He was on the stand for about two hours and at the expiration of this time was excused on the plea that he was not well and that the questioning process fettered him. Mr. Daly confessed that he had contributed \$20,000 or \$25,000 to the prosecution of this case, but he asserted that he had not entered into any conspiracy before Mr. Clark's election to injure him. He had not contributed any of the \$20,000 to the "Whistle-blower" fund. In conclusion he tendered his checks and check books for the past five years for the inspection of the committee. Mr. Clark listened attentively to Mr. Daly's testimony.

LUZERNE DEMOCRATS

They Elect Delegates to State Convention. Hazleton, Feb. 26.—The Democratic convention of the Fourth Legislative district of Luzerne county today elected John McElrath, of Freeland, and Dennis O'Donnell, of Hazleton, followers and supporters of the Lenahan faction, delegates to the Democratic county convention. The delegates received thirty and McElrath twenty-eight of the votes.

MILLING TRUST COLLAPSED

A \$25,000,000 Company Fails to Float Securities. Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 26.—The United States Milling company, generally known as the flour trust, collapsed Saturday afternoon. The collapse of the company was due, it is said, to its inability to float its securities on the open market.

LILY IN PHILADELPHIA

Mrs. Langtry Gives Recitations for Benefit of War Fund. Philadelphia, Feb. 26.—The Broad street theatre was crowded this afternoon with members of the fashionable society, the occasion being a concert for the benefit of the British soldiers' families' fund. About \$3,000 was raised by the entertainment and this sum will be divided between the Princess of Wales' fund and the lady mayor's fund.

Against Sabbath Desecration

Reading, Feb. 26.—At today's session of the Evangelical conference \$1,500 was apportioned to superintendents ministers and workers, the second day of the conference was devoted to Sabbath desecration. Sunday traffic at camp meetings, Sunday newspapers and sacred concerts on the Lord's day were the subjects of the resolutions, which were endorsed.

Prohibition Convention

Philadelphia, Feb. 26.—A meeting of the prohibition state legislative committee, at which steps may be taken indicating the party's course in state politics, especially the approaching executive fight, will be held in this city tomorrow. The committee will fix the time of holding the state convention and will name the day for the meeting. The convention is likely to go to Johnstown.

Quays En Route for Florida

Way Crossing, Ga., Feb. 26.—United States Senator Quay and family, occupying a private car, passed through Way Crossing en route to St. Lucie, Fla.

Altoona Strike Settled

Altoona, Feb. 26.—The strike at the Delaney mine of the Altoona Coal and Coke company at Kittanning Point has been settled to the satisfaction of all parties concerned, and the four hundred miners have resumed work today.

CUT IN PUERTO RICAN TARIFF MEASURE

BILL WILL BE REDUCED TEN PER CENT.

Time Limit to Be Placed on the Law. Republican Leaders Confident It Can Be Passed Then—Another Conference to Be Held Tonight. Ways and Means Committee Will Announce That the Bill Is an Administration Measure—To Wait on the President Today and Declare Their Intentions.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The Republican leaders, after one hour's consultation with Speaker Henderson today, announced emphatically that the Puerto Rican tariff bill would be modified and that as modified it would be passed.

The changes which the leaders have decided on are a further reduction of the duties to be levied on American goods imported into Puerto Rico and on Puerto Rican goods into the United States from 25 per cent to 10 per cent. The bill is also to be made temporary in its character.

Representative Tawney, of Minnesota, the Republican whip, after a consultation with the situation today, said that only five Republican votes would be cast against the compromise measure. The committee of ten appointed at the Republican conference to consider differences on the Puerto Rico tariff bill had reached no agreement up to noon today, and members of the committee said that no further consultations were likely to be held prior to the conference of Republican members at 8 o'clock tonight. The situation in the committee was described by its members as a deadlock.

STATE MEDICAL COUNCIL

The Resolutions Offered by Dr. Beates Adopted. Harrisburg, Feb. 26.—The State Medical council met this afternoon and heard representatives of minor colleges regarding a request that the rule requiring a full course of four years in medical colleges by graduates of minor colleges be modified so as to permit the latter to enter as on their second year. After some consideration the following, offered by Dr. Beates, of Philadelphia, was adopted:

Whereas, the act of assembly requires that "applicants must have pursued the study of medicine at least four years, including the dissection of anatomy, and unless covered in some legally incorporated medical college or college prior to the granting of said diploma," therefore, be it resolved, That in the judgment of the council, when the medical course of the literary college, as proven by the examination of the student by the medical colleges, covers the entire work of the first year of actual medical study, such course may be accredited by the medical college as the first year of medical study required by law.

TO PERPETUATE DEWEY ARCH

Meeting of Committee to Consider Subscriptions. New York, Feb. 26.—At a meeting today of the executive committee of the citizens' committee for perpetuating the Dewey arch, it was decided to make public an offer by Howard Gould, in response to a letter asking him if he would renew his subscription next year. Mr. Gould wrote that he would be one of the four men to subscribe \$25,000 each to be paid on December 31, 1900, provided up to that time the subscriptions amounted to \$400,000.

The committee was much encouraged by this offer, as it is the first large offer yet received, and they have a pledge from another man who has announced himself willing to give as much as any other subscriber.

Corporations Chartered

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Phil D. Armour's Will

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WEATHER FORECAST

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THE NEWS THIS MORNING

Partly Cloudy; Westerly Winds.

1 General—Stubborn Resistance of General Cronje's Men. 2 Ruling on Manila Bay Prize Award. Debate on the Quay Case in the Senate. Puerto Rico Tariff Bill Modified. 3 General—Northeastern Pennsylvania. Financial and Commercial. 4 Local—Attempt to Enjoin the Coroner. Court Proceedings. 5 Editorial. News and Comment. 6 Local—Four Men Hurlled to Death at Mt. Pleasant Shaft. School Controllers in a Quandary. 7 Local—West Scranton and Suburban. 8 Round About the County. 9 Local—Estimated Deficiency in the Board of Control. 10 Live Industrial News.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONVENTION

Republican Clubs of Philadelphia Are Actively Engaged—Programme Arranged.

Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 26.—The arrangements for the social side of the Republican national convention are rapidly assuming shape. The allied Republican clubs' executive committee, which represents every Republican club in the city, has this part of the convention arrangements in charge, and is now actively engaged in perfecting the details. The programme for the week has practically been decided upon as follows:

Monday, June 18—Special committees representing the allied clubs will meet all trains and receive visiting delegates and nominees, and medical organizations arriving in a body and escort them to their headquarters. 8 p. m.—Grand torchlight parade of political organizations, all visiting organizations being given the right of life. June 19—Opening of the convention. 8 p. m.—Reception at the Academy of Music by the allied clubs' executive committee, delegates and others. 8 p. m.—Smoker in the Academy of Music, the visiting delegates and entertainments at the various local club houses. June 20—Third day of the convention. 8 p. m.—Entertainments at the local club houses.

HARD FIGHT WITH YAQUI.

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Mr. Turley Speaks in Opposition to Pennsylvania's Senator.

ARGUMENTS INTRODUCED

Constitutional Points Presented—Mr. Penrose Interrogates—The Hawaiian Government Bill Arouses a Lively Discussion—Mr. Tillman Admits That Ballot Boxes Have Been Stuffed to Maintain White Domination in the South.

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