

ADVANCE ON PRETORIA

The Plans of Lord Roberts Arc Nearly Completed.

PROPOSED PROCLAMATION

The Former State of Government in the Orange Free State to Be Abolished—Consideration Promised to Free States Who Surrender—The Powers Refuse to Intervene—Latest Advice Respecting Bloemfontein.

London, March 17.—4.20 a. m.—With the railway communication to the Cape intact Lord Roberts will in a very few days be in a position to begin the advance on Pretoria.

Maafeking is now the only point of anxiety, and it is known that a force has left Kimberley.

The possibility of the destruction of Johannesburg is still discussed here, but it is believed that the French and German shareholders would offer a strong protest.

The latest advice respecting the surrender of Bloemfontein show that the approach of the British caused a stampede.

Thirteen trains, each composed of forty cars, and all crammed with Boers, hurried northward just before the line was cut.

Dutch Anxious to Surrender. London, March 16.—Lord Roberts has sent the following dispatch to the war office.

Bethulle Deserted. Bethulle, Orange Free State, Thursday, March 15.—General Gatacre, on arriving here, found that all the Boers had fled.

Four Hundred Boers Surrender. Bloemfontein, March 16.—It is safe to say that the Boers have completely collapsed in the Free State, south of this point.

Germany's Attitude. Pretoria, Wednesday, March 14, via Lorenzo Marques, Thursday, March 15.—The German consul has handed the following dispatch to President Kruger.

Germany and the emperor will be gladly ready to assist in friendly mediations as soon as the fundamental conditions to such are apparent, as soon as it is demonstrated that both opponents desire mediation.

Bridge Over Orange River. Vansyl, Thursday, March 15.—The bridge over the Orange river here has been completed.

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SENATE PASSES THE PUERTO RICAN BILL

RELIEF APPROPRIATION MEASURE CARRIES \$2,095,000.

The President Authorized to Use That Sum for Public Education, Public Works and Other Governmental and Public Purposes in Puerto Rico—Mr. Allen Offers an Amendment—The Quay Case Will Be Taken Up in Two Weeks.

Washington, March 16.—After a debate, at times spirited, extending over parts of two days, the senate today passed the Puerto Rican relief appropriation bill.

Zealous efforts to excite new confidence in higher prices for iron have not had the desired effect.

Failures for the week have been 198 in the United States against 189 last year, and 23 in Canada against 30 last year.

Representative Fitzgerald Thinks the Oil Company Violates the Anti-Trust Law.

Washington, March 16.—Representative Fitzgerald, of Massachusetts, today introduced the following resolution: Whereas, it appears as a matter of public record that the Standard Oil company paid in the city of New York...

GOEBEL'S ASSASSINATION. Alleged Accessories Arraigned at Frankfurt.

Frankfurt, Ky., March 16.—Calvin Powers, John Davis, W. H. Culton and Harland Whitaker, charged with being accessories to the murder of William Goebel, were brought here from Louisville today in charge of Sheriff Suter.

DEADLY GASOLINE. One Man Killed—Five Are Injured by an Explosion.

Columbus, Ohio, March 16.—A gasoline explosion tonight at the residence of James Weaver resulted in one death, five fatally injured and one seriously injured.

OUR ALASKAN ARMY. Five Companies to Join the Troops Now in the Northwest.

Seattle, Wash., March 16.—General George M. Randall, commander of the Department of Alaska, and staff, arrived here last night.

Admiral Watson Directed to Send a Warship to Taku.

Washington, March 16.—Secretary Long has cabled instructions to Admiral Watson, at Cavite, to send a warship to Taku, China.

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DUN'S REVIEW OF TRADE.

New Monetary Act Has Not Affected Business Perceptibly.

New York, March 16.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade will say tomorrow: The new monetary act which was signed and took effect on Wednesday has not affected business perceptibly as yet.

Philadelphia, March 16.—Today's session of the Philadelphia Methodist Episcopal conference opened with the usual devotional exercises, which were led by the Rev. James T. Satchell.

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M. E. CONFERENCE AT PHILADELPHIA

BISHOP FOWLER PRESIDES AT YESTERDAY'S SESSIONS.

Report on the Contingent Fund Shows an Increase of \$3,277.29. General Missionary Secretary of New York Makes an Address—Ex-Governor Pattison Presides at Electoral Conference—The Officers Elected.

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THE NEWS THIS MORNING

Weather in Eastern Pennsylvania: FAIR, COOLER.

General—South African War Situation. Puerto Rican Bill Passed by the Senate. General Joe Wheeler Says Philippine War is Ended.

General—Northeastern Pennsylvania. Financial and Commercial. General—Penny's Washington Letter. The World of Sport.

Editorial News and Comment. Local—Social and Personal. One Woman's Views.

Local—The Day in United States Court. Work of the Grand Jury.

Local—Grand Jury Will Lexow City Hall. Choked to Death on a Ham Sandwich.

Local—West Scranton and Suburban. Round About the County.

Story—"Once Too Often." Missionary Work in the Philippines.

Sunday-School Lesson for Tomorrow. Religious News of the Week.

Local—Y. M. C. A. Plans Ready for the Builders. Live Industrial News.

CONFERENCE AT HAZLETON Business of the Central M. E. Society—Delegates Elected to the General Conference.

Hazleton, March 16.—At today's session of the Central Pennsylvania Methodist Episcopal conference a resolution praying congress to act favorably on the anti-trust bill now before the house was adopted by an unanimous vote.

On request of Treasurer Horning an auditing committee consisting of Samuel Creighton and E. M. Stevens, was appointed to audit his accounts.

Rev. A. J. Palmer, D. D., general missionary secretary of New York, in an address said there are now 40,000 Methodists in Japan, and 22,000 in China.

Rev. Dr. B. M. Chapman spoke in behalf of the Boston school of theology. Rev. Dr. George E. Reed, president of Dickinson College, announced that this institution was enjoying great prosperity.

Rev. J. T. Satchell, D. D., chairman of the twentieth century thank offering fund committee, presented a report which was adopted.

Following the adoption of a special declaration of faith, the general conference, the Methodist Episcopal hospital, Preachers' Aid society, Philadelphia Collegiate institute, Dickinson college, Dickinson seminary, Drew theological seminary, debts on churches and parsonages and such other educational and philanthropic institutions under the care of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary societies, to be designated by these organizations.

Rev. J. S. McConnell announced that the Philadelphia conference fund amounted to \$200,000.

On the first ballot four of the seven delegates to the general conference were elected as follows: Rev. T. B. Neely, D. D., Rev. J. B. Hughes, D. D., Rev. W. L. MacDowell, D. D., and Rev. J. R. Gray, D. D.

The second ballot resulted in the election of the Rev. Dr. Charles Elliott, of Pottsville. The two remaining delegates to the general conference will be balloted for tomorrow.

Lay Electoral Conference. The lay electoral conference met this afternoon and elected the following to the general conference: Regular delegates, Thomas Murray, of Altoona; Herbert Ames, of Williamsport; Provisional delegates, W. L. Woodcock, of Altoona; C. P. Speer, of Chambersburg; John R. Rote, of Danville; and J. R. Hines, of Williamsport.

Regular alternates, F. Llewellyn, of Shamokin; T. H. Manning, of Port Royal; Provisional alternates, J. W. Evans, of Danville; W. H. Schwartz, of Altoona; J. P. Mellick, of Harrisburg; J. D. First, of Williamsport.

WHEELER SAYS WAR IS OVER

Fillipino Army Consists of a Few Guerrillas and Irregulars.

MUST BE RUN TO EARTH "Fighting Joe" Insists That the War in the Philippines Has Been Ended Some Time—The American Troops Doing Splendid Work at Manila—General Wheeler Will Apply for Admission Into the House of Representatives.

Washington, March 16.—General Joe Wheeler arrived in this city today from Atlanta, Ga. In the absence of Secretary Root, General Wheeler reported formally to Adjutant General Corbin, thus complying with the order from the department which brought him from Manila to Washington.

The general was in the uniform of a brigadier general of the volunteer army. He looked the picture of health, better than when he left Washington for Manila. He gave General Corbin a brief description of the conditions in Luzon when he left. He insisted that the war was over and that nothing more was to be done except to run down a few guerrillas and irregulars.

There was difficulty in this work, he said, and there was danger, too, but his prosecution was not "war," he said, and it was not easy to tell whether the hidden force was strong or weak; three men had been mistaken for a company in some cases.

The general said that the American troops are doing splendid work here. They are sound and healthy, and in quite as good shape as they would be at home engaged in similar service.

This was owing, in a measure, to the excellent care for their men exhibited by officers and to the watchful precautions of the staff of the army.

General Wheeler said that as soon as his resignation had been accepted by the president he intended to make the issue as to his right to a seat in the house of representatives as a representative of Alabama. He says the issue will not be one for the decision of Speaker Henderson.

He presented himself at the bar of the house and ask to be sworn in, as he understood the rules, the speaker will have no option, but must submit the matter to the house.

General Wheeler was confident that the decision would be in his favor, though he realized that there might be some delay, owing to a reference of his case to the committee on elections.

At the conclusion of his interview with General Corbin, General Wheeler went over to the White House, where he was met by the president upon his resignation. It was learned that such action has been withheld by the president only to legalize General Wheeler's traveling expenses and per diem up to the moment of his arrival in Washington.

General Wheeler was with the president some time. On leaving the White House he said his resignation had not yet been accepted, but he expected a decision would be reached within a few days.

BUNDY IN TROUBLE. He Confessed to a Shortage of \$30,000.

Elmira, N. Y., March 16.—Frank E. Bundy, who for the past six years has occupied the office of chamberlain of this city, and for three years previous was clerk in the chamberlain's office, has voluntarily confessed a shortage of over \$30,000 in his accounts.

Mr. Bundy was the Democratic candidate for mayor and was defeated at the charter election on March 6. At the first meeting of the Republican council following the election a committee was appointed to investigate the chamberlain's books and Bundy's confession is the outcome of this action.

It is supposed that the shortage will be found in the account of unpaid taxes and that much of the taxes reported as unpaid were really paid. Several instances have already been discovered where attempts have been made to compel taxpayers to pay their taxes a second time.

It is understood tonight that Bundy will not be prosecuted. His bondsman have taken charge of the matter.

Steamship Arrivals. Liverpool, March 16.—Arrived: Germania from New York. Hamburg—Arrived: Pennsylvania from New York. Rotterdam—Sailed: Spaarndam for New York. Havre—Arrived: La Champagne from New York. Queenstown—Arrived: Lucia from New York and proceeded for Liverpool.

New York—Arrived: Patricia from Hamburg. Sailed: Bremen for Bremen via Southampton. Cleared: Etruria for Liverpool; Rotterdam for Rotterdam via Bologne; Palatia for Hamburg.

Dublin Will Receive the Queen. Dublin, March 16.—A meeting in the Mansion house today, the lord mayor presiding, a committee was appointed to fittingly receive the queen, and £1,000 was subscribed for decorations.

British War Loan. New York, March 16.—J. Pierpont Morgan today announced the closing of the British war loan. The amount of applications received here was about \$20,000,000.

WEATHER FORECAST. Washington, March 16.—Forecast for Saturday and Sunday: Eastern Pennsylvania, fair and colder; Saturday: fresh westerly winds; Sunday: fair and warmer.

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