

THE MYSTERY OF WEPENER

No Positive Evidence of the Situation There.

CONCERNING GEN. BRABANT

Obscure Message from Allival North States That He Has Arrived—The British Make Some Progress. Boer Reports Aver That from 8,000 to 10,000 Boers Are at Wepener—Extended Reports of the Bloemfontein Concert—General Hunter Arrives.

London, April 20.—4.15 a. m.—A deluge of rain, lasting ten days, has brought the operations in the south-eastern part of the Free State almost to a standstill. The creeks have become roaring rivers, and the roads are streams of mud.

A singular message, dated Bloemfontein, April 19, 10.55 a. m., and beginning "Via Press Censor, Bloemfontein," reports an exchange of shots in the direction of Dewetsburg, where the Boers are said to be concentrating, "after their withdrawal from Wepener."

There is nothing else to indicate that the investment of Wepener has been abandoned by the Boers. Notwithstanding the rain, however, the British have made some progress, as Dewetsburg has been occupied by them by the advance of General Ruddle's division. Dewetsburg is about twenty-four miles from Wepener.

An obscure message from Allival North, dated April 19, says that General Brabant has arrived there, but whether he returned alone or with his troops is not clear.

Boer reports from Allival North aver that from 8,000 to 10,000 Boers are at Wepener. Extended reports of the Bloemfontein concert, for the benefit of the widows and orphans, have been called. No less than seven separate accounts have been published in London today. The concert, the weather and the bare statement that Lord Roberts is ready to move are about the only things that the censor has allowed to pass, and the correspondent who announces that Lord Roberts is ready to move does not specify the direction in which he is going.

General Hunter, from Natal, commanding the newly formed division, arrived at Bloemfontein yesterday (Thursday) and left immediately, after conferring with Lord Roberts. To what point he proceeded is not mentioned, but it is understood that he will operate west of Bloemfontein.

Preparing for the Struggle. London, April 20.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Chronicle, telegraphing Thursday, says: "The requisite equipments and equipments have arrived, and all the infantry divisions are now supplied with tents. The Boers in the immediate neighborhood are quiet, but both sides are steadily preparing for the coming struggle. Lord Roberts is now ready. Several lots of concealed arms and ammunition have been discovered here this week. The epidemic of enteric fever is abating."

Russian Nobleman Killed. London, April 20.—A dispatch to the Daily News from Pretoria, dated Monday, April 16, says: "Prince Baraton Morgaff, a Russian nobleman, was killed at the same time with General De Marcell."

PRESIDENT PATTON'S VIEWS.

Given on the Revision of the Westminster Confession of Faith. Princeton, N. J., April 19.—President Patton gave out for publication tonight the following statement giving his definite views on the revision of the Westminster confession of faith:

"If the Presbyterian church ceases to be a Calvinistic church it will not need the Calvinistic creed. If the Presbyterian church is a Calvinistic church, as I believe it to be, there is no need of revising the confession of faith. The creed needs no revision. No church member is required to subscribe to the creed at all. No minister is required to sign the confession in this. This confession of faith is a very good expression of the Calvinistic system of belief. Agitation on this subject is entirely unnecessary in my judgment."

ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE.

Ex-President Harrison Will Preside. Distinguished Speakers. New York, April 19.—Delegates to the Ecumenical conference on foreign missions, which is to begin in this city on Saturday afternoon and last till May 1, are arriving in large numbers. Ex-President Harrison, who is to preside at the conference, reached the Fifth avenue hotel with Mrs. Harrison today.

While the principal meetings of the conference will not begin until Monday in Carnegie hall, perhaps the greatest popular interest is felt in the meeting at that place Saturday night, when there will be a reception for the delegates. Addresses will be made by President McKinley, ex-President Harrison and Governor Roosevelt.

Strike in Kentucky.

Indianapolis, April 19.—Advices were received today at the headquarters of the United Mine Workers in this city that the strike in the Kentucky coal fields has been settled at 13 1/2 per cent. advance and semi-monthly pay-days. Several thousand men were on strike.

Cock Fighting to Be Prohibited.

Havana, April 19.—Cock fighting will be prohibited throughout the island after June 1 next, under a penalty of \$500.

NEW JERSEY REPUBLICANS.

Delegates-at-Large Selected—McKinley's Administration Praised.

Trenton, April 19.—The Republican state convention today elected as delegates at large United States Senator William J. Sewell, Governor Foster M. Voorhees, State Chairman Franklin Murphy and County Clerk Barker Gummere, of Mercer county. The platform adopted deplores the loss sustained by the state and nation in the death of Vice President Hobart, approves the administration of Governor Voorhees, pledges the support of the Republicans of New Jersey to the nominees of the national convention at Philadelphia and favors congressional legislation which will give to American ships the carrying of our foreign commerce.

Of the national administration, the delegates say: "We recommend and endorse the administration of national affairs, and give our highest approval of the course of President McKinley, not only in his able and courageous support of the party principles, as defined at the time of his election, but in the exalted statesmanship with which he has dealt with the new and complex problems of great national consequence which have since arisen.

"We approve and endorse the course of our senators and the Republican members of the house of representatives from this state in sustaining the president and in the enactment of the laws which have resulted in a period of unexampled prosperity, wherein labor and capital have been fully employed, and in the markets of the world more widely opened to American industries."

UBAN INDEPENDENCE.

General Ruis Rivera Desires That It Shall Begin at the Close of the Year 1901—His Plan of Action.

Havana, April 19.—General Ruis Rivera, secretary of agriculture, industry and commerce, has written a letter which is to be largely circulated, calling upon political parties of all shades to unite in 1901 to present a united front to the government and people of the United States when asking that the year 1901 shall be devoted to the formation of an independent government for Cuba, which shall begin to act on its own responsibility at the end of 1901. This plan he offers as a solution of the political problem now so greatly complicated by the existence of various parties. Discussing his project today, General Rivera said:

"Those who think that independence can be better based upon the treaty of Paris than upon the joint resolution of the United States congress must either be themselves deceived or be willing to deceive others."

On the other hand, many influential Cuban politicians believe it would not be wise for all the advocates of independence to form one party. Their view is that two parties would act more effectively than one and would be able to check one another. Senor Collazo says:

"General Rivera's idea is impracticable, not only so far as the treaty of Paris is concerned, but because the United States government were to fix a date for giving independence to Cuba and then should not carry out the agreement, it would not be the policy of the Democratic party to attempt to compel the United States to give independence. Washington has virtually promised all that General Rivera asks, save the fixing of a date. If the Cubans are not unanimous in determining to back up their demand by a unanimous rebellion, then they ought not to attempt to compel the United States to demand unconditionally and then be refused to be humiliated."

The letter of General Rivera has caused a great sensation among the Cubans generally, coming as it does from a cabinet secretary; and the feeling is that as the letter is to all practical intents a call upon the Cubans to demand independence he will have to resign.

Today's Gazette contains the election regulations. Those adopted are the ones embodied in the minority report of the special election committee. Horatio Rubens will leave tomorrow for the east end of the island to distribute election law forms and to furnish information as to details of polling.

PRESIDENT AT PATERSON.

Mr. and Mrs. McKinley Guests of Mrs. Hobart.

Pateron, N. J., April 19.—President and Mrs. McKinley, Mrs. Hobart, widow of the late vice-president, Mrs. Garret A. Hobart, and the president's secretary, Mr. C. D. Johnson, and Mrs. Barnes, arrived here at 3.50 this afternoon. As the train passed Park avenue, it slowed down and the president appeared on the platform and bowed repeatedly to the great crowd which had assembled there and which cheered enthusiastically. The party alighted from their car at the Broadway station.

The president and his wife will be guests of Mrs. Hobart until Saturday morning, when they will leave for New York.

TRAIN THROUGH A BRIDGE.

Engineer and Fireman Killed and a Brakeman Fatally Injured.

Cochran, Ind., April 19.—The engine and five cars of an east bound fast freight train went through a bridge over the creek tonight. Engineer George Crane and fireman Frank Reynolds were killed and brakeman C. W. Hook was probably fatally injured. One of the wrecked cars was loaded with whiskey which caught fire and burned the bridge as well as the wreckage.

Messenger Boy at Paris.

Paris, April 20.—A. m.—Le Journal announces the arrival in Paris today of James Francis Smith, the American Boyer telegraph boy who is bearing to President Kruger a message of sympathy from Philadelphia and New York school boys.

Pennsylvania Pensions.

Washington, April 19.—Pensions: Increase—Robert Hillman, Hazleton, \$6 to \$7; Lammont Vergason, Pottsville, \$10 to \$11; Thomas Cole, Preston Park, Wayne, \$6 to \$7.

GENERAL BRABANT STILL HOLDING HIS OWN AT WEPENER.



The most recent cables received from the front indicate that Gen. Brabant, who is in Wepener, is still holding his own. The picture of the town that figures so prominently in the news of the day was taken just previous to the occupation of the place by the English, when one of the Boer commandos that are now so busy in trying to force the British General to capitulate, was drawn up in the market square for inspection.

THE WYOMING CONFERENCE

INTERESTING SESSIONS HELD AT OWEGO YESTERDAY.

Bishop Foss Presides—A Case in Which Castle Creek Is Involved. A Resolution of Thanks to Miss Scott and Miss Bixby—Surprising Report Made by Rev. Dr. W. H. Pearce—The Bishop's Address. Dr. Sprague's Resolution.

Special to the Scranton Tribune.

Owego, N. Y., April 19.—Rev. Thos. Harmon conducted the devotional exercises this morning. The minister, who has to justify this year, it is the custom of the country at Owego to have lunch—or rather dinner—promptly at 12 o'clock noon. Consequently, the many ministers who are entertained at private homes desire to close the morning session promptly at a quarter before 12, and there is an end to long addresses. But all this necessitates getting up early for the devotional services begin at 7.45 o'clock. The regular business session opens at 8.30.

Bishop Foss presided at this session. The chief portion was devoted to the reading of reports of ministers. The only bit of interest evolved chiefly centered in a case which recalled passages in the career of Rev. J. C. Hogan. A few years ago Rev. J. F. Jones was at Park Place, where under his pastorate the Court Street church was constructed. Mr. Jones, who was at High Street, Binghamton, more recently, was sent to Castle Creek last year. He did not remove his family thither, because of his wife's illness, so it was claimed, and therefore the people of Castle Creek refused to receive him. When his name was called it was proposed to pass his character against which nothing could be said, and leave further consideration of the matter with his presiding elder.

Rev. J. P. Woerle, who has been peripatetic in his denominational career, was released from his Methodist affiliations and again allowed to return, probably to his first love, the Evangelical church, from which he has twice separated.

Gift Acknowledged.

M. S. Hard presented a resolution of thanks to Miss Laurietta Scott and Miss Phoebe Bixby, sister of the late Rev. William Bixby, for the gift of \$400 by the former to the cause of church extension.

H. G. Harned, colporteur of the Bible society, reported that he had, during the year distributed thirty-one hundred and fourteen volumes of the Scriptures, supplying one hundred and one families that had no Bible, and eleven hundred and thirty-six Sunday school scholars and other individuals. He had made four thousand, seven hundred and twenty-six calls, visiting many churches also of the different denominations, and delivering one hundred and seventy-seven sermons and addresses in the interests of the Bible society, traveling thirty-six hundred and sixty-three miles.

Rev. Dr. L. L. Sprague offered the following resolution: Resolved, That we, as the presiding bishop, do hereby appoint Rev. Samuel Moore, D. D., as financial secretary of the seminary for the next conference year and that we pledge him our hearty support in an effort to raise an ample endowment for this school that has given the country and because of this growth demands an endowment of at least \$200,000. Therefore Resolved, That we, as the presiding bishop, do hereby appoint Rev. Samuel Moore, D. D., as financial secretary of the seminary for the next conference year and that we pledge him our hearty support in an effort to raise an ample endowment for this school that has given the country and because of this growth demands an endowment of at least \$200,000. Therefore Resolved, That we, as the presiding bishop, do hereby appoint Rev. Samuel Moore, D. 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