

BREATHLESS INTEREST IN MAPEKING

The Fate of the Besieged City is Still in Doubt.

GREAT ANXIETY IN LONDON

Hundreds Linger About the War Office After Midnight Hoping to Learn Something Definite Regarding the City—News from Boer Sources Leads to the Supposition That Kruger's Men Fell Into a Trap—Free Staters Will Accept Annexation—Buller Continues to Advance.

London, May 18 (3.30 a. m.).—England still waits with intense and almost breathless interest for news of the relief of Mafeking. A crowd remarkable for the number of men in evening dress, and including many ladies, lingered around the war office even after midnight, hoping for some announcement.

The Canadian artillery contingent of the Rhodesian force was reported to have reached Bulawayo May 2. The distance from Bulawayo to Mafeking is 490 miles.

General French, scouting northward, found the Boers in a strong force at Rhenoster Spruit, 30 miles from Kroonstad.

President Steyn, according to one dispatch, has gone to Pretoria. Another says he is a fugitive at Lindley.

Free Staters Will Accept Annexation. One of President Steyn's brothers, who is a prisoner of General Brabant, says that the Free Staters will accept annexation.

Five hundred rifles have been surrendered at Kroonstad in excess of the number of Boers who have taken the oath of allegiance.

General Buller is pushing straight ahead without stopping. He has only lost five wounded during the march.

General Hunter's movements in the western Transvaal are rather puzzling. He has returned to Fourteen Streams with one brigade, leaving another, General Barton's, at Christiansia.

Battle in the Vetas Continues Seventy Hours—Many Are Killed. Colon, Colombia, May 17.—News has been received here of a victory by the government troops over the insurgents in a battle in the Vetas (7) district.

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VIGOROUS ATTACK ON TUBE SCHEME

Mr. Wolcott Declares the \$750,000 Pneumatic Tube Appropriation an Unnecessary Waste of Public Money—House Passes River and Harbor Bill.

Washington, May 17.—During nearly the entire session of the senate the postoffice appropriation bill was under consideration. The measure was read and all of the committee amendments were agreed to except that relating to extension of the pneumatic tube service.

The house today passed a special five-year and harbor bill carrying \$40,000 for surveys and surveyors work, and devoted the remainder of the day to the Alaskan code bill.

Mr. Mason (Ills.) quite as vigorously supported the proposition. An amendment of Mr. Butler (N. C.) to reduce by ten per cent the amount to be paid the railroads for the transportation of mail was rejected.

On motion of Mr. Jones (Ark.) a resolution was adopted calling upon the secretary of war to inform the senate before the end of the session whether the service was unnecessary, and the appropriation a waste of public money.

NO SEAT FOR MR. CLARK

The United States Senators Are Determined to Exclude Him—His Schemes Fruitless—Majority of Members Are Prepared to Fight His Admission.

Washington, May 17.—W. A. Clark, of Montana, may not be permitted to occupy a seat in the United States senate as the credentials of the lieutenant governor of the state, which are to be brought into the senate probably on Monday, but how he will be prevented has not yet been decided.

The fact that Clark's object is to retain his place in the senate without allowing the senate to act on the charges of bribery, which he has been convicted by the unanimous report of the committee on privileges and elections, does not affect them.

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Several senators, among them Hoar, Aldrich, Hale, Fairbanks, Spooner and Lodge, are ready to say plainly and bluntly to the senate just what they think of Clark's object.

Senators Chandler and Hoar are determined to push the case to the limit, and they will be supported by at least three Democratic members of the committee. The feeling is strong for forcing a vote on the resolution which declares that Clark was not elected legally, and several senators are ready to stay here all summer if necessary in order to put that resolution through.

THE ST. LOUIS STRIKE

St. Louis, May 17.—The submission of the proposed strike between the St. Louis Transit and the employees was not yet in effect, notwithstanding the conference held during the past week.

CONSUL AT GUATEMALA

Washington, May 17.—The senate today confirmed the nomination of J. C. McAlister, of Pennsylvania, to be consul general at Guatemala City.

CORPORATIONS CHARTERED

Harrisburg, May 17.—Charters were issued by the state department today to the following corporations: Collegeville Land and Improvement Co., Collegeville, capital \$100,000. The Morris Manufacturing Co., Morris township, Tioga county, capital \$50,000.

THE BUFFALO STRIKE

Buffalo, May 17.—The only outbreak of the strike situation today was the going out of about eighty day laborers on the Lehigh Valley.

MR. CONNELL DINES PENNSYLVANIANS

ENJOYABLE BANQUET GIVEN AT THE SHOREHAM.

Pennsylvania Members of Congress at Dinner with Lackawanna's Representative—Postmaster General Charles Emory Smith the Guest of Honor—Senator Penrose Acts as Toastmaster—Ex-Speaker Reed and Other Distinguished Americans Present.

Washington, D. C., May 17.—Representative Connell dined the Pennsylvania members of congress at the Shoreham tonight. The dinner was perfect.

The menu comprehended everything except wine. No intoxicants were served, and the feast was confined to members of congress and other distinguished men in public life, who were invited to meet the Pennsylvanians in congress. The guest of honor was Postmaster General Charles Emory Smith.

Speaker Henderson, on account of the illness of his daughter, was not present. Governor Stone was fishing in West Virginia and wired his regrets. It was an elegant affair throughout. The speeches were impromptu and brilliant, despite the uncommon omission of the wine list.

THE GRAND LODGE OF ODD FELLOWS

Will Hold Next Meeting at Gettysburg—Daughters of Rebekah Elect Officers.

Harrisburg, May 17.—Gettysburg was selected as the next meeting place of the Grand lodge of Odd Fellows at today's session of that body. Erie was a competitor and the rivalry between the two cities was spirited, the vote being 550 and 375.

The daughters of Rebekah adjourned today to meet next year at Gettysburg. These officers were elected: President, Jane H. Roberts, Steelton; vice-president, Anna J. Goswell, Philadelphia; secretary, Mary N. Joslyn, Philadelphia; treasurer, James M. Lyon, Mahanoy City; warden, Louisa B. Gaskley, Allegheny.

Theodore E. Connell and Alfred Connell, sons of Representative Connell, and Mr. John R. Williams, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., were among the guests.

WILL FILE INDEMNITY BOND

Directors of the Delaware Valley and Kingston Road Expect to Build Road This Season.

New York, May 17.—It is reported that the directors of the Delaware Valley and Kingston Railroad company, who are projecting independent anthracite coal road, have decided to file an indemnity bond and proceed with the work of building the road this season.

PRESBYTERIAN ASSEMBLY

First Day's Exercises at St. Louis Close with Communion.

St. Louis, May 17.—At the afternoon session of the Presbyterian general assembly Rev. Charles A. Dickey, D. D., of Philadelphia, was elected moderator, and succeeded Rev. Robert F. Sample, two ballots were necessary. The other candidates were Rev. Daniel W. Fisher, of Indiana, and Rev. Dr. William McKibbin, of Cincinnati.

MONTANA REPUBLICANS

Butte, Mont., May 17.—The Republican state convention today chose delegates to the Philadelphia national convention, headed by United States Senator Carter to Yellowstone park.

AMERICANS BUY IRON

Berlin, May 17.—The Cologne Volks Zeitung announces the sale of 500 tons of specular iron at 119 marks per ton by the Siegen speculator iron association to American buyers.

FIRE IN FURNITURE HOUSE

Newburgh, N. Y., May 17.—Fire today destroyed the six-story building on Water street, occupied by Peck & Van Daire, furniture dealers, and adjoining buildings. Willis Magdon, a member of the volunteer fire department, was killed by a falling wall. Financial loss, \$5,000.

BOERS IN NEW YORK

The Delegates Are Formally Welcomed by Mayor Van Wyck. Crowds of People Cheer the Visitors.

New York, May 17.—The principal event in connection with the visit to this city of the Boer delegates, Messrs. Wessels, Wolmarans and Fischer occurred this afternoon, when they were received at the city hall by Mayor Van Wyck and in accordance with the resolution passed by the municipal assembly formally welcomed to the city.

Great crowds of people gathered about the city hall to greet the visitants. The crowds pressed around the carriage and cheered and the delegates raised their hats in acknowledgment. Mayor Van Wyck was at his desk when the delegation entered his office.

I am delighted to welcome you to the city of New York, and to assure you that in America you will receive a cordial welcome from a people which has gained its freedom by such a struggle. We cannot think that the mission to seek peace for our country—peace with honor—will be unsuccessful.

Delegate Fischer, in his response, said in part: We believe that no people can understand that it is to struggle for freedom except a people which has gained its freedom by such a struggle.

COLONEL W. T. DURBIN

Col. W. T. Durbin, of Anderson, is the head of the Republican state ticket in Indiana, and the party leaders expect to land him a winner in November.

NO COLORED BISHOP WILL BE ELECTED

RESULTS INDICATED BY BALLOTING AT CHICAGO.

The Conference Votes to Abolish the Dual and Triple Secretaryship of the Various Benevolent Societies, a Question Which Has Been in Dispute for Years—Education Under Direction of the Methodist Episcopal Church Will Be Extended to Porto Rico as Soon as Finances Will Admit.

Chicago, May 17.—The quadrennial conference of the Methodist Episcopal church took three more ballots today in an endeavor to select two additional members of the boards of general superintendents, but without result.

The fifth ballot was as follows: J. F. Berry, 287; J. W. Hamilton, 248; H. Spellmeyer, 249; D. H. Moore, 230; W. V. Kelley, 193; J. W. E. Bowen, 68; T. R. Neely, 19; C. J. Little, 11.

Amid much confusion Bishop McCabe ruled that a motion to take another ballot had prevailed. As soon as the ballots had been collected at the convention adjourned for the day.

OLEOMARGARINE WAR

Representatives of the Tallow Butter Concerns Before the House.

Washington, May 17.—Representatives of the large oleomargarine and butter concerns of Chicago, Kansas City and other points were before the house committee on agriculture today in general defense of their industry.

Manager Levering, of the firm of Swift & Company, detailed the extent of oleomargarine among laboring people. He said the effect of the proposed legislation would be to drive honest dealers out of business and give further incentive to dishonest dealers.

STEAMSHIP ARRIVALS

New York, May 17.—Arrived: European, London, Salted; La Gascogne, Havre; Columbia, Hamburg via Plymouth and Cherbourg; Chesapeake, Baltimore; Kaiser Friedrich, New York via Plymouth for Hamburg; Queenstown, Salsled; Germania (from Liverpool), New York; Humboldt, Salsled; Belgravia, New York; Boulogne, Arrived; Spartan, New York for Rotterdam (and proceeded); Rotterdam, Salsled; Potsdam, New York; Naples-Arrived; Aller, New York for Genoa; St. Michaels-Passed; Kaiser Wilhelm III, Genoa, etc., for New York.

EDUCATIONAL ENTERPRISE

Education under the direction of the Methodist Episcopal church and particularly under the auspices of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Educational society, will be extended to Porto Rico as soon as the finances of the society will admit.

SUICIDE OF LEATHER MERCHANT

Harrisburg, May 17.—Wesley Groff, a leather merchant of this city, aged 44 years, committed suicide this evening at his place of business by hanging himself to a floor joist and jumping from the landing of the second floor.

PENNSYLVANIA POSTMASTERS

Washington, May 17.—The following fourth class Pennsylvania postmasters were appointed today: Courthouse, Berks county, W. A. Hutchins; Orville, Lycoming county, H. E. York.

FIVE MEN ARE BURNED

Explosion of Gas in Richmond No. 3 Mine. CAUSED BY A SAFETY LAMP

Two Explosions Took Place—The First Set Fire to the Mine, and the Second Occurred While the Work of Fighting the Fire Was in Progress, Burning Five Men More or Less Seriously—Last Night Preparations Were Being Made to Put the Fire Out Before It Succeeded in Gaining Much of a Foothold in the Underground Workings.

Paradoxical as it may sound, a "safety" lamp yesterday caused a succession of accidents at Richmond No. 3 colliery, which sent five men under the doctor's care.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING

- Weather Indication: Partly Cloudy. 1 General—Anxiety of Fate of Mafeking. Five Men Burned in Richmond No. 3 Mine. Representative Connell Dines Pennsylvanians. Conference Will Not Elect Colored Bishop. Senators Determined to Exclude Mr. Clark. 2 General—Northern Pennsylvania. Financial and Commercial. 3 Local—New Railway Ordinance is Being Rushed Through Select Council. 4 Editorial. News and Comment. 5 General—The Dying Century Passed in Review. Quarantine Customs of the Cuban Capital. 6 Local—Court Proceedings. Lata Guilty in First Degree. 7 Local—Mayor Removes Three Patrolmen. Officers Chosen by the T. A. B. Conviction. 8 Local—West Scranton and Suburban. 9 Round About the County. Base Ball News and Comment. 10 Local—Live Industrial News.

MILLER IS A FUGITIVE

Shipped Away from Work Gang on West Mountain and Has Not Since Been Seen.

Charles Miller, one of the prison gang of laborers at work on the West mountain, yesterday deserted his companions while they were eating their noon day meal and made good his escape. The men were engaged in road making during the day and were in charge of Deputy Sheriff H. F. Ferry and Henry Loftus.

Miller is 37 years of age, weighs 131 pounds and is 5 feet 7 1/2 inches in height. He has brown hair, blue eyes, a florid complexion and wears a pair of shoes. He wore a red shirt and a pair of overalls.

REMOVING DEBRIS

Last night was devoted to removing the debris, preparatory to attacking the flames with water. It was necessary to play a hose on the fallen rock and coal to make it possible for the men to handle it, so intense was the heat radiating from the conflagration.

HAYES ASKS AN INJUNCTION

Washington, May 17.—John W. Hayes, general secretary-treasurer of the Knights of Labor, this afternoon filed a bill in equity asking that a temporary injunction be granted against the executive board of the order which had ordered him to appear before a court to answer certain charges filed against him.

LIGHTNING KILLED BOY

Pottstown, Pa., May 17.—During a severe thunderstorm last night a bolt of lightning entered the house of Jacob Decker, at New Hanover, near here, and instantly killed Decker's 1-year-old son, Ralph. Two other sons were seriously injured.

WEATHER FORECAST

Washington, May 17.—Forecast for Friday and Saturday: Eastern Pennsylvania.—Partly cloudy Friday; showers and cooler in the afternoon or evening. Saturday: Partly cloudy; variable winds.