

A BRAVE STAND AMONG KOPIES.

ROBERTS' FORCES HALTED.

British Commander Says Over One Hundred Dead Found and Twenty Prisoners Taken—Several Officers Lost.

That Gen. Roberts has begun his advance on Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State, is evidenced by a dispatch from him, dated at Driefontein, 7:15 a. m., Sunday, which is as follows:

"The enemy opposed us throughout yesterday's march, and from their intimate knowledge of the country gave us considerable trouble. Owing, however, to the admirable conduct of the troops, the enemy were unable to prevent us reaching our destination. The brunt of the fighting fell on Gen. Kelly-Kenny's divisions, the two battalions of which, the Welsh and Essex, turned the Boers out of two strong positions at the point of the bayonet."

A dispatch of Sunday's date from Greytown, Natal, 50 miles southeast of Ladysmith, says:

"A force composed of Bethune's mounted infantry, the Umveti mounted rifles and the Natal police, with three Maxim's, under Col. Bethune, reached Pomeroy Thursday. The following morning the Boer pickets opened fire. A general engagement ensued, the Boers using pom-poms and two big guns. There was heavy firing on both sides. Col. Bethune, seeing the impossibility of dislodging the Boers without artillery, retired south of the Tugela with one man wounded. The Boer loss is said to be considerable."

"According to Boer reports, the fall of Mafeking is certain. There has been heavy fighting this week and the Boers have been shelling the town from all the outlying forts which they have captured. Col. Baden-Powell cleared all the natives out of town, but the Boers drove them back. The Boers are preparing for a final assault, with the idea that the capture of Mafeking will raise the drooping spirits of the burghers."

Telegrams from Poplar Grove, Orange Free State, dated Friday, say: Gen. French, who is 10 miles ahead, reports that his front is clear of the Boers. All other reports tend to confirm the state of disorganization of the Boer forces, Transvaal as well as Free State. The general impression is the further progress of the British to Bloemfontein will not be opposed.

A great amount of ammunition was destroyed to-day. This included several boxes of explosive bullets, on the outside of which the Boers had marked "manufactured for the British government."

Clements has occupied Norval's point and the adjacent drift. As soon as the engineers, pontoon and troops arrive he will cross the river, when the necessary repairs to the railway bridge will be commenced.

Gatacre occupied Burgheersdorp March 7 and was greeted with great enthusiasm on the part of the loyal inhabitants. His scouts report that large numbers of the rebels in the neighborhood are anxious to surrender. The Presidents Kruger and Steyn were both present at the fight of March 7, and did all in their power to rally their troops. The rout, however, was complete, the men declaring that they could not stand against the British artillery and such a formidable force of cavalry.

It is said there has been dissension between Kruger and Joubert and that the latter has resigned, as well as several other generals. Kruger will probably assume command himself. It is also declared the Boers will resist to the death against a war of conquest.

A correspondent at Lorenzo Marques says: I am reliably informed that high officials openly avow that the British flag shall never fly at Johannesburg. The place will be razed to the ground and the mines put in readiness to be electrically exploded from the fort as occasion requires.

Most of the gold mines, except those which the government controls, are in a shocking state. They are flooded, and the machinery is rusting and being willfully smashed.

Thomas Clayton, a negro of Herndon, Miss., was shot to death Saturday night by members of his own race because of an assault on a girl. He was called to his cabin door and bullets from a dozen Winchester were fired into his body.

Wheeler Going to Congress. Gen. Joseph Wheeler and party, who have been in quarantine since their arrival at San Francisco from the Philippines, on the transport Warren last Monday, were permitted to land Wednesday night. The general says he expects to take his seat in Congress and doesn't see why he should be kept out, as he resigned his commission November 30, though he was not relieved from duty until January. He thinks the guerrilla warfare will soon end and says when the Filipinos, whose general character he praises, learned the real character and purpose of the Americans, they seemed reconciled to our government.

All for American Gold. J. P. Morgan & Co., of New York, have been authorized to receive and forward any American applications for the British war loan. This is the first time in the financial history of this country that England has asked for a loan. The governor of the Bank of England gave the authority and empowered to bankers to deal with applicants, just as the Bank of England might deal with them if communicated with direct.

Nearly 1,400 persons were killed by an earthquake in Transcaucasia.

Decrease in Puerto Rico Customs. The effect of the uncertainty of the tariff situation as to Puerto Rico, is shown by a report prepared by Colonel Edwards, chief of the insular bureau of the war department, according to which the customs receipts for January were \$68,450, a decrease of \$51,410 compared with the receipts for January, 1899.

Mgr. Sharrett, Bishop of Havana, says there is no truth in the story that he has asked Rome to recall him.

LATEST NEWS NOTES.

Thirteen business firms were burned out by a fire in Redfield, Ia., Sunday. Mrs. John Gallagher, an insane woman, cut her husband's throat in bed at Joliet, Ill.

The grip has become epidemic in Boston and caused 19 deaths during the week just closed.

Joseph Ryan, secretary of the Irish Federation of America, died Friday night in New York.

Miss May Snyder, of Alliance, O., killed herself with carbolic acid because her father rebuked her.

Within six weeks 100 persons have died of smallpox in the southern part of Hinds county, Miss.

Great dining rooms for the poor, capable of feeding 12,000 persons daily, were opened in London.

A geological survey report gives the value of gems produced by the United States in 1899 as \$186,000.

Jose Muniz, vice president of the Cigarmakers' Association, was found dead in bed at Tampa, Fla.

Baron Banffy, late premier of Hungary, and Deputy Ugron fought a bloodless duel at Budapest.

It is estimated that 9,000,000 bushels of coal were shipped south from the Pittsburgh harbor last week.

Captain S. W. Terry has been transferred from the battleship Iowa to command the Washington navy yard.

Henry J. DuBois, a Wilkesbarre pigeon fancier, shot Eugene Smith, who was in his pigeon loft, and the man will die.

The San Francisco health board has decided that the suspected case in Chinatown was not one of bacillary plague.

The Katydid breaker of the Mount Jessup Coal Company, at Winton, Pa., was burned Saturday night at a loss of \$40,000.

General Otis is installing civil governments in the Philippines in anticipation of the arrival of the civil commission.

The gold mines in the Transvaal are going to ruin, being full of water which the government will not allow to be pumped out.

Warner T. Allen, indicted in the Brooklyn Rapid Transit case, surrendered to the New York authorities and gave \$2,500 cash bail.

The American Fisheries Company has gone into voluntary receivership in order to mortgage and reduce its capital stock from \$10,000,000.

The United States cruiser Philadelphia sailed Sunday from San Francisco for San Diego, and the horse transport Siam for Manila, via Hilo.

It is said at Sioux City, Ia., that Archbishop John Keane has been nominated to the Pope as the successor of the late Archbishop Hennessy.

Four children of the family of Arthur Williams, who were caught in a flood near Peru, Ind., and lived in a submerged hut four days, will die.

By an explosion in the Smith fuse factory at Pompton, N. J., Friday, four workmen were killed and the factory damaged to the extent of \$50,000.

The reported selection of Rev. Father Moeller as bishop at Columbus is denied at Rome, where it is said the propaganda has made no decision.

The latest insurrection against the government of Santo Domingo has been ended by the troops, who are chasing Pepin, the leader of the insurgents.

The President has received from ex-Mayor Cotes, of Bournemouth, England, a Wedgewood ware copy of Houdin's famous bust of Washington.

Edward Williams was hanged at Trenton, N. J., for the murder of Minnie Eizley. As the drop fell he was singing "Nearer My God, to Thee."

A. H. Morris, of New Castle, Pa., claims 40,000 acres of coal land in Preston county, W. Va., held by the Pittsburgh Coal Company, and will sue for it.

Miss Ellen Terry has almost entirely recovered from her illness and will leave Toronto for New York to rejoin Sir Henry Irving at the end of this week.

Colonel James E. Barnett, of the Tenth Pennsylvania regiment, is agitating the movement for the erection of a monument to the late Colonel Hawkins.

The bodies of 64 soldiers who died in Cuba were buried Wednesday in Arlington cemetery, making the whole number of Cuban victims buried there about 500.

Fire in Philadelphia destroyed three business houses in the retail drygoods district, entailing a loss of nearly \$800,000, and throwing 1,500 people out of employment.

The body of Abraham Lincoln has been removed from the crypt of the monument at Springfield, Ill., to a temporary vault, pending the rebuilding of the monument.

Mrs. Annie Mathers, who lost her voice some years ago, has just recovered it after screaming at a mouse which had frightened her. She can now talk as well as ever.

The phosphate mining firm of Hood & Hubbard, at Dannelton, Fla., has suspended temporarily, and H. J. Husard, a phosphate miner at Juliette, has also suspended.

England's great military preparations and the active campaigning of the queen are now attributed to a fear of an early war with France, in which country the national fever has almost gone beyond the control of the government.

Saturday a pitched battle took place between Cuban police and sailors of the American transport Williams for possession of the safe of the sunken Spanish torpedo boat destroyer Furor, which was supposed to contain \$12,000 in gold.

The navy department has received additional advice that some of the officers of the cruiser Charleston were intoxicated at the time she was wrecked in the Philippines.

Residents along the Little Vermillion river, in La Salle, Ill., were driven from their homes by high water and an ice gorge, which threatened the destruction of their homes.

United States Commissioner Douglas Wright and Horace H. Blanton fought with pistols at Nevada, Mo. Blanton was dangerously wounded in the stomach and Wright had a scalp wound.

ASSASSIN WAS SELECTED BY LOT.

FATAL BLACK BEAN.

Kentucky Officials Investigating a Startling Revelation Concerning Goebel's Death—Frankfort Full of Armed Men.

It is reported that information has been received which points to a deliberate plot to kill William Goebel in which many men were interested, and that there was knowledge that the selection of the assassin was decided by lot. According to this story one black bean was placed among a large number of white ones, and the man who drew this black bean was to become, and did become, the assassin.

This information came to Commonwealth's Attorney Robert B. Franklin, of Frankfort, Ky., in a letter in which it was stated that Bransfield Bertram, sheriff of Breckinridge county, who recently died from pneumonia resulting from exposure while here, stated to the members of his family shortly before his death that he was in Frankfort when Goebel was shot, that he had knowledge beforehand that Goebel would be assassinated and that a meeting at which there was a casting of lots was held the night before the occurrence of the crime. The names of the men who were at this meeting were not given, nor was that of the man who drew the fatal black bean.

It is said that twenty-five persons were in the plot and participated in the drawing of lots. The meeting is said to have been held at midnight, in the office of the secretary of State. After a full discussion of the matter it was decided that all should draw from a box in which had been placed twenty-four white beans and one black one. The person drawing the black bean was to kill Goebel.

The men in the meeting are said to have been largely picked men from the mountains, many of whom had participated in feuds and were crack shots. They were desperate characters, who had come to Frankfort spoiling for a fight and who were ready to engage in any sort of hazardous work, caring little for their own lives and equally careless of the lives of others. They had learned to hate Goebel so intensely that it was considered an honor to cut him down.

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LAWTON'S SLAYER.

He Received a Small Fortune as His Reward. Fund for That Purpose Raised in Luzon.

The latest mail advices from Manila tell a startling story of intrigue against the lives of American officers on the part of high Philippine citizens. The story was published in the New Orient newspaper of Manila, but was never cabled to the United States, probably because the censor would not allow it. It is as follows:

"It is known that the insurgents attempted to kill Gen. Lawton while he was on the north line, and the occasion was when Major Howard was killed on a river boat. General Lawton was to take that boat, but owing to some fortunate accident did not.

"When the news of Lawton's death reached Manila there was great rejoicing in certain native circles. It was at once proposed to raise a purse for the man who killed him. The officers of the Kallachuan Society took charge of the affair. Senor Poblet, editor of the El Pueblo Del Grito, was made treasurer, and within 24 hours he had over \$100,000 in voluntary contributions.

"The man who did the deed was a second lieutenant in the Guardia Civil named Garcia, and \$100,000 was thought to be entirely too large a sum to be paid a man in his position. After some discussion the amount deemed proper was put at \$25,000, and this was paid over to Garcia.

"The cash in the fund is constantly growing, and amounts to over \$200,000. The fund will be kept to reward others who kill American officers."

MUST FEED PORTO RICO. Gen. Davis Reports That Free Supplies Are the Only Alternative to Starvation.

Gov. Gen. Davis, of Puerto Rico, has informed the war department that he has decided not to stop for the present the distribution of free food in the island, as the industrial conditions existing in certain portions of the island rendered it absolutely necessary to feed the starving inhabitants for some time longer. In some sections the inhabitants are beginning to raise sweet potatoes, but in the center of the island, or the coffee-growing district, there is nothing for the poor to eat. Any discontinuance of the food distribution would result in a large increase of sickness and the death rate.

The coffee planters are making strenuous efforts to clear up their fields, but having no money for the payment of their hands, the laborers have been laid off and are drifting into the towns, thereby becoming public charges. Unless fed at public expense, starvation will result and Gen. Davis has requested a shipment of 500 tons of rice, codfish and bacon, in addition to the 500 tons asked for about three weeks ago.

Gen. Davis is of opinion that the quickest and most effective way of securing relief would be through large expenditures upon public works. He states that if he could put about 25,000 men at work for three months on the roads, involving expenditures for labor, tools and supervision of some \$223,000 a month, the period of acute distress could be tide over. The acting commissary general of subsistence was directed to secure the food asked for for immediate shipment.

ASLEEP SIX WEEKS. Girl Smiles, Answers Questions and Takes Nourishment—Remarkable Case.

Pauline Fitz Gerald, 17 years of age, who is strong and vigorous, has been lying in a cataleptic state at the New Haven, Conn., hospital for six weeks. During this time she has only spoken twice.

Her eyes are closed and she apparently is sleeping peacefully. The physicians have given her food by force, and she has digested it and gotten nourishment from it. They have not been able to discover any cause for her condition. They sent her Wednesday to the insane ward of the almshouse.

At the almshouse the physicians tried hypnotism on the girl, and in this way got her to speak.

During the first four weeks the girl was in the hospital her condition was cataleptic. During the last two weeks, however, this condition has decreased. In response to numerous questions she would often smile, but that was all.

Such cases as this, it is said, are rare, and are usually due to some powerful hereditary mental disease. The girl was born in Ireland.

Plague Suspect in San Francisco. A case of what is supposed to be bubonic plague has been discovered in Chinatown, San Francisco. The patient, who is a Chinese, was immediately isolated and a large force of police is kept in Chinatown to maintain the quarantine placed upon that section pending the outcome of the bacteriological examination of the suspected Chinese. The physicians are not yet prepared to make a definite statement, but from others who have had experience in such matters, it is learned that the case will hardly prove to be one of plague, as the dead man has long been a resident of this city. Had he been a recent arrival from the Orient, greater alarm would be felt.

Precious Stones of This Country. George F. Kunz, gem expert of the geological survey, reports an increased output of sapphires in Montana and the discovery of a fine blue stone that afforded gems up to three carats in weight. Beautiful sapphires of various colors were discovered in Grant county, Montana. The total value of gems produced last year was \$185,770, a gain of \$24,850 over the previous year. Diamonds to the value of \$300 were produced in the United States.

Eaten by Cannibals. In two different letters received in San Antonio, Tex., from members of the Thirty-third infantry who pressed Aguinaldo so closely in the mountains of Luzon, comes the story that a member of the regiment who fell behind while up in the hills was killed and partly eaten by natives, known as Ygorotes, a tribe of cannibals. Private Mohavier writes one letter and Sergeant Bateman another, telling of this.

Joseph H. Choate, the United States ambassador at London, has gone to join his wife at Cannes, France.

RED ASH MINE DEATH LIST IS 52.

MAY BE OTHERS.

Rescue Work Still Going On—Slate Has Caved in so Badly That Task May Never Be Completed.