

## RELIEF DRAWING NEAR MAKEING.

### WAR'S END NEAR.

#### Free Staters Surrendering—Lord Roberts' Forces Receiving Rifles Faster Than a Factory Could Turn Them Out.

The news from South Africa Monday is entirely satisfactory to the British public. The relief of Mafeking is not yet announced, but it is extremely probable that this is already accomplished by Col. Plummer's advance. The actual relief movements have not been publicly developed in detail, but it seems that Lord Methuen only started very recently and is rather engaged in dispersing the Boers of the district than aiming at actual relief. The officer commanding at Belmont reports that some deserters have come in with a Maxim, a nine-pounder and another gun. Another nine-pounder has been brought into Colesberg. The cavalry brigade has gone to Thaba Nchu in order to reassure the inhabitants of that district and to distribute copies of the proclamation to the people of the Free State. These proclamations are being eagerly sought after.

We are getting rifles surrendered faster than a factory could turn them out. It is quite certain that if a British official can reach the northern laagers with Lord Roberts' proclamation, the whole Boer population will declare for peace.

Events have occurred which induce some to predict that the war will last only so long as it takes to march to Pretoria. The educated Boers, even the Transvaalers are ready to accept the inevitable.

It is reported that a corps of 2,000 women have been formed at Pretoria. It is called the Amazon corps. All the members are uniformed in kilts and are armed.

Lord Roberts probably ascertained from Mr. Fraser, the new mayor of Bloemfontein, before dispatching Gen. Pole-Carew southward that, in all likelihood, the railway was clear. The next move will be to collect at Bloemfontein, by railway, sufficient stores for the immense army Lord Roberts will have when the Orange river forces have joined him. This will probably occupy from two to three weeks. Therefore the next important operations may be expected in Natal.

The cavalry brigade which Lord Roberts has sent to Thaba Nchu, 35 miles east of Bloemfontein, is destined to cut off some 2,000 Boers who are escaping from the southward.

According to reports there are 14,000 Boers with 20 guns in the Biggarsberg range. They will have to be caught sooner or later. The British troops are anxious to try, and the feeling is general that before long they will be permitted to do so.

A dispatch from Ladysmith, dated Sunday, says: Our advanced camp is on Sundays river, two miles north of Elandslaagte. The Boers hold two positions on the Biggarsberg range, about 10 miles north. The strongest is on the New Castle road, where several guns have already been mounted and where they are digging extensive trenches. The second position, which is on the Dundee road is not so strong.

A dispatch from President Kruger says: "The burghers will only cease fighting with death. Our forces are returning in good order to our lines of defense on our own soil. The Natal campaign was longer in our favor than we expected. The burghers will never reach Pretoria. The burghers, Steyn, Joubert and myself, as well as all the others, are united. There are no differences. God help us."

### MURDERED BY A MANIC.

In a Paroxysm of rage Olaf Palleesen, a Norwegian, stabbed and killed his wife Josephine, murdered Julia Hengesbach, the three-year-old daughter of Charles F. Hengesbach, a mail carrier, and murderously assaulted the child's mother, Mary Hengesbach, Wednesday afternoon, in front of his home, Washington, D. C. Mrs. Hengesbach lies near the verge of death with seven stab wounds in her body. Palleesen was arrested. It is believed he has become demented through sickness.

Texas Republicans are endeavoring to start a boom for Republican State Chairman E. H. R. Green, who is a son of Hetty Green, of New York, for vice-president on the ticket with McKinley.

### HUNDREDS HOMELESS.

Reports have been received that the Fox, Illinois and Sangamon rivers have overflowed their banks, doing great damage. Ottawa, Ill. is under water and hundreds of families near Hayana, Ill. have been driven from their homes. There is an ice gorge at the Santa Fe bridge at Chillicothe, 18 miles above Peoria, and the water is up to the ties. Attempts are being made to break the gorge with dynamite. Peoria is threatened with flood.

### CAPT. McCALLA PARDONED.

President McKinley has granted a full and unconditional pardon to Capt. Bowman H. McCalla, of the navy, now serving in the Philippines. In 1890 Capt. McCalla, then a commander, was convicted by court martial of several offenses, including the striking of another person in the navy, and was suspended from rank and duty for three years. The pardon, which was granted for conspicuous service in the war with Spain, restores Capt. McCalla to his old rank and position.

### CALE FLASHES.

Officials of the Paris exposition say that the exposition will be opened April 15, as advertised.

The Prussian Reichstag is discussing a bill to purify the stage. It prohibits the presentation of anything calculated to produce a feeling of shame.

The Prussian Reichstag has adopted a coinage bill providing for calling in gold five-mark pieces and twenty-piennig pieces, issuing silver up to fifteen marks per head of the population and calling in provincial coins, for reminting. Dr. Arndt, free conservative, offered an amendment proposing the purchase of silver bullion for minting the new coins, but it was rejected by 161 to 61 votes.

## LATEST NEWS NOTES.

On the Jack's Wade creek, Klondike, some dirt has assayed \$3 to \$5 of gold per bucket.

A colony of 400 Missouri farmers is to be established in the Concho River Valley, Mexico.

Sunday the Port Gibson (Miss.) compress, in which was stored 2,000 bales of cotton, was burned.

Governor General Leary, of the island of Guam, has issued a proclamation doing away with slavery.

Secretary Root left Havana Saturday for Charleston, where he will inspect the new fortifications.

The unveiling of the Vance statue at Raleigh, N. C., has been postponed from May 20 to July 4.

A strike by union machinists of Cleveland is imminent. Employers refuse to consider a nine-hour day.

The Armstrong Steel Works, at Flint, Mich., were burned Wednesday, the loss being \$150,000.

Brazil will close her ports to Argentine vessels on account of reported bubonic plague in Argentina.

The National Steel Company's steel and bar mills at New Castle, Pa., resumed operations Thursday.

King Menelik, of Abyssinia, is threatening to seize Italian provinces in Africa and a war is imminent.

The total number of deaths at Kimberley during the siege was 1,076, of which 600 were caused by disease.

The Joliet (Ill.) Limestone Company has gone into the hands of a receiver. The liabilities are estimated at \$400,000.

The Oil Well Supply Company's plant on Second avenue, Pittsburg, was damaged by fire to the extent of \$60,000.

The Senate commerce committee has reported favorably a bill to change the name of the steamer Paris to the Philadelphia.

Webster Davis, assistant secretary of the Interior, arrived at Naples on his return from South Africa and sailed for New York.

The Illinois Manufacturers' Association has begun a movement, by resolution and petition, for the repeal of the war revenue law.

Kansas will have a big exposition in 1904, in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the territory of Kansas.

The Prince of Wales is growing more like his mother and is now looked upon by Englishmen as promising to make a good king.

M. L. Harbeson, law partner of the late William Goebel, has been elected in Kenton county, Ky., to succeed Goebel in the State Senate.

Applications for the exchange of old bonds for the new two were made Saturday to the treasury department to the aggregate of \$27,000,000.

Lady Roberts and her two daughters left England to join Lord Roberts in South Africa and were given a popular demonstration in London.

Mexico's grand canal, part of the valley of Mexico drainage system, was inaugurated Saturday with grand ceremonies in the City of Mexico.

The pope sent a message to Irish Catholics in America with his benediction and expressing the hope that the Irish race may live in peace.

The will of Isaac Gordon, the notorious money lender of London, has not been found. Scathing obituaries of him are published by the papers.

At a meeting in Dublin the lord mayor presiding, a committee was appointed to fittingly receive the queen and £1,500 was subscribed for decorations.

The war department is preparing advertisements for bids for five additional buildings to be at once erected at Egmont Key, commanding Tampa bay.

Mrs. Ida M. Law, wife of F. W. Law, of Pittsburg, Pa., strangled her baby while temporarily insane. Four years ago she cut the throat of another baby.

J. Pierpont Morgan, of New York, has announced the closing of the British war loan. The amount of applications received here was about \$50,000,000.

Application has been made for a charter for the Franklin (Pa.) Air Compressor Company. Capital, \$300,000, one-half of which has been taken by Franklin people and the balance by J. W. Duntley, of Chicago.

Secret service officers have arrested in New York four Englishmen accused of making counterfeit coins and seized their plant and a quantity of bad money.

Thomas Pooley, a saloonkeeper of Butte, Mont., shot and killed his son-in-law, Thomas Littlejohn, and the latter's wife, Lydia, during a difficulty on the street.

John R. Haines, a Topeka ticket broker, has been sentenced to 50 years in the penitentiary for murdering Charles Watson, formerly a rich Ohio lumber merchant.

Senator Cullom Friday presented in the Senate a memorial from Illinois for the construction of a ship canal, 24 feet deep and 300 feet wide, from Lake Michigan, through the drainage canal and the Illinois river, to the Mississippi. The attorney general of Nebraska has brought suits against the Union Pacific railroad for \$310,000, the Missouri Pacific for \$210,000, and the Rock Island for \$150,000, for alleged violation of the maximum rate law.

It is reported that a Kenosha, Wis., tannery has been sold to the leather trust for \$4,000,000. Last week it was reported the big combine made the company an offer of \$1,000,000, but this was refused and the company held to their original demand of \$4,000,000.

Prince Anandasing Ajeetsing Advai of Bombay, India, has been sentenced to three months in jail and fined \$50 for fraudulently obtaining board and lodging in New Haven.

Trouble is looked for between Russia and Turkey if Prince Ferdinand, of Bulgaria, backed by Russia, carries out his announced determination to declare himself king of Bulgaria.

A movement has begun in Russia to abandon the Julian calendar, which is 12 days behind that used by other nations, and secure, if possible, the adoption of a universal calendar.

## INSURGENT JUNTA STILL ACTIVE.

### INCITING FILIPINOS.

#### Their Idea is to Force the Best Possible Terms From Congress—Brigandaje Takes the Place of Organized Warfare.

Gen. Otis considers Manila the most troublesome center in the situation. The insurgent junta there, in conjunction with that in Hong Kong, is growing active. The military authorities have been forced to put a stop to Mabini's intercourse with the public. The press considers his recent utterances calculated to incite the Filipinos to a continued revolt and prejudicial to American control.

Flores, Aguinaldo's surrendered secretary of war, who has just arrived in Manila, says he comes trusting to American leniency and that he would not have dared come to Manila if Spain were in control. He cherishes the hopes which actuated him when in the field and desires to watch congressional action upon the question of the Philippines. The insurgents, he says, do not expect to vanquish the Americans, but are maintaining a resistance with the idea of forcing Congress to accord them the best possible terms. A number of representative insurgent leaders from different parts of Luzon have recently been in conference in Manila. Some have been placed under arrest, but the others thus far have not been interfered with.

Louis Spitzel, head of the firm of Louis Spitzel & Co., contractors to the Chinese government, and himself a suspected filibuster, came from Hong Kong to Manila last week and was temporarily detained in custody on suspicion. It is asserted upon good authority that three loads of arms and ammunition have recently been landed on the east coast of Luzon. Capt. Taylor, of the Thirty-ninth regiment, recently captured 12 new muskets near Calamba.

It is also reported that the rebels are reorganizing in the province of Zamboales, under Mascardo. Brigands are committing atrocities in the province of Nueva Ecija, where they have murdered 20 natives and Chinamen. Eight other murders have been committed near Tarlac. The Nueva Ecija insurgents are heavily taxing local traders and farmers, with the result that business is paralyzed and there is a general scarcity of food. The funds for maintaining this guerrilla warfare are collected from the various towns of the island, whether occupied by the Americans or not, even including Manila.

Travel between the towns garrisoned by the Americans is becoming more dangerous. All wagon trains must be escorted by heavy guards in order to insure their safety. Two ambushes were narrowly averted recently; small traveling parties were attacked; single travelers frequently disappear or are found dead.

Spaniards and Filipinos conversant with the Tagalog character say that Aguinaldo's capture would terminate the revolution. Three months have passed since he was actively pursued.

### A FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH.

#### An Eccentric Jersey Doctor of 123 Years Who Boats Ponca de Leon all Hollow.

Dr. Smith, who claims to be 123 years of age, and whose marriage in Atlantic City a few months ago to a woman of forty caused something of a sensation, has removed to Egg Harbor City, where he is diligently pursuing a plan to erect a huge sanitarium for those afflicted with disease. His only cure is the water of Union creek, which he claims possesses peculiar medicinal properties.

Dr. Smith, even during the cold weather of the last three months, has been regularly administering this to his patients who could adapt themselves to the treatment. It consists of a daily bath in the waters of the stream at all seasons.

The danger of contracting cold is counteracted by taking what Dr. Smith calls his elixir of life, which, he says, has been the means of prolonging his life nearly a century and a quarter. He is very uncommunicative in regard to his plans, and apparently wants to avoid notoriety.

The American Tobacco Company discharged its 500 employees at its New York factory and will remove the plant to Baltimore. Cincinnati, Richmond, Va., and Lancaster, Pa., where labor is cheaper.

### A War Inevitable.

A telegram from Matagalpa, Nicaragua, says that war between Nicaragua and Costa Rica is unavoidable. Recruiting is going on in the district of Matanzas. The heaviest recruiting is in Leon province in the west. President Iglesias of Costa Rica, has suspended the constitution. He expects an invasion by the Nicaraguans under Nora, a renegade Costa Rican.

### Trek From Missouri to Mexico.

A colony of 400 Missouri farmers is to be established in the valley of the Concho river in Mexico. The promoters of the colonization scheme have purchased 200,000 acres of rich valleys, and a few of the colonists have already arrived. The remainder of the families will reach here in time to put in this season's crops.

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 \$68,460, a decrease of \$51,410 compared with the receipts for January, 1899.

### Yields \$36,000 a Day.

Norman MacAuley has returned to Victoria, B. C., from the Klondike with a story of the riches of claim No. 46, on the Sulphur, which is known to be the richest mining claim in the world. The owner, whose name MacAuley could not recall, is a German, and he will before long be the richest man of all the Klondike kings. The claim, he says, is now producing at the rate of \$36,000 each day.

John M. Wampler was sentenced at Gladeville, Va., to be hanged for the murder of William Jenkins.

## MORE SUBSIDIARY COIN.

#### At Least \$20,000,000 to be Minted and Put On the Market Under the New Monetary Law.

Mr. Roberts, the director of the mint, has announced his intention of speedily taking steps to increase the stock of subsidiary coin under the new financial act. As quickly as possible at least \$20,000,000 will be coined and put on the market to meet the demand for small money. Speaking of the matter, Mr. Roberts said:

"The new monetary act, approved March 14, authorizes an increase of about \$20,000,000 in the stock of subsidiary silver coin. The last authority for the issue of subsidiary silver was given by a joint resolution, approved July 22, 1876, in preparation for the resumption of specie payments. It authorized the issue of an amount which, together with the fractional paper currency outstanding, should at no time exceed \$50,000,000.

"July 9, 1879, the act providing for the redemption of subsidiary silver in lawful money was passed, and forthwith our old quarters, dimes and halves, which had been driven to the West Indies and South America by our paper money, began to return. They were presented for redemption until the treasury held over \$50,000,000 of them. In this way the \$20,000,000 limit was exceeded, for the treasury officials paid this stock out in the regular course of business until it was practically all absorbed. The present stock in the treasury thus reached about \$20,000,000, and bullion purchased under the Sherman act may be coined. The new authority was sorely needed and will scarcely suffice for the growing needs of the country more than five or six years."

### STARVATION IN PUERTO RICO.

#### Suffering Inhabitants Ready to Agree to Any Legislation That Affords Speedy Relief.

Governor General Davis has received petitions for work and food from 60 county women who marched from Naranjito to find relief from starvation. The women presented a most pitiable sight. They were barefooted and ragged, half naked, dust-covered and weary from their journey. Some of them were lame; all were discouraged.

The petition which they presented to the governor general tells the story of the depressing times; no work, and the price of rice, beans and bread beyond reach, fruits destroyed and the relief supply discontinued, bringing them and others where they came from almost to starvation.

Gen. Davis promised relief to the party and requested the mayor to provide transportation. His reply was that there was not a peso in the treasury and that the police were yet unpaid for their last two month's work. The party of women dispersed quietly, some retracing their steps aloft, others begging easier conveyances to Naranjito, which is 20 miles from San Juan, a portion of the road being almost impassable. Similar parties are expected from other towns.

The feeling of uncertainty regarding the tariff holds business practically at a standstill, the merchants being afraid to order goods or to advance funds on the planters' accounts.

The merchants here will be satisfied to accept any decision of Congress, either free trade, the 25 or 15 per cent. tariff, but they ask for a settlement of the question, so that business activity may be resumed.

### Shot Daughter and Husband.

Thomas Pooley, a saloonkeeper, of Butte, Mont., Sunday, shot and killed his son-in-law, Thomas Littlejohn, and by accident the latter's wife, Lydia, the shot being intended for Littlejohn, during a difficulty on the street. The trouble dated from Littlejohn's marriage to Pooley's daughter, without the father's consent. Littlejohn had knocked Pooley down and was kicking him, when the latter drew his revolver and fired. Mrs. Littlejohn was carrying her baby at the time.

### Forty Door Factories Closed.

Forty sash and door factories in Chicago have decided to shut down as a result of the struggle of the contractors council and the building and trades council. This throws 6,000 more men, mostly union wood workers, out of employment. In activity in building circles and interference by the employees with the delivery of goods to non-union forces caused the action.

### Negroes Must Leave.

Citizens of Parium, a fine residence suburb of the big mining camp of Calumet, Mich., have appointed a committee to rid the town of negroes. They object to having it called a vigilance committee, and announce that only peaceable and legal methods will be used, but that the negroes must go. Colored men were almost unknown there until a sewer contractor brought in several carloads from Tennessee and Alabama 18 months ago. Several white girls have eloped with negroes and constant trouble has led to this action.

### Yellow Fever in Havana.

H. J. Ormsby, of Wisconsin, who has spent the last five months in Cuba as a special agent of the war department, says that yellow fever is now and has been for some time past raging in Havana. The reports of the actual deaths from yellow fever, he said, are not allowed to go out.

For the first time in the history of mining in Central Pennsylvania a new scale was agreed on by arbitration between miners and operators at the Altoona convention.

The annual report of the Canadian Pacific railway shows gross earnings for 1899 of \$29,209,382.25; working expenses, \$16,999,772.75; and net earnings, \$12,230,165.49.

Frank E. Bundy, city chamberlain, of Elmira, N. Y., and defeated Democratic candidate for mayor on March 6, has confessed to a shortage of \$30,000 in his accounts.

The directors of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company Friday at New York declared its regular quarterly dividend of \$1.25 per share, and an extra dividend of 75 cents.

## DEATH IN A FURNACE EXPLOSION.

### SHOWER OF HOT METAL.

#### One Man Burned Up Completely—Another Victim's Flesh Falls from His Bones. Three Others Badly Injured.

A terrific explosion occurred in Monongahela furnace No. 1, a department of the National Tube Company's plant, at McKeesport, Pa., at 5:40 o'clock Friday afternoon. One man was killed, another so badly injured that he cannot recover, and three men very painfully burned.

The indirect cause of the explosion was the clogging of the furnace, which is 60 feet high. A lot of ore, limestone and coke had become fastened to the side of the furnace 20 feet from the top. This is called a "hang." But the men at the top, Martin and Curvan, kept filling in more ore, coke and limestone. Finally the weight of the stone, coke and ore thrown in caused the "hang" to break loose. It then fell down to the bottom of the furnace, 40 feet below. A large mass of molten metal and gases, when the explosion ensued.

Fire, molten metal, ore, coke and stone were sent flying high into the air. Some of the pieces of stone and ore fell to the ground a block away. The noise made by the explosion could be heard all over the city. The yard about the furnace was strewn over with metal, ore and stone. The top of the furnace was blown off, and some of the fixtures of the furnace destroyed. Beyond this little damage was done to the furnace.

The report of the explosion and the weird scenes attending and following it were indescribable. People rushed to the place from all over the city, and the greatest excitement prevailed.

Nothing whatever could be discovered of Martin's remains. His hat was found on the top of the furnace, near the edge. The force of the explosion seems to have been directly upward and downward. Martin had been working at the place eight years.

### EXPANSION IN WEST INDIES.

#### Our Government Will Buy the Danish Islands for a Reasonable Price.

The purpose of the government to acquire the island of St. Thomas for a reasonable consideration from Denmark, has not been abandoned, notwithstanding the statements attributed to the Danish ministers not to part with the island. It is believed that the last announcement is only evidence of a purpose on the part of the Danish authorities to secure a higher price for the island than the United States had regarded as proper. It is probable that no active effort will be made by our government to hasten the negotiations, but having learned that the finances of the island showed a deficit last year of \$75,000, in spite of the most rigid economy in the administration, a sum charged up against the home government, it is believed that our terms will ultimately be accepted, if reduced to a concrete proposition to pay \$3,000,000 for St. Thomas and St. Cruz.

### FOUGHT WITH YAQUIS.

American soldiers were killed by Mexicans during a battle.

George W. Vaughn, superintendent of a mining company at Lower Sonora, Mex., says that just at this time the Yaqui Indians are quiet and Mexican soldiers are also quiet. Vaughn reports that a young American prospector named Bostwick, who for months has been a prisoner in the hands of the Yaquis, has been released and that he returned to Hermosilla last Tuesday.

Bostwick said the Indians have no idea of surrendering. They are well armed and number not more than 2,000. Bostwick was not mistreated by the Indians and did not know why he was released. He was simply led to the outskirts of the camp and told to go. Vaughn says Gen. Torres is friendly to Americans, and that the only two Americans killed by Mexican soldiers, were fighting with the Indians and were slain during a battle.

At Rio Janeiro elaborate preparations are being made for the celebration of the anniversary of the discovery on May 3, 1500, of Brazil, by Pedro Alvarez de Gabral.

### ONE GOOD INDIAN GONE.

Washaki, chief of the Shoshone Tribes, Buried With Military Honors.

Washaki, for nearly 70 years head chief of the Shoshone Indians, died a few days ago at Fort Washaki, Wyo. He was buried with military honors. Troop E, first cavalry, escorting the coffin, which was draped with an American flag, to the cemetery. The Episcopal service was read by two clergymen of that church, one, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, being a full-blooded Arapahoe Indian. About 2,000 Indians and whites were present to pay a last tribute to a chief who had always been a firm friend of the whites, always endeavoring to have his people live after the manner of the white man, and to set an example to them in the attaining of a higher civilization.

### AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Representatives of the Philadelphia produce exchange were before the House agricultural committee in favor of the Groat anti-oleomargarine bill.

Mr. Wise, the newly-seated Republican representative from Virginia, has introduced a bill to encourage the organization of industrial schools for the benefit of the freedmen of the south.

The State department has been advised formally of the willingness of the French government to extend the period of time allowed for the ratification of the pending French reciprocity treaty.

Because of his wife's health, George A. Gates has resigned the presidency of Iowa college to take effect in November.

Before the Idaho investigation committee at Washington L. J. Simpkins, an electrical engineer, testified concerning extreme brutalities committed by the colored soldiers at Wardner.

## WAR MUST GO ON.

#### Great Britain Peremptorily Refuses to Accept Petition of Burghers—United States Intervention Not Warranted.

Offers to aid in bringing about peace in South Africa have been respectfully declined by Great Britain. Lord Salisbury has rejected the Kruger-Steyn proposition to end the war.

The United States government, at the request of President Kruger and President Steyn, offered to the British government its services as mediator, with the view of bringing about peace in South Africa.

The United States charge d'affaires, Henry White, saw Lord Salisbury at the foreign office Tuesday evening and received a formal reply from the British government, declining the good offices of the United States in regard to peace.

The representations made to Great Britain were so put that they assumed nothing of a desire to intervene, but simply transmitted the communications made to United States Consul Adelbert S. Hay, at Pretoria, with the accompanying assurances that anything the state department could do in the interests of peace would be gladly undertaken. The well known aversion of the British government to any foreign intervention does not appear to have been aroused, and while Lord Salisbury was unable to comply with the offer, he expressed his appreciation of the United States efforts in behalf of humanity.

The offer of mediation sprang from Pretoria, where Mr. Hay, with the other consuls, subsequent to Presidents Kruger and Steyn sending their peace telegram to Lord Salisbury, were asked to endeavor to secure the good offices of their respective governments, apparently with the view of bringing outside influence to bear upon Lord Salisbury's reply to the Boer overtures. These seem to have been fruitless, except in the instance of the United States consul, whose representations to Secretary Hay were forwarded to the United States embassy in London with instructions outlined above. These Mr. White, the charge d'affaires, personally presented to Lord Salisbury, who received them cordially.

As the Boer overtures had already been answered to the effect that no propositions including the retention of the republic's independence could be considered, the presentation of the American offer was already too late, but the premier apparently deemed it a matter of sufficient importance to put himself on record with a formal reply. The government will not allow the Kruger-Steyn appeal to influence in any way their determination not to spare any effort to prosecute the war. There will be no diminution of measures calculated to maintain the full efficiency of the field force, and whatever reinforcements were previously considered advisable will still be sent out.

Lord Salisbury's reply meets with unanimous approval among Conservatives and it is the universal opinion that the Boers, by their extravagant claims and canting tone, meant to influence foreign powers, have again overreached themselves, as they did by the ultimatum.

### FRANCE CANNOT INTERVENE.

#### For Her to Offer Mediation to Britain Would Act as Oil on Flames.

A responsible mouthpiece of the French government says: "As far as France is concerned, she certainly will not take the initiative in offering England mediation, nor will Russia, for the dual alliance is naturally working together in this question."

"We feel that in the present excited state of public feeling in England, and especially as regards ourselves, any step taken by the French government would defeat its own object, and instead of opening a way to honorable peace, would act as oil on flames and probably create fresh complications."

"We consider that overtures for mediation can emanate from some power whose cordial relations with England prevent such a suggestion being construed as an unfriendly act. The emperor of Germany, for instance, might take the initiative, or President McKinley, without fear of creating the friction which would follow any such action on our part, and, after this is done, full reliance can be placed on the unequalled support of France and Russia, whose only desire is to see the end of the bloodshed and who are eager to lend their good offices in bringing about this end."

The Gaulois, referring to Lord Salisbury's reply to the Kruger-Steyn appeal, says: "England no longer hides her plans. She confirms by her attitude the object she evidently had in view when opening the campaign, that of a war of extermination and conquest. One can consider the step taken by Presidents Kruger and Steyn as dictated by a desire to place England in a difficult position before the civilized world, since she has been obliged to reveal her designs publicly."

### APPALLED OVER PUERTO RICO.

#### A New York Claims Conditions There Are Awful.

James Creelman cables the following relative to the conditions prevailing in Puerto Rico:

"The condition of Puerto Rico is almost incredible. The whole people are being pauperized by free governmentations, while the instability of the country without constitutional guarantee prevents American capital from flowing in. There is a general outcry from leading Puerto Ricans against this degrading alms-giving as a bribe to quiet the people, while Congress is fastening the slavery of a colonial system upon them."

"The official returns show that five months the normal death rate of Puerto Rico has increased 900 per cent the tornado period, showing that the island is losing in population at the rate of 20,000 a year as a result of American control. The sights in the mountain districts are appalling. All experienced men agree in saying that the only hope of saving Puerto Rico from utter ruin is to at once convert it into a regular United States territory. The people do not need charity. They need the opportunity to work."

At Ottawa, Ill., the river is 21 feet above its normal level.