

# The News and Observer.

## LEADS ALL NORTH CAROLINA DAILIES IN NEWS AND CIRCULATION.

### ANOTHER CRUSHING BLOW

#### Buller Abandons Eleven Guns at Tugela River to the Victorious Boers.

### HE IS FORCED TO ORDER A RETREAT

#### He Attempts to Force the Passage of Tugela River. The Artillery Advancing to the Water's Edge, Find Themselves Close to the Boers, Who Open Upon Them a Murderous Fire and Force Them to Abandon the Guns. Unsupported by the Artillery, The Troops, Who Have Suffered Severely, Are Withdrawn.

London, Dec. 16.—12:47 a. m.—The War Office has received a dispatch announcing that General Buller has met with a serious reverse, losing ten guns.

General Buller was attempting to cross the Tugela river. Finding it impossible to effect his object, he ordered a retreat in order to avoid greater losses.

He left eleven guns behind. The following is the text of General Buller's dispatch announcing his reverse:

"Buller to Lansdowne: Chiefly Camp, December 15th, 6:20 p. m.—I regret to report a serious reverse. I moved in full strength from our camp near Chieveley at 4 o'clock this morning. There are two fordable places in the Tugela river, and it was my intention to force a passage through at one of them. They are about two miles apart. My intention was to force one or the other with one brigade, supported by a central brigade. General Hart was to attack the left drift, General Hildyard the right road, and General Lytton was to take the centre and to support either. Early in the day I saw that General Hart would not be able to force a passage and I directed him to withdraw. He had, however, attacked with great gallantry, and his leading battalion, the Connaught Rangers, I fear, suffered a great deal. Colonel I. G. Brooke was seriously wounded.

"I then ordered General Hildyard to advance, which he did, and his leading regiment, the East Surrey, occupied Colenso station and the houses near the bridge. At that moment I heard that the whole artillery had sent to support the attack—the Fourteenth and Sixty-sixth field batteries and six naval 12-pounders quick firers—under Colonel Long—had advanced close to the river in Long's desire to be within effective range. It proved to be full of the enemy, who suddenly opened a galling fire at close range, killing all their horses, and the gunners were compelled to abandon their guns. Some of the wagon teamsters got shelter for troops in a donza, and desperate efforts were made to bring out the field guns.

"The fire, however, was too severe, and only two were saved by Captain Schofield and some drivers whose names I will furnish.

"Another most gallant attempt with three teams was made by an officer whose name I will obtain. Of the 18 horses 13 were killed, and as several drivers were wounded I would not allow another attempt, as it seemed that they would be a shell mark, sacrificing life to a gallant attempt to force the passage. Unsupported by artillery, I directed the troops to withdraw, which they did in good order.

"Throughout the day a considerable force of the enemy was pressing on my right flank, but was kept back by mounted men under Lord Dundonald and part of General Barton's brigade. The day was intensely hot and most trying on the troops, whose conduct was excellent. We have abandoned ten guns and lost by shell fire one. The losses in General Hart's brigade are, I fear, heavy, although the proportion of severely wounded is, I hope, not large. The Fourteenth and Sixty-sixth field batteries also suffered severely. We have retired to our camp at Chieveley."

#### BRITISH SHELLING COLENZO.

Frere Camp, Wednesday, Dec. 13.—(Non.)—The expected artillery duel between the British and the Boer forces did not come off today. The British bombarded positions around Colenso, but the Boers did not reply.

#### FURIOUS ARTILLERY DUEL.

London, Dec. 15.—A special dispatch received here today from Frere Camp says that simultaneously with the bombardment of Colenso a furious artillery duel commenced between the Garrison of Ladysmith and the Boers on Umbulwa Hill.

#### REPULSED AT MAFKING.

Pretoria, Monday, Dec. 11.—It is officially announced that Mafeking, west of Mafeking, was bombarded December 11. Sharp fighting occurred.

The Boers attacked a British post at Mafeking during the night of December 10th. After severe fighting the Boers were repulsed and retired to Supman's Fort.

#### A SMALL BRITISH SUCCESS.

London, Dec. 15.—The War Office has received the following dispatch: "From the officer commanding at Orange River Thursday, December 14th: 'Yesterday part of the mounted infantry, under Captain Bradshaw, and

the Yorkshires and Lancshires guides, under Lieutenant MacFarlane, patrolled in the direction of Ramah and Zontspan Drift, about ten miles east of the Orange River, to reconnoiter and report the strength of the enemy reported to be holding the drift. The mounted infantry found a strong detachment of the enemy at the drift and a sharp engagement ensued. The enemy ultimately retreated to Goemansberg. Captain Bradshaw and three men were killed, Lieutenant Gregson, of the East Kents and seven men were wounded. The Boers had five men killed and several wounded."

#### SECOND REPULSE AT KURUMAN.

London, Dec. 15.—The War Office has received a dispatch from Colonel Kekewich, dated Kimberley, Sunday, December 10th, saying:

"The Boers have re-attacked Kuruman and have again been repulsed by loyalists and Bechuanas.

"The Kimberley forces made a demonstration northward December 9th and drew 500 Boers and three guns. Fighting ensued for several hours. The British casualties were one man killed and seven wounded."

#### WAUCHOPE'S SUCCESSOR.

London, Dec. 15.—General Hector Macdonald whose splendid defeat of the Derwish flank attack at Ondurman turned a critical situation into a British victory, has been ordered to leave India immediately to succeed the late General Wauchope in command of the Highland Brigade. General Tucker commanding at Zecunderabad has also been ordered to command a division.

#### BOERS REPLY TO OUR PROTEST.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Mr. Macrum, United States Consul at Pretoria, has advised the State Department that the Transvaal Government has informed him that full reports will be given through the War Office of the Republic of the name and condition of British prisoners when applied for by the authorities.

#### THE BATTLE REOPENS.

Methuen Again Fiercely Attacks the Boers at Modder River.

Pretoria, Dec. 15.—The following official announcement has been made: "General Cronje reports that yesterday there was desultory fighting till six, when heavy cannon fire was resumed. The Scandinavians stormed a difficult position but it became untenable and they suffered severely. I was unable to send help. The British were in overwhelming force, but must have had at least 2,000 men put out of action, either in killed or wounded."

Another official report from Captain Finnhart says:

"There were no signs of surrender, the burghers fighting with conspicuous bravery and maintaining their positions under heavy British fire. Our cannon were of very little use."

"The British were greatly assisted by balloons. Twenty-four ambulances were working backward and forward between the fighting line and the enemy's camp.

"Our loss is not definitely known. I estimate it at 100 killed and wounded."

A telegraph operator at Modder River wires:

"Gun and Maxim firing has been proceeding since 5:30 this morning. At 10 cannonading was proceeding and at two the fighting was reported to be very severe. The Boer force along the river bank was being heavily attacked and is receiving assistance from the other Boer forces."

It is not known whether the operator refers to the fighting of Monday or to renewed fighting on Tuesday.

#### BRITISH ATTACK AGAIN.

London, Dec. 15.—A special dispatch from Modder River says the firing reported by a telegraph operator was the resumption of the fighting between General Methuen's forces and those of the Boers.

#### RESULT OF METHUEN'S DEFEAT.

Advance Temporarily Paralyzed. Ladysmith's Danger Increased.

London, Dec. 16.—4:30 A. M.—Saturday.—The news of General Buller's reverse was received so late that morning newspaper comment today is confined to perfunctory expressions of extreme regret and disappointment and of assurance of redoubled efforts to retrieve the position. The latest check is regarded as the most serious event in

Great Britain's military history since the Indian mutiny.

The Standard says: "General Buller's dispatch is deplorable reading. It is the now familiar story of concealed Boers and of British troops marching up blindly almost to the very muzzle of the enemies' rifles. It cannot be doubted that the moral effect will be to aggravate our difficulties over the whole field of operations.

"The country has discovered with annoyance and surprise that subduing Boer farmers is about the hardest work we have entered upon since the Indian mutiny. Their commanders have shown themselves able to give our generals useful but expensive lessons in modern tactics.

The Times says: "Since the day of the Indian mutiny the nation has not been confronted with so painful and anxious a situation. Plainly General Buller's advance is paralyzed for the moment as completely as Lord Methuen's and General Gatacre's."

The depression over the defeat of Great Britain's trusted and idolized commander is all the greater as, during the last 48 hours there had been reports of the relief of Ladysmith. Yesterday the War Office allowed it to be understood that the position of affairs in Natal was entirely satisfactory. The reaction is all the more pronounced on this account.

The gloomy information came too late to reach the service clubs and only a few formalists and stragglers were waiting at the War Office. It has hardly been realized until now, even after the experience of the week, that General Buller could fail.

Virtually nothing had been allowed to leak through regarding his preparations, but the public waited patiently, in the confident belief that he was taking such time and precautions as would insure success.

No independent reports of the engagement have yet been allowed to come through, but General Buller's own dispatch tells the sad tale in sufficient outline to show that the British have been entrapped again by the astute Boers. It was not anticipated that General Buller would make a frontal attack. No criticisms of his movements are made, however, since apparently he suffered a repulse rather than a defeat, and did not push the attack home, but broke it off in the middle so as to save a useless sacrifice of life.

It is expected that he will renew the attack shortly. Immediately on receiving the news the War Office decided to mobilize still another division and to replace the losses of artillery. The necessary reinforcements will be hurried off as speedily as possible.

Fifteen transports are due to arrive at Cape Town between December 17th and January 8th, with about 15,000 troops of all arms, but unless General Buller is able to renew the attack, which is exceedingly doubtful, the British generally will be compelled for another fortnight to remain practically on the defensive.

The latest dispatches indicate the continued bombardment of Ladysmith, the position of which is now perilous.

Major General Sir Herbert Charles Cherride has been appointed to command the Fourteenth brigade in the Seventh division.

London, Dec. 15.—(4:30 A. M.—Saturday.)—The list of casualties among the non-commissioned officers and men in the fight at Magersfontein just issued shows 55 killed, 253 wounded (21 severely) and 76 missing. This however, is apparently not a complete list.

#### Payne Won't Press It.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The Payne resolution for the re-appointment of delegates to the National Republican Conventions, on the basis of the Republican vote cast in the States and territories will not be pressed at this meeting of the National committee. Up to tonight Mr. Payne, the author, had fully intended to offer the resolution tomorrow and to urge its adoption, but after a conference with the President at the White House tonight and Secretary Dick and Governor-elect Nash of Ohio were present he decided to abandon the effort to have it acted upon at this meeting.

Much opposition had developed to the proposed change and the conclusion reached was that it was inexpedient to push the matter at this time. Mr. Payne will make a statement before the committee in the morning setting forth the reasons which prompted him to reach the decision stated.

#### Figuratively Swats the Czar.

Rome, Dec. 15.—The text of the Pope's allocution at yesterday's consistory is published today.

The Pope referred to the fact that the Vatican was not invited to send a representative to the peace congress at the Hague, an omission, he said, that had been "renewed by all impartial judges."

The Czar, he continued, invited the representatives of the most powerful nations with a view of establishing peace. Yet there was none more worthy of an invitation to obtain and to make peace, and to prevent conflict—an office which by the divine will, was within the attributes of the Papacy.

The Holy See had desired a place in that conference, continued the Pontiff. One voice had obstinately opposed itself to this desire and had gained the point. It was the voice of those who, with the conquest of Rome, had deprived the Pope of his powers.

#### A \$2,000,000 Realty Company.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 15.—The Birmingham Realty Company, capital stock \$2,000,000 was incorporated today. It will succeed the Elberton Company whose property was recently sold under a decree of the court. The property consists of real estate much of which is within the corporate limits of the city.

### MR BAILEY SPEAKS AGAINST THE BILL

#### Abundance of Gold Confirms Democratic Position.

### MR. BELLAMY SPEAKS

#### SCUDDER, OF NEW YORK, (DEM.) APPROVES THE BILL.

### TWO GENTLEMEN FROM KENTUCKY WROTH

#### Mr. Wheeler Takes Mr. Berry to Task For Reflections Upon the Democrats of the Blue Grass State. A Sharp Verbal Encounter.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The closing day of the general debate on the Financial Bill proved to be one of exceptional interest. At the outset a sharp personal colloquy occurred between Representatives Wheeler and Berry, of Kentucky, over the recent Kentucky election and the charges growing out of it. Considerable feeling was shown. Later in the day Mr. Bailey, of Texas, until recently the Democratic floor leader, received close attention in an hour's speech vigorously presenting the Democratic view, and eulogizing the time-honored and undying Democratic organization, in marked contrast with Mr. Bailey's utterance, Mr. Scudder, of New York, who followed him, announced that as a Democrat he believed in the gold standard and would vote for it. The debate under the five minute rule occurs tomorrow.

Early in the course of the debate, Mr. Wheeler, (Dem. Ky.), secured recognition to question statements made by Mr. Berry yesterday as to corruption in the recent Kentucky campaign.

"I regret the necessity of having to wash our dirty linen of Kentucky on the floor of the House," said Mr. Wheeler, "but I do not propose that our people shall be maligned and slandered without a word of protest."

Mr. Berry sat a few seats ahead of Mr. Wheeler and the latter addressed himself personally to his colleague.

He declared that Mr. Berry represented neither Kentucky nor her people, and that the people of his district would speedily rebuke him by retiring him to private life. The election of Taylor, he asserted, had been bought and paid for, with a railroad on one side and the plain people on the other. But despite this, he said, "Governor Goebel" would yet be seated.

"Yes, I use the word advisedly," proceeded Mr. Wheeler, referring to his characterization of Mr. Goebel as Governor, "for before the buds burst on any tree in Kentucky he will be its chief executive, and he will have routed that nefarious gang who won their certificate of election by corruption, fraud and rascality."

Colonel Berry was quickly on his feet as Mr. Wheeler closed and responded savagely, personally and with much feeling.

He said the speech just heard was typical of the intelligence of that Kentucky element which would not brook any freedom of opinion. It came with ill grace from one who represented a district which for years was not true to Democracy. He did not need the influence of the gentleman or his backers. Four times he had been sent here, and he would return again.

Shaking his finger at Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Berry exclaimed:

"You are cringing at the feet of Goebel, and I tell you that your scalp is taken now by Goebel."

Mr. Bailey, of Texas, received close attention from both sides when he spoke. He said a remarkable spectacle was presented by the debate on this bill. He recalled that when in the Fifty-fourth Congress Mr. Towne asserted that the Republican party had never declared for a gold standard, the Congressional record showed that he was interrupted by many Republicans with the exclamation: "And it never will."

When Mr. Bailey referred to the increased production of gold, Mr. Dalzell interrupted to ask if in view of this increased supply of gold Mr. Bailey still believed in silver at 16 to 1. The Texan responded emphatically in the affirmative, amid Democratic applause. The Democratic side simply asked a sufficiency of basic money, and if this was supplied by either gold or silver, then instead of retreating the Democratic position, it simply confirmed it.

Mr. Bailey declared that the logical outcome of this bill would be to take the millions of silver impounded in the treasury into the open market and sell it, as Germany had done. If the supporters of the measure were honest and consistent they would thus offer the silver for sale now at that would be the inevitable fate of silver under this bill. He compared the appreciation of gold values and the corresponding depression of cotton and wheat.

Jones, (Va.); Cooper, (Texas), and Williams, (Miss.), and Mr. Bellamy, (N. C.), spoke against the bill. Messrs. Dalzell, (Pa.), Mondell, (Wyo.), Kerr and Bromwell, (Ohio); Payne, (N. Y.); Brosius, (Pa.); and Morris, (Minn.), spoke in favor of the pending measure.

At 5 o'clock the House recessed until 8 p. m.

#### THOMAS OPPOSES THE BILL.

At the evening session Mr. Clay (Dem.

N. Y.), announced his intention to vote for the Financial Bill. Others who spoke for the bill were Messrs. Sulloway, (N. H.), Bingham, (Pa.), Mudd, (Md.), and Minor, (Wis.).

Those who spoke against the bill were Robinson, (Neb.), Thomas, (N. C.), Lloyd, (Mo.), Snodgrass, (Tenn.), Rucker, (Mo.), Robb, (Mo.), Davenport, (Pa.), Lamb, (Va.), Caldwell, (Ill.), Stephens, (Texas), Gordon, (Ohio), and Neville, (Neb.).

At 10:15 p. m. the House adjourned.

#### IN THE SENATE.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Today the practical completion of the Senate Committee for the Fifty-sixth Congress was announced officially by Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island. He presented to the Senate an order fixing the committees, and it was adopted without dissent. A few vacancies in the minority representation are yet to be filled. They will be disposed of in a few days.

Mr. Davis, (Minn.), chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations offered and secured the passage of a resolution requesting the Secretary of State, if not incompatible with public interests to transmit to the Senate the reports of the Hon. Bartlett Tripp, Samoan Commissioner on affairs in Samoa.

Mr. Tillman had passed a resolution calling upon the Secretary of War to submit a survey and estimate of cost for the improvement of the Great Pee Dee River, South Carolina, between Cheraw and the Wilmington, Columbia and Augusta Railroad bridge.

The Senate at 1:20 p. m. adjourned until Monday.

#### The Democratic Committees.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The Democratic Senators in caucus today made their committee assignments. In addition to the changes in committees announced yesterday, the following were made as the result of the Democratic selections:

Agriculture—Senator Harris succeeds Senator Clay.

Appropriations—Senator Tillman is added to the Democratic membership.

Coast and Insular Survey (new)—The Democratic members are: Morgan, Berry, Clay and Culberson.

Claims—Taliaferro is the only new Democratic member.

Coast Defenses—Culberson and Taliaferro are the new Democratic members.

Commerce—Martin and Clay are the new Democratic members.

Corporations in District of Columbia—Senator Caffery succeeds Senator Daniel as chairman.

Finance—The Democratic membership remains as at present.

Foreign Relations—No change in Democratic membership.

Inter-Oceanic Canals—Senator Morgan, chairman; and Harris, Turner and Culberson become members.

Inter-State Commerce—No change in minority membership.

Manufactures—Senators Clay and McLaurin are added to the minority members.

Naval Affairs—No change.

Organization of Executive Departments—Senator Butler succeeds Senator Cockrell and Senator Taliaferro is added.

Pacific Islands and Porto Rico (new)—Minority members are: Cockrell, Pettigrew, Mallory and Clark, (Mont.).

Pacific Railroads—Senator Taliaferro is added.

Pensions—Senator Taliaferro is added.

Philippines (new)—The minority membership is Rawlins, Turley and Culberson and a vacancy is left for Senator Allen.

Relations with Cuba (new)—Minority: Teller, Money, Butler and Taliaferro.

Revolutionary Claims—Bacon recedes.

Woman Suffrage—Daniel, chairman.

#### Young Still Pursuing Filipinos.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The War Department received a message today giving the latest developments in the situation in the Philippines. The cablegram was as follows:

"Manila, Dec. 15.—Batchelor, Twenty-fourth infantry battalion, reports on 7th instant, had an engagement at the junction of Magat and Rio Grande Rivers, Isabela Province, enemy leaving four dead and five mortally wounded in trenches. Our loss was one drowned, and four wounded. Says he is in need of clothing, provisions and money. Will reach Taguigay, Cagayan Province shortly. Doubtless the navy relieved him yesterday. Four hundred and seventy-five Spanish prisoners arrived this morning, among them the sick at Vigan, numbering 120. Young at Banguil, northwestern Luzon, reports that his troops are still pursuing the remnants of the insurgents, who have twenty-three American prisoners in their possession. Country exceedingly rough. Our men without shoes, still persistently pursuing. Few Spanish prisoners now in hands of insurgents, probably 1,000 mostly in south. Expect to effect their release in a few days. Sergeant Alfred Roeder, Sixth infantry, twenty soldiers and eighteen native police attacked 400 insurgents at Madrigal, Negros, this morning. No casualties. Enemy's loss 28 killed and many wounded."

#### A Bill by Mr. Linney.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Representative Elliott, of South Carolina, today introduced a bill for the building of a new cruiser to be named the Charleston, to take the place of the cruiser of that name recently lost in the Philippines.

Representative Linney, (N. C.), introduced a bill to reduce the tax on distilled spirits to seventy cents per gallon.

#### Postmasters Confirmed.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The Senate today confirmed the following nominations of postmasters:

South Carolina—B. P. Chatfield, Aiken; A. R. N. Folger, Gaffney; L. R. Owens, Marion; J. E. Wilson, Florence.

### IT WILL CONVEENE AT PHILADELPHIA

#### City of Brotherly Love Gets Congressional Republican Convention.

#### THE DATE IS JUNE 19TH

#### HANNA PRESIDES AT A HARMONIOUS MEETING.

#### MR. MCKINLEY WILL BE RENOMINATED

#### The Convention Will in Fact be But a Ratification Meeting. Today Payne's Resolution For Changing System of Representation Will be Considered.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The Republican National Convention will be held at Philadelphia, June 19th next. The place and date were decided upon by the National Republican Committee today after a friendly contest for the honor of entertaining the convention between the city selected, Chicago, St. Louis and New York. The meeting of the committee was held at the Arlington Hotel and was presided over by Senator Hanna, the chairman of the committee. Forty-three of the forty-five States and each of the six territories were represented.

The proceedings throughout were enthusiastic and harmonious, every speech that was made emphasizing the fact that President McKinley will be re-nominated and that the convention will, in effect, be simply a ratification meeting. The claims of the rival cities were presented by distinguished citizens of each in open session. The balloting occurred in the afternoon behind closed doors. Upon the first ballot Philadelphia received 13 votes, Chicago 29, New York 7 and St. Louis 9. On the second ballot the contest narrowed to Philadelphia and Chicago. The New York votes went to Philadelphia and the St. Louis vote was split between the City of Brotherly love and the Windy City of the Lakes.

An amusing incident occurred in connection with this ballot. After it was concluded and announced, as Philadelphia 25 and Chicago 20, Mr. T. N. Jameison, the National Committeeman from Illinois suddenly discovered that in the excitement he had forgotten to vote. He demanded that the vote should be recast, and this was accordingly done, but it did not change the result, Chicago only gaining the vote of the committeeman from Illinois. Philadelphia won by the narrow margin of one vote. As the ballot was secret there is no record of the city for which each committeeman voted. It was the desire of the leaders at the meeting today that the convention should be held June 12th and that date would have been selected had it not been that it conflicted with the date of the Rhode Island elections, June 5th was then selected, out of the date was reconsidered and changed to the 19th in the hope and belief that before that date Congress will have adjourned.

The committee adjourned until 11 o'clock tomorrow morning when the Payne resolution for changing the system of representation will be brought up for consideration.

Foreign Relations—No change in Democratic membership.

Inter-State Commerce—No change in minority membership.

Manufactures—Senators Clay and McLaurin are added to the minority members.

Naval Affairs—No change.

Organization of Executive Departments—Senator Butler succeeds Senator Cockrell and Senator Taliaferro is added.

Pacific Islands and Porto Rico (new)—Minority members are: Cockrell, Pettigrew, Mallory and Clark, (Mont.).

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