

Asheville Daily Gazette.

VOL V: NO. 13

ASHEVILLE, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 23 1900.

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39 South Main Street. Just received, one car each Bran and Shorts, one car No. 1 Timothy Hay; in addition to a fine stock of other feed. Prices right. Quality guaranteed. Respectfully,
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FATE OF CRONGE'S ARMY IN THE BALANCE

Fighting a Death Struggle in a River Bed.

Surrounded on All Sides by Roberts' and Kitchener's Forces.

Boer Commander's Request For Armistice Refused.

The Boer Commander Said to Have Offered to Surrender, but Later Decided to Fight to a Finish.

—Subjected to a Terrible Fire.

London, Feb. 23.—General Roberts' army has completely surrounded the retreating Boers at Koodoos and drift, and Cronje with a back waist is making a splendid defense, which the latest despatches indicate is a forlorn hope. The Boer force, which is estimated to number 8,000 men, is entrenched in the bed of the Mocker river at a point where the stream makes a sharp bend. They are also occupying the hills on the south bank. The British circle around this position was completed Monday morning by French's mounted troops, and the brave defenders have since been facing a large force and a terrible fire from all sides.

Nevertheless when the despatch left Roberts' headquarters Wednesday morning, the Boers were still holding their posts with such vigor as to indicate a possibility of their being able to resist until reinforcements arrive to divert the attention of a large part of the British surrounding force. Their losses have doubtless been severe.

At noon Monday General Cronje sent a messenger asking for an armistice for twenty-four hours. One correspondent says the armistice asked for was to enable the Boers to bury their dead. All the correspondents concur in stating that the request was refused. One says General Kitchener replied that he would not allow a minute's armistice, but would give the Boers half an hour to consider whether they would surrender unconditionally, or fight to a finish.

Eventually Cronje, according to the Daily News correspondent, sent a messenger saying he would surrender. The British general sent an answer that he must come to the British camp. Cronje refused, saying there had been a misunderstanding; he would fight to the death. The bombardment was then resumed. There is nothing later than this.

London, Feb. 22.—Lord Roberts cables the war office the following: "Methuen reports from Kimberley that food for the aged is being rushed on as rapidly as possible. There will be coal enough to start the De Beers mines in ten days, whereby great misery will be alleviated. He hopes Prieska and the adjoining country will soon be settled."

BRITISH ENTER COLENSO. Chieveley Camp, Feb. 21.—On Monday the British troops advanced beyond

Blou's farm. The Boers recrossed to the south side of the Tugela river and attempted to hold Fin and Flukdy hills, near Hlanevaya hill, but the British attacked them, and they were soon driven from their positions. The British now hold all the ground south of the Tugela. Colonel Wynne's patrols having entered Colenso township today.

On Tuesday the Boers hauled a heavy wagon by hand from a high position on Monte Cristo hill. The rifle brigade followed them, and just as the team of horses were inspired they shot the animals. The wagon was then abandoned and fell into the hands of the British. It was found to contain 40,000 rounds of Mauser ammunition. A letter found in a Boer laager states that the khaki uniforms worn by the British were invisible at a comparatively short distance. The letter further stated that the British shelling of Colenso was terrible.

Judging from appearances the long range firing of Lyddite shells frighten the Boers. They appear now to be in full retreat. The British casualties were light in the fighting on Sunday and they have been small since.

Slight but continuous firing has been going on all day across the Tugela.

THE BRITISH LOSSES.

London, Feb. 22.—The war office issued a report giving the British losses in South Africa up to the 17th. This shows a total of 11,964 officers and men killed, wounded or missing. The fugitives captured or missing after the battle of Nicholson's nek were not included in the above total.

The war office announces in addition to the previous published statement of the losses at Paardeburg on February 18 one captain and three lieutenants killed.

A DEADLY ALL DAY BATTLE.

Paardeburg Drift, Orange Free State, Feb. 20.—One of the costliest actions of the war was that at Paardeburg drift on Sunday. General Kelly-Kenny in his pursuit of Cronje caught his rear guard at Klip drift and followed the burghers to the Boer laager at Koodoos and. The drift action began at daybreak, mounted infantry driving the Boer rear guard up the river towards the main body, while another body of mounted infantry manoeuvred on the right front and flanked the Boers.

General Kelly-Kenny having seized two drifts found the Boers strongly enclosed and ordered an attack with the Highland brigade on the left and General Knox's brigade on the center and right, while General Smith's Dorsetshire brigade crossed the river and advanced along the north bank.

On the north and south banks the ground is level and the advance across this was deadly and the British losses were heavy. The battle was an exact reproduction of the Modder river battle, with the soldiers under fire all day long, and the fighting had no definite results as the Boers laager was well barricaded and they remained therein. The British guns shelled the laager vigorously. The Boers confessed to a loss of over 800 men.

Terrific shelling was resumed Monday, when Cronje asked for an armistice. Shelling was continued Tuesday, over fifty guns pouring lead into the Boers' camp.

Paardeburg, Feb. 21.—A Boer laager was captured with fifty prisoners. Cronje's position is unchanged.

FIGHTING IN THE FREE STATE.

London, Feb. 22.—The war office has received the following from General Roberts: "The Boers have been driven off in all directions, leaving many killed and wounded."

A special despatch from Paardeburg dated February 21, says: "Commandant Botha has been attempting to relieve Cronje. There has been severe fighting. Botha's force was scattered with heavy losses."

The war office has received from Lord Roberts the following message, dated Paardeburg, Wednesday: "Yesterday afternoon I was satisfied by a careful reconnaissance of the enemy's position that I could not assault it without heavy loss, which I was most anxious to avoid. Accordingly I decided to bombard him with artillery and turn my attention to the enemy's reinforcements."

"The result was most satisfactory. The Boers were driven off in all directions, losing a good many killed and wounded, and about fifty prisoners, who say they arrived from Ladysmith two days ago by railroad. They also say it was our artillery fire which caused them to abandon the kopje they were occupying. Our loss was two officers, Captain Campbell, of the Ninth lancers, and Lieutenant Houston, of the artillery, and four men, all slightly wounded."

The best cigar—at Blomberg's.

The largest and best selected stock of French Briar Pipes—at Blomberg's.

The largest stock of Imported and Key West Cigars at Blomberg's, the leader, 17 Patton avenue. Established 1887.

"While you sleep, we cure you. Medicine will not. Downing's Chlorides will and does cure bronchitis, asthma, catarrh, croup, coughs, hay fever, consumption, grip and all diseases of the respiratory organs. Agency at Grant's pharmacy.

WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS READ IN SENATE

Consideration of Quay's Case Postponed till Today.

Washington, Feb. 22.—The session of the senate today was brief. The feature was the reading of Washington's farewell address by Foraker. It was listened to with great interest on the part of the large audience in the galleries. Mr. Foraker's reading of the address was clear and deliberate and occupied about fifty minutes. Mr. Penrose, who had given notice that he would call up the Quay case today, said in view of the fact that the senate wished to adjourn early, he would not press the matter today, but gave notice he would move for its consideration tomorrow. Foraker called Penrose's attention to the fact that his (Foraker's) notice of intention to take up the Porto Rican bill preceded the notice given by Penrose in regard to the Quay matter. This resulted in a controversy over the rules of the senate, which was cut short by adjournment.

IN THE HOUSE.

Washington, Feb. 22.—The fourth day's debate on the Porto Rican tariff bill presented no new features. Speeches were made against the bill by McClelland, McCall and Brantley and in its favor by Grosvenor. The first night session to accommodate the surplus of the debate was held this evening, lasting from 8 to 10:30 p. m.

CHINA'S DOOR WILL SOON BE OPEN TO US

Ex-Minister Barrett Speaks Before Southern Society on the Matter.

New York, Feb. 22.—Ex-Minister to Siam Barrett created something of a sensation tonight at the Southern Society dinner. He declared that within a short time the secretary of state would transmit to congress a communication showing the results of a correspondence with the powers for the maintenance of the open door in China and the guaranteeing of a treaty of rights to the United States. This communication, he said, would cover the exact terms, as well as the important scope of the diplomatic notes exchanged.

He predicted that when the results were known it would meet the approval of the country. It will show, he said, that the United States has accomplished in a few months the single handed what the European powers have failed to do in long years of diplomatic intercourse, and that we have safe-guarded our interests.

He closed by declaring that the test must be made to prove that the door to China is open, and cannot be closed, and if any effort be made to shut it, all governments, supported by the people, must resist.

CUBAN AMERICANS TO BE GIVEN FRANCHISE

General Wood Will Allow Them to Vote at Coming Elections

Havana, Feb. 22.—Governor-General Wood has decided to permit all Cubans who are naturalized American citizens to vote at the coming elections. Former Secretary of State Capote endeavored last summer to force a wholesale renunciation of American citizenship, but General Brooke refused to permit it. General Wood takes the same view but at the same time he will grant the franchise to a Cuban-American.

Native born Cubans, who are subjects of other nations, will not be permitted to vote. There are many here, especially French. General Wood's order will be published shortly. The radicals may object but like most Cuban protests it will die a speedy death.

Washington's birthday was quietly celebrated, some buildings owned by Cubans being decorated. Saturday will be a big holiday, it being the anniversary of the outbreak of the last revolution.

REVOLUTION IMMINENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Officials View the Condition of Things with Alarm.

Washington, Feb. 22.—A serious condition of affairs exists in Central America as is shown by the following telegram received by the secretary of state from Merry, United States minister at Costa Rica, dated San Jose: "Revolutionary invasion expected from Nicaragua. Martial law declared. Troops moving to the frontier."

Owing to the large commercial and political interests present and prospective, of the United States in the two countries named, and especially in connection with the proposed construction of the Nicaraguan canal by this country, the reported revolutionary movement is viewed with considerable apprehension by the administration officials.

THESE ISLANDS NOT OURS.

A Part of Philippine Archipelago the Property of Spain.

Washington, Feb. 22.—Representations made by Spain have caused the United States to direct the withdrawal of American authority from two islands of the Philippine archipelago. These islands are Cebu and Cuyayan Sulu. Both of them are outside of the territory transferred to the United States by the treaty of Paris. This action is

surprising in the face of the previous contention that all territory in the Philippine archipelago formerly owned by Spain had become the property of the United States, even if they were not within the limits described in the treaty.

HOLIDAY EXERCISES AT MANILA SCHOOLS

Flags Presented, Songs Sung and a Reception Held.

Manila, Feb. 22.—Washington's birthday was quietly celebrated here today. In the morning Colonel French, of the Twenty-second Infantry, raised over the school houses the American flags which had been presented to the children. During the exercises the children sang patriotic songs. In the afternoon there was a reception on the flagship Baltimore and the marines at Cavite arsenal had a holiday. In the evening there were exercises at the soldiers' institute.

SENTENCED TO HANG:

Judge Timberlake Names Date for Clemont Williams' Death.

Special to the Gazette. Salisbury, N. C., Feb. 22.—Clement Williams, colored, 18 years old, was sentenced by Judge Timberlake today to be hanged March 23 for the murder of Will Best here two months ago. An appeal was taken.

KENTUCKY LEGISLATURE MAY ADJOURN NEXT WEEK

Frankfort, Feb. 22.—Three companies of soldiers were sent home from the guard at the state house this afternoon. This leaves only seventy-five soldiers around the governor's mansion and the state building.

It is reported tonight that the legislature will probably adjourn next week in the event of the passage of the bill offered in the house yesterday, providing for a reward of one hundred thousand dollars for the arrest and conviction of Goebel's assassin.

Members of the legislature argue that little legislation can be transacted under the present state of affairs; that the contest for the governorship will not be passed upon by the courts before the day of the regular adjournment, March 17, and that the bills passed are subject to be presented to the wrong claimant for the governorship for his approval, and that little good can be accomplished by their presence. "One of the radical measures to be presented in the legislature tomorrow is one providing a severe penalty against railroads for carrying free passengers to political conventions or to the capital to intimidate officers."

BRYAN AT COLUMBUS

Columbus, Ga., Feb. 22.—Bryan arrived here today and was accorded an ovation by thousands of people who assembled at the depot and along the route to the Rankin House, to which he was escorted.

He had an informal reception in the hotel parlors this afternoon and he delivered an address from the front of the hotel tonight. He will stay at the hotel tonight and will leave on the early morning train for Atlanta.

NOT INTERESTED IN PORTO RICO.

Washington, Feb. 22.—The desire of the members to speak on the Porto Rican tariff bill in the night sessions of the house was not so great as had been imagined. When the house reassembled but 10 members were present. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Lewis made brief speeches against the bill. They were all that desired to be heard, and the house adjourned.

H. C. MINER DEAD.

New York, Feb. 22.—Henry Clay Miner, a theatrical manager and an ex-congressman, died this afternoon at his residence. Just a few minutes before his death he told his wife that he never felt better in his life. He was born in New York in 1842.

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"ROCKBROOK FARM"
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GREATER NEW YORK'S GREATEST COFFEE.

This Coffee combines full strength with fine flavor. It is cleaned thoroughly when green, and then roasted in perfection, put up in fancy decorated cans, five pounds each, at \$1.95, and guaranteed to give satisfaction by

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AT KANSAS CITY, JULY 4

The Place and Date of the Democratic National Convention.

Milwaukee's Purse Was Not Big Enough.

The Late Date Decided Upon After Long Discussion.

Campaign Has Been Going on Ever Since Bryan's Nomination.

GORMAN ARGUED THAT BY A LATE CONVENTION AN OPPORTUNITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO GAUGE THE STRENGTH OF THE ENEMY—JULY A FATAL DATE, ACCORDING TO TILLMAN.

Washington, Feb. 22.—The democratic national committee met today in the Raleigh hotel and listened to speeches of delegations from various cities urging the claims of their respective places. The committee decided to hold the convention in Kansas City July 4.

It took just an hour to decide where the convention should be located. After the financial question was introduced Kansas City made a strong representation and Milwaukee was left in the distance. Kansas City presented a certified check for \$50,000 and promised to provide a free hall and payment of the officers of the convention; also to pay the expense of the national committee and to provide free headquarters.

Against this Milwaukee could only offer a certified check for \$40,000. The question of fixing a date for the meeting was debated long and earnestly before it was decided upon. It was due to Senator Gorman, however, that July 4 was settled. Ex-Governor Stone, of Missouri, favored June 14. In this he was supported by Tillman and others who claimed that the party failed when the national campaign convention was held in July.

Gorman in advocating the selection of July, reminded the committee that it has been the custom of the democratic party when out of power to hold its convention after that of the republicans. There were many advantages in this, he claimed, as it gave them the opportunity to gauge the strength of the enemy. It was doubtless true, he said, that the time between the nomination of Bryan in '96 and the election was too short. If the party had been given a longer time, it probably would have won. If the circumstances that existed then prevailed now he would be a strong advocate of an early convention, but the work has been going on ever since the nomination of Bryan. The men who conducted the last campaign were still in the lead. They had not only the benefit of the experience of the last campaign, but the advantage of four years' time in which to familiarize themselves with the situation.

Gorman then touched gently, but skillfully, on the platform and the necessity of harmony. He did not ask that any of the great principles enunciated in the Chicago platform be abandoned. He closed by predicting with a reunited party democratic success.

It was decided that two delegates be allowed for each congressional district and four delegates at large for each state and two for each territory and the District of Columbia. The committee then adjourned to meet at Kansas City on July 3.

ANTI-AMENDMENT SENTIMENT.

Captain W. E. Eller, of Jupiter, was here yesterday, and reported that the opposition to the proposed amendment in that section was growing daily.

Year by year the sales of Camphor-line increase. Could this be true of a fake. 25c. All druggists.

Buy a baby carriage from Mrs. L. A. Johnson. They are cheap while the old last.

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