

# The News and Observer.

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

### BRITISH EXPECT A BATTLE TODAY

#### Advance of Boers and Free State Troops.

### THE ENGLISH FORCES

#### ABOUT 12,000 UNDER GEN. STEWART WHITE NEAR LADYSMITH

### THE QUEEN CALLS OUT THE RESERVES

#### A Supplementary Army Estimate Issued at London, Asking the House of Commons to Vote 35,000 Men and 10,000 Pounds.

London, October 18.—A special dispatch dated at Pretoria at noon yesterday says:

"After a few shots were fired at Mafeking the white flag was hoisted. A Boer party bearing a flag of truce was sent to inquire whether the town surrendered. No definite reply was received. The burgher messenger was detained for six hours and then released."

The War Office has issued the following statement:

"News has been received from General Sir George Stewart White, the general commanding in Natal, that the anticipated movement of Boer forces across the Drakensberg, already reported from several quarters, was likely to be continued on October 17th and that more of them might be expected to arrive at Bonan Bank that night and probably to come into contact with our cavalry between Ladysmith and the Passes of the Drakensberg."

"On the north the Boer forces from Ingagane are advancing accompanied by a few batteries of artillery."

"On the Buffalo River the Boers from Vryheid are moving toward Vants and Rorkers Drifts."

"Our cavalry remain in observation and report movements in Orange Free State. The Basutos are said to manifest an attitude hostile to the Boers and they may neutralize a certain number of the Boer forces."

### CLAIM BOER VICTORIES.

Lourenzo Marques, October 18.—The Volkssten, the Boer official organ at Pretoria, gives the following account of the occupation of the British camp at Ramathlabama, just north of Mafeking:

"The British camp at Ramathlabama has been captured and sacked by General Cronje after severe fighting. Many burghers were killed or wounded. The British loss is not known."

The Volkssten added that "success has thus far everywhere attended the burghers," although it admits that in the various skirmishes near Mafeking and at other points the Boer casualties number some sixty or seventy killed and wounded."

A representative of the Transvaal Government has arrived here and is buying up all the provisions obtainable.

One hundred and thirty persons just released from the Barberton jail, Trnsvaal, have been put over the Portuguese border.

### MORE MEN, MONEY WANTED.

London, October 18.—A supplementary army estimate has been issued, asking the House of Commons to vote an additional 35,000 men and 10,000,000 pounds sterling in consequence of the situation in South Africa.

It is expected that the 35,000 men represent the probable maximum excess beyond the establishments fixed for the year 1898-1899, and is in consequence of the calling out of the reserves and of the temporary transfer of troops from the Indian to the British establishment.

With the additional 10,000,000 pounds the total estimates are 30,617,000 pounds.

### CALLING OUT THE RESERVES.

London, Oct. 18.—In the House of Commons today the first Lord of the Treasury and Government leader, Arthur J. Balfour, brought in the following message from the Queen:

"The state of affairs in South Africa having constituted, in the opinion of Her Majesty, a case of great emergency, within the meaning of the act of Parliament, Her Majesty deems it proper to provide additional means for military service. She has, therefore, thought it right to communicate to the House that Her Majesty is, by proclamation, about to order the embodiment of the militia and to call out the militia reserve force, or such part thereof as Her Majesty may think necessary, for permanent service."

The calling out of the militia and the militia reserves has occasioned widespread wonderment. Old stories of preparations against Continental combinations are revived. It is freely rumored that the Government is determined to demonstrate to Europe that the British army is not a negligible quantity.

### AN ENGAGEMENT IMMINENT.

Camp Glencoe, Natal, Oct. 18.—2 p. m.—Boer scouts have been sighted at Hattings Spruit, seven miles from the British camp and an engagement is imminent.

### THE BOERS BEGAN HOSTILITIES

Ladysmith, Natal, Oct. 18.—An official note published here says:

"A Free State Commando yesterday commenced actual hostilities. The Free State has thus taken upon itself the re-

sponsibility of beginning war and cannot hereafter pose as the injured party."

It is stated that the enemy's scouts are almost in touch with the outposts at Glencoe. The Boers are working around both sides with the idea of getting south of Ladysmith and attacking in force with the co-operation of commandant General Joubert.

At Glencoe, the British patrol covered a wide area in order to prevent outflanking and were subjected to a hot fire in persistent skirmishing. General Sir George Stewart White is quite prepared to offer battle and the camp is pleased at the prospect of striking a definite blow.

### A BATTLE IN PROGRESS.

At Paris yesterday M. Gohier, writer of leading articles for the Dreyfusard organ *Aurore*, fought a duel with the son of General Mercier, former Minister of War. M. Mercier was struck in the chest, but is not thought to be seriously hurt.

5:05 p. m.—The British cavalry patrols have been in action at Acton Homes and Lesters Station since midday and the action is still in progress. A number of casualties have been reported. Supporters are leaving the camp and expect to fight tomorrow.

Ladysmith, Oct. 18.—5:25 p. m.—The British forces came into contact with the enemy in the neighborhood of Acton Homes and Lesters Station about 16 miles out, this morning. The firing began about 10 o'clock.

### THE ZULUS ARE ARMING.

London, Oct. 18.—According to a special dispatch from Durban, Natal the Zulus are arming with assegais. Chief Dinzulu says he is unable to restrain them. It is expected that they will be joined by the Swazis.

London, Oct. 18.—There is still no authentic news from Mafeking, but all reports tend to confirm the belief that Colonel Baden-Powell is holding his own, and no credit is given to the vague rumor that a flag of truce had been displayed.

A considerable engagement is anticipated in the vicinity of Ladysmith today. The combined advance of Boers and Free State troops in this direction has been executed with not inconsiderable skill and shows a clear appreciation of the British position. General Sir George Stewart White has 12,000 men and forty-six guns available, besides a considerable force of volunteers, to hold Ladysmith, and no anxiety is felt on this account for the Natal country where the engagement is expected, is fairly open, and although the work of moving them will be difficult, the guns are likely to do good work.

The country is not favorable for Boer tactics, and it will be very difficult for them to avoid the exposure of their flanks to attack by a vigorous and mobile enemy already occupying useful positions, that is, supposing they really mean to fight and not merely to attempt to draw General White farther out with a view of surrounding him.

General White has a large body of excellent cavalry which will be put to good use.

### TO URGE REMOVAL OF OTIS.

#### Lawton Frequently Denied the Fruits of Victory.

Vancouver, B. C., October 18.—Prof. D. C. Worcester and Colonel Denby, Philippine commissioners, arrived here today on the steamer *Press* of Japan and left this afternoon for Washington where they will make their report to the President. Until the report is made neither gentleman will make a statement of any kind for publication.

Among the passengers on the *Empress* was Editor Lettmore, proprietor of the Manila American. His mission to America is to urge the removal of General Otis from the command of the United States forces in the Philippines and the promotion of General Lawton to the command. Lettmore says that Lawton is frequently denied the fruits of victory by the hesitation of General Otis.

### TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

At Key West ten new cases of yellow fever are reported and one death.

At Cordele, Ga., yesterday, W. H. Cochran shot and killed H. A. Dukas in self-defense.

The Cologne Gazette announces officially that Emperor William will start for England on November 11th.

At Norfolk yesterday, Dr. F. M. Morgan, of Berkley, under indictment for causing the death of a Norfolk lady and her child in May last, was acquitted.

At New Orleans there is one new case of yellow fever and no deaths. Finis H. Harris, telegraph editor of the *Picayune*, died last night.

Admiral Dewey was forced to decline the invitation to visit Savannah on his trip South. His Southern trip will necessarily be limited to the visit to Atlanta.

President Loubet has signed the pardon of Emile Arton, who, in November, 1896, was sentenced to eight years imprisonment for complicity with Baron De Reinach and Dr. Cornelius Herz in the frauds on the Panama Canal Company.

At Paris the Minister of the Colonies, M. De Crais, has received an official dispatch announcing that Captain Voulet and Captain Chamone, of the outlawed French expedition in the Soudan, whose members were recently massacred most of the members of the expedition, under Lieutenant Colonel Klobb, sent to arrest those officers on charges of cruelty and insubordination, have been shot by their own men.

### ROARING CROWDS WELCOME BRYAN

#### First Democratic Demonstration of the Campaign.

### TUPPORT THE NOMINEE

#### THE DISSATISFIED DEMOCRATS ELECT REPUBLICANS.

### BRYAN RASPS THE ADMINISTRATION

#### He Compares McKinley to George the Third of England and Alfonso of Spain. Bryan Will Begin the Ohio Campaign Today.

Louisville, Ky., October 18.—Twenty thousand people greeted W. J. Bryan and the candidates on the Democratic State ticket at Churchill Downs, this afternoon, the occasion being the first demonstration by local Democrats in the State campaign now in progress. The crowd was filled with enthusiasm and satiated with barbecued meat and burgo.

It fed upon oratory by the State leaders, notably ex-Speaker J. C. S. Blackburn and William Goebel and the champion of the cause in National politics, W. J. Bryan.

The barbecue was the feature of the third day's programme of the party which has been stumping Kentucky in the interest of the regular Democratic nominee. They spent three hours at the Jockey Club grounds, all full of speech making and then resumed their trip to Covington, Ky. After a meeting there tonight the campaign in Ohio will be begun.

A notable part of the day's programme was played by the Cook County Marching Club of Chicago, which, three hundred strong, came into town at 8 o'clock this morning and to the music of five hands cut a swath through the heart of Louisville that brought cheers from the hundreds who had gathered to greet them. Tomorrow they will take a trip to the Blue Grass region, touching Frankfort, Lexington and Paris, jumping into the midst of the Ohio campaign on Friday at Cincinnati.

When Mr. Bryan arrived at the race track he was greeted with loud applause. The crowd completely filled the large grand stand, even down to the bottom of the steps, and several thousand people were jammed and packed together on the ground. The speaking stand was immediately in front of the grand stand, it was a sea of humanity that the speakers faced. The Chicago Democrats were seated in the center of the grand stand.

Mr. Bryan began by reading a letter from John Young Brown, which had been handed to him on his arrival in the city.

The letter cited the statements concerning the agreement of Goebel and Stone, by which they were to combine their forces for the purpose of securing the organization of the Louisville Convention and asked whether, "after over three hundred men were placed in the convention instead of the delegates selected," the convention could give Goebel the nomination of the party. He also asked whether such a contract was not fraudulent.

Gov. Brown further asked whether a chairman had right to deny an appeal; whether armed police in the convention were not a menace to free government; whether Bryan was in favor of the Goebel Election Law, and lastly, whether Bryan had any plea save that of political expediency to justify submission.

Mr. Bryan said on the subject of the letter:

"Now, he asks if it be true that this was done. I want to say that I did not come to sit in judgment on any convention. I did not come to discuss the details of an election law. I come to say, and I say with emphasis, that if there was anything done in that convention that a Democrat does not think ought to have been done, I ask of that Democrat, what his remedy is. Is it to elect a Republican Governor and Republican officials? The man who tries to correct a Democratic convention by electing a Republican Governor assumes responsibility for all that that Governor does after he has been elected."

Mr. Bryan then urged his hearers to support the regular nominees of the Democratic convention, saying that that convention not only reaffirmed the declaration of the Chicago platform, but defined the attitude of the party on the issues that have arisen since 1896. The survival of these principles, he declared, to be more important than the question of candidates. He asserted it was not a question between Goebel and another Democrat but between Goebel and the election of a Republican Governor and Republican State officers. He recognized the right of any man to bolt, but said he thought this a very poor way of remedying any wrong, fancied or real, that might have been done by the Louisville Convention.

Mr. Bryan again attacked the Philippine policy of the Administration. He cited Mr. McKinley's statement that the United States would hold the archipelago and quoted the President as saying:

"I confidently believe that Congress will provide for these people a government that will bring them blessings and advance their material interests."

"Change this sentence but slightly," said Mr. Bryan.

"Put 'Parliament' instead of 'Con-

gress' and 'colonists' instead of 'people' and you have a declaration exactly in line with the policy of King George when the American patriots were in revolution.

"Again put 'Cortes' instead of 'Congress,' and 'Cubans' instead of 'people' and you have the announcement of the Spanish King in justification of his campaign of subjugation at the time the United States interfered to free the desolated island near our coast.

"These things denote a departure from the principles contained in the Declaration of Independence. As an illustration of the demoralizing effect of this imperialism, let me cite a recent manifestation of our foreign policy. When Greece was struggling for freedom, Daniel Webster thundered the approval of the American nation. When Cuba was devastated the American nation came to the rescue. Now the valiant Boers in South Africa are shedding their life's blood for the right of men to govern themselves and this nation stands with its hands tied, its throat gagged.

"If we appealed to England in behalf of the Boers, she would reply, 'What's the matter with the Philippines?'"

"I want this nation to be at peace with the other nations of the world, but I would rather have the gratitude of these valiant Boers than the smile of an English aristocracy."

Mr. Bryan attributed to President McKinley's statement that our position in the Philippines was a matter of divine direction. "If he felt it an impulse to go into his pocket and give to the destitute he might, he said, trace that feeling to God. But if he felt inclined to reach into another man's pocket and rob him, he would not charge that against the Almighty. The Republican Philippine policy, he said, reminded him of a colored man about whom he had heard. This negro said he had found that if he prayed to God to send him a chicken he rarely ever responded, but if he prayed to God to send him to a chicken, he most always got it.

Mr. Bryan urged upon his hearers, the importance to the party of the election to the United States Senate of J. C. S. Blackburn, saying his vote was needed in the determination of the questions of public policy brought to us by the Spanish war in the event of possible legislation looking to an increase of the standing army, such as, he said, was attempted last session; and in the matter of trusts and the income tax.

At many periods of his discussion of national issues, he paused for the remark, "And yet they ask us to stop while these questions are pending, to settle the details of a State convention."

Mr. Bryan's speech was interrupted frequently with applause. He was followed by Mr. Goebel after which the party went eastward, expecting to arrive at Covington tonight.

### WELCOMED TO OHIO.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Oct. 18.—Mr. Bryan was met at Covington, Ky., by Hon. Allen O. Myers and others, representing the Ohio Democratic committee and afterward was escorted to a special train in waiting here for the Ohio tour. Many from Cincinnati had crossed the river to hear Bryan.

Mr. Bryan spoke from a platform in Park Place, in Covington, and it is estimated that twenty thousand people surrounded it. When he stopped speaking there was a rush for the platform to shake hands. Mr. Bryan was escorted to Ohio by great crowds with blazing lights, but declined a public reception, and repaired at once to his car, leaving at 11 o'clock p. m. for Dayton. There the private car of Hon. John R. McLean, the Democratic candidate for Governor, will be attached to the train at 7:30 a. m., and thence the train will proceed to Greenville, where Mr. Bryan speaks at 9 o'clock a. m.

Mr. McLean and other Democratic leaders will accompany Mr. Bryan in Ohio the rest of this week. Then Mr. Bryan will hasten to Nebraska for the last two weeks of the campaign.

### The Derelict Carries a Lane.

Beaufort, N. C., Oct. 18.—(Special.)—The tug *Blanche* from Wilmington towed in and safely anchored the derelict schooner *Carrie A. Lane*, in Cape Lookout pocket. The tug was paid one thousand dollars to do the work. The cargo is a large lot of lumber which it is supposed will be sold. Parties from Florida are anxious to buy it.

The schooner can be pumped out and towed to destination for repairs. Her rigging and decks are gone. She was insured in the Boston Marine Insurance Company, and they have ordered the insurance agent here to turn her over to the owner's agent, who arrived here last night.

### BLOTTED OUT HIS FAMILY.

#### Mad Farmer Kills Wife, Three Children and Himself.

Redwood Falls, Minn., October 18.—Frank E. Babcock, a farmer, residing near this city, murdered his wife and three sons on his farm today. The murders were committed in a fit of insanity. Babcock loaded his gun and went to where his two little boys were playing near the house and shot both of them, blowing their brains out. His wife saw the deed and ran to the barn for safety. Babcock went into the house and wrote a note to his brother-in-law, Frank Mason, saying he went out to kill a rooster and shot his son Theodore and could not face the crime. Then he searched for and found his wife in the barn and shot her through the head.

From the barn he walked a mile south to where his oldest son was at work and at close range he fired a shot that blew out the brains of his son. Then reloading he placed the muzzle to his mouth and fired off one barrel, killing himself instantly. He fell over on the gun which still had one barrel cocked and ready for action.

### COTTON GROWERS MET LAST

#### Interesting Discussion by Practical Cotton Planters.

### SOME VALUABLE PAPERS

#### A COMMITTEE NAMED TO MEET THIS MORNING.

### CO-OPERATION OF SOUTHERN PLANTERS

#### That is What is Desired by the Farmers to the End that Cotton be not Sacrificed.

The Cotton Growers' Convention met in the Hall of the House of Representatives last night. It was a large gathering of representative farmers. The body was called to order by Mr. S. L. Patterson, Commissioner of Agriculture, who said:

### MR. PATTERSON'S SPEECH.

At the suggestion and request of Col. John S. Cunningham, chairman of our State Board of Agriculture, I issued about a month ago a call for a meeting at this time and place of the Cotton Growers of North Carolina, the purpose being, that in coming together they might confer with one another on various matters of interest incident to their business, and more particularly that they might devise some plan, if possible, which would enable them to market their cotton this year at a price in keeping with the shortness of the crop, and the increasing demands of the spinners.

Since this call was issued the only change in conditions has been evidence of a greater shortage of the cotton crop, and a corresponding increase in value. How are our cotton planters best to secure this increase now, and in the future will be one of the questions to engage your attention tonight.

Under the common law of supply and demand the planter is entitled to an increase of price in proportion to the decrease of his crop. The same expense of seed, fertilizer, planting, cultivation, all have been necessary to make it—a saving to him only in the picking and marketing; and in an untrammelled market, under the same law, he would secure the relative increase in value. It has occurred in the past that smaller exports have returned more to the producer, not only in price per pound, but in actual value, and so it would be again, if natural causes were left alone to produce natural effects.

But, when, as there seems to have been now, a studied and determined effort to create a false impression in the great markets of the world as to the size of the cotton crop of 1899, for the purpose of depreciating the price, at any rate until after those farmers who are pinched by mortgage indebtedness and crop liens, have been forced to put their crops on the market, it is time for intelligent and self-protecting men to take serious and thoughtful action to thwart such nefarious schemes.

The world's demand for cotton is yearly increasing. Prices of all manufactured products have shot upward, and of much of the raw materials. Cotton spinners have met, and have fixed minimum prices for cotton goods, in advance of last year's prices to correspond with the advancing cotton; the farmer's goods next year will cost him more than for years past; to thwart by false representation the natural law by which his share in the rise of prices is denied him would be the basest robbery, and the perpetrators deserve punishment like common thieves and criminals.

It may be of interest here to briefly consider the cost of raising cotton. The United States Department of Agriculture has recently issued a bulletin (Div. of Statistics Bulletin 16, p. 99) giving in tabular form the average itemized cost of the production of cotton. Data are given to show the relation of the use of fertilizers to the cost of production. Circulars were sent out to planters in all the large cotton counties in the different cotton States. Without going into detail, I may summarize the results by saying that some 3,500 replies, representing over 700 counties, were considered in reaching the results. "From the data obtained in the estimates it was found that the average cost of producing an acre of upland and sea island cotton in 1896, was \$15.42 and \$21.95 respectively. The lowest cost of producing 100 pounds of common lint on upland plantations was found to be \$5.51 in Oklahoma, and the highest \$6.29 in Arkansas. The average cost on all upland plantations being \$6.03 per 100 pounds."

I do not know at what cost for labor and supplies these estimates were based, for I have only a summary to quote from and not the data in detail, but certainly the figures are not derived from any "calamity howling" source.

I wish to call your attention to the fact that we are indebted in large measure to the factories in our midst for the recent advanced prices, and not to the Liverpool market. But after their immediate demand is supplied, the prices must be governed by the foreign demand. One cent a pound means an enormous amount in profit or loss to the farmers of the State. Reckoning the State's yield in round numbers at 50,000 bales of 500 pounds, one cent means \$2,500,000, equal to all State, county and school taxes for the year.

I shall not anticipate the action of

this meeting by suggesting or proposing any plan: That must be left to the wisdom of yourselves. But one point I desire to emphasize—the common interest of farmers, merchants, bankers and railroads, in good prices not only of cotton, but of all farm products.

All of these classes are necessary to one another and not one can prosper without the success of the others, the farmer perhaps least of all. It is no time for arraying class against class or exciting unjust antagonisms.

I have taken the liberty of asking some of our leading bankers and railroad representatives to be present and take part in our proceedings and I feel very sure that you will give them a cordial hearing.

I now declare this meeting ready for business. Col. John S. Cunningham was made chairman, and T. B. Parker and J. D. Allen secretaries. Col. Cunningham made a brief and fitting address, which was well received.

Capt. J. J. Thomas, president of the Commercial and Farmers Bank, who had been invited to speak, was introduced and said:

### CONVENTION OF COTTON GROWERS OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The few brief remarks that I propose making, is upon the relation of the farmer to the merchant and the banks. For the past quarter of a century I have been closely identified with the farmer, the merchant and the banker. My personal business relations have been however, greater with the farmer than with any other class, hence my experience, in the absence of any talent, enables me to speak knowingly of some of his traits. He is, as a class, honest himself and thinks most other people are the same, it is not without some suspicion, there are those knowing the honesty of the farmer, will manage to deceive him, but I am proud to say, they are largely in the minority. They constitute, however, a sufficient number as to properly cause the farmer to exercise some de-

gree of suspicion. My object, is not so much to speak of the character of the farmer, for that needs no defence at my hands or the hands of any one else, but of his business relations to the merchant and the banker. Just after the close of the war between the States, business generally was seriously disorganized, all commodities were abnormally high and no fixed rate of value, price or profit on anything sold or bought, hence this condition of affairs not unexpected or unusual, emerging from war times, had to gradually adjust itself to peaceful ways and business methods. The natural condition of things of this day and time, has brought the farmer, the merchant, and the banker into a closer and more intimate relation with each other. They are getting, so to speak, to be better acquainted with one another, and as this state of affairs develops and grows, so does the peace of society, the sociality of the people and the general prosperity of the country. The prejudice that formerly existed on the part of the farmer against the merchant and the banks is fast if not entirely disappearing. He now finds the merchant among his best friends and the more dealings he may have with the banks and its officials, who are always ready to extend credit and aid to those who deserve or merit it, the more he is convinced, that we are of one country, of one family and of one destiny, hence the triple alliance of the banker, the merchant and the farmer, is the one thing desired and needful and from all appearances and indications the trend of things is in that direction. Any demands by the farmers or merchants, the banks you will find ever ready to respond to and arrange upon a deposit of sufficient cotton in some chartered or bonded warehouse, furnishing a receipt for same or by other acceptable personal security or collateral. Since the first of September, the West and the South have been withdrawing their deposits from the banks in New York to that extent, that it has caused alarm and some parties North went so far as to predict a panic in New York by the transfer of their money—it was the speculators and that class of professional operators, who thrive under such conditions, that would welcome a panic, but the New York banks were as usual, prepared to meet all demands upon them, the funds were needed to aid the handling and moving the grain crop of the West and the cotton crop of the South. This drain upon the banks in New York, reduced the surplus reserve, over the legal requirements, lower than it has been for ten or twenty years and in the case of some of the banks, the surplus reserve was entirely wiped out and that required by law hardly maintained. During this period of transition of funds, money was loaned in New York from 5 to 40 per cent. per annum and that on call, and as yet the rate of interest in New York is very unsettled. The government in order partially to relieve the money situation, have anticipated and been paying out some four and one-half

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