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GENERAL NEWS.

Matters of Interest Condensed Into Brief Paragraphs.

Gen. Leonard Wood, the new governor general of Cuba, sailed for Cuba Saturday.

The national Republican convention has been called to meet at Philadelphia on June 19, 1900.

The distress in the famine-stricken districts of India is becoming acute. About 2,250,000 persons have received relief.

Fire at Laurel, Md., Friday, destroyed 12 buildings, causing a loss of \$12,000 to \$14,000, mostly covered by insurance.

The truckers of eastern Virginia are deeply concerned over the threatened invasion of the American markets by the products of our new tropical colonies.

The central building of the public school system at Savannah, Ga., was burned Saturday. Loss, \$75,000; insurance, \$40,000. Fire said to be incendiary.

At Eatonton, Ga., Friday, the 9-year-old son of Mr. Joe Robinson was badly torn by a mad dog. With his father he left for the Pasteur institute at Baltimore Saturday.

Mr. Henry C. Landis, secretary of the Baltimore board of trade and one of the most prominent insurance men of that city, committed suicide Friday, in a fit of insanity, caused by ill health.

Charles E. Macrum, late United States consul at Pretoria, left for New York Saturday, December 16th. Mr. W. Stanley Hollis, the U. S. consul at Lourenço Marques, will assume the duties of Mr. Macrum's office until the arrival of the latter's successor.

Plans have been perfected for the erection in Tampa, Fla., of a big sugar mill and refinery. It is the intention of the men behind the enterprise to make Tampa not only the market for the sugar cane of Florida, but to bring the crude article from Cuba and refine it.

It is understood that the government intends appropriating a reservation one mile square at Cape Henry and erecting thereon one of the most powerful forts in the world. A corps of engineers has already made the preliminary surveys. The channel runs close to Cape Henry and powerful guns will protect the harbors of Norfolk, Newport News, Washington, Baltimore and Richmond. It is claimed that the navy yard at Norfolk and the ship-building interests at Newport News and Richmond are in need of such protection.

The investigation of the rights of former Senator Quay, of Pennsylvania, to a seat in the senate by appointment of the governor of Pennsylvania, was begun on Saturday by the senate committee on privileges and elections. The hearing was purely a legal argument on the right of the governor in the circumstances which arose in the case of Mr. Quay. The only question involved is as to the right of a governor to appoint when the legislature has failed to elect. If the Republicans seat Quay, they will do so contrary to precedents in similar cases.

BIG FAILURE IN NEW YORK.

Produce Exchange Trust Co. Closes Its Doors. Over \$8,000,000 Liabilities.

New York, Dec. 18.—The Produce Exchange Trust company has closed its doors, it is stated, for the purpose of an examination and adjustment of claims. There are ample assets to meet all liabilities.

Assets: Cash on hand and in banks, \$1,145,000; city bonds and demand notes, \$4,000,000; other bills receivable and syndicate loans, \$5,250,000.

Liabilities: Capital and surplus, \$5,000,000; individual deposits, \$3,000,000; trust funds, \$216,000.

Free of Charge.

Any adult suffering from a cold settled on the breast, bronchitis, throat or lung troubles of any nature, who will call at Temple-Marston Drug Co., will be presented with a sample bottle of Boschee's German Syrup, free of charge. Only one bottle given to one person, and none to children without order from parents.

No throat or lung remedy ever had such a sale as Boschee's German Syrup in all parts of the civilized world. Twenty years ago millions of bottles were given away, and your druggists will tell you its success was marvelous. It is really the only Throat and Lung Remedy generally endorsed by physicians. One 75 cents bottle will cure or prove its value. Sold by dealers in all civilized countries.

A "Growlery."

"Please don't go in there. That's the growlery, and it's occupied." It was a young West Philadelphia matron who made the remark as she was showing a friend through her new home.

"The growlery!" repeated the other. "What's that? Not where you rush the growler, I hope?"

This was said in a jocular spirit, and the visitor was rather staggered by the reply.

"That's it exactly; where we rush the growler, although perhaps not in the way you fancy. You see, my husband is an occasional sufferer from indigestion, which doesn't improve his temper, and there are also times when my own temper—I tell you this in confidence—is not of the best. Well, when we moved out here and had more rooms in the house than we actually needed I hit upon the plan of setting aside one as a place of solitary retirement, where we could go and be alone when either of us felt our temper getting the best of us. I have called it the growlery because we can lock ourselves in there and growl to our hearts' content until we have quite recovered. We both avail ourselves of it, and I think it's a very good idea. George is in there now, and I wouldn't disturb him for the world."—Philadelphia Record.

Frances Willard's Empty Purse.

It was characteristic of the late Frances Willard that she never had any money. Miss Gordon attended to her finances, and it was found on the whole best to leave Miss Willard's purse empty, because if she started out in the morning with a full pocket-book she came back penniless in the evening. One night she told in her inimitable way of having gone to Chicago and reached Rest Cottage again on the capital of a postage stamp. At the station she turned her pockets out, but not a bit of change was to be found. She had forgotten all about it. "What am I to do about it?" she asked the agent perplexedly. "Anna is out, I think, and I haven't a cent of money." "I'll give you a ticket, Miss Willard," said the clerk.

"When I got into the bus I remembered again," she said, "and told the driver, 'I think I'll have to walk, for I haven't any money.'" "Oh, that's all right, Miss Willard," said the driver. And so all day, greatly to her amusement, she went on getting in debt to the railroads, cabmen and restaurants.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

He Did; a Cut.

In a rural community in one of the middle states dwelt a man who made a vow in 1856 that he would wear his hair and beard untrimmed until John C. Fremont should be elected president of the United States.

He kept that vow for 40 years, at the end of which time he had nearly a half bushel of hair on his head and face. Then, coming to the conclusion, toward which his mind had been gradually working for a long time, that General Fremont's death in the interval had practically absolved him from his vow, he decided to have his hair cut and his beard shaved off clean. On his next visit to the county seat he went to a barber shop and was soon relieved of the hirsute burden he had carried for four decades.

"How much?" he asked. "Have to charge you half a dollar for that job," said the barber, looking at the mass that lay on the floor.

"Half a dollar?" he gasped. "Don't I get anything for the hair?"—Youth's Companion.

Confuting an Impossibility.

"I want to see Mrs. Smythe," said the visitor.

"You can't," said the servant. "She has the toothache."

"You must be mistaken," the man replied. "I'm her dentist, and I have her teeth here in this package."—Catholic Standard and Times.

Spanish Courtesy.

In the Spanish Bibles and prayer books the name of the Saviour and those of the saints are always printed with the title "senor" (mister) before them, as Mr. John the Baptist, Mr. Saint Paul, Mr. Saint Matthew, etc.—Chicago Record.

BULLER REPULSED.

Gen. Buller Abandons Eleven Guns At Tugela River to the Victorious Boers. Perilous Position at Ladysmith. Buller Lost 1,097 Men.

London, Dec. 16.—12:47 a. m.—The war office has received a dispatch announcing that Gen. Buller has met with a serious reverse, losing 11 guns.

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

The news of Gen. Buller's reverse was received so late that morning newspaper comment today is confined to perfunctory expressions of extreme regret and disappointment, and of the necessity for calmness and redoubled efforts to retrieve the position. This latest check is regarded as the most serious event in Great Britain's military history since the Indian mutiny.

It is expected that Gen. Buller will be able to renew the attack shortly, though it is somewhat doubtful. If he is not able to renew the attack the British generals will be compelled, for another fortnight or more, to remain practically on the defensive.

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

The war office, on receipt of the news of Buller's reverse, 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 18th, with about 15,000 troops of all arms.

LATER NEWS.

Buller Lost 1,097 Men. At Magersfontein the Loss Was 963.

London, Dec. 16.—Gen. Buller reports to the war office that his losses in yesterday's engagement were: Killed, 82; wounded, 667; missing, 338; a total of 1,097.

The revised list of the British casualties at the battle of Magersfontein shows the total to be 963, of which number 70 were officers.

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.—Batcheler, Twenty-fourth infantry battalion, reports on 7th instant, had an engagement at the junction of Magat and Rio Grande Rivers, Isabella 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 Tagnegaro, 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 Banqui, northwestern Luzon, reports that his troops are still pursuing the remnant 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."

Will Treat Them as Criminals.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Isolated bands of bushwhacking insurgents who are caught by our forces in the Philippines are likely to be summarily dealt with. At the cabinet meeting today the matter was discussed at some length, and it was the general sentiment that the situation demanded vigorous treatment. As long as the insurgents keep up a show of an army under a semblance of discipline, they will be treated as prisoners of war when captured, but when they degenerate into isolated bands of marauders, harassing our forces by cold-blooded assassinations, it is the judgment of the officers in command in the Philippines and of the president and members of the cabinet that the situation demands summary action.

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LIST OF BRITISH PRISONERS.

They Will Be Furnished on Direct Application to Transvaal War Office.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Mr. Macrum, United States consul at Pretoria, has cabled 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 British authorities.

Mr. Macrum preferred a request for information on this point some time ago, and was at first refused. Now, however, that the assent of the Boer government is given, it is noted that their response is not complete. They will not furnish Mr. Macrum himself with the information, but oblige the British to make application to the Boer war office.

This is a small matter, but it is said may be indicative of an intention on the part of the Boers to force formal recognition of their independence in every official communication by the British government.

Belligerent Rights to the Boers.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Representative Sulzer, of New York, has introduced a joint resolution declaring that a state of war exists in South Africa and according belligerent rights to the Transvaal government. It closes with the following paragraph:

"The congress of the United States protest and remonstrate against the barbarous manner in which the war has been conducted by Great Britain, and the president is hereby authorized to take such steps as may be expedient, in his judgment, to secure an observance of the laws of war recognized by all civilized nations, and bring about an honorable peace."

Cotton Holding Up Well.

New York, Dec. 16.—Considering news of British reverses in the Transvaal and the financial situation in New York, the cotton market has acted extremely well, and with the slightest improvement in conditions named, will advance sharply. The receipts are below the smallest estimates and the crop looks shorter than ever.

Hard on the Burglar.

"There is a family in my town," said a Baltimore man, "where the children are all boys. They are very rich, and each of the three sons is in receipt of a liberal allowance, but the manner in which they expend it and certain of their characteristics were so succinctly and tersely described as possible the other day by Bob, the eldest one, in telling the story of a burglary that occurred last summer at their country place. Bob is the oldest, Jack the second and Albert the youngest son. Bob, in telling the story, said:

"He didn't get very much, as some one of the servants thought he heard something about 3 and in going to investigate probably scared him off. but when we discovered the next morning that a burglar had visited us we naturally took an account of stock. The only rooms in the house he had entered were those of my two brothers and myself, and in each of them he had gone through the clothes we had been wearing the day before. Out of my clothes he got 10 cents, from Jack he got nothing, and in going through Bert's jeans he got in debt."—New York Tribune.

An Old Timer.

A crowd of young men were seated in one of the steamboat offices in the city the other afternoon while an old steamboat veteran regaled them with stories about old times on the Mississippi and reminiscences of old time citizens.

"Did you know old Bill Jones?" asked one of the men, after the captain had finished relating how he ran a gantlet of Indians with his boat way back in the forties.

"Member Bill Jones? Well, I guess I did," replied the captain. "Let's see, he died just after the war. He was a good old fellow too. I knew his father before he was married to Bill's mother."

One of the boys thought the old man was "doping" and by way of tripping him up on his dates asked, "Cap, how long have you been running on the river?"

"Who, me? Why, I started on the Mississippi when it was nuthin but a creek!"—Memphis Scimitar.

STATE NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items In Condensed Form.

Mr. J. T. Couch, of Durham, has entered suit against the North Carolina R. R. Co. for \$20,000 damages for killing his son, a brakeman, killed while chaining a car whose drawhead had pulled out.

The directors of the insane asylum at Goldsboro on Thursday re-elected Dr. J. F. Miller superintendent for a term of six years. Daniel Reid was re-elected steward and Mrs. B. V. Smith was re-elected matron.

Goldsboro cor. Messenger: Mr. J. J. Street, of the building committee of the Pentecostal Holiness church, has bought from Mess. H. Weil & Bros. the lot on the corner of William street and Park avenue, where at an early date the Holiness tabernacle will be erected.

Greenville Reflector Dec. 16: This morning, while under the influence of liquor, Paul Metrick cut a deep gash on his throat with a knife. He was bleeding freely when he came out on the street, and parties took him to Dr. Moye for his wound to be dressed. The wound is not a serious one.

The secretary of the State board of health reports that the reason why the typhoid fever outbreak at the Normal and Industrial College, at Greensboro, was confined entirely to the boarding pupils was because water from an infected well was used in the dining room, while water from a spring was used in other parts of the building.

Another noted convict has escaped from the penitentiary. His name is Wright and he belonged to a notorious band of safe-blowers and postoffice robbers that were bagged in the southern states about two years ago. All of the gang, some dozen or fifteen in number, were sent to the penitentiary, and all of them, with one exception, have escaped.

Chatham county commissioners have ordered compulsory vaccination in the western part of the county, where eight cases and one death of smallpox are reported. It is the same old tale of a roving negro scattering this loathsome disease, a negro having been allowed to leave Greensboro with a well developed case going direct to his home in western Chatham.

In Wake county Friday the State treasurer got judgment for \$8,864 and \$1,000 penalty against Sheriff J. H. Pope, of Harnett, and his sureties for last year's taxes collected and not paid in the time prescribed. He also got judgment for \$3,691 and \$1,000 penalty against Sheriff Bryan Sturgill and sureties, of Ashe, also for last year's taxes. The treasurer says he has had promise after promise to pay but only part has been paid.

Capt. Arthur Barnes, of North Carolina, was found dead in his bed in Washington City Saturday morning. He seemed in his usual health the day before and his death is believed to have been due to heart disease. Capt. Barnes had been an assistant doorkeeper of the senate for ten years. He was a Democrat and had attended every Democratic national convention since 1880. He was a captain in the Confederate service during the civil war. He was about 65 years old.

A sad affliction has invaded the home of Mr. John F. Leeper, of Gaston county. About four weeks ago Mr. Leeper's eldest son, Alex Hoke, was bitten by a Collie dog, owned by Mr. W. C. Abernethy, of Mt. Holly. Nothing was thought of the occurrence until a few days afterwards when the dog died with convulsions. Mr. Leeper brought his boy to Charlotte to the madstone and applied remedies that are usually resorted to in such cases. The incident had about passed out of the minds of the Leeper family. Tuesday the boy was seized with convulsions. Reason was immediately de-throned and symptoms of the awful disease—hydrophobia—developed. Mr. Leeper at once sent for a physician who pronounced it a genuine case of hydrophobia. The child foamed at the mouth and the tongue was badly swollen. He could not bear the sight of water. The boy was confined in a room and none of the family allowed to enter. At times the unfortunate child barked like a dog and made other noises common to canines. The boy died last week.

COTTON MARKET.

Big Drop in New York Future Market Today.

Spot cotton in Kinston today, 7 to 7 1/4.

At 1 o'clock today the report from New York showed a falling off of 30 points—January, 6.97; March, 7.10; May, 7.18; June, 7.25, August 7.14.