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## IN BETTER SPIRITS.

England Counting Strong on Gen. Roberts. Both Sides Aggressive. Roberts' Plan to Compel Cronje to Raise the Siege of Kimberley, Which Is in a Bad Way.

London, Feb. 12.—England remains afloat anxiously to learn which side will succeed in striking first. The widespread belief that the hands of Lord Roberts and Gen. Kitchener are now firmly gripped at the helm contributes to a feeling of more confidence that whatever happens the campaign will now be waged under a careful, comprehensive plan, in which all the troops will co-operate. Both sides seem to be collecting themselves for attack. The left horn of the Boer army is creeping through Zululand and threatening the British right, and at night, Gen. Joubert, with 6,000 men, reported to be endeavoring to attack Gen. Buller. Boer aggressiveness has been developed and has met with a pulse at Rensburg, while from what now becomes the most important point of the campaign, the Modder river, comes the news of ceaseless activity and unremitting vigilance. These reports create a feeling of hopefulness in great Britain, rather than anxiety, for the impression exists that the Boer aggressiveness will give the British troops their long yearned for opportunity and tend greatly to assist the road plan of campaign which Lord Roberts may shortly be expected to set in motion at the Modder river. Meanwhile, Ladysmith must await the exigencies attendant upon the more important military movements now on foot. It is said positively that Gen. Macdonald's withdrawal from Koodoosberg was ordered by Gen. Methuen, under Lord Roberts' instructions.

Feb. 13, 4:15 a. m.—Lord Roberts has gathered 35,000 men with whom, according to the best military opinion in London, he proposes turning the left of the Magerfontein lines, near Jacobsdal, entering the Free State, compelling Gen. Cronje to raise the siege of Kimberley, and thus making the first step toward Koomfontein.

Lord Roberts tells the correspondents that when he gets down to business they shall have ample opportunity to send news. His chief press censor issued new rules, and in future all written communications are to go unchecked. Only telegrams will be censored. For the next few days, little news is likely to get through, but later there will be more freedom. Thus, says the censor, and the last clause may be interpreted to mean that something is about to happen. Kimberley, 20 miles away from the Modder river position, is in sore straits.

The death rate from disease is appalling. Meanwhile, the bombardment by the Boers has increased, and there is imminent danger of the town falling under the very eyes of Lord Roberts. It is believed in circles close to the war office that he will move at once.

### Relief Promised for Mafeking.

London, Feb. 13.—A dispatch to the Pall Mall Gazette from Mafeking, via Gaborone, under date February 2, says: "The situation is unchanged. Col. Baden-Powell has received a communication from Lord Roberts promising that relief will be sent in a few weeks.

"Our food will last and the garrison is as game as ever. The Boers have expressed their intention to starve us out. "All well."

### British Positions Abandoned.

Rensburg, Cape Colony, Feb. 13.—The British have abandoned Slingersfontein and fallen back on Rensburg. This move was made because the Boers were threatening the British eastern flank. All British positions to the westward of Rensburg, including Col's Kop, have been abandoned on account of the pressure of a large Boer force with heavy guns.

### Serious Condition at Rensburg.

London, Feb. 13.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail states that the condition of affairs at Rensburg, the headquarters of Gen. French, is serious. There has been severe fighting with heavy losses on both sides. The Mail's correspondent expresses doubt as to the ability of the British to hold the town.

### Cecil Rhodes' Friends Uneasy.

London, Feb. 13.—The friends of Cecil Rhodes are becoming alarmed at his possible fate, and have sent an emissary to see Dr. Leyds, the diplomatic agent of the Boers in Europe, in regard to the probable course the Boers would pursue in the event of his capture. Dr. Leyds

assured the intermediaries the Boers did not intend to kill Mr. Rhodes, but he added, they would certainly hold him as a hostage until the indemnity for the Jameson raid was paid. In view of the developments since the raid, the Boers have also decided to double the amount of the indemnity demanded, so that Mr. Rhodes' friends will have to hand over \$10,000,000 before he is released.

### BRYAN IN THE STATE.

Speaks to 6,000 People in Raleigh. Given an Ovation. Favors the Boers in Their Struggle for the Existence of Their Republic. Difference Between Imperialism and Expansion.

Raleigh, Feb. 14.—Six thousand people heard William Jennings Bryan, the next Democratic nominee for the presidency, speak here yesterday. Probably as many more were turned away, unable to do more than stand on the sidewalk and catch a glimpse of the great leader.

He made three speeches here. The first was a short one, delivered from the rear of the train as it stopped at Johnston street station. His audience there was composed principally of mechanics and other railroad employes. Half an hour later he addressed four thousand people in a tent on the Centennial graded school grounds, at the foot of Fayetteville street. And last night he spoke to 2,000 in the academy of Music.

In addition to these, he had made half a dozen speeches during the day at points along the line of railroad by which he came to Raleigh from Richmond.

The speeches were great efforts—especially the one of last night. His audiences were most sympathetic ones, and they could not have been more enthusiastic. They listened with the intensest interest, and the points made were wildly applauded. When he referred to the record of the Republican party in the southern states during the reconstruction period there was a burst of applause that it took several seconds to quell. It was only equalled by the shouts and enthusiasm with which the audience heard his declaration: "The British have not yet entered Ladysmith and I pray God they never may." Men clapped their hands and yelled and women waved their handkerchiefs. There could be no doubt as to the side on which the sympathy of that audience was in the South African trouble. And the applause was almost as great when he declared that the money question was not dead, or when he denounced the growth of imperialism. Toward the close of his speech, when the words were coming with the rapidity and intensity of highstrung earnestness, nearly every sentence was punctuated by applause.

A great demonstration marked the beginning and end of both speakings. It amounted to an ovation. When he came upon the stage the applause was deafening, lasting for a minute or more. It died out only to be renewed again and again. When the speaking was over there was the wildest enthusiasm, and the people lingered to get an opportunity to shake Mr. Bryan's hand or get a nearer view of him.

Of the two speeches delivered here the better was that of last night. In fact those who heard him when he delivered the great speech that nominated him four years ago, say last night's speech was the finest he has ever delivered.

Free coinage, trusts and imperialism were the three themes discussed in both his speeches here and those delivered on the way here.

He declared that the money question was not dead and would not die until it was settled and settled honestly.

Trusts, he said, must be regulated and he proposed a way by which he thought it could be done. This was, he said, to let the federal government license every corporation. "Every monopoly rests on a corporation; regulate the corporation and you regulate the monopoly."

Imperialism and expansion he defined as vastly different things. Expansion, he said, extended the limits of the republic, while imperialism means an empire which embraces a variety of races and a variety of governments. He said there were only three grounds on which imperialism can be defended: (1) God is in it. (2) There is money in it. (3) We are in it and can't get out. He asked who was authorized to speak for God and preach gunpowder doctrine. All the money in it, he said, would go into the pockets of those who developed the new possessions, while the people who pay the taxes will pay the expenses of the war. He denied that we could not get out of the war and added that even if we couldn't that was a poor defense to be put up by the party that got us into it.

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## STATE NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items in Condensed Form.

A few freight cars were wrecked at Concord Sunday night.

At Monroe Monday two negroes, Tom Sikes and Tom Hemphill, quarrelled while gambling. Sikes was shot and mortally wounded. Hemphill escaped.

J. E. Walker, a business man of Asheboro, has filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy. His assets are placed at \$18,042, with liabilities to the amount of \$14,626.88.

The board of education of New Hanover county has decided to lengthen the annual public school term in that county to seven months of four weeks each. This will be the longest public school term in the State.

Winston Sentinel: Mr. B. A. Deal, editor of the Wilkesboro Chronicle, who has been a bachelor for 10 these many years, surprised his friends at home and abroad by getting married Wednesday evening. Miss Mamie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Wallace, of Wilkesboro, was the young lady of his choice. The ceremony was performed at the home of the bride, in the presence of a few special friends, Rev. Mr. Rogers officiating. After the ceremony an elegant and sumptuous supper was served. [There is not a cleverer man connected with the State press, and we wish Brother Deal much happiness and a long, prosperous and fruitful married life.—Ed. FREE PRESS.]

Meigs Cor. Newbern Journal last week: At the head of Jones bay the county road crosses a small stream. In the swamp near the bay the land is low and swampy, and is often covered with tide water. On last Sunday night the tide came up over the road and lower parts of the swamp and on Monday morning the like of fish has never been known by our oldest citizens. The fish came up with the tide and were left in the causeways, on the road and in the swamp. The people have been hauling them away both for food and as compost for their farms, in numbers it is impossible to give, so I will say that tons of the fish have been taken and yet tons are still lying there. They were croakers, spots and fat backs and other kinds. The eagles, fish hawks, minks, otters, wild cats and coons and perhaps bruin are having a feast from all appearances.

WHITE HAD TO MOVE ON. Negro Congressman Couldn't Stop in Goldsboro.

Raleigh Post, Feb. 12.

Information was received here yesterday that the "Hon." Geo. H. White, the foul-mouthed defamer, who sits in congress as a representative from North Carolina, was not given an opportunity to collect Goldsboro dust on his Trilbys last Sunday.

White arrived in Goldsboro Sunday, and it was his intention to stop there a short while. The people of that city did not care to have him as their guest, and a committee of one waited on him when he alighted from the train and invited him to move on. The negro congressman did not take time to discuss the matter. He got back on the train and went to Newbern.

The negro congressman knows that the Republican leaders are going to make an effort to defeat him for the nomination, and for this reason he got his congressional committee together at Wilson yesterday, and called the congressional convention of his district to assemble prior to the date of the Republican State convention.

The white Republicans are determined to defeat the negro congressman for the nomination if possible.

### MOVING ON QUIETLY.

There Will be no Clash Before the Decision of Court of Appeals.

Louisville, Feb. 13.—It is reasonably certain the political situation will remain in its present quiet state until a decision has been handed down by the court of appeals clearing the title to the office of governor. Before Judge Cantrill at Georgetown tomorrow the Democrats will bring a suit in equity asking an injunction restraining Taylor from exercising any of the functions of the office of governor. It is expected a temporary injunction will be granted.

Don't depend on town gossip. Pay the small sum of 10 cents a week and get THE FREE PRESS six times a week. It costs but little and you get it at your door.

## COAHOMA ITEMS.

February 21, 1900.

Little or no work is now being done on the farms, owing to continued rains.

Mrs. Martha Stanley, of Kinston, was in the neighborhood recently to visit her friends.

Mr. Thos. Sutton and sister, Miss Lilly, visited the family of Dr. Wooten, in Dover, last Sunday.

Miss Eula Smith left yesterday for a visit of a few days among relatives and friends in Jones county.

Mr. Claud Hunter has lately added many improvements to his already nice and neat house. Mr. Hunter is entitled to much credit for his industry, and especially for making the residence of his aged mother so comfortable and attractive.

Mr. George Allen and bride, the notice of whose marriage recently appeared in THE FREE PRESS, passed over this section with the following attendants, viz: Mr. Geo. Pollock and Miss Mary Wooten, Mr. Thos. Wooten and Miss Ida Harrison, Mr. Roy Pollock and Miss Maud Pollock.

Col. W. A. Bobbitt and several others picnicked at Kelly's Mill one day last week. The colonel enjoys an outing with his friends. He is a judge of sport and generally finds it. From remnants of baskets, etc., left on the field of action, we would infer that the inner man was bountifully supplied.

The sociable given by Misses Sac and Eula Smith to a few friends on last Friday night passed very pleasantly. Eight or ten couples were in attendance, among whom were several young men from town. They express themselves as having had a delightful evening. The young ladies are quite apt at entertaining.

## SEVEN SPRINGS ITEMS.

February 13, 1900.

More rain this week interferes with the work of the farmers in this section.

Miss Mattie Uzzell came home from her school Friday afternoon, returning Sunday.

Seven Springs high school is booming. We congratulate the teachers on their success.

Mr. W. E. Cox went to Kinston Saturday to conduct the services in St. Mary's church Sunday.

A gentleman from Winston visited our community last week and got his girls mixed, but we think he got them straight before he left. Conditional engagements are new to our girls.

Loud reports from down the river this morning sounded as though the English or Boers had anchored near our shores for target practice. Uncle Sam is at last working on the river.

Dr. and Mrs. P. B. Loftin, of Beaufort, left Seven Springs hotel Saturday morning to visit relatives in the doctor's old neighborhood. They report much improvement from their short stay at the springs.

It is reported that a bear went to the still of Mr. Gray last Wednesday night and would have made his supper from Mr. Gray's hogs but for the timely arrival of some men. Nothing has been seen or heard of the bear since.

## INSTITUTE ITEMS.

February 13, 1900.

Miss Ida Harrison, of near Bonus, is visiting at Mr. G. F. Allen's.

Mr. Frank White and sister, Miss Julia, spent Saturday and Sunday near Kinston.

Mr. Albert White and sister, Miss Ruth, spent Saturday and Sunday near Fremont.

Miss Florence Kilpatrick, of Quinerly, who had been visiting at Mr. N. J. Allen's, returned home Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Hargett, of Jones county, are visiting Mrs. Hargett's father, Mr. J. J. Bryan, who is very sick.

Mrs. Bettie White's house caught fire Saturday morning and a large hole was burned in the roof. No other damage was done. It was supposed to have caught from a spark.

Mr. G. F. Allen, of this place, and Miss Sue Pollock, of Jones county, were married at the bride's home, in Jones county, Wednesday, Feb. 7th. They were welcomed at the home of the groom's father by a few friends, where a nice supper was served.

The Best Prescription for Chills and Fever is a bottle of GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC. It is simply iron and quinine in a tasteless form. No cure—no pay. Price, 25c.

Good printing at low prices. THE FREE PRESS furnishes it.

## GENERAL NEWS.

Matters of Interest Condensed into Brief Paragraphs.

England will raise her army to half a million men or more.

The Jeffries-Corbett fight has finally been set for May 10th.

Roosevelt announces that he is not and cannot be a candidate for the vice-presidency.

Monday afternoon the hotel and mountain row of cottages at Allegheny Springs, Va., were destroyed by fire, originating from a defective flue. The monetary loss and insurance are not stated.

At Norfolk, Va., R. J. Jones was arrested Saturday on a charge of using the United States mails for fraudulent purposes. He is said to have swindled hundreds by having consignments made to him and never returning pay.

The postoffice at Wilmouth, Tex., has been ordered discontinued by the post-office department, as a result of the representations by the postmaster there that he wished to resign because of threats that he would be assassinated.

Congressman Chickering was found dead early Tuesday morning on the sidewalk on the Forty-first street side of the Grand Union hotel, in New York. Mr. Chickering had occupied a room on the fourth floor of the hotel. The impression is that he committed suicide.

In South Carolina the anti-trust bill, which was copied from the Texas law, amended to fit the constitutional provisions of the Illinois law, and then still further amended and made more mild, passed the house Monday by a close vote. It will not get through the senate. The tobacco interests led the fight against the bill, claiming it would ruin the new and expanding industry.

Monday morning the ghastly discovery was made that some time during the previous night the little home of Mariah Smith, colored, near Stony Creek, Va., on the Atlantic Coast Line, had been destroyed by fire and the woman and her six children burned up. The origin of the fire is a mystery, the improbable theory being that the woman was giving a sick child medicine and overturned a kerosene lamp.

The bank of B. C. Bowman, at Las Cruces, N. M., was held up by two unknown men Monday afternoon and robbed of \$3,000. The robbers rode into the town, hitched their horses on the opposite side of the street, crossed over and entered the bank, covering Cashier Freeman and his young lady bookkeeper with six-shooters. The cashier was forced to open the safe, and the men took all the available cash, amounting to \$3,000. They then quietly left the building and rode toward the Oregon mountains, 15 miles away. Twenty minutes later Sheriff Pat Garrett and five deputies took their trail, and it is believed that the outlaws will be rounded up in a short time.

### Anti-Trust Conference.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 12.—Tonight at the close of the first day's proceedings of the anti-trust conference, called by the national anti-trust league, good progress had been made with the set speeches, of which a dozen or more were delivered. The resolutions committee meantime was busy and formulated resolutions covering the following points:

Government ownership of all railways and telegraph lines, the abolition of all special privileges by legislative enactment; placing on the free list all trust goods, and direct legislation by petition from the people.

The discussion in committee was carried out on those lines. An amendment was offered for the taxation of all franchises, but was voted down on the ground that such action would simply legalize special privileges.

### Does it Pay to Buy Cheap?

A cheap remedy for coughs and colds is all right, but you want something that will relieve and cure the more severe and dangerous results of throat and lung troubles. What shall you do? Go to a warmer and more regular climate? Yes, if possible; if not possible for you, then in either case take the ONLY remedy that has been introduced in all civilized countries with success in severe throat and lung troubles, "Boschee's German Syrup." It not only heals and stimulates the tissues to destroy the germ disease, but allays inflammation, eases every expectation, gives a good night's rest, and cures the patient. Try our bottle. Recommended many years by all druggists in the world. For sale by the Temple-Marston Drug Co.