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GENERAL NEWS.

Matters of Interest Condensed Into Brief Paragraphs.

Costa Rica and Nicaragua are about to go to war.

Out in Wisconsin, at Kenosha, the names of all drunkards are posted in public places, and tints are attached.

The British army in pursuit of Cronje amounts to about 40,000. The latter is receiving reinforcements and a battle is expected near Winburg, northeast of Bloemfontein.

Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, of gold cure fame, died suddenly at his winter home near Los Angeles, Cal., Wednesday morning. Dr. Keeley went there recently from his home in Dwight, Ill.

With the end of Gen. Bates' expedition to southern Luzon, military operations on that island will cease and the new policy of treating as guerrillas all Filipinos carrying on hostilities will be inaugurated.

Gen. Roberts' report of casualties Sunday among his officers, causes the public to expect news of a large death list of soldiers. His silence as to what has occurred since Sunday causes uneasiness in London.

The lawyers for the contestants for offices in Kentucky have signed an agreement consolidating the three cases. They are to be tried as one case as speedily as possible, and the final decision is to be acquiesced in.

Geo. E. Evans, who for some time has been employed as stamp clerk in the postoffice at Newport News, Va., was arrested Wednesday, charged with stealing letters out of the mail. He was suspected and was caught by a decoy letter.

The national Democratic convention has been called to meet in Kansas City, Mo., on July 4th. The call cordially invites all Democratic conservative reform citizens of the United States, irrespective of past political associations and differences, who can unite in the greatest effort for pure, economical and constitutional government, and who favor the republic and oppose the empire, to join in sending delegates to the convention.

The one hundredth anniversary of the city of Washington as the seat of government of the United States, marking an epoch in American history, will be fittingly celebrated in December next. Exercises commemorative of the event will

be held at the capitol, in which both branches of congress will participate; there will be a military and naval parade during the afternoon, all the states will be represented, and the celebration will close at night with an elaborate reception and ball. To further perpetuate the anniversary of the founding of the capital, it is proposed at the same time and as part of the same celebration, to begin the remodeling and enlargement of the executive mansion and the construction of a grand boulevard from the capitol through the mall and white house grounds to the Potomac river, forming a driveway to the Memorial bridge, which will ultimately span the historic stream and connect the city with the national cemetery at Arlington.

Soldiers of Fortune.

"It is embarrassing to meet former cotillon partners as elevator boys and waiters," said a European lady now visiting New York. "It has been my fate to undergo and inflict this unhappiness several times.

"I went to a fashionable hotel on my arrival. Wearing his hotel livery with the same grace as he had borne his officer's uniform when I last saw him and danced with him at a state ball in a foreign capital, was a man I had known. He colored to the eyes as he saw me, but made no sign, nor did I.

"The same thing has happened since at restaurants, at other hotels, in riding academies and in churches. Some day M. le Baron de Trois Etolles and Graf von Truemmer-Schloss will appear in European society with new éclat and full purses. Will I ever say that I know where they made their money? Why, of course not. It is a far cry from America to Europe, and in their own country these gentlemen have an irreproachable social position. I have really already forgotten the names of those I have seen, I assure you."—New York Mail and Express.

A Song About a Man.

"I will sing you a song about a man," said the minstrel. "By the way, did you ever notice that there never was a song written about a man? All songs are about roses and maidens and love and trysting places and sunsets and mothers; never one about the old man. Come to think about it, though, there was one. 'Father, Dear Father, Come Home With Me Now.' In this song the old man is drunk in the first verse."—Atchison Globe.

CRONJE IN BAD FIX.

After Desperate Fighting Cronje Asks for an Armistice of 24 Hours. British Lost Heavily in Sunday's Battle. Since Then They Have Surrounded Cronje's Force With Artillery and The Boer's Army is Considered Practically Doomed, But Cronje Says He Will Fight to the Death.

London, Feb. 22, 4:17 p. m.—The war office has received from Lord Roberts the following message, which was delayed in transmission, dated Paardeberg, Wednesday, Feb. 21st:

"Yesterday afternoon I was satisfied, by a careful reconnaissance in front of the enemy's position, that I could not assault it without very 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 reinforcement. The result was most satisfactory. The Boers were driven off in all directions, losing a good many killed and wounded and about 50 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, Capt. Campbell, of the Ninth lancers, and Lieut. Houston, of the artillery, and four men, all slightly wounded."

SUNDAY'S TERRIBLE BATTLE.

Kelly-Kenny's Attack on Cronje. No Definite Result.

Paardeberg Drift, Orange Free State, Feb. 20.—(via Modder River, Feb. 21.—One of the costliest actions of the war occurred at Paardeberg Drift Sunday, Feb. 18th. Gen. Kelly-Kenny, in his pursuit of Gen. Cronje, caught his rear guard at Klip Drift and followed the burghers to the Boers' laager at Koodoosrand. 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 maneuvered on the right front and flank of the Boers. The British main body advanced to outflank the Boer laager on the north bank of the river. Gen. Kelly-Kenny having seized two drifts, found the Boers strongly enclosed and ordered an attack, with the Highland brigade on the left and Gen. Knox's brigade on the centre and right, while Gen. Smith Dorrien's 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 heavy. The battle was an exact replica of the Modder river battle. The soldiers were under fire all day long and all the fighting had no definite result, as the Boers' laager was well barricaded and they remained therein. The British guns shelled the laager vigorously, and the Boers confessed to a loss of over 800 men.

The terrific shelling was resumed Monday, when Gen. Cronje asked for an armistice.

The shelling was continued Tuesday, over 50 guns pouring lead in the Boer camp.

AS SEEN IN THE AFTERNOON.

Cronje Surrounded by the British Artillery. Roberts' Reinforcements.

London, Feb. 22.—1:45 p. m.—All the critics of the African news urge rushing of reinforcements to Lord Roberts, so he may be able to risk much in endeavoring to inflict a decisive defeat before the Boer forces, gathering from every quarter, strengthens Gen. Cronje's threatened forces.

The relief of Ladysmith is now taken to be a matter of course, and is likely to be announced before the end of the week, but it is quite within the probabilities that severe fighting will occur previous to the relief, while the detachments to be sent by Gen. Buller to reinforce Gen. Roberts, subsequent to the relief, are likely to meet with strenuous resistance in the passes of the Drakensberg, in which large burgher forces remain.

Boer reports say Gen. Joubert's nerves are unstrung and that he no longer exercises the chief command.

Great relief has been caused here by the receipt of news from Paardeberg showing that Lord Roberts is personally superintending the operations, and though it is difficult to grasp the real situation, it is generally thought Lord Roberts is gradually tightening his grip on Gen. Cronje's

forces, in spite of the apparent failure of Sunday's attempt to storm the Boer position. It is evident that Gen. Cronje is not merely laagered in the ordinary acceptance of the term, but occupies a carefully prepared and strongly entrenched position, previously made ready with the object of stemming the prospective British invasion of the Free State.

After failing to dislodge Cronje, and in spite of great bloodshed on both sides, Lord Roberts seems to have contented himself with shelling the Boers Monday and Tuesday. He had apparently contemplated a renewal of the assault Tuesday afternoon.

Reinforcements of guns and men are also reaching Lord Roberts and it is not thought that the Transvaal and Free State railroads will be able to transport hurriedly the great number of men and horses.

From the available information received here it appears that Lord Roberts completely surrounds Gen. Cronje with artillery, thus releasing the other guns, of which military experts assert, he has a plenty to defeat all reinforcements of the Boers as they arrive in detail. The fact that Cronje asked for an armistice points to great losses, as well as indicating that he recognized his hope lies in securing delay in order to allow Boer reinforcements to create a diversion in Lord Roberts' rear.

MUST FIGHT TO A FINISH.

Roberts' Reply to Cronje's Request For an Armistice.

Cape Town, Feb. 22.—In reply to Gen. Cronje's request for an armistice of twenty-four hours, to allow him to bury his dead, Lord Roberts told the Boer commander that he must fight to a finish or surrender unconditionally.

Gen. Cronje's position is reported hopeless. The British have occupied Barkley West.

Will Fight to the Death.

London, Feb. 23.—The Daily News has the following dispatch from Modder river, dated Feb. 21:

"The Boer forces under Gen. Cronje are estimated at 8,000 men. At 12 o'clock he asked an armistice for 24 hours which was refused. Later he sent a messenger to say that he would surrender.

"The British general sent a reply telling him to come into camp. Cronje refused, saying there had been a misunderstanding and that he would fight to the death.

"The bombardment was then re-opened and our Lyddite shells set fire to the Boer wagons. We continued shelling the Boer laager through the night, and in the morning we resumed with Maxim and rifles, principally from the north side.

"On Sunday there was much waste of life and the same result will be achieved without it. During Monday night seven Boers made an attempt to break through our lines, but they were captured and their leader was killed. Four were carrying. It is believed there was one other who got through.

"Other prisoners say that Gen. Cronje marched from Magersfontein here without outspanning, a distance of thirty-three miles. Had he succeeded in escaping it would have been one of the finest performances in the annals of war. The Canadians made a gallant charge at the laager, but were driven back with loss. Gen. MacDonald and Gen. Knox are slightly wounded.

AGUINALDO IN JAPAN?

Three of the Hong Kong Junta to Go to Meet Him.

New York, Feb. 22.—A special from Hong Kong, British China, to The Evening World, says:

"United States Consul Wildman has information that three members of the Filipino junta, Luban, Ponce and Agoncillo, a brother of the envoy, left recently for Japan to meet Aguinaldo. This gives credence to the story that Aguinaldo escaped from the island of Luzon to Formosa when hunted by Gen. Lawton's expedition through the northern part of the island."

The Jefferson murder trial at Wilson is postponed until next week.

To Cure a Cold in One Day

Take LAXATIVE BRONCO QUININE TABLETS. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Groves' signature is on each box. 25c.

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.

STATE NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items In Condensed Form.

Stock has been subscribed for a \$25,000 furniture factory at Winston.

Stock to the amount of \$40,000 has been subscribed to erect a cotton mill at Warrenton.

Charlotte Presbyterians have completed their \$70,000 subscription to build a female college.

At Charlotte Wednesday 400 operatives in the gingham mill fled from the building helter skelter through the doors and windows to escape vaccination.

Mr. J. W. Hill was drowned near Battleground last week. It is thought that he had a stroke of paralysis and fell in the water. The water was only about 12 inches deep.

Mr. Robert Staley, of Liberty, has gone to Baltimore to undergo the treatment for the bite of a dog that was supposed to have rabies. The dog lacerated his hand terribly.

During January the State chartered six cotton mills and during February this far six. It is a period of remarkable development. The money is raised for all these mills. They are not merely on paper.

The Mount Olive high school building was burned Saturday night. There had been no session of the school for a week on account of the sickness of Prof. Nicholson, and the fire is supposed to have been incendiary.

Rev. Sam McLeod, the Robeson county fusion magistrate, who was to have been tried yesterday for raping a colored woman failed to appear at trial Wednesday and it is reported that he has left the State for parts unknown.

A negro named Joe May has been arrested on suspicion of being one of the persons in the Laughinghouse robbery near Greenville. He has been working in one of the tobacco factories there and was absent from town on that day. He is held in Greenville jail for further evidence. Mr. Laughinghouse said the negro man's appearance corresponds perfectly to one of those who assailed and robbed him.

King's Weekly: At last Greenville is to have railroad connection with Farmville. The Roanoke Railroad and Lumber Co. will build a narrow gauge road for their lumber business but will also run a regular freight and passenger train, making a convenient schedule for the accommodation of the public. A new survey has been made and work is expected to begin as soon as possible. One section of the road will be eleven miles without a curve.

Wilmington Star. Dr. Charles Baskerville, assistant professor of chemistry at the North Carolina University, arrived in the city on Sunday to visit Navassa guano factory as an expert to ascertain if the fumes from the factory are such as to injure growing crops in the vicinity. Mr. F. M. Moore has a suit for damage against the Navassa Guano company, alleging that the sulphuric fumes from the factory damaged his rice field, and the soil and forests of his property. The case will come up at the next term of Brunswick superior court.

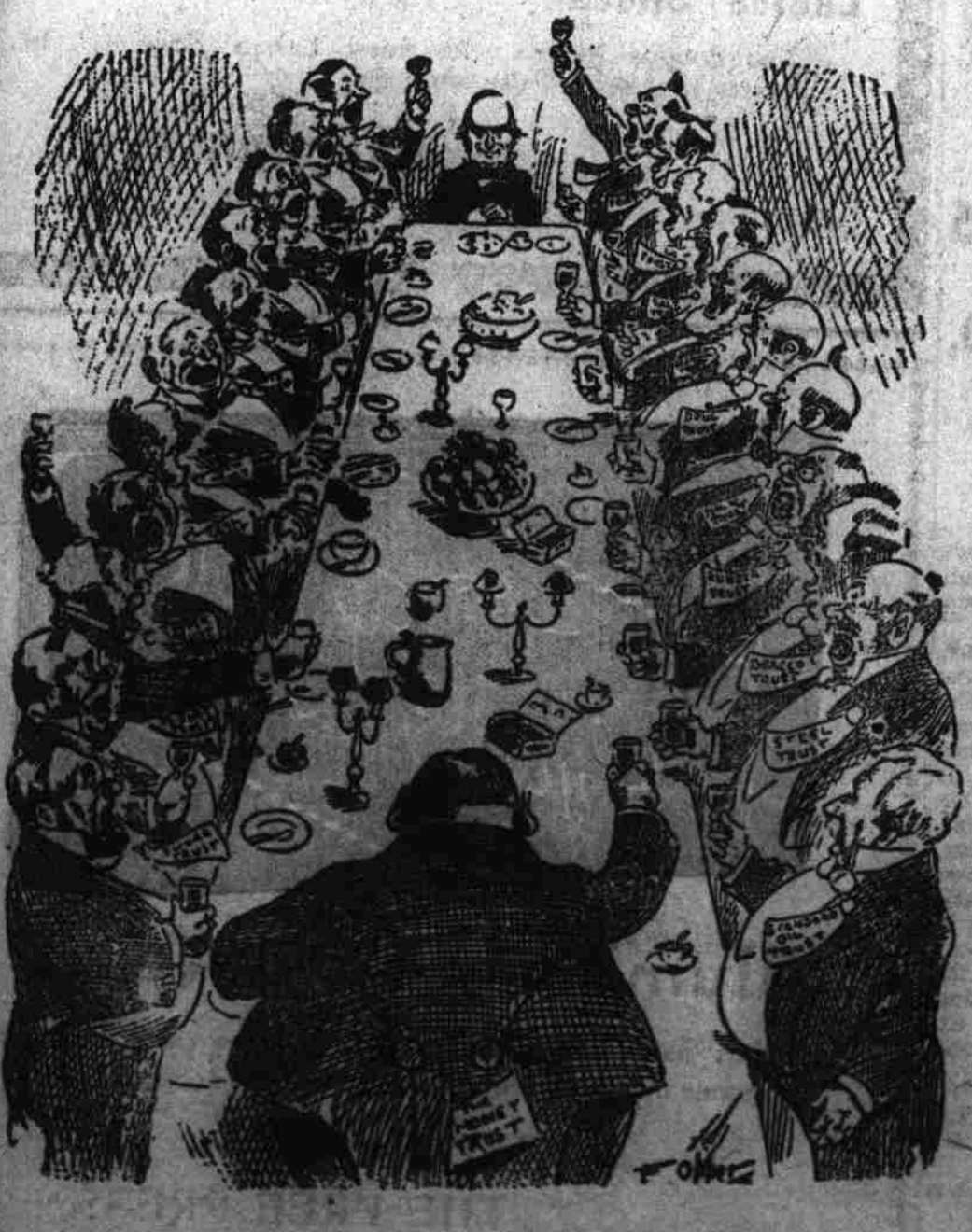
To Return the Islands to Spain.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Upon representation of the Spanish government to the effect that some of the islands south of the Philippine archipelago which had been taken possession of by United States gunboats were really the property of Spain, the authorities of the state department have examined the charts and concluded to direct the withdrawal of our claims to the islands of Cagayan Sulu and Gibutu, both of which lie without the boundary lines laid down by the treaty of Paris.

Question Answered.

Yes, August Flower still has the largest sale of any medicine in the civilized world. Your mothers and grandmothers never thought of using anything else for Indigestion or Bileousness. Doctors were scarce, and they seldom heard of Appendicitis, Nervous Prostration, of Heart failure, etc. They used August Flower to clean out the system and stop fermentation of undigested food, regulate the action of the liver, stimulate the nervous and organic action of the system, and that is all they took when feeling dull and bad with headaches and other aches. You only need a few doses of Green's August Flower, in liquid form, to make you satisfied there is nothing serious the matter with you. For sale by Temple-Marston Drug Co.

SO SAY THEY ALL OF THEM.



Grand Chorus: "For he's a jolly good fellow, which nobody can deny."—New York Evening Journal.