

BOOMING OF CANNON

A Premonition of Engagements in the Near Future

FIND TIME FOR CONCERTS

The English Captured Boer Provision Wagons—The Boers Will Attempt to Starve the British Garrison at Ladysmith—Two British Strongholds Were Taken—The Government Taxes Gold Mines.

London, Dec. 30.—"Great event is being done" are the concluding words of a dispatch dated December 27, in which Winston Churchill, the correspondent of the Morning Post, describes the respective positions of the Boers and British at and near Tugela River in Natal. The expectation is growing that Buller will shortly make a second attempt to cross the river. Latest news regarding transports indicates that he has been reinforced by seven men and eighteen guns since the date of his first attempt, but as the Boers, with two batteries, left Cape Town yesterday for Durban, it can be assumed that no move will be made until the additional twelve guns have reached the front.

Then Buller's strength will be sufficient to enable him to employ two batteries for attack, while holding his camp with a whole brigade. The best informed criticism here is that the Boers will be over sanguine as to the results, half fearing an attack will be made, half hoping.

The Boers, according to the latest programs, are carefully preserving the secret of their artillery emplacements. They therefore do not reply to the sniping of the British. According to the Telegraph's Chiefveley correspondent, all Boers who were south of the Tugela River have recrossed, fearing their retreat would be barred by the swollen river. Their laagers seem to have been removed nearer Ladysmith, with the object of further pressing the garrison there.

Heavy Firing.

London, Dec. 29.—A War Office dispatch from Mafeking, dated December 28, says:

"There is a daily bombardment and sniping fire from all sides. The health and spirit of the garrison are satisfactory."

WANTS LINNEY'S SEAT

Winston Leads the State in Shipment of Tobacco.

Winston, N. C., Dec. 29.—Special. The third biennial convention of Gamma province of S. A. E. adjourned this afternoon. Interesting reports were made by the committee at the closing session. It was shown that the province is in fine shape and making rapid strides in the fraternity work. The report of the finance committee showed the order to be out of debt and money to its credit in the bank. Many amendments to the by-laws were adopted. The whole system of finances was changed.

A large group picture of the convention was taken this afternoon. It was left with the province council to decide upon time and place of the next convention. It will probably be held at either Atlanta or Athens, Ga.

Gamma Province Adjourns After a Most Interesting and Beneficial Session—Died from Effects of a Shot Gun Wound

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Tonight the fraternity men met around the festive banquet board at Elk Cafe. Several happy toasts were responded to.

It is announced today that Assistant District Attorney Spencer Blackburn will contest with Congressman Linney before the next Republican convention for the nomination to represent this district in the next Congress.

George Newsom, who had the muscle of one arm shot off by the accidental discharge of a gun, died today. The Wachovia National Bank today declared the regular semi-annual dividend of four per cent and an extra dividend of two per cent, both payable January 1.

Winston shipped over one million and a quarter pounds of manufactured tobacco this month.

SUCCUMBED TO THE COLD.

Fisherman Frozen Stiff and Stark While Oystering in Bogue Sound

Beaufort, N. C., Dec. 29.—Special.—A man named Suggs was found frozen in the bottom of his boat on the shore of Bogue Banks this afternoon, near here. He left Morehead City yesterday to go oystering. The wind shifted to the northwest during the afternoon, blowing a gale, sleet and snowing, and prevented his return. He succumbed during the night to the intense cold.

Boers Open Heavy Fire.

Modder River, Dec. 29.—The Boers again fired several rifle volleys uselessly last night. Four British guns on the north line, a 4.7-inch gun, and two 12-pounders from the warship

CLOSE COMMUNION

Money Power and Administration in Complete Accord

SEC. GAGE MUST EXPLAIN

Congress Will Ask Why He Diverted Treasury Funds to National Bank—Inflation of Stocks Brought a Panic and National Money Bridged the Chasm—Northern Bankers up in Arms—Investigation Rival Beef Scandal.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Special.—The close alliance of the Republican administration with the money power of the country was never more clearly shown than when Secretary Gage went to its relief by diverting funds from the Treasury into the national banks of the country. His action will be inquired into when Congress re-assembles in January. Through over-capitalization, which has been in progress for over a year, many of the industrial stocks were inflated five times their true value. These stocks have been pumped up in Wall street with the hope that the innocent public would buy. Many such men sold but in such a huge mass of balloon-stocks many men still held by the original sockholders, who tiring of having their money tied up or carrying their stocks at a heavy interest, finally threw great blocks upon the market. There was no support and the panic of last week resulted when many innocent holders of securities lost every cent they had not only in Wall street but throughout the country. It was simply a stock gamblers' panic with which the government had no more connection than it has with the rise and falling of the tides. And yet when a cry of distress came from the stockholders, the moneyed allies of the Republican party, Secretary Gage sends them \$40,000,000 to relieve their distress brought about from the fact that they could no longer find "suckers" enough to dupe to absorb all their wind-filled stocks.

This money too has been or will be placed in one single bank—The National City Bank—thus giving to one institution an enormous profit, to the injury of other banks. In effect Secretary Gage's action revives the idea of a single bank—a clearing house affair—against which Jackson fought to a successful termination. His action in selecting only one bank out of 8,800 has directed attention to the fact that section 5153 of the Revised Statutes gives him that dangerous discretion. The financial world in the North is up in arms against Gage and a financial scandal is in a fair way to show its head to keep company with the embalmed beef scandal, the transport scandal and others with which the administration has become honey-combed.

STEAMER ASHORE.

Big Liner Went Aground at Dungeness During a Heavy Gale.

Dover, England, Dec. 29.—A violent gale is prevailing here. An outward-bound line steamer for the United States is aground at Dungeness, and she has signalled an urgent request for tugs to be sent to her assistance. Lifeboats will go to the stranded vessel. Tugs have been ordered sent, but it is feared the gale will prevent their departure before morning. The steamer's position is reported to be dangerous. It is feared there will be a serious disaster before aid reaches her unless the gale abates. It is reported that she had many passengers aboard and is one of the Hamburg-American line steamships.

LATER ADVICES.

London, Dec. 30.—Up to 5:30 this morning nothing further had been learned concerning the stranded steamer. Enormous seas are dashing over her and the position of the vessel is most perilous.

UNKNOWN SCHOONER ASHORE.

Supposed to Have Been Wrecked in Recent Storm.

Norfolk, Dec. 29.—The steamer Ashlands, from Galveston for Marselles, touched here for bunker coal today. Her captain reports that he passed yesterday, near Hatteras, a submerged schooner with all her masts gone. The captain believes the wreck a recent one. There was no trace of the schooner's crew, which probably consisted of eight men. The vessel is believed to have been wrecked in the storm of December 22.

AMERICAN MINISTER SLIGHTED

Hunter at Guatemala Cut by British Consul Traynor.

New Orleans, Dec. 29.—Passengers just arrived from Guatemala City report that Americans were for a time much stirred over the direct cut administered to American Minister Hunter in connection with the marriage of British Consul Traynor to the daughter of the German minister to Guatemala. The marriage was a social function of exceptional brilliancy. The chief feature was the diplomatic dinner and reception given by the British minister, to which all foreign repre-

DUN'S WEEKLY REVIEW

Failures Fewer Than in Any Year Since 1883.

PROSPERITY IS EVIDENT

The Few Speculative Troubles Due to the Volume of Legitimate Business and Unprecedented Distribution of Profits—Railroad Stocks Advance and Earnings Show Gain—Consumption of Cotton Larger Than Ever.

New York, Dec. 29.—Dun's Weekly Review of Trade tomorrow will say: No correct report of failures in 1899 can be made until the year has closed. A collapse of speculation in copper stocks has swelled the aggregate at Boston alone over \$18,000,000 within a few days, and might yet add to the record. The failures thus far reported are fewer in number than in any year since 1883, and smaller amount of liabilities than in any year since 1881. The aggregate of defaulted liabilities is \$120,160,000.

The average of liabilities per failure is less than \$9,500, the smallest in any year of twenty-five years. The week has been exciting only at Boston, where failures growing out of speculation and the efforts to re-establish banks and firms suspended have not given the week a holiday character. Yet no important firms have failed, save some which were individually connected with concerns involved by speculation. The failures of the Produce Exchange Trust Company and a brokerage firm here were likewise due to the sudden fall in industrial and street railway stocks. These speculative troubles come because the volume of legitimate business and the unprecedented distribution of profits, interest and dividends, make it no longer possible to carry some stocks on borrowed money. Prosperity itself placed a check on speculative ventures. The railroad stocks have advanced \$3.84 per share for the week and industrials \$5.40 per share. Railroad earnings galing in December 9.7 per cent.

Wheat and cotton speculation has taken a holiday, prices scarcely varying, and the movement of both is surprisingly small. Atlantic exports of wheat in four weeks have been only 8,278,618 bushels, against \$19,874,587 last year, and Pacific exports 3,314,271, against 3,858,808 last year.

Cotton exports this month have been less than half of last year's, with some decrease in the takings of spinners. The increase in demand for iron and steel products is the great feature of the year. The industry is now producing about 300,000,000 tons weekly, and yet orders unfilled will require from six to nine months work from most of the establishments. The average of prices closes 119.5 per cent higher than January 1 for pig and 102.8 per cent higher for products.

The consumption of cotton has been larger than ever, with an average advance of 29.5 per cent in prices of goods and is now 29 per cent higher than January 1. Wool has been raised by speculation 35 per cent and for goods 17 per cent.

Of boots and shoes the east has shipped 400,000 cases, or 9 per cent more than last year, and prices have advanced only about 11 per cent since January 1.

Failures for the week have been 221 in the United States, against 252 last year, and 25 in Canada, against 22 last year.

BRADSTREET'S REVIEW

Bradstreet's tomorrow will say: Trade reports from the South are generally good. Atlanta reporting a specially good past trade, and collections are, as a rule, good in this section. New Orleans expects a heavy business in spring goods after the turn of the year.

Bradstreet's, in the review of the year's business, says: Hardly have sanguine commercial and financial hopes found such adequate realization as they did during the year of 1899. Linked with an immense business, there was with it an advance of staple values which combined have served to establish the year as a record breaker, and set up new standards by which succeeding years will be measured.

Certainly nothing like the general advance in wages of industrial employees has been witnessed for many years.

A tremendous rise in values has taken place in fully three-fourths of all staples.

Taking bank clearings as an index of the volume of the general trade and speculation, there is no doubt that this year has set up a standard of measurement which it will require exceptional activity to equal.

The railroads of the country have done the heaviest business in their history.

The year's record for failures is an exceptional one. In any effort to forecast the coming year's business, sight will, of course, not be lost of the fact that 1900 will be a Presidential year, yet the business community looks forward to 1900 with almost equally mixed feelings of hope and confidence.

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Army and Navy Squabble as to Post of Honor.

RUSSIA WILL INCREASE HER NAVY

Will Add Twelve New and Powerful Ships.

Paris, Dec. 29.—Premier Waldeck-Rousseau, General Galliffet, Minister of War, and M. Lanessan, Minister of Marine, held a conference today and approved the naval program, which is believed to include the building of twelve of the most powerful battleships afloat. An expenditure of 400,000,000 francs for the increase of the navy is contemplated.

OUR BOYS VICTORIOUS

Col. Lockett Defeats Rebels Near San Mateo.

AMERICAN LOSS TRIVIAL

Captured Point was a Mountain Stronghold Supposed to Be Impregnable—A Large Amount of Arms and Ammunition Was Captured by Americans—Lieut. Enslow and Five Privates Wounded—Enemy Were 600 Strong.

Washington, Dec. 29.—A cable dispatch received today at the War Department from General Otis at Manila says:

"Colonel Lockett, with a regiment and two battalions of the Forty-sixth and a company of the Twenty-seventh in two guns, attacked the enemy, 600 strong, in a mountain stronghold beyond Mont Alban, northeast of San Mateo. A large number were killed and wounded, and twenty-four were taken prisoners. Lockett captured one cannon, forty rifles, 20,000 rounds of ammunition, 500 pounds of powder, arsenal fortifications, the enemy's food supplies, and considerable other property."

"The captured point is located on a mountain trail and was formerly supposed to be impregnable. Our casualties were Lieutenant Enslow, of the Eleventh cavalry, and five enlisted men wounded, mostly slightly, and Private Watson of the Forty-fifth infantry, drowned."

NEW MASONIC LODGE

Organized Thursday Night—To Be Called Raleigh Lodge.

Grand Master R. J. Noble have granted dispensation to twenty-four Master Masons to form a new lodge in this city, a meeting for the purpose of perfecting the organization was held Thursday evening, when the following officers were chosen: W. E. Faison, Worshipful Master; W. T. Holding, Senior Warden; H. C. Butler, Junior Warden; M. S. Clark, Treasurer; C. M. Pritchett, Secretary; W. E. White, Senior Deacon; O. D. Green, Junior Deacon; W. R. Smith and F. F. Harding, Stewards; Thos. Pence, Tyler; Z. P. Smith, Marshal.

Application will be made to the Grand Lodge, which meets in this city January 9, 1900, for a charter, under the name of Raleigh Lodge. This lodge numbers among its membership some of the brightest Masons in the State.

THE LATEST IS ABIVOLVE TRUTHS

Combine Gains Control of All Missisippi

New Orleans, Dec. 29.—Indications point to the organization of an oyster trust, controlling all the oyster beds on the Mississippi Sound. A bill has been introduced in the Mississippi legislature prohibiting the dredging of oysters in water of less depth than fourteen feet and authorizing the counties interested in leasing the oyster reefs for a long period of years. If this is done it will centralize control of the oyster industry in the hands of a single company. However, a large number of companies are now engaged in dredging and canning oysters. These companies announce their intention to prevent this proposed centralization if they can.

SOUTHERN EDUCATORS ADJOURN

Dr. Alderman Delivered One of the Concluding Addresses.

TWO CASES AND TWO DEATHS

In the Official Report of Honolulu Plague Situation.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Surgeon-General Wyman today received a dispatch from Surgeon Carmichael at Honolulu, dated December 29, saying that there were two cases reported of bubonic plague there and two deaths December 12, but no new cases to December 29. He added that the quarantine against infection was raised on the 19th.

Surgeon Wyman immediately notified the authorities at several Pacific ports of the reports from Honolulu. He said beyond the exercise of extra vigilance, no measures will be taken at present regarding the plague, as he does not consider the situation critical.

Census Director Coming South.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Dr. Wines, assistant director of the census, will start next week on a tour of the Southern States for the purpose of conferring with the supervisors of the census of that section. The intention is to fully traverse the work of the census committee to the supervisors and instruct them regarding several schedules.

Gen. Lee Will Soon Return.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Lieutenant Fitzhugh Lee, Jr., at his own request, is detached from his father's staff and ordered to proceed to New York and report by telegraph to the Adjutant General for further orders. This is interpreted to mean that General Lee will soon return home.

Revolution Abruptly Ends

Caracas, Dec. 29.—General Hernandez, the rebel leader, with a few men are in full flight towards the Colombian frontier. The revolution is practically over.

WATCHING FILIBUSTERS

England May Detail Ships to Watch Our Coast.

If U. S. Government Overlooks Any Violations of Neutrality Laws, England Will Carry Out This Plan at Once.

Halifax, Dec. 29.—A report was current last evening that two ships of the British North American Squadron, now at Bermuda, would be detailed for patrol duty on the south and north Atlantic coasts to watch for filibusters from the United States. At the dock yard it was said none of the officers could impart any information for publication while England was at war.

Information is gleaned that the fleet at Bermuda had received cable instructions, but nothing could be learned beyond the fact that if the United States government failed to prevent any violation of the neutrality laws, vessels would be dispatched from the North Atlantic Squadron to patrol the north and south Atlantic coasts to keep watch for any craft conveying contraband of war for the use of the Boers. The officer who gave this information, however, said that it was believed the United States government would enforce the neutrality laws.

The ships best suited for such service are the Proserpine, twenty-knot vessel, and either the Tribune or the Pearl, both eighteen knots. These would be able to overtake any filibusters.

Louisiana Rice Men Organize.

New Orleans, Dec. 29.—Rice-mill owners of southwest Louisiana, after a two days' secret session, adjourned today. It developed that it was decided to hold their rice crop, in the belief that it will stimulate prices. It is said all the country mills have gone into the arrangement.

Boutelle's Condition Unchanged

Boston, Dec. 29.—Congressman Boutelle, who is at the McLean Hospital in Waverley, Mass., suffering from an attack of congestion of the brain, was reported this morning as resting easier. He was able to sleep the greater part of last night.

Lawton Fund Growing.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The Lawton fund continues to increase. The cash on hand at noon today was \$30,325.10.

PLAGUE SITUATION

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