

BIDS FOR WAR SHIPS

Eleven First Class Vessels to Be Built

OPENING OF THE OFFERS

Ship Building Firms Enter the Competition—Battleships to Be the Most Powerful Ever Designed and the Cruisers to Have the Speed of Ocean Liners—The Outlay Will Approximate \$35,000,000.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Bids were opened today for the Secretary of the Navy for the construction of the first class battleships and six armored cruisers, amounting to a total of \$35,000,000. These vessels are to be built in the next two years, and the number of battleships and armored cruisers now in the American service is the largest since the late 1870s, and the number of battleships and armored cruisers now in the American service is the largest since the late 1870s.

The battleships will be the most powerful ever designed. Three of them will be of the armor-plated or double deck type, and the other three will be of the all-steel type. The armor-plated battleships will be 435 feet long and have a displacement of about 14,000 tons. The all-steel battleships will be 435 feet long and have a displacement of about 14,000 tons.

The armored cruisers will be 350 feet long and have a displacement of about 7,000 tons. They will be built to carry heavy guns and will be the most powerful armored cruisers ever designed.

Applications for the construction of the battleships have been available since July 1, 1899, but owing to the uncertainty of the plan prepared by the War Department was unable to make contracts for their construction. That contract has now been adjusted in a satisfactory manner and all eleven ships will be completed by the best armor to be used in the department plans.

PROTEST AGAINST WILCOX

Election of DeWet from Hawaii Alleged to Have Been Irregular

Washington, Dec. 7.—A protest against the election of Robert Wilcox as United States Senator from Hawaii was filed today in the House Committee on Elections. The protest is signed by the Hawaiian people and is based on the fact that the election was held without the necessary consent of the Hawaiian people.

THURSTON IN THE RING

New complications in the Contest for Senator in Nebraska

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 7.—Senator John D. Thurston has suddenly developed in a very active dark horse in the senatorial contest here.

Melklejohn, Rosewater and Thompson, It will be impossible to evade a long fight.

caucus may not be possible for at least a month after the legislative convenes, as each candidate is suspicious of the other.

RACES, AT BENNING

Washington, Dec. 7.—Results at Benning's track:
First race, handicap, 7/8 mile—Charmers 7 to 10, Judge Magee 12 to 1, Isla 10 to 1. Time 1:20 2/5.
Second race, selling, 2-year-old, 5/8 mile—Cherries 4 to 1, The Rogue 8 to 1, King Favorite 20 to 1. Time 1:04.
Third race, 1 mile and 50 yards—Tyrshena 7 to 10, Judge Magee 12 to 1, Thermos 40 to 1. Time 1:50 2/5.
Fourth race, 2-year-old, 3/4 mile—Sadie 8 to 1, Beggar Lady 6 to 1, Queen Carnival 4 to 1. Time 1:16 2/5.
Fifth race, 1-1/16 mile—Matchim 20 to 1, Lott 8 to 1, The Outcast 20 to 1. Time 1:54.
Sixth race, 6 1/2 furlongs—Quite Right 7 to 5, Rabunta 4 to 1, Lex Pirate 10 to 1. Time 1:17.
The following horses were scratched: First race, Kankinika, Carburne, barfoot, Oread, Sentry and Blueskin.
Second race—Automatan, Flanour, B. B. Higgins, San Luis and Edgetield.
Third race—Holdup.
Fourth race—Kankinika, Cherries, Amorta, I Know and Hija.
Sixth race—Moor.

ENTRIES FOR TODAY

First race, 5/8 furlongs—Staten Island 90, Red Spider 112, Alaire 104, Lady Hasben 99, Innomination 99, Callow 100, Impartial 115, Velasquez 97, Hopbrook 90, Directum 99, Dame 97, Imperialist 99.
The following can start in order named as any of above scratch:
Bansock 115, Barney Stone 115, G. B. Higgins 97, Tenderloin 99, False Alarm 107, Hawk 107, Marblehead 110, Woolgatherer 97, Decimal 104, Carasalia 99, Captain January 99, Give and Take 104, Alleen Wilson 99, N. Bonaparte 110.
Second race, 1 mile, 2-year-old, — Isaac Hooper 107, Frosnal 107, Protege 110, Gallant 107, Boyevine 107, Mowitzka 107, Craven 107, Dactyle 107, Blue Victor 107, Waterton 110, Velasquez 107, Cara 107, J. J. Corbett 110, Tin Fooley 110, Teamp 110, Flanour 107, B. Higgins 107, Woodspike 110, Kink 110, Cursey 107.
Third race, handicap, steeplechase, 3-year-olds and up, 2 1/2 miles—Decameron 170, Sir Hubert 193, Lost Chord 143, Wild Heather 138, Old Tank 140, B. of Promise 143, Caroba 138, Besphorus 130, Wild Heather 130.
Fourth race, maximum 3-year-old up, 3 miles—Knight of the Grater 107, First Whip 107, Silver Fox 104, Alsike 104, Kirk 100, Asquith 100, Lochester 97, Oneck Queen 97.
Fifth race, Handicap, 2-year-old, up seven furlongs—Maribet 140, Speedmas 139, Charavind 139, Huntbopche 133, Galloway 132, Borogh 132, Prince Richard 131, Alsike 131, Sadie S 130, R. Waddell 129, Lex Pirate 128, Isa 128, Termless 128, Beggar Lady 126, Charley Mor 125, San Luis 125, Hamrita 112, Moor 124.
Sixth race, selling, 3-year-old, up, 1 mile and 100 yards—Chamberlain 102, Rare Perfume 100, The Driver 87, Lott 87, Tyrshena 100, Holdup 97, Palmist 97, Earl Pomoso 97, Bonimair 95, Kirk 100, Miss Mitchell 100, Prince Richard 105, Elsie Skip 85, Thomas 87, Bannock 106, Lancewood 91, Beau Ideal 103, H. McCoun 103, Water House 10.

RATHER TAME ENDING

Indictments Quashed in the Criminal Libel Cases in Duplin County

Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 7.—Special.—The trial of Populists for criminal libel, which was expected to create a big flurry at Duplin Superior Court this week, ended rather quietly today. The bills of indictment were quashed and all the defendants discharged. This was after the court had overruled a motion by the defense to have the cases removed to Sampson county where the defendants lived. It is thought that the tame ending of the affair is due to a private understanding between counsel for the opposing sides, who thought that partisan agitation had been carried far enough. One hundred and twenty-five witnesses were ready to testify.

DE WET IS ELUSIVE

Conflicting Reports as to His Movements Received from the Seat of War

London, Dec. 7.—A dispatch from Alivai North, Cape Colony, of yesterday's date, says that General DeWet's main force is in the area of the Orange River, and that he is suffering from continual trekking. A British patrol came in contact with the Boer outposts, and captured a prisoner, who said a Krupp gun had been abandoned near Alivai North. It was added that the Orange River is now in flood, and that troops are holding the drifts, but that it will be almost impossible to stop DeWet from crossing into Cape Colony.

Hinson Gets Twenty-five Years

Albemarle, N. C., Dec. 7.—Special.—Will Hinson was today sentenced to 25 years in the penitentiary. The jury was out for seventeen hours. It is said the first vote stood eight for murder in the first degree and four for second. Sheriff McCann carried the prisoner to Raleigh tonight to avoid the possibility of lynching by Swain's friends.

Hilmer to Be Governor

London, Dec. 7.—In the House of Commons today Colonial Secretary Chamberlain stated that Sir Alfred Milner, governor general of Cape Colony, and British high commissioner to South Africa, will be appointed governor of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. The latter country, he said, would also have a lieutenant governor and both countries would have the assistance of executive councils. All was not proposed, however, that the government of both countries should be the same. Mr. Chamberlain also stated that all big towns in the two colonies would soon have municipal government with the usual powers.

THE N. C. CONFERENCE

Everything Serene at the Session Yesterday.

GATTIS HOLDS HIS TONGUE

When Invited by the Bishop to Speak He Remarked That There Was Nothing He Needed to Say—Reports Read and Referred—Resolutions Adopted—Impressions the Preachers Make on New Bern People.

New Bern, N. C., Dec. 7.—Special.—The North Carolina Methodist Conference met at the usual hour of 9:30 this morning. It could not be expected that the interest in today's session would equal that of yesterday to the general public as the Kilgo and Gattis matter was up and finally disposed of, so far as this conference is concerned. The best of feeling has prevailed regarding it, and the disposition to do what was right was the only thought.

At the various homes about town these Methodist ministers have come in contact with people who do not know as much about the cloth as they might. One such person remarked, "Why, I thought they were a solemn lot of men, but they're not; they're mighty good company."

So, too, others have discerned that a conference is an interesting thing to attend. His happy comments on affairs give life to the session and are sharp, witty and a sting or soft and encouraging when needed. In saying that he failed to include the laymen in an invitation to come and see him, he said, "Any layman can come who reads the church papers, has family prayers daily and never did say anything unkind to his wife." Bishop Morrison is a strong friend of all women's church societies. He sets the matter plainly before the members.

Fayetteville will ask for the next meeting of the conference. The last one held there was in 1887, and the Methodist of Fayetteville hope to secure the session in 1901.

One of the urgent matters that has come before the conference has been the saving of Fifth Street Church at Wilmington. Most people know its sad history, and the pastor, Rev. J. H. Bull, only touched on that part of the subject when he appealed to the conference to save the property. The bonded indebtedness is put at \$12,000 and the property is valued at \$40,000. The mortgage falls due in 1902, and \$8,000 is due in place, with what the membership can. The matter is taken under advisement with a motion that ways and means be looked into.

Rev. W. F. Smith has left to attend the session of the South Georgia Conference. He made a great impression here, and great confidence is felt in his wisdom and directing power. Last night's sermon by Rev. J. D. Pennington has left a fine impression. Centenary Church was again packed to the doors and the aisles filled, an audience even larger than the night before. The text was from Hebrews vi, 1-5, and was on "The Perfection and the Christian Life." The talk was full of bright sayings, as "One of the things which arrests our sympathy is arrested development."

THE DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

The chief business of the day was the resumption of the 20th question, and this was concluded and all the ministers' characters passed.

TAX ON SHAM BUTTER

Spicy Debate in the House on an Oily Subject

THE GROUT BILE PASSED

The Bill Taxes Oleomargarine, When Colored in Imitation of Butter, Ten Cents a Pound—Strong Opposition Developed and a Hard Fight Made, but the Vote on the Passage of the Measure Was Decisive

Washington, Dec. 7.—The Grout Oleomargarine bill, to tax that article, when colored in imitation of butter, ten cents a pound, was passed by the House today by the vote of 198 to 92.

The measure in one form or another has been before Congress for several years, and at the last session 285 members signed a request to the Committee on Rules for an order for its consideration. It was a foregone conclusion that if ever it reached a vote the bill would be passed, the only question being that of the size of the majority. The Committee on Agriculture was almost evenly divided, the Grout bill receiving the support of nine members, the other eight recommending the passage of a substitute to regulate the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine, requiring it to be stamped for what it was.

The debate was interesting and animated, charges of fraud and deception on one hand and of a desire to crush out a competing industry on the other, being made and conceded. Samples of butter and oleomargarine added a spice of reality to the proceedings.

The substitute was advocated by Mr. Williams, (Democrat) of Mississippi, a member of the Committee on Agriculture. There was as much fraud, he said, in the coloring of oleomargarine as there was in the coloring of oleomargarine. While butter was made yellow for the purpose of inducing the purchaser to believe that it was something that it was not, it was not fair to allow the coloring of oleomargarine to be procured for the article. As to the matter of coloring, Mr. Williams said it was not true that oleomargarine was colored in imitation of butter. The oleomargarine makers had discovered and patented the article known as "standard butter color" and butter makers colored their product in imitation of oleomargarine. (Laughter.) The real fraud in the butter business, Mr. Williams asserted, was that practiced in the "renovated butter process."

The general debate was concluded by Mr. Tawney, (Republican), of Minnesota, who said, at the close of the discussion that it was conceded that in the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine fraud and deceit were practiced and the public was deceived. He asked the oleomargarine makers and farmers on the floor if it was safe for them to depend for protection of their interests upon legislation drafted by friends and defenders of the manufacture of oleomargarine.

In the course of the five minutes consideration of the bill Mr. Dahle, (Republican) of Wisconsin, said he stood ready to reduce the tax on natural oleomargarine for the poor and to impose a tax upon colored oleomargarine for the rich.

Mr. Bartlett (Democrat) of Georgia, moved to strike out the proviso in the first section of the bill which seeks to amend the legislation on the subject. Lost, 48 to 117.

THE STATE OF TRADE

Volume of Business Reduced in Wholesale Lines

WEATHER IS A DRAWBACK

Southern Trade Reported Good—Manufactured Cotton Falls to Standard to the Higher Price of the Staple—Iron Furnaces Sold Ahead—Railroads Report Increased Earnings—Bank Clearings Increased

New York, Dec. 7.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say: There is a quieter tone and reduced volume of business doing at wholesale in many lines, but this is not unusual at this season, and is partly balanced by a larger interest in retail and holiday distribution. Weather conditions are still a drawback to the trade in winter-weight goods, but it is notable that a better report comes from the Northwest than for some weeks past. Southern trade advices remain good, but retail business at Eastern markets is still reported backward. In the larger lines of trade new features are not numerous. Articles are quiet and rather dull with agents pending the opening of the spring season.

Wool and woolsens are still quiet. Cotton is irregular and the market is at a balance, pending the publication of the next government crop report, which, however, is expected to approximate 9,750,000 bales. The high cost of raw cotton has not as yet been equalled by the advance in manufactured goods. A hopeful feature this week, however, was the taking of a large lot of brown cottons for export to China.

The higher trend of values in November has been duplicated in the first week of December, and cereals are long backward in this respect, have led the advance, which, however, has not been steadily maintained. The better business in November is being reflected in renewed gains in railway earnings over the year's exceptional report. Bank clearings, swelled by enormous interest payments, are the heaviest ever recorded.

Finished products monopolized activity in the iron and steel trades with bars, plates, sheets and bridge material most active. Even in finished lines, however, there is less reported doing in new business, but Pittsburgh and Chicago mills are reported solid ahead sixty to one hundred per cent. Such is heard about forthcoming reductions in cost of ore, coke and labor, and this undoubtedly checks ordering ahead; but higher prices for rails are talked of, and Southern iron and steel are reported heavily sold ahead. There is little or nothing doing in Bessemer pig.

Among other metals copper is active and firm, but tin is weaker. The shoe trade is cheerful. Hides are rather easier. Snow and wet weather are helping retail trade in shoes and rubbers in Northern markets. A better report comes from the flour milling industry, but the demand is hardly what was expected. Sugar is higher for raws, but the refining branch presents the old appearance of irregularity, and another price war is foreshadowed, despite the fact that holiday requirements should be at their best.

The scarcity of small sizes of anthracite coal is still a feature, but no advance at wholesale is looked for. Daily products are again higher for fancy grades, which are not in excessive supply.

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WESTON SUCCEEDS EAGAN

Military Record of the New Commissary-General of Subsistence

Washington, Dec. 7.—The President sent to the Senate today the nomination of Colonel John F. Weston, assistant commissary general of subsistence, to be the commissary general of subsistence, with the rank of brigadier general, as successor to Charles P. Eagan, who, after having been suspended from the head of the commissary department for a year, was reinstated in the Fourth Kentucky cavalry, November 25, 1891. He rose to be major of volunteers and continued to serve until August, 1895. He was appointed second lieutenant in the Seventh cavalry August, 1847, and served until 1875, when he was appointed a captain in the commissary department. He has passed through the grades of major, lieutenant colonel and colonel in the subsistence department.

General Weston served in the Seventh cavalry on the frontier from the time of his appointment in the regular army during a greater part of his line service. He attended the artillery school at Fort Monroe, Va., and graduated therefrom in 1875. At the outbreak of the war with Spain, he accompanied General Shafter's expedition to Santiago and rendered such efficient service that he was appointed a brigadier general of volunteers. He has been acting commissary general during the suspension of Eagan.

KICK ON BYNUM

Democratic Senators Insist That He Is a Full Fledged Republican

Washington, Dec. 7.—A great many Republicans, in common with all Democrats, do not think it was in the best of taste for the President to send in the nomination of ex-Representative Bynum, of Indiana, for commissioner to codify the Federal criminal laws of the United States.

Mr. Bynum, it will be remembered, as a gold Democrat, advocated the election of Mr. McKinley in 1896. When Mr. McKinley became President, he nominated Mr. Bynum for one of the positions on the board of general appraisers of customs assigned to the Democrats. The Democratic Senators would not consent to this, and their opposition was so effective that the President was constrained to acquiesce and appointed to the position Representative DeVries, of California, of whose orthodox Democracy there was no dispute.

In the last campaign Mr. Bynum no longer posed as a gold Democrat, but, according to reports which he has never contradicted, announced his purpose to act permanently with the Republican party. His last nomination, sent in by the President Tuesday, was to fill the place of David B. Culbertson, of Texas, deceased, a Democrat. The Democratic Senators make no fight on Republicans, except on what are recognized as proper grounds for opposition. But they do object to men not acting with the party being appointed to places of honor or profit which, under the law or custom, are considered as gold Democrat, but Democrats. If Mr. Bynum were nominated for any office as a Republican, no opposition would be made to him, but they are determined that he shall not be charged to the Democratic party when, according to common acceptance, he has left it for good.

The Republican majority in the Senate has it in its power to confirm Mr. Bynum, but it is thought they will be disposed to do this in the face of the protest from the Democratic side. The Democratic Senators have not come to any conclusion as to united action, but it is urged upon them that they should insist that the nomination of Mr. Bynum be withdrawn.

REDUCING WAR TAXES

Chairman Payne Explains the Effect of the Bill

Washington, Dec. 7.—Chairman Payne of the House Ways and Means Committee, in his report on the bill reducing the war revenue taxes, says that while the tax on cigars and tobacco is ended, the actual expenditures have not ceased with the termination of hostilities. He says it is still necessary to maintain an army of 100,000 men, and to pay for maintaining the fortifications recently built. The increasing navy also brings new necessities.

Chairman Payne refers to the recent report of Secretary Gage, and says that the committee deem it safe to make a reduction of \$40,000,000, while the secretary suggests a reduction of only \$30,000,000.

BOERS SUFFERED HEAVILY

Their Recent Attack on a British Convoy Failed in the Main Object

Pretoria, Dec. 7.—It is stated that the Boers suffered heavily in the attack on the British convoy that was proceeding from Pretoria to Rustenburg. Their casualties are estimated at 100. They were also frustrated in their attempt to obtain supplies.

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