

# THE MORNING POST.

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## WASN'T JUSTICE

### Gen. Wheaton Uses Strong Terms of Disapproval

## SETS PRISONERS FREE

### Military Commission Ignored Forms and Legal Practice and Sentenced Filipinos to Death

Washington, April 13.—The War Department has received from General MacArthur at Manila copies of orders issued by General Lloyd Wheaton in the Department of Northern Luzon, censuring the officers of two military commissions charged with the trial of Filipinos. In the case of Benedicto Noul, a commission of which Capt. Robert K. Erans, Twelfth Infantry, was president, and Lieut. George H. Shields, Jr., Twelfth Infantry, judge advocate, sentenced Noul to be hanged on a charge of waging guerilla warfare. General Wheaton ordered the accused set at liberty, saying:

"The record shows that the accused was not represented by counsel, as he should have been. The commission failed to direct the entry of a plea of not guilty and called no witnesses to substantiate the material facts of the case; and, nevertheless, interrogated the accused, who was not sworn as a witness at his own request, and then proceeded in a finding of guilty."

The same commission convicted and sentenced to death Rufino Calisto, Juan Velasco and Simeon Lopez, charged with murdering an American soldier believed to be Private Leonard M. Eder, hospital corps. Of these cases General Wheaton says: "The commission, taking no evidence, although the names of seven witnesses were appended to the charges, proceeded to sentence the accused to death. Why a plea of not guilty was not entered upon the record and the case tried upon its merits is unknown to the reviewing authority. In the administration of justice in this department, however great the crimes with which accused persons are charged, and how ever positive the opinion of members of the commission trying them may be, the accused is entitled to a full and fair trial, and to suffer the extreme penalty of the law, no action can or will be taken to carry such opinions into effect until the most conclusive evidence is spread upon the record to sustain a finding of guilty. "A proper discharge of the duty of the commission and its judge advocate might have justified the finding and sentence in this case, owing to either the indifference or indolence of the commission and judge advocate, the reviewing authority is left no alternative but to disapprove the proceedings, findings and sentences."

## Deadlock Ended

### London, April 13.—The Globe says the deadlock between the Metropolitan and district underground railways has been ended and a contract for the introduction of electricity as the motive power has just been signed. It is said also that uniforms will be introduced.

## Struck with a Bottle

### Paris, April 13.—A serious tragedy occurred this morning, which may result in the death of a well known actress. About twelve o'clock a burglar entered the apartment of Mlle. Kobb of the Comedie Francaise, with the object of robbery. Being detected by the actress, the burglar seized a bottle and struck her on the head, fracturing her skull. The struggle attracted others to the scene and the burglar was caught. Mlle. Kobb is still alive but is in a critical condition.

## TRACKS COVERED UP

## No-Trace of Eli Littlefield Can be Found

### Chicago, April 13.—Eli F. Littlefield, business manager and treasurer of the Illinois Trust Company, for which a receiver was appointed last Wednesday, has disappeared, and, although the aid of the police has been enlisted by the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, which is a trustee of the company, no trace of him has been found.

It is admitted by the officials of both the drug company and the guaranty company that irregularities have been observed in Littlefield's accounts. The loss will fall upon 107 drugists in Chicago, which were stockholders in the company, which was a co-operative affair. The amount of the loss is placed variously at from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

## ARTIFICIAL CIRCULATIONS

### Opinions of Publishers Desired by Department

Washington, April 13.—A circular letter has been sent to the publishers of four hundred daily newspapers in the United States by Third Assistant Post-

master General E. C. Madden, concerning certain abuses of second-class mail privileges by papers with premium subscription lists. It is pointed out that "circulations running into thousands and into the millions have been built up by this premium process for publications which upon actual merit could command no public patronage whatever." It is pointed out that the source of profit and life in the advertising patronage induced by the large circulations obtained through the premium offers. Those to whom the letter is sent are requested to indicate whether "a departmental rule will be regarded as injurious to legitimate newspapers and periodicals which will stop absolutely all premium inducements, direct or indirect, and of whatever character, for subscriptions."

## PAUL REVERE'S RIDE

### Tablet to Be Erected to Commemorate the Event

Boston, April 13.—Bunker Hill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, has decided to mark with a tablet the spot from which Paul Revere started on his historic midnight ride, April 18, 1775, to warn the inhabitants of the towns between Boston and Concord that the British were coming to destroy their stores and munitions of war. The tablet will be placed on the south side of the new Charles River bridge, facing Warren avenue. Historically, the spot is very near that on which the renowned rider stood as he waited for the lights to shine forth from the tower of Old South church.

## RURAL DELIVERY BY BASKETS ON WIRE

### New Scheme Suggested by a Western Inventive Genius

Washington, April 13.—A patron of the American postal service who lives in the great Northwest has sent to the Postmaster General the following scheme for a new rural free delivery service: "We would like a mail delivery route in this vicinity, and have been studying on a new plan, which is to string a suitable wire to poles along the route leading through the post offices, charged from the electric light plant. With light baskets hung to the wire by grooved wheels propelled by a small motor set to run at six or eight miles an hour, with suitable trips from each apartment of the basket to engage with like wheels, the mail is to be left and other mail taken on, different sized baskets for each kind of mail started out at different times. Should one basket get disabled the one following would bring it around. I do not think the cost of maintaining such a system would exceed over one-fourth of what it would be to have a person deliver it with a horse and buggy. Please state what you think of the plan. Would you be willing to furnish any money to start it, or give a premium after it was started?"

## Salt Sickness of Cattle

### Jacksonville, Fla., April 13.—Victor A. Norgard, representing the United States Bureau of Animal Industry, has arrived in Florida to study the cattle disease known as the salt sickness. At the State Convention of Stockmen the disease was discussed as being one of the greatest drawbacks to the Florida stock business. The convention asked the State Legislature to request the government to investigate it.

## Policeman Kills a Tough

### New York, April 13.—Policeman Stephen W. Kin shot an fatally wounded Henry F. Guersing, 22 years old, at an early hour this morning. Guersing has since died as a result of his injuries. King claims that Guersing was the leader of a crowd of ruffians that set upon him when he tried to disperse them from a street corner. He was struck with his own club before he drew his pistol and fired the fatal shot.

## Train Robbers Scared Off

### Alexandria, April 13.—A daring attempt was made last night to rob the express car of the non-union passenger train No. 7, over the Pennsylvania road, The Virginia Midland crossing, about the time it was about this city, was the scene of the attempted robbery. The highwaymen were trying to force the door of the car when they were driven off by the express messenger.

## Gone to Meet Col. Belo

### Winston-Salem, N. C., April 13.—Special—Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Buxton went to Asheville tonight to meet Mrs. Buxton's brother, Col. A. H. Belo of Texas, who goes to Asheville with the hope of restoring his health, which, it is feared, is in a precarious condition. Col. Belo is the principal owner of the Galveston News and the Dallas News.

## First Sugar from Banes

### New York, April 13.—The British steamship Taft, Captain Caurobert, arrived today from Banas, Cuba, with five thousand sacks of sugar, the first sugar cargo ever shipped from that port. The United Fruit Company has established a grinding mill, and it is expected that this port sugar will be followed to this port from Banas.

## High Price for a Seat

### New York, April 13.—Gustave Eckstein, Jr., was today reported to have purchased the Stock Exchange seat of Emerson Chamberlain for \$50,000.

## WILL NOT BUDGE

### The President Firm in Attitude Toward Cuba

## CONVENTION MUST ACT

### Required to Define Relations Between the Island and the United States—Action on Platt Amendment Not Final

Washington, April 13.—Senators Proctor and Cockrell and Representative Hitt called at the War Department this morning and had a long conference with the Secretary of War in regard to the political situation in Cuba. None of them consider the vote in the Cuban convention yesterday as a final rejection of the Platt amendment. Senator Cockrell, who has just returned from Havana, remarked that the resolution expressing the opinion that the convention is opposed to the amendment does not alter the situation at all and is no stronger than the other resolutions adopted by the convention.

War Department officials are of the opinion that the resolution was adopted merely to indicate to the people of Cuba that the convention did not want to adopt the Platt amendment and give color to a claim that the amendment was forced upon them in case they should finally adopt it. It is certain that the President considers that unless the convention completes the work for which it was called he has the power to order General Wood to dissolve the body and call an election for another convention. In this connection it is not believed that the rejection of the Platt amendment would be sufficient cause for such action. The instructions to the convention were that it should define the relations which are to exist between the United States and Cuba. It was not provided that the convention should adopt the Platt amendment, but that the relations with the United States should be defined. The adoption by Congress of the Platt amendment presented to the Cubans what the United States considered a satisfactory arrangement, and authorized the President to approve any action of the Cuban convention which was substantially the same as the Platt amendment.

President McKinley and Secretary Root hold that the President is not authorized to approve on behalf of the United States any action of the convention not substantially the same, and the President is therefore determined not to discuss with any commission from the convention the question of relations except on the basis of the Platt amendment. It is declared by those close to the President, moreover, that he is not inclined to favor the sending of a mission to Washington because of its reflection upon General Wood.

## APPOINTMENTS BY PRESIDENT

### Washington, April 13.—The President today made the following appointments: War—Charles A. Magoon, to be law officer in the division of Insular Affairs, War Department.

### General John M. Schofield, retired; St. Clair McKelway, of New York; Charles W. Elliott, of Massachusetts; Benj. Ide Wheeler, of California; Wm. H. Upham, of Wisconsin, and St. George R. Fitzhugh, of Virginia.

## LIBRARY SITE SELECTED

### Charlotte, N. C., April 13.—Special.—The committee on site for the Carnegie library today made a selection of a lot in South Tryon street, three blocks from the public square.

### At a joint meeting of the aldermen and school committee this afternoon the matter was referred back to the committee with power to act. It is said, however, that another site may finally be settled.

## A Girl's Sad End

### Washington, April 13.—Louie Powers, who arrived in this city from Richmond two days ago, was found dead in a room on the second floor of Cobb's Hotel this afternoon. A note found on a table beside her indicates that she committed suicide. The body was removed to the morgue and relatives of the young woman were notified.

## Sod Houses Cave in

### Topeka, April 13.—A calamity has befallen many of the families still living in sod houses in western Kansas. The recent heavy rains have caused many of these to cave in, and in several instances lives have been lost. Yesterday a sod house caved in on the family of H. Hostetter of Graham county, killing Mrs. Hostetter and child and breaking Mr. Hostetter's arm. The dirt roof had been heavily soaked by the continuous rains and the frame work was not strong enough to withstand the load.

## Fields Will Paint the King

### London, April 13.—As announced, Luke Fields, R. A., whose portrait of Queen Alexandra a few years ago was so successful, has been commissioned to paint an official portrait of the king. The picture will be life-size, and, following the custom of days when photographic reproduction of any kind was unknown, thirty or forty replicas will be made for the colonies and embassies and consulates.

## Summoned to Rome

### Manila, April 13.—Archbishop Chappelle, the papal delegate in the Philippines, has been summoned to Rome. He will sail soon and his return here is improbable.

## Salvation Army Colony

### Jacksonville, Fla., April 13.—Commander Booth Tucker, of the Salvation Army, who has been down on the east coast inspecting properties for a big

colony, states that a site near Miami of 5,000 acres will likely be taken. It is such that about 250 people will be brought south this spring to start the colony, and that this number will be increased to 1,000 by midsummer.

## Race for a Pile of Money

### Toledo, April 13.—George H. Ketcham, of this city, has succeeded in getting another match race for his champion trotting stallion Crescents (2:04). For a purse of \$10,000 and a side bet of \$12,000, Crescents will meet the Abbot on the track of the Brighton Beach Racing Association during the week of August 10th. The bet has been posted.

## THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MONTANA

### He Will Spend Three Days in Yellowstone Park

Washington, April 13.—President McKinley told Senator Carter, who called this morning to make final arrangements for the President's trip through Montana, that he had decided to visit Helena, Butte and Anaconda in that State, on his way from Puget Sound and Washington cities to the Yellowstone National Park. He will also pass through Livingston and Cinnabar, Montana, to reach the entrance to the park. With Senator Carter was Manager Bachus of the Yellowstone Park Association, who wished to perfect the arrangements for the President's visit to the reservation. The President and his party will be in the park for three days—May 29, 30 and 31—and will travel over the regular tourist route in state coaches, calling at the five great hotels on the way.

Captain Fletcher, of the First Cavalry, now at the Presidio, San Francisco, has been appointed superintendent of the Yellowstone Park, to succeed Goode, First Cavalry, and will report for duty this afternoon. The military honors due to the visit of the President of the United States, as commander-in-chief of the army, will be paid to him at Fort Yellowstone.

## Release for Prisoners

### San Francisco, April 13.—An order has been issued by President McKinley directing that the prisoners at Alcatraz belonging to volunteer regiments, sentenced for minor offenses be released. This is done to enable the men to go home with their regiments.

## Visitors to West Point

### Washington, April 13.—The President has appointed the following board of visitors to the West Point Military Academy: General John M. Schofield, retired; General D. E. Sickles, retired; St. Clair McKelway, of New York; Charles W. Elliott, of Massachusetts; Benj. Ide Wheeler, of California; Wm. H. Upham, of Wisconsin, and St. George R. Fitzhugh, of Virginia.

## PROTESTANT CONVERTS IN GREAT DISTRESS

### Hundreds Starving and All in Need of Assistance

Pekin, April 13.—There are 10,000 converts to the Protestant faith in the province of Shansi, and the majority of them are in great distress. Their neighbors are boycotting them and hundreds are actually starving. A wealthy Chinaman who is disposed to be friendly towards the missionaries, has agreed to advance money enough to relieve the distress if the missionaries give the necessary surety.

## May Wear Blouses

### The Hague, April 13.—Mr. W. H. De Beaufort, Dutch minister for foreign affairs and president of the council of the international court of arbitration, has notified the powers that the court is now constituted and ready to enter upon its duties.

## Edward Will See the Races

### Portsmouth, April 13.—It is stated that King Edward VII. will witness the trial races between Shamrock and Shamrock II. on the Solent in June. He will probably be a guest of Sir Thomas Lipton on board the latter's steam yacht Erin.

## Ostrich Farm in Colorado

### Denver, Col., April 13.—W. S. Belfield has bought fifty ostriches from the great ostrich farm in Southern California. He will bring them to Colorado to try the experiment of starting an ostrich farm. Mr. Belfield has bought a tract of land near Colorado Springs and is now building an extra high fence around it.

## TOO MUCH ASKED

### China Unable to Comply With Demands

## REGULAR GRAB GAME

### Little Nations Claiming Heavy Indemnities—United States Great Britain and Japan in the Minority

Washington, April 13.—From advices received at the State Department from Special Commissioner Rockhill, it is apparent that most of the foreign ministers at Peking do not take kindly to the position of the United States that the indemnity to be paid by China should not exceed \$200,000,000.

Great Britain and Japan, it is learned, have aligned themselves with this government in its endeavor to secure more lenient terms for China, but against these three nations are nine others. Some of the smaller nations, not regarded as powers, have put in big claims for indemnity; and as every government, no matter how unimportant, has an equal voice in the determination of the questions under consideration at Peking, the combined influence of such governments as those of the United States, Great Britain and Japan counts for no more than that of three small countries, such as Spain, Belgium and Holland.

The claims for indemnity made by the United States and Great Britain, which sent large military and naval contingents to China to rescue their ministers and preserve order, are said to be smaller than those of little nations which had few troops or no troops at all in Chinese territory.

The claims of the British amount to \$21,825,000, somewhat lower than those of the United States, which are approximately \$25,000,000. The amount of Great Britain's claim is contingent on securing increased commercial privileges from China. If these privileges are conferred England will not ask for a larger amount than that stated.

The American claim, it is said, will not be increased. Mr. Rockhill has instructions, however, to endeavor to secure a reduction of the combined indemnity asked by the nations concerned to \$200,000,000, and should he be successful the American claims will be reduced one-half, or to \$12,500,000. Japan and Great Britain, it is understood, are willing to do the same. Japan's claims are approximately equal to those of the United States.

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turn to Peking, and there will be no security there until the emperor establishes a stable government. The examination of 22 officers for promotion from second to first lieutenant was begun yesterday at the Temple of Agriculture.

## Spring Meeting Closed

### Washington, April 13.—The spring meeting of the Washington Jockey Club closed this afternoon. It was the most successful in the club's history. Today's attendance broke all previous records. The track was in excellent shape and speculation the heaviest of the meeting.

## MIDDIES GOOSE-EGGED

### Naval Cadets Lose For the First Time to Georgetown

Annapolis, Md., April 13.—The naval cadet base ball team received its first defeat today in a game with Georgetown College, the score being 5 to 0. Georgetown completely outclassed the navy. The game was witnessed by a large number, including naval officers and their families, and strangers who are here for the Easter holidays. At Worcester—Holy Cross 4; Tufts 2. At Easton, Pa.—LaFayette 13; Rutgers 0. At Lancaster, Pa.—Franklin and Marshall 0; Gettysburg College 4. At South Bethlehem—New York University 5; Lehigh 6.

## KNOW THEIR BUSINESS

### Captain Mitcham Defends Officers of Department

Washington, April 13.—In the completed copy of the annual report of General A. R. Guffington, chief of the ordnance bureau, just published, there appears a special report by Captain O. B. Mitcham in answer to the testimony of Captain I. N. Lewis before the Senate committee regarding smokeless powder. This report did not appear in the proof copy of the report first made public. Captain Mitcham says that the statements about a lack of smokeless powder were misleading, and declares that the officers of the ordnance department are neither laggards nor dullards in the discharge of their official duties, but knowing the dangers of their work and realizing their responsibilities more than the ordinary layman can understand, they attain the desired ends by care and study, despite criticism that they alone know proceeds from lack of knowledge and hasty judgment.

## UNHAPPY MARQUIS

### True Love in His Case Runs Any Way But Smooth

London, April 13.—When the young Marquis of Bedford, who is connected with many aristocratic families, fell victim to the charms of Rosie Boodo, a caisy girl, his family made the most strenuous efforts to separate the couple. Once before, at a cost of \$15,000, his mother, it is said, prevented him from making a messalliance. However, the marquis was inexorable himself and communicated the fact of his engagement to the newspapers, declaring that the marriage would take place at an early date. Then his family made a final effort to prevent the marriage, and even the aid of the king, it is whispered, was invoked.

## ARBITRATION COURT CONSTITUTED

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## May Wear Blouses

### Washington, April 13.—The Postmaster General has decided to issue an order permitting letter carriers throughout the country to wear a loose fitting blouse instead of a coat when the heat of the summer warrants it.

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## OFF ITS BASE

### Avalanche on Italian Mountain, Colorado

## GREAT LOSS OF LIFE

### Three Hundred Miners Believed to Have Been Buried Under the Landslide—Relief Parties Sent the Scene

Buena Vista, Col., April 13.—News has reached here of a disaster at Italian Mountain, forty miles distant. The meagre report says that an avalanche swept down the mountain yesterday and there are fears that several hundred lives were lost. The avalanche came with terrific force, carrying all before it and annihilating everything in its path, which was a very wide one. More than 300 men are said to have been at work in the Italian Mountain mines at the time and there is little hope that any of them escaped the landslide. The reports received here say that many houses were buried by the rushing earth and rocks and that there is scarcely a living thing left in the locality of the avalanche.

As soon as the tidings of the disaster reached here the citizens immediately organized parties to furnish such relief as possible under the circumstances. The mines are practically cut off from the outside world, being in an almost inaccessible position, but every effort will be made to aid the living, if there are any, and to recover the bodies of the avalanche's victims.

There is great excitement throughout this part of the country over the reports of probable wholesale loss of life, and the facts concerning the disaster are awaited anxiously by the friends and relatives of the miners here.

Men who are familiar with the region involved said today that owing to the difficulty of getting to the Italian Mountain district those who may have escaped sudden death will probably perish before recruiting parties arrive.

## BRIGANDS IN SICILY

### The Mafia Takes Vengeance on Supposed Traitors

Rome, April 13.—At the beginning of the year word was sent from Rome that the Mafia and other societies in Sicily must be stamped out at all cost, and the local authorities were threatened with degradation if they should any longer ignore their duty. The Mafia promptly took up the challenge with the result that there has been a carnival of crime in the beautiful island. Since the beginning of February no fewer than four hundred men have been murdered and each corpse has been found with a paper thrust between its teeth, bearing the words: "Thus the Mafia punishes its traitorous members." The victims were suspected of having given information to the police.

The household of Baron Lusio France, in his castle in the district of Reggio, was alarmed Monday night by an attempt apparently of brigands to force an entrance. The baron and his servants, after hastily arming themselves, started a vigorous fusillade through a window. A few shots were fired frequently without doing damage to either side, for the supposed bandits proved to be the police. Their captain explained that the brigands had received information that the great brigand and murderer, Musolino, had been in the castle for a week as a guest in the servants' hall. While the police still surrounded the castle the building was searched, but there was no trace of the brigand, and the police finally retired. This was apparently the last effort of the police to locate the brigands. The district has now been withdrawn in the belief that Musolino has left the country or is waiting at some port for an opportunity to get away. All outgoing steamships are being thoroughly searched. A few days ago a torpedo boat stopped the steamship Sella of Messina and vainly searched for traces of the noted brigand.

## FIRE IN WILMINGTON

### Ten Thousand Dollars Damage by a Morning Blaze

Wilmington, N. C., April 13.—Special.—Fire did ten thousand dollars damage here this morning in the rear of Kemper block. It caught in the rear of an oyster roasting place and communicated to a storage warehouse of the street railway company, also to the rear of Hardin's pharmacy, the stock of which was damaged to a considerable extent. The loss was covered by insurance.

## The Dark Side of Manila

Manila, April 13.—General MacArthur has forwarded to Washington a special report on saloons and the social evil in the Philippine Islands. Information concerning the doing of a Aguinaldo is withheld by the attention.