

OLD OOM K. ADVISES PIRACY

Would Attempt to Cripple England on High Seas

By Sending out Armed Vessels to Capture and Loot Merchantmen—Had Better Pass.

Oom Paul and his followers have been seized with another spasm of "unreason." They proposed to send forth vessels armed with powers from the president of the Transvaal to prey upon British shipping. Apart altogether from the question of the validity of so-called letters of marque signed by the ex-president of a state without sovereign authority and that never possessed seaports, the days of piracy are over and the powers even of desperadoes such as advise Kruger are limited. There is an understanding between the nations that the old barbarous practices will never again be resorted to. The records of pirates men are a sufficient justification for this, even if there be reason for a suspicion that Great Britain's command of the sea has something to do with the unanimity of condemnation. The Dutch of old were most intrepid mariners, but we doubt very much if there are many of their successors eager to take command of a vessel with the object of preying upon British commerce and attempting to dodge the swift cruisers of the royal navy, from the destroyers up. Virulent hatred of Britain is chiefly confined to ignorant landmen. Seaman travel, and travel broadens the understanding and removes prejudice. Sailors of all nations have been placed under obligations to the British at various times. There will therefore be no great rush from abroad after lucrative posts on Kruger's pirate ships. It is safe to set the privateer yarn down as a brilliant work of the imagination of a versatile newspaper man, probably under inspiration from Dr. Leyds.

Water view we may take of the conduct of Kruger and his counselors before the war commenced and since it has been in operation, we cannot but admire their pertinacity of purpose. They have been rebuffed repeatedly by their friends, but have always been ready to renew their efforts when they thought the time opportune. They have no regard whatever for the men who are bearing the consequences of the conflict which they provoked, nor for the welfare of the women and children dependent upon them. They persist in urging that the fight shall be maintained and they guarantee intervention and the preservation of lost independence. They have their agents traveling in the United States and some of the states of Europe which do not look so much with favor on their cause as they hate Britain. Looking back over the events of the last few years, we can see now that the Boer states were not so foolhardy as they appeared when they ordered their men to advance upon British territory. But for the rising of the empire en masse to the work of defense there might have been a melancholy story to tell. The slightest exhibition of indifference on the part of Great Britain and the nations might have advanced the mailed fist instead of the hand of friendship.

Victoria Colonist.

Verdict of the Editor.

The first city editor I ever worked under, says a well known editor, was generally admitted to be a fine newspaper man, but was unpopular with the staff on account of his surly manners. I think the whole trouble was attributable to the fact that he had a slight impediment in his speech, which made it necessary for him to limit his conversation as much as possible. When he gave an order, it exasperated him to have to repeat it, and his bearing naturally became curt and abrupt. But to come to the point, one night a week or so after I joined the staff I got hold of a little story about a runaway country girl who had been found by the police. She was a gawky young person of 18 or thereabout, homely as a mud fence and as uninteresting as an old shoe, but I saw a chance to distinguish myself and made the episode the basis of a charming romance a column and a half long and when I handed in the manuscript watched furtively to see the city editor go into spasms of delight.

But he didn't do anything of the kind. He read two pages with an expression that grew more and more fatigued and then beckoned me to his desk. "Y-y-young man," he said sternly, "b-b-boll this inf-fernal, g-g-ghastly r-r-rat down to the b-b-bones!" He hurled the words bones at me in such a terrible voice that I nearly fell over. Of course I was deeply chagrined and also a little resentful, and when I carried the story back to my table I confessed that I went out of my way to obey his order to the letter.

In a short time I returned with a single page of "copy," containing a cold, colorless statement of fact, from which every particle of human interest

had been carefully compressed. He read it, and his eyes twinkled slightly. "My b-b-boy," he said, "your f-f first story was too g-g-good to be t-t-rue; this to too t-t true to be g-g-good. G-g-go see w-w-whether you can't s-s-split the d-d-d-difference."—Ex.

COMMISSIONER'S RESIDENCE

Brief Description of the New Home of Governor Ross.

When Completed It Will be the Most Elaborate of Any in the Territory—Costing \$25,000.

With this issue of the Nugget is presented a view of the front elevation of the new official residence of the commissioner of the territory now under construction on First avenue between the residence of Collector of Customs Davis and the gold commissioner's office. When finished it will be the handsomest and most costly place of residence in the territory and one more suitable for the habitation of the chief executive than the log cabin which housed ex-Commissioner Ogilvie a few years ago.

The interior arrangements are excellently made, the dining room and drawing room both being sufficiently large to admit of receptions being held. As one enters from the street a flight of low broad steps leads one into a vestibule at the inner end of which four additional steps take one through the inner doors and into the main hall. This hall is quite large, in fact, might almost be called a room, being 13x37 in size. At the farther end of the hall stairs lead to the upper floors.

To the left of the hall as one enters is a small reception room, 13x14, containing with the drawing room in the rear, 14x34. On the right of the hall is an office or study, 13x14; the dining room being immediately back of it 14x24 in size. Still further to the rear are a butler's pantry, serving room, kitchen, etc.

On the second floor are six chambers, 14x15, some with baths attached and possessing that luxury which has heretofore been unknown in Klondike architecture—a closet. In the attic are servants' quarters, while in the cellar are storage bins for fuel and a huge hot air furnace.

The interior as well as all the door and window casings will be finished in imported fir. The roof will be of galvanized iron and brick chimneys will be used exclusively. The outside of the building will be of rustic, hewn being scroll work in the gables and the main entrance will be ornamented by four pilasters surmounted by a handsome balcony. The estimated cost of the residence is \$25,000, and it is expected to be completed and ready for occupancy before the beginning of winter. It is being built under the direction of local Superintendent of Public Works Fuller who also drew plans for the building.

Dutch Harbor News.

San Francisco, July 13.—The steamer Homer has arrived direct from Dutch Harbor, Alaska. The vessel sailed from here last spring with supplies for the sealing stations at Dutch Harbor and on St. Paul and St. George's islands in the Pribilof group.

Thirty deaths from measles have occurred at St. Paul's and seventeen at St. George's during the past winter. On the day of her departure for this port, July 3, the only vessel at Dutch Harbor was the United States gunboat Concord from Manila, which had been in port about two weeks and was to sail July 3 for Point Barrow with supplies to assist the revenue fleet. The Concord may take a herd of reindeer from Siberia to various points on the Alaska coast. All steamers bound for Nome had left Dutch Harbor, including the transport Warren, which left the harbor about the middle of June.

(It will be noted that the above says nothing about "severe storms sweeping the coast" or having swept the coast. It does say, however, that all Nome bound steamers have passed on and "Nome bound steamers" include steamers for St. Michael.)

Burned Down.

Silver City, N. M., July 13.—The Bremen mill and smelter, just below town, has been totally destroyed by fire. The loss is not known. The fire was detected issuing through the roof of the wooden buildings and before the department could reach the ground the entire plant was a mass of roaring flames, utterly beyond control.

ATCHISON GLOBE SIGHTS

Piano playing is not music; it is a bad habit.

Sawing wood is the better exercise, but golf is more popular.

People revise their list of heroes every three or four years.

Some men cannot even tack up advertising signs, and do it well.

There's one thing about a liar: it is difficult to deceive him with a lie.

Unless she intends to split kindling, a woman has no use for a hatchet.

When a man quotes "prominent citizens," he is really expressing his own opinion.

Down in every woman's heart is a longing to be loved like they love on the stage.

If it comes easy for some people to do a thing well, it is the result of constant trying.

An ornery person receives a lot of appreciation when he does do anything commendable.

One of the funniest things in the world is the man who speaks of his "spiritual adviser."

Many men who can tell you exactly where to go to catch fish, cannot catch any fish themselves.

We imagine that some women must be as hard to fit as it would be to fit a garment on a rocking chair.

After a girl has prepared refreshments for a party, her next step is to hide them from her brother.

It is some people's notion of a joke to talk about the worms in apples when the hostess passes the cider.

A man never knows until after he marries how much of her time a woman spends with hair in her mouth.

WOULD RELEASE HIM.

Cripple Creek, July 13.—Through the action of an Ohio sheriff, it is said the governors of Colorado and Ohio will be appealed to secure the liberty of a man now said to be on his way east under arrest.

Sheriff J. M. Downs of Mechanicville, Ohio, arrived here a week ago with requisition papers for Albert M. Weir, charged with deserting his infant child, which, in Ohio, is a criminal offense. Weir was arrested, but was subsequently discharged upon habeas corpus proceedings instituted before Judge Cunningham of the district court.

Some time last night, it is said, Sheriff Downs appeared at Weir's house and compelled him to accompany him aboard a train on which they left the city. Sheriff Stewart of this city, when he learned of the affair, wired Governor Orman the facts and will ask him to appeal to the Ohio executive to have Weir released.

H. A. Bliss, chief license inspector, and J. D. McGregor have gone outside on a vacation.

Uly Giesford, a sour dough of '97, has gone outside on a visit.

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WITH THE PEOPLE

Rests the Question Whether or not Gold Dust Shall be Retired

FROM CIRCULATING AS EXCHANGE

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GOLD DUST IS NOT MONEY

But Personal Property and No Law Can Prevent Its Use in Exchange and Barter.

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The matter of retiring gold dust from general circulation rests wholly and entirely with the merchants themselves." So said Commissioner Ross yesterday afternoon to a Nugget man when questioned as to what had resulted or would result from the conference had at noon with the delegation of business men who had called upon him to see if some means could not be devised by which the gold dust problem could be solved.

"Gold dust," said the commissioner, "is as much personal property as wheat, coal or anything else, and I do not believe any local council or government could pass an ordinance or a law to prohibit the use of such dust in barter and trade so long as the parties concerned are agreeable. Gold dust is not money nor can it be considered or made so except by the action of the government. As it is used here it is simply a product of the country which those who mine it, as the farmer who grows wheat, exchange for food, clothing, etc. It would be as impossible for the government to say to a miner 'you will be no longer allowed to trade your dust for a supply of groceries,' and trading is all it amounts to, as it would be for it to tell a gardener that he could not exchange the product of his little farm for a team of horses or a fisherman his fish for a bill of hardware. Whenever the merchants and others by a concerted action refuse to accept gold dust for their goods then the dust will be retired from circulation and not before. The banks assure

us, and it is doubtless true, that there is sufficient currency here for every use and if a shortage should ever occur the matter of putting more into circulation is only a question of the bank officials signing and issuing more at once. The merchants must settle the gold dust problem themselves."

Members of the committee who waited upon the commissioner were seen this morning and they all had more or less to say about the matter.

"The fact of the matter is," said Percy Palmer, of Palmer Bros., "the merchants are allowing more for dust by a dollar an ounce than it is worth and that shrinkage means an absolute loss to us unless it is made up in some manner or other. Goods are being sold on a closer margin every day and the time will soon come when if the dust is taken at all it must be accepted at something more near its actual value. We never see any of the higher grades of dust; if we did it would help equalize matters to some little extent, but we don't get it. Every day we are paid bills by Gold Run miners who take the dust from their claims and sell it for \$17 or more an ounce then buy commercial dust at \$15 and pay their accounts with it at the rate of \$16. If the circulation of dust can not be legislated out of existence I hope some other means will be found to retire it."

R. P. McLennan, the hardware magnate, said: "The question is in just the same position it was a year ago. We are still taking dust at \$16 that is worth but \$15 and I am sure I don't know where the remedy will be unless the government should establish an assay office here and buy all the gold, paying for the same its actual assay value, less a very small commission. The merchants had matters arranged on a somewhat more equitable basis last summer when it was agreed dust should be accepted at only \$15, but you remember how that agreement terminated. I trust that upon the arrival of Mr. Sifton every possible pressure will be brought to bear upon him which will result in the establishment of an assay office here."

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