

Oom Paul's Latest Move

Reported Withdrawal of Franchise Proposals by Transvaal Government.

The Boers Are Anxious to Begin Negotiations on a New Basis.

Both Sides Are Preparing for War—London Press on the Situation.

(Associated Press.) London, Sept. 4.—A dispatch from Johannesburg to Reuter's agency definitely announces that the reply of the Transvaal Republic to the British communication withdraws the franchise proposals, and agrees in principle to a conference at Capetown.

M. Pakeman, editor of the Transvaal Leader, has been released under £500 bail, and the charges against him have been reduced from treason to violation of the press laws.

Concessions Withdrawn. London, Sept. 4.—The foregoing dispatch takes the view that the foregoing dispatch is correct. President Kruger's reply is ominous and was palpably made to gain time.

Sir Alfred Milner's suggestion of a further conference of Capetown was instigated with the sole purpose of considering details, and for the enforcement of the concessions offered by the Boers.

If these concessions are withdrawn there can be no object from a British point of view in prolonging the conference.

The only inference to be drawn is that the Boers have taken Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, at his word in a broader sense than was intended by it, and are preparing to begin the negotiations over again on an entirely new basis.

The shrewdness of this reported move is not likely to save it from being interpreted by the British government as a thinly veiled defiance, unless accompanied by a vague agreement for a further conference, which would be generally taken as sufficient cause for immediate hostilities.

Regarding the exact terms of the reply in question, reports are contradictory, but all agree that the excitement in Johannesburg is unabated, that the exodus from the city continues and that the distress increases.

Observance from Boer and British South African sources detail war preparations on all sides.

Another Report. Pretoria, Sept. 4.—The reply of the Transvaal Republic to the demands of Great Britain increases the terms of residence necessary in order to obtain the franchise.

THE WAGES OF SEAMEN. Ship-Owners Ignore the Union and a Strike is Threatened.

London, Sept. 2.—A strike of sailors and firemen is threatened in Great Britain. The trouble arose over a manifesto to the ship-owners of the Seamen's Union, inviting them to confer on the question of fixing a rate for firemen and sailors on sailing ships of 24 months, a slight advance in wages now paid at various British ports.

The ship-owners utterly ignored the union, with the result that the latter have planned a strike at every port in the United Kingdom, to commence next Monday.

Mr. Jos. Havelock Wilson, member of parliament for Middleborough, a Radical, but who was elected more particularly as a labor representative, has been addressing meetings at Liverpool, Bristol, Newcastle and Glasgow.

The stewards and cooks, it is said, have joined forces with the seamen, but the wage issue is not rather secondary to the recognition of the union by the ship-owners. An offer to negotiate by the latter would probably deter and possibly prevent the strike.

The men claim that though the shipping trade has improved, the workers' condition has remained stationary. Already the force of the strike movement is beginning to be felt. Fearing that it would be unable to get a crew for the steamer Oceanic, on its regular sailing day Monday, the White Star Line Steamship Company decided to have the men sign Thursday last, but the latter refused in a body.

The owners of the Dominion Line steamer Camboran met with a similar experience at Liverpool, and where Mr. Schreiner has allowed the union to pass to the Transvaal, and has virtually forced the Portuguese to lease similar consignments. This is the real quarter from which Kruger receives encouragement to hold out and continue his insidious pastime of cross-purposes rather than surrender and settle the franchise question. He cannot hope for European intervention, because Germany and Britain have entered into treaty engagements respecting East and South Africa, he cannot look for a Liberal diversion in his favor in England, for South African questions have practically been taken out of politics; he can only count upon the moral support of the elements which have put Mr. Schreiner in power and challenge Mr. Chamberlain to raise the signal of civil war at the Cape.

Pretoria, Sept. 2.—It is understood that the Transvaal government, in the reply to the Imperial government's last dispatch, intimates its willingness to meet the other side in a conference at Capetown as suggested, and to explain the workings of the new franchise law. The Transvaal government is also willing to receive the friendly suggestions of the Imperial government.

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DEWEY AT GIBRALTAR. Gibraltar, Sept. 4.—The United States admiral Dewey, with Admiral Dewey, arrived here this morning.

owing to its construction. The long, supple skirt, the most prominent feature, is not only heavy for walking, but it trails in all kinds of filth; it distributes disease germs in the form of dust. She maintained that women should not be ashamed of their true, and should adopt a method which would be a physical help, instead of an impediment, disease-producing monstrosity of the nineteenth century.

AN AMERICAN VICTORY. A Bandit Stronghold Destroyed and Twenty-One of the Enemy Killed.

(Associated Press.) Washington, Sept. 2.—Gen. O'Leary today cabled the war department a dispatch which he received from Gen. Hughes, commanding the American forces at Iloilo. Gen. Hughes says: "Lieut.-Col. Byrne on August 31st, destroyed Argo Gula, a most important bandit stronghold, killing 21, wounding many, and capturing a large quantity of supplies, a complete outfit for reloading shells, and bolos, spears, etc. One officer and two men were struck by bandits which were rolled down on them, but were not seriously hurt. No casualties reported. The bandits' strength was four hundred."

BOILER EXPLODED. Three Men Killed and Four Fatally Injured.

(Associated Press.) Manistowic, Mich., Sept. 2.—A boiler in Chapman & Sargeant's bowl factory at Copechic, 30 miles north of here, exploded yesterday afternoon, killing three men and fatally injuring four others. The building was totally wrecked, Chas. Handy, the fireman, was found with his head blown off.

TRANSVAAL ACCEPTS. The British Proposals and Will Fully Explain the Working of the New Franchise Law.

Berlin, Sept. 2.—War between Great Britain and the Transvaal is regarded here as almost unavoidable. There is no doubt that the government, if not exactly friendly to Great Britain, in this quarrel, has resolved to abstain from active interference. This fact is again corroborated this week. Reliable information which has reached the government for months past made it evident that its opinion about the Pretoria government had to be revised, and it would be unwise in Germany's interests to take sides against Great Britain in an attempt to right certain wrongs. The German government, of course, would be sincerely sorry to see war break out in the Transvaal.

The Kreuz Zeitung, in a sober editorial, expresses regret that in the event of war, victory will finally be on the side of Great Britain, in such an ineffectual struggle.

Asquith on the Situation. London, Sept. 2.—In a speech before the Leaven Liberal Association this afternoon, Right Hon. Herbert Asquith, former home secretary in Lord Rosebery's cabinet, said he was convinced there is nothing in the Transvaal situation, delicate and dangerous as it is, which cannot and ought not to be safely solved by firm and prudent diplomacy. "I do not believe," he said, "anything has occurred, or is threatened, to bring us even within measurable distance of a catastrophe which would be a reproach to statesmanship, a calamity to civilization and an almost incalculable disaster to South Africa."

Schreiner Backs Kruger. New York, Sept. 2.—The London correspondent of the Tribune, commenting on the South African situation, says: "The settlement of the Transvaal question is still 'behind us' as often as it has been in sight. The final stage of diplomacy has not been reached, nor will be for several weeks, but the outlook for peace is distinctly more hopeful. Today's official revelations show that the two governments are not widely separated; the Boers have offered to concede a five year franchise and an adequate representation, but the conditions attached to this compromise forced Mr. Chamberlain to reject it. He has suggested other expedients which President Kruger does not favor, and so matters stand."

The danger of war was increased as soon as the question of suzerainty was raised by President Kruger. The ministers of the crown were not likely to decide on an ultimatum over the franchise issue, especially when Sir Alfred Milner's minimum had been approached and finally exceeded by the Boers; but they can declare war any day over the question of suzerainty, and have the nation and the empire behind them. "Suzerainty may be defined with much half-splitting subtlety, but the plain English of it is the ascendancy of the crown over the entire group of colonial possessions in South Africa. That is the issue which the united nation would regard as a justification for war. The latest news seems to indicate that President Kruger has prudently retired from this dangerous ground, and that negotiations have resumed over the franchise and various artificial methods of testing the sincerity of the proposed measures of political reform."

Mr. Chamberlain is master of the situation at home, where there is no opposition worthy of the name. His policies which he is resolutely carrying out; he is not, however, in full control in Cape Colony, where the Dutch settlers are in sympathy with the Boers, and where Mr. Schreiner has allowed the union to pass to the Transvaal, and has virtually forced the Portuguese to lease similar consignments. This is the real quarter from which Kruger receives encouragement to hold out and continue his insidious pastime of cross-purposes rather than surrender and settle the franchise question. He cannot hope for European intervention, because Germany and Britain have entered into treaty engagements respecting East and South Africa, he cannot look for a Liberal diversion in his favor in England, for South African questions have practically been taken out of politics; he can only count upon the moral support of the elements which have put Mr. Schreiner in power and challenge Mr. Chamberlain to raise the signal of civil war at the Cape.

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WILL SETTLE HERE. Big Colony of Finlanders Have Decided on British Columbia as Their Home.

(Associated Press.) New York, Sept. 2.—The Finnish delegation which has been sent to America to select lands for a colony, will decide upon British Columbia, along the Pacific coast. A letter to this effect was received in New York today from A. Borgstrom, one of the delegation. The majority of the immigrants from Finland are young men who, to avoid being sent into Russia to serve in the army, are leaving the country instead.

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Sir Wilfrid Boyd Cannot Go

Minister of Marine and Fisheries Will Confer With Chamberlain.

General News of Interest From Paris of Eastern Canada.

Ottawa, Sept. 1.—The original intention was that both Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Louis Davies should go to England this summer. The Premier, however, finds it impossible to leave, so that Sir Louis will represent Canada's case in the Alaska boundary before Mr. Chamberlain. He will sail on the 9th, accompanied by Joseph Pope, under secretary of state.

Toronto, Sept. 1.—Building operations in Toronto are likely to be seriously delayed by shortage in steel caused by an increased demand.

Brantford, Sept. 1.—Rev. D. Hutchinson of Brantford, has declined a call to Halifax.

Winnipeg, Sept. 1.—The C.P.R. has 50 freight cars on the Western division, 3,000 being for wheat traffic.

The Winnipeg have defeated Holland 4 to 3 for the intermediate lacrosse championship of Manitoba.

St. J. K. O'Brien, member of Manitoba's Henley four rowers ago, now left for Yukon with Glen Campbell's party, is now working for the Hudson's Bay Company at Lesser Slave Lake, having returned from Hay River, where he spent the winter. Black, another member of the party also, has returned, and is at Edmonton. Mr. Campbell reached Nelson river some time ago.

The crop bulletin for the week ending August 31, issued this morning by the Northern Pacific railway for the Manitoba division, makes excellent reading. The report from almost every station on several lines is of the same tenor, and might be summarized as follows:

Between one-half and three-quarters of the grain is cut. The yield of wheat is about 25 bushels to the acre. "Thrashing is in progress. The samples excellent. There is no frost yet."

A MANTOBA TRAGEDY. Family Butcher—Settler—Kills His Wife and Three Children and Their German Seducer.

Dauphin, Man., Sept. 3.—The Ottawa settlement of Gilbert Plains has been shrouded in mystery over a awful family butchery. The family of Frederick Johnson, including himself, has been wiped out in a most revolting manner.

The coroner, J. R. Gunn, M.D., lost no time in repairing to the scene. The house is situated on the west road from the mountain gap.

On the premises are a small log house, a log stable and another two story log house in course of erection. This was the home of Frederick Johnson, his wife and three children. The family consisted of an eldest boy of five years, a second boy of three years, a baby girl of three days old. With them lived his sister Mary, Edna Johnson. His brother, Robert A. Johnson, had a homestead quite near, and although he boarded with his brother Frederick, he slept on his own premises. The wife, Mrs. William D. McNeil, worked and boarded with Johnson, but slept on the premises of Johnson's brother Robert.

Frederick Johnson visited Gilbert Plains a year ago last spring in company with others, and the selection of his present homestead. Early this year he returned and put things in shape for the arrival of his family, who followed in April. He seems to have made a good thing of the ordinary progress of a new settler, and had fairly comfortable surroundings. His brother Robert claims to have a half interest in the stock and implements. Both brothers had homesteads and bought C.P.R. quarter sections. In the first of the quarter section of the deceased's C.P.R. quarter section there appears to have been some trouble, and this caused him some worry.

Johnson's health had not been satisfactory for several weeks past, and latterly he complained of a pain in his back, and made use of such expressions as "that he wished he was dead," and "that it was enough to make a fellow hang himself."

Last Wednesday his wife was confined, and with high fever. On Sunday morning Johnson appeared to be in low spirits. After dinner Johnson got all parties but his wife and family from the house.

Mr. Johnson was shot just below the heart, and most probably was the first one to be killed. Beside her lay her three day old baby with its head blown completely off. His eldest son, Arthur, 5 years old, and Clifford, 3 years old, were shot below the left ear with the same weapon. Both their heads were partly blown off. The gun had been so close to the head of the oldest boy that it was all covered with smoke from the barrel. Death to all four must have been instantaneous, and the breach loading shot-gun had been used.

Between the box stove and a trunk Mr. Johnson with his throat cut in two places and a charge of the gun had been "nestled" in below the left ear. Near him was found his baby, which he had first cut his throat without success, for, evidently getting into a sitting position, he aimed the gun at a vital spot, and killed the baby in his hand.

The coroner's jury returned a verdict in accordance with the above facts.

AMERICAN SOLDIER KILLED. (Associated Press.) Manila, Sept. 4.—Five men of Colonel Pell's regiment yesterday encountered a rebel outpost near Zorcan, and in the fighting which ensued one American was killed and another wounded. The remainder drove the rebels from their position and captured a bull cart in which to remove the injured.

A JUDGE FINED. London, Sept. 2.—Londoners are laughing over the adventure of Judge French, of the London country court.

Together with his sons he was spending a holiday at Felsham, on Thursday afternoon they indulged themselves on the beach and proceeded to bathe. An indignant spectator rushed forward to remonstrate that they were within the prescribed limits for such a method of "bathing," but to no avail. The judge was summoned before a magistrate. The evidence given was that the judge, who is a large, fat man, was wearing "a small bathing garment 8 or 10 inches wide." The judge maintained that the spot was an absolute desert, but the witnesses declared that ladies and children were close by.

Finally the judge paid a 40 shillings fine, in preference to spending a week in prison.

VILLAGE ALMOST DESTROYED. (Associated Press.) Bay City, Mich., Sept. 4.—In Pinconning a village of 20 miles north of Bay City, yesterday, fire destroyed thirty-two frame buildings, including the Michigan Central passenger station.

SHOCKING TALE OF THE SEA. Survivor of a Norwegian Bark Tells of Terrible Sufferings While Adrift on a Raft.

Charleston, S. C., Sept. 2.—Maurice Anderson and Gaadmann Thompson, survivors of the Norwegian bark Brok, wrecked on August 15, were brought here today by the British steamer Woodruff. They were picked up on August 31st, when 230 miles south of Charleston. Anderson is a raving maniac, and his companion is shockingly emaciated from bites from the "crazed man." The captain of the Brok and the companion were swept overboard and lost in the West Indian hurricane. The mate and seven others put to sea on a raft made from decking. The raft parted soon after, and the mate and one man were separated from the others. The mate's companion was landed at Philadelphia by the German steamer Stetena on August 22. He stated that the mate committed suicide. Of the six men on the other part of the raft, one became crazed and jumped into the sea; two others exhausted from suffering, fell overboard and were lost; Anderson, Thompson and a German seaman drew lots to see which should be eaten, as none of them had had a mouthful of food since they took to the water. The lot fell to the German. He was killed, and the blood was sucked from his veins by the two survivors. Soon after Anderson lost his reason and attacked his only companion, Thompson's breast and face were bitten in several places, pieces of food size being torn out.

ALASKAN DISPUTE. Rumored Concessions by Great Britain—No Free Port on the Lynn Canal.

New York, Sept. 3.—The Herald's correspondent at Washington telegraphs as follows: "Important concessions have been made by Great Britain to Canada in the matter of the Alaskan boundary dispute, which encourages the belief that an agreement for the establishment of a temporary boundary line may be reached this week."

Officials are reticent concerning the character of these concessions, but it is understood that in the final draft of the modus vivendi under consideration, no provision will be made for a free port on the Lynn canal for Canada. It seems to be the general impression that in the permanent arrangements for the settlement of the dispute it will be agreed that Great Britain shall have a port on the Lynn canal under a lease from this government for 99 years, no matter how other points of the controversy may be settled, although Canada has apparently changed her attitude and agreed to make the concessions which Great Britain has advanced.

Secretary Hay, it may be stated, has withdrawn from the position assumed by this government that the boundary line be placed northward of the village of Kluckwan. The secretary will thoroughly discuss the Alaskan question tomorrow with the President, and determine the attitude of the United States with regard to the prospect of a temporary settlement at least of the boundary controversy."

ASSAILANTS OF A KING. Belgrade, Sept. 1.—The preliminary inquiry into the attempt last July 28 to injure King Alexander of the former Kingdom of Serbia, was commenced today. Sixteen prisoners were liberated of the Radical organ, Otkos, who were charged with high treason. The charges were committed for the assassination of King Alexander.

THE GUN. THE FIRST DAY. The opening of the season for grouse and deer always attracts a large number of sportsmen from the city to the woods along the E. & N., and today proved no exception to the rule. The railway company had made excellent arrangements to convey the sportsmen to the scene of slaughter in "good time," and today the "big game" business proving good. The deer and grouse will be the principal game secured. Although duck, plover and the larger game are also available. On October 1st attention will be given to the "cock pheasant" and "quail," which, with the exception of "big game," may be shot until December 31st.

A great deal of interest is centering in the forthcoming convention of fire adepts of the Pacific Coast, which is being made a feature of the Provincial exhibition at New Westminster. The dates for the event are the 3rd, 4th and 5th of October, and the last day's proceedings will take the form of a fireman's tournament, in which the day will be a wet and dry test, and speed race, ten men being assigned to each cart. Teams are expected from the state of Washington and from the Kootenay territory, while Victoria's team will start a team in training next week.

W. Wainwright, identified for several years with the Dawson hotel, returned this morning from Athol.

SHIPPING CASUALTIES. Tug Wrecked and Three Men Drowned—A Transport Founders.

Sandusky, Ohio, Sept. 4.—The tug Red Cloud of Lorain, on a towage job at Cedar Point last night, it is believed three lives were lost.

Santiago de Chili, Sept. 4.—The Chilean transport Atacama, foundered in the Straits of Magellan. No lives were lost.

THE WHITE STAR'S LATEST. London, Sept. 3.—The White Star liner Oceanic starts today on her maiden voyage across the Atlantic, carrying, including 420, who form her crew, 1,985 souls of whom 375 are first-class passengers. The greatest interest is being taken on this side in the big ship, and every berth, first, second, and third class, has been taken. On her speed trial the Oceanic did not make more than 22 knots an hour, but she is not intended to be a record breaker.

In point of luxury, however, there is none on the sea life her. The suites of rooms for millionaires, according to the Daily Mail, lead one to the conviction that if passengers who can pay the fare of \$300 are plentiful, it is likely they will patronize the Oceanic.

Governor Roosevelt's Letter of Welcome Read to the Foot Guards at the Capital.

(Associated Press.) Albany, N. Y., Sept. 4.—The Governor-General's Foot Guards, Ottawa, who are visiting Albany as guests of the Tenth Battalion, made a tour of the capital today and visited the executive chambers. In the absence of Governor Roosevelt, the following message from him was read to the Guards by Colonel Trendway, his military secretary:

"Please present to the Foot Guards my cordial well wishes, state how sorry I am that I cannot meet them in person, and that I hail their visit with peculiar pleasure, coming as it does at a time when the English speaking peoples have been brought closer together than ever before. For I feel that there is of peculiar interest to the future of civilization and humanity that this good feeling should be continued to be strengthened. (Signed) Theodore Roosevelt."

BIG EXCURSION OF THE YEAR. There is no longer any doubt about it, the 5th Regiment Band excursion to Seattle next Saturday is to be the big excursion of the season. Nor is there any longer room for doubt that the Victoria Victorians will be ready for the trip.

She came over with the Tacoma Leader excursion yesterday, and whilst at the outer wharf was visited by hundreds of citizens. One and all were thoroughly satisfied, and agreed that the Victorians is the best for excursions, being far more roomy than the City of Kingston.

The excursion for Seattle next Saturday will leave here at 7 a.m., arriving at Seattle at 1:30 p.m., and returning will leave Seattle at 10:30 p.m. The band and the "Big Four" will furnish entertainment en route, and the former will give a concert at the Hotel Butler, which will be Victoria headquarters during the trip. On this excursion children under 5 years of age will travel free and those between 5 and 12 at half fare. Stop-over privileges, good for return on the regular trip, can be obtained on payment of an additional 75 cents. The stateroom sale opens at the ticket office on the inner wharf at 8 p.m. Friday, at which time and place the band will also give a free promenade concert to which the public are cordially invited.

THE ARMY AS A PROFESSION. "As there are many friends of Christ who are contemplating a life in the service of the Queen, and thousands besides who have been delighted in the doings of Mr. Atkins wherever he may be," it recently occurred to me," writes a representative of that paper in the July part, "to ask Sir William Gatacre if he would be so kind as to give me his opinion of the army as a career for young men."

"The army is a splendid profession in every way, both for officers and men. Sir William observed, in reply to my opening question.

"The chances of promotion are plentiful, and although interest may count for something, neither a private nor an officer requires it to succeed. 'Ours army affords immense possibilities for sharp, intelligent, hard workers, especially if they take advantage of the numerous classes of instruction. A young fellow who enters the army with the intention of making a profession of it, if he is ought to have, a bright future before him, for when he quits the service he is almost sure to secure a good appointment if he is steady."

"Naturally it depends entirely upon himself what success he achieves."

"What qualifications must a boy possess if he is to earn distinction as a soldier?"

"That is a big question, but at all events a private soldier should be steady, sober and intelligent; he should also have plenty of endurance. An officer should have a good physique, good eyesight, intelligence, of course, and enthusiasm for work."

"Then there is the difficulty of being General. Would you recommend a timid boy to enter the army?"

"Why should I not? There is too much to do in war to think about nerves. When a young fellow hears bullets flying about him for the first time he may give a momentary shake, but directly he realizes his position he is ready to do his duty. Nervousness is not a characteristic of the British soldier."

The heating apparatus of the Odeon theatre at Buenos Ayres consists of nine series of resistance coils, any or all of which can be instantly brought into or cut out of the electric circuit. They are placed beneath the building in a brick chamber, into which fresh air passes through a tunnel, and after being heated, is distributed through gas-ware pipes to eight or ten registers in the floor of the theatre.

A report by M. Perisse states that four processes for disposing of the waste of Paris, have been suggested—about employment for agricultural, industrial, steam treatment, and grinding. The last named, fitting the material best for the soil, is recommended as the most economical, and as having proved satisfactory in practice.