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GEN. KITCHENER REPORTS INVASION OF CAPE COLONY CHECKED.

Both Raiding Parties Have British Forces Following Them and Another Is Held in Reserve--General French Is Making Things Warm for the Boers Who Recently Captured the Northumberland.

London, Dec. 24--Lord Kitchener's despatches breathing a confidence hardly justified by their contents, are almost the only available news from the seat of hostilities in South Africa; but telegrams from Cape Town depict the situation in anything but rosy views.

Without believing the assertion of the Transvaal agency in Brussels that six thousand Boers have invaded Cape Colony, it is quite evident that the invasion was a serious and well planned affair. In connection with this a correspondent sends an extremely interesting letter, dated Bethulie, December 1st, describing General De Wet and his doings.

"De Wet has never been taken seriously enough," says the correspondent. "It is of little use to pursue him as he fights a rear guard action and gains 20 miles while he is being fought. He is a born military genius, whose wonderful powers have kept up this phenomenal resistance.

"Once he fails, the whole thing could be crushed in a fortnight. He has every single commando under his supervision. All his parties and columns march and counter-march on his order. The forces under his command have been reduced by his strength of will to a properly organized army, moving at his word. The sooner the British rid themselves of the idea that De Wet's forces are a mere rabble, wandering aimlessly, the sooner they will grasp the need of the determined effort which is necessary to capture him."

The Cape Colony cabinet had an important sitting yesterday (Sunday). It appears that the Boers have destroyed a railway bridge 90 feet long about 12 miles south of De Aar and that no Cape mails have arrived at Bloemfontein for three days.

Further anxiety has been caused in Cape Town by the discovery that during the last two months, public bodies in out of the way places have requisitioned supplies of dynamite. The colonial government is now endeavoring to recover possession of these explosives and is removing all stores of arms and ammunition from suspected depots.

BACK FROM THE PARIS SHOW American Officials Say They Are Well Satisfied.

IT WAS A GREAT FAIR. They Got All the Invitations They Could and Are Satisfied They Did Their Duty to Their Curious Countrymen--An Accident on Shipboard.

New York, Dec. 22--Ferdinand W. Peck, commissioner general to the Paris exposition; Mrs. Peck and Assistant Commissioner General Woodward were among the passengers on the St. Louis which arrived today. Commissioner Peck said: "We had a most delightful voyage and a thoroughly uneventful one, except that Commissioner General Woodward fell and broke his leg the second day out."

"We always did the best for everyone that we could. First we looked after the national commissions, then the state officials and then the prominent Americans. We received a great many requests with which it was impossible for us to comply, but everyone understood the situation and there was no hard feeling.

"The exposition was grand beyond expectation. As an international exhibition in which a larger number of nations took part than heretofore and as an exposition of exhibits, both in quantity and quality, it was without precedent in the history of similar events.

"The western column of Boers occupied Britstown and cut the railway south of De Aar. The enemy is being followed up. General French has been in contact for two days with the commandos of Beyers and De la Rey, south of the Magaliesberg. He is pressing them. The enemy have lost considerably and Commandant Krause and others have been captured.

Other advice from Cape Town represent the Dutch element in Cape Colony as greatly elated over the southward progress of the Boers and as boasting that the whole district of Victoria west will join the raiders. It is suspected in Cape Town that the force traveling from Zoutspan's Drift is not a body of Boers but one of colonials, hastening to join the invaders.

The Petermaritzburg correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "The Boers are active between Johannesburg and Pretoria, exchanging shots with the British outposts; and it is reported that parties of Boers are hovering around Johannesburg."

A TRAGEDY IN WASHINGTON. A United States Auditor Killed in His Office.

REVENGE THE MOTIVE. A Disbursing Clerk Charges the Auditor With Reducing His Income--The Assassin Shot Himself in the Stomach and Cut His Throat With a Penknife.

Washington, Dec. 22--Frank H. Morris of Ohio, auditor of the war department, was shot and instantly killed about 2:10 o'clock this afternoon by Samuel MacDonald, also of Ohio, recently a disbursing clerk of the treasury, in the former's office at the Winder Building.

MacDonald, before he was arrested, shot himself in the stomach and slashed his throat with a penknife. Auditor Morris was closeted alone with MacDonald when the shooting occurred. In trying to make his escape MacDonald also assaulted the watchman, Thomas Casich, with the butt of his revolver. He was arrested while leaving the building.

An eye witness says that he heard the first shot and upon entering the room he saw the two men struggling in each other's arms, MacDonald holding his revolver close to Morris' breast. MacDonald after firing again attempted to get out of the room, but encountered a number of employes attracted by the noise. He then turned and fired again. This is believed to have been the fatal shot.

Employees who knew MacDonald said he had a grievance against Morris, who, he claimed, was responsible for having his pay reduced. Others who knew him said that he could not attribute his deed to anything but the result of over-indulgence in liquor.

Frank H. Morris was a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He was 49 years of age and leaves a widow and two sons. He entered the government service at the beginning of the present administration as auditor for the navy department. A year and more ago Morris was made auditor of the war department. He was well regarded by the treasury officials but not popular with some of the subordinates in his office.

MacDonald is a brother of William H. MacDonald, the well-known baritone singer of the Bostonians, who is said to have educated him for the opera stage. He is unmarried, 38 years of age and is tall and well looking. He is also in the service since soon after the civil war. In 1897 he was made disbursing officer in the office of the auditor of the war department, receiving \$2,000 a year.

GERMAN GOSSIPS IN CLOVER. The Hand of the Law Has Been Laying Bare Vice.

MILLIONAIRE DEGENERATE. Sternberg Sent to Prison--Former Chief of the Criminal Department Dead--Wealth Usurers Are Now Trying to Fight the Law and Escape the Penitentiary.

Berlin, Dec. 22--Public attention was occupied wholly this week with crimes in high places. The sentence imposed on Sternberg, the millionaire banker, of two and a half years' imprisonment and five years' deprivation of civil rights, for crimes against morality, satisfies the public conscience and is well merited retribution. Sternberg rapidly acquired a fortune estimated at eighteen millions by shady methods and maintained social relations with high officials and military men for years. He was related by marriage to high officers and was a free giver for charitable purposes. It was said in his defence before the court that he made a will leaving to the Prussian government the bulk of his fortune, to establish an institution for insuring laborers against loss of work.

It is expected Sternberg will appeal again to a higher court. The death of Von Meerschmidt Huelles, the suspended chief of the criminal department, announced at the same hour as Sternberg's sentence, had a peculiar tragical effect. The public instantly assumed that he had committed suicide but the physicians certify that he died of apoplexy. Meerschmidt established a reputation by introducing the Bartillon anthropometric system in Germany.

The other great case this week, the arrest of mortgage bankers, attracts an immense amount of attention. The press is pointing out the resemblance to the case of the wealthy bankers, carrying on fraudulent practices for years. The chief offender, Sanden, made pretence of the greatest piety. He had a private chapel in a luxurious villa at Potsdam. His home was the centre of the highest military and aristocratic society. He was Potsdam's wealthiest citizen, paying 50,000 marks yearly in taxes. It has been shown that Sanden's business practices were most questionable. The fall in the value of the mortgage of the two banks already represents about 175,000 marks.

The tariff question was most actively discussed this week. The announcement of the Conservative leader, Herr Von Kinkovostrom, that the chancellor Count Von Duedow, is willing to compromise on the tariff, makes a deep impression. Signs multiply, however, that the commercial classes are growing more united against Agrarian demands.

REWARD NOT YET CLAIMED. Police Have Not Arrested Young Cudahy's Kidnappers. Omaha, Neb., Dec. 22--There were no developments of interest today in the kidnapping case of Edward Cudahy, Jr., who was carried away Tuesday night and held for \$25,000 ransom. Mr. Cudahy will not talk of the matter beyond stating his belief that the police will soon effect the capture.

A ROBUST MORTGAGE. A Three and a Half Million Debt Secured in Pennsylvania. Susquehanna, Pa., Dec. 22--A mortgage for \$3,500,000 was lent today in the office of the county register in Montrose. It was given by the Elkhill Coal and Iron Company to the Norton Trust Company, trustee for coal lands in Lockswanna, Susquehanna and Wayne counties.

THE NEW CONDITIONS UPON WHICH THE POWERS WILL EVACUATE PEKING

Text of the Joint Note to the Chinese Government Signed by the Authorized Representatives of All Nations of the Chinese Capital.

Peking, Dec. 22--The last obstacle having been removed, the joint note was signed today by all the foreign ministers. The note will be delivered to Li Hung Chang and Prince Ching, the Chinese plenipotentiaries, as soon as the former shall have sufficiently recovered from his indisposition. The Chinese close to Li Hung Chang still prefer to believe, despite the signing of the note, which they did not believe would take place, that the principal negotiations must be carried on in Europe or America. They resent the British modification of the note, for as they say some power or powers might not be satisfied until the indemnity had been paid in full, which would mean the occupation of Peking for an indefinite time, as it cannot be expected that China can raise what would be required--possibly 1,000,000,000 taels--for several years.

Li Hung Chang's condition is reported today to be so much improved that he craves to be out of bed for a short time. Washington, Dec. 22--The state department today made public the text of the joint note to the powers to China. The official statement follows: "Department of state Washington. The following English version understood to be in substantial equivalence with the French text of the note to be addressed to the government of China, as agreed upon by the representatives of the co-operating powers at Peking, December 4, 1900, and subsequently amended before signature:

"During the months of May, June, July and August, of the current year, serious disturbances broke out in the northern provinces of China, in which atrocious crimes unparalleled in history and outrages against the laws of nations, against the laws of humanity and against civilization were committed under particularly odious circumstances. The principal of these crimes were the following: "1--On the 20th of June, His Excellency Baron Von Kettler, while on his way to the Tsung Li Yamen, in the performance of his official functions, was murdered by soldiers of the regular army, acting under orders of their chiefs.

"2--The same date foreign legations were attacked and besieged. The attacks continued without intermission until the 14th of August, on which date the arrival of the foreign forces put an end to them. These attacks were made by the regular troops, who joined the Boxers, and who obeyed the orders of the court emanating from the imperial palace. At the same time the Chinese government officially declared by its representatives abroad that it guaranteed the security of the legations.

"3--On the 11th of June, Mr. Sujiaya, chancellor of the legation of Japan, while in the discharge of an official mission, was killed by regulars at the gates of the city. In Peking and in several provinces foreigners were murdered, tortured or attacked by the Boxers and the regular troops, such as escaped death owed their salvation solely to their own determined resistance. Their establishments were looted and destroyed.

"4--Foreign cemeteries, at Peking especially, were desecrated, the graves opened and the remains scattered abroad. "These occurrences necessarily led the foreign powers to dispatch their troops to China to the end of protecting the lives of their representatives and nationals and restoring order. During their march to Peking, the allied forces met with resistance from the Chinese army and had to overcome it by force.

ers. China to adopt financial measures acceptable to the powers for the purpose of guaranteeing the payment of the indemnities and the interest and a maintenance for the loans.

"7. The right for each power to maintain a permanent guard for its legation and to put the diplomatic quarters in a defensible condition, the Chinese have no right to reside in that quarter.

"8. The destruction of the forts which might obstruct free communication between Peking and the sea.

"9. The right to the military occupation of certain points to be determined in an understanding among the plenipotentiaries of the powers, in order to maintain open communication between the capital and the sea.

"10. The Chinese government to cause to be published during two years in the sub-prefecture an imperial decree (a) embodying a perpetual prohibition under penalty of death, of membership in any anti-foreign society; (b)--enunciating the punishments that shall have been inflicted on the guilty, together with the suspension of official examinations in the cities where foreigners have been murdered or have been subjected to cruel treatment; and (c)--furthermore, an imperial decree to be issued and published throughout the empire, ordering that the general-provincial (viceroys), governors, and provincial or local officials shall be responsible for the maintenance of order within their respective jurisdictions, that the event of renewed anti-foreign disturbances or any infractions of the treaty occurring and which shall not be due to the suppression and the guilty persons punished, they, the said officials, shall be immediately removed and for ever disqualified from holding any office in honor.

"11. The Chinese government to undertake to negotiate amendments to the treaties of commerce and navigation, and to select officials, particularly officers upon other matters pertaining to the commercial relations with the object of facilitating them.

"12. The Chinese government to determine in what manner to return the department of foreign affairs and to modify the court ceremonial, concerning the reception of foreign representatives to the manner to be indicated by the powers.

"Until the Chinese government has complied with the above conditions to the satisfaction of the foreign powers, no hold out no expectation that the occupation of Peking and the province of Chi Li by general forces can be brought to a conclusion."

GREAT BRITAIN WOULD LIKE GENERAL De WET FOR CHRISTMAS.

London, Dec. 22--General De Wet would be by far the most acceptable Christmas-box to the average Englishman, though there seems little likelihood of his wish being granted. The desire for the suppression of this wonderful Boer leader, however, is accompanied by generous admiration of his latest feat.

"It would be unworthy of the British name," says the Times, "to refuse the credit that is due to a feat of arms so brilliant as the unexpected dash backward of De Wet and his men through the British lines."

Other papers take the same view, comparing the ride to Springham's Nek with the charge at Balaklava. In fact, admiration for the extraordinary driving displayed by the Boers in this occasion almost predominates over the chagrin at the failure of the British officers to cope with their opponents. There is springing up a philosophic indifference to the incapacity of the generals in South Africa. Reverses have become the expected. Last Christmas society almost went crazy over plumplings and chocolate hampers sent to the soldiers on the veldt. This year they are not mentioned. In fact the public is unutterably weary of the long-drawn-out struggle, whose only interesting feature has been the sensational successes of De Wet.

THE INVADING BOERS Are Raiding Cape Colony Under Three Commandants.

Cape Town, Dec. 22--The Boer invaders of Cape Colony are commanded by Generals Heffag, Philipp Botha and Hansbroek. Besides the commandos already reported, a force has crossed at Zoutspan, to reinforce the Boers occupying Philippstown.

This in no way affects the government, whose determination to fight it out to the bitter end is evident from its decision to reinforce the already huge army in South Africa. Several members of the cabinet, however, would be heartily grateful were the Boer leaders to sue for peace.

The Niagara canal still fails to arouse any really deep interest here, as it is thoroughly understood that Great Britain will take no action in the near future and the Chinese negotiations are regarded more in the light of a monotonous farce than a serious problem.

More the question of the day is America's commercial rivalry, which, throughout the week, has been forming the basis for long analytical articles in the Express and Daily Mail, written by engineering and other experts, which retail the results of recent trips to the United States, under the headlines, "Wake up England," "Why we are falling behind," etc., reiterating that the English manufacturers lack initiative and are abroad in their conservatism, which is summed up in the following paragraph in one of the articles: "If the foregoing facts are unpalatable it is better they should be known than that the nation should continue to dream on in a fool's paradise until the next cycle of bad trade, when we may find our markets in the possession of others."

DRYDOCK BUILDING. Contractors and Officials Differ at Philadelphia.

Washington, Dec. 22--Rear Admiral Enderbush, chief of the bureau of yards and docks, has received the report of the special board, headed by Commander George A. Owens, which was appointed to look into certain disagreements between the contractors and the navy department concerning the construction of the League Island dock.

The dock was to be built originally of timber, but later it was decided to construct a stone dock. The contractors claimed that more money was needed for this reconstruction than the department was willing to allow. The board in its report recommends an increase of \$350,000 for the building of the stone concrete dock, this still being within the limit of cost allowed in the appropriation.

An order just issued by the navy department provides that hereafter the League Island yard shall be officially designated as the Philadelphia navy yard.

Frederickton, Dec. 23--(Special)--Bert Cropley, son of Major H. A. Cropley, who has been west for several years, arrived home yesterday, suffering from lung trouble. Christmas trade in this city is excellent and merchants are doing a thriving business. The country roads are in good condition and farmers are bringing produce in.

GERMANY NEEDS WATCHING. Russian Press Advises the Czar to Look After His Oriental Influence.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 22--Taking for its text the unconfirmed rumor that Germany has recently sent a fleet of submarines to the Persian Gulf the Novoye Vremye urges that the Russian government exercise external watchfulness upon Germany's progress and designs in the nearer Orient, declaring the latter's industrial and commercial activity to be a cloak for political plans.

DEATH SENTENCE PASSED. The Man Who Was Tried in a Cage Will Be Killed in a Chair.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 22--Judge Neff, in criminal court today, sentenced Edward Rusheven, colored, to be electrocuted April 12, 1901, for the murder of Patrolman Shipp, who discovered the negro in the act of burglarizing a residence. The negro, with a revolver in each hand, after a running battle, eluded the police. He was carried away Tuesday night and held in an iron cage while he was in court.

THE GIRL SCREAMED. Boston Thief Failed to Get a Thousand Dollars.

Boston, Dec. 22--A strange man today attempted to snatch from Miss Harriet Williams, bookkeeper for the A. L. Rand Company, a leather bag in which she carried \$1,000 in money, which was to pay the employees of the firm, but Miss Williams screamed and fought the man so energetically that he ran away and disappeared down a side street.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE VACANCY. Governor Wolcott's Death Responsible for a Unique Condition in the Massachusetts Quota.

Boston, Dec. 22--The death of former Governor Roger Wolcott makes a vacancy in the electoral college that is to cast the votes for Massachusetts for president and vice-president of the United States. Governor Wolcott was elected as one of the two electors at large at the November election.

It will be the first vacancy in the electoral college of Massachusetts occasioned by death in the revolution of the officials at the state house. But the law provides that in such a case, or in the absence of an elector, the president shall immediately choose from citizens of this commonwealth electors to complete the full quota.

The electors will meet at the state house on Saturday preceding the second Monday in January (January 12) at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and organize by the choice of a presiding officer and secretary.

The meeting will adjourn until January 14, when vacancies will be filled and vote by ballot for president and vice-president will be taken.

MESSAGE FROM VON WALDERSEE. Commandant of the Allies Reports Another One-sided Fight.

Berlin, Dec. 22--The following dispatch from Field Marshal Count Von Waldersee, dated Peking, Friday, Dec. 21, has been received here: "A column dispatched from Pao Tsi Fu commanded by Major Hain, engaged a force of Chinese regulars Dec. 16 at Yung Tsiang Si, 60 kilometers northward of Pao Tsi Fu. Our losses were one officer and two non-commissioned officers wounded. The Chinese losses were considerable.

"The column was sent Dec. 19 from Hien Tsin, commanded by Col. Gruber, to Hu Tien Tsai, 100 kilometers northward of Pao Tsi Fu.

London, Dec. 24--Dr. Morrison, writes to the Times from Peking Saturday, saying that official Chinese reports that the Chinese government declare that the joint note without "losing her face."

INEFFECTIVE SOLDIERS. Rebels Pillaging in Southern China.

Canton, Dec. 22--The rebels in the Wu Chou district descend from the hills and pillage the lowland people. The soldiers are unable to prevent their raids.

THE TURKISH BATTLESHIP. The Order Has Not Yet Been Placed With the Cramps.

Constantinople, Dec. 23--The expected imperial order authorizing the signature of the contract for the construction of a cruiser for the Ottoman navy by the Cramp Shipbuilding Company, Bremen, with the initial deposit of 2,000,000, has not yet been issued.

It appears that the German embassy has protested to the powers against the payment to the Cramps before the amount owing to Herr Krupp for naval guns has been paid.

A FATAL SPARK. A Baby Girl's Clothing Set Afire from a Kitchen Stove.

Bangor, Me., Dec. 22--Kathleen, the 18-month-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Collins, of Bangor, was fearfully burned this morning by her clothing taking fire from a spark from the kitchen stove. The child was playing near the stove with her young brothers and sisters, who tried to extinguish the flames by rolling her on a rug. When the mother, who had been upstairs, returned, she found her child badly burned; that the doctors have no hope of recovery.