

LORD ROBERTS IS IN KROONSTAD.

British Commander Enters the Town Without Opposition.

BOERS' UNCERTAIN MOVES.

Known Where They Will Stand—Get the Inniskillins in Another Trap—Fighting is Light.

London, May 12, 9:10 p. m.—Gen. Roberts has entered Kroonstad, meeting with no opposition.

London, May 12, 9:10 p. m.—The war has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

London, May 12, 9 a. m.—In eight miles south of Kroonstad, the Boers evacuated the first line of entrenchments during the night. We are now reconnoitering towards Kroonstad.

Gen. French's cavalry seized the Boers on the Vaal river at 4:30 last night, but in time to prevent passing before the Boers.

Boer movements uncertain. The Boers retreated, but it is impossible to say where they may turn up next day.

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A body of Boers has appeared at the mouth of the Ladybrand road.

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Capetown says that Gen. Sir Charles Warren has been gassed.

Warren has been gassed in the Orange river, with the exception of Kimberley.

No Government Armor Plant.

Washington, May 12.—The proposition to establish an armor plant was defeated, 22 to 24.

The detailed vote was as follows: Yeas—Hacon, Bates, Barry, Carter, Chandler, Cockrell, Daniel, Davis, Harris, Jones (Ark.), Jones (Tex.), Mallory, Money, Morgan, Nelson, Pettus, Spooner, Stewart, Teller, Thurston, Tillman, Vest—22.

Nays—Allison, Baker, Clark (Wyo.), Depew, Eklund, Fairbanks, Foraker, Foster, Frye, Hale, Hansbrough, Hawley, Hoar, Lodge, McBridge, McComas, McCumber, McNary, Penrose, Perkins, Proctor, Quarles, Ross, Shoup—24.

GOT A BIG VERDICT.

Woman Awarded \$25,000 for Loss of Her Husband's Affections.

Philadelphia, May 12.—The jury in the suit for damages brought by Mrs. Elizabeth G. Reading, of Williamsport, against Mrs. Anna Gamm, of the same place, today rendered a verdict in favor of the plaintiff awarding her \$25,000 damages.

STATUE OF LAFAYETTE.

School Children's Act the Subject of a Resolution.

Washington, May 12.—When the Senate convened today Mr. Davis reported from the committee on foreign relations a joint resolution respecting the unveiling of the statue of Lafayette at Paris, July 4, 1900.

The preamble recited that the school children of the United States had contributed \$50,000 for the statue and that the United States had added \$50,000 for the pedestal of the statue.

The resolution follows: "That the people of the United States anticipate and appreciate this ceremony with feelings of the greatest satisfaction and they regard the statue as expressing the nation and gratitude with which they cherish the memory of Lafayette and those of his countrymen by their arms and counsel assisted in securing the independence of the United States."

The President of the United States is hereby requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the government of France.

The resolution was agreed to. Mr. Cockrell (Mo.) gave notice that on Saturday, the 19th inst., he would ask the Senate to receive formally the statue of Lafayette and Blair and Missouri's contribution to Statuary Hall of the Capitol.

California's Prune Product.

San Jose, Cal., May 12.—According to the best figures obtainable California produced last year 10,000,000 pounds of prunes. Careful men who are engaged in the fruit business estimate that this year they produce this year 12,000,000 pounds. There are 7,000,000,000 pounds of prunes still on hand out of last year's crop.

The Cured Fruit association is endeavoring to get control of 99 per cent of the surplus. The officers believe that if this percentage is obtained the whole surplus can be marketed at not less than 3 cents. It is thought the surplus can be placed in foreign markets at small differential.

At the headquarters of the association today it was stated that some acreage was coming in but that the association was still much short of the necessary percentage.

Senator Lodge Challenged.

Washington, May 12.—In the course of a speech on the naval bill, Mr. Spooner (Wis.) challenged the statement of Mr. Lodge, made yesterday, that Germany was threatening the United States.

Mr. Lodge, he said, had it in the highest authority that there was never a time when more cordial relations existed between the United States and Germany than today.

Prosecuting the Ice Trust.

New York, May 12.—In police court today, Magistrate Zoller issued summonses against Charles W. Morse, Davis W. Hunt, John R. Bennett, John D. Schoenmaker, Wesley M. Oler, Charles B. Church, Edwin B. Campbell, John B. Jones, L. E. Keynanagh and Charles Devoe, officers and directors of the American Ice Co. (commonly known as the ice trust).

Those named are ordered to appear on Monday next, to show cause why they should not be proceeded against for conspiracy in combining to control the price and production of ice, contrary to law.

The summonses were sworn out by a representative of a morning newspaper.

Cowherd Renominated.

Kansas City, May 12.—At Independence today William S. Cowherd of Kansas City was renominated for Congress by acclamation by the Democratic convention of the fifth district.

WHAT CAUSED AWFUL EXPLOSION?

Consensus of Opinion Among the Scofield Miners—Immense Quantities of Dust Lifted Into the Air by a Disturbance and Ignited by a Blast or Defective Shot.

[SPECIAL TO THE "NEWS."] Scofield, May 10.—As the recent terrible calamity at Scofield recedes into the past, more and more interest centers around the all important question as to what caused the explosion.

The survivors, who are familiar with every condition in the mine, have almost finished their heroic task of rescuing the bodies, and had time to think, and their opinions are focused to one thing—dust.

The views of one man interviewed by the "News" staff correspondent sets out the views of dozens of others who have been interrogated.

WORKED ON A BIG SCALE.

"These mines, Nos. 1 and 4," said he, "have been worked on a big scale for many years, with the inevitable result that during all that time the dust has accumulated. Men and animals have walked through it until it has become a powder, and has been worn and ground and worn until it is grey. Coal miners will understand what that means. There was so much of this dust in the mine that any considerable disturbance—the rapid running of a car, for instance—would make the air cloudy with dust."

THE NAVY CONTRACT.

"Not long ago the company made a contract to supply the Southern Pacific with 2,000 tons of coal a day for use of the navy. I understand this was in addition to the ordinary output of the mine, and the force was largely increased shortly before the explosion to accomplish the big task. These extra exertions added new dust to the old, and there are places in the mine where a man will walk in dust up to his ankles."

ON THE DAY OF THE EXPLOSION.

"The shipments on the new contract were to have commenced on May 1, the day of the explosion, and the dust was everywhere. Heavy work was being done in various parts of the mine, and blasting was in progress at the part known as Pike's Peak. An unusually heavy blast lifted the dust into the air to such an extent that the electric lights seemed dim and faint."

"Just then, most likely, there was a blast of shot which ignited the dust suspended in the air, and a sheet of flame swept through the mine until air in which there was little dust was reached."

A SIMPLE ILLUSTRATION.

"If any one wishes to understand this phenomenon, let him take a handful of coal dust and toss it in the air at the same time holding out a lighted match. He will see this dust burn in the air like powder. That was this explosion on a minute scale. The immediate effect of the explosion was to burn up every bit of oxygen in the air, leaving poison for the men to breathe. That is the aftereffect. One man who was in the mine at the time of the explosion, and who has since been the strongest man, and a deep breath of it will render him unconscious. Death follows unless the unfortunate is instantly taken into pure air."

THE AFTERMATH.

"When the explosion occurred, and just what passed between Judge and attorney is therefore not clear. As much as Judge Norrell left the court room soon after and did not return during the day it is not known what action he will take beyond the fact that he has the request under consideration. It is believed that he will announce his decision on Monday."

A SPECIAL CALL FOR A GRAND JURY

City Attorney Stephens Requests Judge Norrell to Have One Impaneled Immediately, to Investigate the Conduct of Leading Police Officials.

There was a decidedly new and serious turn in the police investigation today when City Attorney Stephens went down to the criminal branch of the Third district court and made formal written request upon Judge Norrell to impanel a special grand jury to investigate the conduct of leading officials of the police and health departments of this city, in making forcible physical examination of the three young girls in the case to which attention was directed by the "News" a few days ago. The request was made in chambers.

DR. DALBY'S DENIAL.

Reaffirms His Statement Made to the "News" Two Days Ago.

Dr. Dalby is anything but pleased over the effort to make it appear that while he was health commissioner, he had made examinations such as made by Dr. King. This, of course, he emphatically denied to the "News" two days ago, and reaffirmed in the following card to this paper today:

"At the investigation held yesterday afternoon by the police and fire committee of the City Council, brought about by an order of the chief of police to examine Pearl Kessler, Hattie Dahl and Clara Carney as to their moral and physical status, the chief of police is quoted as saying (probably in an effort to establish a precedent) that I had made similar examinations."

I simply wish to emphatically deny this statement and to say that I am not aware of a similar case here or elsewhere.

AS TO THE KESSLER GIRL.

Makes a Tearful Statement Regarding Her Daughter.

Mrs. Kessler, the mother of Pearl Kessler, one of the three girls taken to the police station, called at the "News" today and related a tearful story of the affair. Her daughter was but twelve years of age and, she says, compelled to wear a mechanical contrivance to support her on account of physical weakness. To the charge that the child was unchaste she entered a most vigorous denial and declared that Dr. King had never stated in the police, as alleged by the latter, that she was immoral. In proof of this she produced this certificate from Dr. King himself:

"This is to certify that I have never said that Pearl Kessler was not virtuous."

It will be remembered that it was this little girl who was said to be bad while the other two were pronounced virtuous. It now transpires that she, too, cannot be considered immoral. At least Dr. King officially declares, after examination, that he has not pronounced her so.

WENT TO SLEEP AT HIS POST.

Result Was a Frightful Accident on the B. & O. R. R.

77 CARS IN THE COLLISION.

Trainmen Killed and Bodies Burned—Four Oil Cars Explode—Seven Deaths—Firemen Injured.

Philadelphia, May 12.—Frank Lantel, a tower operator in the employ of the B. & O. Railroad company, stationed at the entrance of the tunnel under 25th street, just outside of Fairmount Park, it is claimed slept at his post. As a result, a disastrous rear-end freight collision occurred early today in the tunnel, causing the death of Engineer George Leeb and Fireman Geo. Hinchman, and it is believed five tramps, who were stealing a ride.

Fire followed the wreck and a dozen or more firemen were injured, while fighting the flames, and are now in the hospitals. All of the dead were still in the wreckage this forenoon, and the fire department was unable to extinguish the flames, which slowly consumed the demolished cars.

Operator Lantel disappeared and the police are looking for him. The vicinity of the tunnel after the accident became the scene of wild excitement. No one could approach nearer than within 200 feet of either opening, owing to the volume of flame and smoke which issued therefrom.

The fast New York bound express freight train of 35 cars reached the tunnel on time and slowed down so that some of the cars could be shifted. The second section of the same train, composed of 29 cars, was due about ten minutes later. It was Tupperman Lantel's duty to signal the second section, as the first had stopped in the tunnel. This Lantel failed to do, having, it is said, fallen asleep. The second section approached the tunnel at a rapid rate of speed, and crashed with full force into the first section. Engineer Leeb and Fireman Hinchman of the second section were immediately crushed to death, and the cars, piled in an indiscriminate mass, began to burn. Four oil cars exploded, feeding the flames. A fire alarm was sent in and firemen immediately began an endeavor to extinguish the flames. No attempt was made to rescue the bodies of the dead, as it was impossible to get near the point where they lay. The loss to the company is estimated at \$100,000.

Four firemen, who were the most seriously injured, are: John Jordan, inhaling gas, may die. John McKernan, burns and internal injuries. Jos. Davis, burned. Charles Ray, burned.

Twenty additional firemen have been treated for minor injuries. Each of the oil cars contained about 4,000 gallons and the burning oil spread with great rapidity to the other cars. The point where the collision occurred is about midway in the tunnel. The latter is about 3,800 feet long and extends along Twenty-fifth street to the edge of Fairmount Park, close to the famous Washington monument at the Green street park entrance. Up to noon the fire was not under control and the firemen were experiencing the greatest difficulty in fighting the flames. Dense volumes of smoke issued from both ends of the tunnel and from holes which had been cut from the street through the roof and the firemen could not penetrate but a short distance before they were forced to return. Several attempts were made to reach the spot where the bodies are believed to be located, but without success, and it is the opinion they have been burned beyond hope of being identified.

Day Watchman Geo. J. Robertson is authority for the statement that Operator Lantel was asleep at his post.

KILLED BY A HIGHWAYMAN.

Thief Ordered Him to Hold Up His Hands, but He Did Not Obey.

Kansas City, Mo., May 12.—A Star special from Joplin, Mo., says: J. H. Patten was killed instantly at midnight in Wall street by unknown robbers, highwaymen, and J. N. Glade, Patten's brother-in-law, was wounded slightly. The men were going home when commanded by two men to throw up their hands.

Glade complied, but Patten began firing. The highwaymen returned the fire and escaped.

With Transatlantic Liners.

New York, May 12.—Arrived: Maine, from Bremen. Philadelphia, May 11.—Sailed: Pennsylvania, for Liverpool. Liverpool, May 12.—Arrived: Lucania, New York. New York—Arrived: Michigan, London.

Harvey Patent Called a Fraud.

Washington, May 12.—During the consideration of the naval appropriation bill Mr. Chandler made the following statement:

"I believe and I am prepared to show that the Harvey patent was a fraud, and that it was imposed upon the patent office and upon the government by subterfuge if not by dishonesty. When the government refused to pay more than \$30 a ton for Harvey armor, the combined armor manufacturers of the world endeavored to obtain by subterfuge or by injustice another armor, which they offered us, with any merit whatever, except that it is harder than the Harvey armor. Accompanying the report is the assertion that Prof. McKim has indicated that he would be pleased to consider the name of some brotherhood man that the railroad employees of the country could enforce. The railroad men are inclined to endorse other Grand Master Frank P. Sargeant or Grand Secretary and Treasurer Frank W. Arnold for the place."

Ratchford Resigns.

Peoria, Ill., May 12.—News is received here that former Pres. Ratchford of the Mine Workers' union of the United States has resigned his position with the labor combination. Accompanying the resignation is the statement that Pres. McKim has indicated that he would be pleased to consider the name of some brotherhood man that the railroad employees of the country could enforce. The railroad men are inclined to endorse other Grand Master Frank P. Sargeant or Grand Secretary and Treasurer Frank W. Arnold for the place.

UTAH BOYS RE-ENLISTING.

Several of Them Anxious to Return to the Philippines.

It appears that a considerable number of the Utah battery boys who did service in the Philippines as volunteers are not only willing but anxious to enlist in the regular army. A few days ago blanks were mailed from Fort Douglas to the returned volunteers and today the following were examined and accepted for re-enlistment: Michael Morris, Alma George, August Elynsberg and William Edwards. Theodore Cleghorn also contemplated re-enlistment, but has evidently changed his mind. Charles Jones of Missouri was also accepted today. These men will appear in without delay and sent on to the Presidio preparatory to leaving for the Philippines.

THE CITY CREEK PIPE LINE.

P. J. Moran's Bid Practically Rejected by the City Council.

The construction of an independent pipe line from the brick tank in City Creek canyon, to the intersection of West and South Temple streets, received a horrible shock at the hands of the City Council last evening.

On March 27 last the board of public works submitted to the council the form of a contract with P. J. Moran, the lowest bidder, and recommended its approval.

The matter was laid over, after a heated debate, in view of the subject of politics cut quite a figure. Under the head of "unfinished business" it came up again last evening and upon motion of Councilman Edgar Howe the contract and bond together with the board's communication were read and filed. This disposes of the question for the present, at least, and if anything further is done in the matter it will necessitate the readvertising for bids.

Mr. Moran's bid was something over \$60,000.

SAMUEL L. SPRAGUE DEAD.

Died at His Home Last Evening From Pneumonia.

The friends of Samuel Linzey Sprague will be surprised and pained to learn that he is dead. The end came at his residence, No. 44 State street, last evening at 5:30 o'clock, and was caused by pneumonia, aggravated by paralysis.

His funeral will take place from the First Presbyterian church on Tuesday afternoon beginning at 2 o'clock. The deceased was widely known throughout Utah. He was a native of Massachusetts, where he was born March 23, 1842. He was the son of Dr. Sprague, who came to Utah as a member of the "Mormon" Church in 1848, and grew to manhood here. Shortly after he was 20 years old he went to Scandinavia on a mission, and while there performed a most excellent work. His name and memory are held in affectionate remembrance by very many of the old Scandinavian Saints. He was president pro tem of the Scandinavian mission from April 15th to August 1st, 1864, and as such was nominally editor of the "Scandinavian" at Stjerne, but was never connected with the Millennial Star in any way, as set forth by a morning paper.

On May 29, 1866, Elder Sprague set sail from Hamburg in charge of six hundred and eighty-four Saints on the sailing vessel Kenilworth. Elder Joseph H. Felt of this city, who was familiar with Elder Sprague's four years' work in Scandinavia, said he was one of the most zealous and highly respected missionaries he ever knew.

In later years he was associated in the work of making surveys for the Union Pacific, and was for a considerable period deputy marshal during which time he was known as the "red days" in Utah history. He served under United States Marshals Maxwell, Nelson, Shaughnessy, Ireland, Dyer, Parsons, and Brigham, and much of the time acted as bailiff of the Third district court. He was generally known as a "white deputy," and performed many kindly acts in the discharge of his official duties that will be long remembered by those who were the beneficiaries of them. For a good many years he had been alienated from the Church on account of physical infirmities which he seemed unable to overcome. He, however, never severed his connection from that body, nor would he do so.

In 1885 he married Anna M. daughter of William H. Kimball and granddaughter of Heber C. Kimball. His April 15th to children, L. E. Sprague, Mrs. Percy Saddle, Winnifred Sprague, Hugh B. Sprague and Milton S. Sprague survive him. Hugh, who has been in attendance at a Philadelphia College of pharmacy, has been summoned home to attend the funeral.

This morning's session was occupied

MRS. R. W. YOUNG ON THE WAY HOME

Her Sojourn in the Philippines Not as Long as Anticipated—Will Arrive Soon—Weather Hot at Manila.

This morning's mail from Manila brought a letter to Mr. C. S. Burton, which will convey surprising and gratifying tidings to the many friends of Mrs. R. W. Young and her family.

Mr. Burton's letter was from the Manila itself, and among other items says that perhaps the letter will not arrive in Utah much sooner than Mrs. Young and her daughters, as they were to leave Manila for home about the same time that the mail steamer left.

They were to start for San Francisco, and from there to leave Manila on the 15th of April, or falling short, on the Meade, which was to sail on the 20th.

His little son Richard, whose health was not of the best, had been sent by the other route, having been placed in charge of a friend on a tramp steamer, which would go through the Suez canal, bound for New York, where the little fellow will be left in care of his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Young, Mrs. Major Young and her daughters will spend a brief time with Mr. and Mrs. Will Clawsen in San Francisco before coming home.

Major Young adds that his wife's health has improved, but that she still had occasional spells of illness. The weather was at the boiling point in Manila, which was probably his reason for wishing to send his family home.

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