

GRAVEST KIND OF NEWS FROM NATAL

Gen. Buller Said to be in Full Retreat—War Office Refuses to Deny or Confirm the Report Current in London.

Officials Say They Have Nothing for Publication—War Defense Committee Meeting—Heavy Losses at Spion Kop Not Yet Reported—Claim that Gen. Warren was Enticed, then Beaten, with a Loss of 17 Guns—Said that Buller Must Retreat—Alleged Loss of 2,300 British Not Believed—No Official Report of Catastrophe—Bad Effect of Gen. Buller's Dispatch—Bottom Knocked Out of Gen. Warren's Tactics—Mafeking is Relieved—Boer Account of Fight.

London, Jan. 27.—It is said that the German foreign office has confirmation of the report that Gen. Warren's division has been crushed.

London, Jan. 27.—The defense committee of the war office met this afternoon, Lord Salisbury presiding.

There are reiterated rumors that the German foreign office has confirmation of the report that Gen. Warren's division has been crushed.

It is impossible to confirm or deny the reports, as the officials maintain silence as to the rumors. They say they have nothing for publication.

It is evident, however, from the war office announcements that the casualties reported by Gen. Buller occurred in the Lyttelton's brigade, which apparently was not engaged at Spion Kop, that there has been severe fighting not far from Mafeking.

Mr. Michael Hicks-Beach, the chancellor of the exchequer, came to London yesterday to attend the defense committee meeting, and Joseph Chamberlain, secretary of state for the colonies, gave up other engagements for the same reason.

Lord Wolseley, the commander-in-chief of the forces, was also present at the meeting of the committee.

At 3 p. m.—The war office has decided to embody two additional militia battalions and another battery of artillery.

Jan. 27.—Some of the papers here claim to have a telegram from Berlin saying that Gen. Warren was enticed into Spion Kop, where the Boers fell upon him, that seventeen of his battalions were captured, and that Buller's heavy retreat over the Tugela river alone can save him.

The alleged Pretoria telegram adds that the British losses were 800 men killed and 1,500 wounded. The dispatch comes through Brussels, and does not receive much credence in this city.

London, Jan. 27, 1:15 p. m.—The war office has no news of the catastrophe to Gen. Buller's force reported from Berlin and discredits the story. Neither the war office nor the government is at present publishing the abandonment of Spion Kop, and there are no intimations in this connection from British sources. The evacuation today is regarded as not so serious as at first thought and commentators are abusing the military authorities both at the front and at home for publishing untrue accounts of an incomplete, half-hearted operations thus alternately lifting and depressing the nation.

The afternoon papers describe the general dispatch as unpleasant reading for the British people, intensely humiliating to the national pride and damaging to the country's prestige and indignantly denouncing the gazetting of the present time of reports which the St. James Gazette says, "displays academic triviality, not uncommonly found in combination with conceit, practical incapacity, and passing to sneering when they ought to rebuke, and kind with the slang of Kipling's 'Soldiers'."

The St. James Gazette sums up its position as follows:

"These dispatches sweat the folly which has prevailed throughout the campaign has covered and which has its full usual title of lives and men."

There are signs of important movements developing in the north of Cape Colony. General French has succeeded in getting in touch with Gen. Gatacre, who is believed to be the ground work of Lord Roberts' plan of campaign.

The war office announces that the casualties reported by General Buller occurred in the Lyttelton's brigade, which apparently was not engaged at Spion Kop. It appears, therefore, that the war office is not at all convinced that the Boers are having success at Spion Kop.

New York, Jan. 27.—Dispatches from London say that the military experts, the newspapers and the people in the street take a gloomy view of the situation.

WATSON MAKES REPORT.

Tell How Filipinos Were Beaten—Other News.

Washington, Jan. 27.—Admiral Watson has cabled the following account to the navy department of the participation of the navy in General Kobbe's successful campaign through the islands south of Luzon, which contain most of the hemp ports of the archipelago:

"On Jan. 27.—Kobbe's expedition to southern Luzon, conveyed by the Nautilus, the Helena and the Marivales, a complete success. Sorogoon, Donald, Bulha, Virac and Legaspe were taken and carried. Legaspe was captured Tuesday after sharp fighting, the Nautilus co-operating inside of five hundred yards. Private Marine Franklin was wounded and on board the Nautilus Capt. Bradley and five others, none seriously. Fifty-one dead Filipinos in the trench. Capt. Rodgers commands Moore, of the Helena, Clifton, of the Marivales, Meale, Cook, Yuell, Castellan and Cadet Evans for services rendered during the expedition."

WATSON.

The admiral reports the following deaths in the fleet:

Lawrence Orson Adams, apprentice of the Solace; W. P. Wilker, ordinary seaman, of the Whaling; Henry Thomas, landsman, of the Bonnington; James Franklin, ordinary seaman, of the Sistine, and P. C. Fenney, private marine, of the New Orleans.

Washington, Jan. 27.—Admiral Watson reports this morning that he has taken possession of Isabela cooling station.

PRICES OF COMMODITIES STEEL GOING UP.

Dark Side of Prosperous Times is Now in Full View—Farmers Are Hit the Hardest, as they Get Lower Prices for their Products and Have to Pay Much More for their Supplies Than Formerly—The Bread Winners are Hit Hard—Printing Paper Jumped Up from Twenty to Fifty Per Cent—A Blow to Publishing Houses—Iron and Steel Breaking Records—Dry Goods and Groceries Advancing—Agricultural Implements Show a Big Advance—Effect of the Jump in the Price of Wool—The Price of Paint and Glass Soaring Skyward—Drugs are Also Up—The Picture Business.

That prosperity has its dark as well as its bright side, is coming home with telling force to many Utah people and institutions at the present time. No where has the advance in the price of all the necessities of life been felt harder than in the farming communities where wheat is just now at the lowest price known for months past. The farmer thus sees his income enormously cut down, and his outgo prodigiously increased. In the cities it is not much better; all the commodities of life have steadily gone up, and wages, except in a few instances, have remained at a standstill.

The latest instance of jumping prices has come in the case of paper. Every publishing house in Salt Lake from now on, or at the expiration of existing contracts, will have to pay an advance of from 20 to 30 per cent over last year's prices on the common white paper used in turning out papers, books and magazines. As Salt Lake is a big publishing center for papers, books and pamphlets of all kinds, it can be seen that the additional tax will be a heavy one; of course, as in the case of all other lines of merchandise, the added cost will have to be put on the goods, and people who buy papers, books, magazines and pamphlets, as well as stationary of all kinds, will simply have to make up their minds to pay more for them than they have hitherto done.

In Denver, as the dispatches state, the papers are up in arms over the advance, and resolutions have been adopted against the paper trust, and calling on Congress to admit wood pulp and all other materials that enter into the manufacture of paper, free of duty. Whether the advance in prices is due entirely to a trust or not, cannot be judged so well here as in Denver, but it is a somewhat singular fact that there has been an entire absence of traveling men for paper houses since January 1, with one solitary exception, and needless to state, that solitary exception has "bagged" all the contracts in sight. Firms here desiring bids too, from other paper houses by mail, have been informed with singular unanimity that "seeing to the demands in their own localities they were unable to take any further orders at the present time." So that the single paper house in the field has only had itself to compete with.

ADVANCE IN STAPLES.

Merchants report that the advance in the price of staple goods continues. Iron and steel in their various forms still hold the record and in all classes of hardware there is an increase of from 10 to 20 per cent, as compared with last year. While this is not noticed so much by the man who buys a paper of tacks, he soon feels it when he commences building. This has been one of the factors in making the cost of building so high during the past few months.

TINWARE UP.

Tinware, in sympathy with iron, has jumped amazingly, while crockery is steadily advancing, the increase running from 10 to 25 per cent.

GROCERIES JUMP.

All classes of groceries are higher and here is where the manufacturers seem to make the biggest haul. By combining, they have arbitrarily advanced all classes of canned goods from 10 to 30 per cent, and it is claimed that they are under no more expense in putting these goods on the market than they were a year ago. The wages of iron and steel workers all over the United States have been advanced, so that in these industries the laborers participate in the increased price of the product, but

merchants say that this is not true of the workmen in canned goods factories.

DRIED FRUITS.

Dried fruits are higher than they have been in years and the better grades of these goods may now be classed as luxuries.

Dried and canned meats are up 25 per cent.

DRY GOODS.

Dry goods show an advance that is steadily growing sharper, and this increase is one that hits the bread winners directly, for it runs through every grade of material.

ADVANCE IN WOOL.

Woolens are climbing steadily, although perhaps the big jump has not yet come. The advance in the price of wool to 20 cents has had a peculiar effect on the market, manufacturers in the east using less wool and more cotton, and in a measure overcoming the advance by turning out an inferior product.

As an illustration of what a trust can do for itself, one example may be given. The price of sewing thread has been advanced at least 25 per cent. This cuts practically no difference in the price of a few spoils of thread, but when the entire amount of it used in Salt Lake in a year is considered, and a clear gain of 25 per cent over last year's profits received by the manufacturers, and the same rule applied to every city in America, it will be seen that the aggregate profits must reach an immense figure.

Rubbers have taken a jump lately, the lists showing an advance of not less than 20 per cent all along the line.

EASTERN MADE SHOES.

Eastern shoe manufacturers have fallen in line and on all heavy goods an advance of above 25 cents a pair is announced.

BIG HOUSES HELPING OUT.

Salt Lake is fortunate in some respects, and the pressure has not been so keenly felt so far as it promises to be soon. Such houses as Z. C. M. L. Auerbach's and the Walker Bros. Dry Goods Co. all had big stocks on hand when the jump came, and they had so far their prices on dry goods have been kept as near the basis on which they were bought, regardless of the increase, as possible. But the purchases that have to be made right along by the dealers are all new at an advance of from 15 to 20 per cent, and it will only be a short time when the full pressure of high prices will be felt.

Cutler Bros., manufacturers of and dealers in wooden goods, have only increased prices on those lines 10 per cent, because their wool was bought before that article jumped up to 20 per cent and a part of that is being used along with the 20 cent wool to make an average. But as Mr. Cutler stated this morning, it will be but a comparatively short time when all the wool bought at low prices is used up and then an advance will be inevitable.

WAGONS AND FARM IMPLEMENTS.

The Co-op Wagon and Machine company reports an advance of from 5 to 30 per cent on manufactured goods in which iron and wood is used. Manufactured iron, such as pipe, etc., is up over 300 per cent, while barbed wire is just about what it formerly was. Standard wagons and buggies cost from \$10 to \$15 each more than formerly. The advance in this class of goods falls almost entirely upon the farmer, who is thus carrying the double burden of low prices for his supplies and high prices for his products.

LUMBER ONE-THIRD MORE.

The increase in the price of lumber has cost the citizens of Utah, said a conservative dealer yesterday, at least a million dollars more than they paid during the last year over and above what they would have paid had not the advance been made.

been made. The increase is general in all kinds of lumber and lumber furnishings. In the plain materials it is not so great as in the finer. The former now cost about fifteen to twenty per cent more than heretofore, while the latter has gone up from twenty-five to forty per cent, this making a general average advance of about thirty-three and one-third per cent.

GLASS TRUST IN TROUBLE.

The article of ordinary glass is one that has witnessed some sudden ups and downs during the past year, owing to the existence of the glass trust—or as those interested prefer to term it, the glass "combination." Mr. Bennett, manager of the Sears Glass and Paint company, states that glass had advanced up till last December 40 per cent in price, during the previous two years. About two-thirds of the glass producers of the country were in the combination, the other one-third remaining out, and the majority, seeing that they could not persuade the minority to join in the combine gave notice that all prices would be reduced on Dec. 15th last. Prices thereupon tumbled back 35 or 40 per cent, so that glass is now among the rare exceptions to the prevailing increases. The action of the trust, however, was a very severe one on the merchants who had loaded up with stocks prior to Dec. 15th, and while the public today is receiving the benefit of the war between the big and little end of the combination, it can be set down as certain that the relief will only be a temporary one, and that as soon as an entire combination can be effected glass prices will shoot up skyward along with those of other commodities.

As to plate glass, that has taken a skyrocket jump, that is, it has been going up and up for the past two years until it is now beyond the reach of many who at one time were able to put it into their buildings. Said Mr. Bennett today: "The increase in plate glass has been 275 per cent. Only dealers and builders can appreciate what this means. We used to pay about \$3,000 for a car of plate glass, whereas we now pay from \$9,000 to \$10,000."

PAINTS AND OILS.

The advance in paints and oils have also been marked, ranging from 10 to 50 per cent.

DRUGS AND MEDICINES.

Sickness isn't classed as a luxury, but it costs a good deal more to get sick now than it used to. If you buy quinine, you will do it at an advance of about twenty-five per cent, and then the druggist doesn't get as much profit as he used to. All prescriptions containing mercury will cost twenty-five per cent more than formerly and cocaine has gone up at least 100 per cent. The general advance in every class of drugs is from fifteen to twenty per cent and this also applies to patent medicines.

THE PICTURE BUSINESS.

The increased cost of things is not confined to the absolute necessities, though they are most effected. The advance goes into every ornament and embellishment that enters into the furnishing of a home. Take, for instance, pictures. Speaking of them this afternoon Mr. C. R. Savage said: "The prices in picture-making have made altitudinal flights along with everything else. Picture mouldings have increased sixty per cent, the glue which holds them together forty per cent, the whitening which is put upon the wood twenty per cent, the putty which is used to fill in the cracks and obliterate defects twenty per cent, the oil, the paper on which the picture is painted thirty per cent, the glass that covers it fifty per cent, the screw eyes which go into the frame one hundred and twenty-five per cent, the wire by which it is held one hundred and twenty-five per cent, and the brass hooks or nails by which the picture is hung one hundred and fifty per cent."

MEANS A CHANGE IN GOVERNORS.

Vote in the Kentucky Legislature a Prelude to the Ousting of Taylor and Seating of Goebel as Governor.

Republican Holder of the Office Must Go Out—Test Vote of Strength in the Legislature Made in the Contest of Van Meter vs Berry—Both Parties Claimed Success, and Majority of Committee Favored Berry, Republican—Legislature Adopted Report of Minority, Giving Van Meter, Democrat, the Seat—Gubernatorial Case Will Go the Same Road, in Favor of Goebel, Democrat—How the Result Was Brought About.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 27.—The case of Van Meter (Dem.) against Berry (Rep.) for the latter's seat in the legislature, was decided in favor of Van Meter by a vote of 51 to 42. This vote, Republicans and Democrats admit, is an accurate forecast of the vote in the Goebel-Taylor contest.

As goes the vote on the Van Meter-Berry contest in the house of representatives so will in all probability go the vote in the Goebel-Taylor contest.

Both sides seemed to be confident of the result, the Democrats claiming that out of 99 votes to be cast they would have 53 at the least estimate, against 46 for the Republicans. The latter claimed 52 against a Democratic maximum of 47. On a strict party vote there are in the house 59 Democrats, including Speaker Trimble, and 41 Republicans. Of the Democrats Orr, Willingham, Cochran and Grider were expected to vote with the Republicans, giving them 44 sure votes as Berry could not vote for himself. In addition they claimed Bagby, Lafferty, weatherford and possibly Hinder, with some others whose names they would not give.

The Democrats tried in vain to pair Mr. Sledge, who was unable to attend the house proceedings today, but the Republicans refused, on the allegation that Mr. Watson, while paired with an absent Republican last week, did not keep faith with him.

Mr. Burkamp, who presented the majority report in favor of Mr. Berry (Rep.) delivered his argument in favor of the adoption of the report.

Representative Holland delivered the argument in favor of the adoption of the minority report, presented by Mr. Rawlins, the latter being ill.

At the conclusion of Mr. Holland's argument Mr. Finn (Dem.) moved the previous question which was the adoption of the majority report.

Mr. Lafferty (Dem.) rose to make a personal explanation. He said it had been reported that he was on the floor in defense of Mr. Berry. He denied this, saying that he proposed to vote in defense of himself and would vote as he thought right.

Mr. Lafferty was not allowed to finish his statement, the Democrats objecting. Under the rules of the house Mr. Burkamp, the mover of the resolution, had thirty minutes to speak to his motion. He was given the floor and announced he wished to divide his time with Mr. Slack (Rep.). The speaker ruled that he could not divide his time. A motion made by Mr. Slack to adjourn was lost by a large majority.

After several motions had been made by Republican members to reconsider, to take a recess of thirty minutes, and for an extension of the debate, all of which were ruled out of order by Speaker Trimble as being dilatory, Mr. Burkamp took the floor for his thirty minutes, allowed him under the rules of the house.

At the conclusion of Mr. Burkamp's address, the speaker called the question which he declared to be the substitution of the minority report for that of the majority, the minority presented by Mr. Rawlins, the only Democratic member of the committee, unseating Mr. Berry. The vote in favor of the minority report was 51 to 46. The Democrats voting with the Republicans were Cochran, Grider, Hinton, Orr and Willingham. Sledge (Dem.) was absent, and Speaker Trimble did not vote.

A resolution to adopt the majority report as amended by the minority report was adopted 51 to 42, and Mr. Van Meter was declared a member of the assembly.

The house adjourned until Monday morning at 11 o'clock.

APPLICATIONS MADE FOR UTAH.

Indian Bill Carries Amounts Aggregating \$14,490 for Indian School in Southern Utah and Uintah and Ouray Reservations.

[SPECIAL TO THE "NEWS."]
Washington, D. C., Jan. 27.—The Indian appropriation bill reported to the House contains the following items of interest to Utah:

For general service in the Indian department in Utah: \$3,000.
For support of Indian school in southern Utah: \$8,690.
For service in Utah and Ouray reservations: \$1,800.

MONEY FOR PUBLIC BUILDING.

Salt Lake's Present Limit of Cost Raised on the Treasury List to the Proposed Limit of \$500,000—Other Cities Increased.

Washington, Jan. 27.—Chairman Meyer of the House committee on public buildings and grounds has received from Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Taylor a detailed statement of the additional amounts required for public buildings now under construction throughout the country, on account of the large rise in building material. The list shows the present limit of cost and the proposed limit as follows:

City	Present Limit	Proposed Limit
Boise, Idaho	\$150,000	\$300,000
Bufile, Mont.	\$200,000	\$300,000
Helena, Mont.	\$200,000	\$300,000
Oakland, Cal.	\$250,000	\$350,000
Salem, Ore.	\$100,000	\$150,000
Salt Lake, Utah	\$300,000	\$500,000
Seattle, Wash.	\$200,000	\$300,000

the double purpose of their visit being apprehension for the health of Mr. Armour III, and a desire to be near Philip D. Armour, Sr., who had preceded them with his wife a fortnight ago.

Philip D. Armour, the elder, whose health is not of the best, had taken a residence in Pasadena, and his son went to Santa Barbara, 75 miles distant, believing the climate there would be of greater benefit to his child's health. Mr. Armour the younger leased a winter residence and so far as reports were received, he at no time was ill after his arrival there until the sudden malady which ended last night in his death.

Denver Building Collapses.

Denver, Colo., Jan. 27.—One half three story building at 1437 and 1439 Lawrence street occupied by W. A. Hoyer & Co., wholesale druggists, collapsed today, the three floors above the street level, with their contents dropping into the basement. The city building inspector, after a hasty examination of the ruins, said that the building had been over-loaded, causing the joists to break.

Mr. Hoyer said the firm carried a stock worth about \$125,000, and that its loss would not fall short of \$50,000. Nobody was injured.

THEY BLEW OPEN THE SAFE

Robbers Blind and Gag Factory Employes, and Stole \$1,700.

Used Dynamite on the Safe—Explosion Wrecked the Office, Arousing the Neighborhood.

Chicago, Jan. 27.—Three masked robbers entered the factory of Dr. Peter Fahrney and Sons last night, bound and gagged four employes of the concern, blew open the safe and escaped with \$1,700 in currency and a considerable amount in notes and valuable papers. The explosion shattered the safe and made a complete wreck of the office. The whole neighborhood was aroused.

Frank Murphy, chief engineer for the company, and Samuel Lower, the electrician, with two laborers, were at work in the basement when the trio entered. The leader of the robbers covered the workmen with two revolvers while his companions bound them with telegraph wire. One of the robbers stood guard over the prisoners for nearly an hour while his accomplices blew open the safe.

Eulogies on Deceased Members.

Washington, Jan. 27.—After transacting minor routine business the House turned its attention to eulogies on deceased members. The date of February 10, heretofore fixed for eulogies on the late Representative Settle, of Kentucky, was vacated, the time for the exercises to be fixed later. Eulogies were then pronounced on the late Representative Baird, of Louisiana. Those who spoke were Representatives Lammie, (Ga.); Eldy, (Minn.); Bartlett, (Ga.); Meekins, (O.); Meyer, (La.); Clayton, (Ala.); Wheeler, (Ky.); Broussard, (La.); Henry, (Tex.); and Epes, (Va.).

Brazilian Fleet to Acre.

Rio Janeiro, Jan. 27.—Brazilian gunboats Juarezma, Jutahy, Limbra and

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