

CONFLAGRATION IN PHILADELPHIA.

Great Publishing Firm of J. B. Lippincott & Co. Suffers to the Extent of \$1,125,000.

Other Losses Make the Total \$2,000,000—Spark from Electric Light Wire Starts the Blaze—Lippincott's Big House in Ruins in an Hour—Place was a Mass of Flames when the Firemen Reached it—Their Work Greatly Hampered by a Tangle of Trolley, Telephone and Telegraph Wires Overhead—Several Firemen Injured—2,000 Persons Thrown Out of Employment—Second Fire Breaks Out while the Big Blaze is in Full Swing—One Man Severely Hurt.

Philadelphia, Nov. 29.—An electric spark in the basement of Patridge & Richardson's big department store Nos. 11 to 29 North Eighth street started a fire this morning that in less than four hours had in ashes nearly four blocks of business houses and caused an estimated loss of over \$3,000,000. The greatest losers are:

J. B. Lippincott & Co., book publishers, 715 to 720 Filbert street, whose big brick building containing rare and valuable plates and machinery was completely gutted, involving a loss estimated by a member of the firm at \$1,125,000.

The next heaviest loser was Patridge & Richardson, extending south on Filbert street from Filbert a distance of about 125 feet with a depth of 100 feet. Their loss on building and contents is estimated at \$500,000.

Li Brothers, whose department store adjoins the Lippincott building, estimated their loss at \$400,000.

In addition to the big houses mentioned numerous smaller stores were gutted or badly damaged.

Chief among these were Bailey's five and ten cent store, North Eighth street, No. 200; Rosenberg's millinery establishment North Eighth street, loss \$100,000.

The loss on these buildings is \$300,000. Various other establishments were severely damaged by smoke and water. The burned district covers nearly an entire block.

Li Brothers' store has a frontage on Filbert street from Eighth to within a few feet of Seventh street. This portion of the building was not damaged by the fire which adjoins the Lippincott building suffered severely.

On Filbert street between Patridge & Richardson's store on Eighth street and Lippincott's on Filbert street were several small buildings which were destroyed. It was from these that the flames communicated with the publisher's house. On Eighth street between Patridge & Richardson's and Bailey & Rosenberg's were the Bailey and Rosenberg stores.

The blaze was discovered by Watchman Fanning, who observed an electric light in the basement of Patridge & Richardson's store emitting sparks. This was at 6:25 o'clock. He transmitted an alarm but before the department responded the building was a mass of flames. Owing to the inflammable nature of the stock the blaze spread rapidly. Fire alarms were sent out, halting out the entire fire department.

COMING OF THE DENVER TEAM.

The High School "Coach" Telegraphs the "News" that the Varsity are in Fine Fettle, and that There Will be a Battle Royal Tomorrow.

Great interest is being taken in Salt Lake today over the football game scheduled in this city for tomorrow between the Denver team, which will arrive here tonight, and the High School team, and a good deal of money has been placed on the result. J. Allen Hunt, the High School "coach" went over on the road last night to meet the Denver team and today sent the "News" the following special dispatch from Grand Junction:

"The Denver team is in the pink of condition. The men have been carefully trained and coached for tomorrow's game, and are confident of defeating the High School. I have talked with the players and they are reticent as to what they will do beyond saying they expect to win. Judging from their previous season's game should be a battle royal. The Denverites anticipated a hard fight but declare they are prepared for it. The average weight of the team is 145 pounds.

"Consider the High School and Denver teams to be evenly matched and will join with Democrats.

Republicans Expect to Accept Platform and Candidates.

Chicago, Nov. 29.—The sub-committee of the National Silver National executive committee appointed yesterday to report on the time and place for holding the national convention next year, has some questions affecting party affairs, particularly organization, handed to the report to the full meeting of the executive committee at its session at the Auditorium Annex today. Considerable time was spent in executive session in discussing the report which will

be made public late this afternoon. Chairman Cresser of the sub-committee said the report would recommend that the time and place of the next national convention be left to the action of the executive committee of which ex-Senator Dubois is chairman, and that the question of appointment of delegates to the convention be also left to that body. As the sentiment of the members of the committee is apparently unanimously in favor of fusion with the Democratic party and the endorsement of their platform and candidates, it is probable that the committee will meet soon after the national Democratic committee has decided on the date of the Democratic convention and will

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Issue the call for the convention to be held on the same date, and in the same city as the Democratic convention.

Considering Financial Legislation.

Washington, Nov. 29.—A call has been issued for a meeting of the Republican members of the Senate committee on finance in this city on Saturday at 10 o'clock. The meeting is to be held for the purpose of considering a general financial bill to be introduced in the approaching session of Congress. It is understood that the bill, but it is stated that it differs in some important respects from the bill prepared by the House caucus committee. It is understood the bill will be completed and in shape for presentation to the Senate during the first week of the session.

It can be definitely stated on the authority of the members of the finance committee that there will be no joint meeting for the consideration of this question with the House caucus committee. The finance committee members do not consider the committee of the House caucus an official body.

Wants No Favors.

Port Scott, Kan., Nov. 29.—John P. Reese of the national board of the U. M. W. A., sentenced to jail for three months for contempt of the federal court, has refused the offer of U. S. Judge Williams for special jail privileges at Topeka, saying: "An innocent man has no preferences of prisons in which to be unjustly confined."

Reese had been sentenced to the federal prison here but when Judge Williams learned that the accommodations were poor he ordered him taken to the Topeka jail, where he could have the sole use of a corridor.

Kaiser Leaves England.

Sheerness, Nov. 29.—The Imperial German yacht Hohenzollern, with the emperor and empress of Germany and their party on board, left here for Flushing at 7:30 a. m. The Hohenzollern was escorted by the German warship Helia and eight British torpedo boat destroyers, which went twenty miles out to sea with the German ships. Guards of honor on board all the various British warships which were escorted with hunting, presented arms as the Hohenzollern steamed past the dock. As she passed the British battleship Sans Pareil the port admiral's flagship, a royal salute was fired, the band on the battleship played the German national anthem and the band of the Hohenzollern replied with the British anthem.

Found Dead in Bed.

Portland, Ore., Nov. 29.—Thomas J. Black, who was collector of customs of this district during the second Cleveland administration, was found dead in his room at the new Imperial Hotel today. He was in apparent good health when he retired last night. Heart disease, doubtless, carried him away. Black was an old resident of Oregon.

Sends Him to the Desert.

Chicago, Nov. 29.—A special to the Chronicle from Richmond, Va., says: William L. Wilson, postmaster general under President Cleveland, and now president of the Washington and Lee University, has written a letter to a friend in Richmond, stating that his physician, Dr. Janeway, has ordered him to cancel all engagements, give up his work and go to the arid plains in southern Arizona for the winter.

Mr. Wilson's health, it is said, has been steadily failing for some time from pulmonary trouble, and his friends are very uneasy about him. He was to have been present some days ago at the ceremony of the royal institution in London, where he was to have received his diploma from the prince of Wales, but had to abandon his trip by reason of his health.

Anxious About Overdue Vessels.

San Francisco, Nov. 29.—There are now over fifty vessels overdue at this and neighboring ports. The bark Colusa is out 39 days from Kahului for Departure Bay and she is the vessel for which the gravest anxiety is felt as she was ashore on the island of Hawaii and was on her way to the sound in ballast for repairs. The Ferris Thompson, American girl, Highland Light, America, Amethyst and Challenger are also long overdue. The Challenger and Amethyst were short of provisions and the supplies they received from passing steamers may be nearly exhausted.

YOUNG GRIDLEY IS NAMED.

Had Not the Money to Pay for Schooling—Admiral Dewey and the President.

Washington, Nov. 29.—J. P. V. Gridley, a son of the late Charles V. Gridley, who commanded Admiral Dewey's flagship at the battle of Manila, was today designated for appointment as a lieutenant in the marine corps by the President.

Young Gridley is too old to enter for the marine corps but he lacked the necessary education, and worse than all, the money for study. The boy was modest to tell any one of his situation, but Admiral Dewey, who loved his father, suspected it, and decided to act. He determined to pay the boy's expenses while studying for the lieutenant's commission.

This morning he met young Gridley at the White House, and presented him to the President. Admiral Dewey started to explain the situation when the President interrupted and said: "You and I, admiral, will pay his expenses in preparation for examination. If he fails in the first examination I will give him another chance; but I am sure he will be ready when the time comes."

As Admiral Dewey and the young man were descending the White House steps, the admiral was saying to the son of his old comrade:

"Now you keep an account of your expenses, and let me know what they are."

At the foot of the steps the admiral ran into a group of newspaper men. "I shall be glad to give you an item this morning," said the admiral. "The President has just agreed to designate this young man, a son of Capt. Gridley, for examination for a lieutenant in the marine corps. But he has no money with which to prepare himself for the examination," he continued. "However, the President and I are going to attend to that," he added, looking at the son of his old friend with a suspicious moisture in his eyes.

"Let the people of the country know what sort of a President they have," said the admiral, as he turned away.

Mr. Gridley's mother, the widow of the gallant commander of the Olympia, is living at Erie, Pa. She is drawing a pension of \$30 a month which her friends in Congress will seek to have increased by special act during the approaching session.

COL. BELL CATCHES 2,000 FILIPINOS

Scouts and One Company Put the Rebels to Rout.

TAKE GUNS AND SUPPLIES

Port of Vigan Captured by Marines from the Warships.

AGUINALDO 20 MILES AWAY.

At Last Accounts He Was in Hiding—While Running Away His Talk Was to Continue War.

Manila, Nov. 29, 10:30 a. m.—(By courier from the mountains of Dayawan, Province of Pangasinan)—The fight in which Col. Bell defeated and scattered the rebel brigades of Generals Alejandro and San Miguel took place on the summit of the mountains west of Mangalaren, forming the divide between the Dagupan valley and the ocean.

Col. J. Franklin Bell's regiment, the Thirty-sixth infantry, and Fowler's company of the Thirty-third left Mangalaren Monday morning and marched twenty-four hours with four hours' rest over bare and waterless ridges along narrow trails and through canyons. At daylight Nov. 23, the troops emerged from a timbered canyon upon the divide, running into the rebels' advance guard, which retreated to the main body before shooting. Col. Bell, who was in advance with the scouts and one company, had the rebels in full rout before the main body of his troops arrived, fleeing down the mountain to the sea. A few rebels were killed and many wounded, and abandoning two Nordenfelters, one 2-inch Krupp, one Maxim and one Hotchkiss. They were chased through the swamps and thoroughly defeated.

Col. Bell captured all their artillery, supplies and clothing, many Mausers, Remingtons, some American Winchester, and a thousand rounds of ammunition. The rifles, etc., were abandoned along the trail, for two miles. The enemy escaping were handed with the exception of a few rifles.

The women and children in the camp had no time to escape. Col. Ruscak, chief of the arsenal and a few other prisoners were taken. The rebels had artillery trained to command the regular trail from Mangalaren, but Col. Bell approached from the opposite direction.

The rebels are estimated to have numbered 2,000 men with some English, Japanese and four Spanish officers.

Manila, Nov. 29, 10:20 a. m.—A dispatch from the Associated Press correspondent at Nampacapan, province of Cebu, dated Sunday, Nov. 23, says: "The Oregon, Samar and Callao with 100 blue jackets and marines from the Oregon, captured the port of Vigan, province of South Ilocos, north of here, today."

The Samar and Callao ran close in shore, a few shots were fired, and then the Samar, Callao and Oregon engaged in a sharp bombardment of Vigan. The firing from the shore ceased almost immediately and the sailors and marines, with a field piece went ashore.

It is reported that 1,700 insurgents under Gen. Tino and Pilar are massed at Tagudin, ten miles north, and it has been concluded to wait at Nampacapan for the rest of the reinforcements. The American military force was still at Nampacapan Sunday, but a move north was expected to take place Monday. Two companies of the Thirty-third volunteers are on their way north to reinforce the troops at Nampacapan.

Later dispatches from Nampacapan say that when the blue jackets and marines landed at Vigan they found that the insurgents had fled. The navy will hold the town until relieved by the troops which are on their way north.

Gen. Young with three troops of Third cavalry and a small detachment of Macabebes commanded by Lieutenants Hall, Quinlan and Blount arrived at Nampacapan from San Fernando de Iloilo Thursday, Nov. 23. There they received news of Aguinaldo from which it appears that he passed north through Nampacapan Tuesday, Nov. 21, while Gen. Young was waiting at San Fernando, twenty miles south.

The rebel chief is now believed to be hiding in Abra province, north of Nampacapan. Aguinaldo passed through Nampacapan all his talk was in favor of continuing the war.

Washington, Nov. 29.—Gen. Otis' advice to the war department today show that the troops are pushing rapidly ahead and indicate that the demoralization of the insurgents is complete. Two dispatches were received today. The first related to the operations in the northwest part of Luzon and is as follows:

"The following from the northwest Luzon coast:

"You left San Fernando 22nd inst., where Marsh's battalion, Thirty-third infantry, arrived 26th, on which day Young was at Nampacapan, where he was supplied by army gunboat Samar. He marched out next day. Batangas, 24th inst. No opposition. Sailors welcomed by inhabitants. Believe the Spanish and American prisoners still in vicinity of Bangue, guarded by a small insurgent force. Reports from northeast indicate that 250 insurgent troops at Baybongon, Nueva Vizcaya province, surrendered yesterday to Lawton's troops. He advanced by both the San Nicholas and Carangan trails."

The second dispatch states: "Gen. MacArthur reports from Baybongon that Bell with Thirty-sixth and company Thirty-third infantry struck enemy commanded by Gen. San Miguel and Alejandro, in mountains west of Mangalaren, and by series of combats through mountains had so scattered their forces that concentration is impossible. Bell has captured all their quick firing and Krupp guns, ammunition, their powder factory and arsenal, with thousands of pounds of lead and sheet copper, all their transportation,

engineering tools, clothing and food supplies. Property scattered over the mountains now being collected. Twenty of the killed and wounded of the enemy left on field. Bell does not report casualties; expected this evening." The following cablegram has been received at the navy department from Admiral Watson:

"Cavite, Nov. 29.—Wild reports the capture of Vigan on Nov. 23 by the Oregon's landing force under Lieut. Commander McCracken with Lieut. McCormick, Hostwick, Johnston and Capt. Williams and Lieut. Bernice, marine corps.

"The landing was covered by the Callao, Tappan commanding. Slight resistance, no casualties. Inhabitants welcomed the flag. McCracken is holding Vigan until relieved by the army."

"Lieut. Gilmore is well with seven men, twenty-five miles from Vigan. Received Meyer code letter from Gilmore, by Albert Soschen, newspaper artist, who was with Gilmore several months and escaped. Brought here by Samar. News from insurgents through Spanish sergeant indicates Urdaneta crew killed except four following: Farley, Green, Powers, Burke. Names of the Gilmore party: Walton, Vandyke, Ellisworth, Briscoe, Anderson, Edwards, Peterson. Some wounded were left at Baler. Gilmore has no news of them."

The above dispatch taken in connection with the advice received today from Gen. Otis, describing the success of the movements of the army under Young, encourage the naval officials in the belief that perhaps by this time the American prisoners referred to have already been released. With the naval contingent at Vigan, only twenty-five miles away to the west, and the army advance probably little farther distant to the southeast, the town of Bangue is nearly surrounded, and there is little chance of the escape of the insurgent force there if they attempt to encumber themselves in their retreat with the prisoners. Taking the list of prisoners of Gilmore's party given in the cable from Admiral Watson as being at Bangue, the records of the navy department show that the following men must have been left at Baler on the last coast of the island, where the Yorktown's boats were captured last spring: John Dillon, Charles A. Morrissey, Ora B. McConnel, William H. Rynders, O. W. Woodbury, D. C. Avenue and J. J. Ryan.

Altogether, the news from the army and naval sources today is highly encouraging to the officials here, as indicating the practical end of the opposition of the insurgents in the north of Luzon. So far as known the only formidable force left in Cavite province under Gen. Tryas, and that operating in Panay.

NEEDS OF THE LIBRARY.

Members of the Board Ask Council for More Room.

Quite a number of ladies and gentlemen comprising the membership of the public library board, including President Webber and Librarian Chapman, attended last night's Council session, and were given audience on the question of more room for the library. President Webber was invited to address the assembly, and for some time past it had been patent to the board more room was needed for the library, and a point had been reached when greater accommodation was absolutely necessary. President Webber also gave a history of the library, showing how it had grown in favor among all classes of people. The two offices adjoining the library on the north, now occupied by the city recorder, President Webber said, would be ample room. It was intended to use one of the rooms for the board and the other for the newspaper or juvenile department. Should the Council grant the use of these rooms to the board, it would confer lasting glory upon the library.

Councilman Diehl moved that the matter be referred to the joint committee on library and control. The motion carried, after Councilman Wallace and Siddaway had expressed themselves as favoring the granting of the request, and suggesting suitable quarters for the city recorder.

PRASE THE CONGRESS.

Philadelphia Board of Trade Resolves Upon Manufacturers and Industries.

The executive committee of the Philadelphia board of trade can see much good to come from the International Commercial Congress held in the Quaker city; and at a meeting held on the 26th of this month passed these commendatory resolutions:

"The Philadelphia board of trade desires to record its deep interest in the proceedings of the International Commercial Congress recently holding its sessions in this city. No such important representative assembly of foreign delegates, devoted to the advancement of international trade and commerce, has ever before been gathered in this country.

"The selection of Philadelphia as the proper meeting place for the session of the congress has shown the wisdom of the choice. The vast manufacturing interests of the city open to the inspection of the visitors here, in connection with the export exposition, offered daily opportunity for observing the great progress this country has made in new inventions and new processes of manufacture.

"The high character and ability of the foreign delegates give weight to the statements and arguments they have made, and the universal recognition of the need to extend the trade in American products to the countries they severally represent is received by our people with profound gratification.

"Of scarcely less importance is the demand of delegates for an American merchant marine as necessary for the extension of American commerce and the advisability of a return to the reciprocal arrangements with the governments of South America existing under the McKinley tariff bill, as in the highest degree advantageous to the building up of the commerce between these countries and the United States."

TO BUILD A CANAL.

Utah County People Incorporate for \$300,000.

The People's Canal Company, of Utah county, by George D. Solomon, Edward H. Tolton, Marius Larsen, George M. Stephens and Daniel Nelson, filed articles of incorporation with Secretary Hammond today.

The object of the company is to construct a canal that shall be known as the People's canal, starting in Sweetwater county, Wyoming, running easterly to the boundary line of Utah and Wyoming; and to bring water from Henry's Fork through the canal to the lands of the several stockholders. The amount of this capital stock is fixed at \$300,000, with shares at \$50 each. George D. Solomon is president; Edward Tolton, vice president; Marius Larsen, secretary and treasurer. These gentlemen, together with George M. Stephens and Daniel Nelson, comprise the directorate.

DESPERATE BATTLE AT MODDER RIVER

Gen. Methuen Says it was One of the Hardest and Most Trying Fights in the Annals of the British Army.

Troops Fought Ten Hours in the Burning Sun, Without Water or Food—Boers Forced to Quit Their Position—British Gain the Ground—Casualty List Must be Heavy—Boers Expected to Rally—Gen. Methuen Telegraphs the Queen of a Battle—British Losses at Belmont and Beacon Hill Heavy—Boer Loss Not Great—Boers Report British Superior in Number of Men and Guns.

London, Nov. 29.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Gen. Buller:

"Capetown, Tuesday, Nov. 28.—Gen. Methuen reports:

"Modder River, Tuesday, Nov. 28.—Reconnoitered at 5 a. m. enemy's position on River Modder, and found them strongly entrenched and concealed. No means of outflanking, the river being full. Action commenced with artillery, mounted infantry and cavalry at 5:30, guard on right, ninth brigade on left, attacked position in widely extended formation at 6:30, and supported by the artillery, found itself in front of the whole Boer force, 8,000 strong, with two large guns, four Krupps, etc.

"The naval brigade rendered great assistance from the railway.

"After desperate, hard fighting, which lasted ten hours, our men without water or food and in the burning sun, made the enemy quit his position.

"General Pole-Carew was successful in getting a small party across the river, gallantly assisted by 800 sappers.

"I speak in terms of high praise of the conduct of all who were engaged in one of the hardest and most trying fights in the annals of the British army. If I can mention one man particularly, it is two batteries of artillery."

The expected great battle at Modder river has been fought; and Gen. Methuen has added another victory to his achievements of the past week. That the Boers defended their positions with all their old-time gallantry is amply proved by Gen. Methuen's dispatch, and it will probably be further testified to when the list of British casualties is made known. There appears to be no doubt that Gen. Methuen has gained a real advantage, though the details must be awaited before the full effect of his ten hours' desperate fighting can be gauged.

Presumably the burghers' army was on the south bank of the river, but whether when the Boers retreated they crossed the river northward or retired in an easterly direction into the Orange Free State, is unknown. Possibly the Boers had repaired the bridge previously reported destroyed, and managed to withstand the British attack with their rear guard while their main body escaped over the bridge, the rear guard destroying the bridge behind it.

The British, however, appear to have surmounted the difficulties of crossing the river, and to have seized for themselves a position on the north side of the stream.

This success of the British clears another stage of the road to Kimberley, the stage of which General Cronje must have partially raised in order to give battle to General Methuen.

There is little reason to doubt, however, that the Boers will again rally as heretofore, after a seemingly crushing defeat, unless they have lost their guns, of which there is no mention in the official dispatch.

The burghers are understood to have a strong laager at Spytfontein, fourteen miles north of the Modder river, so another engagement possibly awaits the British before they can commence the last stage of the eleven miles from Spytfontein to Kimberley, though it is pointed out that General Cronje will thereby run a great risk of being caught between General Methuen and Colonel Kekewich, the British commander at Kimberley.

A belated dispatch from Orange river says General Methuen's troops are advancing under the greatest difficulties, fighting an omnibus, but almost invincible foe.

A special dispatch from Windsor says Gen. Methuen's dispatch to the queen after the battle of Modder river, says: "The battle was the bloodiest of the century. The British shelled the enemy

out of the trenches, and then charged. The result was terrible."

A revised list of the British casualties at Belmont shows:

Officers killed, 4; wounded, 22; non-commissioned officers and privates killed, 46; wounded, 225; of which number the guards had 35 killed and 39 wounded.

A revised list of the casualties sustained by General Hildyard's forces at the battle of Beacon Hill, shows:

Killed, 13; wounded 64; missing, 1; prisoners, 8.

Enthusiasm marked the departure today of the first detachments of the composite battalion of the Household cavalry going to South Africa. Surging masses thronged Windsor. Cheering and singing and similar scenes were witnessed in London in spite of the dense fog.

Lord Wolsey bade the horse guards (the blues farrow) at Knights Bridge barracks. He made a speech reminding the men of the grand military deeds of the blues, saying he was assured they would go through the utmost to add to the glory of a regiment of which they were so justly proud and vying them Godegode, good luck, and a safe return. Struggling crowds lined the route to the station, incessantly singing and cheering until the cavalrymen were entrained for Southampton, where they embarked on board the transport Maplemore.

There was an interesting ceremony at Windsor today when the queen inspected the men of the grenadier company, the recently returned from Omdurman, and conversed with the wives and families of the soldiers who have gone to South Africa from the Windsor district. The weather was beautiful. The queen was accompanied by Princess Henry of Battenburg and Princess Christian.

After an inspection of the troops her majesty briefly addressed Col. Hutton, congratulating him on the splendid conduct of the guards in South Africa and for the assistance of the ladies who sustained. Queen Victoria's words were all the more earnest, inasmuch as just before her arrival at the barracks she received news of Gen. Methuen's great victory, in which another telegram related that the burghers, termed it the bloodiest battle of the century. Col. Hutton thanked the queen for her kind words and the guards cheered repeatedly.

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