

FIFTIETH YEAR.

BRITAIN REJECTS OFFER OF MEDIATION

United States Makes a Tender of Its Friendly Services, but These are Promptly and Firmly Declined.

Answer of Salisbury to the Boers is that Britain Will Not Assent to the Independence of Either the Transvaal or the Orange Free State—American Offer of Mediation Was a Suggestion in the Interest of Humanity—This Government Was Only a Messenger—United States the Only Government that Heeded the Boer Request—Germany Would Not, and France Dare Not—Lord Roberts at the Doors of Bloemfontein, and Expected There Tonight—May Have More Fighting—Terrible Condition of Mafeking.

[Afternoon Dispatches.]

London, March 12, 6:15 p.m.—The United States charge d'affaires, Henry White, saw Lord Salisbury at the foreign office this evening, and received a formal reply from the British government, declining the good offices of the United States in regard to peace. It is understood that the reasons of the president are identical with those already given to the Associated Press.

7:30 p.m.—The interview between Mr. White and Lord Salisbury was very brief, the premier confining himself to a courteous verbal declination, without entering into details.

UNITED STATES MADE THE OFFER.

London, March 12.—The United States government, at the request of President Kruger and President Steyn, has offered to the British government its services as mediator, with the view of bringing about peace in South Africa. Lord Salisbury has not yet replied, but a representative of the Associated Press learns that there is little doubt but that he will decline the United States good offices. He will do so, however, in terms as cordial and polite as those in which the offer was couched.

The representations made to Great Britain were so worded that they assumed a desire to intervene, but simply transmitted the communications made in United States Consul Adelsberg's name, with the accompanying assurance that anything the state department could do in the interests of peace would be gladly undertaken.

The well known aversion of the British government to any foreign intervention does not appear to have been aroused, and while Lord Salisbury will doubtless say he is unable to comply with the offer, he will also probably express his appreciation of the United States' efforts in behalf of humanity.

LORD SALISBURY'S REFUSAL.

The offer of mediation springs from Pretoria, where Mr. Kruger, with the other members of the executive committee, and Steyn, sending their peace proposals to Lord Salisbury, were asked to endeavor to secure the good offices of their respective governments, apparently with the view of bringing outside influence to bear upon Lord Salisbury's reply to the Boer overtures.

These seem to be fruitless except in the instance of the United States consul, whose representations to Secretary Hay were forwarded March 12, to the United States embassy in London, with the instructions outlined above. Three Mr. White, the charge d'affaires, personally presented to Lord Salisbury, who replied cordially, but without committing himself to any definite expression of opinion.

As the Boer overtures had already been answered to the effect that the propositions including the retention of the republics' independence could be considered, the presentation of the American offer was already too late, but the premier apparently deemed it a matter of sufficient importance to put himself on record with a formal reply.

NO INDEPENDENCE FOR BOERS.

4:45 p.m.—In the house of lords today the premier, Lord Salisbury, read the British government's reply to President Steyn and Kruger.

The concluding sentence is as follows:

"Her majesty's government can only answer your honors' telegram by saying it is not prepared to assent to the independence of either the South African Republic or the Orange Free State."

GERMANY REFUSED TO MEDIATE.

Berlin, March 12.—It is semi-officially announced that when the Orange Free State and the Transvaal addressed to a number of the larger and smaller states a request for friendly mediation the German government replied that it would willingly participate provided the essential condition of such mediation was present, namely, the certainty that both belligerents desired it.

WHY FRANCE WOULD NOT TRY.

Paris, March 12, 1:50 p.m.—A representative of the Associated Press has secured from a responsible mouthpiece of the French government the following exposition of France's attitude in the matter of intervention in the Anglo-Transvaal war, which, it is said, has been solicited by President Kruger.

The official in question said:

"We believe it is true that the Transvaal has sent a request to the powers for mediation, though up to this morning President Kruger's message has not been announced. As far as not take the initiative in offering England mediation, neither will Russia, for the two are naturally working together in this matter. We feel that in the present excited state of public feeling in France, any step taken by the French government would defeat its own object and instead of opening a way to

received by a South African firm in London, dated Mafeking, Tuesday, March 6th, via Lobatsi, March 9th, says:

"All well, but town still besieged. A dispatch to the Times from Mafeking, dated Monday, March 5th, says the garrison at that place were then feeling acutely the distress of the siege. They were reduced to the use of horse flesh and bread made from horse forage, while the water was parasitically contaminated. Typhoid, dysentery and diphtheria was epidemic, but it was impossible to isolate the victims. The sufferings of the women and children were terrible, and there were deaths in the women's larger daily. The native population was starving."

The military operations were progressing favorably. They had been extended to the brick field whence the enemy had been completely expelled.

RELIEF APPROACHES.

A number of cablegrams have been received from Mafeking today including one to a Birmingham firm asking it to ship goods immediately, thus indicating the belief of the speedy relief of the place.

Lady Georgiana Curzon also received the following dispatch from Mafeking, Wilson at Mafeking: "Delighted to receive your cable of February 29th. All well, March 1."

The latter message was dispatched to the Mafeking March 4th, by way of Col. Plumer's camp.

The indications are that Col. Plumer was at Lobatsi March 9th, and as it is only 55 miles thence to Mafeking the news ought to be speedily forthcoming.

KENTUCKY'S PEACEFUL DAY.

Legislature Unmolested—Session Comes to a Close Tonight.

Frankfort, Ky., March 12.—All apprehension of further trouble had apparently disappeared when the two houses of the legislature met at the usual hour today without molestation from the State troops.

Speculation as to Gov. Taylor's future action still continues. Gov. Taylor himself refused all interviews on the subject today, but prominent Republicans who have talked with him assert emphatically that Gov. Taylor will remain in Frankfort and continue his fight for what he considers the right until the question of the governorship is finally passed upon.

The legislature will adjourn sine die before midnight.

Beyond Senator Triplett's resolution appropriating \$100,000 for a reorganization of the State militia under Gov. Beckham, there is little legislation of importance pending, and Democratic members of both houses expressed confidence of passing this.

Republican Lieutenant Governor John Marshall held consultations during the morning with Democratic Adjutant General Castleman and several Democratic members of the legislature. The general situation was discussed.

Lieut. Gov. Marshall submitted a proposition to Senator Carter that both temporarily withdraw from the senate and allow a temporary Democratic presiding officer to be elected to facilitate the passage of the Louisville tax law. Senator Carter refused.

Sheldon's Paper Issued.

Topeka, Kan., March 12.—The first issue of the Sheldon edition of the Topeka Capital went to press at 2:37 this morning and the press was kept running until noon, printing over 100,000 copies. The rest of the edition will be printed in Chicago and New York for which matrices will be sent daily.

The management of the paper says that 300,000 copies are required daily, and that fresh orders are coming by every mail. 15,000 yesterday. Mr. Sheldon was at his desk again at 8:45 this morning. The paper is not satisfactory to regular subscribers and outside papers have been bought freely today.

Roland Reed Is Out.

New York, March 12.—Roland Reed, the actor, who has been sick for the past four months in St. Luke's hospital, has been discharged and is on the road to full recovery.

No Change of Democratic Convention

Kansas City, Mo., March 12.—The subcommittee of the Democratic national committee today resumed the discussion of plans for the national convention in July. The subcommittee decided that it could not change the date for holding the convention from July 4th without the consent of the entire committee, and the opinion was expressed that no change of date will be made. The rate submitted by the railroad committee was passed upon as satisfactory. The rate is the same as that conceded the Republican national convention at Philadelphia.

THE COST OF BENBROOK'S TRIAL.

Total Expense to the State Amounted to About \$3,000—Cost to Benbrook Said to Have Been About \$10,000.

Ever since the conclusion of the Benbrook murder trial, there has been much speculation as to what the cost to the State was, and what the bill of expense that Benbrook footed amounted to.

From the best information obtainable it appears that the Benbrook prosecution, including, of course, the preliminary hearing and such items as the transcript of the testimony there given, will foot up about \$3,000. This includes the fee for extra counsel, the item of \$450 paid the twelve jurors, the expense of keeping them, the pay of witnesses and their mileage, one of them, Robert

O. Doonan, having been brought from Denver, the pay of the stenographer at \$8 per day, and many minor but necessary expenses.

As to Benbrook's expense, the exact amount is not known, but it is estimated by his friends at a round \$10,000. Of course, the greater part of this is represented by attorneys' fees. It is said that Benbrook paid Judge Powers \$3,000 in advance, while the firm of Zane & Rogers got about the same. This probably does not represent the full amount paid the attorneys by Benbrook. Then the defense was, of course, under expense as was the State in looking up witnesses and preparing its case.

MR. RULE LETCHER IS DISMISSED.

Was the Utah Man Given an Appointment in the Senate by Senator Rawlins, and a Brother of J. R. Letcher.

[SPECIAL TO THE "NEWS."] Washington, D. C., March 12.—Rule Letcher of Salt Lake has been dismissed from his position in the United States senate. Mr. Letcher was appointed by Senator Rawlins, and has served two years. His brother is clerk of the federal court in Utah.

CRUGER CALLS THEM HORSE-THIEVES.

The Transvaal prisoners showed they were entirely surprised by Lord Roberts' tactics.

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ONE NEW CASE OF PLAQUE

This is Reported from Kahului, Island of Maui.

None at Honolulu—Big Sugar Warehouse Waiting Decision on Burn—Insurance Co's Will Not Pay.

[Afternoon Dispatches.]

San Francisco, March 12.—The steamer Gaelic from the Orient via Honolulu brings the following advices from Honolulu under date of March 5:

No new cases of plague have developed for three days. One new case has been reported from Kahului, Maui. The situation in this city is better than it has been for a month.

The big Hawaiian commercial and sugar company's store at Kahului, containing \$125,000 worth of merchandise, besides a large amount of lime fertilizers of cement, together with all the warehouses at Kahului pertaining to it, or under guard, awaiting the determination of the health authorities whether it shall be given to the flames or not. All the employees and their families are in quarantine.

This has been done as the result of finding plague infected rats in and about the store and warehouse, and the presence of large numbers of rats there.

At a meeting of the representatives of the various insurance companies and their attorneys it was decided not to pay losses on buildings destroyed by the civil authorities in an effort to stamp out the plague. This action on the part of the insurance companies will result in many claims being made against the government for the losses sustained in the fire.

DISCUSSED IT IN SECRET.

Important Question Connected with Cœur d'Alene Riots.

Washington, March 12.—There was a spirited controversy at the outset of the Cœur d'Alene investigation when Representative Lentz called attention to a telegram given out by the war department in which capitalists asked for protection to their interests in the mining country. He said that in view of the publications the country ought to have the affidavits presented by Senators Carter and Helfield to the President, in which prominent officials of the mining and labor organizations stated martial law was unnecessary in the Cœur d'Alene district. The committee finally went into executive session on Mr. Lentz' proposition and decided not to call on the President for the affidavits.

At the open hearing the cross-examination of L. J. Simpkins developed many additional incidents of the disorder, but in the main the witness held to the recital given on his direct examination.

Arrest in Nevada for Murder.

Reno, Nev., March 12.—Mark Westlake, wanted at Sacramento, 125 for the murder of R. W. Watts, a mining man from Idaho, was arrested here today.

Financial Bill Passes.

Washington, March 12.—The conference report on the financial bill was adopted by the House, yeas, 166; nays, 120; present and not voting, 16.

Floods in Illinois.

Chicago, March 12.—Reports received here today show that serious flood are prevailing in the northern portion of Illinois by the overflowing of the Illinois, Des Plaines, Fox, Sangamon and Kankakee rivers. Much live stock and property have already been destroyed. Many factories in cities of the upper Illinois valley are idle on account of the floods.

COMPROMISE LOOKED FOR.

Republicans Senators Will Caucus Over the Puerto Rican Bill.

Washington, March 12.—The Republican senators have decided to hold a caucus for the settlement of their differences upon the Puerto Rican question, and a call has been issued for a meeting after adjournment of the senate today.

Senator Forsaker, in charge of the bill providing a form of government for Puerto Rico, has drafted amendments to the bill which he thinks will meet the demands of all interests in the Republican party, and the measure as

thus amended will be submitted to the caucus.

So far there has been no departure from amicable feeling among senators, and there is a noticeable disposition to reconcile all differences in the interest of party harmony. In this desire the President is known to join heartily, but he has told senators who have visited him that he was equally anxious that certain principles should remain inviolate in the settlement. He urges among other things the retention of the House principle of protection and the establishment of a civil government.

Senator Forsaker's amendments are understood to look to the retention of the tariff as applied to articles shipped from Puerto Rico to the United States, and to its being dispensed with on articles shipped from the United States to Puerto Rico, and also to the elimination of the provision for a delegate from Puerto Rico to Congress. It is believed these concessions will satisfy both the free traders and the tariff men.

Justifies the President.

Washington, March 12.—The investigation of charges that certain federal appointees are polygamists came to a close today by an agreement for a unanimous report from the House committee on postoffices and post roads, which conducted the investigation. The report has been drawn up by Representative McPherson of Iowa, and will be presented to the House and made public later today or tomorrow. It is understood to hold that at the time the appointments were made the President was not aware that the appointees were charged with polygamy. As to the facts of the polygamist status of appointees the report states that the common repute of the communities in which they lived was that the parties were polygamists, but that there is a want of definite and conclusive evidence on this point.

RHODE ISLAND REPUBLICANS.

Biggest Convention Ever Held—Nominations by Acclamation.

Providence, R. I., March 12.—The Republican State convention here today was the largest ever held in this State. The enthusiasm was marked. George H. Utter of Westerly was the chairman. He reviewed the events of the past four years, claiming that the promises by the last national campaign had been fulfilled. He said:

"The Philippines belong to us as truly as does this snug little State," and added:

"The conclusion is unavoidable that the American people owe it to the people of those islands and of the world as much as to themselves to bring order out of chaos and to give to the islands the highest form of government for which their people are prepared."

The following nominations were made by acclamation:

For governor—William Gregory, North Kingston.

Lieutenant governor—Charles Dean Kimball, Providence.

Attorney general—Willard B. Tanner, Providence.

Secretary of state—Charles P. Bennett, Westerly.

General treasurer—Walter A. Read, Gloucester.

Delegates and alternates to the national Republican convention were elected.

NO CHANGE IN ALLEN.

Nebraska's Senator for Free Coinage—Senator Bard on Committee.

Washington, March 12.—Mr. Keon (N. J.) resigned from the committee on public lands, Mr. Thurston (Neb.) from the committee on railroads; Mr. Simon (Ore.) from the committee on the Potomac river front; Mr. Foster (Wash.) from the committee on woman suffrage, and Mr. Wetmore (R. I.) from the committee on manufactures.

President pro tem Frye then appointed Mr. Bard (Calif.) to the several committees, for which senators had resigned in order to make committee places for him.

At the conclusion of the morning business, Mr. Allen (Neb.) rising to a question of privilege, said he had been misrepresented by the Washington correspondent of a New York paper, who had reported that Mr. Allen had abandoned the free coinage of silver.

Mr. Allen denied the correspondent's statement, saying: "Nothing that I ever said could by any kind of torture be construed as a lack of faith in my party platform, which declares for the free and unlimited coinage of both gold and silver at a ratio of 16 to 1."

Mr. Allen read the colloquy between himself and Mr. Aldrich, which he said was the basis of the report concerning him.

"I want to repeat," said he, "and I want the public printer to put this statement in black faced type, that I am a firm believer and always have been in the doctrine of free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, and I do not believe in waiting for any other nation."

Mr. Allen was proceeding with an elaboration of his views when he was interrupted by Mr. Turner (Wash.), who had yielded to him, and was reminded that "it was a personal statement" for which he had yielded and not a speech.

Mr. Allen gave way, but was followed by Mr. Butler (N. C.) who desired to make a personal statement concerning a similar matter.

GIVEN PRIOR CLAIM.

J. B. Hickman made Preferred Creditor in Vina M. Phelps Bankruptcy Case.

J. B. Hickman has won the fight in his contest for priority claim in the Vina M. Phelps bankruptcy case. Referee Baldwin today overruled the objection to Hickman's claim and made it a preferred one.

The claim amounts to about \$616.50, with interest at 8 per cent from Dec. 22nd, 1899, till December 30, 1899, the respective dates of the transfer of the mortgage Mrs. Phelps gave Hickman on her property for a loan she received from him, and the filing of her petition in bankruptcy.

L. I. Archer has petitioned for a private sale of the property, which will probably be made in a few days.

A BABY FOUND.

A baby girl not more than about two weeks old, was found on the doorstep of a railroad man, residing on Fourth South street, between Fourth and Fifth West, at an early hour this morning. Up to a late hour this afternoon no word had been received at the police station, consequently particulars were lacking.

THE BOER-BRITISH CORRESPONDENCE

Full Text of the Communications Asking for Peace and Refusal to Grant it on the Terms Stated.

Boers Suggest that Belligerents Ask What They are Fighting for—Say They Started Only as a Defensive Measure—Want to Retain Their Independence—If This is Refused, They Will Fight to the End—Did Not Appeal Earlier, Lest They Should Wound British Feelings in the Hour of Defeat—Salisbury Says Boers Armed in Advance—During Discussion, Sent an Insulting Ultimatum—Orange Free State Not Concerned—Will Not Discuss Questions Raised by Appeal—No Independence for the Boers.

[Afternoon Dispatches.]

London, March 12.—A parliamentary paper containing the telegrams sent to the British government by the presidents of the South African Republic and the Orange Free State, and Great Britain's reply thereto, was issued today. It gives first the telegram sent by the two presidents to the Marquis of Salisbury, as follows:

THE BOER APPEAL.

"Bloemfontein, March 5.—The blood and the tears of thousands who have suffered by this war, and the prospect of all moral and economic ruin, where South Africa is now threatened, make it necessary for both belligerents to ask themselves dispassionately and as in the sight of the true God for what they are fighting and whether the aim of each justifies all this appalling misery and devastation."

"With this object, and in the past, the assertions of various British statesmen to the effect that this war was begun and is being carried on with the set purpose of undermining her majesty's authority in South Africa, and of setting up an autonomous nation over the South Africa, independent of her majesty's government, we consider it our duty to solemnly declare that this war was undertaken solely as a defensive measure, to maintain the threatened independence of the South African Republic, and is only continued in order to secure and maintain the incontestible independence of both republics as sovereign international states, and to obtain the assurance that those of her majesty's subjects who have taken part with us in this war shall suffer no harm whatever in person or property. On these conditions, but on these conditions alone, we are prepared to accept the desirous of seeing peace re-established in South Africa; while, if her majesty's government is determined to destroy the independence of the republics, there is nothing left to us and to our people but to persevere to the end in the course already begun. In spite of the overwhelming pre-eminence of the British empire, we are confident that that God who lighted the unextinguishable torch of freedom in the hearts of ourselves, and of our belief that He will not forsake us, and that He will accomplish His work in us and in our descendants."

"We hesitated to make this declaration earlier to your excellency, as we feared that as long as the advantage was always on our side, and as long as our forces held defensive positions far within her majesty's colonies, such a declaration might lead to feelings and honor of the British people. But now that the prestige of the British empire may be considered to be assured by the capture of one of our forces by her majesty's troops, and that we have thereby been forced to evacuate other positions, which our forces had occupied, that difficulty is over and we can no longer hesitate to clearly inform your government and people in the sight of the whole civilized world, why we are fighting and on what conditions we are ready to restore peace."

BRITAIN'S RESPONSE.

Here is the reply: "The marquis of Salisbury to the

presidents of the South African Republic and the Orange Free State:

"Foreign office, March 11.—I have the honor to acknowledge your honor's telegram, dated March 5, from Bloemfontein, of which the purport is principally to demand that her majesty's government shall recognize the incontestible independence of the South African Republic and Free State as 'sovereign international states,' and to offer on those terms to bring the war to a conclusion."

"In the beginning of October last, peace existed between her majesty and the two republics under conventions which then were in existence. A discussion had been proceeding for some months between her majesty's government and the South African Republic, of which the object was to obtain redress for certain very serious grievances under which the British residents in South Africa were suffering."

"In the course of these negotiations the South African Republic had to the knowledge of her majesty's government made considerable armaments, and the latter had consequently taken steps to provide corresponding reinforcements of the British garrisons at Capetown and in Natal. No infringement of the rights guaranteed by the conventions had, up to that point, taken place on the British side."

"Suddenly, at two days' notice, the South African Republic, after issuing an insulting ultimatum, declared war upon her majesty, and the Orange Free State, with whom there had not even been any discussion, took a similar step. Her majesty's dominions were immediately invaded by the two republics. Siege was laid to three towns within the British frontier, a large portion of two colonies was overrun with great destruction of property and life, and the republics claimed to treat the inhabitants of extensive portions of her majesty's dominions as if those dominions had been annexed to one or the other of them. In anticipation of these operations the South African Republic had been accumulating for many years past, military stores on an enormous scale, which by their character could only have been intended for use against Great Britain."

"Your honor's message some observations of a negative character upon the object with which these preparations were made. It does not think it necessary to discuss the questions you have raised. But the result of these preparations carried on with great secrecy has been that the British empire has been compelled to confront an invasion which has entailed upon the empire a costly war and the loss of thousands of precious lives. This great calamity has been the penalty Great Britain has suffered for having in recent years acquiesced to the existence of two republics."

"In view of the use to which the two republics have put the position which was given them and the calamities these unprovoked attacks have inflicted on her majesty's dominions her majesty's government can only answer you honor's telegram by saying that they are not prepared to assent to the independence either of the South African Republic or the Orange Free State."

"The correspondence was read in both houses of parliament today and the concluding paragraph of the British premier's reply elicited prolonged cheers."

QUAY CASE COMES UP TUESDAY.

Senator Penrose Says the Senate Republican Caucus Will Insist on a Final Vote That Day.

[SPECIAL TO THE "NEWS."] Washington, D. C., March 12.—Senator Penrose, who has charge of Senator Quay's case in the Senate, stated today that at the Republican caucus, to be held this afternoon, he would call up the Quay case, and insist on arrangement being made by which the final vote to be taken next Tuesday.

ON POLYGAMOUS POSTMASTERS.

Committee Will Report, Exonerating the President—No Recommendation as to Mr. Graham—Matter Probably Ended.

[SPECIAL TO THE "NEWS."] Washington, D. C., March 12.—Messrs. McPherson of Iowa, Bromwell of Ohio, and Griggs of Georgia, the subcommittee of the committee on postoffices and post roads, to which was referred the entire matter of Representative Letcher's charges that President McKinley had appointed polygamists to office, have agreed on a unanimous report of exonerating the President.

Mr. McPherson has written the report, which will be submitted to the full committee tomorrow. It is very short, and states that at the time he appointed the postmasters alleged to be polygamists, Messrs. Smith and Graham, he was not aware that they were polygamists.

The report makes no recommendation as to the action to be taken in case of Mr. Graham, if he be guilty. The report will be adopted by the committee and submitted to the House, which, it is believed, will end the entire matter.

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