

**The Situation in Africa  
Presents no Change.**

**Conflicting Reports as to the  
Intention of the Boers.**

London, May 28, 3 30 a m.—When Lord Roberts wrote his first dispatch on Transvaal soil yesterday, shortly before 2 o'clock in the afternoon, he was 51 miles from Johannesburg and 77 miles from Pretoria. His immensely superior force has passed the Vaal river, their last great Natal obstacle, at three points.

The Vaal forms a curve of 80 miles from Parys on the west to Zand drift on the east. The concave of the curve is toward the Free State. Thus Lord Roberts, advancing along the railway, was in a position to strike in any part of the crescent by shorter lines than those by which the Boers could reinforce the threatened points. The Boers retreated almost without a show of defense.

Gen French and Gen Hamilton apparently did not fire a shot.

Of Lord Roberts' immediate force, 11 men belonging to the Eighth mounted infantry were the first to ford the river. They came upon a Boer patrol looking at Viljoen's drift and a skirmish lasting ten minutes followed. Two hundred Boers tried feebly to hold the Vereeniging colliery but they were dislodged.

Maj Hunter Weston and Lieut Barle rode in advance of Lord Roberts 40 miles into a hostile country to try to cut the railway behind the Boers before the Vaal was crossed, but they were too late.

The Boer rear guard is at Moyer ton, ten miles south of Vereeniging. Their main body is moving toward the Klip river hills, that cover the south side of Johannesburg.

While Lord Roberts' 30,000 infantry, 20,000 horse and 150 guns are moving on Johannesburg and Pretoria, through a parched and deserted country, the situation at the Transvaal capital, as it was last Friday, is thus described by an observer who sent his message by private hand to Lorenzo Marques yesterday:

"The situation, both from a military and a political point of view, has become very critical. President Kruger yesterday admitted that for the first time matters are very grave. The Boer determination is to trust everything to a last stand on the Gaesrand mountain to the north of Potchefstroom where 3,000 Kaffirs are digging trenches. To that point every available man and gun have been sent."

London, May 27.—The war office has received the following from Lord Roberts:

"Vereeniging, Sunday, May 27, 1.50 p m.—We crossed the Vaal this morning and are now encamped on the north bank. The advance troops, which crossed yesterday, were only just in time to save the coal mines on both this and the other side of the river from being destroyed. Our casualties were four.

"Baden Powell reports that the railway between Mafeking and Bulawayo has been restored and that supplies are being brought into Mafeking. He says the Canadian artillery joined Col Plumer from Beira with incredible rapidity.

"Lieut Webber was taken prisoner at Heilbron a few days ago. He went there on telegraph duty. It was not known that our troops had been temporarily withdrawn."

**Crisis in the Chinese Empire.**

Pekin, May 27.—The diplomatic corps have decided to ask the Tsung Li Yamen (Chinese foreign office) to define explicitly the measures which the government intends to take in dealing with "boxers."

Shanghai, May 27.—Reports received today indicate that affairs around Peking are extremely critical, owing to the defeat of the government troops by the boxers.

It is now regarded here as certain that foreign troops must be sent to Peking to protect the legations, while the withdrawal of missionaries from the interior is considered imperative.

Large portions of the provinces of Pe Chi Li and Shan Tung are in a state little better than absolute anarchy, and disorder is spreading in the province of Shan Si in consequence of the encouragement received from the empress dowager.

Apalachicola, Fla., May 26.—A disastrous fire broke out in the residence of Mrs Broughton about noon Friday. It leaped over to the Methodist church and thence spread over the business portion of the town. In less than three hours three blocks were entirely consumed.

Washington, May 26.—In accordance with the recommendations of a court of inquiry the secretary of the navy has appointed a court-martial to try Capt John McGowan on charges connected with the killing of a Filipino in the harbor of Cebu, while commander of the Monaduck.

St Louis, May 26.—The Presbyterian general assembly, which has been holding its one hundred and twelfth annual meeting here during the past ten days, concluded its deliberations and adjourned sine die today to meet next year in Philadelphia.

**THE WAR IN AFRICA.**

**THE BOERS SAID TO BE  
DEMORALIZED.**

**Predictions Made That British Flag  
Will Fly Over Johannesburg To-  
day and Pretoria Saturday.**

London, May 29, 3 a m.—Lord Roberts is now within a day's march of Johannesburg and Gen French and Gen Ian Hamilton fought the Boers from noon until evening on Monday, with what result is not known here.

H. J. Whigham, in a dispatch to the Daily Mail, dated May 28, says: "The demoralization of the Transvaal is remarkable. Panic and confusion prevails everywhere. Every one is weary of the war and full of fear as to the coming of the British. Operations were being carried on for encircling Pretoria with telegraphic communications. Fourteen points in the line of defenses were connected with headquarters and with the Staats artillery, but this apparently was the only defensive measure adopted. There were no other visible preparations.

"Not much gold is likely to be found in the treasury. The salaries of the officials and judges have not been paid, or have been paid only in national bank notes, which will be worthless when Lord Roberts arrives. The seat of government will be removed to Waterval Bovan, a small station on the Deleogoa Bay railway line and then, if necessary, to Lydenburg.

"Both President Steyn and President Kruger complain bitterly of Lord Roberts' unfair tactics in refusing to meet the Boers in positions chosen by them and in eternally turning them by flank movements.

"Around Johannesburg a few trenches have been dug, but no other steps have been taken for defense. The railway line is blocked with refugees from the west and southwest, who are packed like sardines in trucks.

"One form of infernal machine which meets with much approval, is to be laid under the rails of various lines. A pressure of some tons weight of the engine will cause this to explode with most terrible effect. Many of these machines are being made at the arsenal and great caution will have to be employed in neutralizing them.

"There has been a decided change in public opinion, which has become quite English. They are all sick of warfare. The party eager for surrender is now very influential and includes the principal leaders at the front.

"The government has arranged to continue to agitation against the British occupation of the two republics on the continent of Europe in Great Britain and in the United States. No expense will be spared. I have excellent reasons for believing that the Bewarrpiaatzen rights have been sold to a French syndicate, without the sanction of the volksraad, an order to bring about French intervention for the protection of French rights in the Witwatersrand and thus to cause England grave difficulties."

**LORD ROBERTS' REPORT.**

London, May 28.—Midnight.—The war office, just before midnight published the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

"Klip River, Transvaal, May 28, 5.25 p m.—We marched 20 miles today and are now 18 miles from Johannesburg. The enemy had prepared several positions where they intended to oppose us; but they abandoned one after the other as we neared them.

"We pressed them so hard that they had only just time to get their five guns into train and to leave this station as some of the West Australian mounted infantry dashed into it.

"French's and Ian Hamilton's forces are apparently engaged with the enemy about ten miles to our left, as firing has been heard since noon.

"H. J. Whigham has just returned to Lorenzo Marques from Pretoria, where he went disguised. He wires that Kruger has all the arrangements made for flight, presumably to Holland. A special train, provisioned, is always ready with steam up. The train waits some distance from Pretoria.

"The farmers near our line of advance are surrendering with their arms and horses.

"Ruddle occupied Senekal on May 24 h. No report of what took place has reached me yet."

I consider it not only a pleasure but a duty I owe to my neighbors to tell about the wonderful cure effected in my case by the timely use of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. I was taken very badly with flux and procured a bottle of this remedy. A few doses of it effected a permanent cure. I take pleasure in recommending it to others suffering from that distressing disease.—J. W. Lynch, Doris, W. Va. This remedy is sold by Dr. A. J. China.

Tien Tsin, May 28.—The "boxers" are committing many depredations and are marching on toward Peking. The British and Belgians have left Fungtun and the "boxers" are expected there today. The United States cruiser Newark and a French man-of-war have arrived at Taku.

**The War in the Philippines.**

**Palonog, Masbate Island, Cap-  
tured by Col Hardin.**

Manila, May 27.—Scouting, small engagements and the capture of arms and prisoners continue daily in northern Luzon. Last week's operations by the Ninth, Twelfth, Thirty-third, Thirty-fourth and Thirty-sixth regiments resulted in the killing of 46 of the enemy, the taking 130 prisoners and the capture of 300 rifles and a quantity of ammunition.

Col Edward E. Hardin, with three companies of the Twenty-ninth regiment, and blue jackets from the gunboat Helena, landed at Palonog, Masbate island, under the enemy's fire, routed the insurgents and, after an engagement lasting half an hour, occupied the town without casualties. The insurgent commander, with 20 officers and 200 men, surrendered on May 20th, giving up a hundred rifles. An impressive scene occurred on the plaza, when the prisoners were disarmed and liberated. The islanders were found suffering from lack of food, owing to the blockade and the American authorities are endeavoring to relieve them.

Peace reigns and no trouble is expected in Manila, although the city is crowded with people from the provinces who are leaving the unprotected hamlets in order to avoid the conscription which the insurgent leaders are enforcing, as well as robbery and outrages at the hands of roving insurgents and bandits.

The investigation of the charge against Brig Gen Frederick Funston of having summarily executed two natives in the province of Zambales has resulted in the discontinuance of the proceedings. It developed the fact that Gen Funston caught the natives in the very act of murdering bound Macabebe scouts. His action, in view of the circumstances, was regarded as justifiable.

**THE COTTON GROWERS'  
TRUST.**

Macon, Ga., May 26.—A large number of delegates, composing the executive and business committees, appointed at the State Convention of the Georgia Cotton Growers' Protective Association, held at Macon, May 12, met today in conference at the Chamber of Commerce rooms in this city. The committee were clothed with full power to outline and adopt plans for the future work of the association and to place the movement on an active business footing. The plan of organization and method of carrying on the work, together with constitution and by laws for government of the association, submitted by President C. Harvie Jordan, were adopted after a long discussion of several plans submitted along the same line. Active steps will be at once taken to secure local organization in every cotton growing county in the State. The president was authorized to proceed, by correspondence with head officials in other states, to secure the organization of the entire cotton belt by the middle of August. Other states will be asked to unite with Georgia in the movement and establish a central bureau in this State, which will exercise a general superintendence over all the different State bureaus.

A committee of five members of the executive committee, with President Jordan as chairman, was appointed to confer with the State Bankers' Association, which meets at Lithia Springs on June 13, to obtain the formulation of a plan on the part of the State banks for meeting the demand of the producers next season in regard to loans on cotton in storage. The movement of the cotton growers to perfect a plan by which the cotton crop of the South can be marketed during a longer period of time, thereby forcing a better price for the raw material before the staple leaves the farmers' hands, is creating great enthusiasm throughout the cotton belt. The plans adopted today are considered by the bankers and business men generally, as feasible, practicable and capable of accomplishment. Other States in the cotton belt have been already heard from, giving assurances of hearty cooperation in the movement, and preparations are now being made for calling conventions and perfecting a system of organization similar to the one in Georgia.

**Another Leak Opened.**

Washington, May 26.—Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock today rendered a decision which will be of interest to a class of pension claimants. The question arose under the statute giving a pension to children under 16 years of age at the date of the disabled soldier's death, and under the statute limiting the time for filing claims for pension. The secretary holds that Section 4702 of the Revised Statutes, granting a pension to minor children, does not require that the application therefor be made before the child reaches the age of 16 years, and that the Act of March 3, 1879, limiting the time of filing claims for pension, is not applicable to claimants who were under 16 years of age July 1, 1880. In consequence he directs the commissioner of pensions to proceed with the consideration and decision of these claims in all instances where the claimant was under 16 years of age July 1, 1880.

**Statement as to Claims.**

**Mr. Gantt Goes Into the De-  
tails of the Matter.**

**THE FACTS AND THE FIGURES**

The discovery of the long-sought "Exhibit A" of State Agent James A. Black, in the rubbish room of the State house by Mr. W. H. Yeldell Saturday is an event of no little consequence to South Carolina. This famous document is a printed pamphlet of 82 pages, enumerating the claims on account of the Revolutionary war with references to documents and papers in the possession of the State; and establishes the fact that there was paid by the State of South Carolina \$316,947.76, which has never been refunded to her. With simple interest at 5 per cent this single claim would aggregate a sum exceeding \$2,000,000.

Chief Clerk Jesse T. Gantt, of the office of the secretary of State, who has been at work some time gathering documents in the possession of the State bearing upon the matter, and who has succeeded in getting together a large mass of reports, including that of John A. Black to the legislature of 1858 and the books of original entry and many of the original receipts for the payment on accounts of the Revolutionary war compiled by Black in his various exhibits, makes the following statement of the present status of the effort to secure an accounting with Uncle Sam:

**AMOUNTS DUE SOUTH CAROLINA.**

South Carolina has four separate and distinct classes of claims against the United States arising respectively from the Revolutionary war, the war of 1812, the Seminole or Florida war, and the Mexican war.

The Revolutionary war claims aggregate by far the largest sum, and it is with these that Mr Black's printed exhibit deals. The United States, pursuant to an act of congress, made a complete settlement with South Carolina of all sums paid by the State on account of the War of Independence, in 1793. At the time the settlement was made, however, South Carolina owed large sums in France and Holland for supplies furnished and services rendered in the common defense. As South Carolina had not paid, but still owed, subject to adjustment of these amounts, she could put in no claim for their repayment. They were gradually aggregated and certificates of indebtedness given, and for 40 years the State was still paying them. It is a remarkable fact that notwithstanding the existence of an act of congress authorizing their repayment, no effort was made by the State to have the general government refund the amount. Not until James A. Black took up the work were they even aggregated, and Mr Black even did little beyond aggregating them, considering it the best policy to first press the later and smaller claims outstanding. I am confident that all the original documents and books of original entry to substantiate the printed statement of Mr Black, and even many of the original receipts, are accessible in the State house, and I have succeeded in collecting a great many of the most important. This claim amounts, without interest, to \$316,947.76, according to Mr Black's statement.

The two classes of claims upon which Senator Tillman has been working and which he has established beyond question, aggregate about a half million dollars, including interest to this time. Senator Tillman employed Mr Baker, of the senate library, an efficient young man appointed from Abbeville county in this State, and by indefatigable labor by resolutions of inquiry which he succeeded in getting through the senate and by systematic examination of the archives of the national government, has secured full information for their establishment. In an interesting exhibit compiled by Senator Tillman and published as a part of the congressional record, it is shown that in refunding the large sums expended by this State in the War of 1812, the national government laid down the principle that she would pay interest only where the State had paid money of her own, no interest thereon could be collected. In settling the claims for the expenditures in the Seminole War, the government declined to pay any interest at all.

It was to the collection of these interest claims that Black devoted his energies in 1858, 1859 and 1860, and upon which he secured the admission of the United States treasurer of an indebtedness of \$292,230.90 in 1859. A bill carrying an appropriation for this sum twice passed the senate, but in 1860, when the bill reached the house, Virginia, Maine and other States having like claims, amended the bill by adding an appropriation to liquidate their claims. The bill finally was loaded down with an appropriation of \$1,600,000, when the members of congress from the States having no claims combined and owing to the strained relation between the United States and South Carolina, succeeded in defeating it. However, since the war, the other States having like claims, who did not labor under the load of prejudice heaped upon South Carolina, applied to congress and were successful in

their efforts to secure the sums due them, leaving South Carolina the only unpaid claimant.

Senator Tillman has been giving to the promotion of this claim earnest work, and is confident that he will succeed in his efforts. His personal influence in the senate is great, and his position on the appropriation committee of that body enables him to press his measure to advantage. If an appropriation is secured it will be due to his efforts, with the active cooperation of the other members of congress from this State. He desires no lobbyists or promoters sent him from South Carolina, and if an appropriation is secured it will have attached to it a clause that no commission or fee shall be paid any one for services in its collection, but every cent will go into the State Treasury, where it rightfully belongs. No evidence is needed to establish these claims—every fact is clear and distinct—and the only question at issue is whether the United States will deal with South Carolina as she has dealt with the other States.

The other class of claims—for expenditures in raising, subsisting and transporting volunteers to the Mexican War, aggregated according to a computation of the third auditor of the treasury in 1858, \$32,162.41. The general government settled with Gov Johnson for a part of the expenditures of the State in 1848. Mr Black, as shown by his report to Gov Alston in 1858, discovered that Maj Eaves, the paymaster of the Palmetto regiment, after settling with the State authorities, carried his vouchers to his home, and that there had been no effort to collect them from the general government. Mr Black found these vouchers in the possession of Maj Eaves and with the consent of Gov Alston, deposited them with the third auditor of the treasury, who was authorized by an act of congress to audit and pay them. However, it was found that there was no appropriation available, and Mr Black was informed by the treasury department that they were approved and would be paid as soon as congress could be induced to appropriate the money. Senator Tillman tells me that the secretary of the treasury claims that he holds Black's receipts for \$18,000 paid thereon in January, 1858.

If this amount was ever turned over to the State authorities, as the treasury reports fail to record its receipts, and in 1860, Gov Gist appealed to the legislature to pay Mr Black an additional \$500 for his services, on the ground that having collected nothing, he had secured no commission. These vouchers should be on file in the treasury department in Washington. Mr Black makes no reference to them in his "Exhibit A," nor has there anywhere been found an itemized statement of them.

**DUE BY THE STATE**

The United States holds bonds of the State of South Carolina which aggregate with interest to this time, \$243,000. They were purchased in the open market as an investment of the Indian trust fund. In the act refunding the indebtedness of South Carolina these bonds were declared to be fraudulent, and the act authorized their refundment at 50 cents on the dollar. This settlement the United States refused, and since 1877 has been holding these bonds without receiving any interest thereon. Frequent demands for their payment have been made to the State, but invariably the answer has been returned by our authorities that the general government must accept the settlement accorded other holders, or take nothing. Finally an act of congress repaid to the Indian trust fund the face amount and turned them into the United States treasury as a general asset. Under the act of congress by which the payment of the Spanish war claims due the State was made, the United States treasury was authorized to sue the State for their recovery.

The United States also holds against South Carolina a claim of \$235,000 for ordinance stores belonging to the United States which were seized in Charleston by order of Gov Pickens in December, 1860, after the adoption of the ordinance of secession but before Fort Sumter was fired upon. It is upon this claim that the United States treasurer began suit in the supreme court recently. The action was doubtless prompted by a resolution which Senator Tillman succeeded in getting through the senate directing the United States treasurer to report to congress the indebtedness of the United States to South Carolina, and is an effort to find something with which to offset the just and equitable claims being urged by Senator Tillman. The discovery of the "Exhibit A" by Mr Yeldell is very opportune at this time, as the treasury department is required to file a statement of the claims during June.

To Hon N. G. Evans, of Edgefield, is due the credit of the present agitation of the claims by a resolution which he introduced in the general assembly at the session of 1898. At the session of 1899 Secretary of State Cooper directed the attention of the chairman of several committees of the general assembly to the new famous rubbish room of the State house, and recommended a small appropriation to put in order the valuable records it contained. Failing in this effort he employed a man for the work, continuing the work as long as his contingent fund as secretary of state would permit. Gov

McSweeney in his message to the recent general assembly recommended that provision be made for a further examination of this rubbish room, stating his belief that Mr Black's report could be found therein. This recommendation led to the discoveries which have been made. Mr W. H. Yeldell has been working faithfully and energetically for a month, and almost after all hope of finding the report of Mr Black had been abandoned, recovered it from a pile of papers covered up in rubbish in one corner of the room. He deserves much praise for his successful work.

**MILLINERY HINTS.**

**Summer Hats and the Newest Trim-  
mings For Them.**

White will predominate among summer hats. A hat entirely of dead white is rather trying to the complexion, but trimmed with black or colors it is usually becoming. Straws of many delicate



**STRAW CAPOTE.**

tones are also shown and are immensely trimmed with crepe de chine, mousseline de soie and chiffon.

Fruit is the season's chief millinery novelty. Grapes—blue, purple and green—with foliage, are first favorites, and next come cherries in all the natural shades. There are also charming wreaths and trails of strawberries, fruit and leaves together, which are most effective on wide brimmed straw hats of the rustic order. Among flowers immense roses, poppies and orchids predominate. Foliage is well represented, both plain and variegated, and a great deal of maiden-hair fern is used. Violets, so long a favorite, still retain their prestige.

Veils with flat velvet spots are more worn than those with chenille dots, but the velvet particles, which are only stuck on the net, are apt to drop off, while the chenille dots, which are woven into the tissue, retain their position.

A picture is given of a hat of ficelle lace straw. It has a crown of violets, and the brim, which is much rippled and twisted, is lined with shirred mauve mousseline de soie. In front is a cluster of violets, the stems of which are turned upward to form an erect aigret. This hat accompanies a tailor made gown of fawn cloth, trimmed with large pearl buttons.

**False Teeth of Antiquity.**

The manufacture and use of false teeth are undoubtedly of great antiquity. The ancient Egyptians were no mean dentists. Jawbones of mummies have been found with false teeth in them, and also with teeth filled with gold. The ancient Greeks also knew how to fill teeth with gold; also how to make false teeth.

There is plentiful evidence of skilled dentistry among the Romans, for many of the Latin authors have references to false teeth. In the "Roman Laws of the Twelve Tables" there are distinct references to artificial teeth. The first part of No. 10 forbids useless expense at funerals in general, but an exception is permitted by No. 11, which allows that the gold fillings of false teeth or the gold with which they were bound should be buried or burned with the deceased.

**The Most Ungrammatical.**

A literary man who has just returned from the anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania says that he found a great quantity of "local color" there. He also says he heard the most ungrammatical sentence while there that ever came under his notice. It was strolling through a mining village in Schuylkill county when he heard a woman calling, and at some distance off saw several children who were playing in the road. When he reached them, he said kindly:

"Your mother is calling you, children."

"The largest child, a girl of about 10 years, turned to him and said:

"Her ain't a-calling we; us don't belong to she."—New York Times.

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