



BOERS ASSEMBLING AN ARMY

TO DISPUTE FURTHER INVASION BY LORD ROBERTS.

Forces Hastening from All Quarters of the Two Republics—Concentrating Near Bloemfontein—No News to Indicate Cronje's Collapse—Roberts Holding Off Through Motives of Humanity—Buller Takes Grobler's Kloof, the Key to Ladysmith.

London, Feb. 27.—4:20 a. m. — The Boers are assembling an army near Bloemfontein, with which to dispute the invasion of Lord Roberts. This intelligence comes from Pretoria by way of Lorenzo Marques. The commandos are described as "hastening from all quarters of the two republics." No estimate is made of their numbers, but the withdrawal of the Boers from most of the places where they have been in contact with the British except the district near Ladysmith may raise the resisting force to 30,000 men. This figure assumes that the Boers have between 60,000 and 70,000 men in the field.

The gathering of this army across the path of Lord Roberts gives significance to General Cronje's steadfast defense. He has engaged the corps of Lord Roberts for ten days now, and whether he is relieved or not, he has given time for the dispersed Boer fractions to get together and to prepare positions to receive the British advance when Cronje is overcome, and Lord Roberts moves forward. It is difficult to conceive that the Boers are strong enough to take the offensive and to rescue General Cronje from his precarious situation. The war office had nothing after midnight to indicate his collapse, and he may hold out for a few days. The correspondents seem to have no exact information respecting his resources. Some say that he has plenty of food, but is short of ammunition. Others assert that he abandoned his food supplies, but kept abundant supplies of ammunition.

General Buller on Saturday faced the last and strongest positions of the Boers who bar his way to Ladysmith. The strenuous fighting indicates a battle between armies rather than rear guard actions protesting a retreat. On Thursday and Friday he lost forty-three officers killed and wounded, representing probably a total of from 400 to 500. General Buller's guns worked on Saturday upon the Boer positions and a helicopter from Ladysmith reported that the Boers were retreating and that larger ratios were being issued in view of the fact that relief seemed at hand. Nothing has been heard from Mafeking since February 12.

The movement on the veldt away from the railway is becoming increasingly difficult for large bodies of troops, as the grass is burned up. General French has to wagon forage for his horses, and even the infantry finds the long marches harder than before, for forage for the transport of animals must be carried. This requires the formation of garrisoned depots. The ordinary campaigning season is over and the sickly season for both men and animals has set in.

Technical military writers take these things into consideration in forecasting events.

The Daily Chronicle says it learns from private letters that British rifles and ammunition have been landed on the southern coast of Cape Colony, presumably for the Dutch colonists.

Lord Roberts has recently received seventy-two additional pieces of artillery. Whether all have been sent to Paardeberg is not known.

Probably the Eighth division will leave England next Monday.

CONCENTRATION OF BOERS.

Concentrations Passing Through Bloemfontein Hourly.

London, Feb. 27.—A dispatch to the Daily News from Lorenzo Marques, dated Friday, February 23, says: "It is reported here that five thousand burghers have left Ladysmith for the Free State. The Boers are concentrating their forces thirty miles outside of Bloemfontein, and the Free State government is moving to Winburg. Reinforcements from all parts are passing through Bloemfontein hourly. President Steyn has telegraphed to General Kruger that Lord Roberts is within a few hours of Bloemfontein and he urges that every man, irrespective of nationality, should be commanded."

Cape Town, Sunday, Feb. 25.—The Boers are concentrating to defend Bloemfontein. Lord Rosslyn, who has obtained a commission in Thorneycroft's Horse, has gone to join Sir Redvers Buller.

CRONJE AT ROBERTS' MERCY.

Boers Treated Kindly from Motives of Humanity.

London, Feb. 27.—A dispatch from Paardeberg, dated Friday, to the Times says that several thousand Boers are now hovering in that neighborhood. The Daily Mail has the following dispatch from Paardeberg, dated Sunday: "There are about four thousand men beleaguered in General Cronje's camp, exclusive of the losses he has hitherto sustained. His wife is not with him, although there are women and children in the camp. The Boer position now is almost exclusively confined to the river bed. The enemy are entirely at our mercy, but Lord Roberts is treating them with great consideration from motives of humanity."

London, Feb. 27.—A dispatch to the Daily Chronicle from Paardeberg dated February 23 says: "General Cronje's attempt to mount guns was frustrated by our artillery."

GEN. BULLER'S CAMPAIGN.

Grobler's Kloof Taken—Said to be the Key to Ladysmith.

London, Feb. 27.—The Times has the following from Pietermaritzburg dated Friday, Feb. 23: "The Dublin Fusiliers have again distinguished themselves by volunteering to take Grobler's Kloof, which they did. This gallant battalion which began the campaign eight hundred and fifty strong on today be said to muster on parade only between 100 and 200 of its original members."

Grobler's Kloof is said to be the key to Ladysmith.

Winston Churchill is a dispatch to the Morning Post from Pietermaritzburg dated Sunday says: "The idea that the Boers have raised the siege of Ladysmith is premature. The advance is being pursued in the face of the most stubborn opposition and of heavy loss. President Kruger's grandson is among the Boers killed." Mr. Churchill then proceeds to describe heavy fighting last Friday in which the Innskillings approached within 500 yards of the summit of a rocky Boer position and then gallantly charged in the face of a hail of bullets. He says: "After repeated attempts, however, and having lost heavily, they recognized that they were unable to prevail. Nevertheless they refused to retreat, but lay down on the slope, behind a shelter of walls. The Connaughts and the Dublin Fusiliers were sent to their support, but the light faded and the night closed in before the main attack had developed."

BULLER'S DEATH LIST

Contains Three Lieut.-Colonels, All in the Fusilier Regiments.

London, Feb. 26.—The war office today issued an additional list of the casualties sustained by the Fifth brigade, under General Buller, February 23 and 24, which includes seven officers killed, twenty-three wounded and one missing. General Buller's death list contains the names of three lieutenant-colonels—Thackeray of the First Royal Innskillings Fusiliers, Sitwell of the Second Royal Dublin Fusiliers and Thord of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. An additional list of the British casualties at Paardeberg February 13 is announced and gives a lieutenant and eight men killed, a lieutenant and seven men missing and thirty-eight men wounded.

BOERS SAID TO WISH PEACE.

President Steyn Reported to Favor Ending the War.

London, Feb. 27.—A despatch from Lorenzo Marques dated Friday, February 23, to the Daily Mail says: "President Steyn is said to favor peace. The Boer general who was in command at Colenso sent a message to President Kruger saying that he had been smashed up there and recommending overture for peace. The burghers at Mafeking are also reported to have sent word to Kruger that they would rather defend their own farms than fight elsewhere. The Pretoria government is paying its debts with gold, the English professional comers having refused to work. Understanding how continental shareholders are affected by the closing of the Robinson bank, President Kruger has allowed the institution to reopen."

BRITISH REINFORCEMENTS.

Mounted Troops Leave India—Canadian Arrive at Cape Town.

Calcutta, Feb. 26.—The departure of Lumsden's Horse to South Africa today was a brilliant event. Immense crowds assembled to bid the troops farewell, the docks were profusely decorated and the highest officials were present at the victory and Lady Curzon arriving in state. Lady Curzon received a royal welcome. In his farewell the viceroy says: "You go as the tide of fortune seems to have turned in our favor. May it carry you on its crest to Pretoria."

NATIVES ATTACK BOERS.

Kill a Few Men and Capture Several Wagons and Oxen.

Lorenzo Marques, Monday, Feb. 26.—A despatch from Gaborone, dated February 22, says: "Chief Lincho has reported that he made reprisals from the Boers near Squall, killing a few men and capturing several wagons and oxen. There were some casualties on both sides. The Boers at Crocodile Pools notified Colonel Plumer that fearing the natives would attack the wounded, they had placed their hospital within the laager. Colonel Plumer replied that the ambulance would, of course, be respected, but the troops, he said, could not expect good behavior from the natives while they were invading the territory of the natives."

Danger from Afrikaner Bund.

London, Feb. 26.—The Brussels correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "As a result of special inquiries in Boer circles here I am able to corroborate fully the reported danger from the intrigues of the Afrikaner bund and the coming congress. Unless the ends of the bund are actually attained, it will fan the flame of rebellion throughout the colony."

March Sale in New York.

New York, Feb. 26.—There was a good attendance to-day at the sale of the collection of the late Prof. O. C. Marsh at Yale university, at the American Art galleries, Madison Square south. About 300 objects, comprising Japanese blue and white porcelain, Japanese falcon and old pottery and Japanese cloisonne enamel, were sold for \$1,725. Among the buyers were G. Schirmer and E. Whitney of New Haven, Conn.

THE TROUBLE IN KENTUCKY

MINOR DEMOCRATIC CONTESTANTS GIVEN ELECTION CERTIFICATES.

Quickly Go to State House and Make Formal Demand for Possession of the Office—Republicans Refuse—Injunction Suits Filed—Every Branch of the State Government Now Tied Up.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 26.—The state contest board to-day awarded certificates of election to all of the democratic contestants for minor offices. Immediately afterward the contestants were sworn in and repaired to the state house in a body, where they made a formal demand on the republican incumbents for possession of the offices, but the demands were not accepted. The democratic contestants sworn in are: For secretary of state, A. B. Hill; attorney-general, Robert J. Breckinridge; auditor, Gustave G. Coulter; treasurer, William Hager; superintendent of public instruction, H. V. McChesney.

Immediately after the swearing in of the democratic officials injunction suits were filed by each of the new officials seeking to oust the present incumbents and enjoining them from discharging the duties of their offices. The installation of the democratic officials will have the effect of tying up every branch of the state government, pending a decision of the contest by the courts. From now till then the state will be practically without a state government.

BRITAIN FEARS NO NAVAL POWER

Statement by Mr. Goschen—Navy Prepared for All Emergencies.

London, Feb. 26.—In introducing the naval estimates in the house of commons to-day George J. Goschen, the first lord of the admiralty, said there was nothing spasmodic or sensational therein. The total, with the expected additions, would be £30,000,000. There had been complaints that the estimates would be sensational, but the government fully realized the situation and knew the nation expected the navy to be prepared for all emergencies, and the estimates were framed on that footing. Nothing, he continued, had been put down for the mobilization of the fleet. If mobilization should be necessary the government would not hesitate to mobilize and come to parliament for money, but he thought the time had not arrived for taking that course and he hoped that it would not arrive.

Continuing, Mr. Goschen said that Great Britain was not menaced by any naval power. Europe knew her strength and the number of ships she possessed. There were times when a demonstration was advisable, but the government did not think it advisable upon this occasion. Regarding the export of coal, Mr. Goschen announced that the government could not prohibit it unless at war with a foreign power or in an emergency very different from the present. The admiralty, he further asserted, was considering how it could organize a naval reserve in conjunction with the colonies. He explained that with an adequate organization the government could get a very valuable contingent from Canada and Australia. The negotiations with Canada were well advanced. Canada asked that the period of training be reduced, but a final decision on the subject had not been reached.

Dealing with the construction of fresh ironclads, Mr. Goschen remarked that the Hague convention already seemed a thing of the dim past. When the peace conference was called he suggested that possibly the beginning of further building of battleships might be suspended.

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CRONJE COULD NOT SURRENDER.

Men Would Not Allow It—A Free State's Opinion.

New York, Feb. 26.—"Even if General Cronje wanted to surrender his men would not let him do so. Everyone is determined to fight to the bitter end. Therefore, American newspapers are in error when they state that the general is foolishly insisting so desperately." This statement was made to a reporter by Philip Lonter Wessels of Bloemfontein, brother of the president of the Volksraad of the Orange Free State, who arrived here several days ago to raise funds for Boer widows and orphans. "And even if General Cronje's forces should surrender," added Mr. Wessels, "that would not end the war. We have done the British no wrong and we have never deserved the underhanded tricks they have employed upon us since the fire." The American Boer committee announces that it has just forwarded \$2,000 for Boer widows and orphans to Treasurer C. C. De Villiers of the Atrikander committee of the legislature at Cape Colony.

Rice Gets a Draw.

New York, Feb. 26.—Sammy Kelly of New York and Eddie Lenny of Philadelphia were to have met in the principal bout at the Hercules A. C. in Brooklyn to-night, but through illness Lenny was unable to appear and Lenny's place was filled by Austin Rice of New London. Kelly and Rice put up a game battle, which lasted the limit. Referee Charley White declared the bout a draw.

UNSEASONABLE WEATHER.

Temperature Above the Average South and Below North.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The weather bureau publishes the following special conditions and general forecast: Fair weather prevailed Monday except in the middle Rocky Mountain region, where snow is reported. The temperature has fallen in the North Atlantic states and over the great part of the lake region, but also in the Rocky Mountain and Plateau districts and has risen in the Mississippi and Ohio valleys and thence over the Middle and South Atlantic and Middle and East Gulf states. This evening the temperature is above the seasonal average in the gulf states and Florida and generally west of the Rocky Mountains and is fifteen to twenty degrees below the seasonal average in the Ohio valley, the Lake regions and the Atlantic states from North Carolina northward.

The following temperatures are reported: New York city, 12 degrees; Boston, 14; Albany, 10; Philadelphia, 18; Washington, 14; Savannah, 34; Jacksonville, 40; New Orleans, 54; St. Louis, 16; Kansas City, 12; Chicago, 2; St. Paul, 2; Duluth, 5; Denver, 30; San Francisco, 50; Key West, 53; Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., 20 below.

A disturbance which is developing over the Middle Rocky Mountain region will move eastward during Tuesday, attended by a cloud and rain area over the middle western states and the Middle and Upper Mississippi valley and by snow showers along the Middle Rocky Mountain districts and northern Texas.

By Wednesday the rain area is likely to reach the Atlantic coast. The temperature will moderate in the central valley and the western lake region Tuesday, and in the Atlantic coast states and the eastern lake region Tuesday night and Wednesday. Along the Atlantic coast westerly winds will become variable Tuesday and shift to easterly Tuesday night and Wednesday. On the middle and west gulf coast the winds will increase in force and possibly become high from the southeast. Advisory messages have been sent from New Orleans to Brownsville.

CARNEGIE-FRICK TROUBLE.

Another Suit Brought Remotely Connected With the Matter.

Pittsburg, Feb. 26.—John Walker, guardian of Andrew Carnegie's son, S. L. Schoonmaker and John Pontefract, on behalf of themselves and such other stockholders of the H. C. Frick company as may choose to join in the suit as plaintiffs, filed the much-talked-of bill in equity to annul the coke contract held with the coke company by the Carnegie Steel company, limited, in common pleas court No. 2, late this afternoon. The action is remotely connected with the trouble now existing between H. C. Frick, former chairman of the Carnegie Steel company, limited, and Andrew Carnegie, and was precipitated by the filing of Mr. Frick's bill in equity in common pleas court No. 1 to secure an accounting of the affairs of the Carnegie Steel company, limited. In the present case the plaintiffs seek to restrain the defendants by injunction from selling, shipping or delivering any coke to the Carnegie Steel company, limited, under a contract dated January 1, 1899, at a price of \$1.35 a ton, the contract to run for a period of five years, and from settling with the steel company for coke already delivered under the contract. It is also asked that the court annul the contract and order an accounting.

MARCUS DALY TESTIFIES.

Admits Giving \$20,000 for Prosecution of the Clark Inquiry.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Marcus Daly, the millionaire miner of Montana, was the principal witness before the senate committee on elections to-day. He was on the stand for about two hours and was then excused on the plea that he was not well and that the questioning process fatigued him. Mr. Daly confessed that he had contributed \$20,000 or \$25,000 to the prosecution of this case, but he asserted that he did not enter into any conspiracy before Mr. Clark's election to injure him. He had not contributed any of the \$300,000 used in the Whiteside exposure. In conclusion he tendered his checks and check books for the past five years for the inspection of the committee. Mr. Clark listened attentively to Mr. Daly's testimony.

Swimming Contest in Boston.

Boston, Feb. 26.—The sixty-yard Amateur Athletic union championship was decided at the Sportman's show to-night, the winner being E. C. Schaffer of the University of Pennsylvania. Time 37 3/4. The best amateur swimmers of the country were in this event and will compete in the eighty-yard Amateur Athletic union championships, which will be decided to-morrow. Fred Welch of Yale won in the second heat, but went out later.

Mercury at Zero.

The thermometer at the corner of Chapel and State streets registered at zero at 2:30 o'clock this morning. This is the lowest temperature registered at that corner this winter. The coldest night previously this winter was one night in January, when the mercury dropped to 4 degrees above.

Otis' Promotion Confirmed.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The senate to-day confirmed the following nominations: To be major general by brevet, Brigadier General Harrison Gray Otis, U. S. V.; to be brigadier general by brevet, Colonel O. Summers, Second Oregon V. I.; Colonel H. S. Keaser, First Montana, V. I.

Yale Defeats Harvard.

New York, Feb. 26.—The hockey game between Yale and Harvard, held in an uptown club to-night, resulted in a victory for the Yale men. Score—Yale 5, Harvard 4.

A DECISION AGAINST DEWEY

NAVAL BOUNTY CLAIM NOT SUSTAINED IN COURT.

Entitled to Recover but \$100 for Each Person on Board the Destroyed Spanish Ships—Claimed \$200—Decision Made on Basis That American Fleet Was Stronger Than the Spanish.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The United States court of claims to-day rendered an opinion on the claim of Admiral Dewey, his officers and men for naval bounty under section 4635 of the revised statutes for the destruction of the Spanish fleet in Manila bay May 1, 1898, the court holding that the claimant has a right to recover for each person on board the enemy's ships the sum of \$100. This decision is on the basis that the admiral's fleet was superior to the Spanish fleet, excluding the shore batteries, the torpedoes and the mines in Manila bay. Admiral Dewey's claim was for \$200 for each man belonging to the enemy's fleet, including the supporting shore batteries, the mines and the torpedoes.

The principal question involved was whether in determining the enemy's force the supporting shore batteries, mines and torpedoes should be included. The statute provides that a bounty shall be paid by the United States for each person on board any ship or vessel of war belonging to an enemy at the commencement of an engagement, which is sunk or otherwise destroyed in such engagement by any ship or vessel belonging to the United States, or which it may be necessary to destroy in consequence of injuries sustained in action, or \$100 if the enemy's vessel was of inferior force and of \$200 if of equal or superior force, to be divided among the officers and crew in the same manner as prize money.

In the course of his belief counsel for the admiral stated that the number of officers and men on the vessels of the United States during the battle was 1,536; that the official complement of the Spanish vessels taking part in the battle was 2,037, and that several of the enemy's vessels had on board a number considerable in excess of their complement, making the actual number on the enemy's vessels 2,473. The total number of men on board the vessels of the enemy which were destroyed, including two torpedo boats, is given as 1,914. Taking into consideration the guns at Corregidor, El Fraile and other forts at the entrance to Manila bay and those at Manila and Cavite, and the torpedoes and mines in the bay's entrance to it, it was contended by counsel for Admiral Dewey that the enemy's force was superior to the vessels of the United States. The government insisted that the statute failed to provide for the contingency of the co-operation of land batteries with the naval forces destroyed, and that the court was powerless to supply the omission.

The court in deciding the case held that the law applied only to the force of the vessels engaged in the action, and that in this instance, taking the number and character of the vessels into account, the strength of their batteries on board and all other matters which properly go to the determination of the actual fighting of the two opposing fleets, the United States was the superior. It is understood that counsel for Admiral Dewey will take an appeal to the United States supreme court. Under to-day's decision Admiral Dewey is personally entitled to \$9,570.

THE METHODIST UNIVERSITY.

Bishop Hurst of the Washington Institution on Its Needs.

New York, Feb. 26.—Bishop John F. Hurst of Washington, D. C., to-day addressed the Methodist preachers on the "American University." This is the title of the Methodist university at Washington, of which Bishop Hurst is the chancellor. The bishop referred to the failure of efforts to get the national government to establish a university at Washington, and he added: "There are five magnificent Roman Catholic institutions in Washington to-day. I have understood that \$50,000,000 has been pledged to these institutions and will ultimately come under their control. There is no contention whatever between our own smaller work and this Roman Catholic work. The university now has property worth about a million, exclusive of the land, which in the official schedule is put down as being worth \$800,000. History hall cost \$175,000. The hall of administration, known as the Pennsylvania building, is to cost \$400,000, of which \$110,000 has been raised. There is to be an Ohio building soon, and President McKinley, who is a trustee of the university, contributed \$1,000 toward that purpose a few days ago."

Although the American university is a Methodist institution, 60 per cent. of the gifts to it have come from members of other churches than the Methodist Episcopal. Speaking of the opportunities for study in Washington, Bishop Hurst said: "There are fourteen scientific institutions in Washington. The collections in them cost \$22,500,000, and it costs \$3,500,000 a year to maintain them. I have traveled pretty widely in Europe and I say that as regards scientific collections all the cities of the continent do not equal Washington. I except Edinburgh and London and Oxford and Cambridge." The bishop said that in this period, when a wave of free thinking was sweeping over the country, the need of such an institution as the university at Washington was all the greater.

The Rev. Dr. W. L. Davidson, secretary of the university, emphasized the fact that the American university was purely for post-graduate work. A resolution was passed approving Bishop Hurst's work.

SAMPSON ANSWERS CONCAS.

Cervera's Chief-of-Staff Evidently Lied About the Cristobal Colon.

Boston, Feb. 26.—Admiral Sampson to-day positively denied statements made by an article that has just appeared in a volume of the "war-note series," issued by the bureau of naval intelligence at Washington by Captain Victor H. Concas y Palau, formerly commander of the cruiser Infanta Maria Teresa and chief of Admiral Cervera's staff in the Santiago battle. In the course of the article, which is translated from the Spanish Cervera's captain says: "The Cristobal Colon, although going at the speed of thirteen knots, ran ashore on sand, and if Admiral Sampson, with a more seaman-like spirit had ordered the divers to close the valves he could most certainly have saved the cruiser, but with feverish impatience he towed her off with his own flagship, the New York. Hardly had the ship been floated when she began to list, at which moment, with great severity he pushed the Colon back again with the ram of his own ship toward the sandy shoal, but it was too late and, turning over, that noble cruiser went to the bottom of the sea forever."

Admiral Sampson says in reply: "The Cristobal Colon surrendered, ran ashore and broke her sea valves. Her captain, after he came aboard the New York assured me that the Colon was in good order. He took his meals with me on board the New York, and more than once assured me that his ship was in good order. The Colon floated off without any assistance and Captain Chadwick pushed her back on shore where she was now lies. At low tide she is about ten feet dry. As I said before, the captain said he had not injured her. This statement was, of course, disproved. The valves had been broken and could not be closed. I accused the captain of having broken the valve stems. He declared that if it was done the engineer did it and that it was without his knowledge or consent. Considering the fact that the ship had been sunk after she had surrendered, made me recommend that the commanding officer be retained on board, or that he be shot as having destroyed public property, which, after her surrender, belonged to her captors. I made the same recommendation in regard to the captain of the Sandoval, who sank his ship after the surrender at Santiago and several days after he had received a letter from me warning him that he was no longer at liberty to do injury to the vessel!"

FOR NEW YORK'S TUNNEL.

The \$35,000,000 Asked For—Ground Will Be Broken March 17.

New York, Feb. 26.—The Rapid Transit commissioners to-day passed resolutions requesting the board of estimate and apportionment to appropriate the \$35,000,000 needed for the building of the Rapid Transit tunnel. This resolution also included \$1,500,000 for terminals and real estate. The commission adopted a resolution instructing the chief engineer to investigate and to report as to the practicability and cost of an extension of the Rapid Transit railroad from the city hall to South Ferry and the tunnel to the East river to the borough of Brooklyn.

To start the work of the engineers' department of the Rapid Transit railroad George S. Rice was to-day appointed deputy chief engineer, first assistant to Mr. Parsons, at an annual salary of \$7,000. Mr. Rice is a Harvard graduate and is the senior member of a large engineering firm in Boston. He was for many years a member of the Aqueduct commission in this city and was the engineer of the Rapid Transit board in Boston until it was legislated out of office. He was one of three engineers appointed to report on the building of the Baltimore and Ohio tunnel, which work was done by Contractor McDonald. He also made the report on the Ramapo water company matter to Controller Colet. Contractor McDonald in speaking of the breaking of ground for the tunnel said that when he first mentioned St. Patrick's day he did it in jest, but the people had taken it so seriously that he thought it a very good day to start.

CALIFORNIAN NOT FLOATED.

Allan Linger Still Hard and Fast on Ram Island Ledge.

Portland, Me., Feb. 26.—The steamer Californian still remains hard and fast on Ram Island ledge to-night, but after a thorough investigation of the situation the Allan line officials are extremely confident that not only will a considerable portion of the cargo be saved in an unjured condition, but the steamer herself will be floated in a very short time after the wrecking equipment on the way from Boston, gets at work. Captain Burgess of the towboat company was in the city to-day and the company with a Lloyd's agent made a thorough examination of the stranded steamer. The present plan is to take out all the cargo as soon as possible and then attempt to remove the water from the steamer by means of mammoth pumps. If the water can be pumped out of the hold temporary repairs can be made and then it will be a comparatively easy task to get the steamer to some dry dock.

HAD NOT TAKEN POISON.

A Suicide Scare at the Arlington Hotel

About 12:30 o'clock last night Andrew Cahill, a young man twenty-three years of age, who was stopping at the Arlington hotel, was taken violently ill, and it was thought that he had taken poison with suicidal intent. The police ambulance was called and he was taken to the hospital, where it was found that he was suffering from an overdose of alcoholic stimulants. It is stated at the hospital early this morning that his condition was not at all serious. Cahill comes from Meriden.

AGREE ON PORTO RICO BILL

HOUSE REPUBLICANS HOLD SUCCESSFUL NIGHT CONFERENCE.

Important Modifications Made—Duty Reduced from Twenty-Five to Fifteen Per Cent.—Bill to Remain in Force but Two Years—Will Have Support of all Republicans Except Four.

Washington, Feb. 26.—At the conference of house republicans to-night on the Porto Rican tariff bill assurances were given that the president believed the measure constitutional and would approve it if it came to him and an agreement was reached to limit the operation of the bill to two years and to reduce the duty imposed by it from twenty-five to fifteen percent. of the American tariff. As a result the republican leaders claim that the bill will have the support of all the republicans except four—Messrs. McCall of Massachusetts, Littlefield of Maine, Lorimer of Illinois and Crumpacker of Indiana—and that this loss will be offset by affirmative votes of the oppositon. They claim the passage of the modified bill is certain.

After the conference adjourned at 11 o'clock Chairman Cannon gave out the following statement of the amendments agreed on by the conference:

"The conference requested the ways and means committee to offer an amendment to the bill, as follows: 'Amend the title to make an act temporarily to provide revenue for the island of Porto Rico and for other purposes' and to add the following section: 'This act shall be taken and held to be provisional in its purpose, intending to meet a pressing, present need for revenue for the island of Porto Rico and is not to continue in force after March 1, 1902.'"

"These amendments were adopted with practically unanimity. Another to reduce the duty imposed by the act from 25 to 15 per cent. was adopted by a vote of 105 to 11. A further amendment is to be offered by the ways and means committee to make it clear that no double duty is imposed; that the payment of one integral revenue tax is the total tax on importations."

SEIZURE WAS LEGAL.

That of British Steamer Odula During Spanish War.

Washington, Feb. 26.—In an opinion by Justice Brown, the United States supreme court to-day decided the naval prize money case involving the seizure of the British steamer Odula. This ship was owned by the Atlas Steamship company of Kingston, Jamaica, and was leased to a Spanish citizen at the rate of \$100 per day for the purpose of carrying refugees from Guantanamo, Cuba. The vessel was captured June 29, 1898, when entering Guantanamo bay and was condemned as a prize vessel. The opinion handed down to-day holds that Admiral Sampson's blockade was effective; that the purpose of the voyage was pecuniary and not charitable and that therefore the vessel was a lawful prize. The opinion of the district court for the southern district of Georgia was therefore affirmed. Justices Shiras, Gray, White and Peckham dissented.

An opinion was also handed down in the case of the Spanish steamship Panama sailing from New York to Havana, which was captured as a prize off Havana on April 25, 1898. The vessel was carrying United States mail, but was owned by a Spanish corporation and was under contract as a Spanish mail vessel and carried arms as such. The court held that this vessel was a lawful prize and therefore affirmed the opinion of the court below. Justice Peckham dissented.

LAST NIGHT'S POLO.

New Haven Defeated in a Fine Passing Game by Fall River.

Fall River, Mass., Feb. 26.—The home team defeated the New Haven to-night in a beautiful passing game by a score of eleven to eight. The visitors were warmly welcomed, as nearly all played on the old Pawtucket team of last year. Summary: Score—Fall River 11, New Haven 8. Buses—Lincoln 18, Bone 6, Warren 8, Stone 2, Lorton 30, Fortens 39. Referee—Brady. Timer—Porter. Attendance—708.

Meriden Conn., Feb. 26.—The Meriden polo team in a very fast and exciting game to-night defeated the Waterbury team by the score of 15 to 9.

Debate in the House.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The general debate upon the Porto Rican tariff bill was to-day extended until to-morrow night. Interest centered in the conferences which were going on among the republican leaders and the dissenting republicans in their efforts to compromise their differences upon the bill. The speakers to-day were Messrs. Boutell of Illinois, Brown of Ohio, Mondell of Wyoming, Graham of Pennsylvania and Reeder of Kansas for the bill and Messrs. Bartlett of Georgia, Lanham of Texas, Moon of Tennessee, Williams of Illinois, Johnston of West Virginia, Sutherland of Nebraska, Jett of Illinois, Noonan of Illinois and Wilson of Arizona against it.

No "Sapho" in Waterbury.