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MEXICO, FRIDAY, JAN. 19.

The anti-British coalition is popular at Berlin.

The tourist is on his way to visit us in greater force than during any previous year.

The American steel and wire company of Pittsburg, Pa., has advanced the wages of 30,000 of its employes 7 1/2 per cent.

The Rock Island railway company will commence work on their extension south from Mountain View, Ok., into Texas before February 1.

The United States and West Indies railroad and steamship line of Plant City, Fla., has been incorporated, with a capital of 1,000,000 dollars.

Said a Mexican gentleman yesterday: "If General Porfirio Diaz had never done anything but make the people of Mexico respect themselves, he would still deserve the lasting gratitude of the nation."

The New York Sun says: "An American banking concern organized in the City of Mexico with a capital of 100,000 dollars. American money is flowing into Mexico and the English language is spreading rapidly."

Two dozen specimens of the Venezuelan plant known as tua tua have been sent from Washington for the purpose of making a test of its alleged wonderful power as a cure for leprosy. The plant will be tested at the leprosy hospitals there, where the 1,073 lepers will afford every facility for a thorough trial.

Wonderful stories are current in Venezuela about the marvelous curative properties of tua tua when applied to leprosy, and the government physicians attach considerable importance to the evidence given them. It is proposed also to test it in the island of Guam, that tiny speck of Pacific land that came to us with our other Spanish acquisition.

BOER IGNORANCE.

The following extract from "Jess," one of Rider Haggard's stories of South Africa, portrays, in a very vivid manner, the ignorance of the Boer farm:

The captain is a rooibaatje, (red jacket, a name given by the Boers to the British soldier) and the old lady "Aunt" Coetzee, interrogatively, and yet with the certainty of one who states a fact.

John signified that he was.

"What does the captain come to the land for? Is it to spy?"

The whole room listened attentively to their hostesses question,

and turned their heads to listen for the answer.

"No, I have come to farm with Silas Croft."

There was general smile of incredulity. Could a rooibaatje farm? Certainly not.

"There are three thousand men in the British army," announced the old vrow oracularly, and casting a severe glance at the wolf in sheep's clothing, the man of blood who pretended to farm.

Everybody looked at John again, and awaited his answer in dead silence.

"There are nearly a hundred thousand men in the regular British army, and as many more in the Indian army, and twice as many more volunteers," he said in a rather irritated voice.

This statement also was received with the most discouraging incredulity.

"There are three thousand men in the British army," repeated the old lady, in a tone of certainty that was positively crushing.

"Yah, yah," chimed in some of the younger men in chorus.

"There are three thousand men in the British army," she repeated for the third time in triumph. "If the captain says that there are more he lies. It is natural that he should lie about his own army. My grandfather's brother was at Cape-town in the time of Governor Smith, and he saw the whole British army. He counted them; there were exactly three thousand men in the British army."

"Yah, yah!" said the chorus; and John gazed at this terrible person in blank exasperation.

"How many men do you command in the British army?" she interrogated after a solemn pause.

"A hundred," said John sharply.

"Girl," said the old woman, addressing one of her daughters, "you have been to school and can reckon. How many times does one hundred go into three thousand?"

The young lady addressed giggled confusedly, and looked for assistance to a sardonic young Boer whom she was going to marry, who shook his head sadly, indicating thereby that these were mysteries into which it was not well to pry.

Thrown on her own resources, the young lady plunged into the recesses of an intricate calculation, in which her fingers played a considerable part, and finally, with an air of triumph, announced that it went twenty-six times exactly.

"Yah, yah!" said the chorus; it goes twenty-six times exactly."

"The captain," said the oracular old lady, "commands a twenty-sixth part of the British army, and he says that he comes here to farm with Uncle Silas Croft. He says, she went on with withering contempt, "that he comes here to farm when he commands a twenty-sixth part of the British army. It is evident that he lies."

"Yah, yah!" said chorus.

"It is natural that he should lie!" she continued; "all Englishmen lie, especially the rooibaatje Englishman, but he should not lie so badly. It must vex the dear Lord to hear a man lie so, badly even though he be an Englishman and rooibaatje."

At this point John burst from the house, and swore frantically to himself, as soon as he got outside; and, really, it is to be hoped that he was forgiven, for the provocation was not small. It is not pleasant to be universally set down not only as a liar, but as one of the very feeblest order.

Lee's Birthday.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 19.—The birthday of General Robert E. Lee was

celebrated in all the leading cities of the South today by the societies of the army and navy of the Confederate States and Daughters of the Confederacy. In most cities business was suspended and the day was observed as a general holiday. This evening banquets will be the feature and many of the prominent men of the south will deliver addresses. At the annual banquet of the Virginia Society of Atlanta the principal oration will be delivered by Congressman Peter J. Otey of Virginia.

BOER ARMS.

Appears They Are Being Supplied by English Manufacturers.

London, Jan. 19.—It would seem as if the Boers are actually being supplied with arms and ammunition from England, but unwittingly on the part of English manufacturers.

The big guns, presumably intended for the Transvaal, were seized at the Mill Wall dock, London. The attention of the custom officials was called to the enormous weight of cases marked "iron mongery" and consigned to a firm at Christiana, supposed for the re-shipment to the Transvaal.

Another vessel was boarded by London custom officers and it was revealed that six Maxim guns and a big supply of ammunition were in her hold. The result of these discoveries is that the customs force has been doubled and every outgoing ship is subjected to the closest scrutiny.

Tommy Atkins.

London, Jan. 19.—Some idea of the manner in which Tommy Atkins spends his spare time may be derived from the following letter, received from a Corporal in the Army Service Corps:

"At last, after being at this place for a month, we have moved up country to a place called 'Kragger Kama,' and a nice show it is too, nothing to see but hills and rocks around for miles. We have been very busy this last fortnight, as we have got 2,000 mules, and they have all got to be trained, so you can guess what there is to do. We have had some fine sport out here of an evening, hunting for things they call bucks—they are something like hares, only larger. We all get mounted on mules, and have long sticks, and then we go at the charge. I expect it is very cold at home now, but here it is in the middle of summer, and very hot. I am very glad to say that when the war is over my company will be the first to return home, which, I hope, will be soon, as we have all had enough of this life. We are living like lords; for breakfast, brown bread, like bricks, and coffee without sugar; for dinner, corned beef one day and the same the next, only in different tins."

Ohio Society.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 19.—Many prominent sons of the Buckeye state are in Chicago today for the purpose of responding to toasts at the tenth annual banquet of the Ohio Society of Chicago, which will be held this evening at the Auditorium, and which promises to be one of the most notable functions of the social season. The guests of honor will be Governor Nash, Judge William R. Day and Comptroller Daves. President Leroy D. Thomas will introduce the speakers, who will respond to toasts as follows: "The Governors of Ohio," Governor Nash; "The Ohio Presidents," Judge Day; "The Marietta Settlement," Charles G. Dawes; "The Ohio Educators," President William R. Harper of the University of Chicago. The society is more than ordinarily pleased over the acceptance of Judge Day, as the occasion will be the first appearance of the ex-Secretary of State at a public function since his retirement from the cabinet.

Pro.Boer Meeting.

The speakers at the Boer meeting at Milwaukee yesterday included G. J. Diekmann of Holland, Mich.; Rasmus B. Anderson of Madison, who will speak for the Norwegians; the Rev. John P. W. Roth of Cedar Grove, a native of South Africa; Louis G. Bohmrich of Kenosha and Joseph G. Donnelly of Milwaukee. An interesting feature of the demonstration was the singing of the Boer national anthem in the Boer tongue by Professor Oswald's male chorus.

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National Guard Convention.

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 19.—Adjutant-General Gore is in receipt of communications which indicate that the National Guard convention to be held in Indianapolis next week will be the largest and most important gathering of its kind ever held in this country.

With the exception of Virginia, Vermont, Connecticut, Louisiana and the District of Columbia every state and territory of the Union will be represented. Owing to the large amount of business to be transacted it is probable that the sessions will continue three or four days. The most important thing to be considered is the proposed consolidation of the Southern National Guard Association and the Interstate National Guard Association. Numerous measures of proposed legislation, both federal and state, will also be discussed. Besides the adjutants-general of the different states, the convention will be attended by delegates appointed for each 100 men of the national guard of the several states, so that the total attendance is expected to exceed several hundred delegates and visitors. The sessions will be held in the House of Representatives of the state capitol.

State Bowling League.

Milwaukee, Jan. 19.—The largest meeting of the Wisconsin State Bowling League that has yet been held opened here on Wednesday. After disposing of various matters of business the league engaged in its annual contests for the state championship. Among the entries were crack teams from Fond du Lac, Oshkosh, Hartford, Beaver Dam, Oconomowoc, Escanaba, Green Bay, Menominee, Mich., Eau Claire and Milwaukee.

State Supervisors.

Ames, Iowa, Jan. 19.—The State Supervisors' association is in biennial session here with delegates presents from all parts of Iowa. The proceedings of the convention, which began yesterday with the transaction of a large amount of routine business, will continue until Saturday. An interesting programme has been arranged, including among its features, a discussion of county care for the insane, a paper on "Bad Roads," by Mrs. Jennie M. Boyer, and another on "Good Roads," by Prof. C. F. Curtiss, director of the Iowa experiment station.

Electrical Association.

Milwaukee, Wis., Jan. 19.—The annual meeting of the Northwestern Electrical Association which opened on Wednesday last at the Hotel Pfister with an attendance of 125 delegates, was representative of all parts of the Northwest. The opening session, after the usual welcoming addresses and responses, was occupied with the revision of the by-laws and other routine business. The session closed today. The program consisted of numerous papers and addresses on subjects relating to the science and application of the electricity.

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