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CANNOT HELP THE BOERS.

The United States Will Not Interfere in War Between South Africa and England.

THE PEACE ENVOYS ARE SO INFORMED.

The President's Position Is Announced by Secretary of State Hay—Boer Delegates Ask for Intervention—They Are Cordially Received and Explain Their Mission.

Washington, May 22.—The state department has met the issue raised by the coming to Washington of the Boer delegation by declining to interfere in behalf of the South African republics in the present struggle. In view of this announced decision, all questions as to the character of the recognition to be extended to the delegates and the sufficiency of their credentials dropped at once into the background. It was, after all, of little moment whether or not the Boers were received as diplomatic agents or ministers, so long as they were powerless to promote the prime object of their mission, namely, cause the United States government to intervene to bring about peace.

The Secretary's Statement.

"Messrs. A. Fischer, C. H. Wessels and A. D. W. Woolmarans, the delegates in this country of the South African republics, called by appointment at the state department. They were cordially received and remained with the secretary of state for more than an hour. They laid before the secretary at much length and with great energy and eloquence the merits of the controversy in South Africa and the desire of the Boer republics that the United States should intervene in the interest of peace and use its influence to that end with the British government.

"The secretary of state made the following reply: 'The president, in his message to the congress last December, said:

" 'This government has maintained an attitude of neutrality in the unfortunate contest between Great Britain and the Boer states of Africa. We have remained faithful to the precept of avoiding entangling alliances as to affairs not of our direct concern. Had circumstances suggested that the parties to the quarrel would have welcomed any kindly expression of the hope of the American people that war might be averted, good offices would have been gladly tendered.'

"As the war went on, the president, while regretting the suffering and the sacrifices endured by both of the combatants, could do nothing but preserve a strict neutrality between them. This he has steadily and consistently done, but there never has been a moment when he would have neglected any favorable occasion to use his good offices in the interests of peace. On the 10th of last March we received from Mr. Hay, the United States consul at Pretoria, this telegram:

" 'I am officially requested by the governments of the republics to urge your intervention with a view to cessation of hostilities. Some request made to representatives of European powers.'

Note to Great Britain.

"The president at once directed me to convey the substance of this telegram to the British government, and in communicating this request I was directed by him to express his earnest hope that a way to bring about peace might be found, and to say that he would be glad to aid in any friendly manner to promote so happy a result. The Transvaal government was at the same time informed of the president's action in the matter.

Salisbury's Reply.

"Our representative in London promptly communicated the president's instruction to Lord Salisbury. In reply he was requested to thank the president for the friendly interest shown by him, and Lord Salisbury added that her majesty's government could not accept the intervention of any power. This communication also was immediately transmitted to our consul at Pretoria, to be communicated to the president of the South African republic. So far as we are informed, the United States was the only government in the world of all those approached by the South African republics which tendered its good offices to either of the combatants in the interest of a cessation of hostilities.

"This would seem to render any further action of the United States unadvisable under existing circumstances. The steps taken by the president in his earnest desire to see an end to the strife which has caused so much suffering may already be said to have gone to the extreme limit permitted to him. Indeed, if in his discretion he had chosen not to present to England the South African request for good offices, he might have justified his action by referring to the following declaration, which was made in the very act of signing The Hague convention by the plenipotentiaries of the United States:

" 'Nothing contained in this convention shall be so construed as to require the United States of America to depart from its traditional policy of not intruding upon, interfering with or entangling itself with questions of policy or internal administration of any foreign state; nor shall anything contained in the said convention be construed to imply a relinquishment by the United States of America of its traditional attitude toward purely American questions.'

Must Remain Neutral.

"The president sympathizes heartily in the sincere desire of all the people of the United States that the war which is now afflicting South Africa may, for the sake of both parties engaged, come to a speedy close; but, having done his full duty in preserving a strictly neutral position between them, and in seizing the first opportunity that presented itself for tendering his good offices in the interests of peace, he feels that, in the present circumstances, no course is open to him except to persist in the policy of impartial neutrality. To deviate from this would be contrary to all our traditions and all our national interests, and would lead to consequences which neither the president nor the people of the United States should regard with favor."

Visit the President.

Washington, May 23.—President McKinley told the Boer peace commissioners when they called upon him yesterday that he was unable to aid the South African republics; that he had offered the services of the United States for mediation and that they had been refused by Great Britain. The envoys intimated that they were glad to feel they had friends in this country, and then bade the president good-by.

Will Visit Cities.

Washington, May 24.—The Boer envoys have decided to visit ten or twelve principal cities of the United States in the interests of their cause.

New Associated Press.

Albany, N. Y., May 24.—A new Associated Press has been chartered in this city, its operations to cover the entire country.

ILLINOIS STATE NEWS.

Memorial Day.

Joel M. Longenecker, commander of the department of Illinois, G. A. R., has issued the following general order:

The thirtieth day of May is now recognized by the nation as a holiday. Most of the states of the union have made it so by law. Upon all calenders noting holidays it is so marked. It is a reminder that upon this day the people of this great nation are to honor their dead defenders. Thanks to the great general and past commander in chief of our order, Comrade John A. Logan, who has long since gone from among us, and to the Grand Army of the Republic who brought about its legislation, it has come to be known as Memorial day.

Long after the grand army shall have laid down its work a grateful people, not now, but then, living, will take up the labor and keep fresh and green in all their hearts the deeds of the union soldiers of the great war.

On the return of Memorial day, Wednesday, May 30, 1900, let love and gratitude inspire every post commander and every comrade to observe this hallowed day in a manner worthy of its sacred purpose, and that shall make them feel that by having willingly performed such a loving duty they are bettered thereby.

It is urged by your commander that every post in the department have such exercises as are appropriate to Memorial day, and that they decorate with flowers all the graves of the union soldiers and sailors in their respective neighborhoods.

Some time since the esteemed and patriotic wife of our eminent past department commander, Comrade John C. Black, suggested the strewing of flowers upon the waters in remembrance of our sailor dead, since which time in many places services have been held in which this feature has been found a most impressive and pleasing one. Your commander therefore recommends that comrades living near the lakes and rivers have suitable services and strew flowers upon the waters in honor of our sailors.

The Sunday preceding Memorial day should be observed, and all posts and comrades are requested to attend Divine service. It is also suggested that members of the Woman's Relief Corps, Ladies of the Grand Army, Ladies' Aid societies, sons and daughters of veterans and all kindred and patriotic organizations be invited to participate with them in this Sabbath service, as well as in the Memorial day exercises.

Commanders will continue the custom of detailing speakers, to visit and address the public schools on the Friday preceding Memorial day, or on such other day as the school authorities may suggest. So far as possible let comrades attend these public school exercises and take part in them.

A Family Murdered.

Mrs. Thomas Moser, wife of a farmer living three miles north of Tremont, and her four small children were found dead in their home with their throats cut from ear to ear. Moser has disappeared, and there is no known evidence pointing to his having committed the terrible crime, but some of the neighbors are convinced that Moser wiped out his family in a fit of insanity.

Cooking Lessons.

The woman's board of managers of the Illinois state fair, composed of Mrs. R. J. Oglesby, Elkhart; Mrs. Joseph Fifer, Bloomington, and Mrs. N. B. Wiggins, Springfield, met in Springfield and arranged to have Mrs. Sarah Rohrer give cooking lessons in the Woman's building during fair week.

Discharged.

Mrs. Mary Shores, who was arrested at Beardstown, charged by John Geary, with whom she had been living, with the murder of Milton Beecham in Calhoun county five years ago, Geary alleging she had confessed to him, was discharged by Justice Sample, no one appearing against her.

State Banks.

A recapitulation of the aggregate resources and liabilities of 156 state banks doing business in Illinois on April 27 as compared with 155 banks reporting on February 14, shows an increase of $4,984,912, the aggregate being $207,576,168, against $202,591,256 at the last report.

Told in a Few Lines.

After being on a strike for 15 days the 2,000 miners of the Spring Valley Coal company have returned to work, the trouble being adjusted satisfactorily.

Kiep Bros.' slaughter house and store building, one of the finest in the state, located south of Joliet, was destroyed by fire, the loss being $30,000.

A Yates club has been formed at Vandalia of men who voted for his father for governor in 1860.

The weather crop bulletin for Illinois for the past week shows good conditions for farming operations and growth of crops.

Gov. Tanner and Adjt. Gen. Reece have decided to hold the annual encampment of the Illinois national guard this year by brigades, instead of regiments.

David C. White, for half a century a leading merchant of Bloomington died at the age of 92 years. Until a few weeks ago he had never had a day's sickness in his life.

The post office at Wapello was broken into by burglars and several hundred dollars and $500 in stamps were taken.

Mary E. Smith, a white woman, in a quarrel killed a colored woman in the police station at Danville.

Alice Simpson, the pretty 18-year old daughter of George Simpson, of Deer Park, committed suicide. Unthwarted love affair is assigned as the cause of her act.

Joseph W. Adams, for 35 years a prominent business man in Mendota, died at the age of 68 years.

Three persons are dead and four perhaps fatally and many others seriously injured as a result of a fire in the Hotel Helene in Chicago.

The grain elevator at Huey, conducted by Frank Schmidt, was destroyed by fire, the loss being $13,000.

Dr. Olof Olsson, president of Augustana college and thelogical seminary, died at Rock Island, aged 59 years. He was recognized as a leader of the Swedish Lutheran church in this country, and was its foremost educator.

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If you are interested in "Science and Mechanics" that department will please and instruct. "Short Stories" written by certain old and young. "Fashion Articles" will catch the fancy of the ladies, and "Humorous Illustrations" and items will bring sunshine to your household.

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