

SPION KOP ABANDONED.

General Buller Announces a Reverse Sustained by General Warren.

London Takes the News Quietly, and Determined to Keep on Until Success Crowns British Efforts.

SPION KOP ABANDONED.

London, Jan. 29, 11.10 a. m.—The war office has just posted the following despatch from Gen. Buller, dated at Spearman's Camp, Thursday, Jan. 25, noon: "Gen. Warren's garrison, am sorry to say, I find this morning had in the night abandoned Spion Kop."

Gen. Buller reports that the British casualties Jan. 24 were: Killed—Officers, 6; non-commissioned officers and men, 18; wounded—Officers, 12; non-commissioned officers and men, 142; missing, 31 men.

Gen. Buller's despatch is dated Spearman's Camp, Jan. 26, at 10.25 a. m., so there has been no delay in the communication passing between Gen. Buller and the war office.

The killed include Colonel Buchanan Riddell, of the Kings Royal Rifles. He served in the Niger war of 1891. It is not clear whether the casualties include those at Spion Kop, or only those resulting from the fighting prior to the Spion Kop engagement.

London, Jan. 27, 4 a. m.—Seven days of fighting have left the main Boer positions intact and Gen. Buller's army 700 men weaker, according to the official casualty lists, which seemingly do not include the Spion Kop losses, as those forwarded do not mention Gen. Woodgate's wounded.

England is possessed by a depressing sense of failure though not a word in criticism of her generals and soldiers is uttered. Not much effort is made to place a happy construction upon Gen. Buller's bare 18 words telling of the retirement from Spion Kop and there is an uneasy impression abroad that worse news is yet to come.

At one of the military clubs tonight the statement passed from one member to another that the war office had received an unpleasant supplementary despatch from Gen. Buller, which was being held up for 24 hours.

Mr. Spencer Wilkinson, in the Morning Post, writes as follows of the Spion Kop set: "This is a serious matter and an attempt will not here be made to minimize it, for no greater wrong can be done to a people at home than to mislead them about the significance of the events of the war. The right way is to tell the truth as far as we know."

displayed a white flag and the British refrained from firing.

Treachery at Elandsdalgaat. After describing the desperate fighting at Elandsdalgaat, culminating in the bitter protracted fighting before the capture of the Boers' final position, the general continues: "At length the guns reached us and the captured end of the ridge was gained, from which the whole of the enemy's camp, full of tents and horsemen, was fully exposed to view at a fixed range. A white flag was shown in the centre of the camp and Col. Hamilton ordered 'Cease fire,' and some of the British moved in the direction of the camp. For a few moments there was a complete lull. Then a shot was heard, followed by a deadly fire from a nearby kopje. The British momentarily fell back but charged and recaptured the position."

Gen. Methuen reports similar white flag incidents.

Buller Blames Col. Long. Gen. Buller, commenting on the action at Zoutpans Drift, Dec. 13, says: "I suppose the British officers will learn the value of scouting in time; but in spite of all one can say our men seemed to blunder into the middle of the action."

"When I heard of the disaster to Long's artillery I believed the six naval guns had shared the same fate and I decided immediately that it was impossible to force the passage without guns. Long was dangerously wounded and I was unable to obtain explanations. I had personally instructed him with regard to the action and with the naval guns only, but Long advanced so fast that he left the infantry and the guns behind. I believe that but for the failure of the artillery we would have carried the crossing."

Gen. Buller recommended the Victoria Cross for Captains Congreave and Heist, Lieut. Roberts and Corporal Nurse all in connection with the attempts to save the guns.

Methuen Underestimated the Boers at Modder River. Gen. Methuen in a despatch dated Dec. 1, with reference to the battle of Modder River, confesses that he believed the force of the Boers to be only a few hundred men. He had no idea that 3,000 Boers had been brought from Spionkop to oppose his advance.

Commenting upon the difficulty of conveying orders, Gen. Methuen says: "The truth is that no one can be on horseback with safety within 2,000 yards of the enemy," and he admits that he himself, most of the day, was in positions where he had no right to be, because, unless he went to the front, he could not see how the fight was progressing.

DUTY ON M. K.S.L.

GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING THE REQUEST OF PROMINENT CANADIANS

For an Export Duty—Joseph Martin's Opposition Strengthens the Dominion Government in British Columbia—It May Now be Able to Pull Through.

RANK OF NURSES AND CHAPAINS.

Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 24.—The chaplains and nurses attached to the second special service force are accredited as captains and lieutenants respectively, and will receive pay and allowances of those ranks.

OUR FRIENDS, THE FRENCH.

Paris, Jan. 27, 5 a. m.—The morning papers comment upon the absence of the British ambassador, Lord Cromer, from President Loubet's diplomatic dinner Thursday evening, at which Dr. Leyds was present. The Echo de Paris says: "His absence was the source of much remark. Moreover, he receptions at the British embassy have been suspended for some weeks past. Marquis de Galliffet, who was formerly a constant visitor has not been seen at the embassy during the last fortnight."

FOOTBALL ARRANGED.

Dr. Curry, who certainly is the foremost physical development as related to expression, says the New York Mail and Express, lately given us the most serious impression that for some years of the game of football, he does not attack it on the ground that it kills people on the field, or that it is vulgar or demoralizing. He blames it for something worse for spoiling the shape of our young men. He says that nearly all the players in which the football players stand are abnormal; with the exception of the running, there is hardly an action in the game which does not involve the action of the body; "the men stand on both feet with the feet wide apart, in more or less a crouching position, and the trunk is bent into a true and normal pose, this animal position has become so habitual that it is almost impossible to restore the man to his normal position as a human being stands. Again, Dr. Curry reproduces an authentic photograph of a football player, who is standing more as a saw-horse stands than as a human being stands. Again, Dr. Curry says, the men stand in such a position that we often find they have acquired a low position of the chest, and a forward action of the hips, which is the most ungracious position that can be found, and it is, in fact, the cause of the disease known as the hump."

Moreover, "the external and superficial muscular development of the chest, of the internal and more important muscles. The game is short, and call for muscular force, rather than for endurance. Muscular force is developed at the expense of vital force. I have found that all the football players have some of the characteristics of the athlete, and that working so much in labor movements, and leaning over in unbalanced positions, and breathing in such a way, without which a man, according to Leonard Brown, will in a short time suffer from chronic and acute many faults in the use of the voice. The game develops strength rather than dexterity, force but not ease; it uses laborious muscular movements, and causes the body to be mechanically propped, and destroys its normal balance, and its equilibrium. This is more than this, but this is certainly enough, if it is true, to call the game when people really find it out, and Dr. Curry is an expert in the matter which he talks about here."

CURMANS LIKE AMERICAN CLOTHES.

A few years ago the Curmans came to Washington in the quaintest of Oriental garb, from which they never deviated. They were more striking in appearance than American soldiers, and their dress was a study to eyes that had never seen the like. They carried their silk hats at just the correct angle. Their coats, for as they were dressed in a suit, like some of our soldiers, they wore a dandy little jacket, while the Curmans wore a coat that was nearly conforming to American styles, but the headgear might easily pass for some kind of a turban, while the silk swathing and the narrow skirt suggest a seditious costume of American designing.

A BOER PRISONER'S STORY.

Durban, Wednesday, Jan. 24.—One hundred and sixty Boers captured during Gen. Buller's recent operations have arrived here. A Free State officer, who is among the recent arrivals, says that President Steyn has been removing his furniture to Pretoria where several of his officials have taken houses.

CHRISTMAS IN LADYSMITH.

London, Jan. 27.—A despatch to the Standard from Ladysmith, dated Dec. 26, and describing the Christmas celebrations, says: "Only a few were fortunate enough to get turkey or geese. A majority had to be content with the hard beef of wadded, underfed oxen, or the coarse goat flesh which does duty for mutton."

DEATH OF ROBERT TAYLOR.

GENERAL WOLSELEY IN A HOLE.

Halifax, Jan. 28.—The death occurred Saturday afternoon rather suddenly of Robert Taylor, head of the firm of Robert Taylor & Co., manufacturers of boots and shoes, the cause being heart disease. He was one of the leading citizens and pioneer of boot and shoe manufacturing of the province. He was 69 years of age and leaves a wife and six children, one daughter being the wife of Harry Rankin, of St. John's.

NICARAGUA CANAL BILL REPORTED.

Washington, Jan. 26.—The house committee on inter-state and foreign commerce today recommended the Nicaragua canal bill, which had been reported with an appropriation of \$140,000,000, and changed the appropriation section so to make \$10,000,000 available with authority to contract for the entire excavation, construction, defense and completion of the canal at a total cost not exceeding \$140,000,000.

TOLEDO SWORDS.

Marvelous Art in Making Them Has Been Passed Away. The peculiar excellence to which the steel of Toledo owed its extraordinary fame throughout Europe is said to have been due to some special virtue possessed by the sand and water of the Tago, just as the glorious beer of Munich is attributed to some special property in the water of the Isar. The original iron came from the Basque mines of Mondragon, and was also deemed essential to the general result. Now, however, both iron and steel are imported from abroad and the manufacture has sunk if anything below the average mediocrity of Europe. This is as striking an evidence as any of the universal weakness of Spain, for the famous weapons of Toledo attracted attention in long as far back as the days of the Romans.

WRECK'S NAME NOT YET KNOWN.

St. John's, Nfld., Jan. 28.—The continuation of the storm makes it impossible to obtain definite knowledge as to the identity of the vessel which went ashore on Wednesday, Jan. 17, on Poxall Point. Much apprehension is felt among the shore folk at Bay of Islands, as it is feared that more than one vessel has been lost.

MRS. ANDREW G. BLAIR ILL.

Ottawa, Jan. 28.—Mrs. A. G. Blair is very ill. Since the death of her son she has been suffering from nervous prostration and afterwards was affected with pleurisy which developed into pneumonia. Although passing a favorable night, she is not out of danger.

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