es

ling—giving honest goods
es—are to be found every-
ntage to be derived from
early perceived when you
rence in price and qual-
ishes our goods from.

7 lb. sacks, - 25c
5½ " - 25c
5 " - $1.55
0 " 3.00
, 2 pkgs., - 25c
- - 30c. dozen
at'n Oysters, 75c tin

ROSS & CO.

RAL ACT, 1896.
(Form F.)

OF IMPROVEMENTS.

NOTICE.

unt of Monte Christo and
Claims, situate in the West
r Island, Mining Division
strict.
—On Monte Cristo Moun-
creek, Toffino Inlet.
hat I, A. S. Going, agent
shton, Free Miner's Certi-
intend sixty days from the
pply to the Mining Record-
ate of Improvements, for
obtaining a Crown Grant
im.
ke notice that action, under
be commenced before the
h Certificate of Improve-

day of December, 1899.
A. S. GOING.

by given that application
the parliament of Canada
on for an act to extend the
r the commencement and
e undertaking of the Cow-
ilway Company.
H. J. WICKHAM,
Solicitor for the Applicants.
nto, 5th January, 1900.

NOTICE.

d and Kootenay Railway
porated by an Act of the
British Columbia, 61 Vic-
7) will apply to the Parlia-
at its next session for an
he works which the Com-
act of incorporation author-
t to be works for the gen-
of Canada; extending until
year 1905, the period within
mpany may complete its
ng such powers to the Com-
maintaining and operating
its railway and works as
n to railway companies in-
the Parliament of Canada.
the Provincial Directors.
LES DRINKWATER,
Secretary.
h November, 1899.

REGISTRY ACT.

TER of the "Land Registry
e matter of the application
rietta Baker, of the City of
nce of British Columbia, for
f Indefeasible Title to all
parcel of land situate
f Victoria, and being Lot
and part of Lot Sixty-six
ate, forming part of Section
ria District, and containing
12) more or less.
hereby given that it is my in-
e a Certificate of Indefeasible
e above lands to Marion Hen-
n the 27th day of January,
n the meantime a valid ob-
be made to me in writing
having an estate or interest
some part thereof.
S. Y. WOOTTON,
Registrar General.
Office, Victoria, B. C.,
er, 1899.

TEAM DYE WORKS.

Yates St., Victoria.

Gents' garments and
rnishings cleaned, dyed or
to new.

Perry's
SEEDS
ying crops because they're
d always the best. For
ywhere. Refuse substitutes.
Perry's Seeds and prosper.
Annual free. Write for it.
PERRY & CO., Windsor, Ont.

BORN.

—On Saturday, the 20th inst.,
of E. J. de Blaquiere of a

Wednesday, the 24th inst.,
of J. S. H. Matson of a son.

DIED.

his parents' residence, 21
d, on the 21st inst., William
son of William and Elizabeth
, aged 24 years, and a native
d, Hants, Co., N.S.

t St. George's Square, Edin-
otland, on December 27th,
hleen Georgina, daughter of
William Carew, Esq., of The
nfriesshire, and relict of Arch-
bald, R.N., son of Colonel Sib-
Eildon Hall, and Pinnacle,
shire.

the family residence, 66 Sec-
, on the 24th instant, William
ser, a native of New Glasgow,
ova Scotia, aged 56 years.

N OFFICER CAPTURED.

Twelve Days and Presum-
he Hands of the Filipinos.

on, Jan. 24.—Gen. Otis to-day
war department from Manila
Stockley, 21st Infantry, has
since the 12th instant. He
onnoitering duty at Talisay,
Thomas, Batangas, and was
ptured by the insurgents.

P. R. TRAFFIC.

Jan. 24.—The C.P.R. traffic
the week ending January 21
00; for the same week last
00.

BIES HAVE CROUP.

comes so suddenly and treach-
its victims as Croup. Happy
e who has at hand Dr. Chase's
rpentine when the dear one
he night coughing and strug-
eath. This famous remedy is
in the homes of this continent
and certain cure for croup,
coughs, colds, asthma and
ion. 25 cents a bottle. Family

The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

FORTY SECOND YEAR. THE VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 1900 VOLUME XLII—NO. 15

How British Valor Won Now Abandoned Kops

Though Boers First Encountered Fled in Panic a Withering Fire Soon Covered the Gallant Storming Party.

Quickly Realized That the Position Was a Desperate One Without Guns to Silence Fusillade of Artillery and Rifles.

Boers Had Range to Nicety and Shells Constantly Burst Amongst British—Splendid Bravery of Troops—Sensational Report of Casualties.

Spearman's Camp, Friday, Jan. 26.—About 2 o'clock in the morning of January 24 (Wednesday), when heavy clouds rested upon the kopjes, the main point of the Boer position, Tabanyama, was stormed by the British infantry under Gen. Woodgate.

Our force crossed a ravine and climbed the mountain side steadily, getting within thirty yards of the enemy's first line of trenches. The Boers, who had been asleep, decamped, leaving everything behind, and the British, with ringing cheers, climbed to the summit.

The Boers opened fire from several points. It was apparent that they had been taken by surprise, and their resistance was desperate. The western crest of the hill was soon won, and the infantry crept along the top of the hill.

At daybreak, however, the Boers from a high point of the extreme east sent a withering fire among the British, which momentarily staggered them. The Boers had the range fixed to a nicety, and their artillery sent several shells right to the top of the crest, forcing the infantry to take cover. The Boer Nordenfeldt also worked with great precision.

The British held the position against great odds. At 10 o'clock strong reinforcements were sent up the hill and advanced in skeleton formation, the enemy being driven back to the extreme point.

London, Jan. 28.—A special despatch from Spearman's Camp, dated Friday and supplying additional details of the operations of Wednesday, says:

"The British made a most successful movement to-day. They deployed to Gen. Warren's right flank and reinforced the troops in possession of Tabanyama. They were subjected to a heavy Boer shell fire, but stood their ground nobly.

Part of Gen. Lyttleton's brigade extended on the plain in front of Mount Alice, and within two hours scaled the heights of Spion Kop under a heavy fire. One rifleman who reached the summit before his comrades proudly stood on top.

The Daily News publishes a despatch dated Spearman's Camp, Wednesday afternoon, but held back, presumably by the censor, until Friday, January 26, 6:40 p. m. This says:

"Having gallantly taken a portion of Tabanyama mountain during last night, Gen. Warren's troops are finding considerable difficulty in holding it. There has been heavy firing to-day. The Boer shells are splendidly directed, and in the face of the enemy's fire the further advance of our forces has been checked.

"Again and again attempts had been made to dislodge them by the enemy, and things began to look serious. Determined as had been their attack, however, the Boers had not succeeded in dislodging them.

"Meanwhile the King's Royal Rifles, approaching from the Potgeiter's Drift side of the mountain range, began the ascent of Spion Kop. The heights at the place where they arrived were precipitous, and their task was no light one. They advanced, however, and apparently at first without knowledge of the Boers; but before reaching the top they became exposed to a flank fire from the enemy.

"The last part of the hill was even more precipitous than the road along which they had come; but the brave fellows scrambled up little by little until they reached the top and threw themselves down upon the ground with a cheer. It was grandly accomplished.

"There is still the serious difficulty of keeping this point without artillery. The position therefore now is that the British hold Spion Kop at the east end of the range. They also hold the west end. The Boers are entrenched in the intermediate part, besides holding other entrenched situations."

BOER REPORT OF CASUALTIES.

London, Jan. 28.—The war office does not give any idea of the casualties in the taking and the holding of Spion Kop, but a report from the Boer headquarters near Ladysmith, via Lorenzo Marques, says that 1,500 British dead were left on the battlefield. This number is thought to include the wounded.

The report also said that General Buller has been down with fever but had recovered.

If Boer reports are to be accepted, the abandonment of Spion Kop was due to the inability of the British to resist the Boer attack, the Boers carrying the first trenches and taking 150 prisoners.

[illegible] Laager, Ladysmith, Jan. [illegible]—The British dead left on the [illegible]tle field yesterday numbered 1,500.

The Situation Reviewed.

While Roberts [illegible] Nothing He Seems to Make Direct for Bloemfontein.

Anxiety for Details of British Heavy Losses in Taking Spion Kop.

New York, Jan. 28.—The London correspondent of the Tribune in his cabled review of the South African situation, under Sunday morning's date, says:

"While the alarming rumors of a serious reverse which were current in the city on Friday night are not confirmed, the abandonment of Spion Kop and Gen. Lyttleton's engagement remained mysteries not cleared up outside the war office.

"A Berlin story that Gen. Warren had been led into an ambuscade and that seventeen of his guns had been taken was discredited by the officials here. But there was an uneasiness of suspicion in London that there was unfavorable news which had been held back. This was perhaps the natural effect of nervous reaction after three days of excitement caused by the premature announcement of a night attack, the seizure of Spion Kop and its final abandonment.

"Practical Englishmen are beginning to ask whether the people who are paying the expenses of the war and sending men to fight their battles have not a right to demand a daily bulletin from an official source with a summary of trustworthy news. The censorship has disarmed the press, which is only able to print mutilated and belated despatches. It has been extended from the despatches to mail letters and private correspondence. The martinets have even gone so far as to open letters written by special correspondents to their wives.

"Rumors are also reported of an attempted sortie by Lancers from Ladysmith on Wednesday. A private letter received at the camp at Chieveley from one of the officers at Ladysmith after the battle of Colenso contained this sally: 'If you fellows don't come up soon we shall have to fight our way down and relieve you.' There may be truth in that jest.

"There were despatches last night from Rensburg with a detailed account of a hard day's work on Thursday by French's force with a feint attack in one direction and an extended reconnaissance in another. Gen. Roberts confirms this and adds the fact that the enemy was strongly posted at Pietfontein. A small casualty list—twelve names—represented these affairs. Gen. French's manoeuvres will not be intelligible.

"Gen. Roberts' first objective point is disclosed. Rosmead Junction is now clearly the base of a movement for clearing the railway beyond Steinburg to Stormberg.

"With Stormberg and Colesberg in British hands, two sides of a quadrilateral of great strategic importance would be secured, and a way would be open to Bloemfontein. Gen. Roberts has 10,000 fresh troops of the Sixth division for this work, if he has it in mind, and 10,000 more of the Seventh division coming in to support them.

"Gen. Kitchener's fine Roman hand can be detected in the stereotyped phrase "No change in situation," repeated night after night. He has, it is probable, been doing a good deal of work more than he cares to have either the enemy or the public at home know. He believes in the censorship and does not scruple to make a scientific use of it.

"Some of the despatches from Capetown contain a summary of a proclamation by Sir Alfred Milner, that the Queen's government will not recognize as valid any forfeiture, fine or encumbrance on property in the Transvaal or Free State subsequent to the declaration of war. This is explained by South Africans as aimed apparently at Boer government measures for taking over and confiscating valuable mining property in its unique method of financing the war at the expense of European and American shareholders."

BULLER DRAWS OFF.

Spion Kop Without the Expected Supply of Water and Boer Right Too Strong to Force as Planned.

British Therefore Concentrate South of the Tugela---Withdrawal Effected Without Loss of Man or Pound of Stores---Conspicuous Bravery in the Attack on the Mountain.

London, Jan. 28.—The following is the text of a despatch from General Buller dated Spearman's Camp, Saturday, Jan. 27, 9.10 p. m.:

"On January 20, Warren drove back the enemy and obtained possession of the southern crests of the high table-land extending from the line of Acton Homes and Hongers Poort to the western Ladysmith hills. From then until January 25 he remained in close contact with the enemy.

"The enemy held a strong position on a range of small kopjes stretching from northwest to southeast across the plateau from Acton Homes through Spion Kop to the left bank of the Tugela.

"The actual position held was perfectly tenable, but did not lend itself to an advance as the southern slopes were so steep that Warren could not get an effective artillery position and water supply was obtained with difficulty.

"On January 23 I assented to his attacking Spion Kop, a large hill, indeed a mountain, which was evidently the key of the position but was far more accessible from the north than from the south.

"On the night of January 23 he attacked Spion Kop, but found it very difficult to hold, as its perimeter was too large, and water, which he had been led to believe existed in this extraordinary dry season, was found to be very deficient.

"The crests were held all that day against severe attacks and a heavy shell fire. Our men fought with great gallantry.

"I would especially mention the conduct of the Second Cameronians and Third King's Rifles, who supported the attack on the mountain from the steepest side and in each case fought their way to the top, and the Second Lancashire Fusiliers and Second Middlesex, who magnificently maintained the best traditions of the British army throughout the trying day of January 24; and Thornycroft's Mounted Infantry who fought throughout the day equally well alongside of them.

"General Woodgate, who was in command at the summit, having been wounded, the officer who succeeded him decided on the night of January 24 to abandon the position and did so before dawn, January 25.

"I reached Warren's camp at 5 a. m. on January 25 and decided that a second attack upon Spion Kop was useless and that the enemy's right was too strong to allow me to force it.

"Accordingly, I decided to withdraw the force to the south of the Tugela.

"At 6 a. m. we commenced withdrawing the train and by 8 a. m. January 27 (Saturday) Warren's force was concentrated south of the Tugela without loss of a man or a pound of stores.

"The fact that the force could withdraw from actual touch—in some cases the lines were less than a thousand yards apart—with the enemy in the manner it did, is, I think, sufficient evidence of the morale of the troops; and that we were permitted to withdraw our cumbrous ox and mule transport across the river, eighty-five yards around, with 20 foot banks, and a very swift current, unmolested, is, I think, proof that the enemy has been taught to respect our soldiers' fighting powers.

BOER NARRATIVE OF THRILLING EPISODE.

Burghers Declared to Have Valiantly Faced British Bayonets and Rifles and Taken One Hundred Prisoners as Success Crowned Their Assault.

Boer Headquarters, Modder Spruit, Upper Tugela, Wednesday, January 24 (Midnight)—Via Lorenzo Marques, Thursday, Jan. 25.—Some Vryheid burghers from the outposts on the highest hills of the Spion Kop group rushed into the laager saying that the kop was lost and that the English had taken it. Reinforcements were ordered up, but nothing could be done for some time, the hill being enveloped in thick mist.

At dawn the Heidelberg and Carolina contingents, supplemented from other commandos, began the ascent of the hill. Three spurs, precipitous projections, faced the Boer positions. Up these the advance was made. The horses were left under the terrace of the rocks.

Scaling the steep rocks, the Boers found that the English had improved the opportunity and entrenched heavily. Between the lines of trenches was an open veldt, which had to be rushed under a heavy fire, not only from rifles, but of lyddite and shrapnel from field guns. Three forces ascended the three spurs co-ordinately under cover of fire of Free State Krupps, a Creusote and a big Maxim. The English tried to rush the Boers with the bayonet, but their infantry went down before the rifle fire, as before stated.

The Boer investing party advanced step by step until 2 p. m., when a white flag was hoisted and 150 in front of the trenches surrendered, being sent as prisoners to the head laager.

The Boer advance continued on the two kopjes east of Spion Kop. Many Boers were shot, but so numerous were the burghers that the gaps were filled automatically. Toward twilight they reached the summit of the second kopje, but did not get further. British Maxims belched flame, but a wall of firing Mausers held the British back. Their centre under this pressure gradually gave way and broke, abandoning the position.

The prisoners speak highly of the bravery of the burghers, who, despising the cover, stood against the line of the summit to shoot the Dublin Fusiliers sheltered in the trenches. Firing continued for some time, and then the Fusiliers and the Light Horse serving as infantry threw up their arms and rushed out of the entrenchments.

The effect of the abandonment of Spion Kop by the English can be hardly gauged as yet, but it must prove to be immense.

An unusually high proportion of lyddite shells did not explode.

W. S. Fletcher, of Greenwood, is at the Victoria.

Does Buller's Failure Sacrifice Ladysmith?

London Rumor of Abandonment of the Town With Desperate Alternative to Surrender of the Valiant Garrison.

Times Fears There May Be Impending a Catastrophe Without Parallel Except in Surrender at Yorktown.

Demand for Immediate Desparch of Fifty Thousand Men With Equal Number Held in Reserve — Public Anxiety to Learn the Facts.

London, Jan. 29.—(4:25 a. m.)—The week has opened gloomily for the British public, and the reaction is all the stronger because of the high hopes that were reposed in Gen. Buller's turning movement. Open talk is heard of the absolute necessity of abandoning Ladysmith to its fate, while Lord Roberts reverts to the original plan of an advance over the Orange river upon Bloemfontein.

To Ladysmith the disappointment must be very bitter. A despatch from the Boer laager near the town, dated January 24, describes the garrison as "very evidently preparing a desperate coup in order to effect a junction with Gen. Buller's advancing army." It may be regarded as a certainty that, in the confident hope of early relief, Sir George White has lately been issuing extra rations, and this fact given rise to the exaggerated idea as to the length of time the provisions would last.

Even should it be decided to send Gen. Buller reinforcements and to attempt to reach Ladysmith by a movement through the still more difficult country east of Colenso, it is extremely doubtful whether the garrison could hold out long enough, as such a movement would occupy at least a month.

The Times says: "The most carefully planned and executed movement of the whole campaign has entirely failed, and it can be hardly necessary to dwell upon the extreme probability that we shall learn, a little sooner or a little later, of a catastrophe almost without precedent in war history, a catastrophe indeed without a parallel except in the surrender at Yorkton.

"We are checked at every point of the camnaign. In fact the campaign is still to begin. We wish we had clearer proofs that even now the government has any adequate comprehension of the situation. The utterances of responsible ministers have done nothing to reassure the country on this point. Heavy or light, the thing has to be done, and the government ought to prepare for the immediate despatch of 50,000 men and take steps to send yet another 50,000 if those should be needed. The hopeless attempts to carry on the campaign with four widely separated columns, each unequal to its task, must be abandoned for a concentration of forces, and of purpose."

All the editorials this morning breathe the spirit of calm determination. Not one will allow that any reverse could deter the country from the object that it has set itself to attain, whatever the sacrifices which may be involved. Very frank criticism of the government, however, is beginning to be heard, even in quarters that have hitherto refrained.

The Daily Mail boldly throws all the blame upon Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Lord Lansdowne and Lord Wolseley. It points to President Lincoln's dismissal of his secretary for war as a precedent for getting rid of incompetent ministers.

The Morning Post dwells on the danger of further rebellion at the Cape and European complications. It urges that the Navy be prepared for "any emergency."

The Standard and other papers reflect the anxiety of the public to learn how much truth there is in the Boer reports of the fighting at Spion Kop. Gen. Buller's obscurity in his despatches is rather bitterly criticized, as well as the evident fact that the censor is not only heavily delaying, but is concealing all important matters from the few newspaper despatches.

To judge with any accuracy of the extent of the disaster is virtually impossible. It appears that Gen. Buller had altogether five brigades wholly or partly engaged—Gen. Coke's, Gen. Hildyard's, Gen. Hart's, Gen. Woodgate's and Gen. Lyttleton's, and the 270 casualties already announced in Lyttleton's brigade are thus explained.

Much mystery still surrounds the retreat. It is possible that Gen. Buller has withdrawn his whole force, but it is generally assumed that Lyttleton's brigade and Lord Dundonald's cavalry and other troops are still on the north side of the Tugela.

Large arrivals of troops are due at Capetown during the week. There has been great activity in military quarters in all parts of England since Saturday morning.

The situation at other points is unchanged, but indications that Lord Roberts is preparing plans for an advance across the Orange river come in a despatch to the Daily Chronicle from Sterkstroom, dated January 25, which says that Thebits, an important position near Steynsberg, on the Stormberg-Rosmead line, is now occupied by the British, who are repairing the railway and bridges. The correspondent observes that this will facilitate communication between Gen. Gatacre and Gen. Kelly-Kenny.

New York, Jan. 28.—While little if any credence is to be placed in the alarmist despatches from London published by the sensational papers in this city, it is noteworthy that all refer to a rumor current in London that the Committee on National Defence held a meeting in London Saturday and decided to order Gen. White to surrender Ladysmith or make an effort to cut his way out.

Tempting Powers To Intervene

Boer Agent in Europe Offering Anything to Save Annihilation.

Bribes Will Pass On to Russia and the States on German Refusal.

London, Jan. 28.—The Berlin correspondent of the Mail says: "Mr. Leyds is a popular lion here. He is being welcomed with an enthusiasm ordinarily extended only to most favored envoys. I have ascertained from unimpeachable evidence that he is trying to induce Germany to mediate on the basis of a guarantee of the independence of the Boer republics, which would be granted some minor territorial concessions, but not a port, this latter being left for future negotiations with a certain power having colonies in South Africa.

Dr. Leyds is offering Germany commercial, railway and mining monopolies as well as other inducements. If he fails here he will try Washington through Mr. Macrum and Mr. Montague White and St. Petersburg by an envoy to Russia.

It is not likely that he will obtain an audience with Emperor William. During his reception by Count von Buelow, no political matters were mentioned."

BOERS' CLEVER TACTICS.

Draw Artillery Fire with Smoke of Martinis while Smokeless Mausers Do Execution at Closer Range.

London, Jan. 28.—A correspondent at Pretoria writes under date of December 26 that the Boers have a new ruse in fighting. They put great numbers of their best shorts, using Mauser rifles and smokeless powder, on the flats in the rifle shelters, and on adjoining hills they post men with Martini-Henri rifles using black powder. The latter draw the artillery fire while the former shoot down the infantry and cavalry at closer range.

MUNITIONS FROM SPAIN.

Large Quantities Ordered Before Outbreak of War Now Being Delivered to the British.

Madrid, Jan. 27.—The Imparcial having stated lately that a factory at Placencia had been supplying munitions to Great Britain and that 60,000 shells had already been delivered, the question was brought up in the chamber and the prime minister in reply said that the contract was signed before the war and the government could not prevent the exportation.

CONTRABAND FLOUR.

Capetown, Jan. 25.—The prize court has fixed Monday, January 29, for hearing the charges with respect to the American flour said to be intended for the Boers, which was on board the British ship Mashona from New York, November 3, when she was captured by the British gunboat Partridge last month.

The overdue transport Manchester Corporation has arrived here.