

LOSSES WERE SLIGHT

Gen. French up to Wednesday Had Five Men Killed and Twenty-four Wounded.

Expected That Gen. Buller's Big Force Will Soon be Moved Forward.

Despatch from Rensberg Says the Boers Are Practically Surrounded, and Only a Few More British Troops Would be Required to Cut Their Lines.

GENERAL REVIEW.

Gen. Buller's Force Estimated at Nearly Thirty Thousand Men.

LONDON, Jan. 5.—Events in South Africa do not appear to have advanced. Gen. French's and Gen. Gatacre's operations have succeeded in keeping the Boers in check, if nothing more, but the latter are not too strong and the fighting promises to last for some time. Molteno, for the present, seems to have been cleared of the Boers, but the British, on the other hand, have evacuated Dordrecht. Reinforcements have been sent to Gen. French from De Aar, but their strength is unknown.

The critics, in summing up the probabilities of Gen. Buller making another attack, estimate his force at nearly 30,000 men, with 68 guns, including six Howitzers, against Gen. Gatacre's 20,000 men and 50 guns, but whose position and mobility will at least counterbalance the numerical superiority of the British. The critic of the Morning Post labors daily to prepare the public for heavy losses. He says today: "Once Gen. Buller enters his object will be to win a decisive battle. His aim will be to inflict the greatest possible loss on the enemy, and, if he can, to crush or cripple the Boer army. It will be necessary for that purpose that he does not spare his own force."

Gen. Methuen continues inactive except for occasional reconnaissances. These are reported to have established the fact that the Boer positions extend virtually from Koodoosberg to Jacobsdal, a distance of forty or fifty miles. Gen. Walker reports that his mounted infantry have reconnoitered to Prieska and exchanged shots with a rebel force on the north bank of the Orange River. This reveals an armed rising at a point which, like that of Douglas, had not been known before. The strength of the Dutch force is unknown. Prieska is 90 miles to the west of the Orange River station.

PRACTICALLY SURROUNDED.

Despatch from Rensberg Says the British Are Playing the Boers at Their Own Game.

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 4, 10.50.—A despatch to the Times from Rensberg, filed yesterday, says that Tuesday night the British set fire to the trucks of the runaway train which had been wrecked by the British artillery when it was seen that the train, which was loaded with provisions, would otherwise fall into the hands of the Boers. The New South Wales troops, who were detailed to set the trucks on fire, worked under a heavy shell and rifle fire. A party of Boers were trying to loot the wrecked train, but were compelled to retire by the British artillery. The sharpshooters burst over the enemy, doing considerable damage. Many riderless horses were seen running about after the fire began. The Boers sought shelter at Piewmans Sliding, but a well directed shelling

compelled them to abandon this place. The enemy took a field gun at a gallop through a pass opposite the British right. The British immediately shelled the gun, but the enemy made no reply. The despatch adds: "The Boers are practically surrounded, and if there were more British troops here we could cut their lines of communication. The howling of cannon can be heard from the centre at Cole's Kop. The Berkshires have been reinforced. The Inniskillings, Tenth Hussars and "B" Horse Artillery command the left of the position. The "O" Horse Artillery, Mounted Infantry, New Zealanders and Carbiniers, under Col. Porter, are on the extreme right. Gen. Brabson is in command. Our troops are playing the Boers at their own game, but they are unappreciative."

GEN. FRENCH'S CASUALTIES.

RENSBERG, Jan. 4.—The casualties to Gen. French's force up to the afternoon of Jan. 3 were five men killed and 24 wounded. A detachment of 25 New Zealanders had a narrow escape. While advancing on Coleberg they were directed to occupy a kopje, but met with a hot reception from a concealed force of Boers. Another body of British troops, seeing their danger, doubled the rescue of the New Zealanders, and their retreat was successfully accomplished under cover of the guns on the hills westward. Coteskop is now the principal scene of the fighting.

The destruction of the wrecked train included 22,000 rations and a supply of rum.

AN IMPERIAL PARTY.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—At a small meeting presided over by the Hon. Thomas Sandys, M. P., a committee was appointed with the purpose of organizing "an imperial party, whose object will be the establishment of the power of the British empire, which is now in jeopardy through the long apathy of the people in trusting political leaders. The people are now realizing with bitterness and humiliation the lamentable weakness of the army."

DIAMONDS AT KIMBERLEY.

PARIS, Jan. 4.—The rumor is spreading here that the de Beer Mining Co. hoarded diamonds worth 25,000,000 in the cellars of the company at Kimberley before the war. This was done for the purpose of upholding the price of diamonds. The story goes on that the Boers have promised to divide a portion of these spoils among the troops when Kimberley falls, and that this accounts for the rush of volunteers from all quarters of the globe to the Transvaal. It is believed in Paris that the inspiration for the military

FIGHTING AT MOLTENO.

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 4, 11 p. m.—The magistrate at Molteno officially reports that yesterday morning there was heavy firing at the camp of the Cape mounted police, commanded by Capt. Neyslau. Later the Boers surrounded the camp and there was heavy artillery and rifle fire. The police have no artillery. The fighting continued all day. Eventually the enemy was repulsed. There were no casualties among the police.

ARMING THE ZULUS.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—A despatch to the Central News from Durban says that the government of Natal, in response to petitions made by the Zulus for permission to fight against the Boers, has given its consent to the arming of part of the Zulus. They are, however, only to act in the event of being attacked by the Boers.

WILL BE MORE SEIZURES.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—The admiralty announced that the first-class torpedo gunboat Harrier, which was ordered to watch suspicious foreign vessels dealing in contraband goods, has arrived at Aden. It has been decided that a small flotilla of warships shall be maintained on duty watching all South African ports.

ENGLAND'S ANSWER.

BERLIN, Jan. 4.—Great Britain's answer to the German note in reference to the steamship Bundesrahd has been received. It is believed that the reply has caused dissatisfaction in official circles because of the dilatoriness in sending it and an insufficient explanation of the facts. The incident is beginning to be regarded in a more serious light.

READY FOR KRUGER.

LORENZO MARQUEZ, Jan. 4.—The Diggers' News of Pretoria prints a rumor to the effect that Longwood, Napoleon's residence on the Island of St. Helena, is being renovated for the reception of President Kruger after the war. It adds that the report has created the bitterest feeling in Boer official circles.

TROUBLE IN SWAZILAND.

LORENZO MARQUEZ, Jan. 4.—There is trouble in Swaziland. It was recently reported that King Banu was dead, but refugees now assert that it was the queen who died. They say that Banu's brother has assumed power. He is a reign of terror in the country.

THE SEVENTH DIVISION.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—The departure of the seventh division of the British army for South Africa commenced today.

SECOND CONTINGENT.

No Word in Regard to Nurses—Scale of Rations—Another Chaplain Appointed.

OTTAWA, Jan. 4.—No word has yet been received by Hon. Dr. Borden in reference to sending any nurses with the contingent.

The despatch of another contingent furnishes an opportunity to men of an ingenious turn of mind to offer all sorts of inventions to the government. The latest is an armored wheeled barrow, the object of which is to enable a man to approach the enemy, who may be firing at him, without being hit.

The department has prepared a scale of rations, medical comforts, water and forage for the troops and horses on board ship. The scale supplied is liberal enough, provided the imperial mail steamer General has considerable aggravated the situation here, and the indignation against England is intense. The government is still earnestly endeavoring to preserve correct official relations, but England will do well to hasten to make the amends honorable to Germany. On absolutely reliable authority the correspondence of the Associated Press learns that Emperor William is now thoroughly aroused by the repeated seizure of vessels, not one of which, he has been assured, is guilty of carrying contraband. He regards the seizure as high-handed proceedings, which England would not have dared to undertake if the German navy were more powerful than it is.

His majesty is said to be particularly incensed, because information has reached him showing that the seizures were not due to the blundering of British naval officers, but to strict orders from headquarters, which the officers are merely carrying out. He has, therefore, instructed Count Von Buslow, the foreign secretary, to demand exact and full reparation for the outrages done to the German flag.

AT WOODSTOCK.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., Jan. 4.—Capt. Good received word this evening that he can take his extra men with him, so he will leave with 21 non-commissioned officers and men. It is expected, on Tuesday. The citizens are all working with a will to give the boys a splendid send-off. The 67th band of Hartland has promised to come down in uniform, and pay all their own expenses, and bring a big crowd with them, and join with the Woodstock band, which has also given its services free, in playing the soldiers to the train. Saturday evening's banquet and concert promises to be a grand success.

AT CAMPBELLTON.

CAMPBELLTON, N. B., Jan. 4.—

George Duval of Campbellton has been accepted for service in the artillery contingent. He is a native of the Channel Islands and was for three years a member of the Royal Jersey Artillery, and has had a course at the Jersey School of Gunnery. Dugald Stewart of Campbellton has, with instruction, gone to Newcastle for examination. As he is a young man of fine physique, he will likely be accepted. He is a son of Charles Stewart of Dalhousie. Sheriff Stewart is an uncle of the young man, and W. A. Mott, M. P., is a cousin.

AT MONCTON.

MONCTON, Jan. 4.—Dr. L. H. Price and Irvine Macdonald of the I. C. R. general office, Moncton, have passed successful examinations for the second contingent. The other Moncton volunteers—Frank Doyle, John Lockhart and H. Metzger have gone to Sussex for examination today.

AT SUSSEX.

SUSSEX, Jan. 4.—Business at the recruiting station here today was fairly well attended. Fourteen recruits have been examined by Surgeon Murray, only six of whom passed, viz.: Mr. E. B. St. John, Arthur Moore, Joseph formerly of the Sussex Record staff, but for some months a resident of Boston, Mass.; F. S. Morrison of Chatham; H. Clarence Stevenson of Richibucto; Henry Metelle, Moncton; A. A. Fortunes, Moncton. The recruits were put through a riding examination this afternoon. A large number of horses have been offered for service by their owners, some of the very fine ones.

NEWCASTLE.

NEWCASTLE, Jan. 4.—Three men here were enrolled today by Major Malby. They are: Bernard King of Newcastle; Timothy Carroll of Newcastle; and D. Stewart of Campbellton. There have been nine men enrolled and fourteen horses purchased. Four Frederick men are expected here to be examined.

AT HALIFAX.

HALIFAX, Jan. 4.—A grand patriotic concert was held here tonight, promoted by Lady William Seymour, wife of the general commanding the British forces, the net proceeds of which will be \$1,000. Musical airs, pre-eminently through the music, and there were continual outbursts of enthusiasm. The applause was deafening when Mrs. G. S. Campbell, who before she was married was one of the celebrated Kennedy family of Scottish vocalists, sang "The Absent-Hearted Beggars." During the performance General Seymour rose from his place in the audience, and while thanking the public for their attendance, expressed his sense of the fact that no appeal was ever made in regard to the patriotism of the grand Canadian country.

WINNIPEG'S DETACHMENT.

KINGSTON, Ont., Jan. 4.—Winnipeg's detachment for the second contingent arrived here this morning, and left for the front today. The boys will leave here Jan. 12 for Halifax. Meantime they will drill.

AT MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, Jan. 4.—Fifty-one men, representing Montreal's contribution to the artillery force, were sworn in to complete the recruiting at Quebec for the Mounted Rifles. A thousand local militia turned out to bid the recruits good-bye, and the band of the Mayor's band played patriotic songs. The cheering at the depot as the train drew out was deafening. Ottawa's contribution to the Mounted Rifles arrived in the town tonight, and are quartered at the drill shed.

GERMANY AROUSED.

The Emperor Regards the Seizure of German Vessels a High Handed Proceeding.

BERLIN, Jan. 4.—The seizure of the imperial mail steamer General has considerably aggravated the situation here, and the indignation against England is intense. The government is still earnestly endeavoring to preserve correct official relations, but England will do well to hasten to make the amends honorable to Germany. On absolutely reliable authority the correspondence of the Associated Press learns that Emperor William is now thoroughly aroused by the repeated seizure of vessels, not one of which, he has been assured, is guilty of carrying contraband. He regards the seizure as high-handed proceedings, which England would not have dared to undertake if the German navy were more powerful than it is.

LOCAL WAR NOTES.

At the recruiting office here several applications were made yesterday for positions in the mounted infantry. Some names are kept back, the applicants not wishing them reported. Yesterday's applicants were: Francis E. Biddesome, aged 35 years, Moore street, and W. A. C. Finlay, aged 23, Peters street. E. S. Thomas of Cross Creek and Fred Polley of Botsford have also sent in their names. A telegram received yesterday from Col. Kitson, asked that the work here be hurried up so that the men may get to Halifax as soon as possible. It is no answer that is considered satisfactory has yet been received from London, and according to advices here none is to be expected for several days longer.

In naval power has taken such deep root that the commanders of English warships hasten to commit breaches of international rights so long as only Germany is thereby benefited. This lack of fear to touch the German flag must be thoroughly and speedily cured.

Indignation meetings have been called by branches of the Colonial Society. The German press, with hardly an exception, thunders against England. Even the semi-official Berliner Post says: "It cannot be denied that the indignation aroused by the wilfulness of the seizures by British commanders is spreading in wider and wider circles."

LONDON VOLUNTEERS.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—William Waldorf Astor subscribed \$5,000 to the fund to equip the London volunteers, who are going to South Africa, with a battery of quick-firing guns. The total subscriptions reached \$22,000 in a few days.

VIA ST. JOHN.

MONTREAL, Jan. 4.—The Imperial war office today cabled the Canadian Pacific railway for freight rates on 1,500 horses from Calgary to South Africa via St. John, N. B. Evidently the war office intends buying horses in the Northwest.

ALL WHITE MEN LIABLE.

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 3.—Advices received here from the Free State say that President Steyn has issued a proclamation declaring that every white man, irrespective of nationality, is to be considered a burgher, and is liable to be compelled to fight for the defence of the country.

TO HELP THE BOERS.

BUTTE, Mont., Jan. 4.—Two hundred and sixty men have signed an agreement to go to South Africa and serve in the Boer army. They are Irish-Americans, German-Americans and French-Americans. Only men between 20 and 40 years of age, and without any one dependent on them, were taken. They will leave as soon as an agent of the Transvaal, now on his way, arrives here.

TO CIRCULATE PETITIONS.

BRUSSELS, Jan. 4.—At the meeting held here today, convoked by leading members of the Universal League of Peace, having in view a petition to President McKinley to mediate in favor of peace between Great Britain and the Transvaal, it was decided to open petitions for public signature throughout the country.

MORE MILITIA.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—An army order has been issued directing the embodiment of sixteen additional battalions of militia.

AT THE CANARY ISLANDS.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—The American hospital ship Maine arrived at Las Palmas, Canary Islands, yesterday. She reported all on board well.

FROM A CHAPLAIN'S POINT OF VIEW.

The Rev. B. Watson of Quebec has had a letter from the Rev. John Almond, Church of England chaplain of the Canadian contingent, in which he describes his work among the men aboard the Sardinian. From his account of the voyage, after the first few days of rough weather, was a most enjoyable one. He has under his charge at least a hundred, and the services on board, he says, will never be forgotten. Every man sang and responded in a way that brought out the grandeur of the liturgy. On the second Sunday of the voyage the Lord's Supper was administered on the deck just as the sun was rising. It was very impressive, and most of the officers and a great many of the men were present. The Methodists and Presbyterians to the number of about 200 are under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Fullerton, and the Roman Catholics to the number of about 200, are under the charge of the Rev. Father O'Leary. The evenings on board were spent in a social way, and a concert was given every evening by one of the companies. Every profession in life seems to be represented among the men, and a splendid tone prevailed. Mr. Almond says he is very much encouraged in the work, and will never cease to go and minister to such privilege as he has. He has been chaplain on arrival at Cape Town, which means that he accompanies the contingent to the front.—Gazette (Quebec).

THE OPEN DOOR.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The Daily News, commenting editorially upon the report called from the United States that the Washington government has obtained the assent of the great powers to the principle of the "open door" in China, says: "If this principle has been obtained, gratification will nowhere be greater than in England, not only on account of the permanent importance of such a policy to British interests, but also because it relieves us temporarily from any anxiety to the requisites for such a policy in the far east during the South African struggle. This double gratification will be most further enhanced by the knowledge that it is the British understanding with the United States and Germany which has brought about, for a time at least, the pacification of the far east."

FOR THE TRANSVAAL FUND.

Mayor Sears on Thursday received from Hon. H. R. Emmerson two donations to the provincial Transvaal fund, which had been forwarded from London to the premier by C. A. Duff-Miller, the agent general for New Brunswick, with the following letters: "The Daily Chronicle says: 'It is a distinct diplomatic success for the United States government, and in particular Mr. Hay. It is said to some extent a guarantee against the dismemberment of China.'"

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