

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

Vol. XXXVIII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10, 1900

NO. 34.

ENGLAND RELIEVE I.

White Has Beaten the Boers Back from Ladysmith.

At the last report the Boers had been Repulsed at all points—The communication then was stopped by lack of light—Gen. French lost Seventy men in an Unsuccessful Expedition.

LONDON SUMMARY.

London, Jan. 8, 4.30 a. m.—The British public is at last a face with a critical moment in the campaign. It may safely be said that, at no previous time have there been such anxious hours of suspense as will be passed through until the arrival of further news regarding the fate of Ladysmith.

The week opens with only fresh additions to the disaster that have deflated British arms and there is no longer any sustaining confidence to buoy up public opinion. The editorials this morning fully reflect the extreme gravity of the situation, with a painful undercurrent of ominous foreboding, mainly caused by the fact that, while the Boers have now changed their tactics and assumed the offensive, General Buller is apparently unable to do more to assist General White than in making a demonstration. The Morning Post says: "He might as well have ordered a display of fireworks."

As the heliograph ceased working yesterday (Sunday) it is presumed that White's last message was sent by a pigeon or runner. The report is serious enough. The Times publishes a despatch from Ladysmith dated Jan. 7, recording two nights movements on the part of the Boers to assault the town. These had to be abandoned when the British defenses were reached, but the correspondent says it was apparent that the great attack would not be long delayed. He adds: "Loyal support by the civilians, the garrison and hold out for a considerable period. We are not yet reduced to half rations. The greatest difficulty is proper accommodation of the wounded and sick."

Little doubt remains as to the meaning of the Boer attack. A despatch from the Boer camp at Colenso, dated Thursday last, and sent by way of Lorenzo Marques, mentions that a thunder storm had turned the dry rivulets into torrents and flooded the Tugela. Doubtless General Joubert felt sure he had secured a couple of days in which he could attack Ladysmith without fear of interference from Gen. Buller, who, even if he decided to attempt to relieve the town, would probably occupy three days in reaching it by even a victorious advance.

Apparently on Saturday General Buller was not ready to attack. Possibly Gen. Joubert anticipated that General Buller would shortly deliver an attack; and, in that case, Gen. Buller may have actually opened battle yesterday.

Great Britain has to face the terrible possibility that the next news will be the fall of Ladysmith. The quieting feature is that the Boers seem to have had sufficient forces to deter Gen. Buller from attacking, while themselves making strenuous efforts to reduce the town.

In the presence of this ominous situation, even General French's disaster, of which the worst has not yet been heard, assumes quite minor importance in the eyes of the public. The War office has already decided upon immediate steps for sending an eighth infantry division to South Africa. Some of the regiments for this division will be taken from Gibraltar and Malta. They will be replaced by militia.

It is asserted that the customs authorities on the River Thames have detained two out-guns and seized two large guns and Maxim, picked in piano cases, intended for the Transvaal. It is also said that a quantity of food stuffs on another vessel had been seized.

LADYSMITH OUTPOST ATTACKED.

London, Jan. 6.—The War office this evening issued the following:—From Buller, Frere Camp, Jan. 6.—The following telegram was received from Gen. White, Jan. 6, 9 a. m. The enemy attacked Caesar's Camp at 2.45 a. m., in considerable force. The enemy was everywhere repulsed, but the fighting still continues.

THE ATTACK REPULSED.

London, Jan. 8.—A special despatch from Frere Camp, dated Saturday, Jan. 6, 7.20 p. m., says:—"General White heliographed that he defeated the Boers this morning. They crept up close to the defending forces that the Gordon Highlanders and the Manchester actually repulsed them at the point of the bayonet."

ALARM IN CHIEVELEY CAMP.

Frere Camp, Saturday, Jan. 6.—At two o'clock this afternoon an alarm was sounded in Chieveley camp, and all the troops the camp turned out promptly and moved into the plain.

London, Jan. 7.—General Buller has the war office the following, dated Frere Camp:—Following message received from White at 1 p. m. today:—

London, Jan. 7.—The war office publishes the following despatch from General Forester-Walker, commanding at Cape Town:—General French reports under date of Jan. 6:—

The situation is much the same as yesterday, but I regret to report that a serious accident has happened to the first battalion of the Suffolk Regiment. From news just come to hand from them I gather that, with the authority and with the knowledge of General French four companies of the first battalion advanced by night against a low hill, one mile from their camp. They attacked at dawn. Lieut. Col. Watson commanding gave orders to charge.

A fact interesting to note is that Chaplain Fry, of the English church, Berlin, Jan. 6.—The correspondent of the Associated Press had an interview tonight with a high official who said that international questions involved in the seizure of German vessels by British naval commanders are so complicated and so dimly defined that an agreement between England and Germany will necessarily be slow.

CAPE TOWN, JAN. 6.—A despatch from Hertschell, Cape Colony, reports that Lady Grey has been deserted by the Boers, who came within the Orange Free State, the Boers, according to this despatch, are constructing entrenchments between Lady Grey and Barkley West.

BOERS LEAVE LADY GREY.

Chicago, Jan. 7.—Daniel J. Wessels, a brother of General Cornelius Wessels, the commander of the forces besieging Kimberley and cousin of President Steyn, writes from Ladysmith, dated Saturday, Jan. 6, 12.45 p. m.—Have been at Ladysmith since Jan. 1, recording two nights movements on the part of the Boers to assault the town. These had to be abandoned when the British defenses were reached, but the correspondent says it was apparent that the great attack would not be long delayed.

London, Jan. 7.—General Forester Walker, telegraphing from Cape Town today, says:—"There is no change in the situation as regards Lord Methuen and General Gatacre."

London, Jan. 8.—The excitement occasioned by the seizure of the German mail steamers by British cruisers increases and overtops everything else. Even the opening of the Prussian diet on the coming Tuesday is dwarfed thereby.

London, Jan. 8.—It is stated tonight that the British note in reply to the representations of the United States government on the subject of the seizure of American goods by Great Britain will be given to Ambassador Choate on Monday.

BOERS ACCUSED OF HARSH TREATMENT.

London, Jan. 8.—A despatch to the Daily Mail dated Jan. 6, from Durban, says:—"H. M. S. Widgeon brings from Delagoa Bay a number of British ambulance men who were captured at Dundee and subsequently released. They accuse the Boers of harshly treating prisoners taken from the British irregular corps."

BOER REPORTS.

London, Jan. 8.—Lord De La Warr, in a graphic description of the battle of Mafeking, says:—"It is useless to pretend that a large percentage of the troops are losing heart for a campaign comprised of a succession of frontal attacks on an inviolable foe, securely entrenched and unreachably. Our men fought with admirable firmness, but they were asked to perform miracles. Don't blame them for this," will gladden the hearts of his numerous friends. There was no accurate estimate of the gallant general, who was the first victim of the terrible disaster which overcame the Highland brigade.

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around Coleberg where the British occupy some of the outside kopjes. Bullets are dropping inside the town."

AMMUNITION COLUMN LEFT THE CAPE. Cape Town, Saturday, Jan. 6.—An ammunition column started for the front today. Several Colonial irregulars, of Dutch extraction, have been brought here under arrest. They are suspected of treachery.

EARL OF AVA WOUNDED. London, Jan. 8.—According to a private telegram received in London, the Earl of Ava, son of the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, was dangerously wounded in the thigh during a recent assault on Ladysmith.

THE LONDON SUMMARY.

London, Jan. 9, 2.45 a. m.—Gen. White still holds out, or at least so it is reported, when the Boers, ousted from their foothold inside the town, suspended their assault at nightfall. England has taken heart. The situation, however, is worse. The beleaguered force must have expended a large amount of ammunition which cannot be replenished, and must have lost a number of officers and men which is counterbalanced, so far as the garrison is concerned, by the greater losses of the Boers.

Gen. White still needs relief and the difficulties confronting Gen. Buller are as great as before. The former's undomestic sentences, as read and re-read, suggest eloquently the peril in which the town was for fourteen hours, consequently, must be low, and this will make it difficult for Gen. White to co-operate in a movement by General Buller.

The chief concern for Gen. White is in respect of ammunition. Sixty eight days ago, at the beginning of the siege, his small arm ammunition was variously described as "plenty." His artillery then had 100 rounds per gun, and the batteries have been in action frequently since then and all were probably engaged last Saturday. His stock of shells, consequently, must be low, and this will make it difficult for Gen. White to co-operate in a movement by General Buller.

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STUDY FARMING. As people study other callings and you will succeed. The cheapest and best text book to use is a progressive agricultural paper; not one that tells you what an OREGON or an ONTARIO Farmer should do to make money, but one that tells what MARITIME farmers should do and are doing to make the farm pay. The CO-OPERATIVE FARMER fills the bill. Enlarged to 20 pages, with a neat colored cover, issued twice a month, \$1.00 a year. Special rates to clubs. Free sample copies on application.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMER, Sussex, - - - New Brunswick

BULLER'S FIRST FIGHT. London, Jan. 8.—The first account giving any adequate explanation of General Buller's defeat at the Tugela river comes by mail from Mr. Bennett Burleigh, the Daily Telegraph's correspondent. It appears that the battle orders, drawn up by General Clery, provided for the effective support of the artillery by General Hart's, General Barton's and General Donald's brigades. Those were never completed. General Hart missed his way, General Barton failed to support, and General Donald got part of his forces in an untenable position. Col. Long with the artillery, captured the escort of the guns and they were lost. Briefly, that seems to be the story of the Tugela river, but through the graphic columns of the despatch there continually occurs the discovery of unexpected hidden Boers and awful fusillades from trenches and galleries which has seldom marked British battlefields.

After describing how the British forces began their advance at daylight and how the Boers left them absolutely unmolested the correspondent says:—"At 6.25 there suddenly burst an awful crash of Boer musketry upon the batteries, and advancing infantry. The rattle of the Mausers swelled and was maintained as one continuous roar. From the buildings and lines of trenches south of the river and from the river bank itself the Boers fired at our gunners and footmen and from the trenches on trenches in the northern side of the Tugela river and from Fort Willie and elsewhere they sent out a hurricane of leaden hail, and the bullets, venomously rained upon the ground in all directions, raising puffs of dust and tearing through the air with shrill sounds. Few have ever seen so heavy and so deadly a slide; but neither the British gunners nor the infantry hesitated or wavered. The cannon were wheeled into position, although many of the horses and men were shot down or the manoeuvre was completed and the transports were on the way to South Africa during the present month. According to the programme 25,000 additional troops and 72 guns were to be shipped to Ladysmith, but the manufacture as many 4.7 inch and 6 inch quick-firers as can be turned out until otherwise notified.

The Boer agents, according to the Cairo correspondent of the Daily Mail, are equal to the task of the importation of ammunition. The correspondent says:—"A large quantity of quick-firing ammunition was sent to Ras Jibouti, from which point it is conveyed by scows along the coast or transhipped to vessels bound for Portuguese ports in East Africa. The Boer agents, according to Ras Jibouti before reaching Aden contrive to evade search by transshipping at Madagascar to steamers appearing not connected with European lines. In this way they escape suspicion."

The Times publishes the following, dated Jan. 6, from Addis Ababa:—"News from Belmont shows that the Queensland and Canadian volunteers have been so energetic in that neighborhood that a large belt of the Free State across the border has been deserted by the Boers."

Lord Durnaven, in the Times this morning returns to the subject of the war of the Boers. He says:—"It is useless for the government to contend that the Boers have longer range mobile guns. Messrs. Worthing, Bell & Co., diamond merchants, have donated £50,000 to the equipment of the Yeomanry. It is understood that the war office has received some figures on the casualties in the Saturday attack upon Ladysmith, but not the list itself. These have not yet been made public."

METHUEN'S MASSACRE. London, Jan. 8.—Lord De La Warr, in a graphic description of the battle of Mafeking, says:—"It is useless to pretend that a large percentage of the troops are losing heart for a campaign comprised of a succession of frontal attacks on an inviolable foe, securely entrenched and unreachably. Our men fought with admirable firmness, but they were asked to perform miracles. Don't blame them for this," will gladden the hearts of his numerous friends. There was no accurate estimate of the gallant general, who was the first victim of the terrible disaster which overcame the Highland brigade.

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