# FROM "OUR BOYS."

Saturday's Mail Brought Some Interest- and Bucknall steamship lines in coning News from the Boys of Co. G.

Boers Have Twenty-five Thousand Men Between Ladysmith and Colenso.

Despatch via Pretoria Says the British at Ladysmith Are Destroying Their Heavy Cannon Prior to a Final Sortie-The Second Contingent.

SECOND CONTINGENT.

#### Mounted Rifles Will Consist of Two Battalions-Two Officers Appointed Declined to Go.

OTTAWA, Dec. 31.-Militia general orders issued yesterday give a new establishment for the regiment of mounted rifles. It will consist of two battalions with a total of 371 officers and men and 375 horses each. The Nova Scotia and New Brunswick troop is known as 4th troop 1st batt. The order also contains full information showing how the field artillery kit is to be carried and gives a schedule of field kits as authorized in the imperial service for non-commissioned

officers and men. Officers appointed to the special ser vice force must report for duty at places of concentration not later than tomorrow. Batteries of artillery are to proceed to Halifax complete with harness and gun equipment and horses. Five hundred rounds of ammunition per gun is to be sent direct to Halifax. Similar ammunition for mounted rifles will be taken in proportion of 500 rounds per man. Twenty thousand rounds each of Maxim gun ammunition will be taken on the Montezuma and Pomeranian.

Arms and equipment will be issued

at Halifax prior to the men embark-Extra saddlery, dubbing and oil, tools for farriers and cobblers and a complete supply of tal irs' require-Each man is to be allotted four blankets at Helifax, and the proportion not required upon arrival in the tropics is to be returned to the store on board.

Hand clipping machines with a crank are to be supplied to each vessel. Two officers mentioned in the first when they deprived themselves of teadraft of officers of the second conting- at the outbreak of the revolution. He ent have declined to go. They are re- adds that the stories of the crops in ported to be Capt. J. H. Wynne of the republics rotting in the ground for Montreal, who was named as quartermaster of the Mounted Rifles, and lutely false. There are a sufficient Capt. Laliberte of Quebec, who was given a lieutenancy in the artillery. Both are said to be dissatisfied with their rank. Their places can easily

Hon. Dr. Borden has decided to appoint a Methodist chaplain with the Twenty-one years ago we won with new contingent, and the general superintendent of the Methodist church has been asked to send in three or four names of Methodist clergymen, from which the minister of militia will choose one. A representative of the Canadian Y. M. C. A. will also accompany the second contingent. Dr. Borden having undertaken at the request of the associations to furnish the requisite transportation. Mr. Best, secretary of the Brantford association, has been chosen for the position. He will go on the vessel carrying the largest number of men. All troops will arrive at Halifax over the I. C. R.

## AT WOODSTOCK.

WOODSTOCK, Dec. 31.—Capt. Good received formal word Saturday to enroll 18 men exclusive of himself, and that he is to take thirteen horses. The following are appointed to value the horses: Capt. Good, Capt. Carvell and Veterinary Surgeon Pugsley. The following applications have

been handed in, and all the applicants

passed the examination last evening: Frank Gilman, Harry McLean, Frank Brewer, Harry Hall, Matthew Mc-Lennan. They are all battery men, and most of them school of gunnery Sutton, a former Woodstocker, who comes from St. Mary's temorrow to join the corps, and Robt. Smith of Lakeville, who passed Saturday, twelve of the eighteen men required to go with Capt. Good. It is probable that by Tuesday the whole complement will be filled and that there will Africa. be more applications than there are places to fill. The men of No. 10 battery are showing up well, and everyone feels proud of them and the corps they represent. Mr. Everitt of Boston telegraphed for a place, and some applications are in from outside. The list as far as made up may be called the pick of No. 10. It is expected that to a final sortle. in view of its being New Year's evening there will be a generous response to the mayor's call for a public meeting tomorrow evening to arrange for are cordially invited to attend and, as before remarked, the ladies' presence will be particularly welcome.

Rev. Horace E. Dibblee, rector of Ormocto, took Archdeacon Neales' duty today. He preached a singularly able sermon this morning, eloquently cause in this present war. The most favorable comment has been passed on the sermon. After the service Mr. eign opinion in Lorenzo Marquez is Bourne, the organist of St. Luke's, generally in favor of actively assistplayed as a voluntary the national anding the Boers to procure food sup-

NEWCASTLE, N. B., Dcc. 30.— An general here, is losing Lloyds agency enrolling office will be opened on Mon-

day. Eleven gunners, seven drivers and one collar maker are wanted.

INSURANCE FOR TORONTO MEN. TORONTO, Dec. 30 .- The city council has passed a resolution authorizing the city treasurer to arrange for insurance on the lives of the Toronto members of the second contingent. AT KINGSTON.

KINGSTON, Dec. 30.-"C" Battery will mobilize at Kingston on Tuesday next. Col. Stone has been offered 50 good horses within a week at \$150 per head. The offer will likely be accept-

A GENEROUS DONATION. TORONTO, Dec. 30-The Telegram's special cable from London says: Lord Strathcona, Canadian high commissioner, acknowledging the receipt of a cheque for £1,000 from Sir A. G. I Harmsworth, proprietor of the Lon- the Daily Mail says: don Daily Mail, a contribution from t members of the Canadian contingent months. Fresh fruit and vegetables rier and Canadians generally will and water is plentiful and excellent. much appreciate the spirit in which this magnificent donation has been

#### WHAT DR. LEYDS SAYS.

BRUSSELS, Dec. 31.- Dr. Leyds, the diplomatic agent of the Transvaal in Europe, states that the Transvaal and the Orange Free State have no reason to fear the /results of England's commercial blockage, which, he says, are dependent on Europe only for luxuries such as English cloths, be easily dispensed with by a people who are struggling for liberty. He likens the Boers to the Americans lack of men to gather them are absonumber of old men, foreigners and blacks to gather all the crops. In corclusion, Dr. Leyds says: "We have enough arms and ammunition to fight for several years. We have enough ammunition and to spare. only six cartridges per man. Now we shall certainly win. The English will be the first to give up, for they now are our best suppliers of ammuni-

## FIGHTING NEAR DORDRECHT.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The following despatch has been received at the war office from Gen. Sir Frederick Fores tier Walker: "Cape Town, Dec. 31-Gen. Methuen's situation is unchanged. Gen. French reports that the Boers nave left their entrenched position at Rensburgh, fearing that their communications were threatened by the British cavalry. They have gone to Colesburg. The position occupied by us is three miles hence. He adds that an officer of Dec. 30 was operating in the rear of a superior force of Boers seven miles north of Dordrecht. They retired thither, assisted by sixty men to aid them. One man was severely wounded.

BOER REINFORCEMENTS. CAPE TOWN, Dec. 28.-A despatch to the Argus from Delagoa Bay says that six large Armstrong guns and sixteen ammunition wagons which were recently landed at Lorenzo Mar-

#### quez, have been received in Pretoria OFFER ACCEPTED

BOMBAY, Dec. 31.-The war office has accepted an offer made by the Maharajah of Kashmir to furnish 80 trained battery horses for use in South

## A BOER STORY.

LONDON, Jan. 1 .- A despatch to the Daily Mail from Lourenzo Marquez, dated Dec. 29, says: "It is reported from Ladysmith by way of Pretoria, that the British are destroying their heavy cannon, prior

"The Transyaal agents here have brought up all the available milk, sugar and coffee. They have managed to get large orders sent for shipment here by French and German steamers. Prices have advanced 50 per cent in consequence, and the stocks are very short. Something like a famine is threatened, as the British government is stopping all goods con-

"Several members of the Volksraad expounding the justice of the empire's meet every steamer, doubtless to give further caders. Portugal is doing her best to maintain neutrality, but for-

"Herr Pott, the Transvaal consu

FRERE CAMP, Natal, Saturday, Dec. 30.—Owing to the flooding of the Tugela River, a large party of Boers have been cut off on the south side. They are reported to be in the hills to the right of Chieveley.

EVEN OFFICERS WOUNDED.

Dent, Twiss, Tringham, Caffyn, Byrne, Scafe and Kene." A later despatch from Ladysmith by way of Weenen, dated Friday, Dec.

"All well. The Boers have been firing plugged shells containing plum pudding and the compliments of the season. They are still fortifying their positions and are evidently determined to make a firm stand.'

METHUEN'S POSITION. LONDON, Jan. 1.-The war office publishes the following despatch, dated yesterday, from the general officer commanding at Cape Town: "Methuen's position is unchanged. French reports that the Boers, fearing their communications would be cut by our cavalry, have retired to Coles-

"Hear unofficially from Sterkstroom that a British reconnaisance, seven miles north of Dordrecht, engaged superior forces and was obliged to retire

ALL WELL AT KIMBERLEY. LONDON, Jan. 1.-A despatch

"Kimberley, Friday, Dec. 22, says: the Kipling fund for dependents of we have food enough for three to South Africa, says Sir Wilfrid I.au- are obtainable daily from Kenilworth, THE MAIL STEAMER SEIZURE.

BERLIN, Dec. 31.—Regarding the seizure by the British cruiser Magicienne of the imperial mail steamer Bundesrath of the German East African line, a high official of the German foreign office, who was interviewed by the correspondent of the Associated Press today said: "Silence must be preserved at present concerning the actual status of the negotiations Britain about the matter. Appropriate steps have been taken, of which wines, cigars and spirits, which can Germany must await the result. The matter is regarded by Germany as of the utmost importance because seriously involving the rights of neu-

This afternoon the foreign secretary, Count VonBuelow, conferred at the foreign office with his official advisers and then reported to the emperor. A cabinet meeting will consider the seizure.

It is also asserted in government circles that the British right of search is questioned, and that in any event the British right to stop passengers whether they intend to fight for the Boers or not is strenuously disputed, as the vessel upon which they were is neutral and the territory to which they were proceeding, namely Delagoa Bay, is also neutral. Redress, it is asserted, will be insisted upon by Germany.

The German press today unanimous y condemns British action in the Bundesrath seizure, which is characterized as "an instance of gross insolence," and as "calculated again to illustrate the need of a powerful German navy to render such overbear-ance on the part of England impossible in the future."

## THE LONDON VIEW.

LONDON, Jan. 1, 4.20 a. m .- In the absence of confirmation of the reported sortie from Ladysmith, that story is discredited. No such hopeful view can be taken, as the Boer account of the Mafeking sortie seems designed to convey. No word regarding any such movement has yet arrived from British sources; and the feeling of suspense is deepening, as it is feared Col. Baden-Powell's silence indicates that his rosition is becoming desperate.

The despatches from the front breathe a confident spirit which is by no means echoed here. The latest Ladysmith advices show that the Boer shelling is becoming dendly, while sickness and ernui must also be telling strongly on the garrison. The news of the spread of a rebellion among the Dutch colonists and of the attempts of Boers to cut the railway at widely different points, is very disquieting as bearing upon the safety of the extended lines of communica-

FORWARD MOVEMENT.

All the correspondents are beginning to hint of a forward movement on the part of Gen. Buller, the danger of which is indicated in a despatch to the Daily Telegraph from Frere recording the unfortunate failure of two reconnaisances. In one case the Boer lines at Colemso were to have been bombarded by night. Mounted men drew the Boer fire, and it was intended that the naval guns should bombard. This, however, the latter failed to do, owing to some misunderstanding, and the reconnitering party were compelled to flounder back to camp through the wet and stormy night, marching in mud and water and with the greatest discomfort.

According to the same correspond-

connaisance in the opposite direction. "Two detachments," says the despatch, "lost their way in the dark-ness: They were unable to effect a The men must go forward on the junction for attack; they stumbled starboard side of the ship and aft on into water hol-s and were out all the port, down the forward batchway

N. B AND N. S. WAR NOTES.

AT CENTENARY CHURCH.

Rev. John Read in last evening's sermon spoke of the dealings of the Lord with his people during the past year. Incidentally ne spoke of the war in Africa and of the noble example of Lord Roberts, in his old age and oppressed with grief for the loss of his son, going off to fight for his country with all the alacrity and energy of youth. The preacher spoke of the hostile attitude of nations who are jealous of England's success, and of the justice of, the British course, expressing the opinion that Canada was right in sending her two thousand troops to fight in such a cause. He thought the government might well have sent two or three thousand more of those who were prepared to offer their services.

AT CANNING.

AT CANNING. AT CANNING.

Colonel Irving, D. O. C., of Halifax, was in Canning, N. S., on Thursday last, for the purpose of enrolling volunteers and arranging about torses for the second contingent to South Africa. A board of officers was appointed to value horses, consisting of Major Beekwith, Captain Northrup and Lieutenant J. Harris. Dr. Illsley is veterinary surgeon.

BRITISH COLONISTS ARMING.

CAPE TOWN, Thursday, Dec. 28.—The colonial authorities are using every precaution to prevent an insurrection on the part of disloyal Dutch in Cape Colony, and to suppress a rising, if one should occur. Everywhere the British colonists are being organized into home guards, drilled, armed and ready to act in their respective localities, should armed Dutch colonials gather. The theory is that the British home graying colonials should be fully prepared to cope with the Dutch colonials without the aid of regulars.

The alertness of the British makes united action on the part of pro-Boer residents difficult. Unable to act openly, they slip away singly, or in small groups, to join the enemy's forces. The authorities have been informed of many centres of agitation, which it is considered undesirable to particularize; but there is nothing like concerted action apparent over wide districts.

MICHAN'S CASE. BRITISH COLONISTS ARMING.

MICHAN'S CASE The case of Mr. Michan, solicitor to the DeBeers company, who is accused of treason, acquires increased importance as he has been transferred from the custody of the civil authorities here to the military authorities at DeAar. His high position causes the Dutch to watch his case keenly.

reventy miles south of Lord Methuen's posmeans. Boers appeared on Christmas day
near the railway, about 29 miles south of
DeAar. A force of the Duke of Edinburgh's
Own Volunteers prepared to engage them,
but the enemy retired.

Another party fired into a British patrol
camp during the night of Wednesday, Dec.
27. This was near Victoria Road. An attempt was made not far from that point to
damage the railway. One man was caught
in the act and shot.

Like attempts are reported from several
other, points. Evidently small parties of
Boers or Dutch colonials have been trying
to interrupt the movement of trains, but
thus far they have been baffled by the elaborate British patrolling.

FIRED ON COLONIALS.

FIRED ON COLONIALS. In one case a patrol of regulars fired on a patrol of colonials. The latter were wearing broad brimmed hats and were mistaken by the British for Boers. No casualties occurred, but, in consequence of the incident, an order has been issued requiring all classes of troops to wear helmets.

PROM THE BOYS IN SOUTH AFRICA. Saturday's mail brought joy and gladness to the St. John homes represented on Canada's South African contingent. Every letter from the boys contained the pleasing news that they were well and anxious to reach the fighting line as soon as possible. The Sun takes pleasure in laying before its readers extracts from some of these letters, kindly placed at its disposal by the parties who received

R. K. Jones and Simeon Jones, jr. received letters from Lt. Fred C. Jones of Company G. One letter was dated Nov. 13th, and the other Nov. 27th, Loth being written before arrival of the Sardinian at Cape Town. Lt. Jones was HI when left Quebec, but within a few days he came around all right. At the time of writing he said he was in the best of health and all the men were well. The weather was cold the latter part of the voyage, which was a pleasing change for all hands.

Lt. McLean of the same company sent letters from Cape Town by the same mail to his father, Lt. Col. Mo-Lean and Mrs. McLean.

#### A. S. HATFIELD. A private letter from A. Seamar

Hatfield, formerly with W. H. Thorne & Co., dated South Africa, November 25, runs in part as follows: We are, I am glad to say, nearing our journey's end, and expect to see Cape Town Tuesday. Except the first few days we have had a remarkably fine passage, and the regiment is in splendid health; only one serious case in the hospital. One man died the third day out . . , and was buried off the Banks of Newfoundland. At that time the wind was blowing hard, with a heavy sea running. Almost attempt to describe what we went through for the next two or three days. The officers being most of them sick, no order was kept. The men

lay around the deck and down in their berths and any place they could get out of the way. Those who could eat were badly served; most of the 1,000 men were crowded into the space that 500 should have had. After a time, however, the sea went down and it grew calmer, and we began to fall into the routine of a soldier's life on shipboard. (The letter describes the duties and routine of the day,

## WISHING ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We would inform you that in consequence of hav-ing to take account of stock the first of February we have to reduce our stock of Clothing and will make prices lower than ever to clear.

Fraser, Fraser & Co., - Foster's Corner. 40 and 42 King Street, St. John, N. B.

three meals, and all do all the wash-

The food is very good, I believe, when compared with that of the Americans during their late outing, and is getting better all the time. As for equipment, I do not believe a better fitted out force was ever sent on active service. The Canadian people have been very thoughtful and deserve our warmest thanks for the many comforts they have given us. At the days passed the weather grew warmer and fine, but even on the equator it was not nearly so hot as most of us expected. We passed few vessels and only one near enough to speak. . . We exchanged signals with the port of St. Vincent and II. We exchanged signals M. S. Powerful, and then stood out again to sea. Nothing occurred to break the monotony until the morning of the 16th November, when we spoke a small brig-rigged steamer 18

days from the Cape. She informed us that 2,000 British soldiers had been captured and that Mafeking had surrendered. Since then everything has been quiet. In a postscript written just before landing the writer says that he expects to be busy just as soon as he lands, and expresses the hope that if he lives to see his friends he will be

able to show a good record. NOW CORPORAL COOMBS. Two letters were received at the office of Massey-Harris Co. on Saturday from Fred W. Coombs, a member

two before the arrival of the Sardinian at Cape Town. good health and spirits at the end of the voyage. His many friends in St.

the Isle of St. Helena to take in water, but I don't think we will. Today hey issued us a new pair of boots, so it looks as though we were going to have lots of marching. According to report only 600 of us, picked men, are going to the front. We have quite a band on board, about 30 pleces, and they intend giving a concert tonight. Ever since we left the Gulf of St. Lawrence the weather has been beautiful until tonight, when it began to rain. It has been so warm that we drill in bare feet and shirt sleeves, and we are burned as black as negroes. Yesterday we had our first fire and boat drill. We expect to reach Cape Town next Sunday, and we won't be sorry either, for we are about sick of the sea.

Nov. 24.—We got paid today and will get our new uniforms tomorrow. Another concert tonight, and I am to sing Break the News to Mother. CORP. F. WITHERS.

Captain Armstrong of the 3rd R. C. A., received a letter on Saturday from Corp. F. Withers of G Company of the Canadan contingent. The following is an exact from the letter:

'We're in sight of land and will get in port about noon, and all hands will be cled to the continuous and all hands will be cled to the continuous and all hands will be cled to the continuous and all hands will be cled to the continuous and all hands will be cled to the continuous and all hands will be cled to the continuous and t be glad to get ashere, for although it has been a very pleasant trip, it has been a long one. We are all crazy to get ashore. F; G and H companies have not been fitted complete with khaki clothing, so the general orders for today read that these companies stay aboard and do fatigue duty while the others march into camp. All the St. John boys are well and in good spirits and ready for the front. The regiment has a crack band and most of the players are from G company. It is a hard job to write here, we're crossed the line on the 17th amid the on his life in the North American.

### HON. L. E. BAKER

Deceased Was President of the Yarmouth Steamship Company, and One of the Foremost Men in Nova Scotia.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 31.-When the Owl train arrived here from New York this morning the dead body of Hon. Loran E. Baker of Yarmouth, N. S., was found in a bertif in the sleeping car. Mr. Baker was the president of the Yarmouth Steamship company, and was well known here. Mr. Baker left Boston for New York last Tuesday, accompanied by his wife and son. He had some business to transact for the company in New York and then took Mrs. Baker and her son to Washington. D. C., where he made arrangements for them to take a trip through the south. He then returned to New York, finished up his business and started for Boston on the train which left. New York at midnight last night. The train is composed entirely of sleeping cars, and Mr. Baker had a section. When the train arrived in Boston this morning the porter called Mr. Baker twice, and receiving no reply, parted the curtains of his berth and looked in. Mr. Baker was lying in his berth, clad in his underclothing and seemingly asleep. As he was not to be aroused by calling or making, the porter thought something was the matter, and summoned the conductor. The conductor at once realized that there was something wrong, and although the body was still warm, there was no heart movement. An ambulance was summoned and the body was taken to the Emergency hospital. At the hospital the baggage was searched and it was then discovered who the dead man was, and H. F. Hammond, the Boston agent of the Yarmouth Steamship company, was notified. Meanwhile the body was removed to Jones' undertaking rooms and the medical ning the dead body of Hon. Loran E. Baker of the first Canadian contingent. One was written upon the day of expected call at St. Vincent, the other a day or John will be glad to know that Mr.
Coombs has been promoted from the ranks to the position of corporal.

Jack Rawlings in a letter to his father, Capt. Richard Rawlings of the north end, dated Nov. 18 and with a postscript six days later, writes:

South Atlantic, Nov. 18.—Last Sunday we sighted the Cape Verde islands, and when I saw them I thought they were banks of clouds. When we passed Cape St. Vincent we slowed up. A rock on which there is placed a light house rises straight out of the water there, and in the harbor was a large man-of-war. It was htought at first that we would stop at the Isle of St. Helena to take in water,

Mr. Hammond, and he was too busy making arrangements to eare for the body to attend to maything else.

Hon. Loran Ellis Baker, M. L. C., steamship owner, banker and legislator, and one of the mest widely-known and most enterprising of Nova Scotians, was born at Yarmonth, N. S., May 13, 1831, the son of Ellis and Delina Baker. His paternal ancestors were early settlers in Barrington, Shelburne county, N. S. Mr. Baker received his education in Yarmouth, completing it at the Academy in that place, after which he became a clerk in the establishment of Yarmouth. In 1855 he embarked in general business and shipbuilding, in company with John Young, the firm name being Young and Baker. This partnership was dissolved in 1864, and Mr. Baker henceforth operated alone as general ship owner, banker, etc., becoming the most active and most prominent business man in his native town. He was appointed a member of the legislative council of Nova Scotia 18th February, 1873, and was a liberal in politics. In 1872 he founded a free public library and museum in Yarmouth. He was president and leading spirit of the Bank of Yarmouth, the Yarmouth Steamship Co., the Yarmouth Marine Rallway Co., Yarmouth Agricultural Society, Mountain Cemetery Co., Yarmouth Marine Rallway Co., Grand Hotel Co., Yarmouth Duck and Yarn Co. Keeping abreast of the times, he was more recently a prime mover in the introduction of the electric street cars and electric lighting of the town. Mr. Baker was a member of the Church of England and one of the corporation of Trinity thurch. He was three times married: first, in 1857 to Mary E., eldest dangnter of Joseph B. Bond, M. D., of Yarmouth, and third, in 1879, to Frances I., daughter of Geo. B. Creighton of Dartmouth, N. S. His family consists of one daughter and three sons, living. His daughter, Florence Mary, was married in 1893 to Hon. Walter G. Stopford, commander in the Royal Navy, third son of the late Earl Courtown.

Mr. Baker had a large circle of friends in St. John, who will deeply regret his sudden dea

HALIFAX, Jan. 1.-Hon. L. E. Baker effected \$50,000 life insurance only three weeks ago in the Mutual Life Insurance company of New York. Half of this was re-insured with the Manufacturers' Life. Both transacso crowded that men are jostling tions were made at the agencies in against a fellow every minute. We this city. Mr. Baker also had \$10,000

