

The Semi-Weekly Evening Telegraph

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NO. 30.

METHUEN'S POSITION.

He Can Either Advance or Retreat and Always Threatens.

Winston Churchill Has Reached the Coast—General Yule Reported Insane—No News of Hostilities—Ottawa Working on the Second Contingent.

METHUEN WELL PLACED.

His Position is Safe and Strategically Sound.

London, Dec. 22.—A despatch from Cape Town, dated Sunday, Dec. 17, says that Gen. Methuen's primary object in crossing the Modder River appears to have been to establish a reliable communication with Kimberley, which is believed to be still on full rations. The water in the mines is plentiful. On the other hand, in spite of their usual tactics, it is considered possible that the Boers have been compelled to assume the offensive, and command having arranged for the disposition of the forces and anticipating difficulty in maintaining food supplies in the present position. Moreover, it is said there is a growing desire among the Free States to return home, which is testified to on many sides and may tend to precipitate an action on the part of the Boer commanders.

In spite of the delay of Gen. Methuen in advancing, he is regarded as largely entrenched position is believed to be unassailable. In the event of the Boers attacking Kimberley, Methuen would be enabled to make a counter move with artillery and cavalry. Consequently, such a movement on the part of the Boers, it is said, is not contemplated. It is apparent, however, that to "make haste slowly" is the truest policy at present. In accordance with Gen. Methuen's dictum the army should not advance faster than the slowest ox wagon.

NO TRANSPORT.

London, Dec. 22.—The Morning Post today says: "If it is true, as well-informed persons assert, that the troops in South Africa are without transport—divisional, brigade or regimental—except such as is attached to the generals have been able to get together, many things which at first sight appeared absolutely inexplicable become intelligible. Even the movement of a force becomes capable of, if not justification, at least explanation. A general can do nothing with troops he cannot feed. The neglect in the case has been that of the political class leaders of both parties. They have not for many years taken serious thought of the possibility of war in England. The same is true regarding the conduct in which the nation's existence or that of the empire might be staked."

GEN. YULE DEMENTED.

New York, Dec. 22.—A London despatch to the New York World states that Gen. James H. Yule is insane. It is a great shock to Gen. Yule's many friends, as the skill with which he had carried out his retreat and joined forces with General White had earned promotion for him.

CHURCHILL AT DELAGOA BAY.

London, Dec. 22.—Lady Randolph Churchill has received a cable despatch from her son Winston Churchill, who was captured by the Boers in Natal and taken to Pretoria and whose escape from there was announced Dec. 14. He says he has arrived safe at Delagoa Bay.

HUSSARS CALLED FOR.

The following was issued yesterday:—Eight Hussars—Members of D Squadron, 8th Hussars, or ex-members of the regiment willing to volunteer for service with the cavalry contingent for South Africa, will report to the nearest non-commissioned officer of the squadron. The non-commissioned officers have been notified to enroll all applicants and to forward their applications to the officer commanding the squadron, together with particulars of any serviceable horses in their districts.

BOERS ACTIVE IN FRONT OF GATACRE.

Stierkroon, Cape Colony, Saturday, Dec. 16.—The Boers have been largely reinforced since General Gatacre's reverse at Stormberg. The country north of that point is in arms, and the farms of the loyalists are being taken by the Boers, who reap the crops.

PORTUGAL AND BOER SUPPLIES.

London, Dec. 22.—The Lisbon correspondent of the Daily Mail discussing the Boer importation of food, munitions of war and recruits by way of the Portuguese port of Lourenzo Marques, says:—"Portugal is undoubtedly doing her utmost to check the transit of war material for the Boers through Delagoa Bay, although Great Britain would do well to make a demand for greater watchfulness. Portugal, however, is in constant terror of a Boer raid on her African possessions and cannot stop the passage of volunteers for the Transvaal."

FRANCE RESPECTS ENGLAND'S ATTITUDE.

Paris, Dec. 22.—The war in South Africa has all but monopolized public attention this week. The best Paris journals, the Temps, Figaro and Journal Des Debats, have throughout discussed the pros and cons of the dispute with an evident desire to be impartial. A larger section of the press of lower standing but wider circulation, has been persistently reviling in Anglophobia. This sentiment is apparently shared by a majority of Frenchmen, who regard England as a bully attacking the weak, plucky state, and who are bitter against England because of her unparagoned and often unjust criticism of France during the Dreyfus trial.

NO CONFIRMATION.

London, Dec. 23, 4.45 a. m.—Belated South African despatches throw no light upon the present situation at the seat of war. There is no confirmation of the report that Ladysmith could hold out several weeks longer, and it is feared that this was circulated by the Boers for their own purpose. A Cape Town despatch dated December 17, reports that Commandant Diederichs was killed in a recent engagement, but no details are given.

CHOOSING THE OFFICERS.

No Names as Yet—Graduates of King's to Be Given Imperial Commissions. Ottawa, Dec. 22.—Good progress was made today by the minister of militia in furthering the arrangements connected with the organization and despatch of the contingent. A number of the officers have been appointed, but as the list is not yet complete the minister thinks it desirable not to give out any until all are ready.

REVERSES STIFFEN ENGLAND.

No Foreign Intervention Will Be Tolerated by Great Britain. London, Dec. 22.—Not for many years past has Great Britain faced such a situation as confronts her this Christmas. Yet, so meet it, there has arisen a new Britain, which, by its virility and pluck, extorts admiration even from her bitterest enemies. There is no likelihood of success for the Boers, and the Boer agents themselves have almost lost hope that mediation would be accepted, though believing, if treated fairly, that they would lose humanitarian sympathy for the Boers much wavering sentiment.

A CHANGE IN GERMANY.

Berlin, Dec. 22.—A gradual veering of public opinion in Germany toward the Boers is becoming apparent. The change is led by the inspired section of the press. Today several articles appear pointing in the new direction. The Cologne Gazette says: "Germany's real interest is to maintain absolute neutrality in sentiment. It is wise to retain England's good will if Germany intends to develop colonialism."

THE PRESS DIRECTING THE PUBLIC TO FAVOR ENGLAND.

The Associated Press is informed from excellent sources that no offer of mediation would be accepted by Lord Salisbury in any shape or form. The popular conception of general Roberts and General Kitchener. The fall of Kimberley, Ladysmith and Mafeking would not make a particle of difference for this stoical resolve is thoroughly imbedded in the hearts of the people, who, for the first time in the memory of this generation, have drunk deeply of the cup of military defeat and disgrace. Any other defeats that the future holds for the British, except entire annihilation, are anticipated by theathing self-criticism which the nation has inflicted upon its own side.

LADYSMITH SAFE ON THE 20TH.

London, Dec. 22.—The war office has issued a list of minor casualties, received at Fidermaritburg, by helicopter Wednesday, Dec. 20th, showing that Ladysmith was still holding out on Wednesday last.

LONDON SUMMARY.

London, Dec. 25, 4.30 a. m.—The war office has received a cablegram from Gen. Forester-Walker, dated at Cape Town yesterday, saying:—"Have no further news of the general situation."

FREE COMBINATION OFFER.

FREE NO MONEY WANTED. In order to introduce our superior Steel Pens we are giving away Wagners, Obars, Jack Knives, Fountain Pens, Cameras, Chairs, Tables, Beds, and many other beautiful premiums. BOYS and GIRLS, send us your full name and address and we will mail you one of these prizes at once. If you send among your neighbors and friends at the rate of 10¢ per package, you will receive a special prize of \$1.00 and we will forward premium you select from our many beautiful goods. Send today. Address: STANBARD, WATCH & NOVELTY CO., P. O. Box 23, St. John, N. B.

ATACRE PROTECTING HIMSELF.

Cape Town, Monday, Dec. 18.—Gen. Gatacre, in order to check insurrection among the Dutch colonists and to prevent dissatisfied persons giving information or other assistance to the Boers, has issued a modified reconcentration order. By its terms all males over 12 years of age, of whatever nationality, residing outside of towns or villages but within a radius of 12 miles of military camps now established or hereafter to be established north of Stierkroon, are required immediately to vacate their places of residence and either to remove to some place outside the 12 mile radius or to form a camp in close proximity to the nearest military camp—the spot to be selected by the officer commanding—where they must reside until further notice, providing for their own needs. All persons found within the radius without passes will be arrested. Active persons are not to be allowed to many colonial Dutch have joined the Boers in that district.

NO NEWS SATURDAY NIGHT.

London, Dec. 24, 4.45 a. m.—Beyond the statement that a helicopter message from Ladysmith reports: "All well to Friday afternoon, with no fighting except outpost skirmishes" absolutely no news has been received from the seat of war during the night. The war office officials at midnight say they had not received any war despatches.

AN INCREDIBLE REPORT.

London, Dec. 23.—From a continental Dutch source comes the incredible rumor that a British army corps has disembarked at Lourenzo Marques and is marching to take the Transvaal frontier.

ROBERTS SAILS FOR AFRICA.

Southampton, Dec. 23.—In spite of a thick fog which prevailed, the Dunottor Castle sailed at 6.15 p. m., with General Lord Roberts in the course of an interview had with him before sailing. "I am deeply impressed by the confidence shown today in London, along the route to and at Southampton. I desire to express my gratitude to all who have seen me off and to send my best regards to all in the country. In all these outbursts of patriotism I see a good omen of success."

KITCHENER TO JOIN ROBERTS AT GIBRALTAR.

Malta, Dec. 23.—Gen. Lord Kitchener, chief of staff to Gen. Lord Roberts, arrived here today from Alexandria on the British second-class cruiser Isis. He went immediately on board the steamer, Lord Dido, which is to transport the general and his staff to Gibraltar, where he will join Lord Roberts.

LADIES URGED TO ENLIST.

London, Dec. 23.—The exceeding grave view taken in some quarters at the crisis evoked by a circular signed by Attorney-General Webster, Solicitor General Finlay, and General Sir Evelyn Wood, Adjutant General to the forces, and the regular forces will be required abroad, it becomes imperative for the purpose of augmenting and urging that every member of the legal profession not debarred by age or permanent duty enroll himself as an active member of some volunteer corps.

OFFICERS COMMANDING BATTERIES WILL BE SUPPLIED BY IMPREST FROM HEADQUARTERS ON APPLICATION WHEN NECESSARY.

District officers commanding and the commissioner of mounted police will therefore be good enough to arrange for the payment of (a) The name of each individual entitled to draw the allowance; (b) the number of sons and their age and the number of daughters and their age; (c) the name of the non-commissioned officer or man concerned, and the company in which enrolled, and (d) in case of non-commissioned officers who belong to permanent force at the time of enrollment the unit to which they belonged.

A CHANCE FOR WOODSTOCK BATTERY HORSES.

Toronto, Dec. 22.—Dr. Nuttress, examining officer, today completed the inspection of the Dragons at the Stanley Barracks. Every officer of the government general's body guards has applied for permission to join the contingent. Out of hundreds of horses examined at the barracks only seven have been purchased, the price paid for suitable animals being \$160. Veterinary Surgeon Hall says it would have been advisable for the government to purchase horses in South America as animals purchased there would be more suitable for the South African climate. He anticipates that ten per cent of the Canadian horses will die before reaching Cape Town. (Continued on Page 3.)

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 OBO or an OBTARIO 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.

Success. - - - New Brunswick. daily pay, subsistence and all incidentals from the date of enrollment to the date of concentration. Imprests for this purpose will be given. The district officers commanding and the commissioner of the Mounted Police will meet all necessary disbursements in connection with the formation of the special service troops. A credit will be given them for this purpose. Money will also be supplied in the same way for the purposes of purchasing horses to complete the establishment. The following are the relative rates of pay:—

TRANSPORTS SECURED.

Three Ships Will Sail From Halifax With Troops. Ottawa, Dec. 24.—The work of getting the contingent ready is being vigorously prosecuted at the department of militia and the minister and his staff were in their offices the greater part of today. Last evening the contract for transport of the troops was finally closed. The Montezuma from the Elder-Dempster line and the Laurentian and the Pomoranian from the Allan line have been chosen. They will be paid for by the ton on just the same lines as the Imperial government has lately chartered a vessel for similar purposes. Dr. Borden came to the conclusion that the Imperial authorities had thought the matter well out and decided that the Allan line was the best one to pursue and therefore he adopted the same policy. In conversation with H. A. Allan of the Allan line your correspondent learned that the Laurentian would be in Halifax on Wednesday or Thursday next and would be fitted up for the trip as speedily as possible. He expected the Laurentian would sail about January 10th. The Pomoranian would, in all probability, sail about January 15th. The Montezuma is now on its way from New Orleans to Halifax and will likely sail about January 21st. This vessel will be favored and the artillery will be sent by the Allan line boats. But the exact division of the contingent in this regard has not been decided. In closing the minister said that the government has received a cable from the mounted authorities stating that an extra number of horses would be very acceptable, as remounts are scarce in South Africa.

ANSWER TO WALLACE.

Col. Otter is an Imperial Officer and Subject to British Army Regulations. Ottawa, Dec. 24.—The following telegram from Clark Wallace was received late Friday night and was replied to by Dr. Borden yesterday. The telegrams are as follows:—"Woodbridge, Ont., Dec. 22 '99. 'From the first hour that the Canadian contingent arrived in South Africa to the present time, so far as I can see or learn, the government has taken no steps of any kind to ascertain their whereabouts nor any telegraphic communication with them. Every Canadian wants to know something of them. Beside there are more than a thousand homes where the little family groups are watching day by day and waiting through the long hours of the night, longing to have information, even if it were only one line, every day. Is it parsimony or indifference, or something worse than that, the cause of the government's action in the matter?' (Signed) N. Clarke Wallace."

MILITIA OFFICERS.

Ottawa, Dec. 24.—The following militia order has just been issued. District officers commanding will be good enough to forward to headquarters without delay a return showing:—

BEECHAM'S PILLS.

The Best and Safest Family Medicine. FOR ALL Bilious and Nervous Disorders, Sick Headache, Constipation, Weak Stomach, Impaired Digestion, Disordered Liver and Female Ailments. The World's Medicine. Sold and Sold Exceeds 6,000,000 Boxes. 25 Cents at all Drugists. Beecham's Pills have the largest sale of any Proprietary Medicine in the world, and this has been achieved without the publication of testimonials.

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