

Relief of Ladysmith

London Daily Mail's War Correspondent Describes the Historic Scene.

How the Relieving Force Was Received-Natal Men First in Town.

Ladysmith, Feb. 28.—Ladysmith was relieved at last at 6 o'clock to-night.

The first portion of General Buller's column which reached the town were received with an extraordinary display of enthusiasm. Never before in the history of Ladysmith, which has now become so famous, has such a scene of genuine gladness and pride been witnessed within its boundaries. It is doubtful if ever such a scene was witnessed anywhere in Natal.

The townspeople and the military as late as this morning did not expect to see the long-awaited column before the day was out.

Last night it was reported that rations would be reduced, and the reduction took effect today. This was regarded as an augury of more delays, and it is not too much to say that it caused a tone of despondency to set in among some; but it is always the darkest hour that precedes the dawn.

Early in the afternoon came the news by helicopter that General Buller had achieved a decisive victory over the enemy, who were in full retreat and pursued by his cavalry. Their signs of unusual activity were seen within the garrison, and the Natal Carbineers and Hussars stood to arms.

From Wagons Hill and other eminences the Boers were seen in full retreat; ox wagons and mule wagons by the hundred, mounted Boers by the thousand, were travelling west of the town from Colenso towards the Free State and Transvaal railways. Our field guns attempted to reach them, but they were of insufficient range.

Great activity among the Boers was now apparent on Umbulwana.

The first to draw attention to this favorite Boer position was our naval guns, which sent shells in rapid succession into the redoubt which shelters the Boer 90-pounder—our old acquaintance "Long Tom."

A rapid survey of Fort Alice with our glasses revealed the fact that over the earthworks a huge derrick had been erected, the object of which was plainly the enemy here were about to attempt to remove the gun.

Shell after shell tore through the air over the town from our naval batteries, and our big 47 naval gun on Casse's Camp, whither it was recently removed, joined in the attack. The Boers were seen flying from the vicinity of their favorite redoubt along the summit of Umbulwana. Some careered down from the hill below the gun, but our shells followed them, bursting along the top of the face of the hill wherever moving figures were seen.

Many magnificent shots were fired from the forts. Fort Alice threw shells which struck the earthworks right in the face, raising a great column of brown smoke and dust. When the smoke and dust had cleared away.

The Derrick Had Disappeared.

Our guns now ceased for a little, and once more the derrick was hoisted, but one shell from a 12-pounder long-range naval gun smashed the derrick and the Boer hopes at the same time, for no further attempt was made to remove the gun.

Every one in the town and camp was overjoyed at the spirited and grand work of our guns. The relief spoken so seldom loudly that their deep voice was indeed most welcome. All felt instinctively that it was the beginning of the end. The street was crowded, and every one was delighted. Civilians, soldiers, natives, Indians, all were there watching our bombardment of the Boer fort, and the moment our guns had come. Officers galloped forwards hither and thither, killed Gordons stalked towards their camp, Indians in turbans and flowing white robes rode smilingly past on donkeys, natives everywhere. It was a scene typical of the Boers, for though the speech and clothes and color of the people were diverse, these people were.

All Subjects of the Queen.

Suddenly a mighty cheer was raised at the north end of the town. It travelled towards the railway station and came nearer.

What could it all mean? Then came the words flying from mouth to mouth, "The column is just outside the town and is coming across the flats."

There was a rush toward the Klip river, which divides the flats from the town.

There was no doubt—the news was true. The cheering travelled from north to south—long, great, and continuous shout was raised, and we all knew the force was at the drift.

It was now 6 o'clock and twilight had begun. At the drift there they were, a long, dark, grey wall of men and horses. On one side and on the other there was a great concourse hurrying and cheering.

The foremost men were now across the drift and entering the town. "Well done!" as shouted spontaneously. "My right arm at times was entirely useless. I carried Chamberlain's Pain Balm, and was surprised to receive relief almost immediately. The Pain Balm has been a constant companion of mine ever since and it never fails." For sale by Henderson Bros., wholesale agents, Victoria and Vancouver.

The gas and electrical works at Listowel exploded on Wednesday night. Wm. Bilber, the engineer, was killed.

namely, that the first of his relief column to enter town should be Natal Men.

The arrivals were about 300 strong, and consisted of the Natal Carbineers under Major Mackenzie, the Imperial Light Horse under Major Gough, and the Natal Police under Inspector Abrahams.

General Sir George White promptly went out to welcome the gallant band, and with his staff he met it at the principal street. It was difficult to say which showed the greatest pleasure and satisfaction, the men of Buller's column or the devoted chief of Ladysmith.

The new-comers were cheered all along the route with enthusiasm; women were seen crying with excitement and gladness; and, as General White turned back homeward, he received an ovation from the great gathering which now filled the street.

At the postoffice Sir George White stopped in response to the cheers and essayed to address the assemblage. Struggling with the emotion aroused by the events of the afternoon, and by the undoubted enthusiasm manifested so vociferously towards himself, he could hardly at first speak a single sentence.

Finally, he said: "I want heartily to thank you for the very great assistance you have given me during this trying time."

Three cheers were now called for White, three cheers for Lady White, cheers for General Hunter, cheers for the staff, cheers for

The Ladysmith Garrison, and cheers for the crew of the Powerful.

Sir George then continued: "This is indeed a happy moment. I thank God our flag has been upheld."

Great enthusiasm greeted this sentence, and cheers were raised for the Queen, and then for the Prince of Wales. All present then sang "God Save the Queen."

The general now called for cheers for Sir Redvers Buller. This was greeted by prolonged cheering, and the singing of "He's a jolly good fellow."

Silence being obtained, Sir George again spoke, saying: "It has gone to the bottom of my heart to have cut down your rations, but I promise I will not do it again."

This was responded to with laughter and cheers, amid which Sir George and his staff galloped off.

When the first intimation was received that the relief force was approaching, the Border Mounted Rifles and Natal Carbineers went out to escort it in, but by the time it was seen it was so near that the escort had only reached the drift at the show yard when the arrivals were reining up at the other side of the river.

Soon after the arrival of the relief force a terrific thunderstorm raged over the town and district. Rain poured in torrents for hours, and the night was of inky blackness, relieved only by incessant flashes of lightning.

Throughout the night our big naval guns were shelling the Boers to prevent them removing their gun.

Three guns were in operation, and an eerie effect was produced by their continual booming.

But every one was exuberantly happy. R. W. REID.

PLAQUE ABATING.

No Fresh Cases of Dread Disease at Honolulu When the Warrimoo Sailed.

According to advices from Honolulu up to the time of the sailing of the Warrimoo, there has been no increase in the number of plague cases. A Honolulu correspondent, writing under date of March 15th, says: "But one case of the plague has developed during the past eleven days. This encouraging situation has caused the board of health to modify the rules, and now all classes of American and European goods are allowed to be shipped to the outside islands. Passengers have been allowed to depart for the first time in many weeks. Reports from both Maui and Hawaii are to the effect that both islands are clean again. There have been no fresh outbreaks at either Kahului or Hilo.

The expenses of fighting the plague has reached over half a million to this date. The council of state will be asked to appropriate \$250,000 additional. Two hundred and twenty-one native Hawaiians, men, women and children were crowded on the floor in the hall of the executive building yesterday, impugning the government for food."

Nahalea, a native with a bad reputation, is under arrest, and will probably be charged with murder. He beat his wife with a rope until she confessed to him that she had been intimate with a Japanese. Then Nahalea went to where the Japanese was at work with an axe. He took the axe from the Japanese and struck him on the side of the head with it, and a second time breaking his jaw. Then Nahalea knocked his wife down with the axe handle and chased away a native who interfered, threatening to kill him if he returned. The Japanese died Saturday, March 10th.

The yacht Rover, Captain R. B. Fifthian, arrived at Honolulu on March 12th from Samoa, continuing the cruise of Pacific waters in which she has been engaged since last September. The Rover started from Santa Barbara, California, and has been to most of the South Sea Islands. Her last port of call was Apia, which she left on February 8th. On the yacht are Mrs. Fifthian and G. A. Loughborough, of San Francisco.

AN EDITOR FINDS A SURE CURE FOR RHEUMATISM.

A. R. De Fient, editor of the Journal, Doylestown, Ohio, suffered for a number of years from rheumatism in his right shoulder and side. He says: "My right arm at times was entirely useless. I carried Chamberlain's Pain Balm, and was surprised to receive relief almost immediately. The Pain Balm has been a constant companion of mine ever since and it never fails." For sale by Henderson Bros., wholesale agents, Victoria and Vancouver.

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To Avenge Fashoda

Plans That Exist in France for the Invasion of England.

How the French Propose to Capture the City of London.

In spite of the amenities exchanged between the two governments or their ambassadors, the ordinary observer will perceive the gravity of the situation actually existing between France and England, a situation which, whatever may be the goodwill of the two countries, whatever may be the course of events, cannot be settled otherwise than by war, and to all appearances at a very early date.

As the twentieth century opens two preponderant questions loom up, and these two questions will dominate the policies of Europe for many long years. They are the Chinese and African questions. The first question has not yet reached maturity, and doubtless will not for some years to come. But the other is ripe, and its solution by the force of arms is imminent.

England's Lost Opportunity.

Africa, which up to a few years ago was a terra incognita, is called upon to play, during the century which has just begun, the part played by America in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, or that played by India in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It will be the master of the colossal riches of this new country and will find in it for its commerce and its manufactures the necessary outlets for years and years to come.

England, although having at first allowed this to be done by France, and the conquest of Algeria, was the first to grasp the significance of the situation and the future that lay in Africa, and her object has been to become in Africa the dominant power.

She had two rivals, Germany and France. Germany counts for little. The territories which she occupies, although considerable, can only be enclaves, and her fleet, which so far sails only in the brain of its Emperor, is not yet ready to carry any great weight in the destinies of naval engagements. There remains France, whose African Empire is considerably greater than that of any other power.

Hampered by internal dissensions, by the contradictory ideas of their successive statesmen, lacking continuity of purpose, the French understood too late England's plan. But, having grasped it, they tried to combat it. Hence alliances were formed, and the French fleet, which through from west to east the great track which the English wished to lay out from Cape to Cairo, hence Fashoda.

From a purely speculative point of view, it may be said that England committed a considerable mistake in not declaring France at the end of 1898 a war which sooner or later she will be under the imperative necessity of undertaking or of having to face.

It is no use to argue that she would have found in this war—above all a naval war—no less a difficulty than in the war which she is waging to-day. A war in France was ready at that period to enable her to war against England.

Hypnotized, as it has been said by a French minister of War, General Lewal, by the opening of the Vosges, France, and eventually Italy. It was the ravanche, had concentrated all her efforts in a view of a war with Germany, and with that country alone. The French general staff had but one plan of mobilization, which, moreover, was continually being changed, against Germany, and eventually against Italy. It was the staff's only preoccupation, its fixed idea, all its efforts were concentrated on this sole object. The defence of the coasts did not, so to say, exist.

When France was Helpless.

Ports like Havre and Marseilles, hardly covered by a few ridiculous batteries, lay exposed to any fleet that should see fit to open fire on them. Corsica was left to the mercy of a dash. Madagascar belonged to whomsoever she might think fit to set foot on its soil. There remained the French fleet. Its ships manned by crews who, as sailors, are of the first order, but commanded by officers who from the rank of captain scarcely ever go to sea, and who are generally in the ante-chambers of the Ministry of Marine.

The situation at that period was an exceptional one for England. No serious plan of mobilization lay in the portfolios of the general staff of the army or of the marine with a view to combining for the defence of the coasts. Since then the situation has changed. France's eyes have been opened.

Immediately after Fashoda the arming and creation of batteries on the coast; the employing of a greater number of troops to carry out those works, and a sort of general plan of defence of the coasts; the special and serious use of naval and military troops for the defence of the coast—all that was decided upon and undertaken.

Following Napoleon's Plan.

But the general staffs of the war and of the marine, all of a sudden animated with an extraordinary zeal, have not contented themselves with this. Taking up once more Napoleon's idea of the "camp of Boulogne," they have come to the conclusion that what the great Emperor had dreamt while possessing merely a fleet of sailing ships, that which, on a small scale, the government of the First Republic had attempted in Ireland, was certainly much easier to realize to-day with steam, which makes the crossing of the British Channel a mere pleasure trip, a sure and safe affair in a few quarter hours.

They have reckoned on the considerable difficulties which England is meeting with in the execution of her military plans, and with what fervor, with what fanatic passion, all France has taken the side of the Boers, and has speculated on

the fact that, in a short time, with her considerable and still insufficient shipments of troops to South Africa, England will not only be completely denuded of regular troops, but that also her militia and volunteer forces will be completely disorganized by the drafts made upon them; that she will be totally denuded of field artillery, and so they have elaborated a plan for the invasion of England.

There are different ways of attempting, and that with real chances of success, an invasion of England. But it is evident that the actual military situation of Great Britain, almost entirely denuded of its regular troops, creates an altogether special situation, and under these conditions it is a sudden attack with a relatively small number of troops, consequently easily transported, which would be the most tempting solution.

Let us now examine to-day the hypothesis of what we shall call a sudden attack. The French squadron of the North has been quietly reinforced. The reserve ships which belong to the first and second arrondissements maritimes (Cherbourg and Brest) have also been fitted out as secretly as possible, and equipped to go to sea at once.

Under some pretext, which it is easy to bring about under existing circumstances, but which would not appear at first sight such as to bring about any complications, the relations between France and England become strained. The period of strain lasts very little. Suddenly the situation becomes aggravated; the French ambassador asks for his passports.

For clearness sake, let us call A, B, C, and D the four days which are going to follow.

On day A the crisis bursts, the ambassador asks for his passports, and on the evening of the same day the order of mobilization is issued throughout France. This order is urgent, and calls forth specially under arms the first, second, third, and tenth army corps and the military garrisons of Paris. At the same time all the warships supplied by the first and second arrondissements and the squadron of the North sail forth and form themselves into three groups.

One cruises about the Straits of Dover, the other from Cape La Hague to the English coast, and the third sails towards the British coast to a point of debarkation previously determined upon.

All ships which are in the Channel ports, from the transatlantic liners in the port of Havre down to the smallest steamers carrying passengers and freight boats, are immediately mobilized, and immediately on the order of mobilization, i.e., on the evening of day A.

One group of passengers and freight is immediately and completely suspended on the Northern and Western French railway lines. All their rolling-stock is requisitioned in order to forward without interruption troops, horses, artillery—and this by the simple application of schedules already drawn up.

And without awaiting the arrival of the respective contingents of which will nevertheless arrive as early as the morning of B, the troops will, although precipitately mobilized, comprise a rough total of:

Ninety-five battalions of infantry, six battalions of engineers, five regiments of cavalry, six regiments of artillery, four regiments of horse artillery, and two battalions of field artillery—say 50,000 men at the minimum.

At dawn on day B all the designated troops, whether they be on the spot or whether they have been brought thither by railway, or, in some cases, by marching during the night of A, have been, in English, Boulogne, Dieppe, Fecamp, Havre, Trouville, Cherbourg, and, according to circumstances, Granville and St. Malo. If the English fleet is at a considerable distance the troops from these two ports will sail round the Cape of Horn, and on the ships of the large maritime companies or on sailing boats which shall be towed by tug-motors for the point of the English coast designated beforehand for the debarkation.

The Part the Navy Will Play.

The naval division commissioned to protect this operation will shape its course to that point ahead of the transports and clear the beach with a sweeping fire, while on the two flanks of the transports, at a distance far enough for the operation to be in no way impeded, the two other naval divisions will be ready to oppose themselves with all their strength to the interference of the English warships, and their sole mission, in the event of their meeting the English fleet, is to make the engagement last long enough to allow the debarkation to be carried out without interference.

The first operation of this corps of debarkation, once ashore, will be to push forward immediately on day B to the attack one of the ports of the coast, which is generally best defended on the land side, and will take possession of it as a point of d'appui.

On the following day the corps of debarkation will wait to know if the result of the naval operations has allowed the second echelon, whose arrival would bring the total strength of the landing army up to about eighty thousand men, to cross the Channel. Then, preceded by its cavalry as scouts and as a covering force, it will immediately march on London, which is without defences and denuded of any garrison.

One of the first occupied in Dover, it will be immediately occupied in Dover, it would be very difficult for an English squadron under the fire of the French coast to manoeuvre in the Straits, and the reinforcements, even though in small numbers, would thereby be greatly facilitated.

Seventy-Two Hours Later.

To sum up, the French ambassador having asked for his passports on day A at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, on day B—that is, less than twenty-four hours afterwards—more than 50,000 French soldiers can put their feet on British soil, and on day D—that is, seventy-two hours after the departure of the ambassador—the good citizens of London will hear at 3 o'clock in the morning of the arrival of the French columns.

This is a broad sketch of one of the

To our Patrons

LAST YEAR we had such a demand for our Seeds that we were SOLD OUT before the season was fairly over. Therefore we start THIS YEAR with a FRESH, CLEAN and NEW CROCK.

SEEDS

Everything warranted to be such and true to name. We keep the LARGEST and OLDEST stock of goods on the Coast. Wholesale and Retail. That is why you will find us the most reliable and the most successful in the past and hoping to be favored with YOUR BIG ORDERS in the future, we are, yours very truly,

The Brackman-Ker Milling Co., Ltd., Victoria, B. C.

FREE DAISY AIR RIFLE

We give this splendid rifle to every customer who orders a dozen packages of our seeds. Each large package contains 100 most fragrant varieties. All colors. This rifle is a beautiful model, well finished nickel plated, carefully sighted and tested before leaving the factory. It is a fine rifle for the sportsman and the hunter. Returns this advertisement with your address and we will send you a rifle. The rifle is yours for the asking. Write for full particulars on our seeds. Sell them, return money and we forward your rifle all clear. The seeds for selling send us short on order at once. One Sweet Fox package will guarantee. Terminal Supply Co., Box 7, Toronto.

A Nun on the War

The Natural, Inevitable Outcome of Boer Despotism, Intolerance and Injustice.

Burglers Ambitious of Supreme Power in Africa—Britain's Cause Just.

Sister Mary Reginald Murphy, of Pietermaritzburg, Natal, writing to the New York Times, says:

At this time, when the eyes of all nations are turned on South Africa and the minds of all thinking men even outside the political arena are occupied with its war, a letter from the fair "garden colony" of Natal may not be unwelcome to your readers.

Of the course of war I need not speak, nor of the heroism and indomitable courage of our soldiers who fight at a true and tender in human nature—many of the finest qualities in the human breast, as well as much of the best of our race. But soon—very soon, I hope this dread evil shall disappear from the land. Already thousands of brave men are slaughtered and loving hearts broken and happy homes darkened. And who can number the thousands of homeless refugees that at short notice had to fly from the Transvaal and the north of Natal, leaving their all behind? This city alone there are eight thousand.

We, in this five-roomed cottage, number fifty-nine—twenty-nine men and thirty children—and in our flight we brought but a few necessary articles for each, having left all behind in convents, schools, and chapels, and now nothing remains to us—goods looted, all that was sacred and could not be stolen destroyed and chapel desecrated. Our buildings in Newcastle are used for a magazine, so there is small hope of their being left intact. We have indeed had our share of the "fortunes of war," in which have robbed us of all, of every source of income, and made us homeless wanderers, dependent on the government for our daily bread. Yet for all our suffering and for all our sorrow, privation and hardship, are the words of all in this war-torn land, and far away, too, this war has caused sorrow, and before its termination not a little, I fear, of Columbia's soil, as doubtless a few of Canada's brave, generous sons will fall in the defence of right and empire. Their names will live in glory's page, but alas! such will be but a poor salvage for the wounded hearts of bereaved loved ones.

Boer reports developments of the war up to March 23. A dispatch from the 23rd land government tries to be empty and reports that the borders of the Transvaal are being held by their forces. The same day Boer losses at the battle of the Tugela were reported. A dispatch from the 23rd land government tries to be empty and reports that the borders of the Transvaal are being held by their forces. The same day Boer losses at the battle of the Tugela were reported.

General Buller's victory at the Tugela was reported. The Boers were driven back to the Tugela river. The British forces were victorious. The Boers were driven back to the Tugela river. The British forces were victorious.

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