

The Weekly Colonist. Later Eastern News.

Tuesday, September 6, 1864.

THE NEWS.

The Eastern intelligence received yesterday gives us dates to the 24th. The most important part of the news is the account of a heavy engagement which took place two miles south of Petersburg, on the Weldon railroad. The battle commenced on Friday the 19th inst., when the Federals, who had previously taken possession of the railway, were completely surprised, many of them being in their tents to escape the rain. We have no estimate of the Confederate loss; but upwards of 1,500 of the Northern troops were taken prisoners, and 1,500 are put down in the list of the killed and wounded. The Federals were driven back, according to the Southern accounts, two miles, and sustained a peculiarly heavy loss in officers. Reinforcements, however, came up, and the Confederates in their turn were obliged to retreat, leaving, according to Northern statements, a large number of dead and wounded on the field. The place was again taken and held by the Federals. Lee, however, was determined on driving the enemy from his entrenched position on this important line of Southern supply, and a second advance was ordered on Saturday night or Sunday morning. The Federals were this time prepared for the assault, and maintained their ground successfully, the Confederates losing heavily in their attack. The latest accounts leave the railway in the possession of the Union troops, and state that the Confederate General Hill was mortally wounded in the Sunday's engagement.

This contest to the south of Petersburg, while showing that Grant has no intention of relinquishing his position around the city, also indicates the importance which Lee attaches to the Weldon railway. The line from Petersburg to Richmond, the telegrams inform us, is protected by nearly the half of Lee's Virginia army; and we have no reason to doubt the assertion, for with Grant of Deep Bottom and Dutch Gap, on the James river, this position of the Confederates gives them the greatest facilities for massing their troops on the most vulnerable points of the approaches to the Southern capital. On the other hand, however, Grant's position between the two cities is impregnable. With a line of intrenchments extending from the band of the river at Deep Bottom, to the opposite bend at which Butler is constructing or has constructed the canal, and with the gunboats commanding this portion of the river, ten or fifteen thousand men would hold the place against the whole Confederate army. From this point Richmond and Petersburg can be menaced at almost a few hours' notice, while the bulk of Grant's army can be spared for other operations. We may, therefore, expect in a few days to hear of some new demonstrations on the part of the Northern commander.

From the Shenandoah, the intelligence is conflicting and confused. Skirmishes have taken place near Martinsburg and Charlestown in the northern part of the valley; but nothing decisive has taken place. One thing is evident, the Southern troops seem to be much more skillfully handled than their opponents; for we hear of nothing on the Northern side but slow advances and hasty retreats. It is rather strange that these two armies, North and South, numbering collectively little more, we dare say, of eighty thousand men should be fighting about so little purpose, in the best "fighting ground" of Virginia. However, it is a welcome relief, after the bloody contests in other parts of the land, to read of the harmless engagements of the Shenandoah.

From Georgia we have news of a battle having taken place, in which six hundred of the Confederates surrendered; and also a rumor of the death of the Confederate general Hood, who commands at Atlanta; but the paragraph is even more than usually imperfect. From Mobile there is nothing of importance. The fall investment of Fort Morgan had taken place, and it was supposed the garrison would be obliged shortly to capitulate.

From Europe, we have not much of interest. Louis Napoleon, it is asserted by the London correspondent of the New York Herald, has declared that he will not recognize the South even if she does obtain her independence, unless she abolishes slavery. While believing that few European Powers would recognize the South, unless under some guarantee of the abolition of the inhuman traffic, we are nevertheless disposed to put but little faith in the gossipy stories of the New York Herald's correspondence. Desperate rioting had occurred in Belfast, but whether through political causes or those religious antipathies which are handed down every year by "the glorious Twelfth," the curt telegram refuses to declare.

ORDERED HOME.—H.M.S. Bacchante, formerly on this station, is ordered home with all convenient dispatch.

ROAD-SIDE INN.—A comfortable hotel for the accommodation of travellers is about to be erected by Mr. C. A. Bayley on the road half-way between Victoria and Leech River.

Special Despatches to British Colonist

From Grant.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20.—The operations of Gen. Grant's forces are detailed in the following despatches: CITT POINT, Aug. 20.—Warren's corps moved to and crossed Weldon Railroad one mile south of the works, and met nothing but the enemy's pickets. The corps then advanced from there towards Petersburg and met the enemy, when a considerable fight ensued in which they suffered some loss and inflicted severe loss on the enemy. The extent of the damage done is unknown. HEADQUARTERS 10TH CORPS.—The enemy attacked my line in heavy force last night and were repulsed with heavy loss. Eighty-two dead were found in front of the colored regiments. The colored troops behaved handsomely, and are in fine spirits. The enemy numbered at least ten thousand.

FORTRESS MONROE, Aug. 18.—The steamer Connecticut arrived at noon from Deep Bottom with 400 wounded, from the battlefield of the 16th, belonging to the 2nd and 10th corps. The army was comparatively quiet yesterday on both sides of the James river. The left wing rested on the north side of James river, and holds the position gained on Sunday. The right wing had advanced four miles from Malvern Hill in the direction of Richmond. Heavy cannonading was heard up the river this morning. The result is not really known yet.

NEW YORK, Aug. 20.—The Tribune's correspondent of the 18th from Grant's army says: Indications are that an immediate action on a grand scale is about to come off somewhere along our strategic line. The marching and countermarching of the divisions of the army corps are such as to make it impossible for any but Grant to tell where and when the fight will occur.

NEW YORK, Aug. 20.—The Post's special says that there is no news of importance from Gen. Grant. The new movement north of James is progressing favorably, and gratifying results are confidently anticipated.

The Times' Washington special says that the recent simultaneous encounter with the rebels on both banks of the James and in the valley prove that Lee has in Virginia a larger force than was supposed. The report that detachments of his army were sent to Georgia is not now credited. Lee's total force is estimated by our secret service at 70,000.

It is reported that Butler's troops had a slight engagement without an advantage on either side. The Vanderbilt, from City Point, reports that the rebels opened a furious cannonade at 1 a.m., on a portion of our line consisting of the 9th corps. The firing lasted two hours. The rebels fell back without attempting an assault. The loss was small.

It was rumored at City Point yesterday that a strong reconnaissance had been sent out by Hancock, which reached Fair Oaks, five miles from Richmond.

NEW YORK, Aug. 22.—The World's special says: HEADQUARTERS, Army of the Potomac, Aug. 19.—The flank movement of the 5th corps yesterday was a complete success. Nearly all the rebel force has been withdrawn from this direction and sent across the James to meet the attack of the 2nd and 8th corps. Only a strong picket were left to guard the road who retreated. Our men deliberately destroyed the track.

The Tribune says: Warren is entrenched and reinforced. He intends to thoroughly destroy the Weldon road. Exactly half of all the rebels in Virginia are in Shenandoah valley, waiting for Sheridan, and the other half hold the line from Petersburg to Richmond.

FORTRESS MONROE, Aug. 21.—Heavy cannonading began on Saturday night on our extreme left, in front of the 5th corps, which continued till 4 this morning. The enemy attempted to drive us from the Weldon railroad, but failed.

Col. Earl and Hawthorne are reported as prisoners, and Gen. Crawford was shot through the vest and shirt, narrowly escaping capture. Lieut. Clark, of his staff, was shot in the arm. Captain Smith, of Crawford's staff, had three horses shot under him while rallying the men of various commands, and for a short time was a prisoner, but escaped.

Col. Wheeler's brigade, third division, was flanked, when they faced to the rear, charged and drove the rebels and took a number of prisoners. The entire number of prisoners captured was 210. We also took some stands of colors. Our loss is estimated at 3,000. No new skirmishing to-day. Both sides are intrenching. A battle is looked for at any moment. The enemy seems determined to regain possession of the railroad.

Aug. 21, 6 p.m.—Considerable artillery firing occurred on the left since 4 o'clock. HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF POTOMAC, Aug. 21.—Our losses at Weldon railroad are larger than reported. The rebels took 1500 prisoners. One report says that the rebels first appeared about 3 o'clock p.m. they charged in heavy force about the 5th and 6th corps and turned the flank of the former, capturing a large number of prisoners. This line was forced back some distance, when the 9th corps opened a fire, checking the advance of the enemy and taking some prisoners.

ed. Our loss 150, we took five colors. In Friday's fight our loss in prisoners was larger than reported. 9th Penn. lost half, as did all regiments of Brigade. Fourteenth New York lost every officer.

From the Shenandoah. Reports from Shenandoah valley intimate that Sheridan is watching the movements of the rebels, and is prepared to meet them at any point they choose.

The Herald's Harper's Ferry correspondent of the 19th says: Three hundred prisoners arrived from the front to-day. Some of them belonged to Longstreet's corps. Several hundred head of cattle and horses captured in the valley, also reached here. The army is so disposed as to cover the ford on the upper Potomac, and protect Harper's Ferry, Snicker's Ashby's and Manassas Gaps against any flank movement.

BALTIMORE, August 19.—We have a report this afternoon that a portion of the 6th corps was attacked last night, but nothing confirmed has been received.

It is stated that the rebels are engaged in destroying the railroad near Winchester.

HAGERSTOWN, Aug. 19.—We have conflicting and exciting rumors from the valley to-day. Averill held Martinsburg till noon to-day, and was driven away in line of battle outside of the town. As there were no rebels in sight, the supposition was that they were not moving in that direction, but towards Shenandoah.

Refugees are beginning to arrive, and all bring in reports of the rebel advance. Considerable uneasiness is felt, but the reports are so conflicting, that it is impossible to obtain an exact account of the state of affairs.

The Republican learns that Sheridan came in collision with Early's force in Shenandoah valley, near Strasburg, yesterday. After a sharp fight the rebels were defeated.

The World's Charlottesville, Va., despatch of the 10th says: The most of our army passed through Winchester yesterday and encamped near the Clifton and Charlottesville. The enemy's force is estimated at 40,000 infantry and 15,000 cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS AVERILL'S CAVALRY, 22nd Aug.—Heavy skirmishing all yesterday by portion of Sheridan's line. Our loss 200 killed and wounded, enemy's the same.

Heavy firing was heard this morning on the Perryville road and Smithfield pike. The enemy concentrating on our right seems inclined to fight.

Heavy firing was heard in the direction of Charlestown. Supposed engagement going on at 7, on the Potomac. The rebels were driven with great loss.

We held Martinsburg at 3 p.m. yesterday. The rebels entered Gilmore in advance during the night, and were driven back.

HARPER'S FERRY, Aug. 22.—A brisk engagement ensued yesterday beyond Charlestown. The battle commenced at 8 a.m. A heavy column of rebel infantry and cavalry attempted to pierce our front at Summit Point. After a decisive struggle our skirmishers gave way, but our right consisting of the 8th, 9th and 10th corps. A short and determined battle took place. Two corps lost heavily, 300 wounded, 60 killed and missing. Our right drove the enemy back a mile and then fell back until 10 a.m., when the whole army retreated towards Ballstown.

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that Fort Morgan is in the habit of receiving supplies for two weeks at a time. The fall of this work may be looked for at an early day, even if no attack is made on the garrison but simply subjected to the process of starvation.

The Richmond Sentinel of the 17th contains the following: Two monitors and five gunboats crossed the Dog river bar; coming within two miles of obstructions opened a fire of three hours on our gunboats repelled, and the batteries remained silent. The enemy withdrew. There was firing heard in the direction of Fort Morgan this morning.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20.—Gen. Canby's official report of the operations at Mobile has been received. It adds nothing to the reports already published. Canby says the rebel ram Tennessee will be ready for service on the right side in a few days.

Letters of August 11th from the rear of Fort Morgan, state that Granger has received heavy reinforcements from Pensacola, and that the rebels have been sent from Pensacola.

Fort Morgan is now besieged by land, and the fleet were to bombard it on the 11th. The rebels burned all the hospital buildings outside of the Fort, also the gunboat.

The monitor Manhattan threw a number of shells into the Fort and dismounted one gun before our forces landed.

MEMPIS, Aug. 18.—A brigade of infantry and cavalry belonging to A. J. Smith's command, attacked three brigades of Federal command, who held a partially fortified position on Hurricane Creek. After a short fight the rebels were dislodged, leaving 50 dead on the field. Our loss was 40 killed and wounded.

St. Joseph papers say that Maryville, Kansas, 90 miles west of St. Joseph, was completely sacked by Indians on Sunday last. No particulars. Statement doubtful.

The mail route from Kearny to Omaha is as yet uncompleted. Gen. Fisk has levied an assessment of \$50,000 on the associations of Shelby county to repair damages done on the railroad.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 19.—There is no truth in the reported accident on the Camden and Atlantic railroad.

The Commercial's special says: A thorough inspection of fortifications at Washington was made yesterday and proved entirely satisfactory. Should the rebel enemy come against us, they would find the city in a more effective state of defense than ever before.

Surgeon-General Hammond was tried by a court-martial at Washington, January 19th. Very lengthy charges of defaming the government of a large sum of money in the way of contracts for medicines, and supplies, were read. The following is the decision of the court: Surgeon-General Hammond is to be dismissed from the service, and disqualified from holding any office of profit or trust under the government. The President has approved the sentence.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20.—Supplies of new 7-30 notes have been sent to the Assistant Treasurers at Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, to-day. This causes no interruption to filling the subscription books.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 20.—Secretary Fessenden has ordered U. S. Assistant Treasurer McHenry and Olco to pay the ten-fourty coupons due September 1st, and the five-twenty coupons due November 1st.

The reports that certain Republican leaders have made an impression upon the President in favor of an armistice until after the election is unfounded.

The Post says: Fessenden intends to return to Washington this evening. The terms of the new loan are not yet decided upon. It is reported that the bonds will be 5-20s, which are extremely scarce. No bonds are more actively in request.

PORT KEARNY, Aug. 22. Gen. Curtis arrived to-day to straighten up Indian affairs. The Overland Stage Co's stock and coaches have been removed to this post for protection, and there are no whites here and Denver. The country around Denver is swarming with hostile Indians. The road between here and Omaha is nearly deserted, except Columbus and Fort Curtis.

CINCINNATI, Aug. 23.—Fernando Wood's speech, at Dayton, last night, asserted that a peace man at a peace platform should be nominated at the Chicago Convention.

MEMPIS, August 21.—Memphis was attacked by Forrest, with 3000 cavalry, drove in the pickets and dashed to the headquarters of Washburn, who narrowly escaped; thence to Bucklands, who also escaped.

The rebels were now attacked and driven from City Crossing, with a loss of 30 killed and 100 wounded. Our loss about the same.

MEMPIS, August 22.—The raid was a complete failure. It was for the purpose of capturing Generals, and plundering the city. They took a number of prisoners, two officers and telegraph operators.

NEW YORK, Aug. 24. Gold, 256 1/2 @ 258; Sterling Exchange, 108 1/2.

PORTLAND, Aug. 28, 4 p.m. COLONIST.—Line down to-day below Yreka. No further news. Sierra Nevada left mouth of Willamette last night for San Francisco.

PLUMMER. EUROPEAN. NEW YORK, Aug. 23.

The London correspondent of the Herald states that the Emperor of the French has just informed Mr. Silldell that he would not recognize the rebel states even if they achieve their independence de facto, unless they determine to abolish slavery, and engage that all children born of slave parents shall be free. Slavery to be abolished by the date of their recognition.

There has been desperate rioting in Belfast, Ireland. The Prussian decree partially reduces her armies to a peace footing.

LUXAC.—Wm. Nickerson, who is considered unable to take proper care of himself, was yesterday remanded into the custody of the gaoler till Monday.

COLONIAL INTERESTS IN PARLIAMENT.

(From the London Times.)

Most countries have only two kinds of policy to attend to—the foreign and the domestic. England has a third of vast magnitude and enormous importance, which relates neither to the internal government of these islands, nor yet to their relations with States living under the rule of other Sovereigns. In India, in the North American colonies, in Australia, we have a world of our own, all but boundless in extent, and with a destiny which dwells the present almost into insignificance. We are the heirs of all ages; to us the whole world is open; it is our inheritance and we have nothing to do but to enter in and possess it. When we measure ourselves against the great empires of the continent, we are made aware, unless we suffer ourselves to be utterly blinded by conceit, of our inability to cope with their own element with these formidable organizations. If the objects for which we are continually struggling, were really worth the contest, we could not help feeling how entirely that contest is beyond our strength. We are asked to meet with thirty thousand him that cometh against us with two hundred thousand, and the national pride chafes at the statement that such a contest is hopeless, and even ridiculously unequal. Meanwhile, affairs of the very highest moment, things impossibly interesting to this generation of Englishmen, and to all generations that are to succeed it, are treated with the most supercilious neglect, and it is not too much to say that the two warring which we are at this moment engaged, do not occupy one-hundredth part of the attention which we have always been ready to lavish on the smallest quarrels of our neighbors. We measure things by space instead of by magnitude, and fall into the same error as maggot, who think the stars are only points, because they appear as such to the naked eye. The secretary for India opens his budget to empty benches, and, unless a friend is to be "whitewashed," or a government overthrown, it is hardly possible to get up a discussion on the affairs of the colonies. Our blood flows, our treasure is expended, the defence of the empire is neglected by its inhabitants, and our trade is burdened with grievous imposts by our fellow subjects across the sea; but we take all these things very much as matters of course, while we are racked with anxiety to discover the means of constructing a personal union between the Duchies and Denmark, or of drawing a line which shall exactly separate the German from the Danish populations.

THE NEEDLE SWALLOWER.—A correspondent of the Journal de Quebec, supplies some information of a remarkable young Canadian woman, Priscille Levesque, who is in the habit of swallowing needles. The case is a striking one. The woman was for some days exhibiting herself in St. John's, and for a few pence each she drew and curiosity of hundreds was gratified. A needle was swallowed with evident pleasure before every little throng of visitors, and needles in great numbers could be felt; and their position seen under the skin about the neck, arms, etc. Priscille Levesque was born at Riviere du Loup, near Trois Rivières. She is 28 years old, has always been poor, and for many years in service. She has, indeed, the main cause of her habit, and the wonder is that she keeps alive; but, to assert that the practice has not injured her, and is followed with impunity, is not true. On the contrary, she is liable to violent spasms and convulsions, and has already reached a state akin to idiocy. The needles, after a while, work their way to the surface of the system, where some may be seen or felt. This dangerous mania, if not promptly checked, cannot fail soon to deprive her of life; and therefore her case, although a very rare one, and highly remarkable as a medical fact, should not be allowed to be made a matter of speculation. To encourage her to eat needles for the satisfaction of public curiosity, while charging a price for the awful sight, is an act which cannot be too strongly deprecated. We have seen an affidavit of Madlle. Levesque, taken under oath before a magistrate, in which she states that when she first swallowed needles, she did it under an insupportable impulse which it was painful to resist. She swallows them often under the impression that it will cause her death, and yet the temptation proves irresistible. When deprived of them a few days, she feels perfectly wretched. For many years she invested her savings in buying papers of needles to satisfy her morbid appetite. She takes from 15 to 20 a day, and swallowed once as many as 100 in one day. She does not think she would live 30 days, if deprived of needles from her favorite enjoyment. The publication of this affidavit is evidently intended to justify a public exhibition being made of her.

MR. RUSKIN ON DENMARK.—In a letter to the Morning Post, Mr. Ruskin says:—"The occasion of Savoy was the present of a few crabs, goats, and geese, by one king to another; it was also fair to pay for fair work, and, in the profoundest sense, no business of ours. Whereupon Mr. Kinglake mowed like a moon-struck cat going to be made a mummy of for Bunsby's. But we saw the noble Cretan nation murdered, and never uttered a word for them. We saw the noble Polish nation sent to pine in ice, and never struck a blow for them. Now the nation of our future Queens calls to us for help in its last agony, and we round sentences and turn our backs. Sir, I have no words for these things, because I have no hope. It is not these squeaking puppets who play before us whom we have to accuse; it is not by cutting the strings of them that we can redeem our deadly error. We English, as a nation, know not, and care not to know, a single broad or basic principle of justice. We have only our instincts to guide us. We will hit anybody again who hits us. We take care of our own families and our own pockets; and we are characterized in our present phase of enlightenment mainly by rage in opposition to lavish expenditure on suspicion or panic, generosity whereon generosity is useless, anxiety for the souls of savages, carelessness of those of civilized nations, enthusiasm for liberation of blacks, apathy to enslavement of whites, proper horror of regicide, polite respect for populicide, sympathy with those whom we can no longer serve, and reverence for the dead whom we have ourselves delivered to death."

Advertisement for Eley's Ammunition, featuring a target diagram and text describing the product's accuracy and quality. The target shows a bullseye in the center, surrounded by concentric circles, with the word 'ELEY'S' in the middle. Text includes 'AMMUNITION', 'Military Purposes', and 'Prize Medal'.