

BRITISH TRAPPED AGAIN

Led to Believe They Were Attacking a Small Force.

BOERS, IN STRONG POSITION, INFLICT HEAVY LOSSES.

What the London Papers Have to Say About the War Situation.

Buller is Yet Confronted By Many Difficulties—The Nature of the Ground is Against Him—Juneau to Be the Alaskan Capital—O'Brien Refuses to Talk—Another Man Said to Have Disappeared—Gus Darmour Arrives in Skagway and Reports Richard's Disappearance.

[From Tuesday's Daily.] London, via Skagway, Jan. 30.—A dispatch from Capetown under date of Jan. 22 says: The English forces under Warren have attacked Spionkops, which was defended by only a small force of Boers. A desperate defense was maintained, however, the Boer shells inflicting heavy damage in the British ranks. The English losses, considering the fact that the enemy were in such small numbers, were heavy, several hundred men being killed and wounded.

A later dispatch states that the English were led into a trap, having been assured that the garrison numbered only a few men, whereas, in fact, the Boers nearly equalled their opponents in strength. Since the engagement occurred the Boers have brought up heavy artillery and are making preparations to withstand a protracted siege. The position has important strategic advantages of which the Boers are fully aware and which they propose to avail themselves to the most advantage.

The London Papers.

London, via Skagway, Jan. 30.—The papers, although taking a hopeful view of the situation, yet display a conviction that important difficulties are yet to be overcome and that the British forces have the worst yet before them. The Times says that Buller still has a task before him calling for continuous and dogged persistence and untiring effort. It dwells at length upon the methods of warfare employed by the Boers and points out how the peculiarities of the country which Buller is traversing are all in favor of the enemy.

"Buller's difficulties will increase as the situation develops," is the manner in which the situation is summed up. There is a general disposition to suspend discussion until further progress has been made.

Buller Approaching Ladysmith.

London, via Skagway, Jan. 30.—Buller is proceeding cautiously, but is gradually drawing in upon Ladysmith. British outriders have encountered detached Boer troops but no engagement of serious consequence has taken place. The better will not be hastily precipitated. Reports from Ladysmith indicate that the defending forces are well taken care of and are confident of early relief.

Juneau to Be the Capital.

Washington D. C., via Skagway, Jan. 30.—The bill introduced in the senate removing the capital of Alaska from Sitka to Juneau has been returned with a favorable recommendation and will in all probability become a law. The bill will meet with opposition from individuals and companies with interests at Sitka.

Searching for Clayson.

Skagway, Jan. 30.—The family of the missing Fred Clayson are determined to press the search for the dead man until

the manner of his death, provided he is dead, is discovered. Will Clayson, who as reported in a dispatch yesterday, has offered the sum of \$1000 as a reward for the return of his brother, dead or alive, is perfecting arrangements here now for searching the bed of the river in the vicinity of the place where Clayson is known to have disappeared, as soon as the ice breaks. The man O'Brien, who was arrested on suspicion of the murder, is still confined at Tagish and refuses to say a word. There are a number of suspicious circumstances connecting him with the disappearance of Clayson.

Another Missing Man.

Skagway, Jan. 30.—Gus Darmour just out from the interior reports that another man has recently disappeared from the neighborhood of Minto. The last man's name is said to be Richards. He was last seen about two weeks ago.

War Cost Speculation.

London, Jan. 14.—Nobody knows what the present war has cost up to date. No one will know, either, until the spring of 1901—that is accurately. Not until that time will it be possible to gather together the disbursements of each of the multitude of different departments.

When payment is made, the funds probably will be raised by means of a uniform tax, and of this tax the Boers will have to stand their full share, and perhaps more, too. Britain claims that they brought on the war and that they ought to pay for a good deal of it. The Transvaal is rich in its gold fields, and although one of the constant complaints of its inhabitants has been that the taxes on these fields is excessive, the chancellor of the exchequer steadfastly believes that, under a pure and equitable administration of its public affairs, the Transvaal, besides supporting its own government, could furnish appreciable assistance toward the payment of the new floating war debt. However, although no one is worrying over the payment of the war bill at present, when the time for its consideration comes, short swift work will be made of it. It is definitely known that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach hopes it may be paid off in the year following next year—1901.

If, however, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach had thought it wise to make an increase of the income tax it would have been by no means the first time that an action of this kind has been taken in an emergency brought about by war.

The Stampede to Nome.

The stampede to Nome has commenced in earnest. Despite the inclement weather, irrespective of the fact that the trail is long and difficult, there has not been a day during the past week that has not witnessed the departure from Dawson of several parties, who, undaunted by the stories of hardships to be endured, will attempt to

reach the famous gold diggings of Alaska before the river breaks. A trip of 1300 miles long at this season of the year is a hazardous undertaking. There are stretches of the trail 300 miles long where it is impossible to secure accommodations, and where adventurous travelers will be compelled to haul sufficient provisions to feed themselves and their dogs. Most of those who have started recently have been supplied with good dog teams; but a few have left with a small sled which they pulled themselves. It is extremely doubtful if this latter class will arrive at their destination before next summer.

Within the past few days, several large parties have departed, and this fact, together with the favorable weather, has given an impetus to the stampede. Possibly, some will reach Nome from Dawson before the river flows; but those who contemplate making the trip over the ice, should have good dogs and considerable money.

This morning John Harrison and his brother, Eugene Hoover, Charles Simpson and Stanley Scaree, left Dawson with two dog teams. They expect to reach Nome in 45 days. They have excellent animals four of which they purchased from Tom Chisholm.

Robert L. Burnam and wife, known to theater goers in Dawson under the stage name of "Sid," will leave for the Alaskan camp. They will be accompanied by J. Lindsay. Their plans are to start in the morning.

Many of those who contemplated leaving Dawson the latter end of February, have modified their arrangements, and will start next week.

During the month of February there will be a continual string of stampedes along the lower Yukon.

Children on Ice.

Mrs. Hecht and three daughters, the youngest of whom is not over 6 years of age, will leave for the outside over the ice the fore part of next week. They have contracted to be taken to Bennett by dog teams, of which there will be two, for the sum of \$500, the contractor binding himself to go from Dawson to Bennett in 13 days. Mrs. Hecht will take her three daughters to California, where she will place them in school, returning to Seattle in time to take the first steamer for Nome in the spring. Mrs. Hecht embarked in the boarding house business in Atlin last spring and came to Dawson just previous to the close of navigation in the fall, and, like hundreds of others, has contracted a severe case of Nome fever.

Sunday Night Concert.

On Sunday night next C. N. Pring will give another grand sacred concert at the Palace Grand opera house. Mr. Pring is working hard in the arrangement of details for the concert and will give a program which will well merit the presence of every lover of music in Dawson. The two former concerts which were given in the same house and under the same management brought out large audiences of our best people, all of whom expressed themselves as being greatly surprised and pleased that such entertainments are possible in Dawson. For next Sunday night in addition to the orchestra, numbering 20 pieces, under the direction of Herr Leuders, Mr. Pring has arranged for solo parts to be taken by Mrs. Leroy, Tözier and Mr. Erhardt. Seats for the concert are on sale at Reid's Drug store, opposite the Pavilion.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Marten Hens is a guest at the Flannery Hotel.
Harry Say and wife are registered at the Hotel McDonald.
T. Q. Linzey is in town on business. He is at the Flannery.
John Nelson is among the guests at the recently opened Fairview hotel.
E. M. Gilbertson, of No. 16 Eldorado, is stopping at the McDonald.
James Tweed of No. 7 above on Bonanza, is in town on matters of business.
Thomas Jones departed this morning for the outside. He is provided with a good dog team.

FATAL TRAIN WRECK!

On the White Pass and Yukon Railway.

ALL TRAFFIC IS SUSPENDED

No Communication Between Bennett and Skagway.

Trains Are Not Running and There is No Trail to the Summit—Skagway is Full of Klondikers and Nomads—Taking Down the Tram.

Skagway, Jan. 30.—The most serious accident that has yet occurred on the White Pass & Yukon railway since the line has been in operation occurred yesterday afternoon. The accident took place on a sharp curve in the track and resulted from the breaking of a coupling iron. The only passengers aboard were a number of Indians who were riding on the caboose. The caboose was completely overturned, killing one of the Indians, mortally injuring another and seriously injuring six others. The injured are being cared for in Skagway.

Full of Klondikers.

Skagway, Jan. 30.—Skagway is full of Klondikers and men who claim to be bound for Nome. The heavy snow fall has completely stopped traffic between Bennett and Skagway, the railway being entirely blocked and no trail as yet having been opened to the summit. The railroad company is having the Dyea tramway taken down. What disposition will be made of the tram has not as yet been determined.

Kissing the Bible.

The habit of sealing an oath by kissing a copy of the holy writ is almost as old as time itself, but is one which is still in vogue in all the English courts and in a few of the states. In the states, however, the practice is becoming obsolete. In a few states, principally those bordering on the Gulf of Mexico, the oath is still taken on the Bible, but the kissing portion of the ceremony is omitted, the person or persons swearing merely touching the book with the tips of the fingers while the oath is being administered. An old and experienced Southern jurist explained to the writer that the old practice of swearing on the Bible in the South is continued expressly for the moral effect the presence of the book may have on the colored man when it is important that he deviate from his general practices and tell the truth. "But," added the venerable disciple of Blackstone, "my experience and observation with people who are in no way superstitious is that the presence of the Bible in court is not productive of either good or evil. If a man is predisposed to perjury he will not be turned from his evil way by touching the Bible either with his fingers or lips. It is an old, old custom, the observance of which I never insist upon in my court."

If there is anything in the theory advanced by scientists that germs of disease, sickness and death are transmitted by the time-honored and oft time pleasing habit of labial contact, then why should not the same germs be left on the back of a Bible to fasten upon the "next witness?" Would it not be wise to dip the book in salt brine or some other germ destroyer between oscillations?

Weather Report.

During last night the minimum temperature registered by the barracks thermometer was 11 degrees below zero. This morning at 9 o'clock the instrument rose to 8 degrees below, since which time there has been no material variation.

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