ST. JOHN SEMI-WEEKLY SUN

VOL. 22. ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1899. NO. 104.

BECOMING AGGRESSIVE

On Wednesday the Boers Shelled Gen. Methuen's Outposts for Three Hours.

War Office Will Accept the Services of a Battery of the Honorable Artillery.

Strength of the Second Canadian Contingent Will be Increased by the Addition of One Hundred and Fifty Men—Fenians Galore.

GENERAL REVIEW.

British Naval Guns Are Damaging the Enemy's Trenches at Colenso.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The war news continues unimportant, chiefly recording reconnaissances and long range bombardments. Stormy weather in Natal is causing a rise in the Tugela River, which, according to one correspondent, should enable Gen. Buller to catch most of the Boers southward of Colenso in the next few days. Another correspondent asserts that the road bridge over the Tugela was less damaged by the British guns than was supposed, and that the Boers are apparently able to use it. The correspondents declare that the naval guns are damaging the enemy's trenches at Colenso, at which, however, the Boers are constantly working. Gen. White continues to heliograph cheerful messages from Ladysmith to Chievely, representing that he is able to resist for six or eight weeks more with comparative ease. Nevertheless, it is evident that the enemy's shell fire has improved at Ladysmith, as elsewhere, and the casualties of the besieged British are increasing.

A reconnaissance to the westward of Modder River, Wednesday, revealed that the Boers have occupied positions many miles to the west of the railway, rendering it almost impossible for the British to make a turning movement in that direction owing to the roughness of the country and the lack of water there.

The Chronicle's correspondent at Sterkstrom, in a despatch dated Dec. 27, says that railway communication with Dordrecht has been restored.

BECOMING AGGRESSIVE.

The Chronicle's correspondent with Gen. Methuen, telegraphing under the same date, says: "The enemy are becoming decidedly aggressive. They shelled the British outposts for three hours today with three well masked guns, at a range of six thousand yards. Several of the shells fell dangerously near one of the British redoubts."

In connection with the Transvaal's hitherto unsuccessful attempts to supersede Mr. Lloyd, an Englishman, in the managership of the Lorenso Marquez branch of the Transvaal National Bank, the Times Lorenso Marquez correspondent telegraphs that the most active Boer partizan in the dispute is Karl Wolffe, who represents the well-known British firm of Mosenthall on the board of directors of the bank. The correspondent adds that there is much indignation among the coast loyalists because of the readiness of certain prominent British firms to execute orders that they must know emanate from the Boers, so long as they secure the enhancing prices they ask no questions. There are, however, some honorable exceptions.

LONDON, Dec. 29, 4.40 a. m.—During the continued lull in the military operations in South Africa, the papers are filled with letters and articles criticizing the government and the campaign, and suggesting remedies, improvements, alterations in the plans and the like.

The Modder River correspondent of the Daily Chronicle gives an explanation of a sudden rifle fire inexplicably opened from the Boer trenches. He says:

"The Boers have wires stretched along the ground in front of the trenches and connected with lamps. If a wire be touched a lamp is extinguished, thus giving warning. One night a high wind extinguished a lamp, which resulted in a false warning. The fire ceased when the Boers discovered that the alarm was false."

According to a despatch from Ladysmith, dated Wednesday, Dec. 20, the heat then was intense, being 104 degrees in the shade. There were many cases of enteric fever in the town at that time, but not enough to cause alarm. On the other hand, reports from Boer sources on the continent assert that typhoid fever is epidemic in Ladysmith.

The Transvaal government, according to information supplied by Boer sympathizers, threatens to "reduce the rations of British prisoners if Great Britain stops the entry of food by Delagoa Bay."

The British government now evinces a marked change from its attitude in the early stages of the war and shows a disposition to accept assistance from any quarter. The Imperial Yeomanry committee has issued a statement to the effect that the government considers the formation and despatch of yeomanry as one of the most pressing needs of the situation, and has intimated that it is now prepared to accept from 8,000 to 10,000 yeomanry instead of the three thousand originally asked for. It is expected that the first contingent of 1,000 will sail about the middle of January.

The government has announced that it will accept a battery from the Honorable Artillery corps. When these services were first offered they were declined on the ground that the corps was not affiliated with any regiment of regulars. It will now be attached to the City Imperial corps. Lady Chesham and Lady Georgianna Curzon have issued an appeal for public funds to establish a field hospital for the Yeomanry.

Cape Town despatches complain of the inadequacy of the hospital arrangements.

It is now estimated that the war will cost at least £60,000,000, and it is suggested that the sinking fund of the national debt should be suspended for five or six years in order to defray the cost.

SECOND CONTINGENT

Important Change Regarding Assignment of Pay of Officers and Men.

OTTAWA, Dec. 28.—An important announcement is made tonight respecting the assignment of pay to families of officers and men who will serve with the second contingent. A few days ago it was stated the government could not make any provision for the assignment of pay after the troops landed in South Africa and came under the imperial regulations. As it is realized that much hardship may be wrought if wives and families are not provided for in the absence of husband and father, the minister has decided to permit any assignments made to cover the entire period that the volunteer may be away from Canada. When the war is over, the government will then secure a settlement with the imperial authorities.

The imperial government has now accepted Canada's offer to send five postal officials for the army postals work to South Africa.

The authorities of the war office have been cabled to supply four Maxim guns for cavalry purposes, so that they will be waiting at Cape Town when the troops arrive there.

Hon. Dr. Borden will not announce the names of the officers of the two Northwest squadrons until tomorrow or Saturday.

The change from three to two squadrons will after all involve an addition to the force of 150 men, making the contingent about 1,220 strong.

Advices to the militia department today state that great enthusiasm exists in the Northwest, and that there is a plethora of volunteers.

Nearly three hundred police have asked to be allowed to serve, but, as announced some days ago, the number taken will not likely exceed 150, divided about equally between the two squadrons. The squadrons will then be recruited up to the full strength from ex-policemen and cowboys.

The transports are expected to leave Halifax between the 20th and 25th of January.

Lt. Col. Burney, Gordon Highlanders, on the staff of the Royal Military College, is appointed embarkation officer at Halifax, and will proceed there tomorrow. Col. Burney will assist the district officer commanding to arrange accommodation for the reception of men and horses. He will supervise the preparation of ships and superintend the embarkation.

AT HALIFAX.

HALIFAX, Dec. 28.—Colonel Irving, D. O. C., returned from Canning today, where he had been looking after enrolment of volunteers. All the cavalry required is ready. Major Borden will reach there on Monday next, and on Wednesday the troopers will come to Halifax. These will be followed by the New Brunswick Hussars and Quebec troopers, who will be in the city some days ahead of any other portion of the contingent. Definite information is expected shortly from Major Crowe of the Sydney Field Battery, regarding the number of men who will be available from that corps.

AT HAMILTON.

HAMILTON, Ont., Dec. 28.—Twenty-five applications have been made here to go to the Transvaal. Out of these eighteen men will be selected.

AT MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, Dec. 28.—So far eleven men have been enlisted out of forty-two to be sent from Montreal. The medical examination is very strict.

AT NEWCASTLE.

NEWCASTLE, Dec. 28.—No orders for enrolling men have been received here yet. Several men have volunteered for service.

AT WOODSTOCK.

WOODSTOCK, Dec. 28.—Capt. Good has received official notification of his appointment as third lieutenant in Battery E for active service in South Africa. He is busy making preparations for his departure and that of his men, as he is recruiting officer for this section. Dr. Hand has been appointed examining physician and will begin his work this evening. There will be no difficulty in getting up a good representation. Volunteers are pouring in their applications every day.

AT HALIFAX.

HALIFAX, Dec. 28.—The City Council tonight appointed a committee consisting of the mayor and six aldermen, whose duty it will be to see to the welfare and comfort of the Canadian contingent while in Halifax.

MADE A MISTAKE.

MODDER RIVER, Dec. 27, 11.30 a. m.—The Boers wasted a large quantity of ammunition last night. They apparently thought that the cavalry reconnaissance that was made yesterday morning was the forerunner of an attack in force, and imagining at about seven o'clock that the British were about to advance, the Boers in the forward trenches began firing in the direction of the outposts. Their fusillade was harmless. The weather was boisterous and rainy and the night was dark, and, in consequence, it was some time before the Boers learned that no attack was meditated, then their fire ceased.

A reconnaissance by cavalry in force was made this morning, due west of Modder River station, where there are uplands where it was thought the Boers were likely to throw up defences. It was found that the enemy held the country for a considerable distance to the westward. This will make an attempt to turn their right flank almost impossible.

GERMAN OFFICERS SAY NO

LONDON, Dec. 28.—A despatch to the Times from Cape Town, states that recruiting by the Boers in Damaraland, German South Africa, has been promptly stopped by German officers, who will allow neither men nor horses to cross the boundary. Damaraland is northwest of Cape Colony. It is west of the northern portion of the Transvaal. Khamas country intervenes at the north between the Transvaal and Damaraland.

BOMBARDMENT OF MAFEKING.

MAFEKING, Dec. 10.—The Boers are tightening their lines around this town. They have better shells now than they had at the beginning of the siege, and consequently their bombardments do greater damage and cause more casualties.

QUIET AT FRERE.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—A despatch to the Daily News from Frere, dated Dec. 27, says: "Everything is very quiet. The troops are making a tramway from the railroad to convey heavy guns to a hill-top commanding the Boer position."

LOCAL WAR NOTES.

Capt. A. J. Markham, commanding D squadron, 8th Hussars, has received notification from the following named young men that they will volunteer for service in the Mounted Rifles for South Africa: Corporal J. T. Ryan, A. L. McIntosh, James H. McCreary and Samuel Edgar Fox.

The Shediac Moniteur says that Major J. A. McDougal of the 8th Hussars, of McDougal's Settlement, has been instructed to receive volunteers for service in the Transvaal. Major McDougal has already bought some horses for the Transvaal. E. B. Magridge, Ernest Roberts and Alfred Roberts have handed in their names for volunteers for active service.

Yesterday afternoon the members of the Red Cross Ladies' Aid Society met at Lady Tilley's residence. They are making for the men of the second contingent, pajamas, night shirts and Florence Nightingale coats. Lady Tilley has set aside a large room where the members of the society will meet daily. The present officers and members are: Lady Tilley, president; Mrs. Sears, Mrs. H. H. MacLean, Mrs. G. W. Jones, Mrs. A. Markham, vice-presidents; Mrs. C. F. Harrison, Mrs. Eatough, Mrs. R. Keltie Jones, Miss Alice Walker, Miss Ada Dunn, corresponding secretaries; Mrs. R. A. Smith, treasurer; Mrs. A. E. McClelan, Mrs. Kaye, Mrs. Lucius Allison, Mrs. Herbert Tilley, Mrs. D. T. Sturdee, Mrs. Gardiner Taylor, Mrs. Timmerman, Mrs. Ira Cornwall, Miss Furlong, Mrs. W. W. White, Mrs. Daver, Mrs. D. McLellan, Mrs. F. R. Titus, Mrs. J. H. Harding, Mrs. Prescott, Mrs. Racine, Mrs. C. W. Weldon, Miss Ada Bayard, Miss Thorne and Mrs. R. C. Skinner, members. The following ladies have been invited to become honorary members: Mrs. W. B. Vroom, Mrs. C. H. Fairweather, Mrs. C. E. Scammell, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. deSoyres, Miss Scammell, Miss Carr, Mrs. H. D. McLeod, Mrs. A. H. Hanington, Mrs. G. B. Cushing, Mrs. H. C. Rankine, Mrs. F. Rankine, Mrs. C. W. deForest, Mrs. H. R. Emmerson.

Lady Tilley has received a communication from the Toronto society that as the government is only furnishing bare necessities, it remains with ladies to supply the comforts. The local branch will therefore be glad to receive such things as hot water bottles, air pillows, beef extracts and other such things. As with the Christmas boxes, through the kindness of J. R. Ruel, a room in the Custom house will be given to the ladies in which to pack these boxes.

Everything will be placed in the hands of the nurses of the Canadian contingent and will be primarily for the benefit of the New Brunswick members.

A Belleisle Creek, Kings Co., correspondent writing under date of Dec. 28, says: James McCreary of the 8th Hussars has volunteered for South Africa. His brother, Patrick McCreary, sailed with the first contingent. Their father, the late Sergeant McCreary, served in South Africa and was one of the survivors from the Birkenhead.

PURE FICTION.

Statement Regarding a Secret Anglo-German-Portuguese Treaty Without Foundation.

BERLIN, Dec. 28.—Regarding the statement by the Lokal Anzeiger that a secret Anglo-German-Portuguese treaty exists for the division of the Portuguese colonies in South Africa, the correspondent of the Associated Press here is able to assert on the highest authority that the story is a pure fiction, and is in all its claims without foundation in fact.

The high official who authorizes this denial made the following declaration.

"There is no objection to stating that the understanding had between Great Britain, Germany and Portugal refers only to Africa, and leaves Asia wholly out of the account. It is quite certain, however, that Germany under no consideration would conclude such a bargain with Portugal as the Lokal Anzeiger sets forth. Anyone with the slightest political sense ought to see that those tiny enclaves in the midst of British India are the last colonial possessions Germany would dream of."

The portion of the treaty referred to reads as follows:

"In order to prevent any interference by France or Russia, England concluded a secret treaty with Germany regarding the complete partition of the Portuguese colonial possessions. Germany is to receive all Portugal's Asiatic possessions, that is to say, Timoa, Goa, Famaio, Macao and Diu, with 20,000 square miles of territory and a million inhabitants. Germany further receives in Africa all Portuguese territory north of Mozambique, except a stretch of land three miles wide for Cecil Rhodes's trans-African railway. The German government will pay Portugal 25,000,000 marks, the Herald says, and it is expected that England will ultimately gain possession of Delagoa Bay. Under an agreement made in 1891, Great Britain and Portugal agreed that in the event of one of the two powers proposing to part with any of the territories to the south of Zambesi, the other shall be recognized as possessing a preferential right to the territories in question or any portion of them. This is held to give Great Britain the right of pre-emption whenever Portugal is in such financial straits as to need to sell her rights on the Bay. She was said to be in such difficulties last year, and only the political considerations in Lisbon prevented her acting upon the agreement."

FENIANS GOLORE.

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 28.—A special to the Despatch from Wheeling, W. Va., says:

A secret meeting of Irishmen was held here last night in the interest of the Fenian movement and the Boer cause in South Africa.

T. E. McVeagh of Dublin, who is a candidate for Michael Davitt's seat in parliament, has been in the city for a week working up the meeting, and made the principal address. In an interview today, he said it was true that a Fenian movement was on foot and said that there were 200,000 Irishmen ready to strike a blow at England at any opportunity.

KRUGER'S OPINION.

DURBAN, Natal, Saturday, Dec. 23.—Winston Churchill, on arriving here, after his escape from the Boers, received a tremendous ovation. He says that from conversations with members of the Transvaal executive at Pretoria, he learned that the Boers began the war with trepidation, but that President Kruger is now confident Great Britain will soon sue for peace.

In the highest Transvaal circles, Mr. Churchill asserts, there is serious talk of a compromise, by which Great Britain would cede the territory now occupied by the armies of the two republics, pay an indemnity of £20,000,000 and acknowledge the complete independence of the Transvaal.

DELAGOA BAY.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—A correspondent of the Standard at Lourenso Marquez says:

"Delagoa Bay is the residence of Herr Pott, a Hollander, who is consul general for the Transvaal and consul for the Netherlands. Pott is the principal medium between Pretoria and Dr. Leyds in Europe. He controls the Netherlands railway through the Transvaal and is the head of the Transvaal customs. He is also head of the Dutch East Africa Company, and has the ear of the Portuguese governor as well as the chief of each department.

"It is openly asserted that Pott has a private wire to the frontier, and knows twenty-four hours before others what is happening. About him gather all the other consuls, the Portuguese officials and the German forwarding agents.

"If Delagoa Bay is closed, the Boers will retaliate by raiding Portuguese territory."

The Standard says:

"Lord Salisbury will be reluctant to bring pressure to bear upon Portugal except in a case of urgent necessity. Great Britain would prefer not to place herself in the invidious position of using force toward another petty country; and there is no temptation to raise any further international questions."

NINE BOERS KILLED.

CHIEVELEY CAMP, Natal, Dec. 27.—A heavy Boer gun on Bulwhana Hill fired steadily upon Ladysmith throughout the morning. Ladysmith did not respond.

The enemy having been again detected attempting to improve their trenches facing Gen. Buller, the British heavy guns opened upon them and the Boers scampered back into the hills.

The British patrols sighted the enemy in force on our extreme left. Nine Boers were killed in a skirmish that followed and six Boer wagons were captured.

A DISCIPLINED ARMY.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Pietermaritzburg, dated Dec. 28, says:

"Every day reveals some new fact regarding the strength of the Boer position at Colenso. Thanks to the services of continental officers, the character of the campaign has changed. We are no longer fighting a foe who rely upon guerilla tactics; but we have to deal with what is rapidly becoming a disciplined army, enjoying the advantages of knowing the country and of selecting the scene of contest without the burdens of a cumbersome commissariat.

"The Boers have converted the hills near Colenso into fortresses of immense strength. Everywhere they have splendid trenches, many of them bomb proof. Tramway lines permit the shifting of guns with astonishing rapidity. The main positions are connected with the outlying positions by underground passages, and the kopje proper bristle with machine guns that command the approaches. Probably mines are laid.

"One hears less nowadays about Boer shells not bursting. Observers of the Colenso fight say the Boer shell fire was very effective. This is due largely to the fact that the distances are marked off with white paint.

"The enemy's discipline is improving. The trenches represent great manual labor, for which the Boers have a keen dislike, and the way in which they restrained their fire when our troops were advancing is another proof of improved soldiering."

Henry Spencer Wilkinson, the Morning Post military expert, in his review of the situation today says:

"The time has apparently arrived for the nation to insist, if not upon a military dictatorship, at least upon the admission into the cabinet of a military minister, empowered to veto any proposals detrimental to the successful prosecution of the war, and also that the administration of the army should be placed wholly in the hands of a tried military administrator."

HAMPSTEAD.

I. O. F. Election of Officers—A Small Christmas Trade.

HAMPSTEAD, Queens Co., Dec. 26.—Miss Smith, teacher of the school in this district, held her semi-annual examination on Friday. Quite a number were in attendance. She will take charge of the school again next term. Miss Ida Vanwart was presented with a book of poems, given by Rev. Mr. Cody for the best attendance and deportment. Miss Smith treated the children and visitors to candy and raisins. Speeches were made by I. S. Vanwart, John W. Sipp and several ladies.

Court Woodville, No. 1842, I. O. F., elected the following officers for the ensuing years, Dec. 23: G. Byard Sipp, C. R.; Geo. J. Rathburn, R. S.; D. O. Nickerson, F. S.; J. Isaac Palmer, Treas.; Joseph Gardiner, Chap.; F. C. Stults, S. W.; C. J. John Delong, S. W.; Orland Puddington, J. W.; Robt. Scott, S. B.; Jas. I. Davis, J. B.; M. H. MacDonald, Court Physician; I. E. Vanwart, C. D. H. C. R.; F. C. Stults and F. M. Palmer, trustees; I. E. Vanwart and F. C. Stults, finance and auditing committee.

Wm. S. Allen, who has been working in St. John, shoe making, arrived home the other day.

For the want of snow and ice, the Christmas trade in the stores here has been quite dull.

Edgar B. Palmer raised nearly six hundred bushel of oats this season.

Mr. and Mrs. George Watson entertained a number of young people at their residence last evening.

WOODSTOCK.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., Dec. 28.—A convention of the conservatives of this county has been called for Saturday afternoon, the 30th inst., at one thirty o'clock, when a candidate will be selected to contest the by-election for the local legislature, to be held on the 12th prox.

The installation of officers of Woodstock Lodge, No. 11, F. and A. M., took place on the evening of St. John's day, when the following were duly installed into office by R. W. J. R. Murphy, D. D. G. M.: G. Hugh Harrison, W. M.; Frank N. Currie, S. W.; W. D. Rankine, M. D., J. W.; W. Fisher, Treas.; D. Munroe, Sec'y; J. Tattersall, S. D.; Jas. A. Gibson, J. D.; G. R. Good, S. S.; D. Hipwell, J. S.; D. McL. Vince, D. of F.; George Gibson, M. G.; Geo. Robinson, Tyler.

At the close of the installation an entertainment was held and refreshments served.

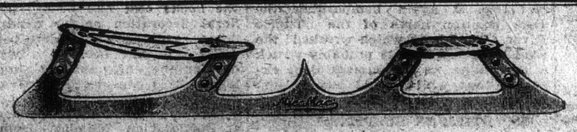
SALMON CREEK.

SALMON CREEK, Queens Co., Dec. 27.—The box social at Brigg's Corner last evening proved a success. After the sale of boxes a grand liberal conservative meeting was held. The speakers were H. B. Hetherington, Dr. Alward, Dr. Stockton and others.

A baby boy arrived Christmas morning to brighten the home of Rob. McAlister.

A very pleasant family gathering was held on Christmas day at the home of H. P. Baird.

The home of William Kady of Hardwood Ridge was the scene of happiness Christmas evening, when his daughter Easther was united in marriage to Mr. Eagers of the same place. The nuptial knot was tied by Rev. W. McIntyre.



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