

Approaching Ladysmith

War Office Officials Regard the Beleguered Garrison as Practically Relieved

A Sharp Fight Near Acton Holmes—Twenty-One Boers Killed

Dundonald's Mounted Men Occupy Important Positions—Buller Ready for Battle

(Associated Press.)
London, Jan. 19.—2:28 p.m.—Messages from the front appear to confirm the general impression that events in Natal will now move quickly.

There is nothing up to the present to support the story that the relief of Ladysmith is an accomplished fact, but it is learned, on excellent authority, that the situation is now regarded at the war office with entire confidence and that the beleaguered town is considered practically relieved.

Free Staters' Retreat Threatened.

As suggested in these dispatches yesterday, Gen. Warren was actually in the vicinity of Acton Holmes on Wednesday, and a portion of his force, under Lord Dundonald, secured an important position westward of that place during the evening of January 17th on the Boers' right flank, threatening the Free Staters' communication with their country by way of Van Reenan's pass.

The British camp outside of Ladysmith ought to be visible, as the intervening country is open.

Shelling the Boers.

Sir Ellis Ashmead Bartlett, M.P., who has arrived at Rensburg, Cape Colony, expressed satisfaction with Gen. French's disposition of his troops. He visited Coloskop yesterday while the shelling of the Boers' camp was proceeding with such success that it is announced, on good authority, that sixteen Boers and 36 horses were killed.

Duke of Marlborough's Appointment.

The war office announces the appointment of the Duke of Marlborough as a staff captain in connection with the Imperial Yeomanry being organized for service in South Africa.

The Eighth Division.

Formal orders have been issued to mobilize the eighth division of the British army.

Mounted Troops Under Lord Dundonald Engage the Boers Near Acton Holmes—Boer Casualties.

London, Jan. 19.—It was rumored on the stock exchange this morning that after eighteen hours' fighting Ladysmith had been relieved and that General Warren had been killed.

Nothing was obtainable, however, tending to verify the rumor, and it has no appreciable effect on stocks.

Twenty Boers Killed.

London, Jan. 19.—Gen. Buller has telegraphed the war office from Spearman's camp, under the date of last evening, as follows:

"Lord Dundonald, with a body of mounted troops, came into action this afternoon with a force of Boers west of Acton Holmes.

"After the fight he occupied several kopjes, which he still holds.

"Field Cornet Hellbrun and twenty Boers were killed and fifteen prisoners taken.

"Two British soldiers killed and two wounded."

Ready for Battle.

London, Jan. 19.—The following dispatch, dated Spearman's camp, Natal, 9:20 last night, is published by an afternoon paper:

"The war balloon made two ascents to-day, locating the Boer position, which had been masked by refusing all day to return the fire of our guns.

"Lytleton's brigade was pushed for-

ward to-day and is close to the Boer trenches.

"The two armies are now in touch and began an exchange of fire to-night.

"The howitzer battery and the big naval guns kept up a hot fire on the Boer trenches all day long, dropping shells along the enemy's front.

"Under cover of this Gen. Buller pushed his line out ready to attack, but not a shot came back from the Boers' guns."

Shelled Boer Trenches.

Spearman's Camp, Natal, Jan. 18.—8:25 p.m.—The Boer trenches have been persistently shelled by the naval guns all day long.

Small parties of Boers were seen at intervals, and a large force from the direction of Ladysmith was seen trekking toward the northwest.

A balloon did good service in observing that Lytleton's force demonstrated in the direction of Brakefontein kopjes, four miles north of the British position, under the cover of heavy artillery fire, to which the Boers did not respond.

On the left Gen. Warren's troops remained in possession of two prominent kopjes behind Shionkop.

There was some Boer sniping, but it was ineffective.

The Graafruene Boers evacuated Prieska on January 15th and returned northward across the river.

CAPE COLONY.

Another Reconnaissance by British Troops at Modder River—Highlanders Drive Boers From Their Positions.

Modder River, Cape Colony, Jan. 18.—Gen. Methuen, who is in robust health, personally directed another strong reconnaissance yesterday.

The Highlanders succeeded in driving the Boers from the brush on the river bank by long range volleys. The Boer fire was ineffective.

Roberts's Dispatch.

London, Jan. 19, 4:20 p.m.—The war office has made public dispatches from Field Marshal Roberts, dated to-day, recording scouting movements in Cape Colony, including the ambushing of the Australians, when two of the latter were killed and fourteen reported missing. He adds: "A Boer deserter states the enemy suffered severely in attacking French's advanced post on Jan. 15th. Seventy Boers are still unaccounted for."

Home Secretary on the War.

London, Jan. 19.—Sir Matthew White-Ridley, the home secretary, speaking at Blackpool last evening, said: "We all share the full responsibility for the cabinet, like the nation, has been united from the beginning. What gives me the most pleasure is the determination of the country, no less than the government, that having a quarrel forced upon us, we must bring it to a successful issue."

Consul Hay at Capetown.

Capetown, Jan. 19.—Mr. Adelbert Hay, the new United States Consul at Pretoria, arrived yesterday, and will start for his post on Saturday.

Meeting of British Cabinet.

London, Jan. 19.—A cabinet meeting took place to-day for the purpose of arranging the legislative programme for the coming session of parliament and to outline the Queen's speech.

Kipling's Thanks.

London, Jan. 19.—Rudyard Kipling has written the following characteristic letter to the British Guiana branch of the Navy League in recognition of a contribution to the war fund:

"Bravo, British Guiana, seeing what they have had to contend with lately in the sugar line, they have done uncommonly well. Please convey to them my best thanks, first as vice-president of the league, second, as perpetrator of 'The Absent-Minded Beggar,' and third, as a fellow contributor to the big jack pot which we're building up on Thomas's behalf. Have you seen Brazil and Trinidad come into the game?"

The Bundesrath.

Hamburg, Jan. 19.—A dispatch from Durban, Natal, says the Bundesrath's cargo has been reloaded, and the steamer expects to sail for Delagoa Bay on Monday.

STRATHEONA'S HORSE

Will be the Title of the Canadian High Commissioner's Contingent.

(Associated Press.)
Montreal, Jan. 19.—The new body of mounted rifles to be raised in Canada at the expense of Lord Stratheona, Canadian high commissioner at London, will be known as Stratheona's Horse.

It will be got together by the militia department and forwarded to South Africa from Halifax, but Lord Stratheona will meet the entire expense and will furthermore maintain the troops in South Africa during the continuance of the war.

It will cost Lord Stratheona not less than a round million dollars. Troops will consist of three units of 125 men each, and will be drawn from the Mount-

ed Police force and cowboys and ranchers of the Canadian Northwest.

Purchasing Horses.

Ottawa, Jan. 19.—Dr. McEachron has been instructed to purchase horses for Lord Stratheona's contingent in the Canadian Northwest.

London, Jan. 18.—The following dispatch has been issued by the war office:

"From Buller, Spearman's Camp, January 18th.

"One field artillery, howitzer battery and Lytleton's Brigade are across the Tugela river at Potgieter's Drift.

"The enemy's position is being bombarded by us.

"Five miles higher up Warren has crossed the river by a pontoon 35 yards long. He hopes his force will be evening have advanced five miles from the river to his right front.

"The enemy is being shelled."

"At midnight the war office announced that it had no further news for publication.

Near Ladysmith.

London, Jan. 19.—A special dispatch from Durban, Natal, dated Wednesday, says: "Advices from Potgieter's Drift dated yesterday (Tuesday) say that Sir Charles Warren has arrived within 17 miles of Ladysmith, and that British wounded are arriving at Modder River field hospital every train from the front, indicating that there has already been severe fighting.

"No confirmation of the dispatch has been received as yet."

Howitzers at Work.

Spearman's Farm, Natal, Jan. 18.—(8 a.m.)—Gen. Lytleton's brigade with a howitzer battery crossed the Tugela river at Potgieter's Drift on Tuesday. The water rose above the waists of the men.

The Boers fired two shots and then retreated to the trenches, the passage being uninterrupted. The British advanced in admirable order, and the small kopjes on the summits were occupied by 6:30 p. m. During the night it rained heavily.

Yesterday (Wednesday) the Boer trenches were shelled in front of the British line, while the British remained in possession of the kopjes and plain. Heavy mists enveloped the hills, but the naval guns and the howitzer battery made good practice, thoroughly searching the trenches.

On the Boer right trench was made in a sandbag emplacement, where it is supposed Boer guns had been placed.

The cannons were heavy and continuous, and the Boers were observed leaving the trenches in the night. The hill facing the British position was shelled next.

Gen. Warren has forced a passage of the Tugela seven miles to the left.

OPPOSING ARMIES.

Buller Commands About 35,000 Men and 80 Guns.

London, Jan. 19.—Gen. Buller's forces engaged in the flanking operations across the Tugela are some 13,000 or 14,000 bayoneted, 1,200 horses and 40 guns. The position of his other 15,000 or 20,000 men is not known, although the assumption is that the whole army will be in action when the hour for combined movement arrives.

Three weeks ago he had 30,000 men; considerable reinforcements have since reached him, giving him probably 35,000 men and 80 guns all told.

Estimates of how many guns and men the Boers have to oppose him are mere guesses.

One correspondent mentions Gen. Buller's wheeled transport of 5,000 vehicles which consists him with the rail head, about 30 miles to the rear. Among these vehicles are 30 traction engines, which draw from ten to fifteen wagons each.

The war office announces that next week will be embarked 72 guns, 2,710 men and 2,230 horses. This is the largest consignment of artillery ever sent abroad.

The war office invites 500 volunteers to form a sharpshooters' battalion of Yeomanry.

Sir William McCormick says in the Lancet of the 300 wounded from the hospitals visited by him, only eight had been hit by shells. The British losses in killed, wounded and captured up to date are 7,987 officers and men.

WILL THE DUTCH RISE?

London Times Capetown Correspondent on the Situation in Cape Colony.

London, Jan. 19.—The Times Capetown correspondent, discussing Afrikaner disloyalty, says: "I believe in the sympathy of every Dutchman in South Africa with the two republics, and that a general rising is still quite possible. However, there is nothing to implicate the Bond party as a whole in an officially organized conspiracy against the imperial government, although the Bond leaders have winked at or winked to sedition in order to preserve their popularity. The British felt the appearance of the Boers on British territory have fomented rebellion, but even now a decisive British victory would prevent its further spread."

This correspondent testifies to the value of the services rendered by Mr. Schreiner of the Cape premier. In an embarrassing position. He speaks less highly of Mr. Hofmeyr, the real leader of the Bond party, and severely condemns the Dutch press of the colony, which he says "is doing its utmost, while keeping on the windy side of the law, to promote rebellion and to envenom racial antagonism."

London, Jan. 19.—Lord Roberts cables from Capetown on January 18th as follows: "Gatacre reports that 300 men of all ranks have been moved from Bushmen Battery and are moving to the 7th Field Battery and one company of Mounted Infantry from Sterkstroom to Bushmanshoek. Otherwise there is no change in the position."

Reinforcements are moving towards Gen. French at Rensburg. With these he is expected to advance.

Stearns' room, Jan. 18.—The Boers yesterday blew up three culverts on the Doer-dracht line, five miles beyond an outpost of the police camp. The commando at Doerdracht numbers a thousand.

Doerdracht, Cape Colony, Jan. 18.—On January 18th the Boers, with a commando of colonial rebels, attacked Prieska, a village on the Orange river, about 107 miles northwest of De Aar.

The Fight For Ladysmith

British Relief Column is Moving Steadily Towards the Garrison.

General Warren Has Commenced to Bombard the Burglers' Entrenchments.

Boer Losses During the War Estimated at Over Six Thousand

(Associated Press.)
London, Jan. 20.—Telegrams from the front indicate that the northward march of the relief column moving towards Ladysmith is proceeding steadily.

The authorities here seem satisfied that now that Gen. Buller's forces are within sight of Ladysmith, the besieged place is safe at present from serious attack.

No news of real importance had been made public up to 2:30 o'clock this afternoon, and there was nothing to show that the general engagement so frequently rumored, had commenced, though obviously news of such a battle was momentarily expected.

Big Fight Expected To-Day.

The Leader's military expert says to-day: "A big fight for the western roads leading to Ladysmith will take place to-day, though it may have even begun yesterday. All the artillery of Generals Warren and Hillyards were not across the drifts yesterday morning, and the ammunition train and most of the heavier guns were probably then still south of the Tugela. These indications, as well as Gen. Warren's longer march, point to the serious effort being made to-day."

Press Censor.

Advices from Capetown say Field Marshal Lord Roberts had appointed Lord Stanley, member of parliament for Southeast Lancashire, and a former lieutenant of the Grenadier Guards, to be press censor.

Prince Francis of Teck has gone to the front.

French's Movements.

London, Jan. 20.—3:25 p.m.—The only war office dispatch made public up to this hour to-day is a brief report from Field Marshal Lord Roberts, under to-day's date, saying in substance, that Gen. French has extended his line to the east, further threatening the Boer lines of communication.

MOVING TOWARDS LADYSMITH.

Heavy Fighting Reported—Warren is Now Bombarding the Boers' Position.

London, Jan. 20.—A special dispatch from Capetown, dated Friday, January 19th, 1 p.m., says: "The Ladysmith force is steadily working northward. Heavy fighting occurred yesterday. The Boers are retreating."

Spearman's Camp, Natal, Jan. 20.—11:15 a.m.—The firing of field guns was heard early this morning from the left. It is evident that Gen. Warren has commenced the bombardment of the Boer trenches on Labanyanam mountain.

There was also a brief musketry fire. Among the prisoners captured was a grandson-in-law of President Kruger.

DEPARTURE OF VOLUNTEERS.

Scenes of Enthusiasm Mark the Entering of London's Citizen Soldiers.

London, Jan. 20.—The departure of the second detachment of the London volunteers for South Africa led to a repetition to the scenes of enthusiasm of last Saturday, along the whole route from Wellington barracks to Nine Elms station.

The Londoners commenced assembling before daybreak, headed by several bands, and the volunteers, numbering 700 men, left the barracks at 7:45, marching in four. For a time the people contented themselves with cheering as the column advanced in good order, until it reached Great George street, where friends, wives and sweethearts of the men joined them, and marched arm in arm. Thus in midst of constantly increasing enthusiasm, the volunteers

finally reached the station at 9:30, where the Duke of Connaught, the Lord Mayor, sheriffs and other military and civic dignitaries had assembled.

The volunteers were rapidly entrained for Southampton, and went away to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the Queen."

Large crowds met the volunteers at Southampton, and gave them a ringing send off as they embarked on the transports Ariosto, Kilmun Castle and Gaul.

The Result of a Quarrel.

New York, Jan. 20.—John Adams is at Harlem hospital suffering from a bullet wound inflicted by Alberto Bento. The men quarreled over the Transvaal war. Adams taking the English side and Bento upholding the Boers.

Tucker Arrives.

New York, Jan. 20.—A Capetown cable to the World announces the arrival of Major-General Tucker from India to take command of a brigade under Lord Roberts. Though stationed recently in the Madras district, he knows South Africa and the Boers intimately.

BOER CASUALTIES

Since the Beginning of the War Exceed Six Thousand.

Rensburg, Cape Colony, Jan. 19.—The Boers force at Colenso is estimated to number from 6,000 to 7,000, besides a strong force at Norva's Post.

The British shells did much execution eastward of the Boer lines, the Boers loss up to date is probably 200 men.

Carefully compiled figures from Republican sources, some of which has been found to be correct, show the Boer losses up to date are approximately 6,425 men, including 2,000 casualties during the siege of Ladysmith.

London, Jan. 19.—A dispatch to the Daily Telegraph from Spearman's Farm or Camp, as the correspondents now describe it, dealing with Lord Dundonald's movement to the west of General Warren's force, already cabled, says:

"His success gives us control of an easy entrance to Ladysmith. Our guns continue to bombard the Boer lines, the Boers replying but feebly. General Warren is advancing steadily."

Opposing Warren.

A dispatch, dated Thursday, from Spearman's Camp, describes the difficulties of the march owing to the unwieldy baggage column, including all the tents and sheep, over bad roads in wet weather. The correspondent then goes on to say:

"Some 10,000 Boers arrived in the vicinity of Potgieter's Drift on Thursday and Friday of last week and began the erection of formidable lines of trenches for their positions. Apparently they could only be turned from the west by assaulting the high ridges of the Sprookop."

A balloonist to-day reported that no guns were visible in the enemy's works, but that there was a large Boer camp in the direction of Brakefontein, a brown ridge four miles from Potgieter's Drift.

"Boers arrived in large numbers today from Colenso and Ladysmith. They have certainly run branches of the railway from Modderspruit around Mount Bala-way."

"Nearly all the Boers have gone to attempt to check General Warren's advance, but he made no sign to-day."

Boers Leaving Colenso.

The following dispatch, dated Thursday, from Spearman's Farm, appears in the Standard:

"It is reported that the Boers opposite Colenso, on finding that General Buller had out-manoeuvred them, crossed to the south of the Tugela on Monday and set fire to all the houses in the village."

"As the force from Chieveley advanced, the Boers retired before them to the trenches on a hill in line with Colenso."

"Our infantry advanced to the attack following orders, followed by supports and reserves, our cavalry scouting on the right close up to the river."

"The Boer forces at Colenso must have been considerably weakened by the dispatch of large reinforcements westward to meet General Buller's advance, and they now hurriedly evacuated the river trenches and the kopjes opposite the village and scattered before our shrapnel. By evening none of the enemy was left within rifle shot of Colenso. The British force then retired to Chieveley."

The Advance.

Spearman's Camp, Friday evening, Jan. 19.—Sir Charles Warren and Lord Dundonald are continuing a cautious advance, hourly expecting battle. There has been slight artillery firing here, at Ladysmith and at Chieveley. The natives report that the kopjes are full of Boers.

Situation at Ladysmith.

Ladysmith, Wednesday, Jan. 17, via Spearman's Camp, Jan. 18.—Everything is quiet. The position is unchanged and there is very little bombardment.

The welcome sound of the guns of the relief columns was heard yesterday from Colenso and Springfield. The noise is intense, but there is no increase of sickness.

BOER ACCOUNTS

Of the Crossing of the Tugela River—Battle Imminent.

London, Jan. 19.—The Boer accounts of the passage of the Tugela river are given in the following two reports from Commandant Viljoen's camp, on the Upper Tugela, via Lorenzo Marinos, Jan. 8th.

"Jan. 16.—Buller's second movement was a reconnaissance in force, with an armored train and a large body, supported by cannon, toward Colenso last night. A heavy bombardment ensued, and therein the British having wounded one of our men, no reply was made. This move was a feint to cover extensive movements up the river. Kaffirs, on this side of the Tugela, have been warned by the British to leave their kraals, as the fight will commence shortly."

The second dispatch runs thus: "Jan. 17.—The night was unbroken, save for slight rifle encounters between outposts, which led to nothing. At daybreak the enemy was located as before. He had not brought a single gun across the river, but from the ridges of Swartzkop a bat-

tery and a half of siege guns opened on our position at 3 a.m. The bombardment was probably the most frightful ever witnessed on land. Frequently five heavy naval guns fired simultaneously at one schanze (entrenchment)."

Mr. G. W. Steevens Dead.

Ladysmith, Tuesday, Jan. 16.—(via Spearman's Camp)—Mr. George Warrington Steevens, special correspondent of the Daily Mail, died yesterday of enteric fever, and was buried at midnight.

Troops at Ottawa.

Ottawa, Jan. 19.—Over ten thousand people assembled on Parliament Hill at 4:30 to-day to welcome the Northwest Battalion to Ottawa, and wish them God speed. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Messrs. Sifton and Scott represented the government. Lord Minto reviewed the troops and addressed them, stating that he had no doubt they would be kept well in front as scouts, and would give a good account of themselves.

Lady Minto also made a short speech, and presented guidons to Col. Herchmer and two officers in charge of each squadron. Mayor Payment also made a brief speech.

B. C. Offer Accepted

One Hundred Men to Be Sent to South Africa From This Province.

They Will Probably Travel on the Montrose With Stratheona's Contingent.

(Special to the Times.)
Ottawa, Jan. 20.—The department of militia is at present in communication with the Elder-Dempster Steamship Co. in regard to the steamer Montrose as a transport for the Stratheona contingent.

The Numidian of the Allan line is said to be too small to hold the necessary number of men and horses, while the Montrose is a very much larger boat and could easily accommodate them.

Something also must be done with the British Columbia contingent. The province has offered to send one hundred men, outfitted and equipped and the cost paid as far as Halifax. The Dominion has accepted this, but has not yet been able to arrange for a transport. If accommodation cannot be had in the Milwaukee, it is possible that the British Columbia men will be sent by the Montrose.

It is not likely that Lord Stratheona would object. Meantime an effort will be made to send them on the Milwaukee.

Command of Stratheona's Horse.

Ottawa, Jan. 20.—The name of Lieutenant Col. Steele is mentioned in connection with the command of Stratheona's Northwest contingent to South Africa.

YUKON LIQUOR REGULATIONS.

(Special to the Times.)
Ottawa, Jan. 20.—In regard to importing liquors into the Yukon the following order has been passed:

1. That each permit so issued by the Minister of Interior shall be signed by such officer as the minister may designate for the purpose. 2. That the fee to be paid for each permit shall be the sum of two dollars per gallon of strength to be in each case, if necessary, specified in the permit and that such fees shall be and become part of the liquor revenue of the Yukon Territory. 3. That any person taking or importing, or attempting to take or import spirituous or malt liquors or other intoxicants into the Yukon Territory, who has not first obtained a permit from the Minister of the Interior in the matter hereinbefore mentioned, shall be liable to the penalty provided by the ordinance in that behalf enacted by the commissioner-in-council of the Territories.

MONTREAL ELECTIONS.

(Associated Press.)
Montreal, Jan. 20.—Civic nominations took place at noon to-day. Mr. W. E. Doran was nominated in opposition to Mayor Prefontaine. Mr. Doran is running in the interest of Irish Roman Catholics. Fifteen aldermen were elected by acclamation, of whom the majority represent the reform element of the city.

PROTECTION OF GAME.

(Associated Press.)
Quebec, Jan. 20.—Hon. S. M. Parent, commissioner of crown lands, has called a meeting of sportsmen with a view to devising legislation for the better protection of game and fish, and to establish a system of reciprocity in this respect between adjoining provinces of the Dominion and states of the union.

EAST HURON.

(Associated Press.)
Brussels, Jan. 20.—The Conservatives of East Huron have chosen E. L. Dickenson, barrister, of Wingham, to oppose Dr. Macdonald, Liberal M.P., at the next general elections. Dr. Macdonald defeated Mr. Dickenson in 1896 by a majority of 100.

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