

IS METHUEN ISOLATED?

Belief in London Yesterday that Such was the Case.

Lt. Col. McLean has Offered to Pay the Expenses of Organizing a Company of Scouts.

Gen. Hutton's Friends Anxious that he Should go With the Second Contingent—Ladysmith All Right for Some Time Yet.

GENERAL REVIEW.

No Press Despatches Have Been Received for Some Days—Corrected Casualty List.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The military authorities have, it is clear, forbidden all present use of the South African cables so far as the newspapers are concerned. Deciphering is the date of the latest press despatches. These consist chiefly of accounts of the Colenso engagement, and are of somewhat monotonous similarity. Gen. Buller and the other commanders are equally silent concerning events that have occurred since the battle of Tugela river.

The war office last night issued Gen. Buller's casualty list, showing 702 wounded and 203 missing, bringing the total casualties at Tugela river up to 1,108. There is not a word, however, indicating his present position. The dates of all despatches relating to the respective corps are suppressed. The despatch of Gen. Methuen regarding a rude reply made by Commander Cronje in response to representations made by Gen. Methuen concerning a British prisoner held by the Boers is dated Dec. 20 by the papers here, but is assumed that this date is not correct. Everything continues to point that Gen. Methuen has been isolated since Dec. 17, and those regarding the probability of a river becoming another Tugela river has become another Tugela river. The manner in which two newspapers announce that Gen. Methuen's position is better necessitates the inference. It is feared that the statement had its source in the war office. Some of the papers make much of Col. Plumer's force early in the month, invading the Transvaal from the north, but this first incursion into the enemy's territory was without result, drought compelling the return of the force.

Preparations for reinforcing the army in South Africa continue at top speed. The admiralty has arranged for another naval brigade of seven hundred men. Among the officers who will embark, Saturday, is the youngest son of Baron Russell of Killowen, lord chief justice of England. Young Russell is a lieutenant of artillery.

The Queen has commanded the Archbishop of Canterbury to order the collection of contributions in behalf of sick and wounded soldiers and their wives and children, and also in behalf of the widows and orphans of soldiers who have been killed in South Africa.

The collections will be made in all the churches of the established church in England and Wales on January 7.

LORD ROBERTS' NEPHEWS. LONDON, Dec. 22, 4.45 a. m.—Interest centres for the moment in the preparations to send out reinforcements. The latest notable volunteers include two nephews of Lord Roberts, Major Charles and Major Maxwell Sherston. Their brother was killed at Glencoe.

SECOND CONTINGENT.

Selection of Officers Still Undecided—General Hutton Wants to go.

OTTAWA, Dec. 21.—The work of preparation for sending a second contingent is going ahead with the utmost despatch. The department issued today complete instructions for organization. The question of selection of officers is undecided, and it is announced that the minister will not intimate what choice he has made until the list is complete. Aspirants for commissions have been simply tumbling over themselves in the department today.

In well informed circles it is stated that the general is desirous of commanding a second contingent. The only difficulty in the way is in reference to filling his position while absent from Canada. It is unknown how long he would be away, hence if he went the government might find it necessary to secure another general officer commanding, at least temporarily. The general impression tonight is that the general will not go. The department has not given up hopes of being able to secure the services of Lieut. Colonel Tom Evans for the cavalry command. A telegram was sent to him today to Dawson, informing him that the position is his if he can get to Ottawa by the 15th of January. It is doubtful whether he can do this. Capt. Howard of galling gun fame has secured a position as one of the officers of the machine gun detachment.

Up to tonight applications have been received from over 100 nurses and 75 doctors.

Cable messages in today's papers state that the government had chartered transports for the Canadian contingent is not correct. The matter will be settled by Hon. Dr. Borden. It is pointed out in connection with the mounted police contingent that it will be a serious matter for some of the men. It is only for the first year the constables are receiving fifty cents per day. The others draw as high as seventy-five cents. If the latter volunteer for active service they will have to drop to the pay provided in the regulations, namely, fifty cents per day. It is felt under the circumstances that parliament might well recognize the patriotic conduct of these men by making up the difference.

When the first contingent was sent out application was made by the authorities of the Methodist church, the largest Protestant denomination in the dominion, for the appointment of a Methodist minister as one of the chaplains with the regiment. But, as is well known, a Presbyterian, a Roman Catholic and Church of England clergyman were chosen. In connection with the second contingent the request of the Methodists has been renewed, and it is difficult to see how the government can fairly overlook such an important section of the community, which, as with the first

contingent, will be well represented in the second.

Each squadron of mounted rifles will consist of four troops. The four troops of "A" squadron will be enrolled at Quebec, Canning, Sussex and St. John, N. B., and drawn from the 8th Hussars, Q. O. Canadian Hussars and Kings Canadian Hussars, all to concentrate at Halifax. The other squadrons are from Ontario and the west. Men will be enrolled subject to a strict medical examination from units allotted to each corps. Each troop of a squadron will accordingly represent the corps allotted to it. Men who have served either in the militia, cavalry or Northwest mounted police are also eligible.

Under special circumstances volunteers other than those above may be accepted. Military training are good horsemen, good shots, and are in other respects qualified.

QUALIFICATIONS.

Qualifications—Standard height, 5 feet 6 inches, with 34 inches chest measurement.

Age—not less than 22 years nor more than 35 years.

The following are the terms of service:

(a)—Services under army act for 6 months, with liability of extension to one year.

(b)—Rations, clothing and equipment including saddlery, free.

(c)—At rates set down for Northwest Mounted Police up to time of disembarkation in South Africa, after that the date pay will be issued by the imperial government, under the provisions of the act for the other troops belonging to Royal Canadian Dragoons and Northwest Mounted Police, and are accepted, are invited to offer their own horses, in case of these being accepted, price, after valuation, will be paid to them, and the horses will become the property of the government.

Police pattern for five and ten years; height, 15 to 18 1/2 hands, and practically sound.

In special cases very stout and well built horses of 14-3 may be purchased. Standard height, 15 to 18 1/2 hands, and practically sound. Regulation cavalry pattern for regimental staff, "a" squadron, and Nos. 1 and 2 troops "b" squadron and Mexican Northwest Mounted Police pattern for remainder. Regimental staff will be formed at Stanley barracks, Toronto. Col. Kitson will be temporarily in command, and Capt. Nellis, R. E. F., will be in charge of the artillery battery "e" will be enrolled at Quebec, Montreal, Granby, Woodstock, Newcastle and Sydney, all to concentrate at St. John's.

Standards: Age, between five and ten years; height, 15 to 18 1/2 hands, and practically sound. Drivers, 5 feet 3 inches, with 33 inch chest measurement, and not less than 22 years of age. They must have performed at least one annual training as a field artilleryman in the active militia, or have served in the Royal Canadian Artillery. Officers commanding districts will arrange for veterinary examination of horses offered.

Terms of service and pay same as for mounted rifles.

Men who offer themselves for enrollment as drivers, etc., other than those belonging to Royal Canadian Artillery, and are accepted, are invited to offer their own horses, in which case price, after valuation, will be paid to them, and the horses become the property of the government.

Standard: Riding horses, 15 hands or over.

Draught horses: 15-3 hands or over. Enrolling officers for each squadron will arrange for the selection of the total number of horses, riding and draught, required from those offered for sale to be a possession of a certificate from a royal school of artillery.

Officers commanding districts will arrange for veterinary examination of horses offered.

Militia men will join in uniform. Staff and brigade division will be formed at Kingston. Col. Stone will be temporarily in command. The wound pension and compassionate allowance will be paid by imperial government at standard rates.

Non-commissioned officers and men desiring to assign their pay may do so to relatives only, for any period not exceeding twenty-five days.

It is not possible to arrange for assignment of pay of British government, but every opportunity will be given by commanding officers to facilitate remittances to Canada. Commanding officers will forward to headquarters before departure of their force from Quebec, a signed statement from all non-commissioned officers and men who desire to assign their pay in accordance with the purpose of conferring with the minister of militia regarding his offer to supply 100 of New Brunswick's best trappers and hunters for service as scouts in South Africa. The minister

has arranged to come to Montreal today to consult with Col. McLean regarding the matter, but the latter received a communication from Hon. Dr. Borden stating that he was unable to leave Ottawa at present owing to pressing official duties in connection with the organization of the second contingent, and inviting him to go to Ottawa to discuss the question.

Major General Hutton has expressed himself as favorably disposed towards Col. McLean's proposal.

COL. McLEAN'S GENEROUS OFFER.

OTTAWA, Dec. 21.—Lt. Col. McLean of St. John arrived here tonight. He has offered to enroll at his own expense, or tomorrow New Brunswickers as scouts. His idea was to take hunters and trappers who are thoroughly familiar with wood craft. As infantry are to go with this contingent, the offer cannot hold out any inducement to the colonel that his offer will be accepted.

PARISIAN WILL NOT BE USED.

OTTAWA, Dec. 21.—A change was made today regarding the transport of the troops. Instead of sending the men on the Parisian and Pomeranian, the minister has decided that men and horses shall go together. The Parisian cannot carry horses, and therefore she will not be used, and the other train, Laurierian will therefore carry the artillery and horses and the Elder-Dempster line Montezuma rifles and horses. The Montezuma line will carry the men and horses. The officers have telegraphed their agents to send her to Halifax immediately.

DRAGOONS ANXIOUS TO GO.

TORONTO, Dec. 21.—Sixty troopers of the R. C. D. passed the examination today and applied for enlistment in the second contingent. Of these, however, only a limited number, probably about twenty, have been listed. Captains Pierce and Nelles and Lieuts. Sutton and Elmley are likely to go to the front with the militia men here. Major General Hutton should command the contingent, and they say his specialty being mounted infantry his presence would inspire confidence in the men, and Reg. G. A. Rix of the church of the Redeemer, Toronto, chaplain of the 34th battalion, offers his services as chaplain in the contingent.

KITCHENER HAS SAILED.

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, Dec. 21.—Gen. Lord Kitchener, who has been appointed chief of staff to Gen. Lord Roberts, embarked today on the British warship Isis, which will convey him to Cape Town.

SCARCITY OF GRAIN.

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 21 (delayed in transmission).—There is great distress in the Orange Free State owing to a scarcity of grain. Many families are reported to be starving.

WANT THE UMBRIA.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The admiralty has made a requisition for the Cunard line steamship Umbria for use as a transport. Therefore the Umbria will not sail for New York on Saturday.

LOCAL WAR NOTES.

The Sun's Chatham correspondent writes: "Everything is at fever heat regarding South Africa and many young men are handing in their names to Capt. Mackenzie, with a view to going to the scene of operations with that or some other contingent."

W. H. Willis, formerly of St. John, is very anxious for a place in the second contingent. In fact, as soon as he heard that it was likely to go he left his position in Kentucky and hurried to St. John. Mr. Willis was formerly an employee of S. McDiarmid and a corporal in No. 1 company, and R. C. A.

Miss Bertie Curran of Moncton, has volunteered to go to South Africa with the second contingent as nurse. Miss Curran is a professional nurse and has made application to Col. Baird of Sackville, commanding the 74th Bt.

Yesterday Capt. B. R. Armstrong received from Waverly, Mass., the application of Alex. G. Howard for a place on the 2nd Canadian contingent.

FROM THE BOER STANDPOINT.

MODDER RIVER, Dec. 16 (delayed in transmission).—While the British are burying their dead at Magersfontein, some of the Boers were inclined to be communicative. The gist of their statements was that while the fighting was outside of their own boundaries they were entirely satisfied. They said they knew their own farms were safe, and furthermore, even if the British were victorious, the Boers felt that their farms would not be confiscated. Therefore they had descended on Kimberley and Aliwal North and "marched through Laing's Nek into Natal. Their government believed that in fighting in British territory they might induce their compatriots in all of South Africa to fight for the control of the country, whereas if the Boers retired within their own frontiers this hope would be at an end. Three suspected spies, including two milk sellers, were arrested today.

RECEIVED HARD USAGE.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The Daily News' Cape Town correspondent says that the Boers marched the British prisoners taken at Stormberg to Bergsdorp, the march occupying forty-eight hours, during which time the prisoners were without food or water. The wounded were at first placed in a school house by the English residents, but the women in the town re-entrusted, declaring that the Boers, who they term the English, ought to be shot. The blankets were

taken from the wounded men and their beds were given to the Boers.

SERVICE OF SUPPLICATION.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—There has been arranged for Dec. 29 at St. Paul's cathedral a "solemn service of humble supplication to Almighty God for His blessing on our arms in South Africa."

The service will consist of the litany and eucharist. The Bishop of London will preach.

CERTIFICATE SUSPENDED.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—A despatch from Cape Town states that the certificate of the captain of the transport Ismore, which was wrecked in St. Helena bay, has been suspended for six months.

LADYSMITH ALL RIGHT.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The Daily Mail writes: "We understand that news has arrived from Gen. White to the effect that Ladysmith is well supplied with food and ammunition and can hold out longer than has been estimated. Troops are described as in good spirits and anxious to fight."

BOERS ARE CONFIDENT.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The Daily Mail prints a despatch from Chieveley Camp, dated Saturday, which says: "There is an armistice till midnight in order to bury the dead and remove the wounded. Meanwhile the enemy is placing fresh guns so that they may cover our ambulance parties. They express themselves as satisfied with yesterday's battle and boast that they cannot be turned out of their present positions. The Dutch stripped our dead. During the fighting some heroic deeds were performed, the irregulars vying with the regulars for distinction. Lieut. Ponsomby, of Thompson's mounted infantry, and Private Farmer, of the Carbineers, attempted to save some of their comrades at imminent peril to their own lives. An injured man carried by Lieut. Ponsomby was mortally wounded while in the arms of the officer."

GEN. ROBERTS' FAREWELL.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—Gen. Roberts bid farewell to the Prince of Wales at Marlborough house today. The staff of the new British commanded-in-chief in South Africa includes Major General Pryor and Major General Mount Downe, besides his present staff.

BIG GOLD SHIPMENT.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The Daily Chronicle's financial expert says he understands that the Bank of England has made advances against £2,000,000 gold to arrive from New York, including Saturday's shipment of £1,000,000.

INCREASE MILITIA FORCES.

KINGSTON, J. A., Dec. 21.—Owing to the growing seriousness of South African war prospects, and particularly the probable withdrawal of the imperial garrisons from the colonies, coincident with the unprecedented drafting of French troops to the West Indies, a proposal is floated to augment the British West Indian militia forces to the fullest possible strength, if necessary under special circumstances. It is proposed to increase Jamaica's force from one regiment of eight hundred to possibly twenty-four regiments, as in 1836, the exigencies of the present situation being regarded as of an exceptionally grave character.

THE FLOUR SEIZURE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—In the absence of a formal complaint, the state department officials do not care to express a specific opinion in the case of the reported seizures of American flour by British cruisers off the South African coast under suspicion that it was intended for the Transvaal. But under the general rule adopted by our government and adhered to by most of the other civilized governments, merchandise of this description sent by one neutral nation to another, as in the case of the United States and Portugal, is absolutely exempt from seizure.

TO HELP THE BOERS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—The steamer of the French liner L'Asudane, which sailed for Havre yesterday, were 25 men who, it is supposed, are going to enlist in the Boer army. The men came to the pier in a body, under the evident leadership of one man, and all were non-commissioned as their plans. One of them, a young Irishman, said he was ready for anything that came along. Most of the men appeared to be Dutch.

LORD ROBERTS INTERVIEWED.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The morning papers give prominence to Lord Roberts' message and most of them comment editorially upon it. The Times says: "In an admirable message to America and Canada, Lord Roberts has given an adequate and welcome expression to our national sentiments."

The Daily Telegraph says: "We feel sure the message will be welcomed in both the United States and Canada. Lord Roberts describes in appropriate words what all Englishmen feel. There is nothing like adversity to test the value of our friends, and the sympathy of the United States and the magnificent devotion of our colonies stand out in strong contrast with the cold carping

and envy of some continental nations."

The Standard says: "The British empire is on its mettle and is giving the world a hint as to the extent of its latest resources in fighting material. Nowhere is the demonstration watched with more interest, and we believe with more satisfaction, than among our kinsmen in the United States, whose sympathy will be still further aroused by Lord Roberts' admirable message."

THE BOSTON FUND.

BOSTON, Dec. 21.—The British and colonial born residents of Boston, formed a fund in aid of the British troops in Africa tonight, and the first pledges made a total of \$2,000.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—Belated stories from Chieveley Camp concern in saying the British did marvels in an impossible situation. The oldest war correspondents say they never saw anything comparable with the bravery of the men and officers. The second contingent created an immense furor, engaging the Boers single-handed and halting shrapnel and lyddite shells on the fortifications north of the town in a vain effort to silence the murderous fire of the Boers while the British forced the passage of the river. The advance of the second brigade along the road leading to the bridge in the face of a deadly fusade is described as magnificent. The British forced their way across the fire zone under a perfect storm of bullets from the invisible Boers. The patter of the bullets on the dry plain raised the dust like heavy rain drops of water. The heat throughout was intense. There are many stories of special acts of bravery.

4.30 P. M.—The war office has received the following from Gen. Foster-Walker, the British commander at Cape Town:

"CAPE TOWN, Wednesday, Dec. 21.—Methuen wires that he has received a rude reply from Gen. Cronje respecting his representation as to Lieut. Chandos-Pole-Gall, saying that this officer is regarded as a spy. Gen. Cronje states he will hold no further communication with Methuen."

IN THE NORTH.

TULI, Dec. 11, via Lourenco Marques, Dec. 15.—Col. Plumer, with a strong reconnoitering party of horsemen, has returned here after a week's expedition into Transvaal territory. He reached a point near the Transvaal republic, but found no Boers, the country being seemingly empty of men. (Pietermaritzburg is a considerable distance north of Pretoria.)

MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, Dec. 18.—The annual meeting of the Standard Paper and Printing Co. was held today and the following board of directors elected: A. F. Gault, Robert Mackay, Joseph Crathern, R. Wilson Smith, Montreal; Charles E. Hill, Weymouth, N. B.; S. P. Smith, York, Pa.; George E. Faulkner, Halifax. The officers will be elected tomorrow.

The trial of P. Lemieux, accountant of the defunct Banque Ville Marie, on a charge of making a false statement to the government, was continued today. The feature of the day was the discovery of another shortage of funds. Comte, taller, deposed that in 1897 he went away on his holidays, and when he returned the cash was ten thousand dollars short. He told Lemieux, and after repeated explanations the latter informed him that the teller who replaced him had taken the money to speculate with, and not to say anything about it. Comte held his tongue until after the failure of the bank, when he told President Weir, which was the first intimation the latter had that the money was missing. The shortage had been kept from him for nearly two years.

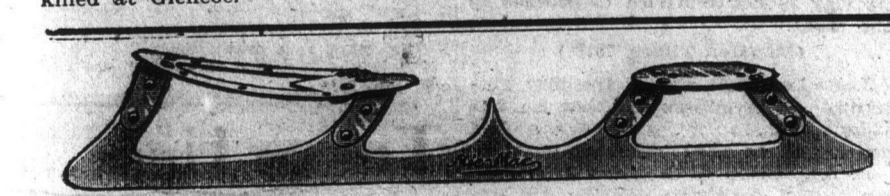
W. J. Connors, treasurer of the syndicate bearing his name, which proposes to erect grain elevators in Montreal harbor, had an interview with the harbor board today. Since their last interview, the board, pressed by local interests, has been adding protective clauses to the agreement. At today's meeting Mr. Connors stated bluntly that this had got to stop. They had reached a business agreement, and if the harbor board proposed to go on changing it and making the provisions more severe, they could get somebody else to build their elevators.

The board then entered on a clause by clause discussion of the agreement, which was not concluded when the meeting adjourned.

SCHOOL GIRLS' NERVES.

Many a pale, weak school girl suffering the evil effects of an exhausted nervous system, and thin, watery blood, has been fully restored to the vigor and buoyancy of robust health by using Dr. A. W. Chase's Nerve Food. The healthy glow on the cheeks and the brightness in the eye tell of the building up process which is taking place in the body.

A meeting was recently held at Bramley by Indian Christians, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, for the purpose of protesting against the imposition of the heavy property and heirship duties of England which the British government is disposed to apply to Indian Christians.



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