

SOUTH AFRICA.

Five Thousand Boers Making Their Way Into the Heart of Cape Colony.

Colony. Entrenchments Being Constructed Near Cape Town—Boer Attacks at Several Points Repulsed.

LONDON, Jan. 11, 5 a. m.—The situation in South Africa grows worse rather than better. Lord Kitchener's despatches are more laconic than those of Lord Roberts, and little else of importance is allowed to come through.

The Times in an editorial today finds comfort in the thought that the "process of attrition is doing its work and must shortly lead to the inevitable result."

In other quarters, however, there is less satisfaction with the position of affairs, which has practically necessitated the fortification of Cape Town.

No steps have been taken to comply with Lord Kitchener's demands for reinforcements.

Lord Coleridge, in a letter excusing his non-attendance at a political meeting, says:

"I loathe and detest this war and the policy which brought it about, the mode in which it is conducted and the undignified excitement over the defeat of a handful of peasants, defending their country, at the hands of ten times their number of trained soldiers, backed by the wealth of England."

This morning's despatches report that a small party of Boers carried off cattle close to the east fort at Commandant Kritzinger, are fifteen miles from Richmond.

Rumors are spreading at Porterville that the rebels have joined the Boers in the Calvinia district.

The military commissioner of police at Johannesburg has warned the public to beware of the dangerous dynamite mines laid in the Rand to protect the mines, as the authorities cannot hold themselves responsible for injuries resulting therefrom.

LONDON, Jan. 10.—Gen. Kitchener sends news of a serious simultaneous attack on the night of Jan. 7 by the Boers on the British positions between points sixty miles apart along the lines of the Pretoria and Lorenzo Marques railway. The losses on both sides were heavy. According to reports the Boers were beaten off after prolonged fighting.

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 10.—The refugees are approaching the military authorities to obtain permission to form a corps for the protection of Johannesburg and the mines, as they wish to be on the Rand to assist in the defence of their own property.

The chamber of mines has adopted a similar attitude.

On the Ploegher road the Boers occupy Cullinella and Sutherland consist of two columns, one advancing in the direction of Glen William and the other towards Worcester or in this direction. All passes in front of Worcester have been occupied by seasoned troops, which are gathering at strategic points. The tranquil Dutch openly disapprove of the raid, many even sending horses to the British camp.

LONDON, Jan. 10.—Following is the text of the despatch from Gen. Kitchener, dated Pretoria, Wednesday:

"On the night of January 7th the Boers made determined attacks upon all of our posts at Belfast, Wardenfontein, Noutgat and Wildfontein. Intense fog prevailed, and taking advantage of the cover it afforded the Boers were able to creep up close to our positions. A heavy fire continued until 3.40 a. m., when the Boers were driven off. One officer was killed and three wounded, while twenty men were killed and wounded. The loss of the Boers was heavy, 24 dead being counted.

A convoy taking supplies to Gordon's brigade, north of Krugersdorp, was attacked by Beyers' commando yesterday (Thursday). The Boers were driven off, leaving eleven dead on the field. Our casualties were four slightly wounded."

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 10.—Entrenchments are being constructed across the Cape Flats, from False Bay to Table Bay.

LONDON, Jan. 11.—"Five thousand Boers, supposed to be trekking west from Vryburg," says the Cape Town correspondent of the Daily Mail, "are now making their way into the heart of Cape Colony. The supposition is that they have captured several small garrisons on the way."

CHINA PROBLEM.

Preliminary Stage of the Negotiations Completed Wednesday

PARIS, Jan. 10.—As the result of four days in authoritative quarters, the Associated Press is given the following statement regarding the Chinese situation:

The Chinese plenipotentiaries signed the joint note yesterday, thus concluding the preliminary stage of the negotiations. It was added that this important step was insignificant compared with the difficulties to be met with between the powers themselves in the coming discussion. The United States proposals to shift the seat of the negotiations to Peking, the European embassies. Three reasons are given for this opposition:

First—it is considered a great mistake to transfer the negotiations from China, where all the information is at hand respecting the situation and the feelings among the Chinese themselves, and more especially regarding the conditions of trade and commerce, with which the negotiations will be chiefly concerned.

Second—the United States commerce with China is comparatively small when compared with that of several other countries. Therefore the United States is not entitled to expect the negotiations to be carried on at Washington.

The third and most delicate reason advanced is that the European powers have not felt sufficient confidence that the United States government might not find itself influenced in the negotiations at Washington by the pressure of interests having an eye to the exploitation of China. The attitude of some of the powers, moreover, is swayed by other motives in opposing the United States proposal. Great Britain, for example, which seems to be the most strongly antagonistic, has probably taken into consideration the United States attitude toward the Clayton-Bulwer treaty.

The feeling here favors Shanghai, if any change is made, as it is pointed out that Shanghai is the most important trade centre in China and, moreover, that the southern provinces, who are favorable to foreigners and anxious to further trade, could make their influence felt. Falling Shanghai, Berlin or Paris are likely to be chosen. The enormous British interests are in favor of the choice of London, but it is improbable that the other powers will agree to this.

There is no reason to suppose that Russia will withdraw from the joint negotiations. The treaty she has concluded with China concerns her special interests in regions contiguous to her territories, but she has great political interests to defend, and further in the interests of the United States will be to bring about a speedy settlement. Russia aims chiefly at a wide expansion of her political influence in the East.

The struggle between these conflicting desires will be bitter, and in any case will greatly protract the negotiations.

One thing which Great Britain and the United States wish assured is the cessation of the prohibition against landed interests, a considerable extension of commerce being thereby the interests of the powers will be assisting in the negotiations by commercial advisers while Prince Shing and Li Hung Chang will continue to act for the Chinese government.

SHANGHAI, Jan. 10.—A despatch from Sian Fu (where the Chinese court is located) to a native newspaper says:

"The Chinese court is in a state of peace as impossible of acceptance, consequently the emperor and empress and the Kun-Ki, the viceroy of Hankow, to proceed immediately to Peking and confer with the foreign ministers and Chinese commissioners in an attempt to secure a modification of the obstructive conditions. They have of course to propose a suitable meeting place for the ministers elsewhere."

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—As some of the foreign powers do not look with favor upon the proposition of the United States recently made as to the withdrawal of certain features of the negotiations from Peking to Washington, or some other capital, and other powers have deemed it advisable to withdraw the proposition and has directed the diplomatic representatives of the United States abroad to inform the different governments.

WILL NOT RE-ENTER POLITICS.

WINNIPEG, Man., Jan. 10.—Hon. Hugh John Macdonald declares he has no intention of re-entering politics. Two safe constituencies in Ontario have been offered him, but he says he intends remaining a public citizen during the rest of his life.

Glory on earth is a thing many work for, only to find it hampered by nerve-racking penalties.

Children Cry for CASTORIA.

WELCOMED HOME.

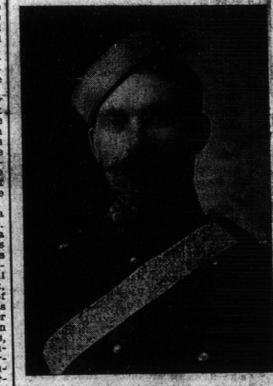
Men of the C. M. R. and E Battery Given a Splendid Reception Upon Their Arrival Thursday.

Met at the Depot by Thousands of Citizens and Two Bands—Banquetted at the Dufferin Hotel.

The Loyalist City, and well does St. John merit the term, was on a festive Thursday in honor of the return of the men of the C. M. R. and E Battery, who have been on duty throughout the Empire. Every soldier who has come back here during the past year has received a welcome worthy of him, and yesterday when the train brought in the last of New Brunswick's gallant contingent, with the exception of a few who have re-enlisted for further service, a few who remained in Halifax for a day or two and some who will never come back, the old city thrived out and gave them a welcome that for heartiness and enthusiasm has seldom been equalled.

Turning soldiers, leaving the rear end of their train, were hurried around the front of the Sussex train, taken through the side doors of the station and placed in the huge sleighs awaiting them before the mass of those in the building knew of their arrival. To welcome them on behalf of the city there were present, Mayor Daniel Armstrong, White, McGoldrick, Hilyard, Maxwell, Armstrong and Seaton, and a number of leading citizens. The officers and non-coms, of the 62nd were present in civilian clothes, and the bands of that regiment and of the Artillery were in attendance, providing a programme of music.

Outside, where the sleighs were in waiting, another crowd had collected, filling the grounds in front and along the side of the station and reaching away up Dock street. Every foot of elevated standing room was eagerly fought for and each express wagon and freight car in the vicinity bore its share of enthusiastic sight-seers, and even the roof of the station was occupied. In one of the sleighs was placed the band of the 62nd, and in the other the returning soldiers and as many others as could climb or cling on. With the 62nd band in the lead, the sleighs proceeded through the cheering crowd up Mill, Dock and King streets, around King square, along Sydney, down Princess and back Charlotte to the Dufferin, where the men dismounted and entered the hotel, each surrounded by his contingent of admirers. The Woodstock men remained there and most of the St. John boys went home, to return, however, to the banquet which was tendered them at 9 o'clock.



LIEUT. GOOD.

The men have returned in small parties. At one o'clock yesterday morning Lieut. Good of Woodstock arrived with J. and A. Tibbitts, M. Boone, C. Parker, W. Lyman and Geo. Rutter, who were met at the station by Mayor Daniel, Premier Tweedie and others, and taken to the Dufferin for the night. The Quebec express brought in four more—Geo. Robt. Welsh, Geo. Searl and N. Campbell of Woodstock, and G. N. P. McLeod of Fredericton. At the station there were among others to meet the men: Mayor Daniel, Col. Armstrong, Col. Markham, Col. Jones, Major Armstrong, A. O. Skinner, Rev. Dr. McLeod, Fredericton. All of the men looked well and hearty. The only one who bore any mark was Norman McLeod, son of Rev. Dr. McLeod, whose left eye was bandaged. A shell bursting near him threw three small pieces of gravel and sand into it, blinding him for a time. He hopes with care that the sight will be saved. While in England Mr. McLeod was treated by a specialist.

The banquet given last evening in honor of the returned boys was one of the most successful affairs of its kind ever held in the city of St. John. The company was congenial, each striving with the other to do honor to the soldiers, the bill of fare was elaborate and prepared in the best style of the popular Dufferin hotel, the toast list was appropriate, each item being proposed and responded to in speeches that added greatly to the pleasure of the evening instead of making the proceedings prosy, and the creators of comfort of those present was ministered to by an able corps of waiters, under the supervision of Jas. Wilson, the Dufferin's head waiter.

Around the daintily laid tables, artistically decorated with chrysanthemums and carnations, assembled about 70 guests, comprising, besides the guests of the evening, representatives of the local and federal governments, officers of the militia, and members of the Common Council and of the committee in charge of the reception. His worship Mayor Daniel Maxwell, the chair and Deputy Mayor Maxwell, the vice-chair, and the mayor's right sat Lieut. Good and Lieut. Fred Jones, and on his left Capt. Carvell of Woodstock and Lieut. Waldon McLean. There were present: Lt. Col. Jones, Lt. Col. McLean, Senator Ellis, Lt. Col. Markham, Major Armstrong, Col. Cunard, Hon. A. T. Dinn, Hon. H. A. McKewen, Recorder Skinner, Aldermen Robinson, Tufts, McGoldrick, Armstrong, Macrae, Seaton, White, Hilyard and Millidge, H. D. McLeod, R. O'Brien, E. S. Carter, City Clerk Wardroper, W. M. Wallace and Dr. Scammell. Beside the soldiers who returned that day, many of the first contingent were there, all in khaki uniforms. Among the number were: Gray, Kennedy, Taylor, Hughes, Foster, Welch, Carter, Howard, Fairweather, Morley, Hennessey, Hayden, Morrison, Donohue, Hanson, Bettle, A. Hayden, Pascoe, Markham, Anderson, Meland, Kirkpatrick, Roland, Penny, McKain, Ambrose, Pelkey, Simpson, Cooper, Monteth, Hunter, Turner and Smith.

The menu card took the form of a shield, bearing on the outside, on a garnet and silver ground the royal coat of arms and that of the province. Within were the arms of St. John, views of the city and the following bill of fare:

- MENU. Puree of Green Peas. Celery. Lettuce. Fried Prime Ribs of Beef. That Gravy, Yorkshire Pudding. Roast Young Turkey, Stuffed with Chestnuts, Cranberry Sauce. Cream Potatoes. Corn and Squash. Marrowfat Peas. English Plum Pudding. Royal Canadian Brandy. Apple Pie. Vanilla Pie. Apricot Pie. Fruit. Vanilla Cream. McLaren's and Canadian Cheese. Toasted Crackers. Coffee.

After the hearty and appreciative discussion of this, his worship, after reading regrets from Senator Dever and Ald. Baxter, read the following address:

To Lieut. Good, Non-Coms. and Men of the 62nd Canadian Artillery and Mounted Rifles: It is with great gratification that as mayor I convey to you my heartfelt welcome home, with which every citizen of St. John greets you today—both those who belong here and those who belong to other parts of the province. The manner in which you, in common with the other forces in Canada, who volunteered for active service in South Africa have borne yourselves through the terrible privations and hardships of a most arduous campaign, as well as your gallantry and successful operations in action with the enemy have filled us with pride and gratitude—have brought honor to yourselves—have placed Canada in a higher position among the nations than she has occupied before, and in one short year have done more to cement together in one real bond of brotherhood and union the various portions of our great empire with one another, and especially with the great mother-land, than all preceding events added together. We have read with the greatest satisfaction the laudatory words in which your great commander, Earl Roberts, expressed his high appreciation of the manner in which the Canadian troops have borne themselves under his command, and I am sure you must feel honored to have so thoroughly earned his commendation. Major Gen. Smith-Dorset also issued an order in which he stated that "he cannot allow the men of the 62nd to leave his command without thanking them for the grand work which they have performed for him in the Belfast, Blyde columns. In sight of the last nineteen days they have been engaged with the Boers and have proved themselves splendidly brave mounted troops, and it has afforded the major general much pleasure to be able to see to the field marshal detailed accounts of their feats of arms and I have been able to bring to the especial notice of the commander-in-chief five officers and seven non-coms. and men for distinguished conduct in the field during those operations."

If you naturally feel proud to have earned words of such high commendation from your commanding officers I am sure that your fellow countrymen are just as proud of you—for what you have done in South Africa you have not done by yourselves alone, but your prowess on the field has reflected an upspringing lustre on this country, in whose name you were sent, and the glory of your achievements will always remain among the brightest and most cherished possessions of the history of our beloved Dominion. We feel as a people that we are safe while we can command the services of men like you, who are used by the patriotic devotion of love of Queen and country, have gone uncomplainingly to the field of battle ready to lay down their lives if necessary to uphold the honor of the flag and keep it unspotted, no matter who may be the aggressor.

Our city is honored by your presence and welcomes you with open arms, and asks those of you who are passing through to accept its hospitality and be its guests while you remain. I have only to add that I hope your future lives will be as happy, busy, useful and successful, as has been your campaign in South Africa.

Lieut. Good, who was heartily cheered, returned thanks for the address, for the manner in which it was received and for the magnificent dinner and reception.

His worship then proposed The Queen, which toast was drunk with enthusiasm, followed by the singing of the national anthem. The Governor General was now proposed, followed by the Lieut. Governor, and after a speech in which he warmly honored, Deputy Mayor Maxwell proposed the health of Our Guests, which was received with three hearty cheers and a tiger, and feelingly responded to by Lieut. Good, who said that such a reception was worth all the privations the troops had passed through, and again thanked the citizens of St. John for their hearty welcome. Lieut. Jones was also called upon, and responded in a brief and humorous address, disclaiming any of the honor of the banquet, which he said had been

given solely for Lieut. Good and his men. The credit for Canadian achievement in South Africa was due more to the men than to the officers who commanded them. In response to repeated calls, Lieut. Waldon McLean spoke briefly. Sergt. Ralph Markham, who was enthusiastically received, thanked the mayor for the reception and gave an interesting sketch of the work of the C. M. R. He said that during their stay in Africa they had been in 40 battles, the most severe of which had been that famous rear guard action at Tillyfontein, when they had three killed, nine wounded and fifteen taken prisoners. Troopers Meland and Morrison, Sergt. Hanson of Woodstock, Privates Moxley and Fairweather also interestingly assisted in the response to this toast. In the course of his brief speech, Pte. Morley proposed a toast to the Gordon Highlanders, coupled with the name of Wm. Donahue, who gratefully responded.

Recorder Skinner then proposed The Commander-in-Chief and the Military and Naval Forces of this Great Empire. He eulogized the character and military genius of Lord Roberts, and told of his magnificent achievements during the late war, not forgetting to give due credit to the assistance given him by the rank and file. The army and navy, he said, represented the strength of the Empire. The work of universal peace was not beyond our ken. Progress of civilization and all progress had and ever would be a result of conflict. Our people and our race were not fighting for themselves, but for the progress of mankind. He paid an eloquent tribute to England's navy, and prophesied a glorious future for our country, which had such splendid men to strengthen these arms of her greatness.

Lieut. Col. McLean, in responding, added to Mr. Skinner's praise of Lord Roberts, briefly sketching his career, referring to his words of praise for Canada's troops and to what our men had done to deserve this commendation. In closing, he heartily welcomed the Woodstock men to St. John.

Lieut. Col. Jones spoke of the great debt the people of Canada owed to those present who had just returned from fighting for them. He was proud of the militia of St. John and of the province. He spoke in praise of this fine regiment, which had contributed to the infantry and cavalry as well as the artillery branch of the Canadian contingents, and said that if another emergency should arise Canadians would be even more ready to offer their lives in the service of their country.

The toast of The Provincial Legislature was then proposed by Ald. Macrae. He spoke with eloquence of the bravery of the men who had gone out to fight, and of the patriotism of the men in our governments who had supported the hands of the firing line by working for their interests while at home. Hon. A. T. Dinn, in responding, apologized for the absence of Premier Tweedie, who was unavoidably away. He told of the sympathy of the house with our soldiers, and welcomed them home. Hon. H. A. McKewen spoke of the pride the members of the legislature felt in the achievements of our fighting men, and paid an eloquent tribute to the work they had done for the Empire. On behalf of the legislature he thanked those present for the toast. Wm. Shaw, M. P. P., in adding to the response to this toast, referred to the sacrifices made by the volunteers in giving up their sons for the Empire and expressed his pleasure at being able to assist in the reception of those who had returned.

The toast of The Dominion Legislature was then proposed by Warden McGoldrick in a cleverly humorous and witty speech, and ably responded to by Senator Ellis.

The Red Cross Nurses was proposed by Major Armstrong, and responded to by Ald. White, and the toast of Absent Comrades, with special mention of Beverly Armstrong, was proposed by Ald. Robinson.

The toast of Capt. Carvell of Woodstock, proposed by the mayor, drew an eloquent response from the captain. Ald. Armstrong proposed the health of H. D. McLeod, the treasurer of the contingent fund, who appropriately responded.

The mayor gracefully responded to a toast in his honor, proposed by Lt. Col. McLean, and a toast proposed by Ald. Maxwell to the militia of Canada. He was answered by Major Armstrong and Capt. Pratt of the Curlew.

The toast of The Press was responded to by R. O'Brien, H. McDonald, E. S. Carter and S. D. Scott.

INTERVIEW WITH N. P. McLEOD. A Sun reporter had an interesting conversation yesterday afternoon with Norman P. McLeod of Fredericton, who, without any idea that he was being interviewed, talked of the work done by E Battery through the war, and gave so many reminiscences of his personal experiences that this story would have to be "Continued in our next" to embrace a title of them. He has not a very high idea of South Africa as a place for settlement, describing Johannesburg as the only city worth mentioning in the whole country. His opinion of the Boers themselves is still lower than that of their country, as he said they were poor shots and great runners, showing bravery only when attacking a provision train.

In comparing the different branches of the service, he emphatically preferred the artillery, in which he would pre-empt before any other branch, occasion arise. E Battery, he said, had done good work and had been very lucky all through the campaign, losing only one man killed, although they had taken part in several severe actions. He pronounced the horses taken out by the Canadian artillery to have been by far the most serviceable in the whole army. The team of the 6th sub-section of E Battery, (Continued on Page Eight.)

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