

Blue Ribbon
Ceylon Tea

TWENTY-FIRST YEAR

WHY CANADA

COLONEL FOSTER'S TURN TO TALK

Story Runs That He Slept While the Contingent Waited Six Hours

In the Dark—What Colonel Foster Said to Passengers

on the Lake Champlain.

It is a matter of regret among the members of the contingent that they did not reach Toronto on Christmas Eve—the time of the filling of stockings and the real beginning of Christmas. When word was received on Saturday night that the Lake Champlain would arrive at Hamilton at 2 a.m. Sunday, hundreds of homes in Toronto prepared to greet the Transvaal Boers on Christmas Eve. But all plans went astray. When the truth is known, the contingent could and would have reached Toronto Monday night had it not been for the tardiness of Adjutant-General Foster. He was informed that the steamer would be sighted at 2 a.m. Sunday. He retired. He left word to be called when the boat arrived. He was accordingly called at 2 a.m. But he declined to get up and said he would sleep till 6 or 7 o'clock. To appreciate this act of the Adjutant-General, one must know that without his visual supervision of the passing of quarantine and disinfection of the contingent would have been a matter of shipboard. With the Adjutant-General's sleep in his bed, everything had to hang fire. A passenger on the Lake Champlain told the World yesterday that the soldiers were formed up at 2 a.m. ready for inspection, but no Adjutant-General arrived, and there the men had to stand under arms till 9 or 10 o'clock, when Col. Foster finally came on board.

Eight Hours in the Cold.

Barister McCormick of Montreal, whose son was on the steamer, a member of the contingent, stood on the quay from 2 a.m. till 10, when the troops were marched, waiting for the red tape department to work. Captain Stewart of the steamer expressed his opinion of Col. Foster forcibly and openly, while the men in the ranks and the officers themselves were not backward in denouncing the unnecessary delay. Barister McCormick had also a lurid soliloquy to utter on the bleak quay.

Finally, at 10 o'clock, at least six hours later than necessary, the Adjutant-General performed his task, and the men were marched. What explanation Col. Foster gave of his neglect has not been made known.

So angry was Barister McCormick that, as soon as he saw his boy land, he rushed up to him, saying: "My boy, he gives me no now; he is on Canadian soil."

And father and son entered the mail train, leaving an hour ahead of the Government agent.

Pre-Scott Took French Leave.

On the same train went Pre-Scott, bank clerk, of Hamilton, whose home is in Mount Forest. He scouted himself in the baggage car, and when the train left Hamilton he made himself comfortable in the Pullman car. He left Montreal just as the other train arrived.

Greene's Surrender.

The civilians who were on the Lake Champlain relate many interesting stories gleaned from chats with the officers and soldiers. Col. Otter told the story of the second engagement at Paardeberg on the night following which Gen. Cronje surrendered in the morning. The Canadians were informed of the intended assault on the Boers' position. All were told to lie down if a shot was fired or a disturbance made. Steadily the Canadians, in the dead of night, in dense darkness, except towards the Boers' stronghold, they were within sixty yards of it, when the unexpected happened. What really occurred is still in doubt. Some say a soldier lost his feet, and came clattering with his plumed helmet and rifle to the front, making a din that awoke the dead. Others say that a Canadian, in the extremity of his trepidation and anticipation of the assault, accidentally fired his rifle. Whatever it was, there was but one thing for the Canadians to do—to lie down—as had been commanded. Most of them did.

Boers' Fatal Fulsade.

The din caused by the careless soldier had scarcely died away, when a stream of fire leaped forth from the Boers' stronghold, and the thoughtless Canadian who had remained standing were mowed down like wheat before the reaper. That volley made the Canadian usually list.

Then, for some time, the Canadians lay down obediently to the line of fire, and began working with their spears to make trenches. The Boers continued their fusillade. The Canadians dug trenches, working along toward the right of the Boer position, all night long. When daylight came, their trenches completely concealed them.

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EIGHT PAGES—WEDNESDAY MORNING DECEMBER 26 1900—EIGHT PAGES

THOUSANDS OF CITIZENS WELCOMED THE BOYS AND CHRISTMAS DINNERS WERE MORE THAN USUALLY ENJOYED IN MANY TORONTO HOMES

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THE POSITION OF CAPE COLONY

IS HANGING IN THE BALANCE

Everything Depends on How Much Ammunition the Disloyal Dutch Can Raise—British Have Reoccupied Britstown—The Boers Abandoned It Without a Fight.

London, Dec. 25.—The position of Cape Colony is hanging in the balance. According to The Morning Post's Cape Town correspondent, everything depends upon the quantity of ammunition in the possession of the disloyal Dutch residents, 1500 of whom have joined the Boers in the Philippotva district alone. Energetic measures have been taken to stem the invasion, but there is unquestionably danger that parties of Boers will get thru into parts of the colony, and gradually make the whole Cape into a base for the Boers. Reinforcements can arrive none too soon. Most of the despatches from Cape Town, however, describe the raiders as doing little harm, and as being rapidly encircled by Lord Kitchener's command.

Kitchener is on hand.

Kitchener is in the heart of the disaffected districts and has the advantage of being personally acquainted with local conditions. Last Monday he supervised the suppression of the rising which occurred there. He is bringing down thousands of troops from the north.

The Standard's Cape Town correspondent says the legation demand that martial law shall be proclaimed throughout Cape Colony, but adds: "Such a step is now impossible, owing to the lack of sufficient troops to enforce it."

Pro-Boer Papers Quiet.

The correspondent of The Daily Mail at Cape Town says: "The pro-Boer newspapers are singularly quiet. They have been made uneasy by the promptness and thoroughness of the military action, but reports from shadowy periphery possibilities."

A responsible colonist, who recently made a tour of the colony, declares that 90 per cent of the Dutch are simply waiting for the appearance of a resourceful leader to rebel.

All Railways Requisitioned.

Civil railway traffic has been suspended largely in all parts of the colony, and thousands of both Boers and British are almost unknown in Cape Town. It appears that one Boer column attacked Steynsburg, but was repulsed and fled from the town. Another Boer column captured a party of police at Vanderstad. Mounted colonial troops arrested 200 Boers 15 miles from Breda, and after a brisk interchange of volleys, killed with a loss of two men. The Cape Town correspondent of The Colonist telegraphs that nearly any Cape Colony have joined the invaders.

SOME FAVORABLE NEWS

Railway Service Is Regular Now Between De Aar and Cape Town—Exaggerated Reports.

Cape Town, Dec. 24.—Regular railway service between Cape Town and De Aar has been restored. The report of the destruction of a bridge south of De Aar turns out to be incorrect. Only a culvert was damaged. Trains are running from De Aar to Kimberley regularly. There are considerable delays elsewhere, as the result of heavy rains.

NEW ZEALAND'S LOYALTY.

Will Keep the Realm of Her Contingent Filled and Send More Mounted Men.

Wellington, N.Z., Dec. 25.—The Government has asked the Governor, the Earl of Bunsford, to inform Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that it does not wish the New Zealand contingent in South Africa to be diminished, and that it is prepared to fill the ranks and that additional mounted men will be sent.

Cape Dutch Helping Boers.

London, Dec. 25.—We learn, says The Daily Mail, "that the reports of the serious situation in Cape Colony are fully confirmed. Boers are receiving much assistance from the Cape Dutch railways."

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THE PRELIMINARY JOINT NOTE

WAS DELIVERED CHRISTMAS EVE

Li Hung Chang Was Unable to Be Present When the Document Was Handed Over—Prince Ching Acted for Him and Said All China Desired Peace.

Peking, Dec. 24.—The preliminary joint note was delivered today to the Chinese. Li Hung Chang found that he was unable to attend the meeting of the Ministers, and his credentials and those of Prince Ching were presented by the latter to the foreign envoys.

Prince Ching, replying to the Spanish Minister, M. de Azavedo, said: "The Chinese government is anxious to see the peace of the world restored, and it is the desire of the Chinese people that the Chinese government should be able to communicate its contents to the Emperor, and assured the Ministers that it would be done."

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