

ACROSS THE TUGELA.

Report That General Buller After Stiff Fighting Has Forced the Passage.

The War Office Has Accepted a Second Contingent from Canada.

Canadians May Have Seen Fighting, as There is a Report That Methuen's Line of Communication Has Been Cut—General Buller.

A SECOND CONTINGENT.

Canada's Offer of 2,000 Men Has Been Accepted.

The Forces Will Proceed to the Tugela River, Northwest of the Boer's Offer.

OTTAWA, Dec. 18.—The call to arms resounds throughout the broad dominion: once more are Canada's sons called upon to go out and fight for Queen and Empire. The critical condition of affairs in South Africa, brought about by recent reverses to British arms, was generally regarded here both on Saturday and yesterday as likely to lead to prompt acceptance by the imperial authorities of Canada's offer to furnish a second contingent.

My despatch of last night forecasted what was coming, and this afternoon, when it became known that the expected requisition had been received from the imperial authorities there was great enthusiasm in the city. The cabinet met at 10 o'clock this morning, one of the ministers being aware that the premier had the war office despatch in his possession. The information was communicated by Sir Wilfrid to his colleagues at the council meeting. When the cabinet met for lunch at 1 o'clock, the first minister informed the newspaper correspondents that only routine business had been transacted. Sir Wilfrid's statesman-like observation threw the newspaper men off their guard and was not borne out by facts, for at five o'clock the following official communication was handed out: "The imperial government have sent by cable their acceptance of the offer of the Canadian government made on the 7th of November last of a second contingent. A cabinet council was held this morning and instructions given to the militia department to prepare this second contingent to go forward at the earliest possible moment. A cable to this effect has been sent to the war office."

Immediately after the council broke up, Hon. Dr. Borden proceeded to his office and had a lengthy conference with General Buller as to the composition of the force which would be sent. The minister will report to his colleagues tomorrow on the subject, and an official announcement will then be made as to the composition of the contingent.

I saw the minister this evening and asked him how matters stood. He replied: " Doubtless you saw in the newspapers today the war office announcement that in accepting the offers of the colonies preference will be given to mounted contingents. You can draw your own inference from that. So far as the government or the department of militia is concerned, there is absolutely nothing settled, but you may expect an official announcement after the council meeting tomorrow. Even the number of men and horses which we shall send has not been determined, but we shall do credit to the country and send a body sufficient to be of real service."

From other sources, however, it is learned that it is practically settled the force will consist of cavalry, mounted police and artillery. The two first named constituting three or four squadrons of cavalry, and the

vessels can be procured it will be imperative upon the transport or transporters calling at Gibraltar to exercise horses, as without some exercise the animals would be practically skin and bone by the time they arrived at Cape Town and unfit for work except after five or six weeks' rest. It will not be possible to get a composite force of this character away before January 15th.

Col. Donville is here anxious to serve his Queen and country, but only as commanding officer of the cavalry. This, it may be stated once for all, will not be.

It is not known whether it will be allowed to be sent to the home country, but the home government will have to be satisfied with the night from the minister.

Telegrams from the minister of the continent Dr. Borden classifies this as their duty. All hoping right to be. Amid the stir and bustle of the steaming no one stops to ask where Mr. Tarte or what has become of his predecessor. He was not in town today, but look out for squalls tomorrow.

ACROSS THE TUGELA. Report That After a Stiff Fight Buller Has Crossed the River.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The Daily Mail bears from a hitherto reliable correspondent that Gen. Buller, after a stiff fight, crossed the Tugela river. The correspondent also states that Gen. Methuen's communications are cut.

GENERAL REVIEW.

Methuen Constructing Redoubts to Protect His Camp—Sharp Shooters for the Front.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—On no day since the war began has there been such a dearth of news from the seat of war as today. The war office has formed engineers at a late hour, but they are not despatched, but have been received, and with the exception of a brief despatch from Mr. Buller's headquarters, there has been no news.

The latest news from Modder River is dated Dec. 15. Gen. Methuen's position was then unchanged. The British were constructing a number of redoubts for the protection of the camp. The Boers could be seen improving their trenches. A hitherto reliable report that the British were shelled out of Vaal Kop by the Boers on Friday, and that they had returned to Arundel, is all the news in reference to the area where Gen. Buller's operations are being carried out. The British were shelled out of Vaal Kop by the Boers on Friday, and that they had returned to Arundel, is all the news in reference to the area where Gen. Buller's operations are being carried out.

As regards the cavalry arm, the Canadian dragoons similarly will constitute the backbone of the detachment. For this arm "A" squadron at Toronto will be extensively drawn upon, but the first, second, third, fourth, sixth and the eighth regiment and Kings county, Hussars will be called upon. In this way the total force will be brought up to the respectable figure of 800 or 900.

A difficult question facing the department is as to transportation, not so much of men but of horses. There will be no trouble about the men, but to box up over 1,000 horses on shipboard for three weeks is at least a very serious matter. The amount of space wanted will be considerable, and it is felt that two and possibly three vessels may be required, depending of course upon the size of the vessels that can be secured. The minister this afternoon set the wires in motion enquiring of steamship companies as to what they can do in the way of furnishing the government with suitable vessels.

Halifax will be the point of embarkation of the troops, and unless fast

data linger or that a defeat of the Boers at Magerfontein would affect the situation in Natal. The statement is confirmed that Lord Roberts will sail for Cape Town Saturday. He goes by the steamer Dunottar Castle, which also took Gen. Buller to the Cape. He will be accompanied by Major Gen. Kelly Kenny and the staff of the sixth division. Gen. Kelly Kenny and not Gen. Mansfield Clarke, as has been stated, commands the sixth division, which cannot be ready to set before the end of January at the earliest.

EMPLOYMENT OF MARINES.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—In a speech delivered in this city tonight the Rt. Hon. Geo. J. Goschen, first lord of the Admiralty, referred to the criticisms of the government for not employing the marines in South Africa. He said he regretted that such criticisms should have been made. It was sorry to know that the criticisms were to go to the front could not be recalled, but nothing could be allowed to impair the efficiency of the navy, especially as 120,000 soldiers were withdrawn from the country. It was necessary to look not only to South Africa, but without being necessarily alarmist to contemplate the possibilities of emergencies elsewhere.

VAAL KOP EVACUATED.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—According to the Mail's Naamport correspondent, who telegraphs under date of Dec. 16, the British have been obliged to evacuate Vaal Kop, their guns being outraged by the Boers' big guns. The evacuation was effected under a shell fire, which, however, did no damage.

TUGELA RIVER BATTLE.

Particulars of the Recent Reverses—Gen. Clery With Buller.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Freetown, telegraphing under date of Dec. 15, says: "The forces under Gen. Clery, Hart, Hildyard, Barton, and Lytton moved out of Chieveley camp at dawn today to force a passage across the Tugela river. The Boers in great force occupied a strong entrenched position commanding the river, and standing back about 500 yards from the British. The British brigades on the left attempted the crossing under a murderous Nordenfled and rifle fire. The Dublin and Inniskilling Fusiliers, the Borderers and the Connaught Rangers crossed with superb, unflinching gallantry, but the position on the other side was found utterly untenable. The men suffered heavily from a hail of shrapnel, while the British artillery was very badly mauled. They were consequently obliged to retreat. On the right, Hildyard's command were displaying equal tenacity, but were driven back entering Olenso, but the sixth brigade encountered a murderous fire, and was compelled to retire leaving their guns and ammunition wagons behind. The Connaught Rangers failed to fall back. Meanwhile Barton failed to seize Planjwal Hill, as was intended, and the entire force retired."

(An Associated Press despatch says Gen. Clery was in command.)

ANXIOUS TO VOLUNTEER.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—Among the numerous instances of the enthusiasm to volunteer is the case of the York and Lancaster militia battalion which is now in barracks at York. The regiment today the colonel addressed the 650 men and asked all who were willing to do service abroad to step arms. Every man promptly signified his willingness to serve his country. The colonel said that the present "battalion of the Highland light infantry have volunteered. The regular battalion of this regiment suffered severely at the battle of Magerfontein. It is understood that the government is not at present intended to call for Indian volunteers, the enrolled strength of whom is 20,727, as whites. They comprise of traders, clerks, artisans, etc."

FOUR REGIMENTS FROM INDIA.

LONDON, Dec. 18, 4.30 p. m.—The war office has been cross-examined by Gen. Sir William Lockhart, commander-in-chief in India, with a view of ascertaining what troops can be spared from his forces, and it is understood that as a result of these inquiries a force will almost immediately leave Bombay for Durban, including four regiments of seasoned troops, with an ammunition column and a brigade of artillery, including horse and field batteries.

PLENTY FOOD AND AMMUNITION.

J. B. Robinson, the South African millionaire, writes to the Daily Chronicle, re-assures that the Boers have unlimited supplies of ammunition and ample stores of food, and declaring that all statements to the contrary should be ignored.

WHAT LORD BEREFSFORD THINKS.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—Rear Admiral Lord Charles Berefsford is quoted in an interview today as saying: "The issue of the war will depend more upon artillery than anything else, especially at the siege of Freetown and other places where the biggest battles are expected. Therefore I urge that all the naval guns which can be spared from the reserves and other ships be mounted on artillery

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REVISED CASUALTY LIST.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The war office this evening posted a revised list of the casualties in the battle of Magerfontein, giving fifty-one additional killed.

GATACRE'S GUIDES.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Freetown says that the bodies of two of the guides who misled Gen. Gatacre at Stormberg were found in the battlefield. The men had been shot.

AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT.

MELBOURNE, Dec. 18.—An Australian mounted contingent of a thousand men will sail for South Africa before Jan. 10. An additional New South Wales battery of artillery is to sail immediately.

NOT LOSING ANY TIME.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—General Lord Roberts and his staff will sail for South Africa on the Dunottar Castle Saturday.

CAIRO, Dec. 18.—Gen. Lord Kitchener will leave Omdurman Tuesday and will arrive here Friday. He will start for Cape Town as soon as possible.

LIVELY TIMES IN DUBLIN.

DUBLIN, Dec. 18.—At Trinity college the students of law were conferred on Joseph Chamberlain, the British secretary of state for the colonies. There was a brilliant assemblage at the ceremony. Under the presidency of the college grounds and sang patriotic songs. Then they saluted the college green, cheering vociferously and carrying the royal standard and the Union Jack.

The latter was captured by the police, much to the annoyance of the students, who returned to the college in an ugly mood. They made a demonstration at the Mansion House, where they threw the green corporation flag to streets and caused some damage, the police being forced to intervene.

The students made a desperate effort to recapture the Union Jack when it was taken from them by the police, but the police were too strong for them. In the meantime a hostile crowd had assembled on college green and more stringent measures were taken to keep the students within the gates.

Mr. Chamberlain and his wife and Lady Betty Balfour when driving to the college were cheered at some points. But there was a noticeable difference of opinion among the crowds lining the streets. While the procession was passing from the provost's residence to examination hall the cheering was deafening. The students lined the passageway and held aloft Union Jacks, under which the procession passed. Mr. Chamberlain appeared to thoroughly enjoy the demonstration. As the procession entered the hall the cheering and held aloft Union Jacks, under which the procession passed.

At the close of the ceremony Mr. Chamberlain, in response to the cries of the students, said they had met in very disappointing circumstances. If the arrangements had been recent, he added, he would not have chosen the present occasion to receive the honor from the university. Their minds, Mr. Chamberlain continued, were solemly by the serious news from South Africa, but England had always been accustomed to hold her own in adversity. He was old enough to remember the Crimean and the earlier period of the Indian mutiny, when England met with greater disasters than she had just experienced, but eventually the nation sprang to its feet and recovered its equilibrium, and no doubt it would do so again.

In conclusion, Mr. Chamberlain exhorted the students, now that he was one of their doctors, to practice the virtues of toleration and patience. The students who attacked the Mansion House numbered about 150. They beat the corporation, who attempted to protect the corporation gates.

THE HAND OF PROVIDENCE.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The Central News's war correspondent at Sierkstroom, who was captured while attending an ambulance after Gen. Gatacre's defeat and then released, telegraphs under date of Dec. 14 that he interviewed the Boer commandeurs. He says they talked modestly and frankly. They ascribed their victory undoubtedly to the direct intervention of Providence, which they declared was surely watching over the armies of the republicans. A senior officer said:

(Continued on Page Eight.)

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