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RECEIVED BY WIRE POSITION IMPREGNABLE

Boers Hold 14 Miles of Continuous Defensive Positions.

ENGLISH ARE UNCERTAIN—KRUGER IS COMPLAINING.

London Times Says British Victories Are as Yet Unimportant.

Disagreement in Kruger's Forces—Freestaters Are Apathetic—Only Ten Thousand Fought at Modder River—General Woodgate, Wounded at Spionkop, Dead—Black Plague in Honolulu—Ruskin Buried—Death of Fannie Hall.

London, via Skagway, Jan. 31.—Gen. Warren has captured the town of Speonkoup, which, as related in yesterday's dispatches, had been attacked on the 22d. The town was well defended by heavy artillery, but the Boers were compelled to retreat after submitting to a continuous artillery fire lasting all day.

Gen. Warren has established his headquarters in the captured town and states as his opinion that the Boer positions between Speonkoup and Ladysmith are practically impregnable. For a distance of 14 miles one continuous line of fortified entrenchments occur behind which the Boers are stationed in force and prepared to make the most desperate resistance. The entire country is a succession of rugged hills and deep ravines, which are well adapted to the Boer methods of fighting and render the position now occupied by the British extremely uncertain.

Success Not Important.

London, via Skagway, Jan. 31.—The Times of the 26th inst states that British successes thus far gained do not warrant any considerable degree of importance being attached thereto. It will be necessary according to the view taken by that paper to await subsequent developments before it will be possible to forecast the effect of the recent British movements. Undoubtedly progress has been made, but, says the Times, when it has been stated that the British are making steady progress everything has been said that the situation up to date will warrant.

Don't Co-Operate.

London, via Skagway, Jan. 31.—Under date of Jan. 25 a dispatch from Capetown states that the most bitter animosity exists between the Boers and the soldiers from the Free State. President Kruger has issued a statement wherein he deplors the fact that at the battle of Modder river nearly one half of the Free State forces refrained from taking any part in the fight and remained in their camp. There is evidently a serious breach brewing between the allied forces, but to what extent it

will effect subsequent actions remains yet to be seen.

General Woodgate Killed.

London, via Skagway, Jan. 31.—A dispatch from Capetown under date of Jan. 26, states that Gen. Woodgate, who was wounded during the attack on Speonkoup, has died as a result of his wounds. Gen. Woodgate was held in the highest esteem by his men for his gallantry and other soldierly qualities. His death has caused a general expression of regret from all the papers.

Ruskin Buried.

London, via Skagway, Jan. 31.—The funeral ceremonies over the remains of the late John Ruskin occurred at Conerton on the 26th inst. The ceremony was typical of the rural life led by the deceased, the grave being covered with white lilies and other flowers. Memorial services were held today in Westminster Abbey. The ceremony was attended by a large audience of distinguished personages, including numerous members of nobility and several of the royal family.

The Plague.

Honolulu, via Skagway, Jan. 31.—The bubonic plague has reached serious proportions. Thirty four cases were reported up to the 17th inst, seventeen of which have already proven fatal. The strictest kind of quarantine is being maintained, but it seems impossible to stop the spread of the dread disease.

Fannie Hall Killed.

Skagway, Jan. 31.—A report was received here upon the arrival of the steamboat Tees, to the effect that Fannie Hall, the well known variety actress and member of the vocal team of Hastings and Hall, was shot and killed by a person who was insanely jealous of her affections. No particulars of the affair can be secured.

Nomads at Skaguay.

Skagway, Jan. 31.—The town is full of people en route to Dawson and Nome. The heavy snow storm has delayed their departure for the interior, but they are now getting under way. Among those who are ready to leave are the following: Fred Gash, Henry Lambere, Henry Seidler and Jimmy Forest. This party has 30 dogs and states that they will make the trip right on to Nome. They leave Skagway tomorrow.

Natal Volunteers.

London, Jan. 14.—The war office today issued the following dispatch

from Gen. Buller, dated Frere Camp, Dec. 9, afternoon: "The following was received from Gen. White today: Last night sent Gen. Hunter with 500 Natal volunteers under Roystan and 100 of the Imperial Light Horse under Edwards to surprise a gun on a hill. The enterprise was admirably carried out and was entirely successful, the hill being captured and a six inch gun and a Howitzer being destroyed with gun cotton by Capt. Fowke and Lieut. Turner. A Maxim was captured and brought to Ladysmith. Our loss was one killed and Major Henderson of the first battalion of the Argyll Highlanders wounded. At the same time Col. Knox seized the hill, one squadron of the 19th Hussars rode round Pepworth hill, burning kraals and cutting the Boer telegraph lines. They had no casualties."

POLICE COURT.

It was a short calendar in Captain Starnes' court this morning, only three cases being on for hearing.

Matheson of claims 10 and 11 below on Sulphur, acknowledged owing a miner by the name of O'Brien \$183.15 and was given until February 15th to pay that amount with costs into the court.

Jacob Nowfak's grievance was that he had worked 18 hours each day for eight days in the employ of Chas. Carroll, proprietor of the California Bakery and that he had been paid off at the rate of \$5 instead of \$5 per diem as Nowfak claims he earned. As no stipulated wage had been made, Carroll stated that \$5 was all and more than the man was worth as a baker. He said he, Nowfak, had spoiled the business of his concern by turning out bad bread, much of which had to be sold for dog feed; and an armful of the output which could not even be sold for dog feed was brought by Carroll into court, but it was not admitted as evidence; however, the portions of it seen showed it to be a burlesque—travesty, so to speak—on the staff of life. The case was continued until this afternoon in order that expert testimony might be introduced regarding the going rate of bakers' wages.

The third and last case heard this morning was one of interest to all who employ labor or are employed in mines under contract to be paid at the clean up. The case in question was that of Joseph Smith vs. J. W. Murphy for \$60. labor performed on the latter's claim, 43 below on Sulphur. Each man had a copy of their signed contract to the effect that Smith was to be employed until the cleanup, at which time he was to be paid for his labor. But as Smith was discharged and refused on demanding the payment of his wages during the time he was employed, the action was brought. The court held that the act of discharging the man forfeited the contract regarding payment at the cleanup, and ordered that the amount of the debt be paid into court tomorrow. During the trial it was proven that Murphy is rocking out as work progresses and that when the time for the general cleanup comes the dump of 43 below on Sulphur will afford very slim picking.

Weather Report.

Last night the lowest temperature, according to the government thermometer, was 11 degrees below zero. At noon the official instrument registered 5 degrees above, which temperature is the highest on record since the 9th of December, 1899.

The next messenger of the Nugget Express leaves for the coast Saturday, February 3, 1900.

ROASTS RIDGE ROAD

D. L. S. Barwell Points Out Its Deficiencies.

BIG EXPENSE AND SMALL RESULTS

The Wishes of Miners and Claim Owners Were Disregarded.

Statement of Mr. C. S. W. Barwell— Of 40 Miles of Government Road Only 12 Miles Are Traversable Where the Trail Follows Creeks.

On the 13th of last July the Yukon council appropriated \$10,000 for the purpose of commencing the construction of government trails on the various creeks. Some few weeks later surveyors were engaged to make the preliminary surveys, and then it was ascertained that the government intended to have the wagon roads located on the ridges. Numerous protests were filed with Commissioner Ogilvie by claim owners and freighters, and it was strenuously urged that the proposed roads should follow the creek bottoms. For a time it seemed as though the members of the council would give heed to the petitions of the miners. Captain Belcher of the N. W. M. P., who had been detailed to ascertain the views of the miners respecting the location of the trail reported to Commissioner Ogilvie on August 24th that the miners were practically unanimous in their efforts to have the roads located in the gulches; but nevertheless the government officials adhered to the original plan of constructing the trails on the ridges. In course of time, the roads were so constructed.

While the trails were being built, numerous complaints were made to the effect that the roads were being poorly constructed, and that at all seasons of the year they would be inaccessible. Unfortunately both of these predictions have been proven to be true. As in previous years, the creek beds are used by travelers and freighters, wherever possible; and the government ridge trails are only resorted to where no other can be had.

Mr. C. S. W. Barwell, Dominion land surveyor, in speaking of the government roads said:

"The trails built by the council last fall are, for the greater part, useless for any purposes whatever. The government road from Dawson to No. 60 below on Bonanza is traversable from here to No. 87 below, after which the old tram-road trail is used as far as Grand Forks. The creek bed is the road from Grand Forks to Carmack's forks. From Carmack's forks to what is known as the Junction, which is located on the

(Continued on Page 2.)

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