

SOUTH AFRICA.

P. Louter Wessels, One of the Boer Envoys Now in Africa.

Doubts the Truth of the Report of the Flogging of the Peace Commissioners.

LONDON, Jan. 13.—Lord Kitchener reports several skirmishes at different points, with trifling British losses, and adds:

"Three agents of the peace committee were taken as prisoners to De Wet's laager, near Lindley, Jan. 10. One, who was a British subject, was flogged and then shot. The other two, burghers, were flogged by De Wet's orders."

LONDON, Jan. 13.—The war office has received the following despatch from Lord Kitchener:

"PRETORIA, Sunday, Jan. 13.—About 1,400 Boers crossed the line, attacking the Zwartkops and Kasalfontein stations, but were driven off. They are being pursued by a cavalry brigade."

LONDON, Jan. 14, 4.30 a. m.—The brief report of the fate of three members of the peace committee, who were sent to see General De Wet, excites the deepest indignation on all sides. One or two papers express a hope that Lord Kitchener has been misled by false Kaffir reports, but it is generally felt that he would not have reported the matter to the war office without undoubted evidence.

The Daily Mail heads the report with the word "Murder," and declares against any further attempt to coax the enemy into submission.

"De Wet has placed himself outside the pale of humanity," says the Daily Mail, "and not proceeding but large reinforcements must be our watchword."

The Morning Post says: "This marks the point where the guerilla phase ends and the hand-to-hand phase begins."

All the papers appeal strongly to the government to hurry forward reinforcements, since it is evident that the Boer leaders have now become desperate and conciliation is quite useless.

The Pretoria correspondent of the Daily Mail announces the return to Pretoria of Mr. Pretorius, a former president of the late South African Republic, from a futile endeavor to persuade the Boer leaders to surrender.

LONDON, Jan. 14.—The Daily Telegraph publishes a three column despatch from its correspondent at Brussels, giving a conversation with Dr. Leyds and Abraham Fischer. The general purport of the statement of the Boer representative is that: "Great Britain is still under false impressions concerning the war, as she always has been, and that the Boers are fully resolved to continue the struggle and are fully resolved to continue the struggle and are as hopeful now as they were a year ago of preserving their independence."

Dr. Leyds and Fischer also asserted that Great Britain cannot make enormous sacrifices eternally and that she has retained the friendship of the great powers at a terrible cost.

They admitted the Boers were suffering hardships, but said that hardship constituted the normal life of the burghers.

NEW YORK, Jan. 14.—The London correspondent of the Tribune says: The announcement is made by the Post that the scheme for raising a colonial police force has been abandoned for the present. The rates of pay were not considered tempting enough by the people living in South Africa, and of 18,000 men who applied to the United Kingdom to join the force only 500 or so were selected as suitable.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Jan. 14.—P. Louter Wessels, one of the Boer envoys to this country, today said to the Associated Press regarding Gen. Kitchener's despatch as to the flogging of three commissioners by Gen. De Wet near Lindley last week, and the shooting of one of them:

"I am certain the report is false. Such an act is contrary to Gen. De Wet's character and contrary to the nature and policy of the Boers. The Boers' only hope now is in arousing the sympathy of the world by the justice of our cause and our conduct of the war. Such an act as whipping and shooting peace commissioners might lose us that sympathy."

LONDON, Jan. 15.—The official list of the British casualties in the recent fighting at Belfast, shows 23 killed, 53 wounded and 72 missing. This does not account for the British losses at other points of simultaneous attacks by the Boers, namely, Wonderfontein, Noolitgedacht and Wildfontein, and shows that affairs in that quarter were more serious than Lord Kitchener reported them to be.

A POPULAR THEME.

Story of Britain's Decadence as Dished up for American Consumption.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—Great Britain's decadence is becoming quite a popular theme. Self-debasement and self-flagellation seem to be congenial to the chastened spirit of the nation, forced to realize, through the accumulation of reverses, military and diplomatic and industrial, that Great Britain's pre-eminence is past. It is almost a daily occurrence for some London newspaper to parade the shortcomings of the country, instituting comparisons with the United States and Germany, little complimentary to Great Britain.

"Lost opportunities," says the Morning Post, "is the keynote, and the British which could dictate its will to the ends of the earth is today a myth."

The great woolen and allied trades threaten to be revolutionized by an American machine which is now operating at Bradford.

"What it will open up is not fully apparent at first sight," says the Bradford Observer, "but it looks as if the position at present occupied by Arkwright and Crompton in the world of inventors during the 19th Century is to be superseded by Drury in the 20th. How is it that this idea was left to a Yankee lawyer to bring out?"

Drury's invention is described as the simplest yet devised. It is capable of spinning the toughest yarns from asbestos or peat moss without any machinery. Drury left Boston two years ago.

The Daily Telegraph calls attention to the enormous increase in the use of American confectionery in England. Even from the Philippines come requests to adopt American methods. Mr. Percival of London, writing to the Times from Manila, urges the British troops in South Africa to use the tuncat pencil, worn by the American troops, to protect the spine, and also their webbing cartridge belt and method for preserving surgical dressings.

Senator Proctor's Italian marble corner draws forth from today an indignant protest. It says: "Who, for instance, is Senator Proctor, that he should create for his own enrichment a scarcity of Carrara marble, in which the highest art of all ages in Europe has found its noblest expression, and so on in a similar strain, maintaining that the senator has no right to assume a dictatorship of the world's art."

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

PARIS, Jan. 14.—In the chamber of deputies today the government was interpellated by M. Marcel Sembat, radical socialist, on the "interference of the Pope in the domestic affairs of France," as shown in the recent letter of the Pope to Cardinal Trichard, Archbishop of Paris, dealing with the proposed bill of the premier, known as the law of associations, and aiming at the suppression of religious communities in which the Pontiff defended the religious orders. M. Sembat asked the government to protest against this letter.

M. Ribot, the former premier, defended the Pope, who he said was entitled to raise his voice when he thought religious interests were in peril.

The statement called forth cheers from the rightists and centrists.

A SOHOONER ASHORE.

LIVERPOOL, N. S., Jan. 14.—The schooner Joseph B. McGuire, from Boston, bound for Newfoundland, with 500 barrels on board, went ashore at Gull Island, Thursday night, in a snow storm. She is full of water and will probably be a total wreck.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

Premature Inquiries as to Disposal of Money.

Second Contingent, But Just Returned Home—Strathco, a Still in the Field—Unreasonable Requests for Aid.

(Special to Toronto Globe.)

OTTAWA, Jan. 8.—People who have conceived the idea that the war in South Africa is over are making inquiries as to what disposition will be made of the large balance still available out of subscriptions to the Patriotic Fund. But the war is by no means over yet, and Strathco, Horse, or at least what is left of them, are still in the field. Moreover, a force of over 800 Canadians have only just reached the shores of Canada. Until all the troops are back, and the Patriotic Fund Association know exactly the number and nature of the demands upon them for relief, it will be impossible to say how the fund will be apportioned. A number of cases have already been dealt with on their merits, but the disposition of such cases is not final, and in some instances the relief granted may be supplemented by further assistance. The total subscriptions amounted to \$339,653, and this sum was increased to \$5,856 by interest earned on deposits.

THE DISBURSEMENTS. Altogether, \$27,873 has up to date been paid out to soldiers' dependents, of whom there were 333 on the payroll. To invalided soldiers there has been paid out \$4,884; the number aided being 135. Widows, orphans and dependents of deceased soldiers have received \$12,952, while the small sum of \$303 has been paid out to dependents of Canadians in the imperial force, under certain special circumstances.

Under certain special circumstances, relief has been granted, paid out of its relief has been \$45,818, and deducting disbursements for printing, postage, etc., the balance in hand amounts to \$286,822. In the case of soldiers' dependents, it should be mentioned that the payments stop a month after the return home of the bread-winner, so that the number receiving relief is gradually diminishing.

DISABLED SOLDIERS. With respect to invalided or disabled soldiers, the assistance given depends upon the extent of the sickness or injury arising from service in the field. It was thought desirable to give a gratuity of \$1,000. Others who are totally incapacitated from earning a livelihood have been awarded \$300 a month. Others again, who are only partially disabled, are being paid from 50 cents to \$1 a day, according to the circumstances of each individual case may warrant. Widows and orphans stand in need of the most generous treatment. The former are given \$1,000 and the latter 10 cents a day until they reach the age of 15. The payments to widows, however, are not made in a lump sum, for fear the money might be imprudently expended. The advice of some local clergyman or reliable citizen who knows the circumstances of the beneficiary is obtained, and payment is made monthly, after the manner of the otherwise doomed best.

In a few instances the \$1,000 has been expended in paying off mortgage indebtedness on the bereaved person's farm. Usually the aid granted to dependent parents or sisters who are dependent upon the dead soldier amounts to \$500.

UNREASONABLE APPLICATIONS. All sorts of applications are made for relief from the fund, which could not be acceded to without departing from the purpose for which the money was subscribed. For example, several soldiers have applied for assistance because they could not obtain work, or because they desired to travel to some distant part of Canada. Such applications have almost invariably been refused. Perhaps the one exception made is with regard to Private Thompson of Ottawa, who won one of the Queen's medals for distinguished gallantry. Private Thompson reports that he is unable to secure employment, and the Patriotic Fund executive would like to hear of some one who could provide the gallant soldier with occupation.

NEWBURG JUNCTION NEWS. NEWBURG JUNCTION, Jan. 12.—Patrick Owens, who has been section foreman here for twenty-eight years, has resigned from the C. P. R. He started on the road when the narrow gauge line began, and has been continuously in the service ever since.

Ernest Kiffin, the young man who was so badly injured a few days ago, is not expected to recover, his spine being injured.

The school formerly taught by Miss B. Brittain will be closed for the winter. The school at Ferris of Cardigan, who succeeded Miss Holmes.

Miss Annie Owens has gone to Boston for a few weeks, to visit her sisters there.

HOPWELL HILL. Precautionary Measures Against the Introduction of Smallpox. HOPWELL HILL, Jan. 11.—Particulars of the death of Mrs. A. H. Kinney, formerly of this place, which recently occurred at her home in New York, show that the deceased lost her life through being overcome by smoke from a fire that gutted the lower portion of the residence on E. 58th street, where Captain and Mrs. Kinney made their home. Mrs. Kinney was alone in her room at the time, and though no fire entered the room the volume of smoke that poured in proved fatal to the unfortunate lady, who it is supposed succumbed almost instantly. The fire below prevented the possibility of a rescue, though most gallant efforts were made by the members of the police force.

The closing clause of the annual report of the chairman of the board of health states that in view of the prevalence of smallpox in other parts of the province, the board are already considering the taking of precautionary measures against the introduction of the disease into this county, and of the proper control of the same should it unfortunately make its appearance here. In this connection the board earnestly solicit the assistance of the public generally in their efforts to prevent the disease gaining a foothold in the county and in the proper dealing with the same should be necessary. The report also shows the general health to be up to the average.

Job Stiles had a fine horse killed in the woods at Chemical Road a day or two ago. E. Stiles left this morning for his home in New York.

HALIFAX AWAKE.

City Council and Board of Trade Discuss the Proposed Steel Shipbuilding Works.

Board of Trade Favor a Bounty per Ton on Vessels Built and the Council a Twenty Year Subsidy.

HALIFAX, N. S., Jan. 14.—The establishment at Halifax of a big steel shipbuilding enterprise is being agitated. The city is asked to assist it financially. A joint meeting of a City Council and Board of Trade committee was held tonight to discuss what help should be given. The Board of Trade all representatives on the other hand, were willing to grant a subsidy of \$5,000 a year if the proposed shipyard were constructed, and an additional subsidy of \$4,000 a year if the establishment induced boiler and engine works. The city's subsidy would be for a period of 20 years.

The promoters say that the steel shipbuilding works they propose at Halifax will be as large as any in the world. They would build freight and passenger steamers. It is intended to take the dominion and provincial governments also for subsidies.

LONDON AND GLOBE FAILURE. At a Meeting of the Stockholders Yesterday it was Decided to Wind up the Concern.

LONDON, Jan. 14.—At the adjourned meeting today of the stockholders of the London and Globe Corporation, Ltd., it was resolved to voluntarily wind up the concern.

Whitaker Wright explained that the directors wanted £200,000 to pay the debts, and several hundred thousand pounds with which to carry on operations. Since the last meeting, he added, the directors had been negotiating for the sale of the Baker street Waterloo railroad for £500,000, and it was expected that an agreement would be signed today. It was then proposed to proceed with the reconstruction of the corporation.

The corporation's assets, Mr. Wright added, amounted to nearly three millions, and though there had been a depreciation in prices they would soon recover. In regard to the alleged un-pleasant scheming against the corporation, Mr. Wright said a certain engineer offered the manager of the Le Roi mine £100,000 profit on the stock exchange to diminish the output, and wreck the mine. In response to indignant shouts of "No!" Mr. Wright replied that the matter was in the hands of lawyers, and if it could be proved the name would be made public. In reply to other queries, Mr. Wright admitted that the Baker street railroad, which they were selling for £200,000, was valued on the books of the corporation at £300,000.

Lord Dufferin, in thanking the shareholders for their courtesy to him, said it was the last time he would preside. This was taken to mean that he had again resigned the chairmanship of the corporation.

SACKVILLE. Impressive Memorial Service Re the Late Mrs. Archibald.

SACKVILLE, N. B., Jan. 12.—The remains of Mrs. Archibald came yesterday on the C. P. R. from New York, and were taken to the parlors of the Ladies' college. This morning an impressive funeral service was held in the Methodist church. Addresses were given by Dr. Stewart, Dr. Brecken and Dr. Allison. Music was rendered by a quartette with Miss Borden as organist. The church was well filled with students and citizens to pay their last sad farewell to one who was so intimately connected with the life of Mt. Allison. There were many beautiful flowers from the university faculty, the Alumnae society, the students of the Ladies' college, Dr. and Mrs. Brecken, Senator and Mrs. Wood. The remains left on the morning train for Interment in Halifax tomorrow. Dr. Borden, Dr. Stewart and Prof. Hammond accompanied Dr. Archibald on the journey.

BANGOR, Me., Jan. 12.—In the supreme court today, in the divorce case of Mrs. Josephine Cota of Old Town against her husband, Joseph Cota, the wife created a sensation by declaring on the stand that her husband had kept her locked up in a room not much larger than a closet from August, 1898, until April, 1900.

HON. MR. BLAIR TALKS.

Tells What He Proposes Doing Between Sydney and Truro.

The Minister Favors a Non-partizan Railway Commission and is Preparing a Bill for that Purpose.

MONTREAL, Jan. 14.—Hon. A. G. Blair yesterday made several important statements, which are, perhaps, the most important utterances of that gentleman since he became minister of railways. He stated that \$2,000,000 would be spent by the government in improving the Intercolonial system between Truro, N. S., and Sydney. The development of the iron and coal industry of Cape Breton is one of the greatest matters the government is called upon to consider at present, said the minister of railways. "It is bound to open up limitless possibilities, not only to the maritime provinces, but to all Canada. The contiguous existence of both iron and coal in immense quantities have for centuries been one of the principal reasons of England's greatness. We have similar conditions in Cape Breton. The possibilities of the future we can speculate about, but the prospects of the immediate future are so apparent that I have felt it my duty to prepare for an enormously increased business over the government railway from Sydney to the metropolitan city of Canada."

Asked to outline improvements contemplated by the railway department, as a result of the recent trip of himself and the heads of the operating department to that section, Mr. Blair said: "Our first big difficulty is where the railway crosses the Straits of Canso, between Port Mulgrave and Port Hastings. At present there is a most inconvenient switchback at Port Mulgrave and an antiquated ferry service, consisting of a tugboat and scow, which conveys one freight car at a time across the straits, but cannot accommodate a passenger car. The government has recently ordered from the Armstrong, Whitworth, Co. of Newcastle-on-Tyne a modern steel scow of two thousand horse power, so constructed as to overcome any difficulty with ice. She will cost \$300,000, and will carry a locomotive with a train of four cars each trip. On the Port Hastings side the wharf will remain where it is at Point Tupper, and we will make the trip across diagonally from a wharf a mile and a half south of Port Mulgrave, where the line will run direct, going away with the switchback. Plans are prepared and before another year the new approaches, wharves and ferry will be completed and in operation. The terminal facilities at Sydney are at present very limited. Scores of land suitable for yards and terminal facilities have been purchased at a very little advance on the prices of a few years ago and very much less than had it become known for what purpose the land was wanted. There are thirty acres more land in which we are interested," said Mr. Blair, "but they are water lots and will have to be filled in. Another twenty acres we have practically arranged to purchase at a reasonable figure. This will give us ample room for yards and terminal facilities. The station house at Sydney is totally inadequate to conditions. It is proposed to build a new commodious station house and freight sheds. Plans for these, as well as for yard improvements, have all been approved and work will be commenced in the spring. Another plan to which attention is being given is the doing away with many level crossings along the line where it enters and runs through a town, and negotiations are now pending for surveys or bridges. Of course," said Mr. Blair, "I am in the hands of parliament in the matter of obtaining the necessary money for these vast improvements. At present we cannot handle the traffic on this part of the line which has increased by leaps and bounds. We cannot get rolling stock fast enough. On the first of next month we will have delivered to us sixty new locomotives, constructed all over the continent at the shortest possible notice in order to enable us to keep pace with the increase of traffic on the Intercolonial. We are also getting about the same time twelve hundred freight cars. The Intercolonial railway is doing a big business and is likely to do bigger before long."

Speaking regarding relations with the Canadian Pacific railway, he said people were too ready to jump on that corporation and criticize all they do. But it is easier to criticize and abuse than it is to do things. The point seems to think the appointment of a railway commission will settle everything, but he stated he is not so enthusiastic over it. Mr. Blair, however, stated he was distinctly in favor of the appointment of a non-partizan railway commission, and he is now engaged preparing a bill for that purpose. He also expressed the hope that the commission would relieve the minister and his department of onerous duties. He also stated he would act as an individual support of a railway company to build a line from the international boundary to the coal and gold fields of British Columbia, but could not say what steps the railway committee would take on this probable action on any particular bill. But the coal areas in British Columbia are limitless and he could not see why coal should not be sold in the United States or anywhere else.

WOLFVILLE. The Truro News says grippa has taken hold of the citizens of that town in earnest.

AMHERST, N. S., Jan. 13.—The numerous friends in and outside the county of Westmorland of Arthur S. Lewis, a student of Acadia College, Wolfville, will be pleased to hear that he has received and accepted a unanimous call to the pastorate of the Aylesford, N. S., Baptist church, lately under the charge of Rev. Mr. Morgan, who resigned to accept a call to Nelson, B. C. Mr. Lewis will, as far as possible, supply the pulpit until he graduates in June, when he will make his home at Aylesford. He is a son of Mrs. James Rogers of Sackville and his wife is a daughter of the late Rev. David C. Lawson of Westmorland and sister of Rev. George A. Lawson, pastor of the First Baptist church at Isaac Harbor.

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Another Ocean to Ocean Scheme in Which the Grand Trunk is Interested.

CHICAGO, Jan. 14.—The Record will say tomorrow: "Another ocean-to-ocean railroad scheme is reported to be taking form. It involves two Chicago lines—the Grand Trunk and the Wisconsin Central, and provides for the Grand Trunk's assumption of control of the Wisconsin Central. This is the route in mind: Portland, Me., to Chicago, Grand Trunk; Chicago to Ashland, Wis., Wisconsin Central; Ashland to Duluth, Northern Pacific; a new line Duluth to Winnipeg, line proposed by a syndicate, headed by Wm. McKenzie, and Winnipeg to Vancouver, lines projected by James Dunsmuir.

The Grand Trunk is said to have long desired to push into Manitoba, in order to offer competition to its powerful rival, the Canadian Pacific. If the trans-continental scheme is carried out, a new line 80 miles in length will have to be built to connect Ashland with Duluth.

There are strong indications that the Northern Pacific, the Great Northern and the Canadian Pacific lines have anticipated a trans-continental movement on the part of the Grand Trunk, McKenzie and Dunsmuir. It is said that the Lake Superior-Manitoba company, which filed articles of incorporation a short time ago, was designed to keep the McKenzie-Duluth-Winnipeg project from being carried out.

The Canada Atlantic company is said to be the power behind the Lake Superior and Manitoba.

MUST GO. WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—Consul General Maxwell at Santo Domingo City has sent a partial response to the telegraphic inquiry of the state department as to press reports of a revolution by Santo Domingo of the rights held by an American syndicate. Mr. Maxwell states that the Santo Domingo government has asked the consular representatives, including the representative of the United States, to receive and administer the government revenues, which have heretofore been administered by the syndicate.

The consul general does not give full details of the transaction, and the state department has not yet formulated its course or taken further action than that of asking Mr. Maxwell for the facts and conveying a delicate intimation that precipitate action by the Santo Domingans should be deferred.

HAS ACCEPTED THE CALL. AMHERST, N. S., Jan. 13.—The numerous friends in and outside the county of Westmorland of Arthur S. Lewis, a student of Acadia College, Wolfville, will be pleased to hear that he has received and accepted a unanimous call to the pastorate of the Aylesford, N. S., Baptist church, lately under the charge of Rev. Mr. Morgan, who resigned to accept a call to Nelson, B. C. Mr. Lewis will, as far as possible, supply the pulpit until he graduates in June, when he will make his home at Aylesford. He is a son of Mrs. James Rogers of Sackville and his wife is a daughter of the late Rev. David C. Lawson of Westmorland and sister of Rev. George A. Lawson, pastor of the First Baptist church at Isaac Harbor.

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Advertisement for 'RIPPER' and 'STARR MFG. CO.' featuring 'Hockey Skates stamped Starr Mfg. Co.' and 'Whelpley's Long Reach and Breen Racers.' Includes address 'W. H. THORNE & CO. LTD., ST. JOHN, N. B.' and '1 Main St.'

Advertisement for 'SKATES' featuring an illustration of a hockey skate and the text 'Insist on having your Acme or Hockey Skates stamped Starr Mfg. Co. Beware of worthless imitations. Whelpley's Long Reach and Breen Racers. W. H. THORNE & CO. LTD., ST. JOHN, N. B.'

Continuation of news articles from the middle column, including reports on local events and community news.

Continuation of news articles from the right column, including reports on local events and community news.