

Ladysmith Pressed.

Boer Shell Fire Becoming Very Damaging and Laagers Moved Nearer.

Buller's Forces Prepare for Important Move While Enemy Draw Off.

Artillery Reinforcements Now on Hand But Frontal Attack Not Looked for.

By Associated Press. London, Dec. 30, 5 a.m.—The latest special despatches from Chieveley about hint at some important movement as imminent. This is interpreted to mean that Gen. Buller contemplates a renewal of his attempt to relieve Ladysmith. It is reported by the same despatches that the Boers have now retired to the north bank of the Tugela river, being afraid that the swollen river may bar their retreat. They are also moving their laagers nearer Ladysmith, probably with the intention of putting further pressure on the garrison, which now seems to be suffering pretty heavily from the bombardment.

Kimberley Tests Enemy.

Small British Force Reconnoiter and Draw Heavy Fire from Boers.

Who Reveal Three Guns and Ability to Quickly Call Reinforcements.

By Associated Press. Kimberley, Friday, Dec. 22, via Modder River, Wednesday, Dec. 27.—Before dawn today a detachment of the mounted forces, with artillery and light infantry, moved out in a westerly direction. Boer artillery from Kamperdam opened fire at 0.15 a.m., Kimberley replying with twenty shells.

DELAGOA BAY DISCUSSED.

Desired Ultimately to Be British Possession but Not Politic to Make Change Now.

Berlin, Dec. 29.—The Neueste Nachrichten questions the right of Great Britain to confiscate gold ingots which are being transported from the Transvaal to Europe.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The reports that the Boer authorities have threatened to reduce the rations of the British prisoners at Pretoria in case Great Britain stops the entry of food supplies at Delagoa Bay is now being met by the official communications of United States Consul Hollis at Pretoria.

PARLIAMENT CALLED.

And No Prospect of General Elections Until After the Usual Session.

OTTAWA, Dec. 29.—An extra of the Canada Gazette was issued this afternoon calling parliament for the despatch of business on February 1.

NEWFOUNDLAND LOBSTERS.

French Modes Vivendi May Be Extended Not to Add to British Embarrassments.

St. John's, Nfld., Dec. 29.—The modish vivendi respecting the Newfoundland French shore lobster fishery will expire December 31. Serious trouble will arise on the coast if this agreement is not renewed.

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OTTAWA, Dec. 29.—(Special)—The customs receipts for December increased nearly half a million.

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STOPPAGE OF FOODSTUFFS.

Discussion of Question Whether They May Properly Be Treated as Contraband.

London, Dec. 30.—Lord Rosebery writes as follows to the Times: "There are disquieting intimations which appear to point to our government having treated foodstuffs as contraband of war."

THE TIMES, commenting editorially upon Lord Rosebery's letter, says: "Too little is known of the seizures for a valid inference to be drawn."

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Position Improving

Chieveley and Ladysmith Now in Communication by Signal Service.

Boer Attempts to Ruin Messages Bring Few Shells Their Way.

Citizens of Kimberley Send New Year's Greetings to Her Majesty.

By Associated Press. London, Dec. 31, 4.30 a.m.—The war office in communicating at about midnight copies of the messages from the inhabitants of Kimberley to the Queen and of the Queen's reply, which was signed by Sir Arthur John Biggs, Her Majesty's private secretary, stated that to further news had been received up to that hour, and nothing of importance has come from other sources during the night.

BLUEJACKETS AT WORK.

Chieveley and Ladysmith are in full communication. While the signalling was in progress the Boers attempted to muddle the messages with flash lights from each extremity of their long entrenched lines.

COMMUNICATION RESTORED.

A despatch from Capetown dated Wednesday, December 27, announces that an armored train had restored communication with Dordrecht where the Free State flag has been hauled down, and that the Boers had been driven from the adjacent hills to Stormberg.

KIMBERLEY'S GREETINGS.

The war office issued a despatch dated Capetown, Friday, December 29, conveying the following message from the Queen to the inhabitants of Kimberley: "I am glad to hear that you are still holding out bravely."

BOER REPORT.

Pretoria, Dec. 29.—Three British prisoners from Mallo report Captains Verdon and Sandford, of Col. Baden-Powell's staff, were killed during the operation in which Lord Cavendish-Bentley was wounded.

MAHER'S WIFE DEAD.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 30.—The wife of Peter Maher, who was to have fought Kid McCoy at the Omaha Island Club Monday afternoon, died to-night. As a result of her death a postponement of the fight appears inevitable.

MCGILL MEN DEFEATED.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—The McGill University hockey team defeated the All New Yorks by a score of 10 to 6.

FOUR LIVES LOST.

Lancaster, Pa., Dec. 30.—Four men were killed and several injured by a boiler explosion near Erie, Pa., yesterday.

QUEEN'S NEW YEAR'S HONORS

Diplomatic Services Prominent in the Shorter List Than Usual—New Canadian N. C. M. G.

London, Jan. 1.—The Queen's list of New Year honours published last evening shows fewer names than usual.

Baron Cromer, British diplomatic agent in Egypt, Lord Montagu Rowton and Mr. Wm. Wintley Bramston Bech, Conservative member for the Andover division of Hants, the Commor, who has seen the longest service, are appointed members of the Privy Council.

Mr. Chas. Norton Elliott, the British member of the Samoan high commission, is appointed Commander of the Bath. Stewart and St. George are designated companions of St. Michael and St. George for their services in Samoa.

Messrs. Geo. Buchanan and Henry Cunningham are made Companions of the Bath. The Hon. Mr. G. G. Balfour is appointed Companion of the Bath.

Among the new knights is Dr. Thos. Lauder Brunton, physician to St. Bartholomew's hospital.

Mr. J. G. Macdonald, of Nova Scotia is appointed Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George.

Desultory Skimishing.

Reports of Fighting Between British and Boers at the Front.

Enemy's Attempt to Cut Railway at Victoria West a Failure.

By Associated Press. Capetown, Dec. 29.—The troops in the British camp of Victoria West turned out last night to repel an attempt of the Boers to cut the railway near the station. A patrol reported early in the evening that they had sighted the Boers in the neighborhood. At 10 o'clock the Boers opened a heavy fire near the station. The British replied and the Boers retired at daylight, their attempt having turned out a failure.

A despatch from the Boer camp at 100 miles distance, December 28, reports an artillery duel lasting one hour. On December 27 a British reconnoitering party made a sortie, but did not come within Boer range. The British on December 28 commenced a steady bombardment of the Boer position.

LORENZO MARQUES, Dec. 29.—Advices received here from Pretoria, under the date of Wednesday, December 27, say an attack on the Transvaal frontier has been announced that the sortie which the British made from that place on December 27, attacking one of the Boer forts with a detachment of the Natal Mounted Infantry, was so persistent that fighting raged up to the walls of the fort. The British lost 100 men, and the Boers only lost two men killed and seven wounded.

CHIEVELEY AND LADYSMITH.

A Chieveley despatch dated December 29 makes no mention of the reported sortie from Ladysmith resulting in the capture of the Boer position and the same message shows renewed activity upon the part of the British apparently preparatory to its capture.

THE BOER POSITION.

The Boer position eastward of the camp was thoroughly reconnoitered on December 28, without drawing the enemy.

THE NAVAL GUNS ENGAGE IN DAILY PRACTICE.

A despatch from Durban predicts that Ladysmith will be relieved on or about JANUARY 1.

CEYLON VOLUNTEERS.

HAMBURG, Dec. 30.—The Handelsblatt publishes an interview with Dr. Leyde in the course of which the Transvaal representative denies the statements that munitions of war are being imported into the Transvaal through Delagoa Bay, and says these reports are spread as a pretext for the coming British occupation.

LORENZO MARQUES SEIZED.

LORENZO MARQUES, Dec. 29.—The German steamer Bundesraht published an interview with Dr. Leyde in the course of which the Transvaal representative denies the statements that munitions of war are being imported into the Transvaal through Delagoa Bay, and says these reports are spread as a pretext for the coming British occupation.

MCGILL LOSES TO NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—The international hockey match between McGill University team of Montreal and the New York Athletic Club played at the St. Nicholas rink here to-night was won by the New Yorkers after a close and exciting game, the score standing 4 to 3.

Moralists' Review

Sanguinary and Costly War Contrasted With Promise of Perpetual Peace.

Economic Writers Busy Theorizing About Financial and Industrial Outlook.

Strong Men of the Cabinet and Weak Colleagues Who May Be Retired.

By Associated Press. New York, Dec. 31.—Cabling from London under Saturday's date the correspondent of the Tribune says: "This is Moralists' Day, and everything is under review, from high finance and Boer hunting to dramatic literature and horse racing. The moralists themselves are demoralized when they attempt to reconcile the most sanguinary and costly war in recent British annals with Lord Pauncefote's championship of the principles of peace at The Hague congress, and they have only the opening chapter of the war to summarize, with the record that England was unprepared and entrapped in an ambush, without a sequel of disasters retrieved and the Empire delivered from deadly peril. The moralists have trouble enough in finding cause for cheerfulness in the tangled skein of the events of a singularly confusing and disagreeable year, without facing the problems of business and chronology, and attempting a view of the preceding ranges of the nineteenth century with their many historical landmarks. That is a task deferred by common consent for another twelvemonth.

THE ECONOMIC WRITERS, perhaps, are the loudest croakers, for they cannot close their eyes to the industrial and financial tendencies of a war of unexpected magnitude. The displacement of more than 100,000 workers involves a rise in wages and industrial disturbances, and inevitable increase in the cost of living. For the first time in many years there is a 6 per cent. bank rate, and the destitution of money paralyzes business and impoverishes industries. Money may be cheaper during the opening weeks of the new year, with the release of dividends and the accommodation provided by the shipment of gold from New York, but the keenest observers are convinced that the reserves will be exhausted, and that the burdens upon capital and industry will be increased by official methods of financing the war, and by the continued pressure of the security of gold.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND would be on trial during the next year. Although it has always been regarded as founded upon solid rock, it has shown its inability to retain possession of any portion of the immense stock of new gold which has been added to the Transvaal treasury since the outbreak of the war. It is a question whether even a high rate of interest will prove strong enough to attract bullion from foreign markets. Two millions sterling have come from America during the last week, but ten more are needed for home use, and immense reserves are required for carrying out the Treasury's gold standard policy in India.

TREASURY METHODS of war finance are still kept in the dark. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced a small issue of treasury bills early in the week, to replace maturing bills for war purposes, and there is some evidence that he intends to persevere in using ordinary revenue for meeting exceptional expenditures on a large scale. The war will soon cease to have what little popularity it has if the burdens are not carried forward and added upon a future generation by a large increase of the national debt.

NUMBERS of cabinet re-organization are in the air, but it is not probable that there will be any changes unless General Buller meets with a serious disaster. Lord Lansdowne would then be marked out for slaughter, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be likely to follow him. The strength of the cabinet now lies in four men, Salisbury, Balfour, Chamberlain and Goschen. These four leaders are at their best where they are, and no sub can be found for any of them.

THE PERSISTENT rumor that Lord Salisbury will retire from the premiership as well as the foreign office, and that the Duke of Devonshire will succeed him at one post and Lord Rosebery at the other, are idle inventions. The Duke of Devonshire has steadily lost influence during recent years, and could not lead the Unionist party, and Lord Rosebery is embarrassed by a swarm of super-senior friends who are always nominating him for any office in sight, whether in the gift of one party or the other.

QUEBEC COMMUNITY EXCITED BY UNUSUAL FIND IN ST. LAWRENCE RIVER.

QUEBEC, Dec. 29.—Andrew Cyr, a farmer of Marv, county of Bonaventure, happened to be walking on the beach of the river a few days ago when he discovered in the water a short time being to be a whale which had got into shallow water and run aground. Mr. Cyr immediately aroused his neighbors and at low tide the animal was after considerable difficulty and danger, despatched.

FRANCE AND BRAZIL.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 28.—The Brazilian warship Tiradentes has sailed for Anapa in the Rio Grande, in dispute between France and Brazil, where serious trouble is expected to occur.

BRAZILIAN ELECTIONS.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 28.—General elections will take place next Sunday throughout Brazil.

MOCKS THE FRENCH COURT.

One Alleged Conspirator Declares Trials a Masquerade and Iniquitous Stratagem.

Paris, Dec. 28.—The speeches for the defence in the conspiracy cases began in the high court (senate) to-day. M. Derogede's counsel announced that his client had written instructing him to be silent as the trial was a general masquerade and an iniquitous stratagem.

M. Buffet defended himself, denying that he had been engaged in a conspiracy, and concluding with declaring that he was a socialist and no more in sympathy with M. Deroudele than with the republicans now in power.

M. Jules Guerin then applied to the court for an order providing that the prosecutor's dossier against him be submitted to his counsel. The court refused this application and adjourned.

FILIPINO METHODS.

Insurgents Displaced by American Pursuit Appearing in Towns, Terrorizing Loyalists.

Manila, Dec. 29.—The insurgents who evacuated the town of Marikina, between Dagupan and Vigan, fleeing to the mountains before the advancing Americans are returning in small bands to the towns the Americans do not occupy, terrorizing the natives and Chinamen who showed friendship for the Americans.

LOYAL COLONISTS CHECK REBELS.

BRITISHERS BEING ARMED TO DEAL WITH DISAFFECTED DUTCH NEIGHBORS.

MANY ATTEMPTS TO WRECK RAILWAY DETECTED IN NORTHERN CAPE COLONY.

By Associated Press. Capetown, Dec. 31.—The colonial authorities are using every precaution to prevent an insurrection on the part of the disaffected Dutch in Cape Colony and to suppress a rising if it should occur. Everywhere the British colonists are being armed and drilled to act in their respective localities should armed Dutch colonists gather. The theory is that the British home-stay colonists should be fully prepared to meet any Dutch colonists without the aid of regulars. The alertness of the British makes open acts of violence on the part of the disaffected Dutch difficult. Unable to do openly, they slip away singly or in small groups to join the enemy's force. The authorities have been informed of many centres of agitation, which is considered undesirable to particularize, but there is nothing like concerted action apparent over wide districts.

THE CASE of Mr. Michael, solicitor to the Boer company, who is accused of treason, acquires increased importance as he has been transferred from the custody of the civil authorities here to the military authorities at De Aar. His high position causes the Dutch to watch his case keenly.

PARTIES of Boers have been operating some seventy miles south of Lord Methuen's position.

BOERS appeared on Christmas day near the railway about 29 miles south of De Aar. A force of the Duke of Edinburgh's Own Volunteers prepared to engage them but the enemy retired. Another party fired into a British patrol camp during the night of December 27.

AN attempt was made not far from that point to damage the railroad. One man was caught in the act and the similar attempt was made between Matieland and Khammus but the would-be wreckers escaped. Like attempts are reported from several other points. Evidently small parties of Boers or Dutch colonists have been trying to interrupt the movement of trains but thus far they have been baffled by the elaborate British patrolling.

IN one case a patrol of regulars fired on a patrol of colonials. The latter were wearing broad-brimmed hats and were mistaken by the British for Boers. No casualties occurred but in consequence of the incident an order has been issued requiring all classes of troops to wear helmets.

WHOLE RUNS AGROUND.

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All Well at Ladysmith.

But Boers Showing Greater Confidence and Missiles Now Proving Deadly.

Sending in Plugged Shells With Plum Pudding and Season's Compliments.

Methuen's Position Unchanged—Varying Fortunes in Cape Colony.

By Associated Press. London, Dec. 31.—A despatch from Ladysmith by way of Weenan dated Friday, December 29, says: "All well. The Boers have been firing plugged shells containing plum pudding and the compliments of the season. They are fortifying their positions and are evidently determined to make a firm stand."

THE following heliograph message has been received by way of Weenan from Ladysmith dated Wednesday, December 27: "The Boers are actively bombarding the town. One shell struck the Devonshire mess tent, killing Capt. Dalzell and wounding seven lieutenants, Deuts, Twiss, Fringingham, Caffyn, Byrne, Safe and Kane."

London, Jan. 1.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Lorenzo Marques, dated December 29, says: "It is reported from Ladysmith by way of Pretoria that the British are destroying their heavy cannon, prior to a final sortie."

FRERE CAMP, Natal, Dec. 30.—Owing to the flooding of the Tugela river a large party of Boers have been cut off on the south side. They are reported to be in the hills to the right of Chieveley.

London, Dec. 31.—The war office publishes the following despatch dated yesterday from the general officer commanding at Capetown: "Methuen's position is unchanged. Friends report that the Boers, fearing their communications would be cut by our cavalry, have retired to Coleberg."

"Hear unofficially from Sterkfontein a British reconnoissance from Dordrecht engaged superior forces and was obliged to retire on Dordrecht."

Later Montmorency, on December 30, made a superior force using artillery, opened to the rear of the Boers, and the outcome of the day was a complete withdrawal to Dordrecht in good order, accompanied by the reconnoitering force, before which we are in position for defence. The following casualties are reported: One severely wounded, one killed, and one missing. The Associated Press at Sterkfontein, telegraphing December 31 regarding the reconnoissance of Dordrecht, says: "The Boers received strong reinforcements, including artillery. Capt. Montmorency retired and took a defensive position at Dordrecht."

London, Jan. 1.—All the correspondents are beginning to hint of a forward movement on the part of Gen. Buller, the danger of which is indicated in a dispatch to the Daily Telegraph from Frere, regarding the unfortunate failure of two reconnoissances. In one case the Boer line at Coleberg were to have been bombarded by night. Mounted men drew the Boer fire, and it was intended that the naval guns should bombard. This, however, failed, and the reconnoitering party was compelled to founder back to camp through the wet and stormy night. According to the same correspondent a similar fate happened to another reconnoissance in the opposite direction.

It is roughly estimated that there are 25,000 Boers between Ladysmith and Coleberg, some 400 being on the south side of the Tugela river. At all points the enemy shows ceaseless activity. A large number of Americans are said to have been fighting their way into the various volunteer regiments in Cape Colony.

London, Jan. 1.—A despatch to the Daily Mail, from Kimberley dated Friday, December 22, says: "We have food enough for three months. Fresh fruit and vegetables are obtainable daily from Kenilworth and water is plentiful and excellent."

In the absence of confirmation, the reports of sorties from Ladysmith and Mafeking are discredited. Col. Baden-Powell's silence, however, causes some uneasiness.

The despatches from the front to-night all breathe a confident spirit.

E. V. SMALLY DEAD.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 29.—E. V. Smally, editor of the Northwestern Magazine and secretary of the National Social Money League, died suddenly tonight.

VILLE MARE FRAUDS.

Montreal, Dec. 29.—Herbert, father of the defunct Ville Marie bank, was arraigned in the police court this morning. He pleaded not guilty and was remanded for trial on Tuesday next.

POISONING TRIAL.

New York, Dec. 29.—Late this afternoon Recorder Goff adjourned court on the trial of Roland B. Molleux, until next Thursday, on account of New Year's holiday. Nothing of importance was elicited to-day.

Pain from indigestion, dyspepsia and too heavy eating, is relieved at once by taking one of Carter's Little Liver Pills immediately after dinner. Don't forget this.