

Boers Again Defeated

Another Sortie From Mafeking—British Casualties 21 Killed and 33 Wounded.

Burglers Driven From Their Positions Near Colesburg and Surrounded.

Zulus are Becoming Very Restless and are Anxious to Attack the Boers.

(Associated Press.)

London, Jan. 5.—There is still no important news from the front, but the silence which has descended on General Buller's huge force at the Tugela River is believed to be the prelude of another attempt to reach Ladysmith.

French's Success.

In the meantime the extraordinary tenacity the Boers are displaying around Colesburg tends to detract from the success Gen. French is supposed to have achieved.

The Evacuation of Douglas. Finally, later news of Col. Thomas D. Picher's raid shows that some of the first accounts considerably exaggerated its effect on the Boers and their sympathizers. While it is true he drove a couple of hundred rebels from Sunnyside, killed or wounded thirty, and captured forty-three, Col. Picher's immediate evacuation of Douglas seems to prove that he had information that there was a sufficient number of Boers in the neighborhood to make his position unsafe.

Indeed, there is reason to believe that only the dispatch of a cavalry brigade from the Modder River prevented the force of 600 men sent by Gen. Cronje from attacking Col. Picher's column, and as soon as the cavalry returned to the Modder River, Gen. Cronje's troops reoccupied Sunnyside.

Boers Retire From Molteno. According to advices from Sterkstroom the burglers retired completely from the neighborhood of Molteno. Gen. Gatacre does not appear to have pursued them, as the reinforcements from Sterkstroom have returned there.

A Transvaal Story.

The Transvaal edition of the Standard and Digges' News is responsible for the story that the former residence of Napoleon, on the island of St. Helena, is being renovated for the reception of President Kruger after the war. The story naturally has created a bitter feeling in Boer official circles.

CAPE COLONY.

Boers Defeated at Mafeking—British Losses—Attack on British Troops Near Colesburg Reported.

Rensburg, Cape Colony, Jan. 4.—Evening.—Colesburg has not yet been occupied.

The Boers unexpectedly attacked the British left at daylight this morning, but were repulsed.

They occupied hills to the north of the town, but were eventually driven out of their positions after an hour's shelling by our guns.

They still hold the hills immediately surrounding the town, and thus prevent the British from advancing along the railway.

The British loss in today's engagement was light, while the Boers are reported to have lost 100, including 20 prisoners, who were taken by the mounted infantry about midday.

The Boer attackers numbered a thousand men.

The Iniskilling Dragoons cut their way through the Boers, who were forced to retreat by a heavy artillery and musketry fire.

Boers Surrounded.

London, Jan. 5.—The Daily Mail prints a dispatch from Rensburg, saying that the British set fire on Tuesday night to the trucks of the wrecked train which got away from them and slid down towards the Boers.

The dispatch says also that the Boers have been surrounded, but the British are handicapped by a lack of guns of large calibre.

Repulsed at Molteno.

London, Jan. 5.—Gen. Gatacre's re-

port of the Molteno affairs shows it was merely a determined attack on a police outpost, which was successfully repelled. There were no British casualties.

Reinforcements for French.

London, Jan. 5.—The war office dispatch from Capetown, dated Jan. 3rd, says that at Gen. French's request the Household Cavalry, a battery of field artillery and the first battalion of the Essex regiment, have been dispatched to reinforce him, temporarily.

Another Sortie from Mafeking.

London, Jan. 5.—A dispatch from Capetown says it is rumored that Col. Baden-Powell has again defeated the Boers at Mafeking.

The British storming party numbered 80 men, of which number 21 were killed and 33 wounded.

Picher Returns to Belmont.

Belmont, Cape Colony, Jan. 5.—Col. Picher's column, with the Douglas refugees, returned to camp this morning.

IN NATAL.

Zulus are Starving and Anxious to Attack the Boers—Thornycroft's Scouts Returned to Free.

Pietermaritzburg, Jan. 5.—The restlessness of Zulus is increasing. Many of them are on the verge of starvation. It is asserted they are anxious to attack the Boers.

Scouts Safe.

Frere Camp, Jan. 4.—The lieutenant, sergeant and five men, reported missing from Capt. Thornycroft's patrol to the little Tugela bridge, have returned to camp.

THE CANADIANS.

List of Officers for Second Contingent Complete—Enthusiasm at Montreal—Capt. Von Hugel Recovers.

Ottawa, Jan. 5.—Arrangements are being made to bring down the men of the Northwest battalion of the mounted rifles in drafts, as they are ready.

Lieut. Parkin Murray, of Toronto, the Canadian artillery of the second contingent, composed of Montreal, Peterborough, and Cookshire volunteers, as they left the railway station for Quebec last night. Thousands of citizens lined the streets from the drift hall to the station.

Prior to their departure, Mayor Prefontaine made a patriotic address, which was loudly cheered by thousands.

A Wounded Canadian.

Toronto, Jan. 5.—Word has been received from Capt. Von Hugel, the Canadian who was injured in the fight at Belmont, that he has recovered from his wounds.

The Western Squadron.

Ottawa, Jan. 5.—It was learned this morning that there will be two or three changes in the list of officers of the Western squadron of Mounted Rifles, owing to parties finding it impossible to get away, among whom is Major Walker, of Calgary.

Fever on the Montezuma.

Mafeking, Jan. 5.—Seven cases of fever have broken out among the crew of the Elder-Dempster steamer Montezuma, chartered to carry part of the second contingent to South Africa. The fever is supposed to have been contracted while the vessel was engaged in the carriage of mules from New Orleans to Capetown. The steamer was chartered by the government upon her return to New Orleans from the latter place.

The Postal Corps.

Ottawa, Jan. 5.—The Canadian army postal corps will be completed by Hon. Wm. Mulock to-night. There will be five trained employees of the post office department in it. Three have already accepted. They are: Rowan Johnston, mail clerk, Winnipeg; T. B. Beddell, mail clerk, Perth, N. B., and W. R. Beckett, mail clerk, Hamilton. There will be another English speaking man and a French-Canadian. The French-Canadian will be from Montreal post office. The Canadian postal army corps join the Imperial army corps in South Africa, and will sail with the contingent.

SEIZURE OF GERMAN STEAMERS

Colonial Secretary Intends to Hold Indignation Meetings—Press Comments.

Berlin, Jan. 5.—Commenting on the seizure of the German ship by the British, the Berliner Tagblatt says: "The measure of patience of the German nation is full. Does England want to drive Germany violently into the arms of the Russo-French coalition?"

The Deutsche Tageszeitung regrets that the Emperor made a journey to England, which has not even prevented her open hostility.

The German colonial secretary has sent a protest to the press and intends to hold a series of indignation meetings.

To Aid Wounded Boers.

New York, Jan. 5.—Gustav Simon,

who is recruiting in this city for the Boer Red Cross Society, says he received five hundred applications in one day, and that applications are coming in on the average of fifty per day.

Delagoa Bay.

London, Jan. 5.—The latest information possessed by the counsel of the Delagoa Bay railroad claimants, is that the award will be made at the end of January.

Transvaal Sheriff Arrested.

Capetown, Jan. 5.—The Transvaal's high sheriff, Juma, while attempting to sail for Delagoa Bay to-day, was arrested here. He was subsequently paroled.

Steamer Mashona Released.

London, Jan. 5.—A dispatch from Capetown says the prize steamer Mashona, captured early in December with American flour on board.

London, Jan. 6.—Gen. Forestier-Walker at Capetown has sent to the war office the following dispatch from Col. Baden-Powell, dated Mafeking, Dec. 26th:

"We attacked one of the enemy's works this morning, endeavoring to push back the cordon northward.

"Our force consisted of three guns, two squadrons of the Protectorate Regiment, one of the Bechuanaland Rifles, and an armoured train. The enemy had strengthened their works during the night and doubled the garrison since yesterday's reconnaissance.

"Nevertheless, our attack was carried out and pressed home with the greatest possible gallantry and steadiness under a very hot fire. But all efforts to gain the interior by entrenchment failed, the fort being practically impregnable. Our attack only withdrew after six officers had been hit and a large number of men. Nothing could have exceeded the courage and dash displayed.

"The general situation remains unchanged and the health and spirits of the garrison are very satisfactory.

"I regret to report the following casualties:—Killed—Capt. R. J. Vernon, Capt. H. C. Sanford, Lieut. H. C. Paton, eighteen non-commissioned officers and troopers. Wounded—Capt. Fitzmaurice, twenty-three non-commissioned officers and troopers. Prisoners—Three troopers."

Gen. Forestier-Walker points out, that while the dispatch gives all the names, it fails to show that six officers were hit.

Another Account.

London, Jan. 6.—The following dispatch, dated Mafeking, Dec. 26th, is published in the Times:

"At dawn to-day Col. Baden-Powell organized an unsuccessful attack upon a strong position of the enemy at Game-tree, two miles from Mafeking, from which the Boers have been maintaining a desultory but annoying shell and rifle fire for several weeks.

"The railway has been recently reconstructed between the town and Game-tree, where the Boers had destroyed it, the final repairs being made in preparation for the sorties.

"During the night the armored train, with Maxim and Hotchkiss guns under Capt. Williams and troops, took up positions for attack from two sides. Capt. Lord, Charles Bentinck and a squadron were in reserve upon the left while the extreme left wing was occupied by artillery under Major Panzera and a galloping Maxim of the Cape Police, the whole being under Col. Horo.

"Emplacements were thrown up during the night, the orders being to attack at dawn and the artillery fire to desist upon prolonged tooting from the armored train.

"At daybreak the guns opened fire and rapidly drew the reply of the enemy, our shells bursting within effective range. Capt. Vernon gave the signal to cease firing and to advance, his squadron leading off.

"Game-tree is surrounded with scrub, which contained many snaphooters and their accuracy of fire still further confused the men who had followed Capt. Vernon and who saw him and his brother officers killed.

"Being without comrades they were driven off at one point, but they endeavored to scale the fort at others. They found the position of the Boers, however, almost impregnable.

"When we retired under cover of the armored train, so many men had been wounded that a suspension of hostilities occurred under the auspices of the Red Cross. The veil around the Boer position was at once dotted with flags of mercy and it was seen that our wounded were scattered within but a short radius of the fort. We had almost completely surrounded it, and had it not been so extraordinarily well protected we should have been in possession.

"I was permitted to assist in dressing the wounds, a majority of which seemed to have been caused by explosive bullets. While the wounded were being attended numbers of Boers left their entrenchments and gathered round.

"I spoke to several tattered and dirty, but physically well men. Many of them were undersized and all wore beards. They referred me to the field cornet, who denied the use of explosive bullets. On being shown the horrible wounds, he admitted that at one time explosive bullets had been served out but he said he was certain they had all been previously expended and none could have been on this occasion. He then produced a bandolier filled with Dums, and I pointed out that so far as Mafeking was concerned these had been recalled.

"Later on I called the attention of the field cornet to four of his own men who were rifling dead bodies. He expressed his regret to a British officer that, despite his instructions to respect the dead, the younger Boers were untruly and beyond his control, and he accused the British soldiers of stripping Gen. Kock and leaving him naked and

wounded on the field, thus indirectly causing his death."

"The correspondent then described a scene of angry recrimination between the field cornet and the Boers regarding the existence of orders about robbing the dead, and also about the facts themselves, some of the Boers asserting that they only look upon the arrival at that point as a means of the books of five British, under Boer escort, with the pockets of their uniforms turned inside out. The correspondent says:

"We believed that spies carried the news of our contemplated sorties to the Boers. The field cornet admitted that he was reinforced during the night by 100 mounted men, and acknowledged withdrawing his guns."

FIRING AT LADYSMITH

And Colenso—Boers Short of Provisions—Troops Eager to Advance.

London, Jan. 6.—A Freer Camp dispatch to the Daily Telegraph, dated January 5th, says:

"There has been firing to-day at Ladysmith and at Colenso. A strong cavalry reconnaissance, under Lord Dundonald, proceeded westward this morning toward Prinsloo, where firing is proceeding.

"There is a revival of the report that the Boers are short of provisions. Gen. Buller's army is eager for the advance."

GERMAN RIFLES FOR BOERS.

Forty Thousand Reported to Have Reached Pretoria—Ammunition on German Bark.

Berlin, Jan. 5.—A prominent official of the German foreign office, who was interviewed this evening by the correspondent of the Associated Press, said that Great Britain had not yet answered Germany's request for an explanation of the seizure of the Bundesrath, but that a reply was expected in the course of a few days.

The foreign office, according to this official, had not yet decided that Great Britain is trying to ride roughshod over Germany.

On being asked what Germany would do should it turn out that the Bundesrath was carrying contraband, he gave a non-committal reply, but conveyed the impression that a discovery would seriously damage Germany's case.

The Hanover Courier, confirming earlier reports regarding the shipment of arms and ammunition from Germany, asserts that German rifles have been sent to the Transvaal, since the outbreak of the war. It is stated by a trustworthy source, that 40,000 German rifles of the newest and best construction have arrived at Pretoria in good condition. They reached Lo-renburg by way of China, having been secretly packed, and declared as furniture, in which pianos played the chief role.

The Berliner Tageblatt has a dispatch from Paderborn, Hanover, the man back Wagner, of Hamburg, which was seized by the British at Delagoa Bay on December 21st, saying that the bark had powder and dynamite in her cargo.

Contraband Seizures.

London, Jan. 6.—The question of contraband seizures takes almost the paramount place in the thoughts of the public in the Transvaal, that these may be made a pretext for a German intervention disturbing official and private observers. The government's undeviating purpose to enforce strictly the right of search has been set forth in detailed instructions dispatched yesterday by the admiralty to the British naval commanders in South African waters, giving them weighty warnings without exception to uphold the government measures for the suppression of the importation of contraband by way of Delagoa Bay.

TRAGIC DEATH.

New York, Jan. 4.—A tragic event occurred to-day, in Part Three of the General Sessions Court. The wife of a prisoner was stricken with apoplexy, and died in the witness-chair, while she was in the witness-chair, testifying to his innocence. She was carried unconscious and in a dying condition from the room. So earnest and singing were the last words of an apparently dying woman, that the jury in a few moments afterwards returned a verdict of "Not guilty" for the husband. The case was that of Louis Gordon, a Russian mechanic who was charged by Abraham Goffe, with the larceny of a chain valued at \$90.

Mrs. Gordon died at the hospital without regaining consciousness.

MURDERED BY A ROBBER.

Toronto, Jan. 6.—Rachael Ferguson, cashier in one of Nasmith's confectionery stores, died early this morning, the result of a brutal assault by a robber last night. The motive of the crime was robbery. The police are working on the case, but have no clue as yet to the culprit.

NEW YORK CANALS.

New York, Jan. 6.—The final report of the State canal commission is ready. The report recommends that \$60,000,000 should be expended in improving the inland water ways.

FOXHALL KEENE INJURED.

New York, Jan. 6.—London cable says that Foxhall Keene had his collar bone broken while hunting.

EPIPHANY.

Montreal, Jan. 6.—To-day is Epiphany Day throughout the province of Quebec. All public offices are closed.

Shelling Boer Trenches

Indication that Buller is About to Make an Important Movement.

It is Reported From Capetown That French Has Entered Colesburg.

Can Baden-Powell Hold Mafeking Until Rhodesia Relief Force Arrives?

(Associated Press.)

London, Jan. 6.—Though nothing definite is permitted to pass the censor, sufficient transpires to confirm the belief that an important move on the Tugela River is imminent.

The continual bombardment kept up on the Boer entrenchments and the numerous reconnaissances are apparently connected with a well defined purpose.

There are some indications that the British plan of attack includes an important movement via Weenan.

Can Mafeking Hold Out?

Col. Baden-Powell's defeat in a sortie at Mafeking raises serious doubts of his ability to hold out much longer.

To-day, however, comes a report that Col. Plumer has reached Mochudi from Fort Toli about January 1st with the Rhodesia relief force. As Col. Plumer had at his disposal about 2,000 men, he should, according to this, be able to raise a siege of Mafeking.

Engagement at Colesburg.

The inconclusive fighting around Colesburg was renewed this morning, the British artillery opening to the westward of the town.

The dispatches indicate that the attack is developing into a general engagement. Canadians at Work.

Advices from Belmont say that two companies of Canadians, dispatched to cover the return of Col. Picher's column, occupied a pass six miles out to prevent any attempt of the Boers to cut off the force.

Col. Sir Howard Vincent Sails.

Col. Sir Charles Howard Vincent sailed for South Africa to-day.

Reinforcements Needed.

The military critic of the Morning Post discussing Gens. French and Gatacre's skirmishes, declares that both need reinforcements. He adds: "Each side of the Modder River (where Methuen is) wants to be attacked, but neither cares to attack. The consequence is likely to be a pause until the arrival of reinforcements. These would reach the British first if Gen. Buller should win a battle in Natal. If not they might come first to the Boers who, in case of their second success at Tugela, could spare men to go to Magerfontein."

Who Will Succeed Wolsley?

The appointment of the Duke of Connaught to command the British forces in Ireland has led to a lot of speculation as to whether he will succeed Lord Wolsley, whose term expires in November as commander-in-chief. Lord Roberts is his logical successor, but until he was chosen to command in South Africa the general impression was that he would be too old to be selected when it became vacant. Gen. Buller was a hot favorite, but his defeat near Colenso seems to have irretrievably ruined his chances. It is more than probable that Roberts, if successful in South Africa, will fill the office of commander-in-chief for a short period, and that he will then be succeeded by the Duke of Connaught, whose popularity and military knowledge are strong enough to overcome the prejudice against a member of the Royal family holding that office.

Lively Times Expected.

The abuse of the war office and Lord Lansdowne, the secretary of state for war, and Lord Wolsley, continues unabated in the press and among the public. By the time parliament reassembles it promises to have gathered such force that it is more than likely that most stormy scenes will mark the debates.

Reported Occupation of Colesburg.

London, Jan. 6.—A special dispatch from Capetown says it is reported that Gen. French has entered Colesburg.

Methuen's Work.

According to a special dispatch from Capetown, Gen. Methuen is building a railroad around the Boers' position at Magerfontein.

Postal Officials.

(Special to the Times.) Ottawa, Jan. 6.—Hon. Wm. Mulock last night completed his list for the Canadian postal army corps for South Africa, and the minister of militia has ordered accommodation for them on the Montezuma, which sails from Halifax on the 18th. The names of trained officials who have accepted position and who will join the British army postal army are: Roon Johnston, Winnipeg; J. B. Beddell, Perth; W. R. Beckett, Hamilton; R. A. Murray, Woodstock, and J. Sailer, Quebec.

German Steamer Released.

Berlin, Jan. 6.—A dispatch from Aden says the authorities have renounced all further search of the Imperial German steamer General, detained under suspicion of having contraband of war on board, and that the steamer will resume her voyage in a few days.

ANGLO-GERMAN AGREEMENT.

Prepared to Guarantee the Success of a Portuguese Loan.

Lisbon, Jan. 6.—A semi-official note to the press regarding the Anglo-German agreement has just been issued. It is as follows: "The British and German governments, having previously reached an agreement between themselves, informed Portugal that in the event of her contracting a large loan for the purpose of reorganizing her finances, the two governments were disposed to guarantee the success of the operation. The Portuguese government declared it had no need of such a loan, and, according to our information, has no such need to the present day."

DOMINION FINANCES.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for Six Months, Ending December 31st.

(Special to the Times.) Ottawa, Jan. 5.—The statement of revenue and expenditure issued by the department of finance to-day shows the revenue for the six months ending December 31st last was \$24,486,552, compared with \$22,113,378 for the same time last year, an increase of 2,373,174. The increase for the month of December alone was over half a million dollars. The expenditure for six months was \$18,639,000 against \$14,811,937, an increase of \$3,827,000, or a betterment over last year of over a million and a half dollars. There was an increase in revenue over expenditure of \$5,824,000. In the capital expenditure there was a decrease of nearly half a million dollars.

ASIAN RAILROADS.

Russians Are Testing Their Capacity to Transport Troops.

(Associated Press.) London, Jan. 6.—On the stock exchange to-day prices were weak at the closing, partly due to stories of Russian marching troops on the frontier of Afghanistan.

A semi-official explanation of these movements comes to-day from St. Petersburg to the effect that they were merely to test the capacity of the Central Asia railroads to transport troops.

MASSACRED BY TROOPS.

Congo Free State Soldiers Burn Villages and Kill Many Natives.

(Associated Press.) New York, Jan. 4.—The Southern Presbyterian board of missions at Nashville, Tenn., has received letters from the Rev. Niss, the missionary stationed at Luebo, Congo Free State, giving accounts of the burning of fourteen villages and the killing of ninety or more natives by state troops.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

It is Rumored the Queen Will Attend the Opening Ceremony.

(Associated Press.) New York, Jan. 5.—A London dispatch is printed here to the effect that the Queen will open parliament on February 14th in person. The last similar occasion was January 22nd, 1896, when Mr. Gladstone presented the Irish Home Rule bill.

SKATING RACES.

(Associated Press.) Montreal, Jan. 4.—Mr. Louis Rubenstein, secretary of the A.S.A. of Canada, is arranging for a meeting between Johnny Felsen, world's champion professional speed skater, Minnie Pollock, and Norval Bapiste, of Tom Breyck's string of fast men and the probable coming champion, on the M.A.A.A.A., in two and three mile races for a purse of \$500. Nelson refuses to skate on any other track, and the race will probably take place early next month.

PATRIOTIC HAYTIANS.

(Associated Press.) Santo Domingo, Jan. 6.—The public subscriptions to liquidate the Boisain Obeavelli claim of 280,000 francs, many of which are being pressed by the French consul, largely cover the amount needed. A French fleet is expected to visit Santo Domingo. The country is quiet, though considerable patriotic feeling is expressed throughout the republic.