

PEACE OVERTURES ANNOUNCED, BUT BOERS ARE STILL DELUDED.

North Transvaal Now Reported Clear--Cecil Rhodes to be Premier of Cape Town Again--Why Scheepers Was Executed--Parliamentary Discussion.

London, Jan. 25--The Daily News has published the following despatch from its correspondent at The Hague, who it claims has been very accurate up to the present time, the despatch being taken from private advices received at The Hague:

"News from South Africa has reached military circles here with the effect that the power of the Boers over Cape Colony is increasing daily, that the rebellion is constantly spreading and that the colonists are joining the Boers in steadily increasing numbers. The executions of Commandant Louster (October 11, 1901), and Commandant Scheepers (January 18, 1902), have had the result of deciding the Boers to join the Boers, whose position is persistently reported to be more favorable than ever."

The same private advices assert that the British suffered a dozen defeats from September to November, 1901, continues the correspondent, of which no mention is made in Lord Kitchener's reports. The Daily News commenting upon this despatch confesses that its statements are probably exaggerated, but is of the opinion that the details of Mr. Balfour, the government leader, in the House of Commons, today, why Commandant Scheepers (who was captured by General French in October last), was executed last Saturday, at Grand Reinet, Cape Colony. The secretary replied that Scheepers was shot because he had been convicted of various offences against the usage of war, including seven cold-blooded murders of Boers, the flogging of a white man, Mr. Brodric, added that the fact that Commandant Scheepers was a prisoner of war carried no exception from trial for murder or other violations of the rules of war.

Mr. Balfour, the government leader in the House, partially parried an interesting question, put by Mr. McLaren, Liberal, as to whether any proposals in behalf of the Boers, in the House of Commons, today, were received by the government since the negotiations between General Kitchener and the Boers. "No proposal of that kind," said Mr. Balfour, "has reached us on the part of any one able to speak for the leaders of the Boer forces."

FOR C. P. R. IMPROVEMENTS. PROPOSE TO BORROW TWENTY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

Will Double Track Part of the Road and Make Provisions for New Rolling Stock to Prevent Any Shortage of Cars Hereafter.

Ottawa, Jan. 25--(Special)--In view of the extraordinary rapid growth of the Canadian Northwest in the recent years, culminating in the harvest of 1901 which yielded more than 90,000,000 bushels for export, the public will be quite prepared to learn that the president of the C. P. R. has asked the Dominion government to approve of a resolution authorizing the board of directors with the sanction of the shareholders to increase the capital stock of that company to the extent of \$20,000,000 for the purpose of enabling it to build new locomotives and cars, lay heavier rails, arrange in due course for the double tracking of certain sections and to provide each other improvements as may be found necessary to cope with the large increase in traffic which has already taken place, as well as with the still greater increase confidently looked forward to in the immediate future.

Accordingly the government and the company have agreed to submit a friendly reference to the supreme court of Canada, or if necessary, to the judicial committee in order that an authoritative interpretation may be obtained without further delay. Here again it will be seen that the position of the country with respect to the C. P. R. and government control of its rates in the near future has been distinctly improved.

The double tracking of a portion of the road will be an undertaking of considerable magnitude, notably on the portion of line between Winnipeg and Fort William, but the company in its own interest will make the best use of the money, the large expenditure involved will benefit Canadian interests. It is confidently believed that the arrangements here outlined will meet with approval. If the employment of additional capital will be advantageous to the C. P. R., the country as a whole, though more particularly the Northwest, will profit indirectly, whilst the importance of connections attached to the issue of stock can hardly be over-estimated from a public point of view.

The amounts to be applied to each of the betterments are as follows: For new rolling stock, \$6,000,000; double tracking, \$6,000,000; new plants for construction of rolling stock, chiefly at Montreal, \$1,000,000; new alterations and improvements to existing, \$5,000,000; miscellaneous improvements, \$2,000,000; total, \$20,000,000.

The government on its part has been quite willing to support the issue of stock, it is clear to the ministers, as to every one with knowledge of the Northwest, that the constantly growing business of the Canadian Pacific will involve increased outlay on capital account, otherwise the interests of all concerned, of the farmers and merchants, no less than of the company itself, must suffer from the possibility of meeting the requirements of the multitude of new settlers going in every year, chiefly from the western states. This, it is believed, is the first time in the history of Canada that a Canadian railway has been financially strong enough to raise additional capital by selling its common stock, but to ensure that every dollar of the stock issued shall be represented by a dollar of cash in the betterment of the railway, ministers have stipulated that none of the stock shall be sold below par. To further safeguard the public interests, the ministers have asked the company to agree and the company has agreed, that circulating the 10 per cent which, by the terms of its original contract with the crown, must be earned by the railway upon the amount of its actual cash cost before reclamation or the governor-in-council can interfere with its sale, this new stock and the proceeds of it shall not be included in the actual cash cost of the railway. Consequently although a much greater earning power will be obtained by the company by means of

The evasive reply of the government leader was taken to be a confirmation of the reports that proposals had been received from the Boer delegates in Europe, but had been rejected.

Pretoria, Jan. 24--The northern part of the Transvaal is now almost clear of Boers. The only commando there is that of Beyers, which is in the Waterberg district. His men are not actually engaged in fighting, but are wandering around aimlessly in search of food, as they have been doing for weeks. Food is becoming scarce in the Waterberg and Zoutpansberg districts. The Kaffir population make it impossible for the Boers to move without information reaching the British. Meanwhile the Kaffirs are an important source of the British food supply. Meales in large quantities, purchased from them, are brought in every month.

London, Jan. 24--According to the Daily Mail's Cape Town correspondent, the arrival of Cecil Rhodes, who is on his way there from England, is eagerly awaited. The correspondent says that Mr. Rhodes is certain to receive a call to head affairs in the near future. The Progressives regard him as the only man who can rescue the colony from the difficulties that will surely result from the war, while the moderate Dutch will follow him rather than any other Progressive. It is as believed, the Cape parliament assemblies within about two months, Mr. Rhodes will be almost compelled to accept the premiership.

Ladybrand, Orange River Colony, Jan. 23--Colonel Seath sent a patrol of men from Mequalings Nek on Sunday night in the direction of Belmontsburg, 29 miles north of Ladybrand. At dawn on Monday a patrol captured a hundred horses, three armed and four unarmed Boers. Later, a small detachment with some natives were sent to cut forage, sown by the Boers on a farm at Lindene's Ruet. Two wagons were taken along the coast. It consisted of 25 Yeomanry and one of the main patrol going in another direction, thinking that the country near the farm was clear of Boers. As the detachment was passing through the hills they suddenly encountered 150 burghers, who, springing from their hiding places, headed them. The Yeomanry made a gallant fight, slaying six and wounding four of the overwhelming number of the Boers 18 men and their officers were compelled to surrender. These have since returned to the British. The British casualties were one man killed and seven wounded.

This additional capital, the amount upon which the percentage is to be calculated before the tolls become subject to direct supervision by the government is left at it is at present, \$20,000,000.

In reality, therefore, the ministers are by this provision hastening the time when they shall have the right to interfere and reduce the tolls of the company if the government is to be of any use to the people of the Northwest and the Dominion at large relatively to the rates of the C. P. R. and their control by the people. Representatives in this very greatly improved. Again, ever since the original contract was made with the company two years ago, questions have been arising in parliament as to the proper construction to be placed upon the section just spoken of, excluding the right of parliament and the governor-in-council to interfere with the tolls until 10 per cent has been earned upon the cash output of the road. Having in view the large growth of traffic upon the company's lines with the corresponding growth of net earnings, and the probability that tolls will continue to grow at a constantly accelerated rate, it is obvious that the time is opportune for determining the exact meaning of that section.

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HOME FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

INTERESTING INTERVIEW WITH TWO VETERAN FIGHTERS.

They Will Return to the Cape to Hunt for Gold--How They "Sized Up" Kitchener--Net in Love With Jam as a Diet.

A man in travel-stained khaki with a companion in plain clothes arrived here on the Halifax express Wednesday afternoon en route from the conflict in South Africa to their homes in Alberta and Assiniboia.

Each have seen almost two years' sanguinary campaigning against the Boers, each have shared the common fortune of the battlefield, and each with a fortitude born of their extensive exposure on the veldt, underwent the ordeal of a newspaper interview at the depot.

They were Sergt. Major Stephens, formerly of the Canadian Scouts, and Trooper McKimley, who for the past two years has been attached to Kitchener's Fighting Squad, Canadian Mounted Rifles, and with that battalion proceeded first to Africa in the winter of 1900. They participated in all the engagements of the Boers, including--Vet. River, Zand River, Diamond Hill and others of minor importance.

In a later conversation Sergt. Stephens was hit in the knee with a fragment of shell. It was not serious; he soon reported again for duty and with his companion, who had escaped injury, remained with the force until it was mustered out of service.

Not feeling disposed, however, to return to Canada and being patient to a continuance of warfare, both joined irregular bodies of horse--Stephens, the Canadian Scouts; McKimley, Kitchener's Fighting Squad, and up to a few months ago they were with their respective corps, but through illness and the consciousness that enough fighting had been done to warrant a rest, they succeeded in convincing the Boers in rejoining each other and left the Cape for England on the steamer Bavarian, again taking ship on Saturday to reach Halifax recently on board the steamer Corinthian.

It is their present intention, after about six weeks' rest, to return to the Transvaal and take up gold prospecting--a field in which they believe there is much promise.

To question about the gold outlook and the condition of the country from an intending settler's point of view, Sergt. Stephens said:

"The gold--millions of dollars worth in the mines around Pretoria. This is contrary to general opinion, for it is thought the richest mines lay near Johannesburg. Indeed the whole land in the vicinity is studded with the metal. A prospector may hit it and there is also evidence of it in the water. The water, if we're willing to take the risk, and while we speak of hitting, there's also every possibility of being tapped with a Boer bullet. There are no prospectors going about yet nor will there be until the war is finished, which may not be for a year, possibly two."

"But as to gold-mining farming ground--in short, the country is all right for immigration--but, and I put particular emphasis here, it is no use going out now as a prospector. You can only get up country as a soldier. If you attempt it as a 'civ' you won't travel at all. You'll be turned down every time you think of it."

"He's not as good a fighter as Delarey, and for this reason: De Wet is the best strategist I ever saw. He can outwit you and wriggle and slip through, but with De Wet--well, it's different. He'll fight; in fact he's all right and, unlike his associates, he will take the aggressive side. Our scouts know this to their cost. If the British catch him he'll be treated like a man, but in regard to De Wet the boys believe he'll never be trapped--that's all."

"Have you seen Kitchener?" "Yes, and as a conversation with him was held in Pretoria. He speaks quickly, almost automatically, you might imagine, but to one in his position the importance of being implicit and unreservedly obeyed is the first consideration. He is all exactness. There must be no dilly-dallying and 'playing the goat' or shirking what you are expected to do. If order is given and its accomplishment is in the range of human possibility why then it has 'got to be done.'"

"But to come straight to the point, square-shouldered, square-cheeked--that's Kitchener."

"How about the Boers generally--what is your impression of them as a people?" "I've only got one opinion, which is that I believe them to be similar to our Northwest. Great care is taken by the Boers in their choice. There appears to be about only one thing they can do and that is fight. I don't want you to misapprehend me for the Boers--they are not 'How about rations? Were you supplied in full?"

"We've had no reason to complain whatever--meat, beef, vegetables, fruit, biscuits--all good material and plenty of it."

"Did you have jam? Solemnly queried the reporter, who is expected to do it."

"Don't talk," came the rejoinder, with a deprecatory gesture and an expression of mild disgust, "to me about jam! We had it whether we wanted it or no. Strawberries, currants, raspberry, peach, pineapple, plum and golden syrup by the crate. Everybody got it. There was no stint and I think I can speak for the battalion when I say that I will not object if I never see such an article of food again."

And then the train pulled out.

FARMERS IN CONVENTION.

Education, Soil, and Other Topics Discussed Friday.

Amherst, Jan. 24--(Special)--A great change in the weather greets the Dairy-men's Association this morning. The rain of yesterday has gone and we have today a clear sky with a cold morning wind. The association is getting along nicely. All seem to be enjoying themselves and expressing satisfaction with the addresses and discussions. The morning session opened at 9.30 with the second vice-president, S. J. Moore, of Shubenacadie, in the chair.

The association balance sheet was received and on motion adopted. It is as follows:

Credit: Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1901, \$108.49 Government grant, 750.00 Membership fees, 21.00 \$879.49

Debit: Expenses of annual meeting, \$228.41 Executive expenses, 170.81 Institute meetings, 16.30 Expenses from a x b d i t t o, 16.30 Grounds, 41.82 Reporting and publishing, 41.82 Use and papers of annual meeting, 200.00 Stationery and printing, 1.25 Postage, 1.25 Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1901, 71.88 \$879.49

The item of \$200, however, which went to the Governor's Farmer for publication of minutes, etc., will come up again under the head of new business.

B. W. Chipman, Nova Scotia secretary of agriculture, detailed the work that his department had carried on during the year. A lengthy discussion followed as to the organization of a regular department of agriculture presided over by a minister and was spoken of by Mr. A. DeWolfe, Hon. T. R. Black, Col. S. Spurr, Hugh Fraser and others. The discussion did not bring out any definite action on this respect, the association.

Prof. F. T. Shutt, of Ottawa, was warmly received and took up the subject of soil. He spoke of principles, but he said that the soil is the basis of the conditions of various localities. In referring to the advancement that had been made in agriculture, he said it had only been made by individual efforts. He thought there was nothing so elevating as the study of agriculture which resulted in bringing out of our soils (which are practically nothing), something. He dealt at length with the origin of our soils, the proper understanding of which assisted much in their study. On account of another meeting of an agricultural college in the maritime provinces, the discussion of this subject was laid over to be taken up in the afternoon.

A goodly number of the members of the association had been over to the farm yesterday and on various other occasions. J. R. Wyman, of Yarmouth, brought up a question of an agricultural college, reading a resolution to the effect that this association recognizes with gratitude the action of the government looking towards the establishment of an agricultural college in the maritime provinces.

This resolution was spoken favorably upon by Prof. James W. Robertson, Ottawa; Prof. F. T. Shutt, Ottawa; Alex. McNeil, Ontario; Prof. J. H. Grisdale, Guelph; Mr. Simpson, Rennie, Toronto; Hon. T. R. Black, Amherst; Mr. John DeWolfe, Halifax; E. B. Shatt, St. John's; Midland, N. B., and M. G. De Wolfe, Kentville, N. S., after which it was unanimously carried.

A resolution regarding the better ventilation of steamers carrying fruit to England was read by R. S. Eaton, Kentville, seconded by J. C. Starr, Starr's Point, N. S., and unanimously carried.

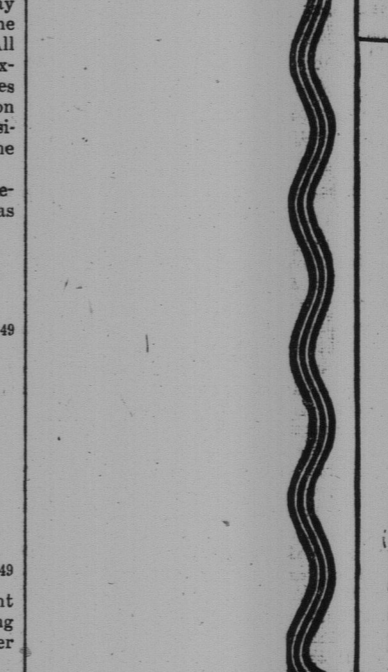
The meeting then adjourned. We noticed in the audience today M. J. Tompkins, of Grandmir, N. B. He will remain in the Maritime provinces for a few days. The interest in the afternoon session of the association was good. Prof. Shutt continued his address laid over from the morning session, speaking upon poultry, detailing how to get eggs in the winter and how to raise, feed and fatten chickens. At the close of the poultry discussion, Messrs. J. R. Wyman and David H. Fraser, of the exhibition committee, read their report, which on motion was received and adopted.

The evening session was held in the Academy of Music. Vice-president John Donaldson occupying the chair. The first speaker was Professor Grisdale, who dealt with the matter of farm management. He was followed by Mr. W. C. Tompkins and Paul C. Black, the meeting adjourned.

Greatest satisfaction is expressed by all interested in the advances of agriculture and, as we return to our homes, may we not lose sight of the information we have received, but take up our work with renewed energy and perseverance.

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Advertisement for Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne, emphasizing its safety and effectiveness.

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Advertisement for Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne, featuring a portrait of the doctor and a list of ailments treated.

Advertisement for Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne, describing its uses for various ailments.

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Advertisement for Page Metal Gates, describing their features and benefits.

Advertisement for Municipal Treasurer Arrested, reporting on a financial scandal.

Advertisement for General Business for Sale, offering various business opportunities.

Advertisement for Canadian Swine Breeders, promoting a meeting and breeders.

Advertisement for Botha's Ablest Lieutenant, featuring a military-themed illustration.

Advertisement for Free to Wear Men's, offering clothing and accessories.