

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1900.

BRIGHT BREEZY BITS

Items of Interest Gathered from All Over the City and Country.

STALLED UP LIKE CATTLE... Emigrants at Sand Point are Not Treated as Humans.

A visitor to Sand Point when one of the big steamers with emigrants aboard arrives will witness a scene quite out of the ordinary in more than one respect.

It seems as though each year the temporary accommodations for these poor creatures are becoming more limited and less habitable.

The stench and squalor of the place when a hundred or so of the emigrants congregate is unbearable.

To distribute railway tickets, shuffle baggage and sort out the emigrants is not the work of an hour or so, but rather a whole day.

Delegates from this society attend every emigrant boat and converse with the newcomers as to their destination.

It is really a wonder the S. P. C. A. does not take a hand in trying to impress upon the transportation lines the need of proper and humane accommodation.

A steamer which arrived in port early in the week brought a lot of emigrants.

The Royal Kennebecensis Yacht Club has closed another successful year.

Sen. Sorghum, earnings want to talk figures.

It is not flattering to say the yacht club has prospered under Mr. Fairweather's presidency.

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Vaccinating School Children.

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Mock Bread of Promise T-1-1.

A pretty good story comes from Albert, Albert county, in which a party or St. John knights of the grip figure prominently.

There is somewhat of a moral in the experience of two Pagsley building lawyers, who a few days ago advertised for typewriters and stenographers.

Another Boer Boycotted.

If the Boers of St. John continue to unmask themselves and boldly speak forth their hatred for the flag that spares their unworthy carcasses, why it would be of interest for some enterprising citizen to take a census of them and post the list about town so that the general public may know who to trust, and who is to be wary of.

The Foot and Shoe Men Kicked.

Commercial travellers as a general rule are a pretty independent lot of fellows and unlike very much to have their general routine of life interrupted as they claim they endure enough hardships without petty botherings of an additional nature.

Have You Seen Any of It?

Manufacturing jewelers in this country who produce gold-plated goods have been requested by the directors of the United States mint to assist him in locating \$300,000,000 in gold that has disappeared from circulation during the last 20 years.

Deadly Shell of To-day.

The ordinary shell which was manufactured 80 years ago only broke into from 20 to 25 pieces when it burst.

suggested that each of the men should be examined so as to find out whether they were vaccinated or not.

THE BELL-BOYS' COURSE.

It is the disposition of all people and especially of Americans to 'get even.'

'I am simply going to some big hotel in a big city and live for a day,' and the boy paused to let the remark soak in.

'I will drink all the ice water I can and purr the rest in a cuspidor. Then I will ring for more ice water.

'I will insist on having the same bell-boy serve me all the time and I'll keep him chasing around until he will curse me at every step.

TRAINING BOERS' HORSES.

An Englishman now in Baltimore who spent several years among the Boers in South Africa says that the Boer force was stronger in numbers than it seemed to be, because every man in the army was mounted and detachments could move from one point to another in an incredibly short time.

'Every Boer warrior has a horse,' said he, 'and their horses are so trained that they will stand where they are left until their master's return. I have seen them training their horses in this trick and their method is effective, though heroic.'

'A Boer will take a young horse, a two year old or perhaps a yearling, and attach a halter to him. From the halter hangs a rope and at the end of the rope is suspended an iron ball, which hangs about the animal's knees.'

'The horse is then turned loose in a large lot. He immediately begins to prance around and the iron ball keeps striking against his knees. The horse is driven wild and the ball keeps on getting in its work. The beast may struggle against the annoyance and pain for four or five hours, but he finally drops from exhaustion.'

'Often it takes three or four weeks to cure the horse, with his cut bruised and bleeding knees, back into condition, but when he is fit to ride he is the horse the Boer wants. All the Boer has to do when he dismounts is throw the ball over the horse's head. The horse feels the rein hanging from his chin and he remembers the previous experience with an iron ball. He will stand stock still

as long as that rein hangs from the bit and he will not move, not even if shells are bursting around him and if the crash of artillery is but a few feet away.

Humanity Desires to get Even for Real and Fancied Grievances.

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The statement made by Mr Wyndham, the Under Secretary of State for War, in the British House of Commons that the British forces in South Africa comprised 142 000 unmounted and 37 800 mounted men, with 452 guns, of which 36 are siege and 38 are naval guns, seems susceptible of considerable modification when analyzed.

ENGLAND'S ARMY IN SOUTH AFRICA. Indenting That Its Actual Strength Was Overstated by Mr. Wyndham.

The statement made by Mr Wyndham, the Under Secretary of State for War, in the British House of Commons that the British forces in South Africa comprised 142 000 unmounted and 37 800 mounted men, with 452 guns, of which 36 are siege and 38 are naval guns, seems susceptible of considerable modification when analyzed.

On Jan. 20 the total force of regular troops actually in South Africa and on their way there from India and England was 15 regiments of cavalry, 9 batteries of horse artillery, 44 field batteries, 2 mountain batteries and 83 battalions of infantry.

Putting these different organizations at their full strength, they would work out as follows:

The 15 regiments of cavalry at 500 horses each, which is more than some of those in the field have, gives 7,500 effectives.

The nine batteries of horse artillery with 130 men and 80 horses each, give 1,170 men and 720 horses.

The 44 field batteries with the same complements of men and horses give 7,720 men and 3,520 horses.

The two mountain batteries with 100 men and 70 horses, or mules, each give 200 men and 140 horses or mules.

The 83 battalions of infantry, reckoning them at their full war strength, would give 83 000 men, but it is doubtful if the average effective of the whole number can be reckoned at more than 850 each.

This would reduce the total to 70,000 men. The entire strength, then, of the regular forces would be by the above analysis 87,140 men and 11,880 horses.

To the number of horses, however, should be added those of the mounted infantry actually in the field. What the number of these may be cannot be stated with certainty, as no definite report of their number has appeared in any account of the forces in the field.

From the fragmentary accounts of the forces engaged on different occasions, they cannot be estimated at much more than 6,000. This would bring the number up to 17,880.

The total of the colonial contingents does not come up to more than 5 000 men, with perhaps 3,000 horses, and the local Natal and Cape Colony corps, though officially put at 20,000, are from the accounts published, not much more than half that number, probably 12 000 men with say, 10 000 horses.

Then there are the naval brigades numbering about 1,000 men altogether, their guns being moved about by country oxen.

This would bring the fighting force up to about 105 140 men and 27 880 horses. The rest of the men and horses of the 180,000 men and 37 800 horses of which Mr. Wyndham spoke are still in the air, the eighth division, the 10,000 yeomanry and the 15,000 volunteers and a militia being only in process of organization and a large part not even yet enrolled.

Then out of the force of regulars given there are a full squadron of cavalry, one mountain battery, and the strength of more than three effective battalions of infantry prisoners of Bloemfontein and Pretoria. Drafts to fill up the vacancies caused by death, disablement and disease are on their way out from England or being got ready. None of the English papers as yet at hand has published a clear, tabulated statement of the various corps and organizations actually in the field in South Africa; and it is quite certain that the statement of the Under Secretary of State for War errs by overestimate rather than by underestimate.

Gen. Buller and Mrs. Kruger. Before the present war in South Africa Gen. Buller was on terms of warm personal friendship with Mrs. Kruger, and until a year ago they were wont to exchange cards of good wishes every Christmas, their friendship dated from 20 years ago, when Buller had a regiment of Boers under his command in the war against the Zulus.