

Desperate Fighting

British Made a Sortie From Mafeking and Attacked Boer Fort.

Our Casualties Reported to Be 109 Killed and Wounded.

Gen. Buller Will Probably Attack Burgers in Inhlawe Mountains.

German Steamer Captured.

London, Dec. 30.—The reported sortie from Ladysmith, resulting in the capture of a Boer position, is not confirmed.

The Boer position eastward of the camp was thoroughly reconnoitered on December 29th, without drawing the enemy.

Naval Guns at Work.

The maul runs engage in daily practice, and it is said on good authority that 30 or 40 Boers have been killed by the firing during two days.

The Relief of Ladysmith.

A dispatch from Durban predicts that Ladysmith will be relieved on or about January 7th, while there is nothing to bear out this forecast.

There is some disposition to believe Gen. Buller is preparing another attempt to advance, this time by an attack on the Boer position in Inhlawe mountains.

Volunteers Pay War Risk Premiums.

Address from Capetown says there is great dissatisfaction there at the action of British insurance companies, who are retarding volunteering by making policy holders pay war risk premiums, while the agencies of leading American companies allow perfect freedom for naval and military service.

Ceylon Volunteers.

The government has accepted 100 Ceylon volunteers, mostly planters, and has also accepted the offer of Indian princes to supply horses.

The Majestic Overdue.

The non-arrival of the Majestic, due at Capetown on Thursday, is causing some surprise among the public, who expected she would maintain her usual transatlantic speed.

BOER ACCOUNT

On the 29th, from Mafeking—British Casualties Reported to be 109 Killed and Wounded.

Lorenzo Marquez, Dec. 29.—Advice received here from Pretoria, under the date of Wednesday, Dec. 27th, says an official dispatch from Mafeking announces that the sortie which the British made from that place on Dec. 27th, attacking one of the Boer forts with cannon, Maxims and an armored train, was so persistent that fighting raged up to the walls of the fort.

The British lost 109 men killed and wounded, while the Boers only lost 2 men killed and 7 wounded.

Officers Captured.

The dispatch adds that Captains Kirkwood and Pretzell were captured by Boer scouts near Colenso, and were being sent to Pretoria.

Greetings.

Ten unloaded shells inscribed "The season's greetings" have been fired at Ladysmith.

Medical Stores.

On the 29th, from Mafeking—British Casualties Reported to be 109 Killed and Wounded.

has returned here, is living in a bomb-killed shell, where she is enabled to exist with some degree of comfort.

BOERS REPULSED.

They Attempted to Cut the Railway Near Victoria West, But Were Driven Off.

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 next to the station.

A patrol reported early in the evening that they had sighted the Boers in the neighborhood.

At 10 o'clock at night the Boers opened a heavy fire near the station. The British replied and the Boers retired at daybreak, their attempt having turned out a failure.

German Steamer Captured.

Lorenzo Marquez, Delagoa Bay, Dec. 30.—The German steamer Bundesrath, belonging to the German East African line, has been captured as a prize and taken to Durban.

London, Dec. 30.—Regarding traffic generally on the east coast of Africa, the British Admiralty officials say the British government desires that all ordinary and legitimate trade conducted by foreign vessels should suffer as little restriction as possible.

Hamburg, Dec. 30.—The director of the German East African line have received news of the capture of the steamer Bundesrath. It is declared here that there was no contraband of war on board.

Durban, Dec. 30.—The British cruiser Magdalen, seized the steamer in North Delagoa Bay. She will be brought before a prize court.

Clothing for Canadians.

Ottawa, Dec. 30.—Lieut. Col. Macdonald, chief director of stores, has arranged the kits and clothing for the men of the second contingent. Mounted artillery trousers will be blue. These will be in addition to the khaki suits.

Dr. Armstrong Volunteers.

Montreal, Dec. 30.—Dr. George Armstrong, surgeon to Montreal general hospital, has applied to go as surgeon to South Africa with the second contingent.

Insurance.

Toronto, Dec. 30.—The city council has decided to insure the lives of such of the second contingent as may belong to and are residents of Toronto.

Seizure of Flour.

Paris, Dec. 30.—The seizure by British officials of American flour consigned to the Boers and the statement regarding alleged Anglo-German-Portuguese treaty has aroused renewed interest in Paris.

Buttons Seized by Customs Officials.

Ottawa, Dec. 30.—A few days ago a large number of buttons, on which were inscribed "Victory to the Boers," both in French and English, were seized by customs officials in Toronto and forwarded to the department here.

U. S. CONSUL AT PRETORIA.

Mr. Hay Leaves London En Route for the Transvaal.

London, Dec. 30.—Mr. Adolbert S. Hay, the new United States consul at Pretoria, left Waterloo railroad station this morning for Southampton on his way to Capetown.

London, Dec. 30.—Dispatches from Chieveley Camp 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 dispatches 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 near Ladysmith, probably with the intention of putting further pressure on the garrison, which now seems to be suffering pretty heavily from the bombardment.

It is difficult, however, to conceive that Gen. Buller would make another frontal attack, especially now that the river is rising, and an additional indication that this is not his purpose is the fact that he has removed his headquarters back to Frere.

owing to the fact that the Boers are reported to have made a sortie of a hill.

Six Ladysmith, Dec. 30.—The Boers are reported to have made a sortie of a hill.

The Boer shells have fallen close to Gen. White's hut, compelling the removal of his headquarters to another point.

It is reported that Gen. Joubert is again in command of the Boers here.

The military authorities appear confident, but they are very reticent.

Boers have been observed moving northward and westward in large numbers.

THE WESTERN DISTRICT.

British Reconnoitering Party Exchange Shots With Boers—A Sortie from Mafeking.

London, Dec. 30.—The Times Modder River correspondent, referring to the reconnoitering party, says: "The nervousness causes much amusement to the British. It is quite certain that half the Boer force is employed watching by day and the other half by night.

Probably the consequent weariness, with the Boers of winter and the presence of fever, will render the Boer positions intolerable. Their present action is due either to a scare, or to a wish to cover a retirement.

Boers Near Kimberley.

Kimberley, Dec. 22, via Modder River, Dec. 27.—Before dawn to-day a detachment of the mounted forces, with artillery and light infantry, moved out in a westerly direction.

Boer artillery from Kamperdam opened fire at Otto's Kopje, Kimberley fort replying with twenty shells.

The British force reconnoitered outposts along Lacerato Ridge, the Boer position of the ridge having accomplished this and having dispersed reinforcements approaching from Wimbeldon Ridge.

Col. Chamier, with Royal Artillery, exchanged a dozen shells. As soon as the guns could be limbered up some Boers poured in a heavy fire from their earthworks.

The British finally retiring with the loss of one horse.

The movement showed the Boers were still keeping three guns in the vicinity of Kimberley and are able to summon reinforcements rapidly.

It also shows their proneness to vacate a position immediately when weaker than the opposing force.

British Attack a Fort.

Pretoria, Dec. 28.—Commandant Snyman reports as follows from Molopo: "On Monday morning the enemy from Mafeking attacked one of our forts in force with cannon, Maxims and an armored train, and so persistently that there was fighting right on the walls of the fort. But we have retained our fort. The British loss is reported as 55."

Colonials in the Boer Rank.

London, Dec. 30.—The Daily News correspondent, telegraphing from Capetown, says: "A leading resident of Pretoria says was released by the Boers 2,000 colonials from Griqualand West. He says colonial forces are to be seen everywhere in the Boer ranks."

SUPPLIES FOR BOERS.

It is Rumored Guns and Ammunition Are Smuggled Through Delagoa Bay—Who is the Burglar Informant?

London, Dec. 30.—A Lorenzo Marquez dispatch, dated Dec. 27th, published in the Times, says: "Cargoes for the Transvaal have dwindled to one-fifth of the average, but large shipments are expected from Europe. In the meantime there are persistent rumors here and in Durban that guns and ammunition are smuggled through for the Boers."

A French liner now in the harbor is said to have brought two large guns from Madagascar. The head of the customs, says here, that there is absolutely no ground, however, for such a rumor.

Boers Well Informed.

A dispatch, dated December 29th, says: "The suspicion that the Boer intelligence department is in close touch with a foreign consulate at Pretoria is confirmed by the fact that the news of the appointment of Lord Roberts as commander-in-chief in South Africa was generally known in Pretoria on December 20th, indirectly reaching Delagoa Bay from the Transvaal ten days later.

Suspicion rests upon a consul who is not only a Boer sympathizer, there is reason to believe that Pretoria is kept well informed with regard to British military movements.

By Cable From London

Will General Buller Remain Inactive Until 'Bobs' Arrives at the Cape?

It Is Believed Kimberley and Mafeking May Be Sacrificed.

(Associated Press.)

London, Dec. 30.—The death of the Duke of Westminster, combined with the mourning already prevalent on account of the war losses, has left few of the titled families of Great Britain free to enjoy Christmas with the usual festivities.

To this condition of affairs the pathetic paradox is found in the society news columns which daily announce a long list of forthcoming marriages, the bridegrooms in the majority of cases being soldiers. It is a season of short engagements and sudden marriages.

The martial spirit and universal desire to serve the country shows no sign of abating. The action of the Duke of Norfolk, who is by no means a young man, in volunteering for active service, is the latest example of this spirit, but the Duke's position in the cabinet, his tremendous business interests, to say nothing of his power as lay head of the Catholic church in England, will probably prevent an acceptance of his offer.

The impression continues to gain ground that Gen. Buller and his subordinates have been instructed to undertake no important movement until the arrival of Gen. Roberts, who will amalgamate the divisions under Gens. Gatacre, Warren and French, and march upon Bloemfontein, thus drawing off the Boers from Ladysmith.

To accomplish this, it is believed that Kimberley and Mafeking may be sacrificed.

Whether Gen. Buller will acquiesce to this or attempt to emulate Gen. Gough, who retrieved his reverses in India while Sir Charles Napier was coming out to succeed him, is a matter of much speculation.

The seizure of cargoes of American flour off Delagoa Bay failed to excite much popular interest in England. It is generally looked upon as a fine point of International Law.

That will be amicably settled, but the military and international law authorities are almost unanimous in declaring that Great Britain should not declare food stuffs contraband of war.

A representative of the Associated Press learns that the wireless telegraph instruments recently captured from the Boers and described as Marconi's were not his marconi, they were made by a well-known German firm, and Marconi declares the instruments captured were not workable.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS

For Six Months Show an Increase of \$1,885,571 Over Last Year.

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, Dec. 30.—The comparative statement of customs receipts of the Dominion for six months ended to-day compared with same period last year is as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Month, 1898, 1899. Rows for July, August, September, October, November, December, and Total.

FIREMEN'S ESCAPE.

A Burning Roof Collapses Carrying With It Several Men.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—A large fire here to-day nine firemen were injured, two seriously, the escapes from death of captives O'Connor, Evans and Carey, and firemen Madden, O'Hara and three others was little short of miraculous.

All the men were working on the roof of a building at 216, 218 Mono street, and as the fire crept closer to the west side of the structure, the men were gradually driven toward the middle of the roof.

Suddenly the east wall of the building adjoining fell with a terrific crash. An immense mass of brick and timber crashed into the roof, where Captain O'Connor and his men were at work. The roof tore away from the sides and fell with a crash to the floor beneath, carrying piper O'Hara down in the debris and leaving the others on the frail broken edge of the roof, high above the flames.

Boers Attack Kamperdam. They Are Reported to Have Captured the Native Position.

Pretoria, Dec. 29.—Via Lorenzo Marquez, Dec. 28.—Commandant Swart reports from the laager at Alwyn's Kop, near Zorust, that he had an engagement on Friday, December 22nd, with Kaffirs in the neighborhood of Denderpoort. The Kaffirs occupied a strongly fortified ridge, and were well prepared for emergencies.

After heavy fighting the burghers captured the Kaffir position, losing three killed and five wounded.

London, Dec. 30.—The reported engagement with Kaffirs is very vague and cannot be explained, pending the arrival of later dispatches.

ADMAN BREVITIES.

Montreal, Dec. 30.—"Pete" Murphy, as familiarly called, a well known news vendor who has sold papers on St. James street for over twenty years, is lying dangerously ill at Notre Dame hospital.

Hamilton, Dec. 30.—Annie Lee, daughter of a retired resident of Stoney Creek, has been hiccoughing incessantly for two weeks. The doctor has been unable to stop it, and her condition is critical. An expert from the United States has been sent for.

Quebec, Dec. 30.—Six new cases of smallpox were reported from Montcalm during past week, making in all forty-one.

Toronto, Dec. 30.—Hon. J. E. Stratton, provincial secretary, has a scheme on foot for the treatment of epileptics and mild forms of lunacy in separate provincial asylums. The government will probably utilize for that purpose the Victoria college (the well-known "old Methodist institution") at Cobourg.

VANCOUVER NOTES.

(Special to the Times.)

Vancouver, Dec. 30.—Quite a flurry was caused amongst the ladies yesterday evening over the expulsion, by resolution, from the W.C.T.U. ranks of Mrs. D. G. McKeon. Mrs. Mackenzie has for some time past been forward in the work, and had supervision of the hospital and rescue departments.

Twelve hundred convictions have been obtained out of fifteen hundred cases heard during the year in the local police court. Twenty-four cases were committed for trial.

Messrs. Hewitt Bostock and F. J. Deane, of Kamloops, are passengers to the capital this afternoon.

DEATHS FROM THE PLAGUE.

Melbourne, Victoria, Dec. 30.—Advice from Noumea, New Caledonia, says that five whites have been attacked by the plague. One of them has since died. Fifteen Kanakas and Chinese has died from the plague and twelve are under treatment.

A STRANDED STEAMER.

London, Dec. 30.—The mail steamer which went ashore last night on the southern extremity of Kent, is the Petetas of the Hamburg-South American line.

The Petetas only carried a cargo of grain, and had no passengers on board.

"HOGMANAY" CELEBRATION.

The Sir William Wallace Society Honor Their Chief.

The gathering of Scotsmen at the last meeting of the year of the Sir William Wallace Society, held in their rooms, Broad street, last night, was one worthy of commemoration. It was decided to recognize the close of the chief's (Mr. W. C. Kerr) year of office by a "Hogmanay" celebration, and the members responded richly together, with not a few visitors from the Caledonia and St. Andrew's Society. After the chief had taken his seat the Rev. W. Leslie Clay, chaplain of the Caledonian Society, addressed the gathering on the subject of "Patriotism," and said he thought if Scotsmen were somewhat more aggressive politically, municipally and socially, it would be better for themselves, and for the community generally.

Mr. R. H. Jameson made a few remarks, after which the chief, in wishing the members "A guide new year to are and a," said that undoubtedly the influence of the Sir William Wallace Society was making itself felt far beyond the confines of the city of Victoria, the reports of their gatherings now finding a place in the columns of the Scottish American, the leading Scottish paper on this continent.

An interval followed, during which tea, coffee, cakes, etc., were handed round, the pipe to the society (Mr. Robertson) meanwhile playing a selection on the bagpipes, and Mr. Hughes on the piano. After the interval, Mr. Dean, the bard of the Caledonia Society, recited an original poem, entitled "An Address to the Scottish Regiments Bound for the Transvaal," which merits the warm approval of the members. The following programme was then gone through: Song, Mr. G. M. Watt, "The Smith's a Gallant Fireman" recitation, Mr. Henderson, "Jameson's Raid on the Transvaal" song, Mr. Jameson, "Oor Ann Auld Hame" recitation, Mr. Morrison, "Downfall of Poland" song, Mr. W. Corneck, "Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon" recitation, Mr. J. McKay, "On the Heights of Alma" short address, Mr. W. J. Hanna; song, Mr. G. M. Watt, "The Lang, Awa Ship" recitation, Mr. J. G. Hay, "William and Mary" song, Mr. R. H. Jameson, "Annie Laurie," in which the members joined. Altogether the proceedings from start to finish went with an enthusiasm and vim worthy of the best days of the society, and the gathering closed at a late hour by all the members singing "Auld Lang Syne."

AN ADDRESS.

To the Scottish Regiments Bound for the Transvaal, South Africa.

(After "Scott, Wha' Ho.")

Scots win to the Transvaal speed, Scots when White and Butler led, standing on to glorious deeds, Death or victory.

There's the copies, there's the Boers, See their dreadful, deadly slaughter, Strive to break bold Kruger's power, Brave Gordon on his me.

By the British blood they spill, By the graves which Britons fill, To avenge Majuba's hill, Onward to the foe!

Who in freedom's noble cause, Freedom's rights and freedom's laws, Who for bravery's just applause, Wadna do or die?

THE PLAGUE AT HONOLULU.

(Associated Press.)

It is Chief Langley

Police Commissioners Appoint Provincial Sergeant to Succeed Mr. Sheppard.

A Native Son Chosen Out of Twenty-Three Applicants for the Position.

Out of twenty-three applications received for the office of chief of police for this city, the Board of Police Commissioners this morning decided that there was none equal to the native son, Ontario man and men from the Prairie provinces and from the interior points of British Columbia, applied for the post, but in the opinion of the board they were none whose qualifications for the post were so satisfactory as those of Sgt. John M. Langley, of the provincial police force, who was this morning formally selected for the position. He will enter upon his duties on the 2nd of January, his assumption of the position being signalled by a conference with the police board at eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning. Until that time Chief Sheppard will be asked to continue in the office.

The decision referred to was reached at a meeting of the board, held this morning at the city hall. The conference was conducted in private in the mayor's parlors, the commissioners, towards the closing of the day, deliberations in the committee of the latter it was merely stated by the mayor, on behalf of himself and his colleagues, that Sgt. Langley had been chosen for the position. The chief declined to say whether or not the decision was unanimous.

The Times was asked to say that applicants may obtain their photographs and testimonials from the clerk of the police court any time after Tuesday morning, and that those residing out of town will have their credentials returned to them by mail.

This disposes of a matter which has aroused a great deal of interest throughout the city ever since the announcement of the Times that Chief Sheppard had handed in his resignation. Naturally all the friends of the applicants made a strong effort to secure the appointment of their favorites, and the life of a commissioner has been for the past few weeks a considerable burden in consequence.

Sgt. Langley, as he is most now known, Chief Langley, is one of the best known police officers on the Coast. He was born in Victoria in 1863, being the son of the late Jas. Langley, and was educated in this province and in California. He joined the police force in April, of 1884, being at the same time deputy sheriff under the late police officer, H. Harris. In 1889 he was promoted to the position of sergeant, and for a year and a half acted as superintendent until the appointment of Mr. Hussey to that position. He has since been identified with the police department.

During the past few years he has been in the forefront of many of the famous cases which have been in connection with the Vancouver robbery and the North field murder case and other matters being incidents in a long and successful experience. He was married twelve years ago to Miss Frances Allette, who is a native daughter of this city.

His appointment will render vacant the post of provincial police sergeant, the next senior in the force being Clerk Atkins.

Following is a list of the applicants from which the commissioners had to select the new chief:

- William A. Gilchrist, Victoria.
Robert A. Humphrey, Victoria.
C. W. Gladwin, Kamloops.
James Kirkley, Brandon.
John M. Langley, Victoria.
John E. Whiteside, Victoria.
Wm. Greenwood, Norman, Ont.
Alex. McGowan, Rossland.
Geo. M. Perdue, Victoria.
Mr. E. White-Fraser, Vancouver.
A. Westwood, Prince Albert, Sask.
Thos. Palmer, Victoria.
John Hawton, Victoria.
A. F. McKinnon, Nelson.
Donald Campbell McLeod, Victoria.
W. J. Rint, Victoria.
W. P. Winsay, Victoria.
Patrick Perry, Victoria.
Frank P. Murray, Victoria.
Thos. McInnes, Moosomin.
Michael Mooriskey, Victoria.
P. J. Riddell, Victoria.
John McAlistar, Vancouver.

THE LATE GENERAL LAWTON.

Manila, Dec. 30.—The remains of Gen. Henry W. Lawton were to-day conveyed from the Paco cemetery to the transport, Thomas, which sails this afternoon.

STRENGTHENING FRENCH NAVY.

Paris, Dec. 29.—The government will submit to the Chamber of Deputies at the beginning of January a bill providing for the defence of the French coasts and colonies, and to increase the strength of the fleet.

This does not involve an increase in the expenditures. The cost of the defence of the coasts and colonies is estimated at 220,000,000 francs, against two and a half years. This sum will be provided for by 50,000,000 francs annually set aside to buy of certain bonds, and which become free this year by the final payment of these bonds.

The expense of the increase of the fleet will be met by utilizing 55,000,000 francs of the 105,000,000 francs annually devoted to the construction of new vessels. At the end of two years the whole 105,000,000 francs can be devoted to the new naval programme.

The total outlay, which is estimated at 400,000,000 francs, will provide, it is understood, for the construction of twelve first-class ironclads, several torpedo boat destroyers and a large number of torpedo boats.

Already the press denounces the scheme as "inadequate."

JAS. DEANS.