

Victory at Any Cost.

People of Great Britain Looking Hopefully for Success in Africa.

White Boers Are Pressing President McKinley to Mediate for Peace.

Mr. Stead Has a Vision of a Raid on London by Frenchmen.

By Associated Press. London, Dec. 23.—Not for many years past has London been in such a position as confronts her this Christmas. Yet to meet it there has arisen a new Britain which by its virility and pluck extorts admiration even from her bitterest Continental critics. The comments of the foreign papers—at least such as are printed here—are couched in terms far more friendly than when it was believed a speedy victory awaited Gen. Buller. As repeatedly asserted, there is no likelihood of European interference as yet. W. P. Stead in the Daily Chronicle to-day has a very alarming column in which he has visions of a "superior Jamieson raid by 6,000 Frenchmen on London in the absence of the Channel fleet." Mr. Stead points out, however, what in his opinion might be accomplished, and says: "To rely, as some appear to do, upon the addition of a number of raw recruits under the excitement and stimulus of the present war fever, is to rely on a broken reed. Wool-walkers might see the French tricolor flying over Westminster before the first of the new recruits could have learned to handle a gun."

Though Great Britain's campaign in South Africa seems temporarily checked, the Associated Press learns that the Boers are straining every nerve to secure the mediation of President McKinley towards a favorable peace. But anyone with the slightest knowledge of British feeling appreciates that not one person in a million contemplates such a result but the ultimate British triumph, and all sections unite in saying that this must be secured, no matter at what cost. Hence the Boers, in their slight hopes of mediation would be accepted, even though President McKinley should be persuaded to proffer it. The Associated Press is informed from excellent sources that no offer of mediation would be accepted by Lord Salisbury in any shape or form. The popular expectation is that peace is that it must come through the aid of the army, Gen. Roberts, and his not less adored chief of staff, Gen. Buller. The Boers are anticipated to wait indefinitely for that eventuality. The fall of Kimberley, Ladysmith and Mafeking would not make a particle of difference, for this is the only point thoroughly imbedded in the hearts of the people. Any other defeats that the future holds for the British, except entire annihilation, are anticipated with seething criticism which the nation has inflicted upon itself. Estimates of the duration of hostilities vary from three months to a year.

FOR A SUMMER CAMPAIGN. British Preparations Are for a Long Siege—Volunteer Reinforcements for the Regiments.

New York, Dec. 24.—The London correspondent of the Sun says: "The war office authorities seem to be at last convinced that the war will last far longer than was at first expected. Last Wednesday they placed with one firm in London a contract for 10,000 tons of fodder, the delivery to commence in South Africa during the first week in March. Similar contracts have probably been made elsewhere showing that the war office is preparing for a continuance of the war until well along in the summer. Commenting on the manner in which the government is to make use of the Volunteers, namely, having each Volunteer battalion supply one company to its line battalion in the field and keep a second company ready at home, in reserve, Mr. Henry Spencer Wilkinson says: "Thus the Volunteer force is to be used by being absorbed into the army. This will lead inevitably to the amalgamation of the Volunteers and the regular army, and is the death blow of the specific character of each. It means that henceforth the British, like other armies, will be homogeneous, containing no other categories than men in the colors and men in reserve, classified according to their immediate liability to be called up. The week's fall, besides serving partially to raise the gloom caused by the news of Gen. Buller's defeat, the recovery being greatly assisted by the appointment of Gen. Roberts and Gen. Buller, has also greatly diminished the rate of ascension of the casualty list. The week's official though still probably incomplete, makes the total now 7,737."

TOLSTOI'S RECOVERY. Moscow, Dec. 24.—Count Tolstol is now pronounced by medical advisers fully restored to ordinary health.

CAPITAL NOTES. Officers for the Second Contingent Not Yet Appointed.

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—The cabinet met again to-day to revise the list of officers. Until the officers are appointed the work of enrollment cannot be commenced. Major Tucker, M.P., is here to urge that St. John be made the port of embarkation for either the artillery or rifles.

THE QUEEN'S CHRISTMAS. Happy Party Gather Round Her Majesty at Windsor.

London, Dec. 23.—In spite of the deep anxiety of the Queen regarding events in South Africa, she has no intention to permit Christmas at Windsor to assume other than a festive character. The Duke of Connaught, the Marquis of Lome and Princess Louise and a host of little folks, other members of the royal family and Canon Duckworth, the Queen's chaplain, were gathered at Windsor this evening, where they were met by Princess Henry of Battenberg, the Duchess of Albany and others, who will make up a cheerful party.

Vancouver's News Budget. Salaries of the Postal Clerks to Be Increased Next Year.

Mayor Garden to Be Ald. Brown's Opponent in Mayoralty Contest.

From Our Own Correspondent. Vancouver, Dec. 23.—Enquiries at the post office to-day elicited the fact that all clerks in the Vancouver office in receipt of less than \$800 per annum would be advanced \$5 per month from January 1, and that Post Office Inspector Bennett had wired to the department recommending the advance immediately. It appears that Mr. Bennett in spite of having stated to the Colonist correspondent that the Vancouver clerks were not under paid or over worked compared to other offices, reported that the cost of living in the West necessitated an additional provisional salary all around for clerks receiving a lower sum than \$68.68 a month. The increase of course must be followed by a similar increase in Victoria and other British Columbia towns. The post office officials here, however, say that Vancouver is the most expensive city in British Columbia to live in owing to the high rents for small dwellings. Victoria was particularly mentioned as a cheaper place to live in than Vancouver.

BRAZNET MINE VICTIMS. Dead Will Number at Least Forty, of Whom Half Were Americans.

Brownsville, Pa., Dec. 24.—Up to midnight about twelve bodies have been taken from the Braznet mine. Twelve other bodies are in sight, partly covered by the debris, and it is almost a certainty that sixteen more are still in the mine. The list of dead is known to be at least forty and it may go far beyond that figure. Half of the dead are Americans, the balance being Hungarians.

BELGIAN GOOD SENSE. Antwerp, Dec. 24.—The burgo-master of Rotterdam refused to allow a Transvaal yacht to be produced as a natural trophy which would be regarded as insulting by the English. The government has instructed the burgo-master to suppress any such demonstrations. It also prohibited the formation of a volunteer corps for the Boers and has refused to allow army officers to join the armies of the South African Republics.

THE CZAR REMEMBERS. Will Present a Yacht to Prince George, Who Saved His Life.

London, Dec. 23.—The czar will present Prince George of Greece with a splendid yacht as a New Year's gift. The vessel has been especially built at Sebastopol, and is intended as a souvenir of Prince George saving the life of the czar in Japan, while they were on a tour around the world some years ago.

Britishers' Self-Reliance. Enrolling Army for Government's Assistance but Without Demand on Treasury.

Citizens of Town and Country Flocking to Standards of Their Titled Leaders.

Steamship Lines Offering Free Transport—Collection for Soldiers' Families.

By Associated Press. New York, Dec. 24.—The London correspondent of the Evening Post cables at length regarding the manner in which the people of Great Britain take a crisis, and how they have set to work to straighten matters out. He says: "England takes her crisis in her own peculiar way. In France, Russia, Germany, or any other great European country, it would presumably be the government that all men would turn for escape from the threatened national disaster. In England today the Englishman thinks of his government only to criticize it, and with heartfelt expletives denounces its military methods of transport, its artillery of too short range, its failure to provide the regular mounted troops most needed for scouting, and so on. "But having done his swearing, the Englishman turns away from his government to himself and his sons, and there springs spontaneously from every town and countryside a new citizen army, to be dressed for most part in homespun and qualified alone by good health and a desire to serve. The Englishman begins a few days ago to form a corps called the Lord Mayor's Own. He wanted only 1,000 from the city of London, but 1,400 are already taken and 800 more are to be mounted. The neighboring and hardly formed city of Westminster, not to be outdone, is gathering its own corps, while other mayors and other cities are forming other bodies. "Then the Yeomanry, the ancient and half dead semi-military organization of mounted farmers of the English countryside is springing into new life under the new impulse. Lord Chesham, one of the hundreds of public spirited gentlemen, whom no one hears except at times of crisis, has taken the lead. Hundreds of offices have been opened and thousands of officers already been received, each man bringing his horse; while the hunting men of Kildare, Meath and other parts are adding to the ranks. "Besides these there are the volunteers throughout the length and breadth of the land who are leaving desk and warehouse to shoulder muskets for the defence, as was the stipulation when they joined the home Volunteer forces, but to go to the front in South Africa. "The English people in taking the matter in hand themselves, and what is even more remarkable and typical, they are paying for it over the counter, as it were, with their own money. The Lord Mayor is equipping his corps by the aid of the British and Foreign Mercantile Association, and these examples are being widely followed. Moreover, the owners of the Castle Union and Wilson lines, the Wilsons being, by the way, ardent Radicals and anti-Chamberlaines, are providing free transports to South Africa. "Today the English Canterbury publishes the Queen's letter to the established Church, enjoying a national collection in aid of the wounded, widows and orphans. It is in just a spontaneous, unofficial, seemingly haphazard way that the richest Empire of history lives in owing to the high rents for small dwellings. Victoria was particularly mentioned as a cheaper place to live in than Vancouver."

A TRUCE OVER CHRISTMAS. Opposing Forces Have Understood That Hostilities Are Suspended for the World's Great Festival.

London, Dec. 25.—4:30 a.m.—The war office has received a cablegram from Gen. Buller, dated at Capetown yesterday, saying: "Have no further news of general situation. It may be almost safely predicted that nothing will occur to-day. A truce, either formal or informal, is being kept for the observance of Christmas by the opposing forces."

War's Cost Fifty Million. So Figure Politicians in Speculating on Financial Policy of the Ministry.

Cannot Be Charged to Revenue and Borrowing Preferred to New Taxes.

Suggested Cabinet Changes Not Likely Since the Agitators Lack Following.

By Associated Press. NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Touching on the political side of the South African war, the London correspondent of the Tribune says: "It is not likely that there will be any cabinet changes, since Mr. Alfred Harmsworth's claims to political dictatorship, by virtue of having a string of profitable newspapers under his personal control, are not recognized. "This millionaire newspaper owner, who was a clerk with a modest salary under Sir George Grey, and who a few years ago, is Lord Rosebery's friend and aspires to be a political Warwick for both parties, with a large incidental income, is not likely to increase the difficulties of the ministry by raising the rate of taxation, and thereby rendering the war unpopular, when he has the means to provide for war expenses by charging them against revenues for two or three years, and carrying a large floating debt. 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