

BRITISH ADVANCE ABRUPTLY STOPPED.

Gen. Methuen Apparently in a Tight Place.

RELIEF FOR GEN. WHITE FAR OFF.

Gatacre and French Both Acting on the Defensive.

London report says: The silence concerning the military operations in South Africa has not yet been broken. Gen. Buller has sent a corrected list of the deaths of non-commissioned officers and privates at Colenso, placing the total at 137. Nothing has been heard from General Methuen since December 17th, and the reports of the excellence of the Boer position and the skilful manner in which they are further strengthening it tend to increase the apprehension regarding the British at Modder River. The probability of Gen. Methuen's communications being cut grows, but nothing is certainly known.

General Walker reported on Dec. 19. Nothing has been heard from Gen. Gatacre. Press reports indicate an increase in the Boer strength and activity in his neighborhood.

It is many days since there was any news from Ladysmith, Kimberley or Mafeking.

The reports that the Boers were unable to capture the guns the British abandoned at Colenso do not come from a source encouraging belief in their truth. One correspondent at Chieveley says definitely that the guns were captured.

In view of the increasing disposition in many quarters to upbraid the Government for responsibility for the British disaster owing to its lack of preparations, a speech made at Glasgow by Mr. Gerald Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland, excites adverse comment. While disavowing any desire to criticize the generals, he said, nevertheless, that "our officers had had a sharp lesson," and he trusted that it would be salutary.

The newspapers devote much space to the volunteer movement. Reports indicate that the War Office is still overwhelmed with offers. The Imperial yeomanry scheme seems to some extent to be modelled on Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

The Daily News says that the military chief in South Africa desires 8,000 Imperial yeomanry. The War Office will aim to comply with this desire.

The first instalment of the number will be 3,000, whom Lord Chesham is commissioned to raise. They will be under his own command.

Gen. Roberts Talks.

London cable: Gen. Lord Roberts, who is to have full command of the British troops in South Africa, accompanied by Lady Roberts and their two daughters, having travelled from Dublin with Mr. Chamberlain. Their departure from Dublin was marked by cheering crowds, but the General made a quiet entry into London. After going to a private hotel he spent about an hour at the War Office in consultation with the Marquis of Lansdowne, Secretary of State for War. Then he returned to the task of packing his effects and interviewing the officers selected for his staff. General Roberts willingly assented to give the Associated Press the following statement:

"Circumstances naturally forbid my speaking about the campaign ahead of me, except to say that I have entire confidence in the British soldier, and that I believe the traditions of our army will be upheld in South Africa. "For the friendly interest and sympathy exhibited by many Americans I am most deeply grateful. I feel sure the justice of our cause merits this. Though we may be at war, I can safely say that no unnecessary harshness and no acts of inhumanity will mar the fair name of this branch of the Anglo-Saxon race.

"I cannot too warmly express my admiration for the spirit which prevails in our colonies. The action of Canada will always be a glorious page in the history of the sons of the empire. I look for great things from the men she has sent and is sending to the front.

"The reports which indicate that disloyalty exists in the Irish regiments are absolutely untrue. In the hour of danger my countrymen have ever been among the first to lay down their lives for their Queen and country, and whether it be against the Boers or men of any other nationality the Irish soldier will be found loyal to his Queen and brave in battle. You cannot deny those reports of Irish disloyalty too strongly."

The representative learned that Gen. Roberts entertains a great friendship for Gen. Kitchener, though they have never served together.

New York report: The continued battle was fought on Colenso plain to-day between the Boers and the British forces under General Buller.

Two Boer camps had been located, and General Hart's brigade was sent westward from Doornkop to Bridge drift and ordered to cross the Tugela River and follow its north bank to the bridge.

General Hildyard's brigade was or-

dered to advance and cross the bridge with the object of capturing the kopjes on the north side of the river.

A cavalry brigade, one thousand strong, with one battery of artillery, was sent to the extreme right flank for the purpose of enfilading the bridge. The naval guns opened fire at 5.45 a. m. There was no reply at first. A heavy musketry fire opened from behind Fort Willie.

The 7th and 14th Batteries, under Col. Long, were within 800 yards of the Boer rifle pits. The Boers also opened a shell fire from Grobler's kloof. The British artillery horses were killed, and ten guns were left on the ground. Col. Long, Col. Hunt, and all the other officers of the artillery were wounded.

General Hart's brigade, led by a guide, advanced on the left toward the drift. It was met by a shell fire from two guns and a cross fire from musketry, and compelled to retire.

At 7 o'clock firing commenced on the extreme right. Thornycroft's mounted infantry losing 42 in killed and wounded. A composite regiment of the King's Royal Rifles, mounted, the Imperial Light Horse, and the Natal Carbineers, under command of Col. Walters, covered their retirement. The South African Light Horse, which was also engaged, suffered heavy losses.

Gen. Hart's brigade, supported by Gen. Lyttleton's, made a second advance, but retired again after a strong reconnaissance, in which the Boers were compelled to show their positions in the hills, where they were entrenched in tiers.

All branches of the British force behaved well, and showed rare coolness. The whole story can be summarized by saying that the Boers' position was too strong, and their force too large, for an attack from the front.

Wherever the bullets and shells were the thickest there Gen. Buller was to be found.

Capt. Boyce, of Gen. Clery's staff, and his horse killed, but escaped injury himself. Major Ellison's horse was shot in the hind leg. Capt. McNamara, an aide-de-camp to Gen. Clery, had his horse killed, and a bullet went through his helmet.

Dr. Hughes, Gen. Buller's staff surgeon, was killed. Capt. Roberts, son of Gen. Lord Roberts, was mortally wounded.

The Connaught Rangers, the Dublin Fusiliers, and the East Surreys suffered heavily.

Major Stuart Wortley's litter-bearers behaved excellently during today's fighting, and collected 350 of the wounded.

While they were working under the Red Cross flag the Boers fired a number of volleys at them, and several of the bearers were killed.

The Boers state that their loss was heavy, and that they wish they had never seen Colenso.

The Border Regiment had three killed and 42 wounded.

Boer Position Too Strong.

A London cable: The Times publishes the following despatch from its war correspondent:

"Chieveley Camp, Dec. 16.—The Boer position was an exceedingly strong one. There was a line of kopjes elaborately fortified with entrenchments and emplacements, while our advance was without cover.

"The bombardment began at 5 a. m., and was heavy till 6.30. At 7 o'clock Generals Hildyard and Hart opened fire. Hart's attack lasted till ten o'clock.

"The men advanced in the most gallant manner across the open ground, facing a terrific fire from the enemy's machine batteries and rifle pits. "The Dublin Fusiliers crossed the river, but retreated. The Connaught Rangers and the Dublin Fusiliers lost heavily.

"General Barton made directly for Colenso. He reached the Tugela by a series of brilliant rushes, but was unable to hold the position against the awful fire poured in by the enemy, and eventually retired, and with heavy loss.

"Lord Dundonald, with the mounted men, gallantly attacked Brangwan hill, but was repulsed.

"The naval battery made excellent practice.

Boers Lost Heavily at Modder River. A London cable: The Daily Mail publishes the following interesting despatch from Julian Ralph, dated Modder River, referring to the Modder River engagement:

"We have now reason to believe that the Boer losses considerably exceeded ours. A hundred were buried in the river, having been sunk by means of stones—some sixteen of these, insufficiently weighted, floated to the surface—thirty or more were buried in the sand, their slight sepulchres being insufficient to hide their protruding fingers and limbs; thirty

wounded are in the two hospitals in our lines; three hundred in the hospital four miles north, and seventy prisoners are held by us.

"Many of the dead were carried off the field, as at Belmont, where the Boers were seen to throw their dead on their saddles and ride away; in one case a dead man was held up in his saddle by a companion on another horse. The figures make a total besides which our losses are small.

"I visited the Boer hospital on the island in the river with Col. Ellen-hurst and Rhodes yesterday. The Boer surgeon complained that he was held practically a prisoner, as he could not go away from the hospital.

"What do you want to go away for?" asked Col. Rhodes; "surely your sole duty is here with the sick?"

"Yes; but I am a physician. Why am I restrained?"

"I am not in authority," said Col. Rhodes, "and cannot explain your status. But I can tell you something by which you can judge what it may and ought to be. You bear on your arm a red cross, the most sacred emblem of humane endeavor, respected all over the civilized world. Unfortunately you associate yourself with an unorganized horde which uses this sacred cross as a target to shoot at, which employs it on wagons filled with armed men sent out to shoot at our wounded in wagons bearing the same almost holy device. You must thank yourself if, having chosen to remain with a rabble which dishonors the Geneva cross, you find yourself in an unpleasant predicament."

United States Opinion.

Chieveley Camp. Natal report (delayed in transmission) says: A appeals to this Government to offer

General Methuen's position, which is the latest news received, causes anxiety. It perhaps explains the reports that Gen. Warren's division is going to De Aar. It is stated, however, that one of the transports of the fifth division will be sent to Durban, indicating more splitting of the troops.

The Times complains of the non-employment of the colonial irregular horse to harass the Boers and threaten their lines of communication at Magerfontein. It says that if this force was used for this purpose it would probably relieve the pressure on Gen. Methuen with astonishing rapidity.

Commenting on the superiority in range of the Boer artillery at Colenso, the Times says it hopes it will convince the British military authorities "that there are guns in existence capable of being carried about, and making excellent practice at a range which our field artillery cannot command. It is not too much to say that our War Office is the only one in Europe that ignores this important fact."

Many Volunteers.

London cable says: The War Office has issued the particulars of the enrolment of volunteers. The mounted infantry will be named the Imperial Yeomanry. The term of enlistment will be a year, or not less than the duration of the war. The men will be drawn from the existing yeomanry, into which others possessing riding and shooting qualifications will be drafted for the occasion. Each man will provide his own horse, clothing, saddlery, and accoutrements, the government making a capitation grant therefor, and supplying arms and camp equipment. The pay will be at cavalry rates.

Regarding the infantry, volunteer

SLAUGHTERING BOERS AT ELANDS LAAGRE



One of the Boers stood firing until the British cavalry was within twenty yards. He then jumped up behind another, and a British corporal ran both through with his lance. The lancer, who could not withdraw his lance, was shortly afterward killed.

unsolicited mediation to England have altogether failed to affect general opinion in favor of such a course. It is almost needless to repeat that the Government turns a deaf ear to these hysterical entreaties. What has really affected American opinion, though in different ways, is the firmness with which England has met the reverses, and the patriotic response of the English people to the call for more men and greater efforts of self-sacrificing devotion touches all hearts. Another influence is also becoming perceptible. Sympathies are divided, and though the best of them are with England, it is a fact that division remains, but even those who on sentimental grounds would stretch a hand to the Boers are beginning to see that the final attitude of the United States must depend on other considerations. Statesmanship, not sentiment, will determine the American policy.

Deadlock at the Modder.

A London cable: The Times contains the following despatch from its war correspondent:

"Modder River, Dec. 16.—A full moon prevented the use of the searchlight to-night, but Kimberley availed itself of the eclipse to send through important despatches.

"The present situation is a complete deadlock. The Boers are increasing and extending their fortifications on both flanks, but are unable to make an attack. It is equally impossible for the British to turn the Boers' flank, which rests on the river on the east, and rapidly approaches the river on the west.

"The Boers have a continual line of entrenchments capable of rapid construction at many points. Their only disadvantage is a scarcity of water and food."

The Times' Information concerning

and one Major and two surgeons for the three batteries, and one Captain, three Lieutenants, and a Veterinary Lieutenant for each battery, with perhaps a Veterinary Captain for the three batteries.

For the mounted infantry there will be a Colonel, a Major and two surgeons and two veterinaries for the three squadrons, and for each squadron, a Captain, three Lieutenants and a veterinary surgeon. This list may be slightly changed, but at present the roster of officers as drafted by Dr. Borden is as printed.

Of the three squadrons of mounted infantry, one and a half squadrons will be recruited from the Northwest Mounted Police and the ranchers of the great west, where there will be available hundreds of recruits, good shots, good riders, and mounted upon the best of horses. The other squadron and a half is to be composed of men from the Royal Canadian Dragoons, and the militia cavalry of the Dominion.

The following cablegrams received to-day by Lord Minto from Mr. Joseph Chamberlain makes it clear that previous cavalry training is not necessary for recruits for the mounted infantry. The despatch reads: "With reference to expedition 'trained men' in previous cable, Secretary of State for War explains volunteers must be good shots and competent riders, but need not be members of any regularly drilled force. (Signed) Chamberlain."

RECRUITING STATIONS.

Recruiting will commence immediately. In Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces the district officers commanding the militia will make the necessary arrangements, and in the Territories the Superintendents of the Mounted Police will be instructed by Commissioner Herchmer, the head of the force, to receive applications from recruits. The recruiting stations will be as follows:

For artillery—Winnipeg, Kingston, Gananoque, Hamilton, St. Catharines, Toronto, Guelph, London, Ottawa, Port Hope, Quebec, Montreal, Granby, Woodstock, N. B., Newcastle, N. B., and Sydney, N. S.

For mounted infantry the recruiting stations will be: Toronto, St. Catharines, Peterborough, Ottawa, London, Kingston, Montreal, Quebec, Sussex, N. B., St. John, N. B., Canning, N. S., Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Yorkton, Regina, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Battleford, Mopomin, Qu'Appelle, Lethbridge, Fort MacLeod, Medicine Hat, Maple Creek, Calgary, Edmonton.

To-night instructions were telegraphed to all the District Officers Commanding and to the Commissioner of the Northwest Mounted Police to take steps for the immediate enlistment of recruits. Commissioner Herchmer is also ordered to notify his officers to grant discharges to all mounted policemen desiring to enlist. Mr. Herchmer is further ordered to have the veterinary surgeons attached to the police force examine all the horses belonging to the force, and to make a close inspection of mounts brought in by civilians who enlist. If passed, the Government will buy these latter horses at a valuation. The maximum price allowed by the militia regulations for horses for the permanent cavalry and artillery is \$150, but this figure is not often reached. In the Northwest a considerably lower price is paid for horses for the police. In Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces horses will be bought under the superintendence of the Militia Department. With regard to the artillery, it will be recruited from all the field batteries in the Dominion. Men of the two permanent batteries will be given a chance to take their discharge for the purpose of enlisting, and the members of the militia batteries will also be given an opportunity of joining at any of the places mentioned. It is believed that three times the necessary number of both cavalry or mounted infantry and artillery can easily be secured without calling on the men of A and B batteries, but it is held that it will be only fair to the Canadian regulars to permit them to go to South Africa.

The Imperial Government will pay both officers and men from the time of their arrival in South Africa, Canada will pay them from the moment of enlistment to that of embarkation, and will arm, uniform and maintain them during the voyage. In a word, the arrangements for pay are identical with those governing the first contingent. These terms are insisted upon by the Imperial Government, the War Office holding that it would not be good policy to adopt any other system. The mounted police are paid on entering the force 50c a day, working up to 70c a day. In South Africa they will receive the British cavalryman's stipend of a shilling and four pence a day. The Canadian Government will make up the difference to 50 cents a day. In other words, they will get from this Government 12 cents a day.

War Notes.

The Government of New South Wales has decided to send a field hospital corps and a battery of artillery to South Africa in addition to the mounted contingent.

A despatch from Paris says the French guns in the hands of the Boers were smuggled to the Transvaal as agricultural implements.

An Aberdeen despatch says the constituents of Duncan Pirie, M. P., who is a retired army officer, have voted want of confidence in him because he has failed to volunteer for service in South Africa.

A letter to the Cape Times from Palapye says Chief Khama is behaving splendidly. Twelve hundred armed men are patrolling and scouting. Khama says he regrets the anxiety among the Englishwomen. He says they will not be harmed while he or his men can protect them. He says he is grateful to the English for their many years of protection of his tribe.

The War Office has placed an order for another three thousand tons of hay from Canada, for use in South Africa.