## VOL. 23. SOUTH AFRICA

Thinks the Boer Movement Into Cape Colony Has Been Checked.

and Clements Defeat the Boers-Fighting Near Oliphants Nek-A Much Exaggerated Horse and Mule Yarn.

WELLINGTON, N. Z., Dec. 21.—The overnment of New Zealand has decidto despatch another contingent to

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 20.—Martial law has been proclaimed in the following districts: Victoria west, Richmond, Hanover, Murraysburg, Graafreinet, Aberdeen, Middlebi teinsburg, Cradock Tarka and Mol-

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 21.—A government meromandum, issued fast evening, makes the following announce-

"The principal seat of action has been transferred to the northern part of Cape Colony. Early December 16 a large body of Boers crossed the Orange River towards Burghersdorp. A BrA ish force followed to avoid which the Boers turned westward and occupied Venterstad Dec. 18. But they evacuated the town the same day on the approach of the British, and marched in the direction of Steynsburg.

"The Boers, however, have been intercepted and find difficulty in moving in any direction, as Steynburg, Burghersdorp, Stormsberg, Rosemad and Naauwpoort are all strongly held by the British and the Orange River has risen considerably in their rear."

BLOEMFONTEIN, Thursday, Dec. 20.—
The details of General DeWet's secape from
the British columns describe one of the
bodest incidents of the war. When Haasbreek's command joined DeWet Dec. 12,
some fifteen miles east of Thaba N'chu,
Geberal Knox was only about an hour distant and the Boor situation appeared des-General know was only about an hour distant, and the Boer situation appeared desperate. But DeWet was equal to the occasion. Despatching Haasbroek westward to make a feint at Victoria Nek, DeWet prepared to break through the British columns at Springhaau Nek Pass, about four miles of broad, flat unbroken ground. At the entrance were two fortified posts. Artilley was posted on a hill eastward watching the Boers.

was posted on a hill eastward watching the Boers.
Suddenty a magnificent spectacle was presented. The whole Boer army of 2,500 men, started at a gallop in open order through the nek. President Steyne and Peit Fourie ied the charge, and DeWet brought up the rear. The British guns and rifles boomed and rattled incessantly. The Boers first tried the eastward route, but encountering artilery, they diverged and galloped to the front of the hill to the westward, where the fire of only a single post was effective. The whole manoeuvre was a piece of magnificent daring, and its success was complete in spite of the loss of a fifteen-pounder and twenty-five prisoners.

five prisoners.

The British force detached after Haasbroek The British force detached after Haasbroek came in contact with his commando at night-fall. The burghers were scattered and the Welch Yeomany galloped among the restreating Boers, using their revolvers and the butt ends of their rifles with great effect. An incident of the fight was the gallop of a British ammunition wagon right through the greatering Hoses, the grunner using their their

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The secretary of state for war, William St. John Brodrick, announces that in view of the prolongation of the war in South Africa, members of the Imperial Yeomanry will be paid five shillings instead of one shilling and two pence per day. Militiamen are promised priority of return over regulars.

per day. Militiamen are promised priority of return over regulars.

The war office made the following annuncement last evening:

"In view of the general position in South Africa the following reinforcements of mounted troops have been arranged. Eight hundred will start next week. Two cavalry regiments have been ordered to leave as soon as the transports are ready.

"The colonial police will be increased to ten thousand. Detachments will leave as fast as they are formed. Further drafts of cavalry will be despatched at once. Australia and New Zealand have been invited to send further contingents.

to send further contingents.
"A despatch from Benar, Cape Colony, says that the Yeomanry have driven the Boers out of Houtkraal, the enemy retiring

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 21.—The Boers attacked Zunfontein Dec. 18, but were beaten off.

off.

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 21.—Martial law will be proclaimed in Worcester, Wellington and Stellenbosch. Rains are general, and several railway washouts delay the movements of the troops.

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 21.—General Brabant, commander of the newly raised colonial division, has been ordered to the front and will

start tomorrow.
At Thorndale General French has routed At Thorndale General French has routed 2,500 Boers with four guns and a pompom. The fight toook place Dec. 19. The British had fourteen wounded, and the Boers fied in disorder with about 50 killed.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—From its Cape Town correspondent the Daily Mail has received the followirg:

"The second invading force was designed to occupy Britstown, but being checked by the De Aar troops it has disappeared into the Ceaderberg mountains.

"An enormous concentration of troops is being made upon the Bell country occupied by the invaders, but it is not likely that the Boers will offer battle in large numbers. There is a renewed demand for the whole-sale proclamation of martial law."

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 21.—Gen. Baden Powell will start for the Transvaal tomorrew.

The Boers derailed a train at Barberton, killing an inspector and others.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—As the outcome of statements made during the recent session of parliament, and since reiterated, to the effect that some of the colonial troops nave refused to fight again, the war office late liast evening issued the following explanation from Lord Kitchener:

"A number of men belonging to two of the South African corps refused to march on one occasion, owing to some mistake to carry out their discharge at the expiration of their term of service.

"Lord Roberts, on the ground that they had a grievance, overlooked the matter, simply reprimanding them.

"The men of both corps have since done good work in the field, and it is absolutely urfounded to say that there was a mutiny or that force was used against them."

LONDON, Dec. 24.-Lord Kitchener's despatches breathing a confidence hardly justified by their contents, are almost the only available news from the seat of hostilities in South Africa; but telegrams from Cape Town depict the situation in anything but roseate

Without believing the assertion of the Transvaal agency in Brussels, that 6,000 Boers have invaded Cape Colony, it is quite evident that the invasion was a serious and well planned affair. In connection with this a correspondent sends an extremely interesting letter, dated Bethulie, Dec. 1st. describing General De Wet and his

"De Wet has never been taken seriously enough," says the correspondent. "It is of little use to pursue him as he fights a rear-guard action and gains twenty miles while he is be-ing fought. He is a born military genius, whose wonderful powers have kept up this phenomenal resistance.

"Once he fails, the whole thing could be crushed in a fortnight. He has every single comman lo under his supervision. All his patrols and columns march and counter-march on his order. The forces under his command have been reduced by his strength of will to a properly organized army, moving at his word. The sooner the British rid themselves of the idea that De Wet's forces are a mere rabble, wandering aimlessly, he sooner they will grasp the need of the determined effort which is necessary to capture

The Cape Colony cabinet had an important sitting resterday (Sunday.) It appears that the Boers have destroyed a railway bridge 90 feet long about 12 miles south of DeAar, and that no Cape mails have arrived at Bloemfon-

tein for three days. Further anxiety has been caused in Cape Town by the discovery that during the last two months public bodies and Haasbroek. Besides the commands tioned supplies of dynamite. The col- at Zoutspan to relaforce the Boers ocarris and ammunition from suspected depots.

Other advices from Cape Town represent the Dutch element in Cape Colony as greatly elated over the southward progress of the Boers and as boasting that the whole district of Victoria West will joint the raiders. It is suspected in Cape Town that the force travelling from Zoutspans Drift is not a body of Boers but one of colonials, hastening to join the invad--

The Pietermaritzburg correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "The Boers are active between Johannesburg and Pretoria, exchanging shots with the British outposts; and it is represented that part'es of b ers are hovering around Johannesburg."

LONDON, Dec. 22.—General DeWet would be by far the most acceptable Christmas box to the average Englishman, though there seems little likelihood of the wish being granted. The desire for the suppression of this wonderful Boer leader, however, is accompanied by generous admiration of

his latest feat. "It would be unworthy of the British name," says the Times, "to refuse the credit that is due a feat of arms so brilliant as the unexpected dash backward of De Wet and his men through the British lines."

Other papers take the same view, comparing the ride to Springhaan's Nek with the charge at Balaclava. In fact, admiration for the extraordinary daring displayed by the Boers on this occasion almost predominates

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sh officers to cope with their op-nts. There is springing up a sophic indifference to the incapaility of the generals in South Africa bility of the generals in South Africa. Reverses have become the expected. Last Christmas society almost went crazy over plum puddings and chocolate hampers sent to the soldies on the veldt. This year that are not mentioned. In fact the public is unutterably weary of the line drawn out struggle, whose only interesting year ture has been the sens though successes of De Wet. This in no way affects the government, whose determination to fight it out to the bitter end is evident from its decision to reinforce the already huge army in South Africa. Several members of the cabinet, however, would be heartly grateful were the Boer leaders to sue for pesses.

Boer leaders to sue for peace.

LONDON, Dec. 23.— The war office has received the following despatch from Lord Kitchener, dated Pretoric Dec. 22:

"As far as it is possible for me to form a manufacture of the control of the control

form an opinion from the reports of officers on the spot, I think the Boer movement into Cape Colony has been checked. Of the two forces that entered the colony the eastern is still north of the Zoutspansberg range, while the one that entered west ap-pears to have been turned in the direction of Britstown and Prietska. Our troops are getting around both parties and a special column is also being or-ganized, which will be despatched immediately when I know where its ser-

vices are most wanted. "The Boers have not received much assistance in Cape Colony so far as my information goes. We have armed some of the colonists, who are as sisting our forces. Railway and telegraph communication has been much

interrupted by the very bad weather.
"De Wet is in the neighborhood of Senekel. General French, in conjunction with Gen. Clements, attacked a force under Beyers, south of the Magaliesberg. The Boers broke away in a southwesterly direction toward Potchefstroom and were followed by Gen. Gordon with a column

"Yesterday evening about 5 o'cleck Clements' force was engaged south of Oliphant's Nek, but I do not yet know the result."

LONDON, Dec. 23.-A cable from Cape Town says: A column of 500 of all arms, under command of Major Shute, left Colesberg Dec. 21, by the Phillipstown road to relieve a post of twenty Yeomen. Two wounded Boers were captured. They stated that their party had lost two killed and twelve wounded.

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 22.- The Boer invaders of Cape Colony are commended by Generals Hertzog, Phillip Botha in out of the way places have requisi- already reported a force has crossed deavoring cupying Philipstown.

> Dec. 22, says: "The western column of Boers occupied Britstown and cut the railway south of DeAar Junction. The enemy

> is being followed up. "Gen. French has been in contact for two days with the commandoes of Beyrs and Delarey, south of the Magallesberg. He is pursuing them. The enemy have lost considerably, and Commandant Kreuse and others have

"Gen. Colville engaged two separate commandoes Dec. 21st, near Vlakfontein, with slight losses, the enemy re- a good passage.

purchasing 50,000 cavalry horses and guished services. mules for the British army in South Africa. He came here more than a year ago to buy horses and mules, but was ordered home a short time ago. But the unexpected renewal of hostilities has made the purchase of more horses and mules necessary. As fast as the animals are inspected and bought they will be sent to New Orleans and shipped to Cape Town, Durban and New London on British transports, some of which are on their way to the United States. One ship load of the animals will be taken to South Africa by Lieut. David Moberly, leaving New Orleans soon after January. Lieut. Moberly said: "By the time the horses and mules are landed in South Africa they cost the British govern-ment \$360 a head. That is a large price for an animal which will be fit for service only six weeks. Most of the animals die because of the change in climate. They must cross the equator going to South Africa, and the torrid heat of the tropics kill them rapidly. The average death rate on shipboard is 32 to the 1,000. Forty days after a horse is purchased in Kansas City it is landed in South Africa. So great is the demand for the horses at the front that it is imposssible to give them the needed rest after landing before putting them into service. Consequently they go to the front in a weakened condition, and not getting a sufficient amount of food they die. Since the beginning of the Boer war England has purchased over 10,000 head of horses and mules in the United States. It required sixty-five ships to carry them from New Orleans to South Africa. Government transports will be kept very busy from now on carrying the horses which England will need in South Africa and which have been ordered purchased in the United States. Baden Powell now has 25,000 mounted police, and it is proposed to mount 30,000 of the Imperial infantry.

MONTREAL, Que., Dec. 23 .- The Star's London cable says: Lord Kitchener has evidently made earnest appears to the British government to demounted infantry to hasten the end of the guerilla w rfare. Some say he has asked for 40,000 men. New Zealand is sending another contingent and Anglo-Canadians are wondering whether, as Canada has no national force in South Africa now, the Strathcona's being the result of private munificence, Canadians may not wish to send a second corps of five hundred mounted men from the Northwest to be raised and sight of the two Halifax officers, and equipped by the Canadian government. there was the evidence of heartfelt

And Men Landed at Halifax

in Interesting Interview With the

and Other New Brunswick Mer sached Here About One This

ing when the citadel signalled the Elder-Dempster liner Lake amplain was entering the harbor. Quickly the news was sounded over the city. And quickly it was flashed over Canada. But there was nothingquick after that, because for five weary nours the steamer lay at quarantine Her majesty's mails were on board, post office officials were on the wharf, where the mail train was blowing off steam, but idly the Lake Champlain lay out there at quarantine. There was a good deal of "reasoning why." It turned out later that the militia au-thorities had boarded the steamer and

that the men were being paid off. It was half-past eight when the Lake Champlain lurched against the railway wharf, crisp with the night's frost, snow and water, resplendent in the the men was still in progress, though her brain are clear, and her manner the paymaster was getting very near gracious, lovely and kindly." the end of the line.

every inch a soldier. He showed no the journey to Toronto. He is proud sign of fatigue. All his men were like of his chestnut "Paddy," one of the board looked well, physique splendid, Colonel Otter in reply to a question rarized the men on board under nmand as follows: Officers, 14; non-commissioned and men, 250; in-valided from different Canadian corps, 30: total, 294.

Thirty-four members of the first Canadian contingent, he said, are still in Africa. There are four officers employed principally on the imperial military railway, twenty men employed on the same work and ten sick in the hospital. One man on the Lake Champlain was not able to move around with the sprightliness of most of the others. He was Sergt. Shreeves of St. Johns, Que., who was badly wounded in the shoulder and who is still ill to recover possession of these explo-sives, and is removing all stores of from Lord Kitchener, dated Pretoria, mended. Colonel Otter's wound in the raid and the Northwest rebellion. He has quite healed, leaving hardly a mark behind. At Paardeberg the Colonel also had his shoulder strap shot

To Col. Otter, as soon as the ship was moored, was handed a budget of telegrams; some of them were private, all were congratulatory. A sample lot of the despatches the colonel re-

ceived is the following: LONDON, Dec. 22.—Hearty congratula-tions to you, your gallant officers and men, and your return home. Hope you have had

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 23.—Captain Heygate of the British army is congratulations to you all on your distinguishes 50,000 cavalry horses and

TORONTO, Dec. 19.—Welcome home. All Ontario welcomes back so many of her sons, who by their loyalty, bravery and many successes have added additional lustre to the

(Sgd.) (Sgd.) OLIVER MOWAT.

ST. JOHN, Dec. 22.—St. John regrets that the original arrangement for your landing here was changed, as we had a hearty reception prepared for you and the officers and men under your command, and wish to greet you hand to hand and face to face, and tell you all that we appreciate your endurance and bravery, and the splendid manner in which you upheld the fair name of our country; but as we cannot meet you, we send expression of our feerings, welcoming you back to Canada.

Wishing you a speedy reunion with your families, a merry Christmas, and prosperity and happiness in the new century.

On behalf of citizens.

On behalf of citizens.

(Sgd.) J. W. DANIEL, Mayor. HAMILTON, Dec. 22.—Welcome back. You and your brave men have earned the nation's undying gratitude for duty nobly done defence of British liberty.

(Sgd.) ADAM BROWN. Colonel Biscoe, acting general commanding, after Col. Irving, D. O. C., was the first to call on Col. Otter only a few minutes after the gang way from the wharf over the steamer's side had been raised. As he shook hands the first gun of the salute fired by the Royal Artillery boomed out from the citadel, and when the reverbration of the shot died away over the still sleeping city the church and fire bells rang out a merry peal. Then Governor Jones came on board. The governor took occasion to explain the absence of an elaborate reception by Halifax. His honor pointed out how limited the time had been since it was known that the troops would land here, how anxious the men must be to get home for Christmas, and yet how glad Halifax would have been to have honored itself by honoring our heroes.

Mayor Hamilton and the civil re ception committee were there and his worship's greeting, and the response by the colonel were exceedingly cordial. Whether Halifax gave the men the pint of beer or not, they did one thing, and that was to place on the train fifteen hundred cigars of a good spatch immediately large drafts of brand, for the use of the men on the homeward run, and lovers of nicotene will long have fragrant memories of the ride from Halifax to the west.

Rev. W. J. Armitage, who was in the Queen's Own, Toronto, under Col. Otter, was one of the early callers. So was Mr. Blanchard, father of Lieut. Blanchard who met a soldier's death.

"Hello, Stairs, and Oland," was the ejaculation of Col. Otter as he caught

cordiality and comradeship as the commanding officer and the captain and lieutenant grasped hands. As these men and scores of others followed in quick succession. The Sun representative was doing his best to interview Col. Otter:

"Have you a message for the people of Canada," was a question the Sun asked Col. Otter after the Lake Champlain had been safely moored.

The Colonel is modesty itself, and all he said in reply was: "We all feel the kindness of everyone in sending so many comforts. We can never forget the people's goodness and their sympathy. We did not get all that was sent us; it was impossible that we should. What we did receive gave us the greatest possible atisfaction. We thank the people of Canada." "England gave you a good wel-

"Indeed it did. We were in England from November 29th to December 12th, and nothing could exceed the enthusiasm and deep feeling shown by all classes in Britain, from the royal family to the costermonger. We were nearly killed with kindness in London. Portsmouth, Brighton, Woolwich and

Liverpool." "Give us your impression of the Queen as you saw her at Windsor." "When we saw Her Majesty on November 29th and she spoke to the battalion, her voice was pitched in about the same tone as mine is now," replied the colonel, who was speaking in an ordinary conversational tone. "As far as I could judge having spoken to her for some little time, both in the afternoon and evening, Her Majesty, not only appeared in most perfect health but was keen and quick in her interest and appreciation of the services of the colonials, while she displayed intense regret for the loss of morning sun. The work of paying off so many brave men. Her eyes and

Col. Otter stopped to give a man in-Col. Otter was in the saloon. He structions about his noble lorse, how was looking the pink of condition and it was to be placed on the cars for him in this respect. Every man on two horses which he took with him to South Africa, the one he used most, uniform natty, bearing soldierly, and which saw must of the fighting, his other horse dying on the trek.

The Sun ventured to ask about the departure of that portion of the contingent which arrived three months

Col. Otter said that he could find no fault with those who went home. He wanted as many men to stay as possible. Lord Roberts was desirous of this. But under the circumstances, he could not blame any one. He did not endeavor to coerce anyone. The men were left to judge for themselves. Their time was up, situations were at stake, and while he was sorry they could not stay, it was quite proper that they should go.
This was Col. Otter's third cam-

chin and neck received at Paardeberg said: "We would not have missed the service for anything. The experience of all ranks was extensive. Our losses were thirty-nine killed in action, twenty-eight died of disease, and one was killed accidentally. We had 120 wounded, 350 were invalided, and there were 400 cases of fever. The conduct of the regiment was excellent in every way. It held its own well with the best infantry battalions in the army, and I think it established a first class reputation. There was plenty of competition with other regiments in this, and we always held our own and a little more. The regiment's fighting powers, it is not for me to say these were better than those of others, but that we could clearly hold our own was demonstrated at Paardeberg, where Lord Roberts acknowledged that we had put the finishing stroke to

Cronie's forces.' "What about the Canadians' comradeship with the Gordons?" "Nothing could have been better campaign he evinced the strongest possible appreciation of the assistance given by the colonials, and equally his desire to bind them closer to the em-Lord Roberts showed this disposition particularly. He was always fully alive to the importance of drawing the colonies and the empire closer

together. I do not say that others did

termination of the war, Col. Otter said: "When the flat went out that said: "When the flat went out that there must be unconditional surrender, it was a picturesque and impressive sight, when the main portion of the larger, numbering nearly 4,000 men, came out of the trenches and bomb proof pits, they rose suddenly as if out of the earth, threw down their arms and broke into a weird and impressive hymn. I had often heard of their hymns at a distance, but never before so close under such grave conditions." so close under such grave conditions."

Of the Boers as fighters and as men.

Co. Otter said physically they were good. The Free Staters he thought were more intelligent and better fighters.

ers than the Transvaaler,
At 2.30 o'clock this afternoon, just twelve hours after the Lake Champlain's arrival, the military special pulled out from the railway station

Col. Otter said physically they were expressions of satisfaction with the treatment accorded him and his men by the Elder-Dempster line. They had spared no trouble to make the voyage on the Lake Champlain comfortable

OUR BOYS HOME. A special train arrived from Moncton early on Monday incrning, having on board Sergt. Sheldon and Privates Wm. Eite and John McCallum of the R. C. R. I., Fredericton, Private James Howes of Sussex of the 74th regiment, Private Harry Phillips of St. John, of the 62nd Fusiliers, Privates lames Robinson, John Wandlass, Tenant and P. S. Stevenson of Fredericton, of the 71st regiment, Gunner Chas. Wollard of Winnipeg of the Royal Canadian Field Artillery and Private J. M. Burnside of this city, of

the 62nd Fusiliers. Mayor Daniel, ex-Mayor Sears and Ald. Armstrong, along with a number of citizens, chiefly friends of some of the St. John boys, met the train, and the boys were loudly cheered. Coaches were in attendance, and the majority of the returned soldiers were driven to the Dufferin hotel, where the mayor saw that their wants were properly looked after.

Private Phillips' friends took charge of him, and he was taken home, the members of the Harmony club being the leaders in the demonstration in his

Private McCollum of the R. C. R. L. is a St. John boy and resided on Brindley street. Private Percy Fairweather left the train at Rothesay, where his parents

Gunner Wollard of Winnipeg was invalided to England some time, since. He will remain here some days as the guest of his friend, Rev. J. A. Rich-

Private Geo. Stanton of St. John is at Halifax. Private Chas. Petersen of this city

has gone to Quebec. Private Stenvenson of Fredericton enlisted here. He was a clerk in the Bank of Montreal agency at Frederic-

Sergt. Sheldon says he and the other Fredericton men will leave for the capita' this morning.

Mayor Daniel received the following telegram from Truro last evening: "Ever so many thanks for your good wishes and congratulations. We are proud of having earned your good opinion and greatly regret not being able to accept the kind invitation of

citizens of St. John. "COL. OTTER."

NEWSPAPER BURNED OUT...

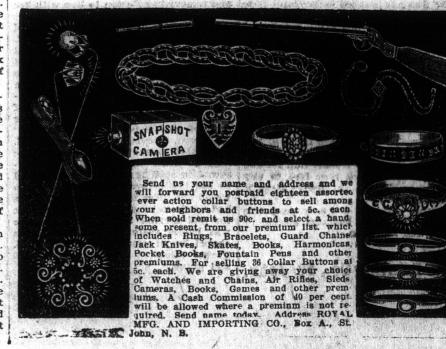
Fire Badly Damages The Halifax Chronicle Building and Plant.

HALIFAX, Dec. 23 .- The Morning Chronicle building was burned this morning, the whole interior of the building being scorchthan the feeling between ourselves and ed and the establishment drenched with the Gordons. We lay next to one an- water. It is a brick building, and the walls other for seven days, and the greatest and timbers are intact, so that it can possible cordiality was established between the two regiments, who swear by one another. This is a great combust of type-setting machines is rendered practiby one another. This is a great compliment on the part of a regiment whose fame is so well known and who are so exclusive. The Gordon Highlanders—those of Dargai, is the most exclusive regiment in the service. We did not seek this special friendship; it came spontaneous. Lord Roberts was always most congratulatory in speaking of us. After Paardeberg he ordered an inspection that he might particularly compliment us, a special honor. He brought us into Pretoria to take part in the annexation ceremonies as representing Canada. Throughout the whole campaign he evinced the strongest

STUCK TO HIS ROLE.

"No," said the actor, who enlisted in the army, when asked to lead a night attack. "No, I cannot do it. I anı a matinee hero."

The traditions of the stage must be observed with rigorous exactitude. not evince the same disposition, but Baltimore American.



ia, Grady, ctor, from

Persia. stol, Lawlle, Green, Parker, for

da, Gard-

va. Smith. r Eva, for trs Turcosch Nim-

sch Fredk. ktn Dixon Pearline. sch C J

rk Laun-

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