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FORTY SECOND YEAR.

THE VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1899

VOLUME XLII-NO. 3

BULLER FAILS

Boers Caught His Artillery Supports at Close Range Killed Teams and Compelled Abandonment of Eleven Guns.

British Were Advancing in Force to Ford Tugela and Had Fair Prospect of Success When the Disaster Occurred.

Retreated in Good Order to Chieveley Camp—Heavy Casualties

wounded."

Another official report from Capt. Finnhart says: "There were no signs of surrender, the burghers fighting with conspicuous bravery and maintaining their positions under heavy British fire. Our cannon were of very little use. The British were greatly assisted by alloons. "Twenty-four ambulances were working backward and forward between the fighting line and the enemy's camp. Our loss is not definitely known. I estimate it at 100 killed and wounded."

in One Division Who Found Their Task Impossible.

By Associated Press.

London, Dec. 16 (12:47 a.m.)—The war jous a situation. Plainly, Gen. Buller's office has received a despatch announce advance is paralyzed for the moment as ing that Gen. Buller has met with a completely as Lord Methuen's and Gen. serious reverse, losing 11 guns in an un- Gatacre's." successful attempt to cross the Tugela

ler's despatch to Lord Lansdowne:

Chieveley Camp, Dec. 15 (6:20 p.m.)—
I regret to report a serious reverse. I moved in full strength from our camp near Chieveley at 4 this morning. There are two fordable places in the Tugela river, and it was my intention to force a passage through one of them. They are about two miles apart. My intention was to force one or the other with one brigade, supported by a central brigade. Gen. Hart was to attack the left, Gen. Hildyard the right road and Gen. Lytleton to attack the centre and to support

Early in the day I saw that Gen. Hart would not be able to force a passage, and I directed him to withdraw. He and I directed him to withdraw. He London, Dec. 16.—The war office late had, however, attacked with great gallantry, and his leading battalion, the Buller's casualties: lantry, and his leading battalion, the

river, in Long's desire to be within effective range. It proved to be full of the enemy, who suddenly opened a galling fire at close range, killing all their horses, and the gunners were compelled to stand to their guns. Some of the wagon teams got shelter for the troops in a donag, and desperate efforts were in a donag, and desperate efforts were likely and of the magnitude of the forces in Ireland, has been appointed to the chief command in South Africa, with General Lord Kitchener of Khartoum as his chief of staff. Shortly before midnight the following notice was posted at the war office:

London, Dec. 17.—Baron Roberts of Kandahar and Waterford, commander the government and the government and the magnitude of the magnitude of the forces in Ireland, has been appointed to the chief command in South Africa, with General Lord Kitchener of Khartoum as his chief of staff. Shortly before midnight the following notice was posted at the war office: made to bring out the field guns.

fire, however, was too severe, and only two were saved by Capt. Schofield and some drivers, whose names I will furmout for the field guns.

Majors—R. H. G. Heigate, A. W. Gordon and A. A. B. Racingtons.

Colonels—I. G. Brooke Lond, H. Hunt and Lieut. Ponsonby of Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry.

Officers taken prisoners or missing made to bring out the field guns. The greve.

to a gallant attempt to force the passage unsupported by artillery, I directed the ing out. As it is now, the British forces

suffered severe losses.

of Gen. Buller's reverse was received stands between England and the restoraso late that morning newspapers' comments are confined to perfunctory expressions of extreme regret and disappointment, and of the necessity for calm-

pointment, and of the necessity for calmness and redoubled efforts to retrieve the position.

The Standard says: "Gen. Buller's despatch is deplorable reading. It is the now familiar story of concealed Boers and of British troops marching upblindly almost, to the very muzzles of the enemy's rifles. It cannot be doubted that the moral effect will be to aggravate our difficulties over the whole field of operations. The country has discovered with annoyance and surprise that subduing Boer farmers is about the hardest work we have entered upon since the Indian Mutiny. The commandants have shown themselves able to give our generals useful but expense.

THEY BANKED ON BULLER. The depression over the defeat of The following is the text of Gen. Bul- Great Britain's trusted and idolized com mander is all the greater as during the Chieveley Camp, Dec. 15 (6:20 p.m.) last 48 hours there have been reports of

> such time and precautions as would THE LIST

lantry, and his leading battalion, the Connaught Rangers, I fear suffered a great deal. Col. I. G. Brooke was seriously wounded.

I then ordered been, Hidyard to advance, which he did, and his leading right, the East Surrey, occupied Colenso station and the houses near the bridge.

At that moment I heard that the whole artillery I had set to support the attack, the 14th and 66th field batteries and six naval 12-pounders, quick-firers, under Col. Long, had advanced close to the river, in Long's desire to be within effective range. It proved to be full of

troops to withdraw, which they did in good order.

Throughout the day a considerable force of the enemy was pressing on my right flank, but was kept back by mount-mitted and account of the consequences to the considerable smith can scarcely alleviate the consequences to the company of the consequences to right flank, but was kept back by mounted men under Lord Dundonald and part of Gen. Barton's brigade. The day was immensely hot and trying to the troops, whose conduct was excellent.

We have abandoned 10 guns and lost by shell one.

The losses in Gen. Hart's brigade are, I fear, heavy, although the proportion of severely wounded is, I hope, not large.

The 14th and 66th field batteries also suffered severe losses.

smith can scarcely alleviate the consequences to the campaign as a whole, unless its moral effect quiets the growing disaffection in Cape Colony and disheartens the Boers to a more serious extent than the other minor reverses have so far done, but, however looked at, the British position is most unenviable, and there is a great cry for more troops.

Lord Londonderry urges the war office to send out 100,000 more men, saying:

"Conceive the effect on the Empire if Methuen is forced to surrender."

The St. James' Gazette intimates that the treasury is withholding the funds

the treasury is withholding the funds We have retired to our camp at Chieve-adding: "If this is so, even Lord Salisbury's reluctance to sacrifice a colleague will not serve to shield a minister who

mandants have shown themselves able to give our generals useful but expensive lessons in modern tactics."

The Times says: "Since the days of the Indian Mutiny the nation has not been confronted with so painful and anx."

In a the action of the total the content of the total the restriction this week in deciding to support a vigorous prosecution of the war, reserving the full right of criticism now and in the future, while stating that there is much to be deplored in the condict of the negotiations preceding the hostilities, may be said to vary in the populations of the bulk of the Liberal party.

BOER REPORT FROM MODDER.

Pretoria, Dec. 12.-The following offiial announcement has been made "Gen. Cronje reports that yesterday there was desultory fighting till 6, when the heavy cannon fire was resumed. "The Scandinavians stormed a difficult position, but it became untenable, and position, but it became untenable, and they suffered severely. I was unable to send help.

"The British were in overwhelming force, but must have had at least 2,000 men put out of action, either killed or wounded."

ISSUE IS British Position as Great Power.

Gape Dutch Generally Turbu-

Pretoria, Dec. 12.—A telegraph operator at Modder River writes: "Gun and Maxim fire has been proceeding since 5.30 this man and the second state of the second seco 5:30 this morning." A special despatch later says the firing reported was a resumption of fighting between Gen. Methuen's forces and the Boers.

Colonial Troops.

"The patriotic offers being received from the colonies will as

far as possible be accepted, preference being given to offers of mounted contingents." *

Roberts and Kitchener.

Heroes of Kandahar and Khartoum to Direct South African Campaign.

British Militia and Volunteer **Battalions Now Taken for** Service Abroad.

Colonial Offers Also Accepted With Preference for Mounted Contingents.

posted at the war office:

"As the campaign in Natal, in the opinion of Her Majesty's government, is likely to require the presence and undivided attention of General Sir Red-

rica has been authorized to continue to raise at his discretion local troops, mounted."

The war office to-day issued the following announcement: "Acting upon the advice of the military authorities. Her Majesty's government has aproved the following measure: All the remaining portions of the army reserve, including section D, are called out. The seventh division, which is being mobilized, will proceed to South Africa without delay. "Nine battalions of militia, in addition to the two battalions which have already

volunteered for service at Malta and one for service in the Channel Islands, will be allowed to volunteer for service outside of the United Kingdom, and an equivalent number of militia battalions will be embodied for service at home. "A strong force of volunteers selected from the Yeomanry will be formed for

service in South Africa.

"Arrangements are being made and will shortly be announced for the em-ployment in South Africa of a strong contingent of carefully selected Volun-teers. The patriotic offers being received from the colonies, will as far as possible be accepted, preference being given to offers of mounted contingents

MAFEKING EASIER.

London, Dec. 17-An undated despatch from Mafeking to the Pall Mall Gazette

Cronje Says the British Were in Over- The Empire Menaced

London Times Declares the Issue Is British Position as

lent and Rebellion Spreading at the North.

Warning by Sir Wm. Butler Recalled--Conspicuous Gallantry of Troops.

London, Dec. 18-The Times ing on the situation says: "Neither the Crimean war, nor the India mutiny gave rise to greater dangers to he Em pire than that with which we are now menaced, nor at either of those critical periods was Great Britain so isolated politically or regarded with such dislike and suspicion as are now almost everywhere apparent.

"Unless the calmness which impresses the foreign observer proceeds only from apathy or a want of sufficient imagination to realize the imminent danger to the whole fabric of our Empire the spatch date great efforts now urgently required will surely be made before it is too late to "Vesterda". retrieve the situation.

"We are fighting not merely for su-premacy in South Africa, but for ou-sition as a great power. We know we have miscalculated the strength of our foe and we are resolved to make that miscalculation good."

CAPE DUTCH TURBULEN I Capetown, Thursday, Dec. 14.—Servet meetings of Boer sympathizers continue to be held in various parts of Cape Colony, and the attitude of the Dutch farm-

ony, and the attitude of the Dutch farmers is turbulent.

Sterkstroom, Cape Colony, Friday, Dec. 15.—As a result of the British to verses, the whole country to the northward is virtually in a state of rebellion. The natives there, as well as those in Basutoland, are said to be much disturbed and to be leave heart when the Basutoland, are said to be much disturbed, and to be losing heart regarding the strength of the British.

London, Dec. 18.—The war office has received the following despatch from General Forestier-Walker, at Capetown, dated December 17: "Methuen reports that Lieut. Chandos-Pole was taken prisoner last Thursday while going to meet a flag of trace. He was waving his handkerchief in response and was unarmed."

armed. Gatacre has removed his troops and Putters stores to Sterkstroom from Putters-kraal. French has established head-quarters at Arundel. "Vandermew, with a commando, is re-ported moving south from Jacobsdal."

COMMENT FROM LONDON. London, Dec. 18 .- "Black week" as London, Dec. 17.—Baron Roberts of the war office to a full sense of their the half-hearted measures interests adopted and it is not unlikely that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, chancellor of the exchequer, and other members of the cabinet will resign.

The tragic circumstance of the ap-ointment of Lord Roberts almost simulaneously with the announcement of the death of his promising son, excite the deepest public sympathy. Lieut. Roberts was an only son and had been his ed to conduct the burial of the slain at

The Liberal organs foreshadow a serious reckoning for the government when the time comes. The Daily Chronicle ints that General Sir Wm. Butler, who was recalled from the Cape command because of his Boer sympathics long ago was recalled from the Cape command because of his Boer sympathies long ago advised the government that the prosecution of Mr. Chamberlain's policy would make heavy reinforcements for the Cape.

imperative.

The Daily News says: "The government's decision is either a counsel of panic or the confusion of utter miseal-

NEWS FROM THE FRONT.

Lieut.-Gen. Sir Charles Warren, comnanding the fifth division of the first army corps, has arrived at Capetown. It is understood he will proceed to Port No further news hase been received

egarding the battle at Tugela River. The latest facts regarding the battle at Magersfontein show that the retirement of the British troops was executed with the greatest coolness and order under a heavy Boer artillery fire.

Mafeking was safe on December 6 and Col. Baden-Powell, the British commander there, was still actively pushing out his defences. At that time the Boers had offered to exchange Lady Sersh

bad offered to exchange Lady Sarah Wilson, who was captured while acting as a correspondent for the Daily Mail, for Gen. Ben. Viljoen, who was captured at Elandslaagte, but the offer was declined. The other beleaguered garrisons and positions are still holding out.

It is said that if the Victoria Cross were to be granted for every act of conwere to be granted for every act of conpicuous gallantry on the part of British troops, it would be necessary to distribute the decoration by the hundreds.

jingoistic sophistries for home consumption to pay for the new navy, in Vienna, which is in a closer touch with Berlin than any other capital, Count Von Buelow is interpreted as flinging down the gauntlet to Great Britain.

The Neue Freie Presse, which has personal connection with the foreign minister of Germany, declares Germany is determined to take the greatest possible advantage of the South African complications, and adds: "The cool mention of England dissipates all apprehensions induced by Emperor William's stay at Windsor, and it is not impossible that England's difficulty, in certain circumstances, may be Germany's opportunity."

The Vienna correspondent of the Standard, detailing much more similar comment, reiterates what has often been heard here, namely that Great Britain is more hated on the Continent on account of her interference on behalf of the United States when the latter was at war with Spain, than for any other cause. Why Count Von Buelow should have gone out of his way to indicate the impossibility of Great Britain's hostility, and belittle the friendship between her and Germany, is an enigma not yet understood by the authorities. The consensus of the best opinion leads to the belief that the German minister wishes to offset Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's speech at Leicester, yet this seems a small excuse for such language at this period, while the suggestion that Count Von Buelow spoke for purely political effect is dismissed as being entirely understayistic of the way to indicate the impossibility of the consensus of the best opinion leads to the belief that the German minister wishes Von Buelow spoke for purely political effect is dismissed as being entirely uncharacteristic of the man who is rapidly achieving the reputation of being the first statesman in Europe.

METHUEN'S REAR GUARD Reconnoitering Party Have Sharp En-

gagement and Ten Casualtie London, Dec. 15 .- A war office despatch dated Orange River, Thursday,

"Yesterday part of the Mounted Infantry, with the Yorkshire and Lancashire guides, reconnoitered ten miles east of the Orange River, where a sharp engagement with the enemy ensued.

"Capt. Bradshaw and three men were killed, and Lieut. Gregson and seven men wounded. The enemy lost five killed and several wounded."

At Close Quarters.

Highlanders Clubbed the Foe In the Death Trap at Magersfontein.

Burlal Party See Evidence of Exceptional Danger British Troops Faced.

Boers Concealing Extent Casualties-Free Staters Leaving for Home.

the enemy, however, to be of great ser-Modder River, Dec. 15 .- Mutual arrangements were made by the British and Boer commanders by which the Boers British were to be buried on Wednes- trench around the base of the hill, where day and Thursday. The Boers stimlated, however, that only a clergyman of the Reformed Church should officiate the field this morning and that the British should not come within 600 yards of their lines. Mr. Robertson, the Presbyterian chaplain of one of the Highland regiments, who had Canadians Are Anxious to Send Another all important question would be discuss-Mounted Infantry.

Another gallant attempt with three teams was made by an officer, whose name I will obtain. Of the 18 horses, 13 were killed, and as several drivers were willed, and as several drivers were teams, as it seemed that they would be a shell mark. Not wishing to sacrifice life a shell mark. Not wishing to sacrifice life results, for the besieged towns have rica has been authorized to continue to the part of the Highland regiments, who had deepest Redected to send Baron Roberts of Kandahar and Waters to the Highland regiments, who had deepest public sympathy. Lieut. Roberts was an only son and had been his ford as commander-in-chief in South Africa, with Lord Kitchener as chief of as commander-in-chief in South Africa without delay.

Mounted Infantry.

Officers taken prisoners or missing—Field Artillery, three.

Sussex, one; Royal Scots Fusiliers, six; RedGers Water and Nile expeditions. Such was his dissiplay of gallantry on Friday in an attempt to rescue the guns that he was recommended for the Victoria Cross.

The Liberal organs foreshadow a serious personally to receive the pours receive the guns that he was recommended for the Victoria Cross.

The Liberal organs foreshadow a serious personally to receive the guns that he was received the was received the suspect of the Highland regiments, who had deepest public sympathy. Lieut. Roberts was an only son and had been his ford as commander in-chief in South Africa, with Lord Kitchener as chief of as commander in-chief in South Africa, with Lord Kitchener as chief of as commander in-chief in South Africa without that the original plan of the campaign, if adhered to, would have given better results, for the besieged towns have rica has been authorized to continue to make the provious son, excite the deepest public sympathy. Lieut. Roberts was an only son and had been his father's aide-de-camp since 1895. He deepest public sympathy. Lieut. Roberts was an only son and had been his father's aide-de-camp since 1895. He deepest public sympathy. Lieut. R previously been of great help, was select-

but the majority of them co-operated with the English in the kindliest manner. They said they would have giver full details regarding the English dead wounded and prisoners if the British would furnish them with similar informa-tion. The English officials had already prepared these details and had the

ready.

Chaplain Robertson buried 32 on Wed nesday and 70 on Thursday. The Boers declared that their casualties at Magers-fontein were 262 and that they had only 63 killed. This must be a mistake, as the British buried 45 and during the first search of the British on Tuesday many Boer corpses were seen under the bushes. These had been removed on Thursday when the British burial party

returned. Several of the Boers had been killed with the butts of rifles. Some of the Highlanders got so close to the trenches that their kilts were torn off in the con

The Boers say they would have enfiladed them but were afraid of killing their own men in the front trenches. The Boers have 62 British prisoners, of whom 45 are members of the Black Watch. toria dated Wednesday, December 13, says: "Before the escape of Winston Churchill he wrote to the Transvaal war Chaplain Robertson says that what seemed like deserted kopjes and ric swarmed with men as his party approhe considered his detention as a prisoner unjustifiable. He expressed in his letter the highest appreciation of his treatment. His escape was cleverly executed, but there is little chance of his being able to

owarmed with men as his party approached. Commandant Vermasse treated him in the kindest manner. He returned twice to see if he could be of any furthere assistance, and shook hands with Mr. Robertson on parting.

The Boer army is made up almost exclusively of Transvael hypothese.

Tartar, and Absolutely Pure Highest award, Chicago World's Fair. Highest tests by U. S. Gov't Chemists.

Made from Grape Cream of

DR:

Contingent and Preparations Are

Being Made.

Halifax, Dec. 16-Col. Collard says the

Small Chance of His Crossing Trans

vaal Border, Though Making a

London, Dec. 16 .- A special from Pre

massed and stormed the trenches after the first surprise, the British loss would have been heavier because the Boers from the kopjes on the side were ready to enfilade the trenches if they had been

The Gordon Highlanders were held in reserve until 10 o'clock on Monday morning when they went forward in wide order toward the base of the east kopje. They got within 500 yards of this point without any casualties worth mentioning, when they suddenly encountered a strong cross fire. The Boers had allowed them to reach the point where they were concealed in the treuehes, and then the burghers enfilled the Highlanders. In the early party of the day the Highland contingent, about 200. Some of these Scandinavians were taken prisoners. They look like tramps. It is stated that the Boer force numbered 16,000.

The Free State troops were at the base of the hill and the Transvalat troops along the right of the Transvala troops in the direction of the hospital was pitiable. Many burghers could be seen helping wounded comrades into wagons and then driving off.

The Boers are almost invisible from Modder River. Occasionally they are noticed rounding the side of a kopje. A captive balloon behind the British lines was trained so as to give a view to the east and west and report the effect of the shell fire. It was too far distant from the enemy, however, to be of great service.

Will Help.

From All Parts of the Dominion
Offers Are Being

Made.

The Feeling General That A Second Contingent Will

Be Accepted.

The Feeling General That A Second Contingent Will

Be Accepted.

That No Time Will

Be Lost.

Ottawa, Dec. 16.—From all parts of the Dominion offers of service to the Mother Country in her hour of need are reaching the department of militia. Some weeks ago the Ottawa Field Battery weeks ago the Ottawa Field Battery weeks ago the Ottawa Field Battery Parties who were out looking for the which has an efficiency record, volunteer vounded on Tuesday morning saw the ed for duty in South Africa and to-day does burying their dead in a long the bare of the hill where the first firing took place.

A Boer doctor accompanied the British the question which has been on everyambulance corps among the wounded on body's lips to-day. It was known early in the morning that a meeting of the cabinet was called for this afternoon and it was generally surmised that this ed by the ministers. Public conjecture in this respect was well founded. The Toronto, Dec. 16.—Military opinion in Toronto is at fever heat in regard to British reverses in South Africa. There is a general feeling in favor of sending more men, and as British forces are weakest in cavalry and artillery it is suggested a battery of artillery and a regiment of cavalry be recruited and sent from this province. It is understood that Col. Grasett, chief of police, who commanded the Grenadiers in the Northwest rebellion, has volunteered for active service in South Africa has received the attentive consideration of the secretary ministers present were: Laurier, Scott,

ebellion, has volunteered for active ser-dice. Halifax, Dec. 16—Col. Collard says the Leicester Regiment may be ordered to the Cape as England wants every available man. In that event the militia will able man. In that event the militia will and Her Majesty's government will have able man. In that event the militia will be wanted to do garrison duty here.

Quebec, Dec. 16.—Orders were received at the military stores department from Ottawa yesterday to prepare a thousand carbines, such as are served out to cavalry and artillery, and from information received from an official source the order has already been executed. It is understood that batteries A and B will make a part of the second Canadian contingent. Every soldier of the permanent force of artillery seems to be disposed to

force of artillery seems to be disposed to enlist and it is stated here by men supposed to know that the names of sevento Ottawa for a second contingent.

Of the oner was not necessary.

If the report of acceptance by the home government of a second contingent from New South Wales be true then it is reasonably certain Canada will again be-

Capetown, Dec. 13.-Gen. French is gradually advancing toward Colesberg. A party of Carbineers visited the house of a Dutch farmer and were assured that there was no enemy in the neighborhood. When they were leaving they were fired on from the house. The Horse Artillery shelled the house, killing

rom Markening to the Pan and Gazette says:

"The siege will probably be raised in a few days, when the townspeople will tender their thanks to Col. Baden-Powell.

"The enemy's fire has slackened. Our casualties are confined to natives almost entirely. There are a few wounded in the hospital.

"There is much sickness in the women's laager, where the death rate is high, chiefly amongst the children."

"Calcutta, Dec. 15.—The distress in the so much bearing on the farmine-stricken. districts is hecoming more acute. About 2.250,000 have applied for and received reliefs at a political effect, in other words and received reliefs at a political effect, in other words and received reliefs at a political effect, in other words a plied for and received reliefs at a political effect, in other words a plied for and received reliefs at a political effect, in other words a plied for and received reliefs at a plant the five tended received the first the highest appre

FRENCH AND GATACRE.