

## 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 in One Division Who Found Their Task Impossible.

London, Dec. 16 (12:47 a.m.)—The war office has received a despatch announcing that Gen. Buller has met with an unsuccessful attempt to cross the Tugela river.

The following is the text of Gen. Buller's despatch to Lord Lansdowne: Chieveley Camp, Dec. 15 (8:20 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. Lytton to attack the centre and to support either.

Early in the day I saw that Gen. Hart would not be able to force a passage, and I directed him to withdraw. He had, however, attacked with great gallantry, and his leading battalion, the Connaught Rangers, I fear suffered a great deal. Col. I. G. Brooke was seriously wounded.

I then ordered Gen. Hildyard 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 68th field batteries and six naval 12-pounders, quick-firers, under Col. Long, had advanced close to the river, in Lord'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 made to bring out the field guns. The fire, however, was too severe, and only two were saved by Capt. Schofield and some drivers, whose names I will furnish.

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 wounded, I would not allow another attempt, as it seemed that they would be a shell mark. Not wishing to sacrifice life to a gallant attempt to force the passage unsupported by artillery, I directed the 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 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 11 shells.

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 68th field batteries also suffered severe losses. We have retired to our camp at Chieveley. London, Dec. 16 (4:30 a.m.)—The news of Gen. Buller's reverse was received so late that morning newspapers' comments are confined to perfunctory expressions of extreme regret and disappointment, 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 up, blindly alone, 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 the Boer farmers are about the hardest work we have entered upon since the Indian Mutiny. The commanders 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-

## BOER REPORT FROM MODDER.

Cronje Says the British Were in Overwhelming Force—Their Balloons Useful.

Pretoria, Dec. 12.—The following official announcement has been made: "Gen. Cronje reports that yesterday there was desultory fighting till 6, when the heavy cannon fire resumed. The Scandinavians stormed a difficult 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 out of action, either killed or wounded."

"Another official report from Capt. Finlath 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 balloons. 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.'"

Pretoria, Dec. 12.—A telegram operator at Modder River writes: "Gen. and Maxim fire has been proceeding since 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."

## Acceptance of Colonial Troops.

A War Office announcement of yesterday says: "The patriotic offers being received from the colonies will be, as far as possible, 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.

London, Dec. 17.—Baron Roberts of Kandahar and Waterford, commander 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: "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 Redvers Buller, it has been decided to send Baron Roberts of Kandahar and Waterford as commander-in-chief in South Africa, with Lord Kitchener as chief of staff, to proceed to South Africa without delay."

The commander-in-chief in South Africa 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 approved 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 employment in South Africa of a strong contingent of carefully selected Volunteers. 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 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 famine-stricken districts is becoming more acute. About 2,000,000 have applied for, and received, relief."

## The Empire Menaced

### London Times Declares the Issue is British Position as Great Power.

### Cape Dutch Generally Turbulent and Rebellious Spreading in the North.

### Warning by Sir Wm. Butler Recalled—Conspicuous Gallantry of Troops.

London, Dec. 18.—The Times' comment on the situation says: "Neither the Crimean war, nor the India mutiny gave rise to greater dangers to the Empire 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 great efforts now urgently required will be before it is too late to retrieve the situation. "We are fighting not merely for supremacy in South Africa, but for our position 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 TURBULENCE.

Capetown, Thursday, Dec. 14.—The Cape Dutch are in a state of rebellion. The natives there, as well as those in the Baerendal, are said to be much disturbed, and to be losing heart regarding the strength of the British. "The Cape Dutch are in a state of rebellion. The natives there, as well as those in the Baerendal, are said to be much disturbed, and to be losing heart regarding the strength of the British. "The Cape Dutch are in a state of rebellion. The natives there, as well as those in the Baerendal, are said to be much disturbed, and to be losing heart regarding the strength of the British."

## At Close Quarters.

### Highlanders Clubbed the Foe in the Death Trap at Magersfontein.

### Burial Party See Evidence of Exceptional Danger British Troops Faced.

### Boers Concealing Extent of Casualties—Free Staters Leaving for Home.

Modder River, Dec. 15.—Mutual arrangements were made by the British and Boer commanders by which the British were to be buried on Wednesday and Thursday. The Boers stipulated, however, that only a clergyman of the Reformed Church should officiate 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 previously been of great help, was selected to conduct the burial of the slain at Magersfontein. The engineers who acted as litter-bearers were bludgeoned as they reached the Boer outposts. Gen. Cronje, the Boer commander, sent a message regretting that he could not come personally to receive the burial party. The Boer commander, sent a message regretting that he could not come personally to receive the burial party. The Boer commander, sent a message regretting that he could not come personally to receive the burial party.

## THE WAR FEVER.

### Canadians Are Anxious to Send Another Contingent and Preparations Are Being Made.

## WINSTON CHURCHILL'S ESCAPE.

### Small Chance of His Crossing Transvaal Border, Though Making a Clever Start.

## VICTIMS OF TUGELA.

### Son of General Lord Roberts of Kandahar Added to British List.

## GERMANY WOULD PROFIT.

London, Dec. 16.—The grave situation confronting Great Britain in South Africa almost obliterates the effect of the speech of the German minister of foreign affairs, Count Von Buelow, in the reichstag on Monday last, though scarcely any announcement in recent years has so much bearing on the foreign affairs of the British Empire. The German minister's speech, which was a most interesting and important one, was a most interesting and important one. The German minister's speech, which was a most interesting and important one, was a most interesting and important one.

## DR. WILSON'S BAKING POWDER

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

## Canada Will Help.

### From All Parts of the Dominion Offers Are Being Made.

## The Feeling General That A Second Contingent Will Be Accepted.

### Preparations Going Ahead So That No Time Will Be Lost.

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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 which has an efficiency record, volunteered for duty in South Africa and to-day the offer was renewed. Will the government offer a second contingent? is the question which has been on every 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 all important question would be discussed by the ministers. Public conjecture in this respect was well founded. The ministers present were: Laurier, Scott, Blair, Fielding, Sutherland, Borden, Patterson and Joly. Communications which passed between the two governments early in November including the reply of the British government through Mr. Chamberlain, dated November 26, were carefully considered. The reply reads as follows: "Your minister's generous offer to send without delay a second contingent for service in South Africa has received the attentive consideration of the secretary for war and military advisers, but they regret that under existing circumstances they are unable to accept it. The offer will, however, certainly be borne in mind and Her Majesty's government will have no hesitation in availing themselves of it should future events make it desirable to do so. Her Majesty's government attach great importance to this fresh proof of Canadian sympathy and good will and desire to express their grateful appreciation of it." The ministers hold that the offer of a second contingent is sufficiently explicit and that the home authorities know full well where Canada stands in this matter. It was therefore decided under the circumstances that a renewal of the offer 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 called upon.

## FRENCH AND GATACRE.

Capetown, Dec. 13.—Gen. French is gradually advancing toward Colenso. 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 House Artillery shelled the house, killing several of the enemy. It is stated that Gatacre has fallen back to his original position. It is the general opinion here that he should occupy Cypher Gap, where there is a very strong position called Bushman's Kraal. Basutoland. The natives are restless on account of Gen. Gatacre's repulse and are clamoring for arms. It is believed, however, that Sir Gifford Langdon, the British resident commissioner, has the Basutos well in hand. Mr. Seymour, adviser to the High Commissioner, has offered to raise a volunteer engineer force of 2,000 to assist the regulars, and the offer has been accepted.

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de Suffer. tles Report re of the Thou- Aguin- lts. patch just re- Major Marsh l Pilar's force in a mountain sea. Del Pilar's were killed. December 3- hours behind served he had se. Aguinado hearing of the and instantly Gen. Ois re- the insurgents sources from a ad is willing France of the ts and says: extreme north- land property transportation, prisoners in ber of about were two being the rem- Dayan on the troyed Aquino- Gen. Gregorio- of Gen. and wounded five hundred- one hundred- considerable Aguinado has recently, aban- hiding in the me that the rendered un- Call, of the all arms being der doubtless subala. ga reports af- nearly all rifles reports that war Mabina, the founder of BLIGHT ent. the mine own- shall make a law, and the government to of the law. y and Nelson- Lead Mines at action. The nation offered day of eight that the union of the associa- protection. ECTIONS. dial—"The On- day reduce by majority of the re-elected in mior Hardy in servative gain- jority of Me- rbed out of his machine. nish, Conserva- RALTY. Special)—Cliv- y but caused Horace Wilson- votes over Ald- e contents re- Robt. Barclay in ward 4 and 6. All the mid was elect- the Kidneys-- healthy use Dr. s Pills. ascertains the examination of ry, however, to if the kidneys duct an examin- for twenty-four sel. If at the a sediment re- be certain that d inactive, and y poisons in the produce terribly kidneys Dr. are of inestim- and naturally, ry and bowels Pills positively, cure Bright's disorders, back- and all the of the filter- the sale of this rous through- The merit thousands of pill does 22 or Edmanson. Royal Jubilee ment William of Mr. W. H. rd, Esquimault. Perils, beloved daughter of the 7th Inst. years; a native