

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

VOL. XXXVIII

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11, 1899

NO. 17.

BEATEN BOERS

British Everywhere Cheerful— Few Details—Will be No Second Canadian Regiment.

LONDON, Nov. 7.—Tonight's welcome despatches from the front have rent the veil of gloom enveloping Ladysmith, showing the British garrison not merely standing on the dogged defensive, but executing a series of brilliant sorties.

It appears that Gen. Sir Geo. Stewart White sent a strong force of cavalry and infantry to attack the Boers at Tatham's farm, about 10 miles to the northwest, near Senek's, and apparently achieved a surprise, the Boers being caught on the open veldt and cut to pieces and their camp captured.

Gen. White had ascertained that the Boers were attacking Colenso, but he had not heard of the British retreat.

General White's division caught the Boers in the rear, and after the hills had been shelled the British infantry stormed the position. Meanwhile the British cavalry swept round the hills, and, as the retreating enemy descended into the plain, with British bayonets behind them, and the river in front of them, they were charged by the Boers, who seemed to have probed almost to a man.

The British then returned to Ladysmith without coming into touch with the Colenso garrison, which had retired to Estcourt.

Sunday's despatch from Estcourt, however, showed that an armored train had been sent back to Colenso to repair the line, and the next news may possibly be of the restoration of communication with Ladysmith.

While the British troops were thus engaged in successful endeavors to wipe out the Nicholson's Nek disaster, the situation inside Ladysmith, as shown by an official despatch from the general at Estcourt, was most satisfactory.

WHY COLENSO WAS ABANDONED. The Boers Threatened the Small British Force With Destruction.

LONDON, Nov. 7.—A despatch to the Daily News from Estcourt, Natal, some distance south of Colenso, on the road to Pietermaritzburg, dated Nov. 3, states that the evacuation of Colenso was absolutely necessary because the Boers greatly outnumbered the British garrison at that place.

The Boers had a 9-pounder, which they were advised to spike, but they were determined to save it. While running the gun carriage down the hill the ropes broke and the carriage was dashed against the side of the hill and smashed.

At daybreak Friday the Boers began shelling Colenso camp, unaware of the fact that the place had been evacuated.

LATER ON THEY LOOTED THE TOWN. The bridge over the Tugela river, however, was not damaged, as the Boers declared they wanted to use the railway themselves.

It is reported here that in the engagement at Tatham's farm, near Ladysmith, on November 2, the Boers lost 800 killed, wounded and prisoner.

CONFIRMATION. A Saturday Despatch Indicates Victory—The Hussars Fought Well.

LONDON, Nov. 8.—The Daily Telegraph publishes the following despatch from Pietermaritzburg, dated Saturday evening: "Since their occupation of Colenso the Boers have attempted no advance further south. Estcourt is now becoming a

strong and growing camp. Major Wolfe Murray is in temporary command.

The enemy bombarded Colenso on Thursday until sunset, at the extreme range of his nine centimetre Krupp guns.

Confirmation has been obtained of the report that General Scharik Burger is the Boer commander at Vryburg. A general Boer advance is not thought probable. Means have been taken to secure Pietermaritzburg against any possible attack, and also to relieve Ladysmith before the enemy can come further.

Widespread rumors of both Dutch and native origin have been current since yesterday that during a reconnaissance from Ladysmith northwards toward Mataban's Hook and Nicholson's Nek, the British troops engaged the enemy. It is said that a Lydd battery drove the Boers into a valley where the British cavalry charged and routed them.

The Boer losses in this engagement are said to have reached 1,000, the British losses being only about 100.

It is a fact that Gen. Joubert drew in his line today and that the Boers now have only outposts at Colenso. Rumors are bringing the names of the Boers who were killed and wounded outside Ladysmith and their reports have caused much mourning among the relatives.

According to a special despatch from Estcourt the Boers on Thursday asked a day's armistice. General White agreed to this on condition that they would make no movement. The British military balloon, however, detected the Boers moving to the south and General White thereupon renewed the attack.

Boer reports have reached Cape Town to the effect that on the arrival at Johannesburg of the whole Rand special police force was sent to the front with guns from Johannesburg fort, the force being left with only one man and a garrison of 80 men.

The men of the 18th Hussars, who were captured at Dundee, first took refuge in a Kafir kraal where they fought stubbornly, only surrendering after four Krupp shells had exploded in the kraal.

OFFICIAL REPORT. Boers Driven Back Friday—Colenso Not Occupied.

LONDON, Nov. 7.—The following is the text of a despatch from Gen. Buller: CAPE TOWN, Nov. 7.—The following despatch has been received from the general commanding at Estcourt, dated Nov. 6:

Since Friday there has been a cessation of hostilities. A note was sent to Gen. Joubert by Gen. White, at the request of the mayor, asking permission for non-combatants, sick and wounded to go south. Gen. Joubert refused the request, but agreed to allow them to go to a special camp, four miles from Ladysmith. The townspeople refused to accept this offer. The sick and wounded and a few inhabitants were moved yesterday. A few shots were exchanged yesterday at the outpost. Friday's bombardment was heavy. Shells fell in the hospital, and one burst in a hotel during luncheon. No one was injured. The only casualty in the kraal from the shells thus far is a Kafir killed.

There was a smart action Friday toward Dewdrop. The troops under Gen. Broekhuis drove the Boers back a considerable distance and disabled a gun.

There was also fighting near Balwanz. Our loss altogether is eight killed and 20 wounded. Ninety-eight wounded have arrived. They were sent here Saturday. All are doing well. The position here is now believed to be greatly strengthened in the last 24 hours.

ESTCOURT, Natal, Nov. 6.—An armored train went over the Tugela bridge yesterday, found Colenso intact, and also found the road and railway bridges strong. An Orange Free State force was sighted six miles from Colenso, on the Ladysmith side. It was engaged with the British forces on Ladysmith Thursday. The Boers suffered heavily.

It is rumored that the Natal Dutch took part in the engagement, aiding with the invading Boers.

The people here denied their dwellings and living in bomb-proof places, safe from shell fire. There is plenty of good stores of all kinds. Captain Knapp and Lieut. Brabant were killed in Friday's action.

The foregoing is an exact copy of a special courier telegram brought to us by a Kafir runner. There is no other official news.

BOER TRACHELERY. They Use the White Flag as a Deceit.

CAPE TOWN, Natal, Nov. 4.—555 p. m.—A native eyewitness of Thursday's battle near Ladysmith says the Boers were caught on the open ground and raised several white flags. The British then advanced without firing to accept the surrender of the Boers, but were received with a volley at close range. Enraged at this treachery, the Lyonesse Hussars,

and Dragons, followed by the Infantry with fixed bayonets, charged through and through the enemy and did great execution. A lot of prisoners and loot were captured.

Another battle on Friday with the Boers was proceeding, according to the native, in the south, with a similar result.

MORE MEN TO GO. The Entire Army May Be Mobilized.

LONDON, Nov. 7.—The hospital ship Maine will sail for the Cape on Nov. 25, with Lady Randolph Churchill on board.

It is now virtually decided to send another division of 10,000 men to South Africa as speedily as possible.

And almost immediately after the third army corps will be mobilized. The second will consist of 40,000 men, of whom 10,000 will go to Africa, the first being concentrated at Aldershot in readiness for emergency.

The third corps, a nominal affair, will number 30,000 men who will remain in garrison duty at home. Thus the entire British army will virtually be mobilized, which will be an unprecedented occurrence.

SECOND CANADIAN CONTINGENT. Dr. Borden Thinks There Is a Good Chance of One Being Accepted.

OTTAWA, Nov. 7.—In view of the fact that another Canadian contingent may be sent to South Africa, Lt. Col. Hodgins, Governor General's Foot Guards, is calling for recruits.

The departure of Col. Foster for England, almost immediately after the termination of the government's approach to the imperial authorities in regard to sending a Canadian contingent, suggested the thought in some quarters that his mission might be in that connection.

Col. Foster would have left some time ago, said the minister, "had his departure not been delayed by the despatch of the first contingent. His present visit to England has nothing to do with the department. He will be gone possibly two months.

"No, not as yet," responded Dr. Borden. "At least I would not have an intimation of it, and I think I received one from London from General White concerning Thursday and Friday's sorties.

A special despatch from Pietermaritzburg dated Sunday says:— "The railway communication will be restored with Ladysmith within a few hours."

Further details from Pietermaritzburg are to the effect that the Boer firing was ceasing off the garrison was in high spirits and the attack was growing more fierce. The correspondent says that the people were in the habit of shouting from the housetops "Woe are shells," and that rabbit holes had been excavated in the town into which the men would dive when the smoke of the Boer's big guns came down.

According to a despatch from Kruger, dated Monday, Col. Finlay's column, marching from Fort Tull to the relief of Masekela, had reached Avoegol Kop, opposite Odel, ten miles north of Lobos on Oct. 18, and was near Masekela.

Her Majesty has written a letter of condolence to the mother of the late Commander Egerton of the British cruiser Powerful, who was fatally wounded by the explosion of a shell at the bombardment of Ladysmith on November 2, when, as a gunnery lieutenant, he was in charge of one of the cruiser's big guns.

LONDON, Nov. 9.—To the eyes of military experts the darkest page of the war is now being written. But even that is illumined with bright passages, such as General White's victorious sorties. If he can keep the British flag flying over Ladysmith until he is relieved, the campaign will turn a fresh page and, with the advance of Sir Redvers Buller's force, the British public is promised more cheering reading.

This feeling of relief, inspired by recent good tidings, is, nevertheless, tinged by a certain alloy of anxiety. Gen. White should again make some fatal miscalculation involving a repetition of the Nicholson's Nek disaster. Her Majesty's anxiety grows more acute, and, apparently, is sanguine of his ability to pull through successfully. It is assumed that the has written to Lady White expressing sympathy with her husband in the trials and difficulties he is now experiencing and assuring Lady White of her own undiminished confidence in his generalship. The purport

of this letter has been cabled to General White by the Marquis of Lansdowne.

The most interesting news tonight is a despatch from Estcourt announcing the departure of a strong force of mounted troops and artillery for a destination not given in these advices. Another message announces the arrival at Estcourt and Pietermaritzburg within the last few days of reinforcements from Durban and that 3,500 troops are assembled ready for a re-advance to Colenso, when the opportune moment arrives.

The latter despatch throws light upon the former, and the force which left Estcourt Monday has doubtless re-occupied Colenso, and, possibly, is now advancing cautiously up the railway toward Pietermaritzburg.

Col. Joubert, the latest advice would indicate, drew in his horns after Friday's engagement and has since withdrawn the southern Boer contingents, leaving only outposts on the line from Ladysmith to Colenso.

The Boers who are occupying the middle of last week, retired without damaging Bulwer bridge over the Tugela river or the railway, and have been greatly strengthened there, seven miles south of Ladysmith. Evidently they nurse the hope of eventually driving both in their positions on Pietermaritzburg.

Meanwhile the British are also able to use both, as they have already done, in running up an armored train which may at the present moment be covering the advance of the Eastcoast force. At Estcourt and Pietermaritzburg the defensive works have been greatly strengthened within the last few days, and they are now believed capable of holding their own against any Boer force which Ger. Joubert would, at the present juncture, risk sending against either town. Both are likely to be strengthened before the week is out by a further naval force and even by the first detachment of Gen. Buller's army corps.

None of the troops have arrived. The one which it was predicted might reach Cape Town at the latest on Monday, is as yet unannounced, and even when it does arrive there it will have three days steaming to reach Durban, Natal. As many as six transports, with 4,500 troops, were expected to be in Cape Town harbor by this time; but the war office last evening issued a statement to the effect that the only arrivals at Cape Town were the Sumatras, from Durban, with wounded; the Southern Cross, from Gibraltar, with mules, and the Collier Wrenow.

Of course it is possible that despatch boats have been sent to meet the troops with instructions to proceed direct to Durban, and in that event the war office statement that not one has arrived at Cape Town would be literally accurate, even though several should be half way between Cape Town and Durban.

The sun looks brighter at Masekela, where the Boers are apparently disheartened by the unexpected resistance, either with a large body of their force having been detached to the south to assist in the investment of Kimberley, around which the Boers are making a concentration effort to capture Kimberley and their arch enemy, Cecil Rhodes.

The reported departure of a Boer contingent from Pretoria with German artillery guns, moving in a southerly direction, is taken to mean cooperation in the invasion of the northern portions of Cape Colony, an undertaking which, this far, is a tremendous one of the white flag by the Boers, coming from native sources, are not received with complete credulity, but at the same time, their reticence is making an unfavorable impression.

One paper has sarcastically, whether President Kruger's reference in his message to America to "staggering humanity," meant the Boer use of the white flag.

LONDON, Nov. 9.—A despatch from Durban gives details which, though rather indefinite, seems to show that the Natal contingent, which is now moving to the north, are not sufficiently mobile for field use, from Estcourt to Pietermaritzburg to assist in the defense of the latter town.

The Natal contingent, which arrived from Natalport, Cape Colony, last Monday morning, say that, on learning that the Boers had taken the rail at Norval's Point, the railway department, the previous day, destroyed the culvert between Arundel and Tweesdale.

THE BEATEN BOERS. Howled for Mercy—Prisoners Bear Evidence of Cavalry Work.

DURBAN, Sunday Evening, Nov. 5.—Additional information confirms the statement of native eye witnesses respecting the severity of the fighting on both Friday and Saturday at Ladysmith. The natives assert that the Boers were so cut up that they howled for mercy on the field, and covered their bodies. Ladysmith is crowded with Boer prisoners and wounded, the latter showing horrible evidence of the swordsmanship of the cavalry. The Gordon Highlanders suffered severely in the fighting.

TROOPSHIPS NEAR CAPE TOWN. During the Present Week Twenty-Three Troopships With 21,000 Men Are Due to Reach South Africa.

LONDON, Nov. 7.—During the present week 23 troopships, bearing 21,000 men, the flower of General Buller's army corps, may reasonably be expected to arrive at Cape Town, according to the Daily Mail these ships are:— The Lismore Castle, with part of the Second East Surrey, 894 men.

The Merlin Castle, with part of the Second Devonshire and the Second West Yorkshires, 1,000 men.

The Humber Castle, with a detachment of Second East Surrey and half of the Second Northampton, 621 men.

The Manilla, with part of the Second Devonshire Regiment and details, 1,010 men.

The Mongolian, with the Second Bedfordshire Regiment, 1,010 men.

The Noble, with the First Scots Guards and half the Second Northampton, 1,615 men.

The Gascon, with the Second Coldstreams and lines of communication, 1,010 men.

The Gorkha, with the First Brigade staff and the Grenadier Guards, 1,010 men.

The Yorkshire, with the second Royal West Surrey and a detachment of the royal army medical corps, 1,010 men.

The Malta, with the Second Coldstreams, 1,316 men.

The Parosia, with the Second Royal Fusiliers and the Second Royal Scots Fusiliers, 1,395 men.

The Adriatic, with the Third Brigade staff and the First Highland Light Infantry, 1,316 men.

The Humber Castle, with the Second Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1,100 men.

The Nomadic, with the Nineteen Hussars and remnants.

The Oriental, with the First Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the Sixth Brigade staff, 1,185 men.

The Jamaican, with B Squadron, Fourteenth Hussars and No 19 company, Royal Army Medical Corps, 160 men.

The City of Cambridge, with the Second Battalion, Scottish Rifles, and a detachment of the Royal Army Medical Corps, 1,010 men.

The Siberian, with the Inniskillings, 400 men.

The America, with Royal Horse Artillery, 178 men.

The Peris, with a squadron of the Sixth Dragoons, 160 men.

The Ophelonia, with the Fourth Brigade staff and the First Durham Light Infantry, 1,316 men.

The Britannic, with the Second Royal Irish Rifles, 1,010 men.

EUROPE WILL KEEP HANDS OFF. German Denials That Intervention in the Transvaal is Contemplated.

BERLIN, Nov. 7.—Regarding the alleged scheme for arbitrating the Transvaal question, a semi-official statement has been issued, as follows: "Nothing whatever is known here of any common plan of action upon the part of Russia, France or Spain in the Transvaal question. In any case it may be most positively stated that no such plan has been brought to the knowledge of the German government from any quarter whatever.

France, Russia and Germany in the Transvaal was now assured, the Kolnische Zeitung says:— "We do not know what Mr. Leyds has said, but the matter of his supposed statement is false in every respect. Neither France nor Russia have shown the slightest inclination, either with or without Germany, to see the South African question on the order of the day."

NO MORE TROOPS. From Canada—The Offer of a Second Regiment Not Accepted.

OTTAWA, Nov. 8.—A cable was received by the dominion government today, stating that the offer of a second contingent to aid the imperial force in the Transvaal will not be accepted. The offer of a second contingent was made by the government this day a week ago and was referred to the imperial war office.

The war office has now replied to the above effect, while at the same time referring feelingly to Canada's patriotic motives in making the offer.

NEWS FROM THE NORTH. You May Expect Good News Soon.

LONDON, Nov. 9.—The Daily Mail has the following despatch from Queenstown, Cape Colony, dated Sunday night:— "The railway staff is withdrawing from all the border stations between the above effect, while at the same time referring feelingly to Canada's patriotic motives in making the offer."

LADY CHURCHILL Will Go to Cape Town in the American Women's Ship.

LONDON, Nov. 8.—At the request of the Associated Press, Lady Randolph Churchill made today the following statement to American friends with regard to the project of American women in England of fitting out a hospital ship for use in South African waters:— "The time for fitting out the Maine is so brief that I am glad to avail myself of the Associated Press to set the project fairly before the American public. The vessel manifested by Americans has already taken such tangible form, from

New York to San Francisco, that I am sure an intimation that what remaining work there is to do must be done immediately will spur the American government into a ready response to our needs.

"There is but one motive, one reason, for the project of sending a hospital ship to the Cape. We have had on our own and societies for the promotion of Anglo-American friendship. This is the golden opportunity to put that expression of good will into tangible form."

"It is especially the province of American women to promote this cause, but it is woman's function to foster and nourish the suffering. American people are more adept at it, we believe, than many others."

"The Maine is to be essentially an American woman's ship. We are not only to aid the wounded, but also to show the world that American women can do that good work better than anyone else can do it. I am going to the Cape in the Maine, not because my son is there, for he will be a thousand miles away, but because I want the generous efforts of American contributors to be carried out under the personal supervision of a member of the executive committee."

"I am going because I think I may prevent any kind of friction between the American nurses whom Mrs. White-law Reid is sending out on Saturday and the British officials, in case such friction should arise."

"I contribute that much time and service gladly, and all our committee would do the same. The Maine will be successful, and we hope American contributions already given so generously will, within the next few days, ensure that success beyond a doubt."

CANADIAN ASSISTANCE WANTED. In Providing for the Wounded Soldiers.

TORONTO, Nov. 8.—Dr. Ryerson, of the Canadian branch of the Red Cross League, has been asked by Lord Wansgate to make appeal to Canadians to aid in the work.

Lord Wansgate says the society are fitting up two hospital trains on lines of communication and providing ambulance cars on railways in which wounded can be removed in recumbent positions. A special hospital ship has also been fitted out for use at the Cape.

Dr. Ryerson adds: "Patriotism which supplied so many comforts for our own contingents, can be relied on to assist in this act of humanity, especially as the contingencies may be needed for our own men before many days are passed."

ATTITUDE OF THE BASUTOS. British Officer Says They Are With Difficulty Prevented From Firing at the Boers' Throats.

LONDON, Nov. 7.—Regarding the possibility of a Basuto rising, fears of which occupied the war office last day yesterday, a distinguished officer says: "We have done everything possible to prevent the Basutos rising. They hate the Boers because, like all natives who have been in contact with them, they are ardent constant ill usage from the Boers. But what we want is not that the Basutos should rise, but that they should remain as they are, a strong, armed force, as a protection on one side, while we advance on the other. The whole plan of campaign has been based upon the armed neutrality of the Basutos. If they break out in our favor, as of course it would be, then we find ourselves with quite a different condition of affairs to deal with. It would need the entire reorganization of the plan of campaign. We don't want the Basutos, the Zulus, or any natives mixing up in our campaign, which we are more than able to carry out without aid of any kind. We had only to hold up a finger and we had all the natives with us, because they have learned to have a holy dread of the brutal methods of the Boers, but special agents have been sent among all the natives, telling them to remain quiet. That I had an excellent effect among them, because it showed them our confidence. This they fully understood, but now that we have had certain petty reverses, they don't understand why they should not come to our rescue. There lies the danger. They are fighters, every one. The war fever runs high among them, but we have got our people among them, and we hope we can stop them making a rash at the Boers—a move which would delight the Basutos, but place us in endless difficulties. But if, however, any further disaster were to occur to British forces, I fear nothing could stop the Basutos, but I don't foresee any such disaster."

The First Transport Arrives. LONDON, Nov. 9.—The British transport Rollin Castle, with Gen. Hillyard and the staff of the Yorkshires' regiment on board, has arrived at Cape Town. Four other transports sailed from England the same day, October 10. The Rollin Castle was immediately ordered to proceed to Durban.

RENO MONEY WANTED. In order to introduce our assorted Best... we are giving away Watches, Chains, rings, Bracelets, Albums, Air Rifles, Jack Knives, Fountain Pens, Cameras, Chairs, Clocks, Silver, Sheds, and numerous other beautiful premiums. LADIES, BOYS and GIRLS, send us your full name and address and we will mail you (15) packages of our assorted steel pens to sell and give you an excellent chance of making money. When sold remit us amount due, and we will forward premium you select from our many other catalogues which we mail with good books. Send today. Address: STANDARD WATCH & NOVELTY CO., P. O. Box 62 e, St. John, N. B.