

The War in South Africa

Buller's Forces Will Probably Mobilize at Frere Before Advancing.

British Artillery Shell Boer Position at Chieveley and Ladysmith.

London, Dec. 28.—Mr. Winston Churchill's message to the Morning Post from Chieveley Camp, under the date of Dec. 26th, is as follows: "All ranks have complete confidence in Sir Buller, and there is a stern determination to succeed. The only cause of a partial invasion was caused by the announcement of the change of command in-chief; but the soldiers have never decided to vacillate their chief leader."

"The situation, never before so difficult, the Boer position being one of extraordinary strength, with high hills lined tier after tier with trenches and galleries rising from an almost unfordable river, and with a smooth plain in front."

"The enemy have all the ranges marked and many powerful guns dominate the various points of the river, while the drifts are commanded by converging musketry fire from probably 12,000 Boers."

"There are sixteen miles of wild, broken country before reaching Ladysmith, which demands early relief."

Boer Activity. No information has reached the militia department in reference to the capture of any Canadians by Boers."

Officers for Second Contingent. Ottawa, Dec. 27.—The following are the officers named for the second contingent, except for the Northwest detachment, which will be named by the commissioner of Mounted Police later. Col. Drury commands the artillery; Major Haden, of Quebec, "C" Battery; Major Hurdman, of Ottawa, "D" Battery; Major O'Brien, "E" Battery; Col. Lessard commands the Mounted Rifles, with Col. Evans second in command; Major Forester commands "A" squadron and Major Williams, "C" squadron.

PLAGUE IN NEW CALEDONIA. (Associated Press.) Sydney, N.S.W., Dec. 27.—The British consul at Noumea confirms the report that the plague, in a severe type, is raging and many deaths have occurred in New Caledonia. The governments of Australasia have taken stringent precautions for quarantining arrivals from Noumea.

HILDA BLAKE EXECUTED. (Associated Press.) Brandon, Man., Dec. 27.—Emily Hilda Blake was hanged this morning. The drop fell at 8:40.

BRIDGE WASHED AWAY. (Special to the Times.) Otter Point, B.C., Dec. 27.—The bridge across Coal Creek was washed away on Christmas day. This bridge was built about eight years ago. The water in Coal Creek has never been so high. All the small creeks are swollen.

ENTERTAINED BY THE QUEEN. (Associated Press.) New York, Dec. 27.—London cables describing the Queen's Christmas tree entertainment to the wives and children of the Queen's Guards now in South Africa. The Queen received her guests in St. George's hall sitting in a wicker chair. She smiled when the children reached her presence and gazed curiously at her. Then each mother brought forward her children. The Queen smiled radiantly and presented each with an appropriate gift taken from the great Christmas tree.

DIED FROM EXPOSURE. (Associated Press.) Toronto, Dec. 27.—John Healy, aged twenty-two, died in the emergency hospital this morning, the result of exposure to extreme cold, having been found lying on the Grand Trunk track near Bowmanville, with his leg broken and both feet badly frozen. He is supposed to have fallen from a train. Before death the victim gave his home as Friday, Ohio.

Man is an imitative creature, and whoever is foremost leads the herd. Schiller.

"A Word to the Wise is Sufficient." But some stubborn people wait until "down sick" before trying to ward off illness or cure it. The wise recognize in the word "Hood's" assurance of health.

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Blood Purifier.—I have taken Hood's Sarsaparilla, and find it beneficial for myself and baby. It purifies the blood and strengthens the system. Mrs. HENRY WALL, Clinton, Ont.

Strength Builder.—Myself, wife and children have taken Hood's Sarsaparilla and it strengthened us. It relieved me of a "back" pain. DAVY McGOUGHAN, caretaker, Colt Institute, Colt, Ont.

Hood's Sarsaparilla Never Disappoints. Hood's Pills cure liver ill: the non-purifying and only cathartic to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Plans of Campaign

It Is Thought the British Will Besiege the Different Boer Positions.

And That Lord Roberts Will March North Through Bloemfontein.

Col. Otter, Commander of Canadian Contingent, Goes to Natal.

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French Attaché. The government of France has appointed Capt. Demange military attaché at the Boer headquarters.

Cretan Volunteer. Many Cretans in Athens are offering their services to the British consul for the war in South Africa.

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"The cavalry brigade is reconnoitering in a northeasterly direction."

"Lieut. Masters has made an extended reconnaissance westward and northward of Enslin and reports all well."

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Green further declares that if the attack had been pressed the Boers would have yielded and says the Boer horses have to be taken to the Modder, as water is scarce at Magersfontein.

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riding about armed. This is the case also in districts only fifty miles from Capetown, where a seditious movement is busily propagated. The British forces are inadequate to guard 1,000 miles of communications. Dispatches from Modder River report Dutch disaffection in Griqualand West as growing very serious. In some towns the entire Dutch have joined the Boers. The rebels have formed a laager at a point about thirty miles west of Modder River camp. It is also announced that the Boers have raised the siege of Kuruman and have all withdrawn to Magerfontein.

General Warren. Pietermaritzburg, Dec. 26.—Gen. Sir Charles Warren, commanding the Fifth division, arrived here last evening with his staff, and immediately proceeded for the front. FROM KIMBERLEY. Kimberley, Dec. 26.—At 2:30 this afternoon mounted detachments under command of Col. Peakshill, with three Maxim and three seven pounders under Major May, reconnoitered. Leaving the entrenchments the British advanced to Tollymore, where they were met by the Boer pickets fired and our Maxims replied, the Boers disappearing over the ridge. Four guns then began to shell Tollymore at a range of 2,500 yards. A Boer gun dropped four shells near our men, but did no damage. As the Boers were strongly entrenched we withdrew. Their guns are well posted. The Canadians. Ottawa, Dec. 27.—The following message was received from Strathcona today: "Have cable from Ottawa dated Belmont, Dec. 18th, that compressed meat and lime juice tablets most acceptable. The committee being formed will act accordingly." No information has reached the militia department in reference to the capture of any Canadians by Boers. Officers for Second Contingent. Ottawa, Dec. 27.—The following are the officers named for the second contingent, except for the Northwest detachment, which will be named by the commissioner of Mounted Police later. Col. Drury commands the artillery; Major Haden, of Quebec, "C" Battery; Major Hurdman, of Ottawa, "D" Battery; Major O'Brien, "E" Battery; Col. Lessard commands the Mounted Rifles, with Col. Evans second in command; Major Forester commands "A" squadron and Major Williams, "C" squadron.

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reported to be becoming nervous. They fear night sorties and constantly open a heavy fusillade on an imaginary attack. "The German officials have promptly stopped the Boers from recruiting in Damaraland. Neither men nor horses are permitted to cross the border." CANADIANS FOR SOUTH AFRICA. Lieut.-Col. Steele Will Command Northwest Squadron. Officer of Post Office Employees a Cap. (Special to the Times.) Ottawa, Dec. 28.—It is understood that Lieut.-Col. Steele, superintendent of Northwest Mounted Police, who recently returned from the Yukon, will be appointed to command the two Northwest squadrons of the second contingent. These squadrons will be selected for more daring and more general work than the two squadrons of mounted infantry. Postoffice Employees. The offer of Hon. W. Mulock to send five postoffice employees to South Africa to join the Imperial army postal corps there at the expense of the Ottawa post office department has been accepted. This offer was made by Mr. Mulock when the last contingent was being sent. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain regretted that all arrangements had been made by the British postal department and the offer could not be accepted. When Mr. Mulock returned from Toronto yesterday morning he found a cable waiting him accepting the offer which he had previously made. The result