

Soldiers Enthusiastic

Over the Appointment of Generals Roberts and Kitchener to South Africa.

Boers at Ladysmith Show No Signs of Attacking the Town.

Canada's Second Contingent Will Sail From Halifax on Jan 15.

London, Dec. 29.—Dispatches from all parts of South Africa emphasize the great enthusiasm occasioned by the appointment of Gen. Roberts and Gen. Kitchener.

Advices from Capetown, dated December 24th, say an investigation shows that the reported disaffection among the Dutch in the Victoria West district has been overdrawn.

A dispatch from Lorenzo Marquez, dated December 23rd, says a curious story is current, emanating from Boer sources, that Matt Steyn, brother of the president of the Orange Free State, and 800 Free Staters, have definitely refused to continue the war.

Sir Charles Howard Vincent has been appointed to command the infantry division of the city of London Imperial Regiment.

William Waldorf Astor has subscribed £1,000 to the Buckinghamshire fund to equip the Yeomanry.

DISPATCH FROM LADYSMITH.

Boers Have Mounted Another Gun, But Show No Signs of Making Any Attack.

Pietermaritzburg, Dec. 28.—A dispatch from Ladysmith dated December 22nd says:

"The Boers have mounted another Switzer on Surprise Hill, replacing the gun captured in the sortie of the Rifle Brigade.

"They show no signs of assaulting the town.

"The total casualties to date are 70 killed and 236 wounded."

IN CAPE COLONY.

Reopening Communication With the Indwe Colliery—Col. Baden-Powell Reports All Well at Mafeking.

Capetown, Dec. 29.—A dispatch from Cradock reports heavy firing in the direction of Stormberg.

It is supposed this is connected with Gen. Gatacre's attempt to reopen communication with the Indwe collieries.

London, Dec. 29.—The war office has received this dispatch:

"Capetown, Dec. 28.—The Indwe colliery line is now working again."

No Change.

London, Dec. 29.—A dispatch received by the war office, dated Capetown, December 28th, says there is no change in the situation so far as Generals Gatacre and French are concerned.

Lady Sarah Wilson at Mafeking.

London, Dec. 29.—A war office dispatch from Col. Baden-Powell dated December 12th announces the safe arrival of Lady Sarah Wilson, and reports the health and spirits of the garrison very satisfactory.

PRETORIA REPORTS.

Boers Have Trains Running to Colenso—Reported Capture of Forts at Kuruman.

Pretoria, Dec. 25.—Gen. Schalkburger reports on December 23rd that trains are running to Colenso, indicating that the Boers have built a connection around Ladysmith.

Gen. Cronje reports from the Modder River on December 24th that the Boers

captured two British forts at Kuruman on December 17th.

It is expected that the first contingent of 1,000 will sail about the middle of January.

Lady Chesham and Lady Georgina Curzon have issued an appeal for public funds to establish a field hospital for the Yeomanry.

The government has announced that it will accept the service of a battery from the Honorable Artillery Company.

It will be attached to the city Imperial Corps.

The Times complains of needless censorship and concealment. It cites the fact that nothing has yet transpired to show how Gen. Gatacre came to lose 600 men at Stormberg.

A dispatch from the front represents the Boers as in a nervous condition and complaining of the British advance, but it is not clear whether this is a mere propaganda device or the result of the inadequacy of the hospital arrangements.

It is now estimated that the war will cost at least eighty million pounds and it is suggested that the sinking fund of the national debt should be suspended for five or six years in order to defray the cost.

"It is satisfactory," says the Times editorially this morning, "to hear that the Washington government is acting with regard to the American

Cargoes Seized in Delagoa Bay as we should have wished and expected. It is a matter of course that we shall make full reparation, if reparation is proved to be due. In the meantime it may be noted, as the Americans themselves admit, that the facts are in considerable doubt and that some of them seem to be rather compromising to the vessels seized. There will be time enough to talk law and the policy of the step when the facts have been authoritatively ascertained."

The Transvaal government, according to information supplied by Boer sympathizers, threatens to "reduce the rations of British prisoners, if Great Britain stops the entrance of food by Delagoa Bay."

Mr. Henry Spencer Wilkinson, the Morning Post's military expert, in a Review of the Situation

to-day says: "The time has apparently arrived for the nation to insist, if not upon a military dictatorship, at least upon the admission into the cabinet of a military minister, empowered to veto any proposals detrimental to the successful prosecution of the war, and also that the administration of the army shall be placed wholly in the hands of a tried military administration."

SAILING OF CANADIANS.

The Second Contingent to Leave Halifax on January 15th.

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—The Laurentian and Montezuma will sail from Halifax on the 15th, having on board the artillery and one regiment of mounted rifles.

There may be a change in the command of the western squadron. Lieut. Col. Steele is here to-day. If Commissioner Herchimer goes in command, and it is thought he will, then Lieut. Col. Steele will be second in command to him. Steele approves of such an arrangement. It will be settled to-morrow.

(Associated Press.)

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—An Associated Press representative was informed this afternoon that the mounted rifles of the contingent will be divided into two regiments, the one drawn from points east of Manitoba to be under Col. Lessard, and the Northwest Mounted Police to be a separate regiment under Commissioner Herchimer, with Col. Steele second in command. The Pontician will sail from Halifax five days later than the Laurentian and Montezuma, which carry the artillery and one regiment of mounted rifles. She will take the balance of the mounted rifles. The postal corps will, it is learned, be composed of smart, young unmarried men.

Care of the Sick.

Toronto, Dec. 29.—The council of the Canadian Red Cross Society is considering a proposal to send a commissioner to South Africa to superintend the care of Canadian sick and wounded.

PORTUGAL'S POSSESSIONS.

Great Britain Will Get Delagoa Bay While Germany Will Also Get Some Territory.

(Associated Press.)

New York, Dec. 29.—Commenting on the official denial concerning the secret treaty between Germany, England and Portugal, the Tribune's London correspondent declares that the story is not all smoke, adding "Well informed diplomats are convinced that Germany will enlarge her colonial possessions in some quarter at the end of the war and will have a free hand in the future in Asia Minor, or elsewhere. It is also believed that the future of the Portuguese East Africa possessions was discussed at the foreign office with the German ambassador a year ago, and again by the Emperor and Mr. Chamberlain a few weeks ago, and though it may be premature to carry out these arrangements at present, the shrewdest diplomats forecast the ultimate occupation of Delagoa Bay by Great Britain and the enlargement of German East Africa southward to the Zambesi."

London, Dec. 29.—A statement has been issued by the Imperial Yeomanry committee to the effect that the government considers the formation and dispatch of Yeomanry as one of the most pressing needs of the situation and has intimated that it is now prepared to accept from 8,000 to 10,000 Yeomanry, in-

stead of 3,000 as originally asked for. It is expected that the first contingent of 1,000 will sail about the middle of January.

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THE BOERS AT COLENZO

Have Built Fortresses and Trenches Lines on Which to Meet Their Guns.

London, Dec. 29.—The Daily Mail publishes a dispatch from Pietermaritzburg, dated Dec. 23rd, which says:

"Every day reveals some new fact regarding the strength of the Boers' position at Colenso. Thanks to the services of the Contingent of mounted rifles, the camp again has changed. "We are no longer fighting a foe who relies upon guerrilla tactics, but we have to deal with what is rapidly becoming a disciplined army enjoying the advantages of knowing the country and of selecting the scene of contest without the burdens of a cumbersome commissariat. "The Boers have converted the hills near Colenso into fortresses of immense strength. Everywhere they

Have Splendid Trenches, many of them being bomb-proof. Tramway lines permit the shifting of guns with astonishing rapidity. "The main positions are connected with the outlying positions by underground passages and the forts proper bristled with machine guns, that command the approaches. Probably mines are laid.

"The Boers less nowadays about Boer shells not bursting. Observers of the Colenso fight say the Boer shells were very effective. This is due largely to the fact that the distances are marked off with white paint.

"The enemy's discipline is improving. The trenches represent great manual labor, for which the Boers have a keen dislike, and the way in which they re-strained their fire when our troops were advancing is another proof of improved soldiering."

A correspondent of the Daily News at Fretz Camp announces that a tramway is being constructed from the railway to a hill

Commanding the Boer Position, and that along this the British will convey heavy guns.

A Ladysmith dispatch, dated Wednesday, December 20th, says the heat was then intense, being 104 degrees Fah. in the shade. There were many cases of enteric fever in the town at that time, but not enough to cause alarm. On the other hand Boer sources on the continent assert that typhoid fever is epidemic in Ladysmith.

Shelling Ladysmith.

Chevelley Camp, Natal, Dec. 27.—A heavy Boer gun on Bu'whana hill fired steadily on Ladysmith throughout the morning. Ladysmith did not respond.

The enemy having been detected again attempting to improve their trenches facing Gen. Buller, the British heavy guns opened upon them, and the Boers scamped back into the hills.

The British patrols sighted the enemy in force on our extreme left. Nine Boers were killed in a skirmish that followed, and six Boer wagons were captured.

Boers Talk of a Compromise.

Durban, Natal, Dec. 23.—Mr. Winston Churchill says that from conversation with members of the Transvaal executive at Pretoria, he learned that the Boers

began the war with trepidation, but that President Kruger is now confident that Great Britain will soon sue for peace.

In the highest Transvaal circles, Mr. Churchill asserts, there is serious talk of a compromise by which Great Britain would cede the territory now occupied by the armies of the two republics, pay an indemnity of twenty million pounds and acknowledge the complete independence of the Transvaal.

For Dependents of Canadians.

Montreal, Dec. 28.—The following telegram from Stratford, dated London, to-day, has been received by Premier Laurier: "A. C. Harnsworth, of the London Daily Mail, has handed me a check for £1,000 as a donation from the Klipping fund for dependents of the Canadian contingent. He states that it is sent in recognition of Canada's prompt and ungrudging response to the call of the Mother Country to her children. The check will be transmitted through the Bank of Montreal."

Commercial Traders' Contribution.

Toronto, Dec. 28.—At the annual meeting of the Commercial Traders' Association, a vote of \$10,000 was passed as a contribution to the fund for dependents of the Canadian soldiers in Africa, provided the rules permit. The resolution passed amid great cheering and the singing of patriotic songs.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME.

It is Understood General Bill's Left Over From Last Session Will be Again Introduced.

(Associated Press.)

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—While the government programme has not yet been announced, it is generally understood that some of the bills held over from last session owing to the desire of members to get away from parliamentary labors, among which are the minister of railways' amendment to the Railway Act respecting the side tracking of townships by railways, and regulations regarding bill representing fraternal orders and the Civil Service Act, will be again pushed. Changes in franchises are also contemplated. It is also understood the estimates will be smaller than usual, and possibly the treasury will report a surplus to reduce the national debt.

WILL AGUNALDO SURRENDER?

It is Said He is Prepared to Do So Under Certain Conditions.

(Associated Press.)

New York, Dec. 29.—Jesup Luigi Fernandez, one of the three special representatives of Agoncillo appointed by the Filipino congress, has arrived in Philadelphia. The representatives desire, if possible, to have a personal interview with President McKinley, and ascertain his views regarding the war, and if he is desirous of allowing Agoncillo to surrender on certain terms, which they will offer. The nature of the overtures, however, Fernandez positively refused to divulge.

New York, Dec. 29.—The New York city council to-day passed a resolution condemning the action of the government in continuing the war in the Philippines.

CANADIAN NOTES.

(Associated Press.)

Toronto, Dec. 29.—John Healey, the man reported dead from injuries sustained by falling off a train and having his feet badly frozen at Bowmanville, is recovering.

Windsor, Dec. 29.—Henry Williams, colored, who murdered William Lyman McKee's lumber yard last June and who has been a fugitive from justice ever since, is reported to be living quietly in the country a few miles from here. The police authorities are investigating.

TRANS-ATLANTIC SERVICE.

(Associated Press.)

New York, Dec. 29.—Frederick Leyland & Co., of Liverpool, has arranged to establish a weekly passenger service between New York and Liverpool, and will have six big vessels in operation within two months.

BOATS FOR LONDON.

(Associated Press.)

New York, Dec. 29.—A London cable says the English metropolis has decided to adopt the underground electric street cars, and the County Council has taken steps to appropriate about \$15,000,000 to install the system.

A BUST OF CROKER.

(Associated Press.)

New York, Dec. 29.—Lord Mayor Talbot, of Dublin, has started a movement to have a life-sized bust of Richard Croker placed in the council chamber of the Irish capital, in recognition of his generosity in raising a fund for the preservation of the Farnell estate.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

Calcutta, Dec. 29.—Almost three million persons are receiving famine relief. Owing to the rapid increase in the number seeking relief, the Viceroy has invited a closer scrutiny of the claims of applicants.

PALE, WEAK GIRLS.

Many a pale, weak school girl, suffering from the evil effects of an exhausted nervous system, and thin, watery blood, has been really restored to the vigor and buoyancy of robust health, by using Dr. A. W. Chase's Nerve Food. The healthful glow on the cheek and the brightness in the eye tell of the building-up process which is taking place in the body.

If you are tired, taking the large old-fashioned griping pills, try Carter's Little Liver Pills and take some comfort. A man can't stand everything. One pill a dose, try them.

Two Hours in Boer Lines

How Carleton's Column Was Hemmed in at Nicholson's Nek.

London Leader Correspondent Tells of a Visit to the Fatal Field.

Ladysmith, Nov. 1, 1899.

Yesterday I spent a couple of hours in the Boer lines.

The enemy gave me a safe conduct to visit the spot where the Gloucesters and Irish Fusiliers were worsted and surrendered. No other journalist walked over this battlefield and yet the opportunity to do so came to me accidentally.

A ten-hour's truce for the collection of wounded and the burial of dead had been agreed to by Gen. Sir George White and Gen. Joubert. The fate of the Gloucesters and Fusiliers was still in doubt. Stragglers were coming in with all sorts of stories. One was that the column had been cut to pieces, and that a hillside near Bell's Spruit was strewn with the dead and wounded; another was that our men were safely entrenched in the position they had been ordered to hold.

The Rev. E. G. F. Macpherson, senior chaplain to the forces, was in residence with the Gloucesters. We were fellow-passengers from Southampton to the front. When I met him yesterday morning he was full of concern as to what had occurred. He proposed to ride to the battlefield to minister to the wounded and bury the dead, if, as we both feared, the worst had happened. We went together.

Preliminary Signs of Disaster.

It was at a spot about four miles north-west of Ladysmith where we began to meet the usual signs of disaster. Dead beasts, discarded haversacks, ammunition, anything that if cast away would make man's step lighter. A few minutes later we drove up at a little hut, right at the foot of a steep rugged hill. Huddled together on the shady side of the building was a number of our wounded awaiting an ambulance van to carry them back to camp. Two Boers came out to meet us. They carried their rifles in their hands, and their bodies were encircled by cartridge bands. Mr. Macpherson introduced himself, and in reply to inquiries I told them I was a newspaper correspondent.

One of the Boers was a man of 35 or 38; the other a young fellow of about forty-four. The elder man spoke English perfectly, the other understood it, but spoke with difficulty. Both were pleasant, bearded men. They announced that they would act as our escort, and led us straight towards the precipitous front of the hill.

"It is on the top that your dead are lying," said the elder man to Mr. Macpherson. "And I fear, sir, there are a great many of them for you to bury."

"Our men got into positions—they were not caught in ambush during the night—the report goes in Ladysmith?" I inquired.

"We found them entrenched on the top of the hill when we came along this way yesterday—but I will show you where they were and how we captured the hill when we got up there."

The White Flag and Its Import.

Slowly we clambered our way up the great hill, at times almost on all fours, taking a circuitous route towards a large white flag which hung listless over the brow of the hill. It is a marvellous thing how often this white flag has come into play in the history of our dealings with the Boers. Here, if the Boers said rightly, it was an officer's bed sheet. It made my heart sick to think of it floating up there, flaunted on the crest of this terrible hill.

Two or three times we stopped dead before the steepness of the path, and, considering that we were so well able, we were absolutely breathless.

Our Boer escort—they were really excellent fellows—were anxious to know the latest news. They frankly admitted that they were distrustful of the papers which reached them from Pretoria, and found the Natal newspapers which they had been able to obtain were too full of British victories. Blaudschlange, they contended, was our fight, but according to their own view it had been a draw, and our outnumbering them by 3,000 to 750. They claimed Bellfontein and the engagement fought on the previous day, that is to say, the battle of Lombard's Kop. That they were elated was without saying.

"My friend says God is on our side, that we are fighting against injustice and must win," said the elder.

"Yes, I believe God is with us," concurred the younger.

"I say for myself," continued the elder man, "that one Boer is as good as ten Englishmen in guerrilla warfare in a country like this."

Statistics were all very well in a hypothetical argument, but when the conversation looked like turning upon the respective number of combatants on either side then in and around Ladysmith, we mutually agreed that we had enjoyed our breather and trudged on in silence.

Confident of Ladysmith's Fall.

At our next halt we lit upon a new phase of the situation for conversational purposes. It was the subject of the Boers taking Ladysmith. They spoke no secret of their confidence of being able to do so. Three days ago they told us Gen. Joubert sent in to Sir George White warning him to get the women and children away from the town. The British commander's reply to the Boers, still according to our escort, was that he intended coming out to meet them in the open.

That is what he did; and this unfortunate battlefield with the white flag flying over it was one of the results.

Eventually we climbed over the last of

the boulders. A large oval plateau formed the summit of the hill. In three directions the view extended to distant heights without any glimpse of the valleys beneath; on the other side one looked down a gentle slope covered with rough stones and stunted shrubs, which meant that this hill has precipitous approaches, except on the south-westerly side—the side our men ascended the hill, and the side on which the enemy followed them up.

Stepping upon the plateau near the white flag we immediately ran across a temporary hospital set up beneath a spreading tree. Those of our wounded who had not been discovered while the Boer doctors were on the field lay under the tree, recipients of first aid from our own medical officers. It is pleasing to be able to state—and I would not say I met confirmed the official acknowledgment which has been made—that the British doctors, and the enemy generally, treated our wounded and prisoners with every possible consideration. In spite of their injuries the fellows under the tree were cheerful; but they "chipped" one another, and were mercilessly "chipped" by a wounded Irishman, who, fighting with the Boers, managed to find his way into the same field hospital where men of the Irish Fusiliers sat writing the doctor's orders to carry them down the hill to the ambulance wagons below.

Our Ride Entrenched.

This spreading tree was almost the only one worthy of the name on this barren plateau. Boulders and stones seemed to be its only products. These had been collected by our fellows before the fight, and quite a number of stone entrenchments were thrown up on the battlefield.

Strolling around were parties of armed Boers, some on horseback, some on foot. Many of them came up to have a chat, and as I look back upon the strange experiences of a Journalist's life, I can think of few that were more impressive than this mid-day scene on what is, so far as I know, a nameless hill. Perhaps it is just as well—names stick.

For stretching away in front of us were our dead, lying just as they had fallen—no, not quite; the Boers had covered the poor fellows' faces with their beavers, to keep the rays of that tropical sun from beating down on the already distorted features. And other Boers had taken off their boots—and turned them to their own uses.

"It is not sacrilege, is it, sir?" queried one of the Boers apologetically when we called his attention to the absence of boots upon the feet of our dead. "I can tell you some of our fellows wanted them."

"I counted well over 30 bodies lying within a very small area. By the side of each man was a heap of expended ammunition, showing that he had not given in without firing a shot. By the side of each man, too, were the remnants of an unfinished meal. By the side of one poor fellow of the Irish Fusiliers I picked up several papers of a "Preparation for Confession."

Most of the relics of this battlefield were so sad that I could not touch them, but as the Boers would say, it was "not sacrilege" when we divided these papers between Mr. Macpherson, a Catholic Boer who had joined us, and myself.

Three Lonely Graves.

To-day Mr. Macpherson, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Watkins, returned to the hill top and buried 44 of our dead in three large graves.

Before I left the battlefield the Boers, according to their promise, took me over the position to explain exactly how our disaster occurred. They were the men who went up the hill and rendered our situation desperate.

The hill, as I have explained, has three precipitous sides and a gentle slope on the fourth. One of the steep fronts faces the left of the Boers' supposed main position, at a distance of something like two miles. Nearer the hill occupied by the Gloucesters and the Irish Fusiliers were two lofty mounds, one to the right, the other to the left. These were in the possession of the enemy, who kept up a constant fire against our men all the morning.

The Boers say their marksmen were too far off to do any real damage. They had, however, a small party, who advanced by way of a path near a Kaffir kraal slightly to the northwest of the hill occupied by our men. It came on the scene at dawn. It knew that something had happened, because stamped mules were met with during the night.

Hemmed in All Round.

Well, this party, according to the Boer account as they gave it to me, waited until the Gloucesters and the Irish Fusiliers were hotly engaged from the two hills and then crept up the slope, and our men were hemmed in and obliged to surrender. The party which delivered the direct attack numbered 240 men and sustained a loss of 4 killed and 12 wounded. The enemy say that the men took off to resist his attack made the fatal blunder of indulging in volley firing. All the attackers had to do when they saw the preparations being made for a volley was to keep well behind the stones, then the moment the discharge was effected jump up and take careful aim at picked men.

Of course the whole thing may not have been so easily done as the Boers declare. They challenge the statement that our fellows ran out of ammunition, and offered to show me piles of it with the thousand rifles they captured from prisoners and wounded.

When Mr. Macpherson went out to-day he was told by other Boers that a strong Free State commando had taken part in the defeat of Col. Carleton's column.

As we were leaving the enemy's lines, shown, the Boers told us that Gen. Joubert had issued very severe injunctions against firing on the Red Cross—indeed, the punishment for this offence was death.

Some Boer ought to have died that day, for as the senior chaplain and myself with a wounded Gloucester we gave a lift to our way in the string of ambulances to Ladysmith a bullet whizzed across the road.

SLEEPLESS NIGHTS.

caused by a persistent rasping cough. Ferry Davis' soothing Balm never fails to cure. Many-Pain-Killer.

Quilger, found guilty of manslaughter at Calgary, has been sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in the penitentiary.