POOR DOCUMENT

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph.

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ST. JOHN N. B., WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13. 1899

SUCCESS AND REVERSE

Brilliant Achievement by Hunter at Ladysmith

Minimized by a Serious Reverse at Stormberg---Gatacre Was Led Into a Trap by False Guides --- Lost Above Six Hundred.

"Lord Methuen reports casualties I'ec. 6, on patrol duty—missing, Lieut. Tris tram and four men of the 12th Lancers; wounded, four men."

missing.

The Boer force is still around us in large numbers; but all within the town are well and cheerful.

MATHUEN FACING THE ENEMY.

London, Dec. 9.—Some interesting light on the position of affairs along the western frontier is thrown by a despatch issued by a Boer agency last evening in Berlin. The despatch says:—

"Commandant Prins Loos' force is near Jacobsdal, between ModderRiver and Riet River. General Cronje is still on the Northern bank of Modder River, his rear being protected by fortified positions at Spytfontein. The hills between Modder River and Spytfontein and those between Jacobsdal and Riet River are occupied by Boers. Commandant DeLarey's force is stationed between Gras Pan and Honey Nest Kloof."

If this Berlin despatch be correct, and it is especially significant when judged in connection with General Forestiers-Walker's advices to the war office, there

Walker's advices to the war office, there must be some 15,000 Boers around Lord Methuen, who is believed to have 11,000 men. Kimberley, however, possessing an armored train, can materially assist Methuen by harrassing the Boers from the

THE BOERS GOT ENOUGH AT MODDER RIVER.

According to a special despatch from Lourenzo Marques, the Modder River battle is described by a Boer correspon-dent with General Cronje as "one of the fiercest the Boers ever experienced." The

fiercest the Boers ever experienced." The correspondent says:—

"General Cronje's wing sustained almost solely the fearful attack of the British right throughout the day. The Transvalers' tenaciously held their positions until 7 o'clock in the evening, when the Free State burghers were forced to retire by the heavy British shell fire. Gen. Cronje then retired under cover of darkness after facing the concentrated fire of all the British batteries.

"The Boers freely acknowledge the herculean assaults of the British and the death dispensing fire of the attacking infentry, but they held their position for 13 hours against the flower of the British army, replying solely with their Mausers and maintaining an uninterrupted rife.

MODDER BRIDGE FIXED.

der River dated Dec. 5:"The river is low and the railway bridge is rapidly approaching completion. The first train will cross tonight. After extraordinary exertions the pontoon bridge has been completed."

METHUNE IN TOUCH WITH THE

London, Dec. 8.—The following advices have been received from Gen. Methuen's force at Modder River under date of Tuesday, Dec. 5:— "Boers are seen daily passing between Spytfontein and Jacobsdal laagers. They frequently fire on patrols. Mounted infantry received a severe fire, while patrolling six miles towards the North from a hill. There was no casualty. An

CANADIANS MAY BE ENGAGED.

London, Dec. 8, 6.52 p. m.—The war office has just issued the following:-"No further new has arrived from Gen. Methuen today but the following has been received from Orange River station:-"Railroad culvert was blown up near Gras Pan this morning. The telegraph was also cut. The guides report heavy firing of guns to the north."

[The Canadian Regiment is with the Black Watch and Seaforth Highlanders guarding the railway north of Orange River and it is quite possible they may be

COMMUNICATION WITH KIMBER-LEY.

London, Dec. 9—General Forestier-Walker has sent the following despatch, dated at 9 o'clock last (Friady) evening to the war office from Cape Town:—

"Telegraph and railway communication to Modder River has been re-opened. A battery of field artillery and a battalion of infantry were despatched from Modder River against Commandant Urns Loos' force of 1,000 Boers, with one gun, who had destroyed the railway. Our losses were 14 wounded.

"Belmont has been strengthened by infantry and two gens; and a cavalry regiment and troops from Naauwpoort occupied Arundel yesterday (Thursday).

"The enemy's forces near General Catacre are reported as follows: At Dordrecht 700, with six guns; at Stormberger, 1,500; at Waterfalls, a large force—strength unknown; and at Moitcno, about 400.

"Lord Methuen reports casualties I'cc.

Pretoria, Dec. 7.—The following despatch dated today has been received from the head larger near Ladysmith: The British are advancing on Colenso, but last night passed without an atack. There was a desultory cannonade this morning the naval guns in Ladysmith replying igorously to our fire."

THE COLENSO BRIDGE RESTORED. Frere Camp, Dec. 8.—The trestle bridge is finished and the trains are now traver-

COL. GIROUARD PRAISED BY THE

Montreal. Dec. 8-Col. Girouard's ar-Montreal, Dec. 8—Col. Girouard's arrangements have elicited the warm appreciation of the London press. The Daily News military expert says his plans for the restoration of the destroyed bridges will enable us to repair them and that will certainly astonish the Boers and upset their calculations on which they based their ideas of the difficulties we should meet in an advance on Pretoria.

CAN TALK TO LADYSMITH.

London, Dec. 8.—A war office despatch from General Buller confirms the statement that heligraphic communication has been fully established with Ladysmith, and that General Buller and General and that General Buller and General White have been confering as to the future

DEADLY HOWITZER. Comparison Between This Engine of War

and the Ordinary Gun. A howitzer and a gun are two very different articles, writes a military correspondent. A gun is long for its weight of metal and a howitzer is short. A gun can only be elevated to a moderate angle (with the 15-pounder 15 deg.) whereas 45 deg. or even 70 deg. of elevation is nothing for a howitzer. A gun fires one charge only, but a howitzer has many.

Finally, and here comes the greatest difference, a gun is made to act by direct fire—that is, directly striking the face of what is ain.ed at, and a howitzer drops its shell over the object, and spreads its

its shell over the object, and spreads its havoc on the rear side.

The field gunner must be able to see what he is shooting at, but the scientific siege gunner does not want in the least to see what he is directing his fire against. He calmly gets his howitzer in a pit, and leisurely makes his preparation and fires, reckons up for a minute, decides where his projectile fell, and makes the necessary allowance to drop the next in another spot. its shell over the object, and spreads it

the next in another spot.

A few of these dreaded engines of destruction placed along the horizon give with their smokeless cordite charge no indication whatever of their whereabouts. The 6 in breech-loading howitzers erried by our siege batteries weigh 25 cwt., and their carriages about the same. They have a range of about 8,200 yards, and fire only common shell of 118 lb. weight,

used in warfare, but when the shell drops (and it drops on the ground before it ex-plodes) it deals destruction in no unsparing manner, and no human being could possibly exist within a distance of at

TRANSVAAL FLOUR APPROPRI

of fighting as they were placed on active service immediately on arrival.

LADYSMITH HAS SUFFERED LITTLE.

Ladysmith, Dec. 7 (via Weenen)—The total British casualties here since Nov. 1st are five officers and 26 men killed and 15 officers and 130 men wounded, with three

RICA. Ottawa, Dec. 8.—Major Dobell, of the imperial army and son of Hon. Mr. Dobell, has been granted a special case

Africa to join the Canadian This was at first refused.

MAIL STEAMERS AT HALIFAX. The Huron Arrives and the Montere Sails—Quick Passage by the Californian.

Halifax, Dec. 8.—A number of letters from members of "H" Company, of the Canadian contingent to the Transvaal was received this morning, and they caused many enquires from friends of members of the company as to health of our volunteer soldiers, their experiences on the voyage and their views of the prospects in the Transvaal. All the letters seem to agree that every member of the company is cheerful and happy and their experiences up to the date of writing had been pleasant. Some of the letters had been evidently written or finished in a hurry, one from an officer having Halifax, Dec. 8.-A number of letters ters had been evidently written or finished in a hurry, one from an officer having ben begun in ink and finishe in pencil. The weekly mail steamer, Lake Huron arrived in port at 5 o'clock this morning from Liverpool via Moville, after a passage of eleven days. The ship met with a succession of head gales and heavy seas almost the entire way. She landed a small quantity of cargo and the following passengers here and proceeded for St. John at 8 o'clock: Annie Anderson, P. G. Goldsmith, J. W. Campbell; four second position still strongly held. The 18th Hussars, pushing forward, drew a furious fire and suffered heavily, losing four hill-the day of the capture of the Boer guns near Pepworth Hill. It says:—

"Gen. Brocklehurst, with cavalry and artillery, reconnoitered in the direction of Pepworth Hill with a view of cutting off the Boer retreat; but he found the capture of the Boer guns near Pepworth Hill with a view of cutting off the Boer retreat; but he found the Hussars, pushing forward, drew a furious fire and suffered heavily, losing four hill-the day of the capture of the Boer guns near Pepworth Hill with a view of cutting off the Boer still strongly held. The 18th Hussars, pushing forward, drew a furious fire and suffered heavily, losing four hill-the day of the capture of the Boer guns near Pepworth Hill with a view of cutting off the Boer retreat; but he found the Hussars, pushing forward, drew a furious fire and suffered heavily, losing four hill-the fire the bound of the Boer guns of the war office account, cabled Satur-to-the war of Goldsmith, J. W. Campbell; four second cabin and seven steerage. The Lake Huron is in command of Captain William Jones, formerly of the Lake Winnipeg. Captain Evans, her former commander, has gone to South America in command of

a transport.

The homeward bound mail steamer
Monetery, after taking on board about 100
tons of cargo principally poultry and canned goods, sailed for Liverpool, at 7 o'clock

this morning.
Allan Liner California arrived tonigut from Liverpool making a quick run of eight days. After landing 95 passengers she proceeded for Portland, Maine.

HALF THE REGIMENT AT THE

Orange River, Saturday, Dec. 9.—Half the men of the Canadian contingent have gone forward. Like the Australian congone forward. Like the Australian contingent, they have been put to stiff work since their arrival and have been building sidings, erecting platforms and rendering the usual routine service. They are in excellent condition and very zealous.

PREPARING FOR THE SIEGE OF

London, Dec. 9.—Russia is sending Gen. Gurke, of the general staff, as attache at the Boer head laager.

A siege train was shipped to South Africa today from Southampton.

SATURDAY'S SUMMARY.

Gen. Methuen Has His Howitzers-Buller London.Dec. 9-The announcement tha the Howitzers have reached General Me-thuen and that General Buller and cav-

premiums.

LaDis s, Boys and Gible, send us your full name and address and we will mail your [18] packages of our assorted steel pens to sell among your neighbors and friends at lice per package. When sold remit us amount due, \$1.30, and we will forward premium you select from our mann of catalogue which we mail with goods. Send today Address
STANDERD WATCH & NOVELTY (10)

STANDARD, WATCH & NOVELTY CO., P.O. Eoz 62 E, St. John, N. B.

alry has received the heavy artillery, which he was waiting for, that the advance will be no longer delayed and news of important battles in both directions is expected soon. Besides forshadowing General Methuen's advance the fact that he has ordered 200 stretcher bearers from Pietermaritzburg to assist regular amplications.

Of casualties is awaited with serious misgivings.

It is also feared that there were serious losses of guns and equipment.

Effect on the Dutch.

The most serious aspect of the affair is the effect, it is likely to have on the

The engineers at Frere camp have done a good weeks work in completing the trestle bridge, a distance of 200 feet and red at various points and at Queenstown a quantity of rifles and ammunition, including dum dum bullets and Martinis belonging to disloyal Dutch, have been seized. The latest advices from Storm-

berg indicate that the Boers' position there is exceptionally strong.

The war office has received the following despatch from General Forstier-Walker, the British commander at Cape Town:

"The Free State government reports that there are 35 prisoners at Bloemerfontein, including Lieut. Tristram of the 12th Lancers, who is severely wounded."

Reports received at Cape Town from Bloemfontein say everybody has been compelled to do military duty, including Mr. Fraser, the chairman of the Valksraad.

Mr. Fraser, the chairman of the Valkstraad.

The Free Staters, it is alleged, have decided not to defend Bloemfontein as it is not fortified, but to make a stand at Rainsveli, southwest of Bloemfontein.

Special reports say President Steyn's mind is failing.

According to despatches from Ladysmith excursions are running weekly from Pretoria, bringing numbers of gaily attitud Dutch women, who take up points of advantage on the hills and closely scan the proceedings in the town.

BOER GUNS CAPTURED.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE

ed and 17 wounded.
"The Boers fired incessantly as the British slowly retired. At a special parade afterwards Gen. White thanked Gen. Hunter and all engaged, especially Major Henderson, for brilliant work.

The Boer Account.

Pretoria, Dec. 9.—Boer head laager, Ladysmith, Friday, Dec. 8.—The British troops made a sortie between 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning. They crawled up a ravine and stormed and carried Loubard's Kop, which was held by the Boers and on which were placed a creuset gun and a howitzer. These guns were destroyed with dynamite. The British captured a Maxim gun and then retired. The Lancers, Hussars and Guards made a sortie west of Ladysmith at daybreak under cover of a heavy artillery fire under cover of a heavy artillery fire which the Boers returned briskly. The which the Boers returned briskly. The British afterwards returned to Lady-smith. The Boer losses are reported to have been slight.

BOERS CROSS THE TUGELA. Pretoria, Dec. 9.—A strong burgher column has crossed the Tugela river at Colenso with the object of attacking the British Estcourt column.

A DUTCH COURT MARTIAL.

Pretoria, Dec. 8.-Major Borasmus and Lieut. Malan will be tried by court mar-tial in connection with loss of guns. STARVING COOLIES ARRIVE.

Frere Camp, Dec. 9.—Coolies to the number of 234, whom General White re-fused to receive at Ladysmith, have ar-

SUMMARY OF THE WAR

ly too much to regard General Gatacre's repulse near Stormberg as the most seried in the whole campaign. Already the official advices show that two men were killed, nine officers and seventeen men were wounded and nine officers and 596 men are missing. But it is evident that the worst is not yet known. The proportion of wounded and killed is so small, are undoubtedly prisoners in the hands Kraal by train for Molteno and then pro-of the Boers—that the supplementary list ceeded by forced march, 12 miles toward

pates sharp fighting.

The latest pigeon from Ladysmith furnished Gen. Buller with an important map sent by General White presumably showing the disposition of the Boer forces and the vulnerable points.

The engineers of Frence camp have done.

Port. The plan was for their couplined.

tacre with General French at Naauw Port. The plan was for their conbined forces to relieve the pressure on Lord Methuen's column.

cavalry scouting.

The British troops who recently occupied Arundel are advancing. They have had several skirmishes but no casualties.

Three miles north of Arundal they found

oxen, hauled a naval gun to the top of a high ridge north of Modder River town. whence they fired lyddite shells on the Boer position at a range of 6,700 yards, where the enemy was apparently con-structing an emplacement for a 40-pound-

that the Boers are still in position quite close to Modder River.

The engineers report that it would take two months to rebuild the iron

destroy the temporary bridge there is enough rolling stock on the north side of

It is reported that the Boers are busy enemy's main body, thrown forward for casional sudden call of "hait" under the patrolling and scouting purposes. It is belief that the Boers were near. Sud-

REPULSE FROM KIMBERLEY

Cape Town, Saturday, Dec. 9.—It is rumored here that the Boers attacked Kimberley at close quarters last night but were repulsed with heavy loss. BOER REPORTS OF FIGHTING AT

Lorenzo Marques, Delagoa Bay, Dec. 9.

A despatch from Pretoria dated today, Reports have been received here of

fighting early this morning, in the vicinity of Schaltz-Nek, the British attacking

General Cronie.

Fighting is also reported to have occurred in the direction oi Kimberley. It is presumed this is another sortic.

Dutch-German ambulance corps has been enthusiastically received and will be divided between Natal and the Free

GATACRE REPORTS A REVRESE. Failed to Take Stormberg and Reports 605 Missing, 26 Wounded ,and Two Killed.

London, Dec. II.—The war once pun-lishes the follawing despatch from Gez-eral Forestier-Walker at Cape Town: "Gatacre reports: Deeply regret to in-form you that I met with a serious reverse in the attack on Stormberg." Was misled as to the enemy's position by the guides and found impracticable

ground.

Casualties, so far as known at present Second Battalion Royal Irish Rifles.

Wounded—Lieut. Col. Eager, Major Seaton, Capt. Bell, Capt. Kelly, Lieut. Stephens, Lieut. Barnardston. Suffolk Regiment. Wounded—Second Lieut. Maynard; 12

Missing-Capt. Weir, Lieut. Christie Second Lieut Rodney, 290 men. Seventy- Fourth Field Battery. Several wounded; Lieut. Lewis, thre

Slightly wounded-Two men. 77th Field Battery. Killed—One gunner. Wounded—Major Perceval.
Northumberland Fusiliers.
Missing—Major Stevens, Capt. Fletcher,
Capt. Morley, Second Lieut. Wake, Second Lieut. Coulson, Lieut. Radchffe.
Three hundred and six non-commission-

cers and men. Royal Berkshire Regiment.

The remaining of my casualties will ired as soon as ascertained. DETAILS OF THE REVERSE.

Gatacre Went Out to Surprise and Was eral Gatacre has been drive nback from Stormberg after a three nours' battle with when compared with the missing-who the Boers. General Gatacre left Putter's

FARMING As peo; le study other callings and you will succeed. The chespest and

best text book to use is a progressive agricultural paper; not one that tells you what an OHIO or an ON-TARIO Farmer should do to make money, but one that tells what MARITIME farmers should do and are doing to make the farm pay. The CO-OPERATIVE FARMER fills the bill. Enlarged to 20 p ges. with a nest colored cover. Issued twice a week, \$1.00 a year. Special rates to clubs. Free sam; 1 : copies

on application.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMER,

Stormberg. He had 2,000 men, including the Northumberland Fusiliers, the Royal Irish Rifles and two batteries of field

The British were unmolested until the Boer position was reached when a bot fife was unexpectedly opened upon the advancing column. The engagement began at 4.15 a. m, At 7 a. m., after a sharp artillery duel, the British retired. They are now marching toward Molteno. General Gatacre found the enemy's position impregnable. It was impossible for the British infantry to get at the Boers.

General Gatacre's movement may be termed a reconnaisance in force. Its object was to ascertain the strength of the position of the Boers, who were strongly entrenched along the Stormberg range. He left Putter's Kraal shortly after noon yesterday, with a fighting force slightly

It is reported that the Boers are busy making entrenchments at Spytfontein. Several tiers of works are beginning to appear at the foot of the heights. The force fired on by the British naval gan is believed to form the right wing of the enemy's main body, thrown forward for enemy's main body. night issued the following despatch from General Buller dated Frere Camp Dec. 9, afternoon: "The following was received from General White today:—
"Last night sent Gen. Hunter with 500 Natal Volunteers, under Royston, and 100 of the Imperial Light Horse, under Edwards, to surprise a gun on hill. The enterprise was admirably carried out and was entirely successful. The hill being captured and a six inch gun and a how, itzer being destroyed by Capt. Fowke and Lieut. Turner. A Maxim was captured and brought to Ladysmith.

The bess was one killed and Maj. Henders, wounded.

"At the same time Col. Knox seized the hill one squadron of the 19th Hussars rode round Pepworth Hill, burning kraais and cutting the Boer telegraph lines."

TETRITHER PARTICILIARS OF THE Service of Service in South Kimberley FROM KIMBERLEY

In the following despatch from General Wither the right wing of the enemy's main body, thrown forward for patrolling and scouting purposes. It is reported that the bad water at Spytion. Kimberley reports all quiet there up to Dec. 7 and that the pressure of the column. It was soon found, however, two 6-pounders, quick firers and four that the position also was covered by Boer guns, which were more powerful that the Boers and overe the the first battation of the Arryll Highlanders, wounded.

"At the same time Col. Knox seized the hill one squadron of the 19th Hussars and other tribesmen will follow their extraction and other tribesmen will follow their extraction and other tribesmen will follow their example."

REPULSE FROM KIMBERLEY

the Northumberland regiment were sent out to meet it. It was soon discovered, however, that the Beers had machine guns well placed and the British were compelled to face a

terrible fire.

Finding it impossible to hold the position in the face of an enemy apparently superior in position, numbers and artillery, the British retired on Molteno, the Boers following up the retirement closely and bringing two big guns to bear on the

ualties were not serious and that the missing will turn up. They are thought to have separated from the force in the

REINFORCEMENTS SENT GATACRE.

London, Dec. 11.—The war office has received the following despatch from Cape Town dated Saturday night:—
"The position of the enemy in Stormberg district last night was the following: At Stormberg six laagers; at Dordrecht, 800 men; 23 miles south of Sterkstroom, 220 men;

"Major Elliott reports that Dalgetty, with a force, has gone toward Dordrecht to co-operate with Gatacre.

"The railway bridge at Modder River was completed Dec. 7. Methuen reports that he made a demonstration up the line of the railway at daylight today with artillery. The enemy did not respond. Methuen is receiving the remainder of his reinforcements and supplies. He has established detached posts on his lines of communication.

ines of communication.

"Mafeking reports all well on Nov.

THE TIMES ON THE REVERSE. London, Dec. 11.-The Times publishes London, Dec. 11.—The Times publishes the following despatch from Molteno:—
"Gen. Gatacre attempted to assault the Boer position at Stormberg at dawn to-day (Sunday). The guides led us wrong and we were surprised while in fours and after a very trying night march. Our retirement was effected in excellent order, there being no hurry even at the most critical time. The Northumberlands and Irish Rifles behaved as if on review day. I fear our losses are heavy. One of our I fear our losses are heavy. One of our guns we had to abandon."

BOER SYMPATHIZER REMOVED

London, Dec. 10.-The Earl of Dunraven, lord lieutenant of Limerick, acting under instructions from Dublin Castle, has removed from the office of deputy lieutenant of the county, Baron Emly, who was recently removed from his position as magistrate by Lord Ashburne, lord chancellor of Ireland, because of his anti-British comments on the

Molteno, Cape Colony, Dec. 10 .- Gen- LILY LANGTRY'S HUSBAND GOING

London, Dec. 9.-Mrs. Langtry's hus band, Mr. Hugh Gerald De Bathe, sails for South Africa on Dec. 16th, on special

[Continued on Page 8.]