

~ THE DAILY ~ KLONDIKE NUGGET.

VOL. I No. 11

DAWSON, Y. T., FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1900

PRICE 25 CENTS

CAPE DUTCH WILL RISE

So Say the Big London Newspapers.

COMMENT ON GATACRE'S DEFEAT

It Resulted From Operations in a
Disaffected Country.

The Result Will Be Most Deplorable,
as the Wavering Element May
Turn in Favor of the Boers.

London, Dec. 21.—Discussing the defeat of Gen. Gatacre at Stormberg, the Daily Mail says:

"Quite apart from the loss of six hundred fighting men, the unexpected Boer success will probably cause a more general and serious movement among the Cape Dutch. The government must promptly face this by the immediate dispatch of further troops."

The Daily News says: "The reverse Gen. Gatacre has suffered is a sadly emphatic commentary on the peculiar difficulty of military operations in a semi-disaffected country. The enemy's spies are everywhere, and nowhere can we rely confidently on any counter information. Gen. Gatacre seems to have been completely trapped. Of course he will be immediately reinforced."

The Daily Chronicle says "There is too much reason to fear that this is the worst illustration we have had of inadequate equipment and insufficient scouting. How far this disaster was due to a lack of judgment on the spot and how far to a lack of artillery, is not quite clear, but the patient public cannot help recalling that Gen. Methuen's victory at Modder river was won by an artillery reinforcement at the critical moment and all they would like to know is how many times this particular lesson is to be learned."

The Standard says "The event is in the highest degree deplorable. It will tell against us unfavorably in the Free State among the Dutch and even amongst the natives. A great deal of evidence has been accumulating during the past week to show how deeply the colony, or at least the northern and western portions are honeycombed by disaffection. Our generals have to cope with a rebel colony, as with hostile republics, and must take measures to lay their plans in accordance with details."

The Times, commenting editorially, on the repulse says: "The results of the Gatacre disaster are more likely to be serious politically than from a military point of view."

BOER TACTICS.

New York, Dec. 24.—The British soldiery in South Africa are experiencing new sensations in fighting the Boers, says the London correspondent of the New York Tribune in today's issue, as the tactics of the enemy are new to them.

For a generation back the armies of England have been meeting in battle great masses of savages or semi-civilized foes, and it has unfitted them for

batting with the Boers, who do not mass their forces and cannot be rushed.

The situation in lower Natal offers a striking contrast to all the conditions of warfare to which the English people are accustomed. The Dutch allies after investing Ladysmith, have turned about to deal with the British relief column piecemeal. By dividing their forces into mobile bands, they are isolating one British detachment after another without making a decisive attack at any point, or concentrating their forces for supreme effort.

This is varied by such diversions as horse stealing, cattle raiding and looting on a large scale.

"John Bull" is naturally irritated by these irregular tactics, but he ought not to be amazed by them, for Gen. Joubert, during the war of independence, dealt in precisely the same way with one British detachment after another, and prevented a junction of the various commands. He then had the immense advantage of superiority of numbers, but conditions are now reversed, for the British force in lower Natal will number ten thousand certainly, and possibly twenty thousand, when the last transport reaches Durban, with Gen. White's garrison of 13,000 troops, still unharmed, in reserve. Moreover, Joubert, while blocking the advance of the relief column by separating the various links in the chain, is scattering his own forces without obtaining any marked advantage.

LIBERALS LICKED.

Ottawa, Jan. 1.—Hon. Geo. E. Foster, ex minister of finance, says: "In the Manitoba campaign which resulted in an overwhelming defeat for the Liberal party, federal issues have played a most important part. The Dominion immigration and Yukon policy were especially brought into notice as strong points against the Liberal party. I have no doubt that when the federal elections occur there will be no change in the result so far as Manitoba is concerned. I have no doubt," continued Mr. Foster, "that Sifton's conduct as minister of the interior resulted unfavorably to the party in Manitoba."

VESSEL WRECKED

Toronto, Jan. 1.—During a severe storm on Lake Erie, for several days, the steamer Niagara of Toronto, was lost. The steamer carried a crew of 16 men, all of whom went to the bottom with the ill-fated craft. The storm is one of the worst that has taken place on Lake Erie in many years.

NATIVES RISING.

London, Jan. 1.—A report has been received here that the natives in Bechuanaland have risen against the Boers. The Basutos will probably follow their example.

Police Court.

There were no cases up for hearing in Major Perry's court this morning, which fact would indicate that nobody was too drunk last night to care for himself, or herself, as the case might be.

The case of Madame Kluge vs. Wymen for \$7.50 for sewing, as mentioned in yesterday's paper, was settled out of court Wymen having paid the bill.

Theodore Beckard was before the court with a grievance against Lester McNeal, in which a ton or more of cariboo meat which is up the Klondike river over 100 miles figures. But as Beckard did not appear to know just what he wanted, the court advised him to go out and make up his mind.

W. H. McDonald instituted suit against Packer W. E. Terrill for \$165 alleged to be due as wages.

A man by the name of McCaskell was on hand with the request that he be allowed enough money from the crown

treasury to bear the expense of his trip to the outside where, he said, he could secure employment. Major Perry referred the request, which was in writing, to Governor Ogilvie. McCaskell came from Skagway to Dawson early in November and has not since been able to secure employment. He has recently been sick and is quite anxious to start on the long trip over the ice.

Superior Court.

In Judge Dugas' court yesterday the case of Kleinschmidt vs. the N. A. T. & T. Co. for money, was dismissed.

The attention of the court this forenoon was occupied in the hearing of motions regarding cases pending.

New Automobile Engine.

The fire commissioners held an important meeting Tuesday evening. Only routine work was to be taken up, but the late fire brought the commissioners to a discussion on what is needed to prevent and fight fires, and as a result Dawson will see no more of the large conflagrations which have brought disaster to its inhabitants so often. Mr. Ogilvie, chairman of the fire commissioners, was called upon by a representative of this paper and he gives a most encouraging report for the future protection of Dawson.

"The fire commissioners at their last meeting," said M. Ogilvie, "decided to secure more apparatus and equipment. We have entered into correspondence with several fire engine manufacturers for the purpose of receiving an automobile fire engine with the combined capacity of both of the engines which we have now. The new engine will be able to propel itself, doing away with horses, which will in one season more than pay the extra cost of an automobile. In winter time it can easily and with dispatch be run to the immediate front of a fire, which will be in itself of great importance in the saving of hose and high pressure. I am a firm believer in larger hose, about three and a half inches in diameter, being I consider more valuable in this cold climate. During the late fire the ice formed on the inside of the hose to a half inch thickness, and a little more than that at the coupling, cutting the stream down a great deal. In a larger hose, as I have suggested, it will not freeze more than a half inch, so you see it will still be throwing a large stream."

"We will enact any laws which we think necessary to prevent, and use every means obtainable to fight fires. The fire company at the Forks has asked for one of the small chemical engines, which we will loan them, and when our new truck arrives we will loan them the one we are using at present. The new apparatus will be ordered as soon as possible that it may arrive at the opening of navigation. I think from now on we can solve the vexed problem of fire protection."

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LARGE LOSS OF REVENUE.

Results to the Government
From Pernicious Legislation.

The Law Withdrawing Abandoned Claims From Relocation Is a Boomerang.

The effect of the recent law withdrawing from relocation claims which have been abandoned by the original locators is becoming patent to the resident government officials. They are aware of the pernicious result of this latest blunder in the management of Yukon affairs. None of the territorial officers are disposed to commit themselves as actively opposed to the measure; but nevertheless they are cognizant of the detrimental effect which the country is now experiencing.

The provisions of the law became operative on the 8th day of last December. It has resulted in compelling energetic men to live a life of idleness; it is the cause of urging countless numbers to try their fortunes on the Alaskan shore at Nome.

Perhaps the powers at Ottawa will be induced to repeal this piece of legislation the effect of which is as baneful to the government as it is to the miners.

Loss of revenue will attract the attention of Minister Sifton and his associates more quickly than petitions and memorials. The government has lost heavily on account of the passage of this law. The loss is greater than most people imagine or than Ottawa authorities yet realize. The regulation has been in force only a month and a half yet the treasury, during the past 45 days, has been deprived of an amount exceeding \$13,000. Let Mr. Sifton and his advisers peruse the reports of the recorder for the month of December and January to date, and compare them with those for the same period of a year ago.

From the 8th of December, 1898, to January 18th, 1899, the local office issued 469 mining licenses, which aggregated in revenue the amount of \$4090. During the same time, 760 placer claims were recorded, the fee for each of which was \$15; this source of revenue amounted to \$11,400. The total sum derived from licenses and recording fees during that period was \$16,990. Now compare these figures with those for the time since the 8th of last December. From December 8th, 1899, to January 18th, 1900, there were issued 269 mining licenses, which amount to \$2900; and during the same space of time only 65 placer mines were recorded from which the government derived \$975. The total sum obtained from licenses and recording fees is \$3935. The difference in the revenues accruing to government equals \$12,155.

The loss of this vast sum of money is directly attributable to the law withdrawing from relocation those claims

(Continued on Page 2.)

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