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The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

FORTY-SECOND YEAR. THE VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1899 VOLUME XLII—NO. 1

Across the Modder.

Methuen's Columns Moved on Wednesday--Patrols Report Kimberley Cannonade.

Field Battery and Infantry Battalion Engage Force Destroying Railroad.

Reinforcements Now Protect British Rear--Dissensions of Boer Leaders.

By Associated Press.

London, Dec. 8.—The following advices have been received from Gen. Methuen's force at Modder River, dated Tuesday, December 5:

"Boers are seen daily passing between Spytfontein and Jacobsdale laagers. They frequently fire on patrols. The Mounted Infantry received severe fire while patrolling six miles towards the north, from a hill, but there were no casualties. An hour's cannon firing has been heard at Kimberley."

London, Dec. 9.—The Times has the following from Modder River, December 5: "The river is low and the railway bridge is rapidly approaching completion. Will cross to-morrow. After extraordinary exertions the pontoon bridge has been completed."

FORCE IN METHUEN'S REAR.

London, Dec. 8.—Interesting light on the position of affairs along the western frontier is thrown by a despatch issued by the Boer agency in Berlin. The despatch says:

"Commandant Prins Loss's force is near Jacobsdal, between Modder river and Riet river. Gen. 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 the Boers. Commandant Delarri's force is stationed between Graspan and Honingrest Kloof."

If this Berlin despatch is correct—and it is specially significant when judged in connection with Gen. Forestier-Walker's advices to the war office—there must be 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 harassing the Boers from the rear.

London, Dec. 9.—(4 a. m.)—Lord Methuen's restoration of the railway lifts a load of anxiety here, but dangers still threaten his forces. It is gathered from a brief official despatch that Commandant Prins Loss's contingent was taken from forces acting from Belmont and southward from Modder river. It is quite possible, however, that reinforcements were sent to Belmont merely as a precautionary measure.

RAILWAY RAIDERS ENGAGED.

London, Dec. 8.—Gen. Forestier-Walker has sent the following despatch, dated 9 o'clock Friday evening, to the war office from Capetown:

"Telegraph and railway communication to Modder River has been reopened.

"A battery of field artillery and a battalion of infantry were despatcher from Modder River against Commandant Prins Loss' force of 1,000 Boers with one gun, who had destroyed the railroad. Our losses were 14 wounded.

"Belmont has been strengthened by infantry, two guns and a cavalry regiment, and troops from Naauwpoort occupied Arundell yesterday (Thursday).

"Lord Methuen reports casualties, December 6, on patrol duty: Missing, Lieut. Tristram and four men of the Twelfth Lancers; wounded, four men.

RAILWAY BLOCKED AGAIN.

London, Dec. 8.—The war office has issued the following, received from the Orange River station:

"A railroad culvert was blown up near Graspan this morning. The telegraph was also cut. Guides report heavy firing of guns in the north."

FRENCH DEPUTY RAVES.

Paris, Dec. 8.—During the debate today in the chamber of deputies on the colonial budget, M. Firmin Faure, anti-Semite, urged the necessity of strengthening the defences of the colonies and colonial army, in addition to a system of French-owned cables. He also intimated that British emissaries were overrunning Tunis disguised as Protestant missionaries and selling ammunition to Arabs. His anti-British remarks were heartily cheered.

SOLDIERS' ALLOWANCES.

Families to Receive Promptly What the Regulations Provide For—Permanent Corps Volunteers.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Dec. 8.—The minister of militia has decided to advance to the wives and children of members of the Canadian contingent the sustenance allowance which under the Army Regulations they are entitled to receive from the Imperial government. This action will have the effect of avoiding any cases of hardship. A refund will be made by the British government. Members of the permanent corps who are in the contingent will receive full pay during their absence. The rate of pay for the active militia has not yet been settled.

BOUND TO PRETORIA.

London, Dec. 9.—A siege train was shipped to South Africa to-day from Southampton.

DISTRESSED COOLIES.

Frere Camp, Dec. 9—Two hundred and thirty-four coolies whom Gen. White refused to receive at Ladysmith, have arrived here in a starving condition.

WELL-EQUIPPED LEADER.

With Personal Magnetism Hugh John Macdonald Combines Skill in Organization.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Dec. 9.—Mr. Foster returned to-day from Manitoba where he addressed several meetings on behalf of Conservative candidates. Naturally he is greatly elated at Hugh John's great victory, and says the result indicates very clearly what will take place in the event of a Dominion election. He attributes the Conservative success to Hugh John's popularity and the good organization which he brought about, coupled with close attention to the electoral list. Many old time Conservatives who left the party on the disallowance and school questions got into line again and were joined by Liberals dissatisfied with Greenway's broken railway pledges and financial mismanagement.

The legal firm headed by Mr. Logan, M.P., give notice of application for a charter for a railway from Pyramid Harbor to Dawson.

A new post office has been opened in Yale district, named Kimberley.

WESTMINSTER EVENTS.

Mayor Ovens Quits the Field—High Tide Breaks Dykes—Prominent Citizen's Death.

New Westminster, Dec. 8.—(Special.)—Mayor Ovens formally retired to-day from the mayoralty contest, leaving a triangular fight between Ald. Scott, W. H. Keary and A. M. Herring, though the last named gentleman's candidature is not taken seriously.

A. A. Richmond, a respected citizen and merchant, died here to-day. He has suffered for two years from dropsy.

A phenomenally high tide yesterday overflowed or broke four Delta dykes. It is feared considerable damage has been done to farms at Port Guichon and Westham island particularly.

Advancing On Colenso.

Buller's Forces Well to the Front and Decisive Engagement Pending.

Ladysmith Though Again Under Heavy Fire Sends a Cheerful Report.

Twenty Thousand Britishers Will Assault Boer Position at Colenso.

By Associated Press.

Pretoria, Dec. 7.—The following, dated to-day, has been received from the head laager near Ladysmith:

"The British are advancing on Colenso, but last night passed without an attack. There was a desultory cannonade begun, the cannons at Ladysmith replying vigorously to our fire."

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

Latest advices from Frere camp show the bombardment of Ladysmith was continued on Thursday, December 7. A pneumatic gun on Umubulawana Hill commenced the work.

The Tugela river is low.

Free Staters are reported to be looting Acton Holmes on the way back to the Free State border.

The British forces in Lower Natal are now estimated at 27,000, and Gen. Clery will have not less than 20,000 men for operations on either flank of Colenso.

Ladysmith, Dec. 7, via Wienen.—The British casualties since November 1 have been 5 officers and 26 men killed, 15 officers and 130 men wounded, and three missing. The Boers are still around us in large numbers, but all within the town are well and cheerful.

Frere Camp, Dec. 8.—The trestle bridge is finished and trains are now traversing it.

DISSENSIONS OF THE ENEMY.

New York, Dec. 8.—The Herald to-day prints the following advices from special correspondents to the London Telegraph:

"Modder River, Monday.—It is reported that serious dissensions have broken out in the Boer camp between the Transvaalers and Free Staters. Gen. Cronje insists on putting Transvaal officers in command of the Free State forces, and says that the latter will not fight."

Kimberley, Dec. 4, via Modder River, Dec. 6.—A trustworthy native, who escaped from the Boers, states that he drove his master, Andrew Cronje, and head Commandant Wessels away in a cart after the battle of Modder River. They quarrelled all through the journey. Wessels severely blamed the Transvaalers for not coming to the assistance of the Free Staters.

FAMOUS CHECKER PLAYER.

Chicago, Dec. 7.—James P. Reed, the famous checker player, formerly champion of the world, died at the homoeopathy hospital from an epileptic fit. He was forty years of age and single.

MISSOURI MULES.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 9.—Capt. Marshall, an officer in the British army, has closed a contract with a local firm for 1,000 Missouri mules, to be used in South Africa.

Buller Takes The Field.

Ladysmith Column on Eve of Great Engagement--The Town Yet Safe.

Methuen About to Strike Again --His Enemy is Strongly Reinforced.

Canadians Join the Fighting Line--Treason in Northern Cape Colony.

By Associated Press.

Pietermaritzburg, Dec. 5.—Gen. Buller and his staff have started for the front.

Modder River Station, Dec. 3.—Gen. Cronje, who is camping below Spytfontein, about six miles north of here, has been reinforced by 3,000 Boers from Natal.

The new bridge over the Modder River, which is being constructed by the engineers, is rapidly nearing completion. Gen. Methuen is waiting on this to get the artillery across, when he will be in condition to advance on the last stage to Kimberley. Some naval guns with lyddite shells are expected here shortly.

Methuen has been reinforced by the 12th Lancers and more field guns have arrived, the latter with tents and stores. It is understood the later reinforcements will be here in another week.

Twelve of the British wounded died yesterday. A few cases of fever have appeared, probably because of the corpses in the river. Consequently, the camp has been shifted back. The morale of the troops is excellent.

PREPARING FOR ACTION.

London, Dec. 7.—The war office has received the following message from Gen. Forestier-Walker, British commander at Capetown:

"Wednesday, Dec. 6.— Gen. Methuen wires to-day that he has resumed command and is nightly in communication with Kimberley. The health of the troops is excellent."

The announcement is made in a special despatch from Bloemfontein, dated Sunday, December 3, that President Styn of the Orange Free State has joined the Boer forces at Modder River. His appearance, it is added, caused great enthusiasm among the Boers.

THE CANADIANS.

Toronto, Dec. 7.—The Globe this morning publishes the following from its special correspondent with the contingent at De Aar:

"De Aar, Dec. 6.—We are now camped at De Aar and go to the front to-morrow. All well."

THE LULL AT KIMBERLEY.

Kimberley, Monday, Dec. 4 (via Modder River).—Everything has been quiet here during the last three days. The theatre and the convent have been fitted as hospitals. A number of our cattle have been captured by the enemy.

Pretoria, Dec. 6.—Official despatches received here from the different Boer forces say all is quiet except at Kimberley where an armored train made a sortie this morning.

STILL ANNEXING.

The Orange Free State has proclaimed the annexation of Dordreicht, about 50 miles north of Queenstown, Cape Colony.

The Boer advance in the northeastern part of Cape Colony is becoming remarkable. Local farmers are flocking to the Boer laagers, the townspeople in many instances welcoming the invaders with every demonstration of joy. Annexation of British territory proceeds daily.

The reports of Boer successes have made a great impression among the Basutos.

LADYSMITH COLUMN.

Pretoria, Dec. 6.—The Tugela bridge, it is announced, is so completely ruined that it will be a work of great magnitude for either belligerents to restore it.

The British fired on some republican scouts south of Tugela this morning. There were no casualties.

A newspaper correspondent named Lynch, who entered the Boer lines at Ladysmith on Monday with the alleged purpose of exchanging newspapers, has been made a prisoner and will be brought to Pretoria.

Frere Camp, Natal, Dec. 6.—A runner from Ladysmith to-day reports all well. The bombardment, the messenger adds, continues to be ineffective, the Boer shells only hitting the houses.

VOLUNTEER RESERVES.

London, Dec. 10.—It is stated to-night that the government has decided on the formation of Volunteer reserves. It is expected that half a million ex-Volunteers will join the new organization.

SAILORS TO THE FRONT.

Capetown, Dec. 10.—One hundred of the Naval Brigade proceeded to the front to-night.

BOERS MAKING DUM-DUMS.

Capetown, Dec. 10.—It is known that hte Boers have crosscut the ends of their Mauser bullets, thus producing an effect similar to the dum-dum.

AID FOR BOER WOUNDED.

New York, Dec. 9.—An American committee to aid the Red Cross work in the South African war, with special reference to the wounded of both belligerents within tht Boer lines, has been formed for the purpose of affording a way by which the gifts of the American people for such work may be sent to the right place.

Fighting at Three Points.

British in Night Dash Destroy and Capture Guns of Ladysmith Battery.

Cavalry at Same Time Raid and Burn Boer Kraals and Cut Telegraph.

Boers Report Attack on Cronje and Another Sortie From Kimberley.

By Associated Press.

London, Dec. 9.—The war office tonight received the following despatch from Gen. Buller, dated Frere Camp, December 9, afternoon:

The following was received from Gen White to-day: "Last night sent Gen. Hunter with 500 Natal Volunteers under Roysten, and 100 of the Imperial Light Horse under Edwards, to surprise a gun on a hill. The enterprise was admirably carried out and was entirely successful, the hill being captured and a six-inch gun and howitzer being destroyed with guncotton by Capt. Fowke and Lieut. Turner. A Maxim was captured and brought to Ladysmith.

"Our loss was one killed and Major Henderson of the First battalion of the Argyle Highlanders wounded.

"At the same time Col. Knox seized the hill one squadron of the 18th Hussars rode round Pepworth hill, burning kraals and cutting the Boer telegraph lines. They had no casualties."

THE BOER ACCOUNT.

Boer Head Laager, Ladysmith, Dec. 8.—The British made a sortie between 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning.

They crawled up a ravine and stormed and carried Lombard's Kop, which was held by the Boers, and in which were placed a Creuzot gun and a howitzer. The 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 under cover of a heavy artillery fire, which the Boers returned briskly. The British afterwards returned to Ladysmith. The Boer losses are reported to have been slight.

Major Erasmus and Lieut. Malan will be tried by court martial in connection with the loss of the guns.

A strong burgher column has crossed the Tugela river at Colenso with the object of attacking the British Estcourt column.

Lorenzo Marques, Dec. 9.—A despatch from Pretoria, dated to-day, says: "Reports have been received here of fighting early this morning in the vicinity of Scaltz Nek, the British attacking Gen. Cronje.

"Fighting is also reported to have occurred in the direction of Kimberley. It is presumed this is another sortie."

Canadians Hard at Work.

Orange, River, Saturday, Dec. 9.—Half the men of the Canadian contingent have gone forward.

Like the Australian contingent, they have been put to stiff work since their arrival, and have been building sidings, erecting platform and rendering the usual routine service.

They are in excellent condition and very zealous.

LADYSMITH RELIEF.

Boers at Colenso Destroy Highway Bridge—Hussars Lost Heavily in Night Sortie.

Frere Camp, Natal, Dec. 10.—6 p.m.—Heliographic communication with Ladysmith continues daily. Gen. Schalkburger and Commandant Louis Botha are in command of the Boer forces investing Ladysmith. Their forces are said to be in poor condition.

A heavy report was heard in the direction of Colenso to-day. The sound was followed by a big cloud of smoke. The supposition is that the enemy has blown up the highway bridge.

London, Dec. 11.—A special despatch from Ladysmith, by way of Frere, adds to the war office account Saturday of the capture of the Boer guns near Pepworth Hill. It says:

"Gen. Brocklehurst with cavalry and artillery, reconnoitred in the direction of Pepworth Hill with a view of cutting off the Boer retreat; but he found the position still strongly held. The 18th Hussars, pushing northward, drew a furious fire, and suffered severely, losing four killed and 17 wounded. The Boers fired incessantly as the British slowly retired.

"At a special parade afterwards, Gen. White thanked Gen. Hunter and all hands, especially Major Henderson, for brilliant work."

A WARNING TO TRAITORS.

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 Baron Emly, because of his anti-British comments on the war in South Africa.

THE UNHAPPY FREE STATE.

Must Abandon Capital for Want of Defence Works—Every Man in Fighting Ranks.

London, Dec. 9.—The war office has received the following despatch from Gen. Forestier-Walker, British commander at Capetown:

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

"Reports received at Capetown from Bloemfontein say everybody has been compelled to do military duty, including Mr. Fraser, chairman of the Volksraad.

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

"Special reports say President Styn's mind is failing."

MAKING USE OF NATIVES.

Capetown, Dec. 6.—It is announced that Col. Elliott, commanding in the native territory of Griqualand East, is arming the natives by Imperial authority with a view to assisting the defensive forces.

FROM WRECKED TROOPSHIP.

Capetown, Dec. 6.—The troopship Columbia has arrived, bringing a portion of the troops landed from the troopship Ismere when the latter went ashore in St. Helena Bay.

GATACRE'S MEN EAGER.

Capetown, Dec. 10.—Halse and Warren and thirty men left the camp at Carnaven to-day and when four miles out sighted a patrol of twelve Boers who sought cover. Two of the Boers were wounded. Halse ascertained that the Boers were in strong force in a laager, and retired to his base. This is the first brush of Gen. Gatacre's forces, and they are all eager to follow it up.

Assault on Kimberley.

Boers Repulsed With Heavy Loss in Night Attack at Close Quarters.

Methuen Attempts to Draw the Enemy Strongly Entrenching at Spytfontein.

Lyddite Shells Thrown Four Miles by Naval Gun Greatly Damage Boer Works.

Capetown, Dec. 10.—It is rumored here that the Boers attacked Kimberley at close quarters last night but were repulsed with heavy loss.

London, Dec. 11.—War office advices are that the railway bridge at Modder River was completed on the 7th.

Methuen reports that he made a demonstration up the line of the railway at daylight yesterday 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.

The Pretoria reports of renewed fighting at Modder River originated from the fact that the British, with a team of 32 oxen, hauled a naval gun to the top of a 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 constructing an emplacement for the 40-pounder. The lyddite shells appeared to do immense damage. The Boers retired, but the incident is interesting as showing 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 bridge.

Lord Methuen is still compelled to ride about in a dog cart, as his wound prevents him going on horseback. Should the rains destroy the temporary bridge, there is enough rolling stock on the north side of the river to serve Lord Methuen's troops.

It is reported that the Boers are busy making entrenchments at Spytfontein. Several tiers of work are beginning to appear at the foot of the heights.

MAFEKING SAFE.

Mafeking reports all well on November 30.

HOWITZERS FOR METHUEN.

Six Terrible Weapons to Further Impress the Effectiveness of the British Artillery.

New York, Dec. 9.—A London cable to the Tribune says:

"Lord Methuen will soon receive six of the eighteen howitzers which arrived in South Africa a few days ago. The remaining twelve have gone to Durban to Gen. Buller.

"It is said the two generals have been delaying their advance awaiting the arrival of these powerful guns.

"These are guns equal to the best artillery in possession of the Boers, and are capable of discharging at long range lyddite shells of fifty pounds.

"Lord Methuen's infantry would have been greatly protected against loss had these howitzers been added to his artillery force before."

IN BOER TRAP.

Gen. Gatacre and Four Thousand British Troops Find Themselves in Night March Surrounded by the Enemy.

Treacherous Guides Misled Them Until Deadly Fire Opened on All Sides—Casualties Heavy and Six Hundred Taken Prisoner.

Enemy in Unexpected Strength at Stormberg, and British Reverse Likely to Have Bad Effect on Neighboring Dutch Colonists.

London, Dec. 10.—The war office publishes the following despatch from Gen. Forestier Walker, at Capetown:

"Gatacre reports: "Deeply regret to inform you that I met with a serious reverse in the attack on Stormberg. I was misled as to the enemy's position by the guides and found impracticable ground. Casualties as near as known:

"Second Battalion Royal Irish Rifles—Wounded: Lt.-Col. Eager, Major Seaton, Capt. Bell, Capt. Kelly, Lt. Stephens, Lt. Harnardston.

"Suffolk Regiment—Wounded: Second Lt. Maynard and twelve men. Missing: Capt. Weir, Lt. Christie, Second Lt. Rodney, 290 men.

"Seventy-fourth Field Battery—Severely wounded: Lt. Lewis, three men. Slightly wounded: two men.

"Seventy-seventh Field Battery—Killed: One gunner. Wounded: Major Percival.

"Northumberland Fusiliers—Missing: Major Stevens, Capt. Fletcher, Capt. Morley; Second Lt. Wake, Second Lt. Colson, Lt. Radcliffe, 306 non-commissioined officers and men.

"Royal Berkshire Regiment—Killed: One private.

"The remainder of my casualties will be wired as soon as ascertained."

Molteno, Cape Colony, Sunday, Dec. 10.—Gen. Gatacre's movement may be termed a reconnaissance in force. The 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 of slightly over 4,000 men.

Leaving Molteno at 9 last evening, he made a memorable night march over the rocks and veldt. There was no sound except a steady tramp, and there were no distinguishing lights, the bright moon having gone down about 11:30. The column arrived safely within a couple of miles of its destination, the only incidents of the march being an occasional sudden call of "Halt!" under the belief that the Boers were near.

Suddenly a terrific fire opened simultaneously on the British front and right flank. The Royal Irish Rifles, who formed the advance, sought shelter behind a neighboring kopje and were speedily joined by the remainder of the column. It was soon found, however, that this position was also covered by Boer guns, which were more powerful than had been supposed. The troops therefore sought a safer position about a half mile away, two batteries in the meantime engaging the Boers and covering the troops in their withdrawal.

The action now became general at long range, and a detachment of mounted infantry moved northward, with a view of getting on the enemy's right flank. Suddenly a strong commando was seen moving from the north, and the Royal Irish Rifles and the Northumberland Regiment were sent out to meet it. It was soon discovered, however, that the Boers 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 to Molteno, the Boers following up the retirement closely and bringing guns to bear on the retiring column. It is believed here that the British casualties were not serious.

A GUN LOST ALSO.

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 tiring 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. I fear our losses are heavy. One of our guns we had to abandon."

A SERIOUS AFFAIR.

London, Dec. 11.—(4:30 a. m.)—It is hardly too much to regard Gen. Gatacre's repulse near Stormberg as the most serious defeat British arms have yet sustained in the whole campaign. Already the official advices show that two men were killed, nine officers and seventeen men 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 when compared with the missing, who are undoubtedly prisoners in the hands of the Boers, that the supplementary list of casualties is awaited with serious misgivings. It is also feared that there were serious losses of guns and equipment.

INFLUENCE ON CAPE DUTCH.

The most serious aspect of the affair is the effect it is likely to have on the Dutch in Cape Colony, who have been wavering as to whether to cast in their lot with the Boers.

Hosts of the northern farmers are now likely to join the rebellion. The defeat is also serious because it will delay the junction of Gen. Gatacre with Gen. French at Naauwpoort. The plan was for their combined forces to relieve the pressure on Lord Methuen's column.

The disclosure of such a strong force at Stormberg was quite unexpected. Doubtless Gen. Gatacre was the victim of treacherous guides. But the result points also to the absence of proper cavalry support.

The British troops who recently occupied Arundel are advancing. They have had several skirmishes, but no casualties. Three miles north of Arundel they found the Boers 2,000 strong.

POSITION OF THE ENEMY.

London, Dec. 11.—The war office has received the following despatch from Capetown, dated Saturday noon: "The position of the enemy in Stormberg district last night was the following: At Stormberg, six laagers; at Dordrecht, 800 men; twenty- three miles south of Sterkstroom, 200 men. Major Elliot reports that Dalgetty with a force has gone toward Dordrecht to co-operate with Gatacre."

CANNED BEEF FOR TRANSVAAL.

Largest Order Ever Received at Stockyards Just Started from Chicago.

Chicago, Dec. 10.—Twenty-four cars, containing upwards of 750,000 pounds of canned beef, were started for the Transvaal yesterday by Libby, McNeill & Libby, on a ten days' rush order from the British government. The order is the largest ever received at the stockyards.

MAIL FOR SOLDIERS.

London, Dec. 10.—The transport Majestic will sail from Liverpool at noon on December 13 for South Africa. She will call at St. Vincent and is expected to reach Capetown December 28. She will carry the mail and parcels for the soldiers.

WINSTON CHURCHILL.

Capetown, Dec. 10.—The Transvaal government has decided to consider Mr. Winston Churchill, who was captured on November 15 between Estcourt and Chievely, a combatant officer and treat him as a prisoner on that basis. Mr. Churchill had applied to Gen. Buller with a view of getting an exchange.

BOER LOSS AT ELANDSLAAGTE.

Official List of Casualties Gives Forty-Three Killed and One Hundred and Ten Wounded.

Capetown, Dec. 10.—A copy of the Johannesburg Standard and Diggers' News received here contains a list of the Boer casualties at Elandslaagte. This list shows that the Boer' loss in that fight was 43 killed and 110 wounded.

RIVER GUNBOATS.

London, Dec. 11—Two shallow draught river gunboats are being prepared at Chatham for service in South Africa. Each will carry two six-pounder quick-firing guns and four Maxims.