

\$1.50 Per Annum \$1.50

# Victoria Times.

Twice-a-Week.

VOL. 19.

VICTORIA, B. C. FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1900.

NO. 46.

## FRENCH'S VICTORY IN CAPE COLONY

### He Surprised and Defeated Five Thousand Boers, Who Retreated in Disorder.

## COLESBURG OCCUPIED BY THE BRITISH

### Our Casualties Were Three Killed and Seven Wounded—Fleeing Burghers Harassed by a Shell Fire.

## THE TORONTO COMPANY IN ACTION

### They Took Part in an Engagement at Sunnyside Which Resulted in the Capture of Boer Laager and Forty Prisoners.

(Associated Press.)  
London, Jan. 1.—The success of Gen. French in driving the Boers from Colesburg has sent a welcome ray of light through the gloom of the campaign in South Africa. Everywhere it is commented upon as an example of sound tactics and as an illustration of what may be done when the right methods are employed with the Boers.

The government is urged to take the lesson to heart and see that no stone is left unturned in the endeavor to get the largest possible forces of cavalry and mounted infantry to the front.

The Retreat of Boers.  
Now that Gen. French has the Boers on the run, the hope is expressed that he will give them no rest, but will harass them until they have found their way across the Orange River, which is twelve miles distant. The wagon route to the Free State traverses Colesburg, and crosses the river by a fine bridge, 1,340 feet long. It is believed that the Boers retreated towards Norval's Pont, further east, and the question is whether General French will be able to secure these two bridges before the Boers destroy them.

One important effect of the success of Gen. French is that it will probably have a deterrent influence on Dutch disaffection.

At Modder River the Boers appear to be modifying somewhat their line of defence.

New Camps.  
Gen. Buller's scouts have discovered a Boer camp established in the vicinity of Springfield, southwest of Colenso, by a Free State command.

A similar movement has been made at Modder River. A large force of Boers, it is reported, has formed a new laager about fifteen miles down the stream at Kameelhoek.

Still Bombarding Ladysmith.  
Helograph reports from Ladysmith show that all was well on December 31st.

The bombardment was being continued, but its intensity had relaxed.

Officers Wounded.  
An official dispatch from Ladysmith confirms the report cabled yesterday that several officers of the Devonshire regiment were severely wounded by the explosion of a Boer shell in the mess tent.

New Armored Train.  
A new armored train has reached General Buller from Durban.

Proposed Exchange of Prisoners.  
A Capetown dispatch says that an exchange of prisoners is under consideration.

The Seventh Division.  
The entire seventh division will have sailed from England by January 11th. Lord Wolseley, replying to a correspondent who had asked for information regarding the British artillery, wrote: "Our field artillery is at least as good as any field artillery in Europe."

Bridge for Tugela River.  
A British firm, according to the Daily News, after keen competition with sev-

eral American firms, has secured the government contract for the new seven span bridge over the Tugela River at Colenso. The firm is working night and day to complete orders.

Another Churchill for the Front.  
It is said that Mr. John Churchill, younger brother of Mr. Winston Churchill, will accompany the Duke of Marlborough to the seat of war.

Will Have a Good Effect.  
While afternoon papers are disposed to over-rate the brilliancy of Gen. French's success, it will doubtless have a good moral effect, and it is added, if promptly followed up, as seems likely from the fact that Remington's guides are already advancing on Acherterland, it may result in securing Norval's Pont bridge, thus gaining an important strategic advantage, as thence Gen. French would probably be able to threaten Bethulie bridge, which is the main line of retreat for the Boers, facing Gen. Gatacre.

Methuen's Position.  
Other official dispatches dated January 1st, say Gen. Methuen's position is unchanged.

THE BRITISH CASUALTIES.  
Three Men Killed and Seven Wounded—Over Five Thousand Boers Were Engaged.

Brief independent messages from Rensburg, filed on the evening of Jan. 1st, supplement Gen. French's dispatch but slightly.

According to them the British are still shelling the Boer position at five o'clock on Monday evening, and expected to enter Colesburg to-day.

The British losses were three men killed and seven wounded, none of them being an officer.

The Boers are supposed to have suffered heavily from the accuracy of the British artillery fire.

Gen. French's statement that the Boers were using a fifteen pounder and Woodwale ammunition evidently refers to one of the British guns captured at Stormberg.

The Boer strength in the engagement with Gen. French was estimated at from 5,000 to 7,000.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.  
Boer Gun Captured—Colesburg Has Been Occupied—Burghers Suffered Severely.

London, Jan. 2.—The Daily Mail has the following dispatch, dated Jan. 1st, from Rensburg:

"Yesterday afternoon a big force of cavalry and infantry, with ten guns, under the personal command of General French, moving by detour, occupied some hills three miles from Colesburg, where the Boers were in strength, confident in the natural aid afforded them by the hills.

"The enemy's position extended six miles around the entire village.

"At daybreak our artillery opened the battle.

"The Boers were taken by surprise, but replied vigorously.

"An artillery duel was maintained for two hours. Then a Boer Hotchkiss collapsed and was abandoned. We captured it.

"A big Boer gun was silenced, but this and the other Boer guns were withdrawn to the northward, whither we are harassing the Boer retreat by a damaging shell fire.

"Colesburg is in our hands, and the few remaining loyalists are jubilant.

"We have captured many wagons and a considerable quantity of stores.

"Our losses were slight, but the Boers must have suffered heavily.

Jan. 1st, taking the laager and forty prisoners, besides the killed and wounded.

"Our casualties are two privates killed and Lieut. Adie wounded.

"I am encamped at Dover Farm, 20 miles northwest of Belmont and ten miles from Sunnyside."

## CANADIANS UNDER FIRE.

Toronto Company Engaged in Capture of a Boer Laager Near Belmont—Two Queenslanders Killed.

Belmont, Cape Colony, Jan. 2.—A dispatch from the Associated Press representative at Dover Farm, dated January 1st, says a mounted force, consisting of 100 Canadians of the Toronto company and 200 Queenslanders, commanded by Colonel Rickards, two guns and a horse battery under Major De Rougemont, forty mounted infantry under Lieut. Ryan and 200 of the Cornwall Light Infantry, the whole commanded by Col. Pitcher, left Belmont yesterday at noon on a march westward, covering 20 miles before sunset.

The force encamped at Cook's Farm, where the troops were welcomed enthusiastically.

At 6 o'clock this morning the force approached a spot where a laager of the Boers was reported.

Col. Pitcher, on approaching the position which was a line of strong kopjes, detached Major De Rougemont with the guns, the Torontos and mounted infantry to work toward the right, making a turning movement himself with the Queenslanders, towards the south position.

The manoeuvre was a complete success.

The British shells were the first indication of the presence of the troops.

The Boers left their laager and opened fire, but the Queenslanders completing the movement, the laager was captured with 40 prisoners.

The British casualties were two men killed, three wounded and one missing. The whole force worked admirably.

The two men killed belonged to the Queensland contingent.

ACTIVITY AT MODDER RIVER.  
Many Boers Reported to Have Withdrawn From Their Position.

New York, Jan. 2.—Gen. French's occupation of Colesburg is a distinct gain for the British cause, says the London correspondent of the Tribune, and is an object lesson of what British generals can do when they go about it in the right way. Gen. French's success also illustrates what might have been done by other generals if they had not been bent upon frontal attacks, and if the headquarters staff in London had adapted the army corps to the needs of the campaign instead of carrying out a pre-arranged mobilization scheme without any degree of flexibility.

From Modder River there is a series of press dispatches indicating renewed activities.

The Boers' position on the left is reported to have been weakened by a withdrawal of the burghers from the trenches, but this is explained by the heavy cannonading toward Kimberley, while Lord Methuen's men were commenting on the folly of the Boers wasting shot upon the Modder River camp.

Gen. Bullington has conducted a reconnaissance eastward with a large cavalry force.

The most important news from Natal relates to a fresh reconnaissance from Chieveley Camp to ascertain whether the burghers had vacated their strong position South of Colenso. They are still entrenched on Langwana mountain.

THE SECOND CONTINGENT.  
Officers of the Western Squadrons Will be Announced To-Day.

(Special to the Times.)  
Ottawa, Jan. 2.—The list of officers who will command the western squadrons will be known to-night. It is generally well understood that Commissioner Herchmer will command and that Lieut.-Col. Steele will be second in command, but the matter will not be finally settled until this afternoon.

ed into the arrangements with great zest and reports to the department many applicants still filing claims to places on the battalion for whom there is not room to be room. There will be 150 6 Foot Mounted Police on the contingent, out of a total of 352 in the two western squadrons.

Cable Rates.  
Montreal, Jan. 2.—The Canadian Pacific railway's telegraph has been affected by the Eastern Telegraph Company that an arrangement has been effected with the cable companies of the west coast of Africa, whereby messengers for places on the east coast via Louisa and Capetown during interruptions are accepted, while the war lasts, at the same rates as via Aden.

Miss Kussner in London.  
Terre Haute, Ind., Jan. 2.—Relatives of Amelia Kussner, the amateur artist who was besieged in Kimberley where she went to paint a portrait of Cecil Rhodes, have received a cablegram from her saying: "Safe in London."

The Capture of the Bundesrahe.  
Berlin, Jan. 2.—The Berliner Tageblatt thinks the English man-of-war was justified in confiscating goods belonging to the Transvaal government, and calls attention to the alleged fact that neither England or the United States signed the treaty of Paris which laid down the principle that a neutral flag covers an enemy's goods unless they are contraband of war. It goes on to say, however, that the seizure of the Bundesrahe was undoubtedly a breach of international law.

London, Dec. 31.—A Ladysmith dispatch received via Weeman, December 29th, says: "All well. The Boers have been firing plugged shells containing plum pudding, and the compliments of the season. They are fortifying their positions and are evidently determined to make a firm stand."

The following heliograph message has been received by way of Weeman from Ladysmith dated December 27th: "The Boers are actively bombarding the town. One shell struck the Devonshire mess tent, killing Capt. Dalzell and wounding seven lieutenants, Dent, Twiss, Tringman, Caffyn, Byrne, Safe and Kane."

A Boer Report.  
London, Jan. 1.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Lorenzo Marquez, dated December 29th, says: "It is reported from Ladysmith by way of Pretoria that the British are destroying their heavy cannon, prior to a final sortie."

Forward Movement Expected.  
London, Jan. 1.—All the correspondents are beginning to hint of a forward movement on the part of Gen. Buller, the danger of which is indicated in a dispatch to the Daily Telegraph from France, recording the unfortunate failure of two reconnaissances.

In one case the Boer lines at Colenso were to have been bombarded by night. Mounted men drew the Boer fire, and it was intended that the naval guns should bombard. This, however, failed, and the reconnoitering party was compelled to flounder back to camp through the wet and stormy night.

According to the same correspondent a similar fate happened to another reconnaissance in the opposite direction.

It is roughly estimated that there are 25,000 Boers between Ladysmith and Colenso, some 400 being on the south side of the Tugela river. At all points the enemy shows ceaseless activity.

IN CAPE COLONY.  
Kimberley's Food Supply—Methuen's Position Unchanged—Lord Salisbury's Son Reported Wounded.

London, Dec. 31.—The war office has issued a dispatch dated Capetown, Friday, December 29th, evening, saying that Col. Kekewich wired, through the general commanding at Modder River, on December 28th as follows: "I am desirous of the mayor and council to forward the following for transmission through the proper channel:

"To Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen:

"The inhabitants of Kimberley beg to send Your Majesty New Year's greetings. The trouble they have passed through and are still enduring only tends to increase their loyalty towards Your Majesty's throne and person.

"(Signed) R. H. HENDERSON, Mayor.

The war office also issued the following addressed from the secretary of state for Col. Kekewich for communication to the mayor and council from the Queen: "I am deeply touched by your kind and loyal New Year greetings. I watch with admiration your determination and gallant defensive though I regret the unavoidable loss of life incurred."

Food for Three Months.  
London, Jan. 1.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Kimberley dated Friday, December 22nd, says: "We have food enough for three months. Fresh fruit and vegetables are obtainable daily from Kenilworth and water is plentiful and excellent."

Dispatch From Capetown.  
London, Dec. 31.—The war office publishes the following dispatch dated yesterday from the general officer commanding at Capetown:

"Methuen's position is unchanged. "French reports that the Boers, fearing their communication would be cut by our cavalry, have retired to Colesburg.

"Hear unofficially from Sterkstroom a British reconnaissance from Dordrecht engaged superior forces and was obliged to retire on Dordrecht.

"Later Montmorency, on December

red pencil. His memory of it often happens that has given an unimportant as to the manner in which Summer and winter he is in the morning, and and while the others are

fighters the Car is won. When the first one was expected he'r, the Car sent to her husband with and begged him to for- having presented him with ar is reply kissed her d that he was glad to

wants to shake off all th His Children.

occasions that he seems firm believer in popular soas.

str- apparent he once all a Car who will be an the people have not for- Of the Car's interest ion, there are many evi- a day passes that the do not contain articles, new libraries, and the societies.

THE BOER CAMP.  
ers Did Just Before the of Natal Began.

of the Chicago Record, Natal border, under per 11th, says:

invasion of Natal com- bloodshed can be. It is now close on mid- The immense camp almost as silent as the thers have gone to sleep a forward movement e of Natal, most likely at an early hour to- to-morrow night or the hope to be at the very

The strictest guard is bitterly cold and marching up and down of the different laagers, rest coats, and the muzzers showing just above

Now and then the still- by a "Halt" and the fenge, as a messenger ag laager or some lately broaches the lines. Here the men are all ready bent's notice. A stone's the state artillery, stations on either side of They left their original on to-day. The horses the gun carriages with and the gunners asleep ll ready to advance at

umor of Peace.  
many still hoped for a p this crisis. It was re- by to the Transvaal ul- had protested an anx- and a willingness to sonable proposal for a republic might care to bly this turns out not

of the way things were vided by the state ar- bers shortly before now Very soon all was busy rage wagons were load- horses fed and saddled rawn up in order. Very up the main road and pot they now occupy

was exceptional activ- burgher laagers. Action was served out. In regulation supply each day of cartridges. The also supervised and the assistants were busy en- ging returns. The men not idle. Each gave engage and saddles as ang for marching or-

that the time allowed y to the ultimatum ex- That hour was awaited patient. It came, and ws circulated through e republics would have dictum by force of

amiliar Psalms.  
r, presided over by the r, and attended by rbers, was immediately plans were formulated. mandants and field cor- k to their commands instructions to their sub- up corporals.

ing real on all sides e heard singing their Occasionally one would ymn, sung by more nders. Gradually these sh settled on the camp.

SCHOOLMASTER.  
ected that though Latin prove adequate for the erty of the scholars, it satisfying to those who n, says Andrew P- mber Atlantic. When a in Latin is differentiat- study together, who is to their Latin? It is students, those who will e best Latin. And so not only because of its e, but because the long- the more they come to

It does to illuminate two are one study of the Greek. The influence at advance in Latin is taken the slower pace

Other studies no ap- needed. These gains are ough not so surprising tin and even in Greek. is compelled to hold their eated attempts to dis- make their swift ad- of depreciatory attack, the gains of long peace or prosperity. But the a Greek are conquest, achieved fragments being of victory about them. In December Atlantic.

A prominent Montreal a on Monday through in a sleigh against a