

3,000 BOERS KILLED

Most Bloody Battle of the War at Ladysmith on the 20th.

ENGLAND LOSES FOURTEEN OFFICERS AND 800 MEN.

Horrible Mistake Made By Two British Regiments During the Darkness of Night.

Rushed at Each Other With Bayonets—Both Regiments Depleted—Snow Ten Feet Deep on Skagway's Streets—Mikado's Country Preparing For War With Russia—The Republican National Convention to be Held in Philadelphia on June 19th.

(From Friday's Daily)

London, via Skagway, Jan. 26.—A special to the Daily London News from Ladysmith recounts the facts concerning the bloodiest struggle that has occurred at that point since the siege by the Boer forces began. On the night of the 20th inst the entire surrounding forces attacked the city en force, the attack being preceded by a heavy cannonade. The attack was met by the most desperate resistance on the part of the British defending forces, the attacking army being time and again driven back at the point of the bayonet.

The Boers, with reckless courage, threw themselves onto the British bayonets but were unable to force the lines and after continuing the desperate struggle a period of eight hours withdrew from the attack, leaving 3000 men dead on the field. The British loss amounts to 14 officers and 800 soldiers killed. The total list of casualties has not as yet come in but there is an enormous list of wounded and missing.

FIRED INTO EACH OTHER.

London, via Skagway, Jan. 26.—A most sensational report has reached here to the effect that two British regiments of Gen. Buller's command attacked each other in the night time, each being under the impression that the other was an attacking force of Boers. A heavy infantry fire was poured from each regiment into the other, followed by a bayonet charge. The report states that a large number of men were killed and a large number wounded before the terrible mistake had been discovered.

TROOPS ARRIVING.

Capetown, via Skagway, Jan. 26.—Reinforcements to the British troops now in the field are arriving daily by ship loads. As rapidly as the various contingents arrive they are sent to the front. Enormous quantities of stores have been sent on and every preparation is now complete for a general advance upon the Boers from all sides. Gen. Roberts is hailed as the one man who can retrieve the disasters that have overtaken British arms thus far in the war.

TEN FEET OF SNOW.

Skagway, Jan. 26.—The heaviest snow storm that ever was known to occur in this town occurred here during the past three days. Today snow stands in the streets of Skagway to a depth of 10 feet. Many buildings which were hastily constructed have been crushed

in and great damage to goods stored in them has resulted. Business generally is suspended and a feeling of depression exists in the town.

THINK THEY ARE DROWNED.

Skagway, Jan. 26.—The opinion now prevails here that the Clayson party was not murdered but was lost by reason of falling through the ice, and precedents for such occurrences even later in the winter than the time at which this party left Dawson are cited. No word has been received from Will Clayson since he left for the interior.

WILL NOT REBUILD.

Skagway, Jan. 26.—The loss resulting from the fire in the Hotel Brannick will amount to not less than \$10,000. By prompt action on the part of the fire department the fire was confined to the hotel and was not allowed to spread beyond it. The hotel will not be rebuilt.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

Washington, D. C., via Skagway, Jan. 26.—The national Republican committee has called the national Republican convention to meet in the city of Philadelphia on Tuesday, June 19. The sum of \$100,000 was given by the city of Philadelphia to secure the convention. The decision to sell the convention to the highest bidder will react strongly on President McKinley, according to the opinion of many prominent Republican politicians.

JAPS AGAINST RUSSIA.

Victoria, via Skagway, Jan. 26.—An authentic report has come from Yokohama to the effect that extensive preparations have been made by the Japanese government for a war with Russia. Japan is increasing the effectiveness of her army to the utmost of her ability.

A Fable.

One time two Highland clans did have a falling out about some trivial matter and when one clan would build a church the other clan would build a church and hold services on the same day and hour as did their unfriendly neighbors, and thus did discension and strife continue for many years among the Highland clans.

Moral—This fable teaches that had there been a drinking fountain of peace located in that Highland country the two clans would have met there, emptied a few bottles of the fruit of the vine and the angel of peace would have spread her white wings over the clans of the "canny."—Selah.

Sour Dough Letter Heads for sale at the Nugget office.

THE CAPE NOME CITY

Appears as Well Now as Did Dawson in '97.

ALL ENTERPRISES ARE ESTABLISHED

The Town Is in Control of Officers Elected by Citizens.

The Fabulous Richness of the Creeks and Beach—The Tundra Flay Rival the Ruby Sands—Opinion of J. L. Davidson, Civil Engineer.

There has been so much told of Cape Nome and its wonderful richness that anything which is written now is likely to appear redundant. Nevertheless, there are hundreds of people to whom the story will never grow old, unless perhaps it be nine months hence when they return to Dawson disappointed and disheartened. Notwithstanding, however, the ill-fortune of many who will stampede to the new fields, the fact will be, as it is now, that Nome is extravagantly rich in gold, and offers the greatest opportunities ever known to the poor prospector.

Accustomed as the residents of the Yukon are to the rapid development of new countries, yet few who have not visited the Alaskan camp realize the wonderful growth which that new district has had.

Nome is a town two miles long and one mile wide. The city was surveyed and platted into lots last summer, and a charter was drafted and adopted. There are enough buildings in the new city to shelter 4000 people, and 24 of these structures are two stories or more. In fact, Nome is a much better looking town in every respect than was Dawson in the spring of 1897. Speculators who go to Nome next May or June with a big tent and a few barrels of whisky expecting to make a fortune in the saloon business, will be as badly disappointed as they would be were they to bring their outfit into Dawson, for there are as many well arranged liquor houses in the new town as there are anywhere in Alaska or the Yukon territory. Stores of every description are established and are doing a brisk and remunerative trade. Provisions are about as scarce and prices about as high as they were in Dawson last winter. Before the majority of the stamieders reach the beach next summer an electric light system, a telephone system and an electric railway system will be in operation. Franchises—not exclusive ones—were granted for these enterprises last fall by the municipal council. The railway has surface privileges over a right of way extending to the creek mines and along the beach. A company has been formed to pipe water into the town from large springs in the hills. Work on a sewerage system will be inaugurated before the warm weather commences. Two newspapers are published, and each enjoy a profitable circulation.

There is a complete set of municipal officers, including a police magistrate and police force who regulate the city affairs. A United States commissioner interprets the federal statutes, and has his decrees executed by a U. S. deputy marshal who, in cases of emergency, may call to his assistance the company of troops stationed in the vicinity of the town. The only difficulty ever experienced was that relating to the validity of powers of attorney, and at the May session of the U. S. supreme court at Washington, D. C., this vexing question will be finally determined in a test case, which has been tried in the lower courts, and which is now on the pre-emptory calendar of the highest tribunal.

As every one knows the principal

creeks are Snow, Anvil, Snake, Glacier, Dexter and Buster. The output of Snow creek for three months last year is estimated to have been \$400,000. Nuggets worth as much as \$150 each have been found on this stream. Anvil was the banner creek of the district last season. Bedrock is reached at a depth of only four feet. One of the best claims which was worked during the past summer, yielded \$115,000. The owners of No. 8 realized \$200,000 from their cleanup. Charles D. Lane purchased three claims on this tributary, and paid for them the sum of \$185,000. Nuggets are frequently found on Anvil, and one was uncovered which is worth \$400.

The beach diggings were discovered by J. W. Logan, a newspaper man from San Francisco. He and three acquaintances realized about \$7000 in a few weeks and left the country. No one knows the extent of the beach diggings. The beach proper is from 100 to 300 feet in width and has been worked in different places for 20 miles of its length. As a conservative estimate, it is safe to say that 2500 people were engaged in rocking and panning gold from the sand last summer between the mouths of Snake river and Cripple creek.

Next season it is expected that rich dirt will be found in what is known as the "tundra," which extends from the terminus of the beach to the mountains. Speaking of this portion of the Nome country, Mr. J. L. Davidson, a well informed civil engineer said:

"The 'tundra,' which in some places is three and one-half to four miles wide, is continually frozen. It is covered with a thick moss which prevents it from thawing out in summer. This tundra contains gold; indeed, it is the supply of the beach gold, according to my theory. I removed some of the moss on the tundra and the dirt on top assayed \$7 to the ton. I assayed sand taken from off the top of the beach in handfuls, for a distance of six miles, and it averaged \$9 33.

"This is just from the top, remember. The 'pay streak' extends from a depth of eighteen inches to three feet.

"I account for the gold in the beach sands in this manner: Long ago, when a mighty glacier was slowly moving down, it formed the tundra as a lateral moraine. This tundra contained gold in abundance and the erosive action of the waves on the tundra washed out the gold, along with other materials, and it took its place along the margin of the ocean on the beach."

The freight capacity and passenger accommodations of boats running to Nome will be taxed to the utmost when navigation opens. Before the middle of summer the transportation companies will have solved the difficulty experienced last year in landing cargoes. It is proposed to unload on large lighters or barges, which can be taken sufficiently far toward the shore in high tide as to enable wagons to reach them at low tide.

Thousands will risk the chance for fortune in Nome next spring some will die after they reach there, many will succeed, and the rest will fail.

Pause to Consider.

The description of the trail Nome-wards, as given by J. B. Wingate and published in the Daily Nugget of yesterday, is causing many people serious study as to whether they will attempt the trip over the ice or await the opening of navigation. It has also had the effect of causing those who are determined to undertake the journey at all hazards to more carefully consider the matter of outfitting properly in the way of the warmest clothing that can be had. Several orders for blankets and robes previously given were duplicated today.

Weather Report.

Last night the thermometer at the government barracks registered 53.6 degrees below zero.

At 9 o'clock this morning the needle pointed to 51 degrees below, since which time no material variation has occurred.

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