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War Office is Silent

Regarding the Reports That Buller Has Crossed the Tugela River,

And That Methuen's Communications Have Been Cut—Boers Reinforced.

Volunteers and Yeomanry Are Responding Promptly to the Call to Arms.

(Associated Press.)

London, Dec. 19.—Only the most optimistic gave any credit to-day to the rumors that Gen. Buller had crossed the Tugela River, and even they speedily realized that it was incredible the war office would refrain from the immediate publication of news of such importance.

Methuen's Position. The latest news from Gen. Methuen, dated Sunday, indicated that the situation appeared to be a complete impasse.

The Boers were gathering reinforcements and extending their fortifications on both flanks, but it was believed they would be unable to attack the British position.

On the other hand, it was regarded as impossible for the British to turn the Boers' flank, which was resting on the river to the east, and rapidly approaching the river to the west.

The Boer lines of entrenchments are continuous and capable of rapid connection at any point.

No News From the Front. From elsewhere at the front there is absolutely nothing to throw additional light on the situation.

Responding to the Call. The newspapers are full of stories showing the unanimity with which the volunteers and yeomanry are responding to the call to arms.

The Yeomanry Force. Lord Chesham, commanding officer of the Royal Buckinghamshire Yeomanry, is to command the force of 3,000 Yeomen which he has been authorized to organize for service in South Africa.

Earl Dudley and other titled officers will accompany him.

Employment of Troops From India. Some of the papers express considerable misgivings at troops going from India to South Africa. They think the risk too great, and that it may lead to two continents being ablaze instead of one.

Canada's Loyalty. The most ample recognition is given in the press to the great outburst of loyalty in Canada, and the remarks of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Premier, and the cabinet, as representatives of both the English and French sections, are especially welcomed.

Decline to Give Any Information. London, Dec. 19.—The war office declines either to confirm or to contradict the report telegraphed by a correspondent of the Daily Mail that Gen. Buller had crossed the Tugela River and that General Methuen's communications have been cut.

London, Dec. 19.—It is understood that four regiments of artillery, including horse and field almost immediately. It is hoped that this force will reinforce Gen. Buller within a month.

Since the appointment of Lord Roberts as commander-in-chief in South Africa, the question of rank no longer bars the Duke of Connaught from going to the front, and as he has a strong desire to go, it is believed that only the Queen's reluctance stands in the way. It is not unlikely that this will be overcome.

Lord Chesham, commanding officer of the Royal Buckinghamshire Yeomanry, has been authorized to organize a force of 3,000 Yeomanry, who will proceed to the Cape.

Yeomanry Troops sent out will be drafted so as to work

together with the mounted infantry and mounted militia from Canada and Australia.

It is understood that the Volunteers selected will not form a separate corps, but will join their linked battalions of the regular forces in South Africa. Throughout the country Volunteers are responding with the utmost alacrity to the official notice.

The Times says editorially: "Lord Roberts will have absolutely a free hand and may be expected to resume the original plan of campaign abandoned by Gen. Buller under the necessity of relieving Ladysmith."

The Morning Post in a rather alarmist article, remarks "upon the difficulty of deciding such a crucial matter," and says: "Besides three generals in the field, all of whom need to be reinforced, there is the

Rebellion in Cape Colony to be considered. This makes four pressing calls on the Fifth division. The question is who is to decide and on what principle?"

Reviewing the various positions of the beleaguered commandants and garrisons, the Post concludes that the relief of Ladysmith is the most important emergency and that a victory in Natal would change the whole face of affairs. It also points out the urgent need of having the navy in readiness to move at any moment to protect the line of communication with South Africa, suggesting that "a quarrel with some foreign power might come any day without any British intention to have one."

Mr. J. B. Robinson, the South African millionaire, writes to the Daily Chronicle reasserting that the Boers have unlimited supplies of ammunition and ample stores of food, and declaring that statements to the contrary should be ignored.

The Daily Chronicle's financial article, which was written by Mr. A. J. Wilson, a leading authority, says: "The expenditure for the war considerably exceeds two million pounds per week, and it is evident that the government must soon come upon the market for money."

SITUATION IN NATAL.

Report That Buller Has Crossed the Tugela After a Fight.

London, Dec. 19.—The Daily Mail bears from a hitherto reliable correspondent that General Buller, after a stiff fight, crossed the Tugela River.

The correspondent also states that Gen. Methuen's communications are cut. No further news has been received from Capetown, but the Cape Argus has a dispatch from a correspondent describing the battle of Tugela River, who says: "Gen. Buller carried the village of Colenso at the point of the bayonet and under a raking fire."

The few accounts that are yet to hand fail to give an accurate idea, but the statement that Gen. Cleary commanded the current idea that he was engaged in some turning movement and that the Tugela River battle was only part of a scheme of operations.

Details of Tugela Fight. Describing the Tugela River affair, the Daily Mail correspondent says: "The Boers in great force occupied a strong entrenched position commanding the river and reaching back about 800 yards from its farther side. Gen. Buller's brigade, on the left, first attempted a crossing, under a murderous Nordenfild fire."

"The Royal Dublin Fusiliers, the King's Own Scottish Borderers, and the Connaught Rangers crossed with superb and unflinching gallantry, but the position on the other side was found utterly untenable."

"The British suffered heavily from a perfect hail of artillery and shrapnel, while their own artillery was very badly mangled. They were therefore obliged to recross the river."

"On the right Gen. Hildyard's Brigade, displaying equal heroism, succeeded in entering the village of Colenso. The Sixth Battery encountered a murderous fire and was compelled to retire, leaving guns, ammunition and wagons on the bank."

"The brigade was also obliged to fall back. Meanwhile Gen. Barton's brigade also failed to take possession of Hangwini hill."

"The entire force retired on Chieveley. Gen. Cleary was in command."

IN THE WEST.

Fifth Division Under Sir Charles Warren to Reinforce Methuen.

London, Dec. 19.—A Capetown dispatch says Gen. Sir Charles Warren and his staff have started for De Aar. This seems to indicate that the Fifth division will be sent to reinforce Lord Methuen, a decision which will meet with general approval, as the opinion is almost everywhere held that it would be useless to waste any more time by frittering away men between the various columns of the army.

London, Dec. 19.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Nanuspoort, Cape Colony, dated December 18th, says: "The Boers brought a big gun to bear on the British near Narvaar Kop. The British pieces were too small to reach the enemy and after an intermittent artillery duel, Gen. French withdrew under shell but without losses to Arundel."

Sterkstroom, Cape Colony, Dec. 14.—Gen. Gatacre has issued a proclamation forbidding all persons living on farms to move about the district or to visit Sterkstroom, except on Saturdays, and then only with passes, under pain of summary arrest. It is understood that the proclamation is directed partly to the prevention of the conveyance of any news regarding British movements.

Losses at Magerfontein. London, Dec. 18.—The war office to-

day posted a revised list of casualties in the battle of Magerfontein, giving fifty-one additional killed.

DEPENDS UPON ARTILLERY.

Lord Charles Bessford Advocates the Use of Naval Guns.

London, Dec. 18.—Lord Charles Bessford is quoted in an interview to-day as saying: "The issue of the war will depend more upon artillery than anything else, especially at the siege of Pretoria and other places where the biggest battles are expected. Therefore I urge that all naval guns which can be spared from the reserves and other ships be mounted for field service immediately. This move is necessary as there are no quick-firing twelve-pounders of 12 hundred weight in the army."

"The government should immediately commission every ship in 'A' division of the navy as a useful precaution against any nation seeking to take advantage of Great Britain's condition. No friendly nation could object."

Mr. Goschen's Speech.

Hon. G. J. Goschen, first lord of the admiralty, when distributing prizes to Volunteers and riflemen in London to-night, said: "I little thought when I accepted this invitation that I should address men to whom an appeal has been made to stand shoulder to shoulder with the regulars in South Africa. The possession of 250,000 Volunteers, as regarded by the country, I am sure, is a great element of security and I am confident that they are all prepared to do their duty. The colonies are also prepared to do their share, and Canada and Australia are to the fore, welcoming the opportunity to go to the front."

The naval brigades assisting the troops in South Africa and testifying to the constant anxiety of naval men to be in the thick of the fighting, Mr. Goschen said: "It is impossible to grant their desires, although these soldiers and sailors would be glad to go to South Africa in thousands, because when 120,000 regulars have already left our shores the responsibility for the efficiency of our navy will be immensely increased. I believe the preparedness of the navy has contributed essentially to assist Britons to remain calm and confident despite the black outlook. We have not only to look at the South African situation, but at possible emergencies all around, and without being an alarmist I would insist that we must sacrifice much to the imperative duty that every ship be fully and properly manned."

London, Dec. 20.—A force which Gen. Buller is credited with having demanded all along as an essential of success in South Africa, namely, ten thousand mounted infantry, is to be mobilized.

The war office this morning issued an order to the effect that the government had decided to raise for South Africa a mounted infantry force to be called "Imperial Yeomanry," and to be recruited from Yeomanry Volunteers and civilians possessing the requisite qualifications. Enlistment will be for one year, or during the continuance of the war. The men must be between 20 and 35 years old and of equal physique to the ordinary cavalry soldiers. Officers and men are to provide their own horses and to wear neutral cloth shooting jackets, not necessarily uniform, but felt hats, breeches and gaiters. All must be good riders and marksmen.

The same order invites every Volunteer regiment that is allied with a regular battalion serving at the front to supply a full company, which will take the place of the mounted infantry of the regiment.

These arrangements are expected to result in a considerable force. The enrolled strength of the Yeomanry forces, which originated in the troublous period of the French revolution, is now 10,437. These services have never been called in war before.

London Volunteers.

Lord Mayor Newton is raising a force of 1,000 Volunteers among the city corps. The large city firms are contributing the necessary expenses. Col. Sir Howard Vincent, commander of the Queen's Westminster Volunteers, has also offered to raise a regiment of a thousand picked marksmen.

The enthusiasm of Volunteer enlistments continues and promises to give the government ample material. Ninety per cent. of the members of the Honorable Artillery Company of London have volunteered for service in South Africa. Two-thirds of the Inns of Court volunteers, composed of barristers and solicitors, have likewise tendered their services.

Tugela River Fight. London, Dec. 19.—All the newspapers complain that the reports arriving regarding the fight at Tugela River are severely censored and it is still impossible to get an accurate idea of the battle.

From the latest accounts, however, it appears that Gen. Buller was in personal command.

Much anxiety is caused by the fact that the war office has not yet received a full list of the casualties at Tugela River.

Chiefly Camp, Natal, Friday, Dec. 15.—The relief column continued its advance from Chieveley to-day, intending to assail the Boer positions which were known to be very strong to the westward and northwest of Colenso.

During the two preceding days the Boers had allowed themselves to be bottled without conceding to reply with a single shot. They further gave half an hour's opening this afternoon without an exchange, when suddenly

they belched out a stream of fire from all their entrenchments, besides opening a fearful cannonade.

A Fearful Cannonade.

With all their quick-firing guns, field and siege guns which were posted from end to end of their position.

When their presence and actual positions had been determined, the British Naval Brigade commenced shelling all the ridges north of the town, with marvellous accuracy. All the time the artillery attached to Gen. Buller's division was busy among the entrenchments on the hills on the British left, under cover of which the Irish infantry brigade marched out in extended order to cross the river and attack.

Undoubtedly aiming at this battery the Boers sent several shells near the ambulance train which was forced to change its position.

While this was transpiring, the field artillery on the right were busy shelling the Boer left flank, their excellent practice attracting the attention of the Boers, who retaliated with a scathing fire, almost demolishing all the guns and stamping the gun carriage horses.

England and Delagoa Bay.

London, Dec. 20.—The Standard hints editorially this morning that if Portugal continues to allow supplies of war material and foreign volunteers to reach the Transvaal through Delagoa Bay, England will have something to say in the matter.

Will Be No Delay

In Sending the Second Canadian Contingent to South Africa.

Contractors Have Orders and Are Rushing Work on Clothing Equipment.

Three Batteries of Artillery to Be Included in the Force.

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—Dr. Borden was seen by our correspondent this afternoon, and on being asked if he would be able to give out the composition of the contingent, replied that he would not say anything on the subject until he made his report to the cabinet.

It is likely that a meeting of the council will be held late this afternoon and immediately after the programme will be made public.

However, the militia department is not idle. Everything is being rushed so that no time will be lost in outfitting and equipping the contingent.

Although no official information is to be had, it is said to be settled that the contingent will be composed of one thousand men. There will be three batteries, not two as at first suggested. It takes 100 to a battery, so that this would mean about five hundred or half of the contingent. There are two permanent batteries, and the third would be made up from field batteries all over Canada.

The other five hundred will be mounted infantry, composed of mounted police, who will come under the militia, of permanent cavalry who will go as mounted infantry, and recruits from the militia and ex-mounted policemen, etc.

Contractors have got their orders, and clothing and equipment will be ready in time.

Probable Commander.

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—The names of Lieut.-Col. Evans, who commanded the Yukon force, and Col. Herchmer, Northwest Mounted Police, are mentioned as likely commanders of the second Canadian contingent to South Africa.

Kingston Men Ready.

Kingston, Ont., Dec. 19.—"When the call comes we will be ready" was the greeting of "A" battery men as your correspondent entered the barracks this morning. The corps is highly efficient, Major-General Hutton recently declaring that there were few batteries in the Imperial service to surpass it. Lieut.-Col. Drury is commander.

Lieut. A. G. Irving, ex-commissioner of the Northwest Mounted Police, who is in the city, considers that a strong detachment of Mounted Police and Blackfoot Indians would be of valuable assistance in the present South African trouble.

Offers From Volunteers.

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—Since the announcement yesterday that a second contingent was to be sent to South Africa, the minister of militia has received over a hundred letters, and telegrams are coming in at the rate of one every three minutes from all parts of the Dominion from loyal Canadians offering services for the second contingent. Among the offers is one from Chief Brand, the great Indian warrior.

The name of Lieut.-Col. Cotton is mentioned as likely commander of the artillery section of the contingent.

Where Are the Guns?

It is Rumored in Durban That They Have Been Recovered.

Report Says Volunteers Brought Them Safely to the British Camp.

Non-Commissioned Officers and Men Killed at Colenso Number 137.

(Associated Press.)

London, Dec. 20.—It still seems doubtful whether the guns General Buller abandoned at Colenso are in possession of the Boers.

An Associated Press dispatch from Durban, filed on the evening of the battle but only now received, states that the guns were covered by the heavy guns of General Hildyard's brigade, occupying an entrenched position.

The dispatch adds that the Boers have thus far not attempted to cross the river and carry off the guns.

Two Hundred and Eight Prisoners. Advice to the Associated Press from Pretoria, under the same date, say that an official Boer dispatch reports two guns, 18 wagons and a quantity of ammunition captured, besides 208 prisoners.

A Surprise. Further accounts of the Tugela River battle emphasize the ignorance of the British intelligence department in regard to the disposition of the Boer forces. The British were not aware that the Boers were entrenched along a series of low lying hills immediately northward of Colenso bridge until a

staggering fire compelled them to retreat, when the attack seemed about to succeed.

The Boers also were in greater strength than anticipated.

Outraged by Boer Artillery. It becomes clearer that the British guns were lost in attempting to get within effective range of the Boers' artillery, showing the latter out-ranged the British ordnance, which in spite of superiority, was wholly inadequate to reply to the long range guns.

War Office Denounced.

The British war office comes in for a scathing denunciation from the Times to-day for not providing effective artillery.

It is pointed out in this connection that the longer ranged naval guns participating in the same attack escaped.

There was no news this morning to enlighten the general situation.

New Zealanders Under Fire.

The war office reported that Gen. French reconnoitered northward of Arundel on December 18th. After shelling Jansfontein farm, three miles eastward of the Boer position, the New Zealanders advanced and occupied the farm. The Boer guns then opened and the Boers advanced to the attack, so General French ordered a retirement.

Military Critic's Opinion.

The Morning Post's military critic says in to-day's issue: "The British government in June, July and August, instead of getting the army ready and on the spot, was trying to polish up its conscience. Even in September it could not bring itself to send more than 10,000 men to South Africa."

Lord Roberts's Successor.

The Globe says there are rumors that the Duke of Connaught will succeed Gen. Lord Roberts as commander-in-chief of the Irish forces.

Subscriptions to Volunteer Fund.

Lord Mayor A. J. Newton announced to-day that £25,000 had been subscribed by large city firms to defray the expenses of a thousand volunteers among the city corps. Lord Rothschild has given £5,000 of this amount, and Mr. Chas. Wilson, the Hull ship-owner, has promised a fully equipped vessel, which is equivalent to a gift of £15,000, as a transport for these volunteers.

FROM NATAL.

According to Rumor Current at Durban General Buller Has Recovered His Guns.

London, Dec. 20.—A special dispatch from Durban, Natal, dated Saturday, December 18th, says it is rumored Gen. Buller called for volunteers to recover

the abandoned guns and that a party issued from the camp after midnight and brought in the guns, which were uninjured.

Casualties at Colenso.

London, Dec. 20.—Revised lists of the British casualties at Colenso show that 137 non-commissioned officers and men were killed.

IN THE WEST.

Situation at Mafeking—Bombardment Continued—Colonists Threatened to Attack the Railway.

London, Dec. 20.—The latest news from Mafeking, dated December 19th, says a desultory bombardment was continuing, and that sharpshooters were engaged in smart duel morning and evening.

Africaner's Protest.

London, Dec. 20.—A Capetown dispatch dated Saturday, December 16th, says: "Five hundred colonists of the Victoria West district have perfected an apparently anti-British organization there, and as individuals have openly expressed disloyalty and have threatened to attack the railway station, which is on the direct line between Capetown and De Aar. The Anti-British Committee at a meeting there, passed a resolution that the troops in the vicinity irritate the farmers dangerously. The meeting proclaimed its loyalty, but declared the conduct of the troops forced the people to use expressions and commit acts which were capable of being interpreted as disloyal."

Canada's Second Contingent.

Montreal, Dec. 20.—A military man in the confidence of the government just returned from Ottawa says the military authorities informed him that the second contingent has been composed of 1,064 men, 946 horses, the units being three squadrons of cavalry, and mounted infantry, and three squadrons of field artillery. Col. Drury of "A" battery, Kingston, is to command the artillery, and Col. Levesard, the mounted infantry. Both colonels are now with the first contingent in South Africa. It is understood two squadrons of mounted cavalry will be taken from the Northwest Mounted Police. The artillery is to be taken from "A" and "B" batteries.

Excitement at Montreal.

Montreal, Dec. 20.—Local military circles have been stirred by a demand from Ottawa for the corrected names and addresses of Canadians at the front, which is taken as indicating an engagement.

Attack on Mr. Chamberlain.

Aberdeen, Dec. 20.—Mr. James Bryce, M.P., in a speech here to-day, severely attacked Mr. Joseph Chamberlain. He denounced his "methods, manner and whole conduct."

Orders for Canadian Hay.

Toronto, Dec. 20.—A Globe London cable says the British war office placed an order for another three thousand tons of Canadian hay yesterday.

In Favor of Arbitration.

New York, Dec. 20.—Leonard Charles Van Koppes, a member of the Universal Netherlands Union, arrived here to-day with an appeal of the union to nations represented at the Hague, asking England to submit the South African question to arbitration. Signatures are also being secured in Continental countries.

Movement of French Troops.

New York, Dec. 20.—A dispatch from Port of Spain says France has sent 5,000 troops to Guadeloupe and Martinique. It is thought that this is an outcome of the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain's Leicester speech.

Arrested at Rochester.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 20.—Norman P. Breck, who inserted an advertisement asking "single young men wishing to see service with the British in South Africa, to communicate with him," was arrested last night. When arraigned he pleaded not guilty. Bail was fixed at \$500, for examination on Jan. 4th.

The Seizure of Flour.

New York, Dec. 20.—A Twomey, of the New York Produce Exchange and the Pennsylvania Milling and Export Co., sent a protest to Washington to-day against the seizure by the British of flour sent to South Africa by his firm.

GENERAL LAWTON KILLED

At San Mateo—United States War Official Have Not Yet Received Confirmation of the Report.

(Associated Press.)

Manila, Dec. 10.—Major-General Henry Lawton has been shot and killed. General Lawton was killed at San Mateo.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Up to one o'clock this afternoon, the war office has received no word of Gen. Lawton's death except that conveyed in the Associated Press dispatches.

The cabinet members received the news with expressions of profound sorrow and regret.

It was learned at the war department that Gen. Lawton's commission as a brigadier-general in the regular army was in process of preparation when the news of his death was received.

TO THE DEAF.—A rich lady, cured her Deafness and Noise in the Head by Dr. Nicholson's Artificial Ear Drums, has sent \$1,000 to his Institute, so that deaf people may have them free. Apply to Department N. N., The Institute, 780 Eighth avenue, New York, U. S. A.