

AT BELMONT.

Sun's Special Correspondent With G. Co., 1st Canadian Contingent

Furnishes an Interesting Account of What Our Soldier Boys Are Doing Near the Fighting Line.

They Sleep in Their Clothes With Their Rifles By Their Side, and Are on Duty Before Daybreak

Guarding a Most Important Depot of Military Stores and Provisions—A Turtle for a Mascot—The Canadian Yell—A Gruesome Sight—Have Pickets and Scouts Out for a Distance of Twenty Miles—The Rations Not What They Might Be.

(From the Sun's Own Correspondent.)
CAMP BELMONT, S. A., Dec. 16.—Our trip from Cape Town to South Africa was all a mass of confusion. The weather was fine. A band was started on board the steamer and furnished music for the voyage, but not having enough instruments it was broken up at Cape Town. That was a pity. We had about 50 bandmen on board, and with a supply of proper instruments we would have had a really fine band. We landed at Cape Town on the last day of November and when we pulled to the pier we could hear nothing but whistles blowing and men shouting. The Maple Leaf, Soldiers of the Queen, the Britannia, and The Queen. We had a good reception, but nothing to what they would have given us had we been a few days earlier, as they expected us on the 26th of October and intended giving the Canadian and Australian contingents a great big time. But we were well satisfied. Our men had great fun with the colored kids, throwing them pennies till dark. In return the town people tossed cigarettes on board, and as they were worth one dollar a package on the steamer to the boys who smoked them, we rather had the best of the fun.

We marched from the landing to our camping grounds, pitched tents, had coffee and then took a look around for something to eat. When the boys found the canteen there was a general rush, and some of England's best soldiers, including artillery, cavalry, lancers, Highlanders, Devonshires, etc., were soon having a glass of beer or a soft drink with the Canadians—all glad to see us. As soon as we were in our tents they came over and asked all sorts of questions about Canada. Of course we pumped them in like manner about England. We camped for two days and then set off to De Aar, our next stopping place. It is as nothing to the sand storm that greeted our arrival. The whirlwind would get all the empty tin cans and everything else in the air and carry them along like straws. The boys were nearly blinded by the flying sand. The storm, however, stopped as suddenly as it started. We camped there for three days and then moved on to Orange river, where, no doubt, the importance happened save the shooting of two or three men by the sentries of the Shropshire light infantry for not answering their challenge properly. The burial took place while we were there of several of the wounded who died from their injuries in the field of battle. There were about 300 Boer prisoners at Orange river.

From there we moved for Belmont, where the first fight had taken place. It is a nice spot, but water is scarce, having to be brought in the trains. After we pitched our tents the boys started for the hills, about 1,000 yards from the camp, to prospect the ground. We picked up all sorts of Boer shells, all kinds of bullets, haversacks, buttons, curb bits, etc. The dead Boers and their dead horses presented a terrible sight, and were as offensive to the nostrils as to the eyes. The mountain is nothing but rocks, no earth to speak of, so the dead bodies were just covered over with stones. The boys wanted to see them, and off came the rocks. Some were shot through the head, others killed by shells; all bad enough to give the boys a realising sense of what actual war means. But they didn't seem to mind it a bit.

About half the boys are steadily stationed on the hill, and we are in hourly expectation of an engagement, as the sentries are constantly bringing in word that parties of Boers are in sight. We are not allowed to take off our clothing, boots or anything, and always carry rifles and cartridges with us.

At 3 o'clock in the morning the whole battalion is roused out and is on the hill before daylight, as that is the time the enemy generally attack, but so far the Boers have not come down on us.

Co. has a turtle as a mascot. A young goat and a black ostrich make their home around our tents. We have great fun milking goats. As we are not used to goats, it takes about sixteen of us to catch the animal and seven more to milk it. The boys all have catch sticks in their hats, so you can make up your mind that ostriches suffer some when we get hold of them.

The Y. M. C. A. had about three thousand sweet buns brought up from Cape Town. They cost a penny a piece. The boys didn't do a thing to the 3,000! Nothing but artillery is passing our camp these days. It goes by in a steady stream towards the front.

The trenches that the Canadians built around our camp are about finished. The camp is situated back of the railroad station, and the trenches go around on three sides. They are about 150 yards by 200 yards, some three feet deep, from four to seven feet high, and four or five feet through.



Ladies Tell Each Other

of the comfort and security afforded to them by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

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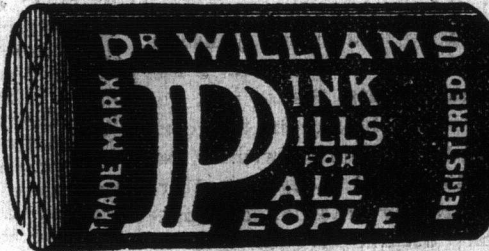
Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People

shows itself in the rosy cheeks and clear, bright eyes of those who use them. These pills are not a purgative; they give strength instead of taking it away. They act directly on the blood and nerves; invigorate the body; regulate the functions, and restore health and strength to the exhausted woman when every effort of the physician proves unavailing. Mothers anxious for the healthy development of their growing girls should insist upon their taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

IN A DECLINE.

Mrs. W. Goodwin, Argyle Sound, N.S., says:—"After the birth of my first child I was in poor health and unable to recover my strength. I had a severe pain in my left side and lung, which almost made it impossible for me to breathe. I had a bad cough day and night, and was troubled with night sweats, and on awakening found myself very weak. My complexion was sallow, and my appetite entirely gone. All my friends believed me in a decline. Our family physician attended me for a long time but I got no better. Then a friend advised me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Acting on this advice I bought a supply, and continued their use for a couple of months, when my health was fully restored. I am sincere in saying that I believe Dr. Williams' Pink Pills saved my life."

The wonderful success of this remedy has led to many attempts at imitation and substitution, but these never cured anyone. Refuse any package that does not bear the full name "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People." Put up in packages that look like the engraving on the right, the wrapper printed in red ink. Sold by all dealers, but if in doubt send to the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.; and they will be mailed post paid at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50.



made of rocks, sand bags and earth. The Maxims and a battery of Royal artillery cover the other side. Outposts, scouts and patrols are out for a distance of twenty miles, so you will see that we do not propose to let the enemy take us by surprise. Then we hold all the mountain positions for as much as three miles around with signallers on every one, with search lights and all other requisite fittings. We are only 30 miles from the front. We have an immense quantity of stores, cattle, etc., in this camp, which is one of the most important along the whole route from Cape Town to the theatre of actual hostilities.

Today is Sunday. All the denominations held services early so as to get through before the heat became too strong. But the flies in this land are worse than the heat, and bother us more than the Boers do. They are as big as apples and bite voraciously. We expect to move to Modder river on Tuesday, or Wednesday at the latest.

The Y. M. C. A. is very much appreciated by the men in camp, and is doing a good work. There are only six or seven houses in Belmont, and they are made out of sheet iron and stones. The reporters and the clergy are still with us. All the New Brunswickers are sorry they cannot send something home to their friends and relatives for Christmas, but there are no stores nearer than Kimberley or Cape Town. Some of the men have not shaved since they left the ship, and they are consequently a pretty hard looking lot. It is the whiskey that do it. Some are sick with fever, others with other complaints. The men seem to think they are not getting the rations they might have, and that proper care is not taken of the sick, but they put up with all this without grumbling, as becomes British soldiers.

Capt. McDonald of the Fredericton school R. C. I. is in charge of G. Company and Capt. Weeks is at engineering work. A headstone has been placed over the grave of M. C. Chapell, who died at Belmont. Engraved on the stone are the maple leaf and a suitable inscription. The Maxim guns are painted kaidi. So is everything, even to some of the artillery horses.

About 40 prisoners, captured at Spionkop, have just gone through to Cape Town, among them some natives that the Boers forced to fight. These natives said the Boers put them in the front trench and told them that if they got out of the trench they would shoot, and that if they ran towards the British the latter would shoot them. Most of these poor devils did not get a chance to run. They were not in the trench over twenty minutes till a lyddite burst among them. Of the 73 only seven were left alive, and three of these were wounded. They say the Boers are very scared of the "men with the frocks on"—the Highlanders—and that they have an underground tunnel five miles long from the mountain to the river, so as to get a supply of water. The captured natives further report that the Orange Free State want to give in, as they cannot stand the British shells, but the Boers will not listen to any such talk.

The Canadians have a yell of their

own now—the equal of any college yell in America—which they put to use when passing the British troops. It runs this way:
Hoors, Hoors, Hoors!
Who are we?
Canadians, Canadians, from over the Sea.
Kruger, Kruger, where is He?
You are after Him and so are we.
P. S.—All the 8th Hussars are in fine fettle.
Yours,
BUGLER WM. McMULLEN,
G. Company,
Section No. 2.

COLLINA, KINGS CO.

On Jan. 22nd, Robert Kierstead, of Kierstead's Mountain, was buried in the Free Baptist burying ground. Mr. Kierstead settled in that vicinity in his youth, and has been a resident ever since. He was upwards of 70 years.

On Jan. 28th, Mrs. Sarah Eries was buried in the Free Baptist cemetery at Kierstead Mountain. Mrs. Eries was first the wife of Abraham Kierstead, a Canadian, from over the Sea. She married Thomas Gibbon, who died, leaving her a widow. Mrs. Eries was an active member of the Free Baptist church and will be much missed in the community. She was upwards of 80 years old.

Richard Sprague, who has been in the United States for some years, has returned to attend the funeral of his daughter, Mrs. R. Lawson, of John. Mr. Sprague's wife and family returned from the States two years ago and are living on the farm at Collina.

G. G. Scovill, M. P. F., is doing an extensive business in lumber here. His portable saw mill has arrived and is being placed on Mr. Knoll's farm. Mr. Scovill expects to have half a million in this cut. Lumbering is brisk here this winter. Some parties are battling to get the mill at St. John. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

Children Cry for CASTORIA.

"I REGRET TO REPORT," ETC.

(Chicago Chronicle.)
Gen. Buller's telegram to the British war office that "The men are splendid. I regret to inform you," etc., is in much the same vein as the skilled surgeon's announcement to his class of students, "The operation was a splendid success, but unfortunately the patient has died." No one doubts the valor of the British soldiers, and if they alone could win battles the British army would now be in possession of the Transvaal capital. For the first time in a generation British heavy strategists are fighting against their peers, and the result is noted in the daily bulletin. "I regret to report," etc. The British military surgeons still imagine that they diagnosed the South African case correctly, but there is a terrible fear at one that the patient may die on their hands.

Latest News in SEMI-WEEKLY SUN

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LADYSMITH.

The Story of the Siege Since November 2nd.

General White Reports That His Provisions Are Good and Ample.

The Situation of the Town—Enclosed by High Hills in a Rough Semi-Circle—Tugela is the Longest River in Natal.

Nov. 2.—Boers destroy communication between Ladysmith and Durban and the siege is begun.
Nov. 3.—In the south of Ladysmith a column of Boers is annihilated.
Nov. 6.—Boer assault repulsed by General Buller.
Nov. 9.—Vigorous attack on Ladysmith is repulsed with a Boer loss of about 800.
Nov. 13.—Joubert moves south of Ladysmith with his main army.
Nov. 20.—Ladysmith effectively shelled by the Boers from Lombard's Kop.
Dec. 2.—Boers shell the town with considerable effect. Rations said to be reduced and much sickness prevalent.
Dec. 3.—Detachment of British carries Lombard's Kop and captures it.
Dec. 11.—Another sortie made to destroy a howitzer. Object is accomplished, but the loss is large.
Dec. 15.—General Buller, attempting to cross the Tugela and relieve Ladysmith, meets with large losses at Colenso.
Dec. 19.—Provisions at Ladysmith sufficient for two months; rations ample and good.
Jan. 6.—Boers attack Ladysmith in force, but are repulsed. Losses heavy on both sides.
Jan. 10.—Second general advance on the Upper Tugela River by Buller's troops under General Warren and Lord Dundonald.
Jan. 11.—Lord Dundonald seizes Swart's Kop and a cable ferry at Potgieter's Drift.
Jan. 16.—General Warren forces a passage through the Tugela. A part of General Buller's force also crosses the Tugela at Potgieter's Drift.
Jan. 19.—Dundonald's cavalry defeats the Boers near Acton Homes, on the road from Swart's Kop to Ladysmith.
Jan. 20.—General Warren engages the Boers both days.
Jan. 22.—General Buller reports "substantial progress" on the part of General Warren.
Jan. 23.—General Warren takes Spion Kop, but with heavy loss.
Jan. 24.—Spion Kop abandoned by the British.
Jan. 25.—General Buller retreats to the south bank of the Tugela, having failed to force a passage to Ladysmith.

Ladysmith has been in a state of siege since Nov. 2, 1899. Even before the declaration of war on Great Britain by President Kruger the Boers were pouring through the necks of the mountains into the territory of Natal, and after the defeat of the British at Dundee and Elandsbaag the camp at Ladysmith was surrounded and the siege begun.

On three sides of Ladysmith rise numerous hills from two to five miles away. On these summits the Boers mounted their guns. Almost every day since the siege began General Buller and his staff have been subjected to the effects of which were never very serious.

On Nov. 6 and 9 and Dec. 2 besiegers and besieged engaged in small skirmishes, and by Dec. 7 General White reported his casualties since the beginning of the investment as five officers and twenty-six men killed, 15 officers and 130 men wounded and three men missing.

On Dec. 8 the Natal Volunteers and Imperial Light Horse under General Buller made a sortie on Gen Hill. They destroyed two big guns and captured a field gun and a Maxim. Lieut. Col. Metcalfe on Dec. 11 made a sortie with a second rifle brigade. He destroyed a howitzer gun on Surprise Hill, but he had to force his way back with the bayonet. In this sortie the British lost 12 men killed and 4 wounded. On Dec. 22 the howitzer gun destroyed on Surprise Hill by Metcalfe's men was replaced by the Boers.

On Jan. 6 last the Boers attacked the position in force, but were driven back by Gen. White with great loss. The Boers had been re-enforced from the south, and for seventeen hours the battle raged fiercely. No accurate figures have been given of the Boer losses, but they were reported through British sources as very heavy. British losses were subsequently reported to have been 488 killed and wounded. The attack by the Boers was interpreted as a final effort to reduce the place before Buller had time to relieve it, and Gen. White's repulse of the enemy was hailed throughout Great Britain as a great victory. It was felt then that the Ladysmith garrison had proved its ability to hold its own, and that as provisions were not so scarce there was no doubt that the city was safe until Buller could perfect his plans and release the beleaguered troops. Heavy rains followed the Boer attack, and for a week the bombardment, which the Boers had kept up continually, was suspended. In Great Britain all eyes were on Gen. Buller, whose turning movement was expected to end the siege.

About Jan. 15 the Boers resumed the bombardment more vigorously than before, more guns being put in position, but helicopter messages from the city reported that little damage was being done. The garrison kept in high spirits over expectations from Gen. Buller's operations. A helicopter message Jan. 22 reported that the bombardment was not doing much damage and had slackened. Shells from Gen. Buller's guns could be seen bursting near the Boer camps.

In South Africa this season of the year is summer instead of winter, as in the northern hemisphere. The camp at Ladysmith holds between 12,000 and 13,000 men. Gen. White has reported that his provisions are good and ample and he has asserted he could hold the town until March. The position of Ladysmith was a most unfortunate choice for an encampment. The military man who selected it could hardly have exhibited such poor judgment had he been a paid servant of the Boer government. The town is about thirty miles from the foot of the Drakensberg range of mountains, and about 150 miles north of Durban on the Natal government railway, which at Ladysmith divides into branches to the Orange Free State and the Transvaal respectively.

Ladysmith stands on the flat ground which slopes down to the Klip River, a tributary of the River Tugela. It is the Klip River which the Free State Boers have tried to divert by engineering work at its sources in the Drakensberg, with the object, possibly, of cutting off the town's water supply and so of rendering easier the passage of the river at any point where the Boer wagons may require to ford it. The town of Ladysmith ranks third in Natal (next to Pietermaritzburg), although apart from the military camp its inhabitants do not number more than 4,000 or 5,000. The local directory, however, shows that nearly all the residents of sufficient importance to be included in such a work bear English, Scotch, Welsh or Irish names.

Arriving at the town by rail from Durban, a high rocky ridge of hills, fringed on their tops with pine trees, is seen on the right of the line. These hills enclose Ladysmith in a rough semi-circle, protecting it from the severe winds in the dry winter, but rendering the town rather oppressively hot in the summer. Natal, it may be here remarked, the summer begins in October and ends in March; the summer is the rainy season, and at midsummer the sun rises at 5 and sets at 7 o'clock. The town, which has a pleasant, homelike appearance, is the main center of Klip River County. There are thirteen streets, fairly well laid out, and among the public buildings are the town hall, built at a cost of some \$5,000, a market office, court house, prison and fort, government school, post office, public library and reading-room, branches of the Natal and Standard banks, a Roman Catholic sanatorium and school; and among places of worship, churches of the Dutch Reformed, Church of South Africa (or Anglican), Wesleyan and Congregational communities. The streets are not well paved, but progress has been made of late in drainage, gasworks and a waterworks scheme costing \$25,000. The population includes, besides white people, some 2,000 natives and nearly as many Hindus and other Indians, who have immigrated via Durban and act as coolies, waiters, servants, etc. At present, however, Ladysmith's resident population is chiefly swollen by its military defenders. Since 1897 some thousands of imperial troops have been stationed here, and the number is now, of course, very largely augmented. The camp is situated near the waterworks, about two miles from the town; it includes a barracks, hospital, church and permanent stabling for some 1,500 horses. The government railway department has also large repairing and other workshops at Ladysmith.

To the north of Ladysmith the railway runs a mile or so to Orange Free State Junction, where the line bifurcates, the main route bearing east to Elandsbaag, Glencoe, Newcastle and the Transvaal, while the Free State line branches off due west toward Van Keenen's Pass and the Drakensberg Mountains. For some time after leaving Ladysmith the country remains open, dotted with low, rocky hillsides and seams with stone dykes, but some fairly pretty scenery opens up after half an hour's ride on the main route, mimosa trees decorating the broad alluvial valleys and farmsteads peeping out of dense groves of blue-gum trees, until at sixteen miles north the train approaches the bleak and lonely uplands of the coal district, which commences at Elandsbaag, where the battle was fought. In the westerly direction, after leaving the junction already mentioned, the Free State line sweeps to the west toward Oliver's Hook, and after traversing an open bare country a short distance northwest of Ladysmith, again crosses the Klip River and passes by Walker's Hook, Beeters, Colworth and Brakvaal stations, the mountain pass. A few miles northwest of Ladysmith on this route a magnificent mountain panorama opens out, the Drakensberg range in this neighborhood, containing rugged, mighty peaks, from 11,000 feet downward. H. H. Smith and other enterprising farmers have excellent farms in the neighborhood, and there are large grazing farms at Beeters station. Between Beeters and Brakvaal there are high rocky kopjes (hills) with a wide prospect of hill and vale to the eastward. In the thirty miles between Ladysmith and Brakvaal the train rises 1,350 feet, although Ladysmith itself is 3,285 feet above sea level.

To the southward of Ladysmith the stations on the railway going in the direction of Pietermaritzburg and Durban are in the following order: Nelthorpe (six and one-fourth miles from Ladysmith), Pieters (nine and one-fourth miles), Colenso (sixteen and one-fourth miles), Chieveley (twenty-two and one-fourth miles), Frere, Ennersdale and Estcourt, where the line crosses the Weenen road, forty-three and one-fourth miles south of Ladysmith. Nelthorpe and Pieters are the main stations of Ladysmith, chiefly remarkable for the number of animal kraals in the vicinity. At Colenso, which is a village, the railway crosses the River Tugela, the longest river in Natal, and a very rapid, rocky torrent, so that the bridge is of much strategical importance.

BITTER RUSSIAN COMMENTS.

The Almighty is manifestly bestowing His blessing upon the arms of the Boers. God is punishing the arrogant and rapacious people who have oppressed and persecuted their races wherever they have gone, and who have made use of the means provided by Providence for the elevation of mankind for the purpose of ruining others and enriching themselves.—Sviet, St. Petersburg.

A MISPLACED VIEW.

As Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener are now in Africa, it remains with them to take the necessary steps, at their leisure and with full liberty of action. It would be folly to pretend to dictate their course of action to them. Sir Redvers Buller, who is paid for the misplacement of Lord Lansdowne and Lord Wolsley.—Le Temps, Paris.

TO CURE A COULD IN ONE DAY.

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box.