

THE BIGGEST SIEGE IN HISTORY.

The Soldiers' Battle at Elandslaagte Where at Terrible Cost British Infantry Charged Cannons' Mouth.

London, Nov. 19.—To-day for the first time the true story of the war is being told. It is more than three weeks old, and comes by mail, but it loses none of its thrilling interest thereby. We know at last why Gen. Symons ordered that terrible charge at Dundee, and how he received his death wound, and we have a vivid picture of the strange battlefield at Elandslaagte, which was unlike anything in the previous annals of war.

"It is a vividly thrilling account which G. W. Steves gives of the strange battle at Elandslaagte, which did not begin until nearly five o'clock in the afternoon. He says:

"Our guns moved to a position towards the right and the Boer guns opened fire. Lord! but those German gunners knew their business! The third or fourth shell pitched into a wagon full of shells, with a team of eight horses hitched to it. We held our breath for the explosion, but when the smoke cleared away only the near wheel lay on its side, and the wagon had its wheels in the air. Our batteries banged again and the Boer guns were silent.

"The attack was to be made on the front and left flank. The Devonshires formed at the front attack and Manchester on the right. Then the Gordon Highlanders edged to the extreme right with a long boulder-shaped hill above them. The guns threw shrapnel across the valley, while the cavalry were in leash training towards the enemy's flank.

"It was about a quarter to five, and it seemed curiously dark. No wonder, for as the men moved forward the heavens

other ridge taken! God! would this cursed hill never end? It was awfully bleeding and dead behind, it was edged with stinging fire before.

"On again, and now was surely the end. The bugles rang like the cockcrow on a fine morning—'Fix bayonets! Staff officers rushed shouting from the rear, imploring, cajoling, cursing, slaming, every man who could move into line, but it was a line no longer—it was a surging wave of men.

"The Devonshires, Gordons, Manchester, and Light Horse were all mixed; subalterns commanding regiments; soldiers yielding advice; officers firing carbines; stumbling, leaping, killing, falling, all drunk with battle, and there beneath our feet was the Boer camp, and the last of the Boers galloping out of it! There, also, thank heaven, were squadrons of Lancers and Dragoon Guards, storming in among them, shouting, slaming them into the ground. 'Cease fire!' it was over.

"Twelve hours of march, of reconnaissance, waiting and preparation, and half an hour of attack, but half an hour crammed with all a life-time's work.

A LIEUTENANT'S STORY.

"Lieut. Webb, a well-known Johannesburg and a member of the Imperial Light Horse, who shared the charge up the precipitous hill at Elandslaagte, writes that the battle was a terrible slaughter, too terrible for victory, which yet had to be won.

"The earlier shells burst within ten yards all round," he says. "Yet some of our men had to sit on their horses at attention under this fire for an hour. I saw some horrible sights. One Gordon Highlander got a shell right in the face, knocking his head clear off.

"We charged to the cannons' mouth, the Gordon Highlanders using their bayonets. The Boers were very plucky, shouted to us to come on, and stood to the last.

"Lancers charged those who ran, and some who went on their knees and prayed for mercy were let off. Others did this and then shot men as they went away. One our killed a Gordon Highlander officer who spared him. Col. Schiel played the part of a man when the Boers refused help until our men had been attacked to.

"We killed or wounded all their officers."

Awful Eight Hours in Haif of Death Ere British Bayonets Swept Vainly Foe From Talana's Height.

London, Nov. 19.—The following is the Times correspondent's unemotional account of the bloody day's work when Gen. Symons fell:

"The Boer guns were silenced by our artillery, Gen. Symons gave the order for an assault on Talana Hill. The hill rises eight hundred feet, and the distance to the top is more than a mile. The first portion of the ascent is steep and over open ground to a homestead surrounded by broken woods. Above the woods the ground is rough and rocky with steep ascent, and half way up a thick stone wall runs around the hill, as the fringe of a wide terrace of open ground.

"About the terrace the ascent is almost perpendicular to the end of the Boer position. Altogether, the position seemed impregnable, even if it had been a small body against a force of 100,000 men. Gen. Symons must have had extraordinary confidence in his men when he ordered a terrible and well sustained fire from superior numbers of skilled riflemen. His confidence was fully justified.

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Line of March To Pretoria.

Buller to Press Through Orange Free State While Allies Engaged in Natal.

Preparations Well Advanced for British Moves in Several Directions.

New York, Nov. 19.—The London correspondent of the World claims to know just what are Gen. Buller's plans. He cables as follows:

"The World correspondent was enabled to-day to secure from one of the highest officers of the headquarters staff of the army an outline of the plan of campaign which Gen. Buller is now pursuing.

"The force detached to proceed by way of Durban to relieve Ladysmith is expected to begin effective measures in a day or two in the direction of Estcourt. This force is only ostensibly engaged to raise the investment of Ladysmith, the real motive in despatching it being to keep Gen. Joubert engaged while a more important movement is being directed against Pretoria.

"Gen. Buller is now at De Aar Junction, northern Cape Colony, whence he has sent a column to relieve Kimberley and Mafeking.

"He himself intends to go with the main body through Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State, to Pretoria, the capital of the Transvaal, as he originally intended to do. But at Wyburg, sixty miles beyond Bloemfontein, a column will be detached to the retreat of the Free States, the British occupying the level veldt unsuitably for Boer operations.

"The World's informant says the main object of Gen. Buller's plan is to get in the rear of the Transvaal and Free State columns, while Gen. White aids by recent British re-inforcements, keeps Gen. Joubert occupied on the front.

"The war office is confident that this plan is practicable as Gen. Joubert has not yet shown any sign of getting his heavy ordnance back to Pretoria.

"The World correspondent gathers that the British advance is in a much more forward state than the public has been permitted to know. Even the news of the arrival of troops at South African ports has been dated back, and a larger body is on the move to the front than is expected.

"The British seem to expect little objection to their advance through the Free State, calculating even on the railroad not being destroyed. The headquarters estimate is that Pretoria will be taken and the war ended within a month from Gen. Buller's crossing the Orange river.

GERMAN FRIENDSHIP.

Emperor's Coming Visit Has More Than the Family Significance Officially Attached.

New York, Nov. 19.—Referring to the visit of Emperor William to England, the London correspondent of the Tribune says:

"The Kaiser's visit to England cannot be regarded as a family affair, since he brings Count von Buelow with him; it cannot be separated from the secret agreement between the German and British foreign offices, which is a new point of departure of European diplomacy.

"The Emperor has preferred to minimize the importance of his visit at the last moment, and to decline all offers of hospitality except from the Queen and the Prince of Wales, and he has an adequate excuse for shortening his stay because the reichstag is about to adjourn the navy bill, Samoa and the penal

Inhumanity Of the Boers.

Shooting the British Wounded Under Very Hand of Relieving Surgeons.

Two Wretches Caught in the Act Meet the Fate They Deserved.

London, Nov. 19.—The Telegraph's correspondent referring to the charges that the Boers are killing wounded British soldiers, says he was present when two young officers made the following statement:

"During the engagement at Elandslaagte a British doctor was attending two wounded men when a burgher came up, stopped before the little party, and without saying anything deliberately drew his pistol and killed both of the wounded. Two British soldiers appeared before the assassin could escape. The burgher dropped his pistol and fell on his knees, begging for mercy. He got the mercy he deserved for so inhuman an act.

"Parties sent out to search for the dead and wounded were first fired on under Red Cross flags and then under flags of truce."

WAR IN NEW GUINEA.

Savages Obliterate Eleven Villages With Great Slaughter of Inhabitants.

London, Nov. 20.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Sydney, N.S.W., says that the disastrous civil war has broken out in the British possessions of New Guinea, eleven villages having been obliterated with a heavy slaughter of the inhabitants.

FOR THE SOLDIERS' FAMILIES.

Mansion House Fund of Hage Proprietors and All Other Undertakings Prosper.

London, Nov. 19.—While a dense fog has settled over Darkert Africa, the English people, described by Napoleon as a nation of shopkeepers, has devoted itself with commercial energy and patriotic fervor to war charities.

The Mansion House relief fund has risen by leaps and bounds, and is now above the \$3,000,000 mark, and every undertaking for raising money for soldiers' families prospers.

The Daily Mail has already obtained \$50,000 from Mr. Kipling's "Absent-Minded Beggar," and the poem is recited nightly at ten music halls, and sung to Sir Arthur Sullivan's music at half a dozen more.

TRENCH-MAKING MACHINES.

Gigantic Ploughs Providing Shelter for Infantry Following in Their Wake.

London, Nov. 19.—The government will send to South Africa several trench-ploughs, attached to steam sappers of 20 horse-power. They are able to cut trench four feet in depth for the infantry which will follow in their wake.

LADY MINTO RETURNING.

London, Nov. 19.—The Countess of Minto, wife of the Earl of Minto, Governor-General of Canada, is a passenger on board the Cunard line steamer "Campania" which left Queenstown for New York to-day.

CAPE DUTCH CONVERTED.

Increased Destruction of Their Property by Boers They Would Welcome Annexation.

Capetown, Nov. 19.—W. F. Schreiner, the premier, has instructed all civil commissioners to announce that there is no intention to take the burgher forces in the colony, the colonial government considering the military forces of the crown sufficient to preserve order and repel invasion.

"Ordinary citizens," the Premier declares, "are only expected to remain loyal and not to give countenance to the enemy."

Judging from present indications, so far from there being a prospect of a Boer invasion, he will have a great many of the Cape Dutch are so incensed at the loss of their property and the destruction of railways and bridges that they are even beginning to favor the annexation of the two republics. One prominent politician goes so far as to say it would be a good thing if the commanders made the chief opponents of annexation.

PRISONERS AT PRETORIA.

Arrival of the Armored Train Party—Winstone Churchill but Slightly Wounded.

Pretoria, Nov. 19.—At noon to-day 50 British prisoners were taken to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and some bluejackets arrived here. There were large crowds at the railway station, but no demonstration was made.

Winstone Churchill, who is wounded in the hand, was taken to the model hospital at the Ennerdale, falling slowly back for five days.

In the night of November 9, matters so far as is known have been fairly quiet at Ladysmith. It is not unlikely that the Boers, badly informed as to the nature and extent of the British preparations to advance to the relief of the town, may be hesitating regarding the next move.

The situation in Natal is very complicated more especially if the reports be true that the great Tugela bridge has been destroyed. The success of the next move on either side will depend more on strategy than on superior numbers. The Boers have three lines of action open. They can hold the railway with the force they have, the Ennerdale, falling slowly back before the British advance and threatening it from Weenen, or, in the second place, they can advance from Weenen and try to carry Estcourt; or, in the third place, can advance due south from Weenen to Weston, out the railway to meet the British relief force heavy fighting is in store.

BOERS STILL ANNEXING.

Cross Into Cape Colony and Declare Colesberg District Their Own—British Courier Proclamation.

Capetown, Nov. 19.—Advices just received here show that on November 16 a combined force of Free State and Transvaal burghers occupied Colesberg, Cape Colony, without opposition by the residents and proclaimed the district to be Free State territory.

The Boers occupied Burgersdorp on Tuesday, November 14, and it is believed that they were then on the way to seize Stormberg Junction.

Queenstown, Cape Colony, Nov. 18.—Major-General Wm. Forbes Gatacre with his staff and the Irish Rifles arrived here to-day. Commandant Oliver Wiseman, portion of the Rouville command, has occupied Jamestown, holding the flag of the Orange Free State and annexed the town.

Capetown, Nov. 19.—Sir Alfred Miller, governor of Cape Colony and British high commissioner, has issued a proclamation declaring proclamations annexing territory, impressing men or seizing goods are null and void and should not be considered. He promises full recognition of and fair compensation for actual injury resulting from loyal adherence to British allegiance.

GERMANS TO THE RESCUE.

London, Nov. 19.—From Lorenzo Marques comes a report that three German officers, Col. von Braun, Lieut. Brute-witz and Lieut. von Kurze have arrived at Pretoria with the intention of joining Gen. Joubert's staff.

NEW FRENCH PAPER.

Montreal, Nov. 20.—A new French Conservative paper will be published in Montreal the latter end of the month.

limit of the advance they were considered, and here about 9:30 o'clock Gen. Symons, who had galloped up to tell the men that the hill must be taken, fell morning he had exposed himself, perhaps unnecessarily. His position was marked by a red flag carried by his orderly.

"By 1 o'clock our men, creeping up inch by inch, and taking advantage of every available cover, had gained the shelter of the stone wall, but for a long time further advance seemed impossible. As often as a man became visible the Boers poured a deadly fire in the direction, while whatever their losses from our artillery fire they rarely afforded a mark for the rifle.

"About 12 o'clock, however, a lull in the fire afforded our men an opportunity for scaling the wall and dashing across the open ground beyond. Then the almost sheer ascent of the last portion of the hill began. Here our losses were greatest, the Boers losing most heavily. Col. Gunning, who was always in front of his men, was shot through the head. Near the top of the hill Capt. Fecchi, who had only arrived two days before from the Sudan, also fell. Out of 17 officers the battalion lost five killed and seven wounded. Two days before the Boers were compelled to stay their fire, and the Boers of course were enabled to strengthen their rifle fire accordingly.

"The last portion of the ascent was made by the bayonet, but the Boers did not wait the charge. A few who stood ground to near the end were seen flying over the crest of the hill. About thirty dead and wounded were lying on the ground, and cases of ammunition were scattered about. One of the Boer ponies was galloping about and one of the Dubla Fusiliers gaily riding back on these captive steeds.

Making Haste To Kimberley.

Interest Centres on Methuen's Force Now Well Equipped for Advance.

London Speculates on Boer Strategy Towards Column from Durban.

London, Nov. 20, 5 a.m.—Immediate interest centres on the relief of Kimberley. Gen. Methuen has a splendid knowledge of the country and is laying his plans with the utmost care. An indefatigable worker, he is busy night and day cutting down the baggage to a minimum and issuing orders with a view to ensuring that the officers shall be indistinguishable from the men to the eyes of the Boers.

A naval brigade with search lights from the cruiser Doris, under Major Ernest Rhodes, will accompany the command and Major Rhodes is confident that he will see his brother Cecil in Kimberley.

The column will take all the materials for repairing the railway which it is believed there will be no difficulty in doing.

The advance will be made by forced marches, the column reaching Modder river in four days.

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MRS. O'NEILL'S TROUBLES.

She Was on Eve of Sailing for Liverpool When Arrested for Alleged Frauds.

Montreal, Nov. 19.—Gladys Evangeline O'Neill is still at the Windsor hotel with her little girl, Jean, and with them is Henry J. O'Neill, the Chicago lawyer known as the "Barley King." Mr. O'Neill arrived in town this morning from London, where he was arrested, where he was located.

A provincial health inspector was sent down to find out what the cause of the cases in St. Paschal. At Mount Carmel there are 20 infected houses. Reports also reached the inspector of cases in other villages.

Evidently the disease, which it is said was imported from the United States, is well spreading over the country. The health authorities are making great efforts to stamp it out.

GARRISON CAN HOLD OUT.

The situation in Lower Natal is considered reassuring at the war office, where any feeling of uneasiness was dissipated by the news from Estcourt, under the embargo of the censorship, but there were no signs that the garrison was falling back, although it was evident that it would do so if menaced by superior force, with guns of great range. Estimates of the strength of the Boer commands converging on Estcourt are trustworthy, ranging from two thousand to ten thousand, but even at the highest figure this force would be exceeded by the British column when once massed, with the three fresh batteries of field artillery in working order.

BASUTOS QUIT.

London, Nov. 19.—According to the latest advices from Basuto it had been no signs of a Basuto attack on Saturday last.

CARPETS, RUGS, ART SQUARES



We show 10 patterns to any other stores one.

Axminsters, Wiltons, Brussels, Riche Velve, Tapestry, 370 pieces Carpets, 324 Rugs, 214 Art Squares

UP-TO-DATE GOODS IN EVERY LINE.

WELER BROS., Victoria, B. C.

TWO STRANDED VESSELS.

Reported by One Steamer Arriving at Philadelphia—The Names Not Known.

Philadelphia, Nov. 20.—The British steamer Cromarty which has arrived from Santiago reports that on the evening of November 18 she passed two-masted steamer with an apparently black funnel, sunk on the north of Fortuna Island, at the southern end of the Fortuna Island the Cromarty passed a stranded steamer with yellow funnel and black top. Owing to heavy weather the Cromarty could not ascertain the names of the vessels.

PREFERENCE NOT WORKING.

Trade With Great Britain Almost at Standstill While That With U. S. Is Fast Increasing.

Ottawa, Nov. 20.—Supporters of the government are greatly perturbed over the official trade returns for the past year. Notwithstanding British preference, trade with Britain is not increasing in the manner hoped for. The total imports for last year were valued at \$122,000,000, of which \$91,000,000 worth came from the States, and \$37,000,000 from Great Britain. On the other hand, the United Kingdom only \$10,000,000 worth came in duty free, while from the States \$48,000,000 worth came in free. Since British preference was introduced three years ago, imports from the States have risen from 59 to 91 millions, while from Great Britain the increase has been only from 33 to 37 millions.

SIR WM. DAWSON'S DEATH.

Paralysis Carried Off the Great Friend of McGill in His Eightieth Year.

Montreal, Nov. 20.—(Special)—Sir John Wm. Dawson, former principal of McGill University, which occurred yesterday, was due to general debility. Since his retirement in May, 1893, he has been in poor health but until two days ago was able to devote himself to some extent to his favorite studies. During the past week he was engaged in writing a scientific treatise upon rock-bearing rocks, which was taken ill Friday and declined rapidly until yesterday when he died from a stroke of paralysis. He was born in 1820.

SIX MILES FROM ESTCOURT.

London, Nov. 19.—A special despatch from Estcourt dated the 18th says: "All is quiet here. The enemy is believed to be engaged six miles away. Our position is strong to resist attack."

LADYSMITH DOING WELL.

New York, Nov. 19.—The London correspondent of the Tribune, reviewing the South African situation under Sunday morning's date, says:

"Public anxiety over Ladysmith has been relieved in a large measure by best intelligence that Gen. White is keeping the Boer artillery fire well under control. First came a positive assurance from the war office that all was well at Ladysmith on Sunday and Monday, and this was followed by Reuter's tidings from Estcourt that a runner had come from the garrison with two days later news, of the most reassuring nature. There had been an engagement Tuesday, with a Boer pulse, and a successful sortie by the garrison, which was not only safe on Wednesday, but in sight of the Boer lines.

"When full allowance had been made for the elasticity of the native runners' information that they were the correspondents, a secure margin remained for the conviction that the Boer artillery fire had been significantly reduced, and that the attempts to tighten the circle of investment had failed.

BOER SHELLING A FAILURE.

"The Boers' despatches describing Tuesday's engagement and the progress of the siege could be read with composure by the British headquarters there upon them. These bulletins were scanned with intense satisfaction by the longers at the clubs, where the light casualty list was regarded as signal proof that the Boers were supplied with defective shells and were wasting a large stock of poor ammunition. The experts were anxious to learn whether the six-inch quick-firing guns from the British ships were in the most satisfactory condition. The shells were falling in any event, thick and fast from the British batteries where there was no sign of lack of lyddite or other ammunition.

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GREAT FIRE IN PERSIA.

Half a Million Pounds the Estimate of the Property Destroyed.

Teheran, Nov. 20.—A terrible fire broke out Wednesday night in Resht, about fifteen miles southeast of Enzellee on the Caspian sea and raged throughout Thursday. It is estimated that property to the value of \$500,000 was destroyed.

Boers M

Eight Hundred Record for F on Lad

Guns of Victors Salute for Wales' B

After Five Qu Enemy Sustained Severe D

Durban, Natal, Nov. 18.—The Boers made a record for the first time in the history of the war.

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