

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

Vol. XXXVIII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8, 1899

No. 16.

Ladies' Jackets.

We are now showing the largest and most attractive assortment of Coats, Capes, Jackets, Reifers and Cloaks

In Ladies' Misses' and Children's sizes shown by any one house in the maritime provinces. The range of styles is larger than that to be seen in any one house elsewhere.



Over 2,000 Garments to select from.

DOWLING BROS., 98 KING ST., ST. JOHN, N. B.

BELEAGUERED BUT SAFE.

Gen. White Has Hit Hard.

Boers Suffered Severely From the Thursday and Friday Sorties-Recent News

LONDON, Nov. 1.—H. W. Wilson, a recognized military expert, contributes to the Daily Mail an article on the situation in Natal, in which he says in part—

"There is no denying the fact that the loss of two British battalions and a mountain battery cannot be described as a great disaster to our arms, if it is not seriously affected the situation in South Africa, as it deprives Gen. White of 1,600 bayonets and six 7-pounder guns at a time when he is certain to want every soldier and every gun he possesses.

"His position is critical, but it is scarcely possible for him to be compelled to withdraw his army from Ladysmith and retreat to the line of Tugela.

"General Buller probably would never have accepted had not severe punishment to Meyer's command and temporarily discouraged the Boers.

"It is probable, then, that General White will elect to stand at Ladysmith and face an almost certain siege. For if the Boers are to be repulsed, it will be by the aid of the artillery, and further offensive movements on our part are practically impossible.

"The total strength of the artillery in White's command is thirty-four 15 pounder field guns, three 12 pounders landed by the Powerful, two quick-fires captured at Standlaats, and eight 7 or 9 pounder muzzle-loaders of the Natal local force.

"Such an army as this, with ample food and ammunition and a river running through the town, securing a good water supply, should be able to hold Ladysmith until the first troops of the army corps arrive.

"There is some doubt as to the actual positions occupied by the British and their defensibility.

"The place may not be a Plevna in natural advantages, but it scarcely would have been selected for a stand unless it could be defended. Moreover, much less is asked of its garrison than was demanded of the Plevna garrison. The Turks held out for 148 days with a force which did not much exceed 35,000. They were assisted at the outset by a Russian force of inferior strength, which they were eventually defeated, and were then regally besieged, the assaulting army numbering from 85,000 to 100,000.

"They had between 38 and 90 guns against a Russian 482, many of which were heavy pieces. The place only fell because it was starved out.

"The Boer tactics no doubt will be to draw a cordon round the town and bombard it.

necessarily suggests the question whether or not it is wise to send out further strong reinforcements without delay.

"As far as can be gathered from various reports, the following are the Boer command: Natal, 18,000 to 25,000; Zululand, 30,000; Komatipoort, 1,000; Mafeking, 5,000; Kimberley, 5,000; small parties elsewhere, 5,000. Probably these figures are exaggerated, but the Boers are not far short of 45,000 in field strength.

"The army corps and its troops for the line of communication will be about 48,000, to which is to be added 3,000 Australians and Canadians, and the Natal force of 10,000.

"The loss of 2,000 men will in no sense exert ultimate British success, but has only postponed the end."

AN ARTILLERY DUEL.

Was in Progress Thursday, When Ladysmith was Last Heard From.

Colenso, Natal, Nov. 2 (Delayed in transmission)—The Boers have opened fire on Ladysmith from the south side, with guns posted between Colenso and General White's camp.

Their fire in the direction of Colenso has not thus far proved damaging.

Colenso, Nov. 2, 9 p. m. (Delayed in transmission)—Colenso at this hour is threatened by the enemy. His patrols in advance of Boer force 5,000 strong, but without field guns, are marching in an easterly direction to the north of Colenso. Shots have been exchanged between the British and Boer parties, the latter being driven inward upon the main body.

The British party lost a man killed and the Boer patrol lost two.

Colenso, Nov. 2—2 p. m. (Delayed in transmission)—Heavy firing is now in progress at Ladysmith from the south side, the line of Ladysmith.

The Boers continue to shell Colenso and Fort Wylie, but thus far the firing is futile. They have placed heavy guns in position, but their shots are all falling short.

were completely routed and suffered heavy loss. Their entire camp was captured. The correspondent goes on to say: "An artillery duel is in progress. British shells struck a Boer 40-pounder and completely wrecked it."

GERMAN CRITICISM

Of the Speech of the Marquis of Lansdowne.

BERLIN, Nov. 3.—The statement of the British secretary of state for war, the Marquis of Lansdowne, at the Outlook's feast in Berlin yesterday, that the military preparations in the difficulty with the Transvaal could not be kept absent of the diplomatic negotiations, has evoked severe comment on the part of the German press.

LADYSMITH HEARD FROM.

The Town Was All Right on Friday Last.

LONDON, Nov. 6.—The war office issued the following at 11:40 p. m. yesterday:—"Buller to the secretary of state for war: CAPE TOWN, Nov. 5, 8:40 p. m.—The commandant at Durban sends the following, received from Ladysmith by pigeon post, dated November 3rd:—

"Yesterday General French went out with the cavalry and field artillery and effectively shelled the Boer laager, without loss on our side.

"The bombardment of Ladysmith continued yesterday and today, many Boer soldiers were killed, and the Boers are in good health and spirits, and the troops are doing well.

"The Dutch residents here have received news of a satisfactory battle between Ladysmith and Colenso. A large number of Boers were killed, many being retained in the Free State laager in place. The English residents here have no knowledge of any engagement."

LONDON, Nov. 6.—The correspondent of the Times writes from Cape Town, dated Nov. 2, which says:—"The Dutch residents here have received news of a satisfactory battle between Ladysmith and Colenso. A large number of Boers were killed, many being retained in the Free State laager in place. The English residents here have no knowledge of any engagement."

LONDON, Nov. 6.—The correspondent of the Times writes from Cape Town, dated Nov. 2, which says:—"The Dutch residents here have received news of a satisfactory battle between Ladysmith and Colenso. A large number of Boers were killed, many being retained in the Free State laager in place. The English residents here have no knowledge of any engagement."

LONDON, Nov. 6.—The correspondent of the Times writes from Cape Town, dated Nov. 2, which says:—"The Dutch residents here have received news of a satisfactory battle between Ladysmith and Colenso. A large number of Boers were killed, many being retained in the Free State laager in place. The English residents here have no knowledge of any engagement."

LONDON, Nov. 6.—The correspondent of the Times writes from Cape Town, dated Nov. 2, which says:—"The Dutch residents here have received news of a satisfactory battle between Ladysmith and Colenso. A large number of Boers were killed, many being retained in the Free State laager in place. The English residents here have no knowledge of any engagement."

LONDON, Nov. 6.—The correspondent of the Times writes from Cape Town, dated Nov. 2, which says:—"The Dutch residents here have received news of a satisfactory battle between Ladysmith and Colenso. A large number of Boers were killed, many being retained in the Free State laager in place. The English residents here have no knowledge of any engagement."

LONDON, Nov. 6.—The correspondent of the Times writes from Cape Town, dated Nov. 2, which says:—"The Dutch residents here have received news of a satisfactory battle between Ladysmith and Colenso. A large number of Boers were killed, many being retained in the Free State laager in place. The English residents here have no knowledge of any engagement."

LONDON, Nov. 6.—The correspondent of the Times writes from Cape Town, dated Nov. 2, which says:—"The Dutch residents here have received news of a satisfactory battle between Ladysmith and Colenso. A large number of Boers were killed, many being retained in the Free State laager in place. The English residents here have no knowledge of any engagement."

LONDON, Nov. 6.—The correspondent of the Times writes from Cape Town, dated Nov. 2, which says:—"The Dutch residents here have received news of a satisfactory battle between Ladysmith and Colenso. A large number of Boers were killed, many being retained in the Free State laager in place. The English residents here have no knowledge of any engagement."

LONDON, Nov. 6.—The correspondent of the Times writes from Cape Town, dated Nov. 2, which says:—"The Dutch residents here have received news of a satisfactory battle between Ladysmith and Colenso. A large number of Boers were killed, many being retained in the Free State laager in place. The English residents here have no knowledge of any engagement."

THE TELEGRAPH'S WAR CORRESPONDENT.



CHARLES LEWIS SHAW.

Mr. Charles Lewis Shaw has just gone to South Africa to act as war correspondent for a syndicate of Canadian newspapers, including the Toronto Evening Telegram, the Ottawa Journal, the Vancouver Province, the St. John Telegraph, the Stratford Herald and others.

Mr. Shaw will also contribute some articles to the Canadian Magazine and do special work for a New York syndicate. He sailed on October 18th on the St. Paul from New York for Southampton, and from there will proceed by the fast mail steamer Caribrook Castle to Cape Town. He will reach there about November 15th, and his first letter will reach Canada about the middle of November.

Mr. Shaw is the proud possessor of two medals won for service in Egypt under Lord (then Sir Garnet) Wolseley, and our own Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Denton. On this campaign he served in Egypt for a time as correspondent for a London (England) daily. Returning to his native land, he wrote a series of humorous letters entitled "Reminiscences of a Nile Voyageur." These were published in the Toronto Saturday Night.

Mr. Shaw filled important journalistic positions in Canada and the United States. Recently he has contributed stories to the Canadian Magazine and Toronto Saturday Night, as well as some remarkable sketches of political life at Ottawa. Mr. Shaw's letters will be the best description of the war appearing in Canadian newspapers, as he is prominently fitted for this class of work. They will be written from a Canadian standpoint, and will chronicle the doings of the Canadian and other colonial contingents—thus presenting much information of special interest to people in this country.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN LEAVE

Ladysmith Now Occupied by Men Only.

CAPE TOWN, Nov. 2.—(Delayed in transmission)—The Cape Argus has received the following from Ladysmith:—"On the suggestion of Gen. White the women and children were sent south last evening. A large number of men left at the same time. Some of these behaved badly towards the women, and it is expected that another platoon of the Boers that they will be able to take Ladysmith."

FROM NORTH CAPE COLONY.

The Orange Free State Boers Are Invading.

CAPE TOWN, Nov. 2.—(Delayed in transmission)—A despatch from Stormberg, Cape Colony, south of Beaufort West, says that the Orange Free State Boers have invaded the Cape Colony side of the Orange River.

Colenso, Cape Colony, Nov. 2.—(Delayed in transmission)—The report that the Boers were on this side of the Orange River returned this evening, bringing word that the Boer camp is pitched on the Boer side of the river.

Colenso, Nov. 2.—(Delayed in transmission)—The mounted police left here today for Naauw Poort.

LONDON, Nov. 6.—The Daily Mail publishes the following from Burgersdorp, dated Nov. 2:—"The large British camp at Stormberg Junction has been broken up today by the order of Sir Redvers Buller. Everything, including guns, stores, tents and the usual paraphernalia of a camp is being removed. Queen town, about 50 miles southeast of Stormberg.

An Orange Free State force, about 3,500 strong, with several guns, which for some time was concentrated just across the Orange river, has crossed the bridge at Bethulie, destroying portions of the railway on the march. This obviously with the intention of checking the advance of our army corps.

CAPE TOWN, Nov. 2.—(Delayed in transmission)—The Boers are again using Chief J. Buller's name, and the other Boer chiefs are threatening to shell the

explanation of their removal arises out of the Boer advance north of the Orange River. In view of the near approach of British reinforcements a Boer invasion of Cape Colony could be regarded very seriously. Therefore, there is every reason to believe that the withdrawal of the Boer division to the assistance of Natal. For the use of that division a division may be intended of some of the stores of the third division, which are in the hands of the Boers, to be forwarded.

Reports that Rosemond and Naauwpoort are also to be evacuated seem to corroborate the idea that General Buller's first business will be to relieve General White. It is believed that the Orange Free State commanders now have 11,000 men concentrated against Kimberley and on the Free State southern frontier. Opposed to them are only 7,000 British troops.

The war office announced at midnight that no despatches had been received beyond those already made public and that nothing further would be issued before noon today. Thus not a solitary official item of news has been posted for nearly 24 hours. This has given rise to a crop of rumors that Ladysmith's ammunition is exhausted, that Sir George Stewart White is mortally wounded, that both facts are being concealed and that other unlucky happenings have taken place. For all of these reports there is absolutely no foundation. At the same time, the British have had little to stimulate him within the last 24 hours except the news of the confident attitude of the Ladysmith garrison and its slight successes last Thursday and Friday.

Meanwhile vague remarks in the despatches point to the impending arrival of further big Boer guns from Johannesburg, to be mounted among the hills within range of Ladysmith. Such considerations explain the anxiety felt regarding General White's movements and position not only by the public but in official circles. The British retirement to Escourt has given the impression that it is intended to make a stand there. Escourt is the last important position between the Boers and the capital of Natal, and if the Boers sweep past Escourt, nothing can stop them from laying siege to Pietermaritzburg, which cannot be expected to make a protracted defence, while its fall would be a tremendous blow to British prestige throughout South Africa.

Already the British retirement south of Colenso has given the Boers an opportunity to make a bid for the active support of the disaffected Dutch in Natal by proclaiming the annexation of the upper Tugela section. Thus far the Dutch colonists seem to have confined their sympathies with the invading Boers to a platonic emotion. Except for surreptitious assistance there is no evidence that they have yet joined the Boers openly in any appreciable number. The reported British retirement from Stormberg junction, however, will be followed, doubtless, by a similar Boer proclamation annexing the portions of Cape Colony lying directly south of the Orange Free State. These proclamations, as in the case of Bechnersdorp, have been and it is immediately followed by British counter proclamations, but to the eyes of the Dutch farmers the presence of one Boer commander is probably no more impressive than the expectation of the arrival of the whole British army in the more or less distant future.

The British newspapers publish a list of the transports due to arrive at Cape Town from today. According to this some 20,000 men should reach the Cape by the end of next week, but the admiral issued a scathing warning last evening that no disappointment should be felt by the public if the transports should not arrive at the dates mentioned, dates which, the war office says, are "based in many cases upon too sanguine expectations."

Advice from other parts of South Africa are distinctly unpainful, and everything points to a critical situation in Natal and the northern portions of Cape Colony likely to grow more acute until General Buller is either relieved or decisively defeated. Nobody dares think of capitulation. Rather than that he is expected in last resort, if Ladysmith becomes untenable, to make a desperate effort to cut his way through the Boers back into Lower Natal and to join hands with the garrison there, which is now almost certain to be reinforced by the first arrivals of the army corps from England, and to be pressed forward to renew touch with him.

It is generally assumed, however, that Gen. White, with the aid of the naval guns, will be able to cope with any bombardment; and the idea that the Boers could take Ladysmith by assault is scarcely as absurd. The defence thus depends upon the interrupted working of the naval guns. Right here arises the important question upon which the despatches have thrown no light, and which the actual guns, which themselves have not arrived at the last moment, have not yet been sufficient ammunition to repulse a bombardment at all, or for a few weeks. If not, it is a serious matter. Ladysmith is a small town, and the shells needed for the 47 guns, which, moreover, there is no question of stores of shells at Ladysmith for recharging.

The Boer operations have been cheerfully announced in terms of letters of marque by the Transvaal government, and predicts the same which privateers may work among British merchantmen and even transports. In this Paris journalism finds in part an explanation for the mobilization of the British special service squadron. Berlin journalism treats the suggestion of privateering with skepticism. The Vossische Zeitung says: "Privateering is no longer recognized by international law, and the Transvaal is not in a position to issue letters of marque as it possesses neither ports nor harbors. Attempts at privateering must consequently be regarded, not only by Great Britain but by neutral powers as unlawful warfare, and be treated as common piracy."

The American hospital fund is also removed to Queenstown, and an obvious

(Continued on page 3.)