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NO. 25.

THE WAR.

Details Given of Bloody Modder River.

British Under the Hottest Rifle Fire on Record - Boers Are Now About Six Miles North of Modder River.

London, Dec. 6, 4.30 a. m.—The censorship continues to be of the strictest character. Virtually no news is allowed to pass except diaries of events within the beleaguered garrison and positions. According to the latest accounts of the battle of Modder River the Boer fire was the hottest on record and will revolutionize existing theories. It was effective up to 1,600 yards but the casualties among the troops were trifling. It was found impossible to bring the British ammunition reserves to the firing line. Many Boers wearing red cross badges were actually employed in serving out ammunition. In connection with the many accusations against the Boers indifference to the laws of war, a letter published in Cape Town asserts that before the Transvaal ultimatum was sent the Boer leaders discussed the policy of using the white flag when driven into a corner, in order to deceive the British commanders and this policy was generally approved.

It is reported that the mobilization of a seventh division will be ordered at Aldershot as a preparation for emergencies. The Morning Post complains that there are plenty of cavalrymen available at home but that paratroop prevents their being sent to South Africa where they are urgently needed.

London, Dec. 6.—Daily Mail has a despatch from Mafeking dated Nov. 28, which says: "All well."

THE BOERS LOCATED.

London, Dec. 6.—A Modder River special dated Thursday, Nov. 30, says: "The Boers occupy a strong ridge about six miles north of this point. Today the Lancers came into contact with them."

FROM BOER SOURCES.

Pretoria, Friday, Dec. 1.—The Standard and Diggers News say that Wednesday last Mr. Cecil Rhodes' despatches, intercepted near Kimberley, said the DeBeers mines were filling with water and that Mr. Rhodes estimated the damage at \$50,000 per day.

YUM'S HEALTH BROKEN.

London, Dec. 6.—The Daily Mail announces that Col. W. A. Yule, who succeeded Gen. Sir Wm. Symons in command of the British troops in Natal after the capture of the 8th brigade of the South African field force with the substantive rank of colonel in the army, is on his way to England, being in broken health.

London, Dec. 5, 4 a. m.—Today, just a week after the battle of Modder River, the morning papers print, under date of Nov. 28, their correspondent's description of the engagement. There is nothing whatever in any of them to justify their denunciation or explain why they were withheld, unless the censors were engaged in trying to harmonize their conflicting statements.

No two of the stories agree, and each leaves something unexplained. The fullest account is published by the Chronicle, which says: "On the south side of the Modder River there is a vast plain stretching as far as the eye can reach. Along the river the north bank had been strongly fortified. On the east side of the bridge stands Kestell's Junction hotel and Farm Hotel, stone buildings, with a number of out-houses of galvanized iron, the whole surrounded by trees. The group of buildings was the centre of the Boer position. Here the main body of the enemy was concentrated. On the right the enemy's line extended for two miles, and on the left, from the bridge, it extended three miles, reaching beyond the border and into forest territory. The Boer left flank rested on a farm house just across the border. The farm was surrounded by earthworks in which two guns were mounted. There were also two guns on the extreme right, and others were distributed along the line. Close to the bridge were several guns, including a long one. The enemy was better equipped in heavy ordnance than the British. About one hundred yards in advance of the centre the enemy had a small post. Along the whole of his front he had dug rifle pits, strengthened with breastworks of sand, riveted with galvanized iron plate and parapets of sand bags. These were admirably constructed and gave the riflemen absolutely rifle-proof cover."

After describing the British formation as previously known, the artillery opening and the subsequent advance of the infantry, the correspondent continues:

"The enemy hailed shells on our infantry, but not a rifle shot was fired at the British until they were within 800 yards of the Boer position. Then a fearful fire broke from the intrenchments. Supplemented by several Nordenfolds and machine guns, the bullets poured upon our advancing line, but all the time it was absolutely impossible to catch a glimpse of the enemy. Our men fired as best they could. While under this withering fusillade they fell in scores. There was no cover procurable, the order was given to the men to get to cover quarters with the enemy. Undismayed by the torrent of shot and shell they strove to press forward, pouring volley after volley into the enemy's works. The ground was strewn with our dead. The officers set a magnificent example in sacrificing themselves unhesitatingly. Thus fell Col. Stopford, of the Coldstream Guards, and many others until the ground was littered with the dead. At length the Scots Guards reached the bed of a dried up watercourse. They dashed into it, but a hail of the enemy's bullets swept over their heads. Then up the slope of the opposite bank they went until they stood again on level ground, fully exposed to the enemy's fire.

The cover afforded by the water course was gone, and they were assailed in front and on the flanks by a murderous fire. Simply rained bullets, and they lost heavily. Meanwhile the Grenadiers, the Coldstream Guards, the Northumberlanders, the Highlanders and the rest of Ninth brigade were pushing gallantly forward on both sides of the railway, which bisected the advancing line. The railway line is here higher than the surrounding plain, and every one who tried to advance along it was hit.

The whole of our line was now about 600 yards from the south bank of the river and taking advantage of the little cover procurable. The infantry lay hove returning the Boer fire.

Still not one of the enemy could be seen. It was at the most haphazard firing. Several rushes were made for the river, but they were repulsed. A company of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders succeeded in getting across, but lost heavily and had to fall back to the south bank.

We found five of their dead in the Boer entrenchments today. The Northumberland regiment and the Guards also at the Modder River, he found 23 bodies and that 27 bodies have since floated to the surface of the river. The people say that some bodies were buried and that others were taken on mules to Jacobsdale, where the English wounded were also taken.

Commandant Albrecht's wagon perfectly fitted up as a pharmacy and surgery, was captured. Under date of December 5th: "Gen. Methuen reports that at Modder River, he found 23 bodies and that 27 bodies have since floated to the surface of the river. The people say that some bodies were buried and that others were taken on mules to Jacobsdale, where the English wounded were also taken."

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trenches for more than half a mile on each side of the Southern garrison. The military officers have expressed admiration of the skill displayed by the Boers. The latter had marked their artillery ranges with cairns and wooden crosses, which enabled them to use their guns to the best advantage.

The Argyll regiment suffered severely while making a bayonet charge and while waiting at the drift or ford across the river for support.

The Coldstream Guards, early in the day charged the front of the rectangle under a heavy Boer fire from the eastward of the drift.

Nordenfolds guns on the northern side of the British until the latter's artillery got the range, when they soon silenced them. It is reported that after the Boers were driven from their position General Lord Methuen, said: "Now I have got them out I am satisfied."

The second hill that the Boers fired hit Lieut. Col. Stopford, of the Coldstream Guards, in the neck, killing him. His funeral, which took place at noon on the day after the fight, was very impressive. There were very many wreaths of flowers placed on his grave, the flowers being gathered from the gardens in the neighborhood. Major Short, Winchester, who succeeds Lieut. Col. Stopford, was the chief mourner.

Col. Northcott, a member of the Gen. Methuen's staff, was wounded in the spleen, and died in a short time.

Cape Town, Dec. 4.—Despatches received here from Modder River, under date of Nov. 30, are to the effect that the British are in full possession of the town. Gen. Methuen congratulated his troops on what he declares was one of the hardest won victories in the war annals. The effect of the English artillery on the Boer entrenchments was very impressive. Buildings that were close to the centre of the positions are a mass of ruins. The enemy's loss was heavy. A large number of dead were seen lying in the trenches near the railway bridge. Only two spans of the bridge were destroyed and they are being repaired.

The Boer retreat began at three o'clock, when the river was forded by the Guards on the right and the Argylls on the left. The Free State commands were routed and fled.

SEARCHED A GERMAN STEAMER.

Las Palmas, Canary Islands, Dec. 5.—The English cruiser Captain Arcturion has been closely watching the German steamer Ella Woreman, which sailed from Hamburg Nov. 18th, for the last few days. On the 29th the steamer was searched by the British authorities. The search revealed a quantity of arms and ammunition.

WHEN THE CANADIANS LEFT THE CAPE.

London, Dec. 5.—A delayed despatch from the Cape received today describes the departure of the Canadian contingent of troops for the front. The streets were lined the principal thoroughfares. General Milner had the Canadians farewell at the railway station. All the officers individually were presented to the governor, who was heartily cheered by the Canadian soldiers. They also sang the national anthem.

The whole of our line was now about 600 yards from the south bank of the river and taking advantage of the little cover procurable. The infantry lay hove returning the Boer fire.

Still not one of the enemy could be seen. It was at the most haphazard firing. Several rushes were made for the river, but they were repulsed. A company of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders succeeded in getting across, but lost heavily and had to fall back to the south bank.

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force by mounted troops under Major Scott-Turner, at dawn in the direction of a ridge near Carter's Farm, where the Boers were strongly entrenched. Finding the Boer pickets asleep, Major Turner proceeded along the ridge until he had reached the Boer redoubts at 5.25 a. m., in the face of a hail of bullets.

The Boers hoisted a white flag and fired at the British under its protection before surrendering. Owing possibly to the exhaustion of their ammunition, the British were unable to follow up the attack and seize a large Boer laager, about 300 yards ahead, especially as Boer reinforcements were still approaching and the enemy was keeping up a heavy fire from the shelters of thick bush.

During the sortie an armored train re-commenced north and south, while a considerable force of British with field guns and Maxim advanced toward Spytfontein, holding the Boers in check in that direction.

Ten guns were engaged simultaneously and viewed from the conning tower an artillery duel seemed proceeding in every direction except toward Kestell's, the fusillade being terrible at 8 o'clock.

Having no force sufficient to hold the position he had stormed, Major Turner began gradually retiring his men. He had a horse shot under him, and a bullet went through the fleshy part of his shoulder. Several men had terrible wounds. It is alleged that the Boers used Maxim and explosive bullets, and that they frequently fired at the British ambulance wagons. The British captured 28 of the enemy.

There appears to be some doubt as to whether this was the reconnaissance in which, according to the announcement of the Boer command, Major Turner was killed or whether that officer met his fate in a subsequent sortie.

It is reported from Cape Town that the Transvaal Boers have refused to acknowledge the right of the United States to interfere regarding prisoners in Pretoria, insisting that Great Britain must acquire them through Commandant General Joubert.

LADYSMITH WELL SUPPLIED.

London, Dec. 6.—A despatch from Ladysmith, dated Monday, November 27, says: "The garrison is well supplied with food, water and ammunition."

THE FIRST WOUNDED ARE HOME.

London, Dec. 6.—The first batch of wounded soldiers from South Africa, numbering 133 men, arrived in England today. They were taken aboard the British transport Sumatra, which left Table Bay about November 15.

GATACRE STIRRING UP THE BOERS.

Queenstown, Cape Colony, Saturday, Dec. 3.—The Boers have been very active in the country around Stormberg Junction, which General Gatacre will make his next move.

The telegraph lines have been cut in various places and communication with Steynsburg, Dordrecht and Maraisburg has been severed. It is believed here that the Boers have occupied Steynsburg. Firing has been heard in the direction of Stormberg, probably between Gen. Gatacre's vanguard and the Boer commando.

LADYSMITH UNDER FIRE.

Ladysmith, Dec. 2.—The hottest bombardment of the siege took place last Thursday. The Boers got a new, big gun in position on Lombard's Kop, completely commanding the town and shelling our camp that day and yesterday, planting shells with great accuracy in the camp of the Gordon Highlanders and the Manchester Regiment, where there were many narrow escapes. Today the Boers resumed the bombardment, doing some very effective shooting. Several of our guns have been shattered by the Boer big gun.

MORE MULES ARE NEEDED.

New Orleans, La., Dec. 5.—The British officers stationed here have received from the War Office an order to purchase 1,000 more American mules for the use of the British army in South Africa. The purchase will be made in Missouri. It is explained as meaning the sending out from England of three additional divisions of 10,000 men each.

OUR ABSENT-MINDED BEGGARS.

Toronto, Dec. 6.—The Telegraph's special cable from London says the committee of the Patriotic Fund has decided colonial as well as British troops, now engaged in the African war, have equal claim to aid for their widows and orphans.

PRESENTED TO THE QUEEN.

London, Dec. 6.—Mrs. Ronalds and Mrs. Elow, of the American Ladies Hospital Ship committee, were presented to the queen yesterday by Lady Randolph Churchill.

ORANGE STATERES GOING HOME.

London, Dec. 7.—A despatch from Free Camp dated Dec. 5th, says: "The Boers are firing into Ladysmith. It is rumored that six thousand Free State Boers have left Ladysmith entering the gravest fears as to the safety of their own country."

DESPATCH TO THE NEW YORK SUN

Modder River, via Orange River, Nov. 30, 5.50 p. m.—(Delayed in transmission)—The development of Tuesday's fight was from the British right and left, the Boers firing from the extreme right near Bosman's drift. At 6 o'clock in the morning the Boers tried to cross higher up the river, but the current was too strong and they soon developed a Boer ambush even further up the river. Firing between the two parties continued till about 9.30. It was terrific around Modder Drift, where a hundred yards to the right of the bridge there was an incessant rattle of musketry.

Further to the left a navy gun from the track line kept dropping shells on the bank of the river. Few of the Boer shells exploded. They only threw up clouds of clay and dust, whereas the white puffs of the British shells bursting over the trees continued far into the afternoon. Meanwhile the infantry fearlessly went forward fifty yards at a time, first volleying and then lying flat on their faces on the plain while the Mauser bullets whistled over their heads. Again they charged, volleyed and then rested, continuing this till they were face to face with the enemy, when they opened bayonets for the trenches. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (The Princess Louise's Own) were the first across on the right of the drift, with the Northumberlanders almost abreast of them in the center of the drift. The Boers were then ejected from their stronghold. The Coldstream Guards charged the trenches on the right amid a hail of Mauser bullets.

They fell back, but charged again, the latter with fixed bayonets and found the Boers in the meantime had run away, leaving only their dead behind them.

Today they found trenches glittering with Mauser cartridges.

Col. Paget needed four remounts during the fighting. Today continuous mule transportation of supplies is going forward. The British took advantage of the rest and went bathing in the river. The hotel keepers and loyalists on the north side of the river have been allowed to return to their homes. They say the Boers retreated in carts and withdrew many of their dead. The bulk of the army was under command of Gen. Gromie. A thunderstorm is prevailing tonight.

London, Dec. 5.—The Chronicle prints the following in its second edition: "The Boers have been very active in the country around Stormberg Junction, which General Gatacre will make his next move."

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THE KIMBERLEY SORTIES.

London, Dec. 8.—A special despatch from Kimberley, dated Wednesday, Nov. 29, says: "As a result of signals from the relief force to the south and of certain movements on the part of the Boers, Colonel Kekewich determined to make a sortie with a view of keeping a large force of Boers employed here."

"Yesterday afternoon a portion of the garrison with artillery under Major Chamier, and mounted troops under Major Scott-Turner, advanced southward toward Carter's Farm, which completed the line it was intended to hold in view of Lord Methuen's early approach."

"Major Scott-Turner then turned his attention to the Boer laager which he captured in fine style in spite of the enemy's heavy fire. All the camp equipment was captured or destroyed. Finally the British stormed the ridge and captured three redoubts after severe fighting."

"In leading the men who were storming the fourth redoubt Major Scott-Turner and Lieutenant Wright were killed. It is alleged that they were struck by explosive bullets. The death of Major Scott-Turner compelled the British to retire upon Carter's farm, the whole affair having lasted four hours."

FROM KIMBERLEY.

Kimberley, Monday, Dec. 4, via Modder River.—Everything has been quiet here during the last three days. The theatre and the concert have been fitted up as hospitals. A number of our cattle have been captured by the enemy.

KIMBERLEY COMFORTABLE.

Modder River, Monday, Dec. 4.—A searchlight message from Colonel Kekewich, at Kimberley, says the town is provisioned for 40 days with forage for 30 days, and has a plentiful water supply.

JULIAN RALPH ON MODDER RIVER.

London, Dec. 8.—The Daily Mail publishes a despatch from Mr. Julian Ralph at Modder River, who says: "On the night of the battle at Modder River, Kimberley, missing the accustomed signals from here was a great success, feeling that we had been defeated. The fact was that we did not use our searchlight, for fear the Boers would break the apparatus. Five hundred and thirty were killed or wounded in the battle here. That number has already been accounted for and the enemy's losses were probably much heavier."

MEDICAL AID FOR THE BOERS.

London, Dec. 8.—The Berlin correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "The German steamer Romag has just arrived at Lourenco Marques, with the German and Dutch Red Cross contingents. She has also thirteen German, two French and one Swedish officer who are going to join the Boers."

LETTERS FROM THE BOERS.

Ottawa, Dec. 7.—Letters are published here tonight, from parties on board the Sardinian, mailed at the Cape Verde Islands. The only incident of importance referred to up to mid-night, was the death of Deslauriers, of Ottawa. The others were in good health and spirits.

STUDY FARMING

As people study other callings and you will succeed. The cheapest and best text book to use is a progressive agricultural paper; not one that tells you what an ORIO or an ONTARIO Farmer should do to make money, but one that tells what MARITIME farmers should do and are doing to make the farm pay. The CO-OPERATIVE FARMER fills the bill. Enlarged to 20 pages, with a neat colored cover. Issued twice a week, \$1.00 a year. Special rates to clubs. Free sample copies on application.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMER, Sussex, - - - New Brunswick.

smith, if not effectually put an end to the attempt on the part of the Boers."

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FREE COMBINATION OFFER. NO MONEY WANTED. In order to introduce our wonderful Free... We are giving away Watson's Chain, Sings, Brass etc. Automobile, 17 Bikes, Jack Knives, Postcards, Pens, Cameras, Chains, Clocks, Rugs, Beds, and numerous other beautiful presents.