STEADILY ADVANCING!

The Welcome Sound of the Guns of the Relief Column Heard at Ladysmith.

Sir Charles Warren and Lord Dundonald Are Moving Cautiously Forward, Hourly Expecting Battle.

George W. Steevens the Well-known War Correspondent Died of Fever in Ladysmith—Buller's Wagon Train is Nineteen Miles Long.

AT MOUNT ALICE

SPEARMAN'S CAMP, Jan. 18, 6.40 p. m.—From the position seized by the British at Mount Alice there is a magnificent panorama of the Tugela River, which winds in four immense bends, forming a narrow peninsula. Potgieter's Drift, where the water is now only waist deep, is just below the centre. The loop of land opposite is commanded at its narrowest point by three small kopjes, one of which is called One Tree Hill. Gen. Lyttleton's brigade and the artillery hold this. Beyond this and 7,800 yards from Mount Alice there is a higher kopje held by the Boers, which is covered with trenches. There are apparently two guns in emplacements on the top of the hill. On the British left there is a very high hill, with the river running at its foot. This is also held by the Boers. The British hold Swartz Kop, on the right. Gen. Warren is on the left, retaining his position. There is only a desultory fire from the naval guns and a howitzer. Not a single shot has been drawn from the enemy. Gen. Warren and Gen. Lyttleton bivouacked north of the Tugela last night, and arrived at Mount Alice at dawn this morning. They found a captive balloon above One Tree Hill. Your correspondent noticed in the far distance evidences of shell explosions. These shells had probably been fired from Ladysmith. It was necessary to use glasses to see the effect of the damage done by the shells. The firing of big guns was heard in the same direction. Ladysmith is not visible from Mount Alice, that town being situated on low ground. Heliograph communication with the town is had by means of a heliograph at Caesar's Camp, which is on a high hill two miles southwest of Ladysmith. There is plenty of food in the town. Signalling Officer Cayzer returned to headquarters at Weenan last night. He has kept communication open between Ladysmith and Frere for nearly seven weeks. His post has been a very lonely one. It was on a very high and rocky mountain, and there was no water within miles. The iron ore in the mountain attracted the lightning, and one night a bolt struck the fire around which he and his men were sitting, scattering ashes and giving an electric shock to the men. The signallers performed most valuable work under great privations, and while constantly in danger of attack. Over 41,000 words were transmitted by them. The weather is good now and the rivers are much lower. The roads are also in better condition. Every one is anxious to engage the enemy, and strong hopes are entertained of a decisive victory, that will result in the relief of Ladysmith.

STEADILY ADVANCING.

LONDON, Jan. 20.—The Standard publishes the following, dated Thursday, from Spearman's Farm:

"It is reported that the Boers opposite Colenso, on finding that Gen. Buller had outmanoeuvred them, crossed to the south of the Tugela on Monday and set fire to all the houses in the village.

"As the force from Chieveley advanced, the Boers retired before them to trenches on a hill in line with Colenso. Our infantry advanced to the attack in skirmishing order, followed by supports and reserves, our cavalry scouting on the right, close up to the river. The Boer forces at Colenso must have been considerably weakened by the despatch of large reinforcements westward to meet Gen. Buller's advance; and they now hurriedly evacuated the river trenches and the kopjes opposite the village, and scattered before our shrapnel. By evening none of the enemy was left within rifle shot of Colenso. The British force then retired to Chieveley."

A despatch to the Daily Telegraph, dated Thursday, from Spearman's Camp, describes the difficulties of the march owing to the unwieldy baggage column, including all the tents and sheep, over bad roads, in wet weather. The correspondent says:

"Some ten thousand Boers arrived in the vicinity of Potgieter's Drift on Thursday and Friday of last week, and began the erection of extensive and formidable lines of trenches, for their position apparently could only be turned from the west by assailing the high ridges of Sproen Kop.

"A balloonist today reported that no guns were visible in the enemy's works, but that there was a large Boer camp in the direction of Brakfontein, a brown ridge four miles from Potgieter's Drift.

"Boers arrived in large numbers today from Colenso and Ladysmith. They have certainly run branches of the railway from Modder Spruit around Mount Bulawaya. Nearly all the Boers have gone to attempt to check Gen. Warren's advance, but he made no sign today."

A despatch to the Daily Telegraph from Spearman's Farm, or Camp, as the correspondents now describe it, dealing with Lord Dundonald's movement to the west of Gen. Warren's force, already cabled, says:

"His success gives us control of an easy entrance to Ladysmith. Our guns continue to bombard the Boer lines, the Boers replying but feebly. Gen. Warren is advancing steadily."

THE BOER ACCOUNT.

LONDON, Jan. 20.—The Boer accounts of the passage of the Tugela river are given in the following two despatches from Commandant Viljoen's camp, on the Upper Tugela, via Lourenzo Marques, Jan. 18:

"Jan. 16—Buller's second move was a reconnaissance in force with an armored train and a large body, supported by cannon, toward Colenso last night. A heavy bombardment ensued, and thereupon the British returned, having wounded one of our men.

"No reply was made. This move was a feint to cover extensive movements up the river. Kaffirs on this side of the Tugela have been warned by the British to leave their kraals, as the fight will commence shortly."

The second despatch runs thus:

"Jan. 17—The night was unbroken, save for slight rifle encounters between outposts, which led to nothing. At daybreak the enemy was located as before. He had not brought a single gun across the river. But from the ridges of Swartz Kop a battery and a half of siege guns opened on our positions at 5 a. m.

"The bombardment was probably the most frightful ever witnessed on land. Frequently five heavy naval guns fired simultaneously at one entrenchment."

THE LONDON VIEW.

LONDON, Jan. 20, 4.30 a. m.—Every hour that Gen. Buller delays his combined attack makes his position stronger. Transports continue to arrive at Durban, and fresh troops are being sent up the line to reinforce those in front of Colenso. It appears that Gen. Buller's troops north of the Tugela number at least 22,000, and possibly 25,000, with 50 guns. His total forces, forming a great outer curve south and west of Ladysmith, probably number forty thousand.

While Gen. Buller's forward operations, which began on Jan. 10, develop rather leisurely, the Boers appear to be fully aware that they must meet a strenuous assault. Balloon observers have roughly estimated that ten thousand Boers are using spade and pick in artificially strengthening positions which nature has rendered easy of defence.

Military critics in touch with the war office think that news that general fighting has begun may be expected at any hour. It is not thought that one day's fighting will settle the fate of Ladysmith, but rather that there will be two or three days of continuous fighting.

LYTTLETON'S ADVANCE.

SPEARMAN'S CAMP, Natal, Jan. 18, 6.55 p. m.—Gen. Lyttleton's brigade advanced in a widely extended order toward the Boer position opposite Potgieter's Drift today. The naval guns bombarded the trenches, driving a few Boers out. There were no casualties, and the Boer fire was not drawn.

Both the English and Boers were making towards the kopje which was first taken by the Natal Carbineers. Two hundred and twenty Boers came on, not being aware that the position was already held by the British. If the Carbineers had held their fire all the enemy would have been captured. The actual number taken prisoners was 23. Your correspondent crossed the pontoon bridge, and visited Gen. Warren's headquarters. The stream is very rapid. One member of the Devonshire regiment was drowned while helping to place the pontoons. Two mules were also drowned.

PAY FOR EXEMPTION.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—A despatch to the Times from Cape Town states that the British yeomanry will be mixed up with detachments of the local mounted infantry in order to learn appropriate tactics for fighting the Boers. It is stated that Piet Dwet, the ex-Free State Landrost at Dordrecht, has received large sums of money from the Dutch farmers who wished to evade service against the Boers. It is said that one farmer offered £1,000 for such exemption from military service.

GENERAL REVIEW.

LONDON, Jan. 20, 4 a. m.—Lord Dundonald's successful skirmish westward of Acton Homes is the principal feature of Gen. Bullers' advance. It is impossible to say whether the importance attached to it by the Telegraph's correspondent is justified. No other despatch, official or unofficial, claims so much for it. The critics are inclined to regard Gen. Warren's march as the principal movement of the whole operation, but beyond the fact that he is still advancing nothing is allowed to be known, and his route is merely a matter of conjecture. It is transparent indeed that more is omitted from the correspondent's despatches than is sent. Nothing regarding the doings on Jan. 19 has arrived. The few messages despatched on that date refer to previous occurrences. The correspondents report that the Boers have been hurriedly withdrawn from their Colenso and Ladysmith positions to oppose Gen. Buller's advance, and this strengthens the belief in some quarters that the Burghers were almost wholly surprised by the British move. Such a belief, however, needs a great deal of strengthening, and the best informed are content to await events.

Despatches from the other war centres only record reconnaissances. All serious operations are evidently suspended pending the outcome in Natal.

A telegram from Pretoria of date Jan. 17 states without comment that the British crossed the Tugela, and says that a fight is imminent. It adds that Col. Plumer, with three armored trains is at Gaberones, and that it is his evident intention to relieve Mafeking.

FROM SPEARMAN'S CAMP.

SPEARMAN'S CAMP, Jan. 19, 7.25 p. m.—Gen. Warrens' flank movements continued slowly on the British right flank towards Skeit's Drift. Bethune's Horse and the infantry under Williams discovered a small body of the Boers, about thirty men, on the opposite side of the river. They killed three of them and the remainder ran away, leaving their horses. Williams then proceeded, leaving one troop behind him. The Boers returned later to get their horses, when three more of them were killed. A Boer spider carriage, drawn by sixteen galloping mules, was seen arriving in the Boer lines today. It is supposed that it contained Commandant Joubert or a French general. There was very little firing today. It is rumored that Colenso village has been evacuated and burned.

LONDON VOLUNTEERS.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—A special service was held in St. Paul's cathedral this evening, at which 800 city of London volunteers—the second contingent to attend such a service—were present. Lord Mayor Newton and the sheriffs of London, with the Duke of Connaught, were also in attendance.

Despite a drizzling rain the line of march from the barracks was crowded, and the enthusiastic people filled the cathedral and stood cheering outside.

After a service of song, Dr. Mandell Creighton, Lord Bishop of London, addressed the troops and congratulated them upon rising above their ordinary selves to do their duty to country and to God, with whom rested the issues of every endeavor.

The volunteers then repaired to Lincoln's and Gray's Inns, where they were banquetted. Tomorrow they take their departure.

WITHIN TWELVE MILES.

LONDON, Jan. 20.—A Durban special, dated Thursday night, says:

"It is reported here that Lord Dundonald has smashed a Boer convoy.

"Gen. Buller is said to be within twelve miles of Ladysmith and Gen. Warren to be about six miles to the rear"

The Daily Mail publishes the following despatch, dated Thursday, from Spearman's Camp:

"It is rumored that the Boers have evacuated Colenso in order to reinforce the troops here. Heavy firing was heard from Ladysmith this morning.

"Gen. Buller's order instructs the men to heed the white flags of the Boers only when they lay down their arms. It also instructs them to beware of false bugle calls."

G. W. STEEVENS DEAD.

LADYSMITH, Tuesday, Jan. 16 (via Spearman's Camp).—George Warrington Steevens, special correspondent of the London Daily Mail, died yesterday of enteric fever and was buried at midnight.

HOURLY EXPECTED BATTLE.

SPEARMAN'S CAMP, Friday evening, Jan. 19.—Sir Charles Warren and Lord Dundonald are continuing a cautious advance, hourly expecting battle. There has been slight artillery firing here, at Ladysmith and Chieveley.

Natives report that the kopjes are full of Boers.

FIELD CORNET MENTZ.

SPEARMAN'S CAMP, Jan. 19, 1 p. m.—The name of the field cornet of the Heilbron commando who was killed was Mentz. He was acting for Cornet Ell, who is too old to take the field.

WAITING FOR NEWS

MODDER RIVER, Jan. 18.—A message has been received from Kimberley asking for heliograph news daily. The garrison is anxiously awaiting details of the fighting at Ladysmith.

MUSIC TO THEIR EARS

LADYSMITH, Wednesday, Jan. 17, via Spearman's Camp, Jan. 19.—Everything is quiet. The position is unchanged, and there is very little bombarding.

The welcome sound of the guns of the relief column was heard yesterday from Colenso and Springfield

The heat is intense, but there is no increase of sickness.

BULLER'S WAGON TRAIN.

LONDON, Jan. 20.—The Times has the following despatch, dated Thursday, from Pietermaritzburg:

"General Buller's wagon train is nineteen miles in length and embraces 400 wagons and 5,000 animals. As some of the drifts are narrow and muddy, only one wagon is able to cross at a time. The officers are betting two to one that Ladysmith will be relieved tomorrow."

QUARTERED ON SHORE

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 19.—The Boer prisoners on the Catalonia will shortly be placed in quarters ashore. The colonial government is inviting applications for treasury bills to the amount of £600,000. This is doubtless owing to the deficiency in the revenue caused by the war.

SICKNESS AT LADYSMITH

PIETERMARITZBURG, Jan. 18.—A heliographic message from Gen. White at Ladysmith reports 20 deaths from fever in the camp from Jan. 15 to Jan. 17. He also reports that two men were wounded on Jan. 16 and two more on Jan. 17.

ANOTHER SEIZURE

LOURENZO MARQUEZ, Thursday, Jan. 18.—The German bark Marie, from Australia, with a cargo of flour for the Transvaal government, has been taken as a prize by the British third class cruiser Pelorus, near the Island of Inyak, Delagoa bay, and the been sent to Durban with a prize crew on board.

SECOND CONTINGENT.

AT OTTAWA.

OTTAWA, Jan. 19.—The capital gave a grand reception to the mounted police and cowboys today. They arrived between ten and twelve o'clock on two special trains. Headed by the Guards' band they proceeded to Parliament hill, where they were greeted by ten thousand cheering spectators. Their excellencies arrived on the grounds shortly after one o'clock, and Lady Minto presented to the regiment guideons emblazoned with the Elliot motto, "Wha daur meddle wi' me." Lady Minto said she knew she was giving the guideons to safe keeping. We all thoroughly appreciate, she remarked, the splendid way Canadians have shown their eagerness to fight for Queen and mother country, and you may be sure that the fortunes of every one will be followed by us with the keenest interest. I pray that victory may attend your arms, and I wish you God-speed and a safe and happy return.

Col. Herchmer briefly thanked her excellency and said the men under him could be counted upon to do their duty.

Lord Minto, having inspected the regiment, complimented them on the material of which it is composed. Without undue flattery he thought he might say that they were peculiarly well suited to take a usual part in a war against gallant irregular troops in which the experiences of a rough out of door life, the quick eye of a sportsman and the habit of understanding the natural outline of wild country, will stand you in far greater stead than the somewhat theoretical training of an ordinary soldier. He hoped as scouts of the army they would always be in the front. They had tried leaders, and he felt sure when they came back they would have earned further laurels for the scouts and rough riders of the territories.

Col. Herchmer then called for three cheers for the Queen and their excellencies, which were heartily given. The men were granted leave for the remainder of the afternoon, and left for Halifax shortly after 6 o'clock. The premier was present at the review, but did not speak.

There is likely to be a hitch in connection with the acceptance of offers by shoeing smiths, saddlers and wheelwrights to proceed to South Africa. Many applications have been received at the department, but it appears that they will be only paid at the imperial rate of wages, which it is understood is considerably lower than that received by this class of workmen in Canada. The department has cabled to the home authorities for information as to the pay which will be granted.

It is reported tonight that Col. Steele will be given command of Strathcona's Horse.

The Milwaukee has been ordered not to take water at New Orleans, in order to obviate the possibility of disease.

Chief Inspector McEachren has been requested by Lord Strathcona to purchase the horses for his contingent.

AT HALIFAX.

HALIFAX, N. S., Jan. 19.—One of the grandest patriotic demonstrations this city ever saw came off at the armories tonight in the honor of the second Canadian contingent. It was a welcome on behalf of the citizens of Halifax to the soldiers, and was attended by between 6,000 and 7,000 men and women. Speeches were made by Mayor Hamilton, Gen. Seymour, Gov. Daly, Hon. Dr. Borden, Hon. W. S. Fielding and others. Gen. Hutton was among the guests. Squads of the contingent representing various localities enlivened the brilliant proceedings with their town yells. The decorations were on a most elaborate and magnificent scale. Inspection will take place at 10.30 o'clock in the morning, and the Laurentian is under orders to sail at two o'clock in the afternoon with Batteries D and E.

There is some friction between the city and the military regarding the admission of the public to the dock yard to see the transport Laurentian off. Admiral Bedford granted permission to use the dock yard if the military would agree to preserve order. This responsibility the military refused to assume, and accordingly the dock yard officials will not open the gates to any except those who hold passes, the number having been limited to some six hundred. Were the gates thrown open, twenty thousand people would enter, and the place is fully ample to accommodate them all. Mayor Hamilton received a number of passes for himself and aldermen. Mr. Hamilton today returned these tickets, refusing them on behalf of himself and the corporation. He said that citizens in general having been refused admission, there was nothing for him to do but decline. There were fears that Gen. Seymour would have been hissed at tonight's grand concert for the contingent at the armories, but the affair passed off without any such hostile demonstration.

The Empire Tobacco Co. today presented to the second Canadian contingent 75 caddies of assorted tobacco, the aggregate gift amounting to about one ton. The presentation was made through A. W. Mackenzie, who has charge in the maritime provinces.

ONE ON EACH STEAMER.

HALIFAX, Jan. 19.—The three chaplains of the second Canadian contingent will not all sail on one transport as reported, but one will go on each. This information I obtained from Hon. Mr. Borden, who said: "The statement that the three chaplains will all go by one of the transports is a mistake. Rev. W. J. Cox, the Church of England chaplain, will sail by the Laurentian on Saturday afternoon. Rev. Father Sinnett, the Roman Catholic chaplain, will sail by the Pomeranian, and Rev. W. G. Lane, the Methodist, will sail by the Milwaukee." Rev. Mr. Cox afterwards informed your correspondent that he had received his orders at five o'clock this afternoon to sail by the Laurentian.

WHAT FREDERICTON IS DOING.

FREDERICTON, Jan. 19.—A special meeting of the city council tonight was called by Mayor Beckwith to consider the question of placing insurance on the lives of the Fredericton men who have volunteered for the Transvaal. All the members of the council were present, having previously met in committee. The mayor opened the meeting by stating its object, and had scarcely resumed his seat when Alderman Clark arose, and after a short speech moved that the council vote $500 to the Transvaal contingent fund. The motion was immediately seconded by Alderman Farrell, and carried by a unanimous vote, there being not a dissenting voice. A further resolution was passed, expressing the willingness of the council to double the amount if necessary. The question of insurance was then taken up, and a committee appointed to enquire into cost, terms of various companies, etc.

John Palmer, the well known tanner of this city, wired the minister of militia at Halifax this morning, offering to supply free of charge a pair of his Moosehead brand of moccasins to each New Brunswick man on the second contingent. At noon he received the following message from Halifax: "Your kind offer accepted. Send assorted sizes, majority sevens and nines."

Mr. Palmer learned from a gentleman who had been in South Africa, that the Canadian oil tanned moccasins were the most suitable for wear for campaigning in that country. The goods will be shipped to Halifax at once.

ENGLAND AND GERMANY.

An Amicable Settlement of the Dispute Over the Recent Seizure

BERLIN, Jan. 19.—In the Reichstag today the debate on Herr Moeller's joint interpellation from the government regarding the seizure of German steamers by British warships was opened. The minister of foreign affairs, Count Von Buelow, declared that Herr Moeller, in his introductory remarks, had justly pointed out the feeling of annoyance which the seizure of German steamers by British war vessels had aroused throughout Germany, and continued: I would like an agreement with the other governments concerned to establish the following rules:

Firstly, neutral merchant vessels on the high seas or in the territorial waters of belligerents shall, apart from the right of convoy, which is not raised in the present case, be subject to the right of search by the warships of belligerents. This applies, without doubt, in waters not too remote from the scene of war. As regards mail steamers, no special agreement exists.

Secondly, The right of search shall be exercised with as much leniency as possible. The mode of procedure may be divided according to circumstances and individual cases into two or three heads, namely, stopping ships, examining papers and searching ships. The first two courses may be resorted to any time without hesitation. Should there then be grounds for suspicion search becomes permissible.

Thirdly, should a neutral ship, when requested to stop, refuse to do so, or on examination of her papers, disclose irregularities, or should the presence of contraband be established, a neutral may be seized and delivered to a competent prize court.

Fourthly, The term contraband shall include only goods or persons suitable for use in war and intended for one of the belligerents. What kind of goods come under this heading is a matter for discussion and can only be settled, except in the case of munitions of war, by a consideration of all the circumstances of the particular case, unless a belligerent has expressly notified neutrals of the articles it intends to treat as contraband without the opposition of such neutrals.

Fifthly, Any contraband discovered to be liable to confiscation, whether with or without compensation, depends on the particular conditions.

Sixthly, If the arrest of a ship is unjustified the belligerent shall be bound to release both the ship and cargo without delay and pay full indemnity for the damage and injury sustained.

Count Von Buelow proceeded:

"In the present position of practical international law no protest can be sustained against the arrest of three German steamers, either on the high seas or at Aden, nor against the examination of the papers. On the other hand, the conveying of the Bundesrath and Herzog to Durban without adequately founded suspicion and the discharge of the cargo and of the Bundesrath and General, do not appear to have been justified by international law.

"We endeavored at the beginning to induce the British government to adopt in reference to neutral ships bound for Delagoa Bay that theory of international law which promised the greatest security for the trade of neutrals during the war. Great Britain objected to this theory, which holds that goods on a neutral vessel consigned from a neutral port to a neutral port are never contraband. We left the matter open for future discussion because it was important to us to practically settle the existing points of difference and because the theory is not yet universally recognized.

"We do not misapprehend the duties which a state of war imposes on neutral ship owners and merchants. But we ask that belligerents shall not extend their powers beyond the limits of absolute necessity, and that they shall respect the inalienable rights and legitimate trade of neutrals, and, above all, that they shall exercise the right of search and the ultimate capture of neutral vessels and goods in such a way as to meet the necessity for the maintenance of neutral trade, and the formal relations between friendly civilized peoples.

"Taking up this standpoint, we forthwith lodged a strong protest in London against the proceedings of the British naval officers. We demanded:

"Firstly, The immediate release of the Bundesrath, Herzog and General. The latter two were immediately released on our request and the Bundesrath was released yesterday.

"Secondly, Compensation for the unjustified detention and losses therefrom.

"The duty of compensation has been admitted in principle and Great Britain has declared her readiness to give all legitimate satisfaction.

"Thirdly, We laid stress on the necessity of instructing the British naval officers not to molest German vessels outside of the vicinity of the seat of war, especially from Aden northwards, and Great Britain has given instructions through which the stoppage of vessels and the search of vessels will not be exercised at Aden or a similar distance from the seat of war.

"Fourthly, We pointed out the high desirability of not stopping German mail steamers and Great Britain issued instructions that such vessels shall not be stopped or searched on mere suspicion. These instructions remain in force until other arrangements are reached.

"Fifthly, We have proposed that all contentions and questions not otherwise settled shall be submitted to an arbitration tribunal to be promptly summoned. Great Britain expressed the hope that arbitrators would not be required, but declared her willingness for arbitration in order to assess the claims for damages.

"Finally, The British government has expressed its regrets for the incidents which have occurred."

This last statement caused loud cheering in the house.

The foreign minister then said:

"We, therefore, permit ourselves to expect that such regrettable incidents will not be repeated. We hope the British naval officers will not again act in an unfriendly manner towards our ships."

The German empire has so often shown itself so far removed from aggressiveness that it is entitled to the most considerate treatment from all other states.

Count Von Buelow, in conclusion, said Germany would maintain friendly relations with Great Britain, but the government hoped that such incidents would not occur, making it impossible for the good relations to continue.

LOCAL WAR NOTES.

The ladies of the artillery, members of the Soldiers' Wives' League, gratefully acknowledge the following donations to the boxes sent the artillerymen who sail today on the second contingent for South Africa: S. E. Barbour, 2 barrels apples; Goodwin & Co., 1 barrel apples; Joseph Finley, 2 boxes raisins and figs; Dearborn & Co., 1 box prunes; tobacco, pipes and cigarettes from Louis Green, W. A. Stewart, S. J. Richey, Jones & Schofield, Philps & Co., and Harris Allan.

James Grecia, who it is said, was brought up before the court martial for stealing a revolver from a member of G company Canadian contingent in South Africa, came to this city two or three years ago from the West Indies. He was employed for some time in the north end and always bore a good reputation. He joined Company G of the first contingent, but was afterwards transferred to Company F.

The Commercial Travellers' Association has handed $225 to the Company H fund and the same amount to the St. John company fund. The travellers gave up their annual festivities and made a collection among their own members in aid of the two funds with the grand result above stated.

OSMAN DIGNA CAPTURED.

CAIRO, Jan. 19.—News was received here tonight that Osman Digna, principal general of the late Khalifa Abdullah, has been captured.

It had been known that he was in the neighborhood of Tokah (Tokar?) six days ago, and several expeditions were organized from Suakim, under Captain Burgess, with the result that Osman Digna was taken unhurt in the hills yesterday. He will arrive at Suakim tomorrow.

UNFRIENDLY COURSE.

LONDON, Jan. 20.—The Chronicle regards as of serious importance Washington information that congress is determined to pass the Nicarguan canal bill in a form that is directly at variance with the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. It says it hesitates to believe that the United States will commit themselves to a course which Great Britain will be compelled to regard as unfriendly and which will involve a cynical disregard of treaty obligations.

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