

BOER ATTACKS FAIL AGAIN.

A Hundred Men Repulse a Thousand Boers.

STRUGGLE AT KAALFONTEIN

DeWet Flogs Three Peace Messengers and Shoots One of Them—British Press on the Act—Kitchener's Plan Working All Right.

Pretoria, Jan. 13.—A commando, a thousand strong, attacked Kaalfontein at 7 o'clock yesterday morning. The garrison, numbering 115 men, mostly Cheshire Mounted Infantry, made a plucky and scientific defence. Lieut. William Freeman was in command. The British sustained a six hours' bombardment from two guns and a Maxim and a Maxim rapid-fire gun, and repulsed a determined onslaught by the Boer riflemen without sustaining a casualty. The Boers lost heavily. They crept in the long grass to within forty yards of the British trenches, but were driven back by the accurate and heavy rifle fire of the defenders. Numbers of the Boers were seen to fall, and they were carried to a farm house later. After the attack was repulsed Gen. Knox, with the Second Cavalry, arrived in time to head the Boers off from the southeast, in which direction they were retreating, and he drove them to the northeast towards Tyrgpoort, where they may fall into the hands of a British mounted infantry force. Early this morning 400 Boers attacked Kaalfontein, but they were driven off, and joined those attacking Kaalfontein. Col. Rochford arrived at Kaalfontein with an armored train from Pretoria, in time to see the Boers in full retreat. To-day three traction engines brought in loads of Boer women and children from the Rustenburg district. Later details of the Belfast fight show that 700 Boers rushed the position defended by sixty of the Royal Irish Regiment. The latter fought with their bayonets until only 20 of the men were left alive. Eventually the Boers were driven from their positions by the British main garrison, the Gordon Highlanders, and others. Kitchener reports more skirmishes at Kaalfontein.



LIEUT. E. W. MORRISON.

London, Jan. 13.—The Morning Post says it understands that the scheme of raising a colonial police force under Gen. Baden-Powell has been temporarily abandoned. It says that the War Office intends to ask for the further enlistment of Yeomanry. This, if true, seems to imply that the Government does not see any prospect of a situation arising in which police could be suitably employed. In other words, it points to an indefinite prolongation of the war. The first announcement that 12,000 police would be enrolled was made at Pretoria at the beginning of October, and that the recruiting would be confined to South Africa. A supplementary announcement, made in London on Nov. 13th, invited 1,000 recruits in the United Kingdom, and this number was enlarged to 5,000 on Dec. 16, with a proposal to raise 1,000 in Canada.

Shot Peace Messenger. London, Jan. 13.—Gen. Kitchener reports that three agents of the Peace Committee were captured by fighting burghers and taken to Gen. De Wet's laager, near Lindley. One of the captives, a British subject, was flogged and shot, and the other two, who were Boers, were flogged by Gen. De Wet's orders.

Murder and the Pillory. London, Jan. 14.—The newspapers here are very indignant at Gen. De Wet's treatment of the peace agents, as described in Gen. Kitchener's despatch. The most moderate condemn it as an atrocity which stains Gen. De Wet's high reputation. They point out that if he believed he was justified in shooting the Englishman for tampering with his troops, he was not justified in torturing him by flogging, first. Other papers, one of which has the caption "Murder and the pillory as an answer to British attempts at conciliation," declare that Gen. De Wet has placed himself outside the pale of humanity. The Morning Post says: "This marks the point where the guerilla phase ends and the bandit phase begins." All the papers appeal strongly to the Government to hurry forward reinforcements, since it is evident that the Boer leaders have now be-

come desperate and conciliation is quite useless. The Pretoria correspondent of the Daily Mail announces the return to Pretoria of Mr. Erasmus, a former President of the late South African Republic, from a futile endeavor to persuade the Boer leaders to surrender.

To Clear the Colony. Cape Town, Jan. 13.—A portion of the town guard, numbering nearly 4,000 men, was inspected yesterday by Col. Cooper, the base commandant, who expressed great satisfaction with the appearance of the men. A flying column is being formed in the districts between the eastern and western lines of railway. This column will be commanded by Col. Goringe, and will be employed in aiding the regular forces in clearing the colony of invaders.

It is rumored that a Cape carb corps is in process of formation. Each section will consist of seven carts, each of which will carry a driver, three men, food and ammunition. Every section will be provided with Maxim guns and pom-poms.

Split in DeWet's Force. Cape Town, Jan. 13.—British scouts report that there are no Boers about Kimberley, and that the railroad line to the northward is clear. A message from Masera, on the border of Basutoland, reports that a split has occurred in Gen. De Wet's force, several of the subordinate commandants having decided to pursue independent hostilities. They are said to be tired of De Wet's policy of constantly moving.

Approved by Dutch. Cape Town, Jan. 13.—General Brabant has requested the Mayors of peninsular municipalities to meet him and discuss the best means for assisting him in recruiting the colonial defence force. The Dutch farmers of the Hermon and Worcester districts have held a meeting, at which they adopted resolutions expressing approval of the peace appeal issued by the burghers at Kromstadt to their brethren in the field. The meeting also passed a resolution condemning the scheme of sending ex-Treasurer Merriman and ex-Commissioner of Public Works Sauer to England for the purpose of telling the people of Great Britain what the situation is in South Africa.

Canadians Fought Well. London, Jan. 13.—A special despatch from Pretoria dated Jan. 11th, and describing the fight of Jan. 9th near Commando Nek, dwells upon the excellent work of Howard's Scouts, a new corps composed of Canadians who remained in South Africa and re-enlisted. These scouts chased the retreating Boers a distance of five miles, harassing their rear and taking some prisoners. One of Delarey's horses, with wallets containing the commandant's papers strapped to its back, and five hundred cattle were also captured.

Col. Steele Has Entered. Ottawa, Jan. 13.—Col. Steele, the popular commander of Strathecona's Horse, is down with an attack of enteric fever, but fortunately of a mild type. Col. Gordon is in command of the regiment.

Colonial Police Not to be Formed. London, Jan. 14.—The Morning Post says it understands that the scheme of raising a colonial police force under Gen. Baden-Powell has been temporarily abandoned. It says that the War Office intends to ask for the further enlistment of Yeomanry. This, if true, seems to imply that the Government does not see any prospect of a situation arising in which police could be suitably employed.

Captured a Patrol. London, Jan. 14.—The details of the attacks upon Kaalfontein and Zuurfontein stations show that there were only small garrisons of about 120 men at each station. The British had excellent trenches, which enabled them to withstand the attacks until the Boers, having ascertained that reinforcements were coming to the garrisons, retired.

Kitchener's Firm Grip. London, Jan. 13.—The meagre despatches received from South Africa show that the Lindley affair was confined to Lord Roberts' body guard, and tend to strengthen the conclusion that the current feeling of alarm is not well founded. The strategy of the guerillas is not followed easily, but it has apparently failed in two points. The main lines of British communications have not been broken by the series of systematic and well-planned night attacks, and the invasion of Cape Colony has not been followed by a rebellion of the Cape Dutch, whose sympathies are now divided between the Boers and their own pockets. General Kitchener, by establishing laagers where the unarmed Boers can be adequately protected and by concentrating the British forces on the lines of communication after clearing the intervening spaces of horses and cattle, foodstuffs and arms, has forced the commandants to desert their tactics and take the offensive against fortified posts in the Transvaal. He is also releasing his mounted force for continuous service against the Boer laagers and posts. He has not allowed his general plan of campaign to be thrown into disorder by the small parties of raiders moving southward into the disaffected districts of Clan William and Piquetberg, and while the danger of insurrection is not yet averted the loyalists of Cape Colony seem fully prepared to defend themselves against insignificant forces. Gen. Kitchener deserves credit for courage in adhering tenaciously to his own scheme of operations and in allowing the districts in the south to take care of themselves, just as Lord Roberts in advancing to Pretoria was indiffer-

ent to what was going on on his eastern flank. Military men assert that the lines of communication have been shortened, and that many posts have been supplied with provisions for 12 months, and released from dependence upon the railway and convoys. Komati-poort, for example, is no longer connected with posts further west, such as Machadodorp and Belfast, by a line provisioned for a long period, and isolated. Other important posts are garrisoned in a similar way, and the lines of communication are compactly arranged.

The Greylingstad Fight. London, Jan. 13.—Details of the recent fight at Greylingstad are to hand.

A large force of Boers having taken up a position near Greyling's farm, southwest of Greylingstad, Gen. Caville's mobile column advanced against it, and drove the enemy back to an adjoining kopje, taking a large quantity of mail and baggage. The Boers were shelling the hills another and stronger force of the enemy was seen to be moving southward, where our camp had been situated, and where the transport was unimpeded.

The camp was defended by a company and a half of the Rifle Brigade, and the transport moved forward to join the main body, half a company being left behind at the mine. The force opposing Capt. Radclyffe was led by Commandant Trichardt, and was 400 strong. Our small force made a plucky assault. Capt. Radclyffe himself was severely wounded. Some artillery and a company of infantry were sent to his assistance, and after severe fighting the Boers were completely defeated.

Our losses were heavy. Radclyffe's forces lost 8 men killed and 47 wounded and missing, and 11 horses. The Boers lost 1 killed and 16 wounded. An officer who worked a pom-pom under a galling fire was severely wounded, and two of his men were also wounded. Five horses were shot.

The Boers suffered considerably. Their report that they buried 31 natives proved to be a lie.

Medal for Engine Drivers. Cape Town, Jan. 13.—Lord Roberts' latest act, prior to sailing for England, was to sanction the issue of a special medal for all engine drivers engaged on endangered lines throughout South Africa during the war, to himself personally testifying to their heroic services.

The Cape Government has issued a circular notifying this decision, which has caused intense satisfaction among railway men.

THREE GIRLS DROWNED.

Leaped Into Waters of an English River.

LEFT A LETTER ON THE BANK

Nottingham, Eng., Jan. 13.—Three young women, whose lives contained some mystery, either of love or crime, but probably of love alone, put an end to their lives in the River Trent under circumstances that have aroused deep interest. They wrote a note which simply said that they had decided to die together, giving no reason whatever for the decision. Then they jumped into the river, and were found dead in each other's arms, their hair floating and waving on the surface of the water.

The victims of the tragedy were Ethel Mary Dilks, a housemaid, 17 years old; Mary Bickley, a confectioner's assistant, aged 15, and Ada Ethel Mason, a machinist, aged 14. The youngest, Ada Mason, had spoken to her mother of committing suicide some day. They all had tea at home on Thursday night. Mary Bickley called at the house of Mary Dilks, and they went away together. They were joined later by Ada Mason. They proceeded to a solitary spot on the bank of the Trent. With great deliberation they carried out their resolve.

IS HELD FOR BIGAMY.

Elderly Woman of Berlin Takes Extra Spouse.

YOUNG BRIDEGROOM ESCAPES.

Berlin, Oct. 13.—On January 3rd, Mrs. William Powley, of Berlin, a married woman about 50 years of age, and a grandmother, was married by a Methodist minister in Galt to Albert Smith, a lad about 20 years of age, the son of respectable parents here. Mrs. Powley's husband and her sons have been away from Berlin for some time on a circus, and when her first husband heard of her flight, he set the wheels of justice in motion. Mrs. Powley and her youthful partner were seen in Galt on Friday, and during the night two loads of the household furniture were moved from Berlin to Galt station, where young Smith and his bride were arrested this afternoon by Chief Ahern, of Galt, under instructions of Detective Klippert, on the charge of bigamy. The couple were brought to Berlin about 9:30 o'clock last night to appear before Magistrate Weir, and after the party were inside the City Hall, the two-wheeled bigamee broke away, and is still at large, wearing handcuffs. Mrs. Powley-Smith was bailed out by her first husband, to appear on Monday. Parliament at its approaching session will be asked to incorporate a company which is desirous of bridging the St. Mary's River near Sault Ste. Marie.

PEKIN SIEGE ; WITH THE LEGATIONERS.

Dr. Morrison's Narrative Continued.

On July 24 (and the first) we received a telegram from Mr. Warren, British Consul-General in Shanghai, to the effect that while China was protecting the Legations no telegram had been received from the British Minister, and asking the Yamen to transmit Sir C. M. Macdonald's telegram to Shanghai.

As in duty bound we communicated the above, and bid you to send a telegram on our behalf to the Yamen for transmission. Your consideration was shown for us in the second letter.

For the past month and more military affairs have been very pressing. Your Excellency and other Ministers ought to telegraph home that your families are well in order to soothe anxiety, but at the present moment Evadne replies were given to these communications. Further particulars as to the kind of protection that was to be given on the way to Tien-Tsin were asked for. Naturally the Ministers said that it was impossible to send a telegram informing the home Government that women and children were well, in view of the fact that women and children had suffered from being cooped up in the British Legation and from being deprived of the food to which they were accustomed.

Our position at this time compelled us to temporize. We knew from the alteration in tone of the Chinese despatches that they had suffered defeats and were growing alarmed, but we did not know how much longer intimations of hostilities or difficulties of obtaining transport were to delay the departure of the troops from Tien-Tsin.

Tidings from Tien Tsin. Great, then, was the rejoicing in

protection of an armistice, sniping still continued, especially in the Fu, into any exposed portion of the besieged area. Many Chinese refugees were hit. An Italian, a Japanese, and a German were wounded. A Russian and a German were killed and another Russian dangerously wounded. A French marine was wounded; a French sailor was killed, but most serious casualty of all, the brave Captain Labrousse, of the French Legation, who had, with Captain Darcy, stood at the forefront of the defence of his Legation, was shot through the forehead and fell dead into the arms of his comrade only two days before the relief marched into Pekin.

The Chinese worked on continually at their fortifications. They built a powerful fort on the city wall commanding the German Legation, and another beyond the American Legation. Across the North Bridge they ran up in a single night a stout wall of brick and manned it with sharpshooters. During the siege our men had gained great skill in sharpshooting. Sergt. Saunders especially showed rare skill in picking off the enemy's crack shots. Finding that the Ministers declined to telegraph to their Government on our behalf that all was well with the Legations, the Taung-li Yamen wrote to Sir Robert Hart asking him to send home a telegram in the name they suggested. Sir Robert replied diplomatically, "If I were to wire the truth about the Legations I should not be believed."

The Native Christians. A malevolent attempt was next made by the Chinese to obtain possession of the refugees, who were in our safe keeping. On July 27th they wrote to Sir Claude Macdonald, saying that they heard that there are lodged at the Legation a considerable number of converts, and that, as the space is limited and weary hot, they suggest that they must be causing the Legation considerable inconvenience. And now that people's minds are quieted, these converts can all be sent out

gor succeeded in passing the enemy's lines, and brought us letters from General Gaselee and General Fuku-shima. A strong relief force was marching to Pekin, and would arrive before the relief untoward happened on the 13th or 14th. Our danger then was that the enemy would make a final effort to rush the Legations before the arrival of reinforcements. And the expected happened. For the last two days we had to sustain a furious fusillade and bombardment, and our casualties were many. One shell burst Sir Claude Macdonald's bedroom. But our defences were now admirable and our walls shell-proof. We had seized the Mongol market, and killed the general in command of the Shanai troops who had undertaken to reduce the Legations in five days.

On August 12th the impersonal body "Prince Chang" and others" wrote requesting an audience with the foreign Ministers to discuss the preliminaries of a cessation of hostilities. Permission was given and the interview fixed for 11 a.m. next day, but the Ministers never came. At the last moment they were "too occupied," or "too frightened," to come.

Yesterday passed under an almost continuous fusillade, which increased during the night. Then at 3 on this morning we were awakened by the booming of guns in the east and by the welcome sound of volley firing. Word flew round that "the foreign troops are at the city wall and are shelling the East gate. At daylight most of us went on to the wall and witnessed the shelling of the Great East gate. We knew that the allies would advance in separate columns, and were on the qui vive of excitement, knowing that at any moment now the troops might arrive. Lunch, the hard luncheon of horseflesh, came on, and we had just finished when the cry rang through the legation, "The British are coming," and there was a rush to the entrance and up Canal street towards the Water gate. The stalwart form of the general and his staff were entering by the Water gate, followed by the 1st Regiment of Sikhs and the 7th Rajpals. They passed down Canal street, and amid a scene of indescribable emotion marched to the British Legation. The siege had been raised.

WOMEN WEPT WITH HUNGER.

Frightful Sufferings of Passengers Snowbound in Russian Trains.

London, Jan. 14.—The Odessa correspondent of the Daily Mail sends a heartrending story of the sufferings of railway passengers snowbound while on the way to Odessa. The blizzard, he says, raged continuously

QUINETTE OF DIPLOMATS WHO BROUGHT CHINA TO TERMS.



the Legation when, on July 28th, for the first time since the siege began, a letter was received from outside by the British Minister. It was from Mr. W. R. Carles, the British Consul in Tien-tsin, a gentleman of considerable experience in the Consular service. At the risk of his life the courier had brought the despatches through the enemy's lines. When the letter was posted at the Bell Tower there was a rush to read it. It said verbatim and literally—

Your letter July 28th, there are now 24,000 troops landed and 19,000 here. General Gaselee expected Ta-ku to-morrow. Russian troops are at Plet-sing. The city is under foreign government and "Boxer" power here is exploded. There are plenty of troops on the way if you can keep yourselves in good. Almost all ladies have left Tien-tsin. The Consulate is being repaired.

Men read this communication and then moved away to express their feeling beyond hearing of the ladies. It was amusing to witness the petulance with which the British were forced to admit that this somewhat incoherent production was really written by a Consul still in the British service.

With this document it was impossible to know whether the troops were on the way to Pekin from Tien Tsin or to Tien Tsin from Europe, who were the troops, and how many and whether the number landed was 24,000 in all or 42,000, while the observation that the troops were coming if our provisions held out seemed to imply that if our provisions failed the troops would return to Tien Tsin.

A day or two later a letter equally instructive was received from Mr. Bagdadi, the American Consul at Tien Tsin. When Mr. Conger had succeeded in deciphering the message extracts from it were posted at the Bell Tower. It began, "I had a bad dream about you last night. It contained not a shred of information for which we were longing, but it contained a superfluous expression of the Chinese wish, 'It is my earnest desire that you may all be spared.' Equally it was our desire, and this explained our anxiety to receive news of the relief. How the Chinese kept Armistice. Though now nominally under the

and go about their ordinary avocations. They need not have doubt or fears. If you concur, an estimate should be made of the numbers and dates to be sent, and let them out. Then all will be in harmony."

The reply of the diplomatic body was to the effect that while they were considering the two last letters, one offering safe conduct to Tien Tsin and the other declaring that the converts might leave the Legations in perfect security and weary hot, they suggest that they should be sent to the Pei-tang, which was evidently being attacked in force; that yesterday and last night a barricade was built across the North Bridge, from behind which shots are being continuously fired into the British Legation. The French and Russian Legations are also being fired upon. As all this seems inconsistent with the above letters, an explanation is asked for before further consideration is given to the offer.

Promptly the Yamen sent its explanation. The Pei-tang refugees, it seemed, who were starving, had made a sortie to obtain food. And they had fired upon the people. "A decree," it went on to say, "has now been requested to the effect that if the converts do not come out to plunder they are to be protected, and not to be continually attacked, for they also are the children of the State. This practice (of continually firing upon the converts), will thus be gradually stopped."

Such a calous reply was read with indignation, and there was not the slightest intention on the part of the Minister to leave Pekin. Yet on the 4th of August a decree was issued appointing Yung Lu to conduct the foreign Ministers safely to Tien-tsin in order once more to show the tenderness of the Throne for the men from afar."

To our final protest against the shooting which defamed us at night and during the day, we did not admit it, accounted as time went on for so many casualties, the Taung-li Yamen impudently replied, saying—"With regard to the firing at night it was, as before, the result of a mutual misunderstanding. It was more or less on the same footing as the sounding of the evening drum and the morning bell, the daily duty of temple priests. It is really hardly worth a smile."

For more than one hundred hours over the whole of Southern Russia. He describes the gradual arrival of trains at Razyelcinin, with hundreds of passengers from the north, who had been entrained six days before. "They have been snowed in for five days," he continues, "and fighting among themselves for the scanty food supplies provided by the railway buffers. Women and children were weeping with hunger, while gangs of men battled with snow-drifts which were thirty-five feet deep in some places, and that, too, without snow-ploughs, although these would have been useless, even if they could have been found."

Finally some 5,000 passengers had assembled at Razyelcinin. A regiment was sent from Kiev southward and 3,000 troops went northward from Odessa to meet them. On the third day the relieving parties succeeded in cutting a passage for a couple of trains, which started with 2,000 persons, after a mad rush, the proudest going to the westward.

"The trains proceeded for 18 hours and were then stuck again in the snow unable to go forward or backward. The blizzard continued. Desperate and pandemonium prevailed, the passengers cursing the railway management, fainting and weeping. The trains were buried, and all passed a horrible night. When morning came, a peasant volunteered to walk six miles to the nearest station with a telegram beseeching assistance, supplies, fire-wood, and water, having been exhausted."

"Finally, driven to desperation, 60 passengers, with Count Kapnist, determined to walk to Odessa. Count Kapnist, with 40, reached a point where he was able to secure sledges, and all arrived at Odessa, though uncertain as to the fate of those they had left behind. Meanwhile Governor Schouvaloff had organized sledges, though we did not admit herculean efforts, relieved the two trains. It was found that many of the passengers had their arms or feet frozen."

400 Japanese Fishermen Drowned. Yokohama, Jan. 13.—It is officially reported that four hundred fishermen are missing, and that they are supposed to have perished in a storm January 10th, off the west coast.

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