

SPION KOP OCCUPIED!

General Warren's Troops Made a Night Attack, Surprised the Boers and Captured the Position.

Miles of the Enemy's Entrenchments Rendered Untenable by the Capture of the Big Hill.

General Buller Says "The Men Are Splendid"—Feared That the Casualties Were Considerable—Large Reinforcements Have Arrived at Durban for Buller.

SPION KOP CAPTURED.

LONDON, Jan. 25.—The war office has issued the following despatch from Spearman's Camp, dated Jan. 25, 12.10 a. m.: "General Warren's troops last night occupied Spion Kop, surprising the small garrison, who fled. It has been held by us all day, though we were heavily attacked, especially by a very annoying fire. I fear our casualties are considerable, and I have to inform you with regret that General Woodgate was dangerously wounded. General Warren is of the opinion that he has rendered the enemy's position untenable. The men are splendid."

GENERAL REVIEW.

LONDON, Jan. 26.—Nothing can yet be added to the brief news of General Warren's success, which has brought intense relief to Great Britain. Some recognize the possibility that our British may be unable to retain what they have so hardily won in view of the very annoying shell fire mentioned in Gen. Buller's despatch, and that the hill may have to be retaken, but assuming that the position is permanently held, and that the Boers are driven from the remainder of the plateau, dominated by Spion Kop, there is no illusion respecting the gravity of the task involved in covering the twelve or fifteen miles separating the hill and the Boer lines outside Ladysmith. There is complete ignorance here as to the ability of the Boers to obtain reinforcements, and as to whether they have prepared a second line of defence. The ignorance prevents any forecast of the operations. The critics continue to bid the public to prepare for a long casualty list, they attaching the fullest significance to Gen. Buller's intimation. No list of the losses in the fighting previous to the attack on Spion Kop has yet been received, though each day brings additions. Gen. Barton's force, which is holding Chieveley, had a few killed and wounded on Jan. 23, which indicates an engagement which hitherto has not been reported. It was probably only a reconnaissance. It is not improbable that the scarcity of news from the front is partly owing to the light field telegraph, which at present is the only means of communication.

GENERAL FRENCH

LONDON, Jan. 26, 4.15 a. m.—Gen. Buller's phrase, "The men are splendid," thrills England with pride and confidence. His taking and holding Spion Kop are considered permanent advantages. Sir Charles Warren's opinion that miles of the adjacent Boer entrenchments are untenable is accepted by most expert observers as obviously true, because of the height of the position, although some point out that it may lack adequate gun platform to resist artillery fire from the two extended ridges. It is not likely that Gen. Warren will let go anything he holds; and news of further success is calmly awaited.

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The military expert of the Times says: "It is exceedingly difficult to arrive at any exact estimate of the advantage gained. A definite tactical object has been attained and definite steps have been taken in the fulfilment of the strategic plan. It is necessary to await fuller information before attaching undue weight to the successes thus far attained. At least, there has been steady progress." The Kildonan Castle reached Durban yesterday (Thursday) with 2,000 additional troops for Gen. Buller; and three troopships have arrived from India, bringing, among others, a regiment of Lancers. Beyond these it is not publicly known here how heavily Gen. Buller has been reinforced, but these having certain connections with the war office are confident that Gen. Buller will have as many more men as he may need to make his work easier. The situation in the neighbourhood of the enemy's lines is unchanged, but a forward movement of Gen. French is daily expected. A despatch to the standard from Rensberg describes Gen. French's dispositions as now forming a great semi-circle around the Boer positions. The correspondent says he could take Colesberg, two miles away, at any time.

VICTORY RIDICULED

BERLIN, Jan. 25.—Discussing the latest news from the seat of war, most of the German papers ridicule the British victory. The Vossische Zeitung says: "Probably this British success, like all prior successes, will dwindle with the receipt of further news." The emperor replied: "The colonel-in-chief sends the Royal Artillery his best thanks for their wishes." (Signed.) WILHELM I. R.

WAR OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON, Jan. 26, 1 a. m.—At midnight the war office announced that nothing further had been received from the front for publication tonight.

BATTLE OF COLENSO

As Described by an Officer Who Took Part in the Engagement.

LONDON, Jan. 17.—The following account of the battle of Colenso, written by an infantry officer present, was received in London on Monday. "After that most terrible and one-sided battle of Colenso last Friday, I fainted when I got to camp, from sunstroke, and on Saturday morning I found I had dysentery. How anyone escaped on Friday is a marvel to me. We were nine and one-half hours under fire, and it was like a severe hail storm on a tin roof. I could not put my glasses up without hearing 'phit,' 'phit.' From the very first I saw it would be no go. Directly we got under fire, a corporal said to me: 'I wonder how many Boers there are hidden in that wood opposite along the Tugelt?' I said: 'I expect it is full of them, as Buller has never shelled it all.' I was right. Two companies of the 23rd went in and jolly soon came out through us and exposed our four companies to a double fire, and I saw how they were escaped of all. Then I saw about three companies of the Seventh Fusiliers go in on the left of the taken guns and they soon came out of it. After that we were told off as escort to the lost guns, with the result that we retired (when ordered to, and Tommy does not like that word at all), and had six officers taken and over 100 men killed, wounded, missing or prisoners, out of a total of 13 officers and 372 men with which we started at 4 a. m. "I never was in such a veritable fix and hope I never shall be again; and then, to add to it all, they peppered us with shot, shell and those beastly one-pound Maxim-Nordenfledt shells and Maxims until we had retired well out of range. But poor Tommy was simply grand. The troops went through it all. They never hesitated one moment; never flinched. On they went with destruction and death and agony all round them. I shall never forget the sight. A man was hit, and the line went. A shell fell between two men at six paces; on they went. A shell blew a poor captain of the Cannanught Rangers to bits. A subaltern of the Inniskillings close by looked back, but could see absolutely no trace of his comrades left; and I today, declared that the government had not reinforced the garrison at Colenso Marquis. "The French liner Gironde has arrived here crowded with military-looking foreigners, bound for the Transvaal. These include fifty Russian ambulance men, with Germans, Frenchmen, Italians and Greeks. Herr Potts, the Transvaal consul here, has arranged for their conveyance to Pretoria by a special train."

GARRISON NOT REINFORCED.

LISBON, Jan. 25.—The minister of war, Trites, replying to a query in the Cortes today, declared that the government had not reinforced the garrison at Colenso Marquis.

TOLSTOI DISAPPROVES.

MOSCOW, Jan. 25.—Count Leo Tolstoy, in an interview published in the Russki Listok, denounces the war in South Africa as showing in file to the left and wheel to right to double about half a mile to the right flank of the guns, and when a bullet whizzed very close to him he began to play antics and skip about, laughing and cracking jokes, the while. The bullets were as thick as bees and I had several mighty close to my head. Directly we halted and lay down, showers of bullets came, two pitching about half a yard in front of my feet. It was truly a one-sided game, as we could see no one to aim at. Just before we lay down a private behind me said: 'Sir, I don't know how we got through all that without one of us getting hit. I think God must be good to us today.' I was much impressed by what this man said. "I can assure you all of us earned our wretched clasp at Colenso; but to make a frontal attack with the whole army, just like an Aldershot field day, was simply silly."

TOLSTOI DISAPPROVES.

MOSCOW, Jan. 25.—Count Leo Tolstoy, in an interview published in the Russki Listok, denounces the war in South Africa as showing

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Ladies' Jackets at half price and many at less than half price to clear.

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ing the "scold and soulless commercialism that rules the world." He says: "I hope daily to hear of a fresh British reverse, it is incomprehensible to me that England, boasting herself to be the land of freedom, should wish to crush out small republics which have never done her the slightest injury."

GENERAL WOODGATE DEAD.

LONDON, Jan. 25.—Advice has been received from Spearman's Camp that Gen. Woodgate has succumbed to the wounds he received in the attack upon Spion Kop. (Note.—A Halifax despatch says Gen. Woodgate was the cousin of Mrs. Robie Unalike of that city.)

AT MODDER RIVER.

MODDER RIVER, Jan. 24.—Gen. Hector Archibald MacDonald has arrived and assumed command of the Highlanders.

IN CANADA. AT HALIFAX.

HALIFAX, N. S., Jan. 25.—The latest orders, issued this morning, were that the first battalion of C. M. R., consisting of the Winnipeg, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia detachments, would assemble at the exhibition grounds tomorrow morning. The orders are that this battalion will then parade to the North Common, and line up at sharp 10.30, when Major Gen. Hutton will inspect them. The second battalion (the western volunteers) will form up in the armories at the same hour tomorrow; and they also will be inspected by the major general.

PROMPTLY TABLED.

TORONTO, Ont., Jan. 25.—At a meeting of the executive of the Women's Council today, a letter was read from the Peace Society of the Hague, Holland, signed by Madame Wasskellek, Van Schilfgraven, asking the council to petition Queen Victoria to "put an end to fratricidal strife in South Africa." The letter was promptly tabled, on motion of Miss Fitzgibbon, the historian, who drew up a strongly worded resolution, to the effect that the war had been forced upon Great Britain for the maintenance of the empire.

OTTAWA.

Lord Strathcona's Horse Will Concentrate at the Capital.

OTTAWA, Jan. 24.—A decision of the customs department that trunks containing travellers' samples are subject to duty on first importation, may be allowed free entry on re-importation if identified to the satisfaction of the customs officer. Commercial samples which are not Canadian product or manufacture are, however, subject to duty on importation. The work of erecting cold storage buildings for the preservation of bait for fishermen is making considerable progress. One local association in Antigonish county has already erected its building, and several others are in course of construction in P. E. Island. A Canadian Club, similar to those existing in Toronto and Hamilton, has been organized here, with a good membership. Lieut. A. L. Webster of the 88th Kings County Battalion will take the course of instruction at Kingston in staff duties, along with other officers already mentioned. Officers presenting themselves for instruction at No. 4 Regimental Depot, R. C. R. I., were examined by a board and allotted as follows: Advanced class—Lieut. Forsythe, 32nd Batt.; Lieut. Col. Ewan, 7th Batt.; 2nd Lieut. Oxenheim, 52nd Batt.; 2nd Lieut. Watson, 9th Batt.; 2nd Lieut. Johnston, 10th Batt. Cadet class—2nd Lieut. Allen, 71st Batt.; 2nd Lieut. Bailey, 68th Batt.; 2nd Lieut. Ross, 68th Batt.; 2nd Lieut. Clark, 71st Batt.

MILLS TOWN SMUGGLERS.

A Calais letter in the Bangor Commercial says: "Wednesday evening Customs Officer John Shaughnessy detected a couple of boys who are employed by a Milltown, N. B., grocer, with a team load of pork, passing through one of the back streets across the line. His overlook and used the outfit, but the customs officers determined not to give up without a struggle, and seizing a sled stuck across they turned upon the officer. The latter pluckily held his ground and called loudly for assistance, but although it was scarcely 7 o'clock in the evening, no one came to his aid. Realizing that wherever the team went, there also would the officer go, the smugglers unloosed the horse and slipped to the American side, leaving Shaughnessy in possession of the sled and its load, together with a part of the harness, which had been left behind in the hurried flight of the teamster. The officer's hands are badly swollen and bruised from the blows inflicted in the efforts to make him release his hold upon the outfit. Collector Graham has referred the matter to the minister of justice, who will doubtless order the prosecution of the offenders."

THOMAS FORHAN.

Thomas Forhan, owner of brig Mace Glen, from San Domingo for New York, and which has been reported abandoned prior to Jan. 4, has no information of the disaster, and the correctness of the report is doubted. Mr. Forhan has received a telegram from Captain Smith, dated San Domingo, Jan. 10, four days after the vessel was reported lost. The captain's despatch made no mention of any accident to the brig.

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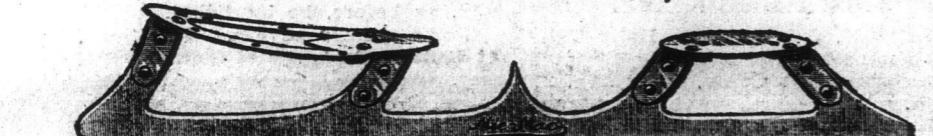
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