

Fighting In Natal.

Boer and Orange Free State Forces Nearing British Posts.

Some Skirmishes in the Vicinity of Ladysmith and Glencoe.

British Soldiers Ready and Anxious for a Decisive Battle.

By Associated Press. London, Oct. 18.—There is still no authentic news from Mafeking. All reports tend to confirm the belief that Col. Baden-Powell is holding his own and no credit is given to the vague rumor that a flag of truce had been displayed. A considerable engagement is anticipated in the vicinity of Ladysmith to-day. The combined advance of Boers and Free State troops in this direction has been executed with no inconsiderable skill, and shows a clear appreciation of the British position. Gen. Sir George Stewart White has 12,000 men and forty-six guns available besides a considerable force of volunteers to hold Ladysmith and no anxiety is felt on his account for the Natal country where the engagement is expected to take place. The country is not favorable for Boer tactics and it will be very difficult for them to avoid the exposure of their flanks to attack by a vigorous and mobile enemy already occupying useful positions, that is, supposing they really mean to fight and not merely attempt to draw Gen. White further out with a view of surrounding him. Gen. White has a large body of excellent cavalry which will be put to good use.

The Daily Telegraph's correspondent at Ladysmith says the newspaper reports are allowed by the commandant to Bester's Station or Acton Homes, and adds that General Joubert's forces are moving against Glencoe and Bester's Station on the Harrismith-Lynch line. According to the same authority, some volunteers who had just come from Bester's Station and Acton Homes, before the despatch was sent reported that three hundred Boers tried ineffectually to cut off small parties of British troops, but the militiamen were too wary to be caught and retired firing. The enemy, as usual, hid themselves behind hills and rocks in the line of march, but were not advanced. They used cannon against the British riflemen, who, nevertheless, maintained a steady fire. The first firing was very heavy. The country about Acton Homes being more open, the British mounted volunteers there are retiring upon Deventer. The Boers were engaged at Acton Homes, and rather fewer at Bester's Station. It is reported that the enemy is hemmed in and suffering severely.

The Daily Telegraph, commenting upon the foregoing despatches says it is difficult to understand the references to Glencoe and Bester's Stations except upon the theory that Commandant General Joubert is dividing his forces.

Ladysmith, Oct. 18.—The British forces came into contact with the enemy consisting of an Orange Free State command in the neighborhood of Acton Homes and Lester station, about 10 miles from Ladysmith, this morning. Firing began at 10 o'clock.

Ladysmith, Oct. 18.—5:05 p.m.—The British cavalry patrols have been in action at Acton Homes and Lester station since midday and the action is still in progress. A number of casualties have been reported. Reports are being taken in order to avoid seizure in the Red sea by British cruisers. The ammunition will probably be re-embarked for Hamburg on the steamer Herzog, which is shortly expected here. The Kaiser was shadowed by the second Boer's drift. Our cavalry remain in the Transvaal. The Thetis passed into the canal this morning.

It is reported that several German officers were on board the Kaiser, bound for the Transvaal.

PRISONERS RELEASED. Lorenzo Marquez, Oct. 18.—A representative of the Transvaal government has arrived here and is buying up all the provisions obtainable. One hundred and thirty persons just released from prison in the Transvaal, have been put on the Portuguese border.

PRETORIA, Oct. 17.—(Delayed)—Transvaal officials at Komati Poort assert that large quantities of explosives were found on the railway there, the culprits were fired upon, but they escaped.

The telegraph superintendent at Athlone, Transvaal, reports that on Sunday night a balloon passed over Nigel in the direction of St. Andrew's.

The first batch of military prisoners are expected here this evening. London, Oct. 18.—The Boers, according to a special despatch from Pretoria, yesterday released a small force of Cape Mounted Police near Barkly West Cape Colony, capturing two.

NATIVES RISING. Ladysmith, Oct. 17.—(Delayed)—A native tribe in Zululand, some 200 miles north of Ladysmith, have been raided by the Boers, applied to Gen. Sir George Stewart White, British commandant in Natal, for permission to form an armed resistance. General White refused their request, as he is opposed to the use of colored auxiliaries in the coming struggle.

London, Oct. 18.—According to a special from Durban, the Zulus are arming with assegai, spears and shields, and are unable to restrain them. It is expected they will be joined by the Swazis.

The Basutos under Chief Moleke have risen against the Orange Free State. The native tribes of Barolongs under Chief Vessels are said to be co-operating in the defence of Mafeking, undertaking outpost duty.

WILL EXPEL BRITISHERS. London, Oct. 18.—The Capetown correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "The authorities at Johannesburg have announced that they will make a house to house search on Monday and will compel every British subject to leave the town."

The Imperial authorities have impounded 15,000 sovereigns which arrived by steamer to-day for the Transvaal. The money will be kept here until the war is ended.

Canadian Contingent.

Capt. Blanchard of the Fifth Regiment One of the Officers.

Arrangements Being Perfected by Minister of Militia and Assistants.

Will Probably Go as a Separate Regiment Under Col. Otter.

From Our Own Correspondent. Ottawa, Oct. 18.—The representatives of the Pacific province in the Canadian South African Contingent will leave Vancouver on the 24th and reach Quebec on the 29th or 30th. Two officers from British Columbia have been given commissions. They are Captain Blanchard of the 10th Artillery, Victoria, and Capt. W. F. Hodgins of the Nelson Rifle Company.

A militia order issued to-night states that a grant of \$125 will be given to the officers of the force towards defraying the expenses of an outfit and an advance of pay to the amount of \$80, will also be allowed. Cheques for these amounts will be forwarded.

To ensure proper fitting of clothing, head gear and boots, officers commanding companies will send at once to the chief staff officer the size rolls of the volunteers enrolled. These size rolls will give the height of the men, the measurement of breast and waist and circumference of head and size of boots. The complete list of officers will not be ready until tomorrow. Recruiting commenced to-day. There was a great rush of applicants. Ottawa alone could readily supply 500 men for service.

Hon. Mr. Borden, Minister of Militia, returned from Toronto this morning. He informed your correspondent that the department will continue to organize the South African contingent on the basis of eight companies. Military men make this to mean that the Canadians will therefore be attached to different British rifle battalions.

Hutton has curtailed his visit to the Coast. He will return to Ottawa on the 25th.

Militiamen volunteering for South Africa will join in their uniform, which they will demand from the Captains of their companies, giving a receipt for the same.

The Minister of Militia left for Montreal this afternoon to contract with the Allan for the Canadian contingent. It is settled that Col. Sam Hughes, M.P., will be in command of the contingent. The medical staff of the contingent will consist of Surge-Major James M. Macdonald, M.P., Montreal, Surgeon-Major Osborne, of Fourth Field Battery, Hamilton; Surgeon Major F. S. Sifton, of the 80th Tennessean and Capt. Sifton, Patterson and Logan, M.P.'s, leave for the West to-morrow.

Toronto, Oct. 18.—Dr. Borden, Minister of Militia was here to consult with Col. Otter regarding the local officers who will accompany the Canadian contingent to the Transvaal. Previous to his departure he informed a reporter that he did not care to make public the names until the appointments have been confirmed at Ottawa.

Dr. Borden's statement that the Canadians would serve in South Africa as a distinct Canadian regiment and not in units attached to different regiments of the regular army. "You can say," said he, "that this has practically been decided upon. They will go in a body and fight under the command of Col. Otter."

An enthusiastic meeting of prominent citizens was held to arrange for a subscription to the Toronto detachment of the Canadian contingent.

Montreal, Oct. 18.—Lieut. Col. Cooke and seven commissioned officers of the Prince of Wales Fusiliers are among the local militiamen who have offered their services to the Canadian contingent. Col. Cooke offered the services of his regiment when talk of sending the contingent to the Transvaal and as the new arrangements preclude the acceptance of the offer, the officers want to go in the ranks.

HOSMER TO RETIRE. C. P. R. Telegraph Chief to Take Another Position. Montreal, Oct. 18.—The Montreal Star says: "For some time past it has been reported that Mr. Charles R. Hosmer intended to retire from the position as head of the Canadian Pacific Railway's Telegraphs, and to-day the story was practically confirmed."

"When seen by a representative of the Star, Mr. Hosmer stated that it was true that for some time he was gradually relieving himself of the details of the telegraph business, and that before the close of the year he expects to be entirely relieved of his official duties and free to devote himself to his many outside enterprises."

It is understood that Mr. Hosmer is to represent, in Montreal, a large foreign banking house.

SHAMROCK'S MEASUREMENT. In Future She Will Have to Allow Columbia Sixteen Seconds. New York, Oct. 18.—The measurement of the Shamrock to-day resulted as follows: Water line, 88 95-100 feet; racing length, 102 565-1000 feet. Under this measurement in future races the Shamrock will be obliged to allow the Columbia 16 seconds.

PANAMA FRAUDS RECALLED. London, Oct. 17.—The Exchange Telegraph Company publishes a despatch from Paris recalling the frauds of the Panama canal notoriety has been pardoned.

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370 pieces Carpets, 324 Rugs, 214 Art Squares

UP-TO-DATE GOODS IN EVERY LINE

WILSON BROS., Victoria, B. C.

Have goods were last received direct from the manufacturer.

LIBERAL CROOKEDNESS.

Toronto, Oct. 18.—Judges Osler and Meredith gave judgment voiding the election of L. J. Bushby, Liberal member of the legislature for North Waterloo. The election is set aside with costs against the respondent. Nineteen votes were reported for bribery.

Salisbury on Kruger's Dream

Abolition of Suzerainty Controlling Desire of Transvaal President's Life. London, Oct. 17.—The premier, the Marquis of Salisbury, in replying to Lord Kimberley's criticism of the Transvaal negotiations, said: "The Boer government were pleased to dispense with any explanation on our part respecting the causes or justification of war. They have done what the strongest nation has never in its strength done to any opponent it had challenged. They issued a defiance, and I could scarcely depict it without using words unsuited for this assembly, and by so doing they liberated this country from the necessity of explaining to the people of England why we are at war. But for this no one could have predicted."

Causation of British Supremacy to Become the Momentous Issue.

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APPEAL FOR RECOGNITION.

Manila, Oct. 18.—The consuls in Manila have received from Tarlac, where it is believed Aguinaldo remains, a book containing the correspondence between him and the American commanders and consuls in which, as he contends in his recent appeal for recognition, the Filipinos find the basis for their assertion that the American government recognized their independence. The book is addressed to the members of the United States congress and contains a long argument by Senor Buencarino, of the so-called cabinet of Aguinaldo, and alleged letters written by Mr. Wildman, United States consul at Hongkong, to Aguinaldo, in June and July of last year. It has made a sensation among the Spaniards here, and set up the negotiations of 1898, and in order to get that hateful word out of the country he has made considerable sacrifices. Mr. Kruger had used oppression of the Outlanders as a screw to obtain a concession on the subject of size.

"I quite agree," he remarked, "that the word suzerainty is not necessary for Great Britain's present position. Situated as Great Britain is in South Africa towards the Transvaal and the Outlanders, she has a duty to fulfill which is binding on her to the end of time, and any question of suzerainty. This word, however, being put into the treaty obligations of the Transvaal, it is our duty to get rid of it. It is a satisfactory feature of our policy during these latter days that on questions involving the rights of the Transvaal, there are no distinctions of party."

"His Lordship said he believed that a desire to get rid of the word 'suzerainty' and the reality which it expressed had been the controlling desire, the dream, of President Kruger's life. It was for this reason that he had been so anxious to set up the negotiations of 1898, and in order to get that hateful word out of the country he has made considerable sacrifices. Mr. Kruger had used oppression of the Outlanders as a screw to obtain a concession on the subject of size."

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VRYSBURG SURRENDERS.

Cape Police Withdraw and Boer Residents Invite Their Kinsmen to Enter. London, Oct. 19.—The Capetown correspondent of the Daily Mail telegraphing at 10:30 Thursday night says: "Vryburg surrendered on Sunday. To-night's despatches from Kurman, 90 miles west by south of Vryburg, state that the police, having withdrawn from Vryburg the town surrendered to the Boers, the inhabitants fleeing in all directions, mostly towards Kurman. The Boers are wildly indignant at this scuttling."

THE MARCH ON PRETORIA.

Will Start from Navals Point with Pathway Through Orange Free State. London, Oct. 19.—The Associated Press learns that the transport which will carry the army corps to South Africa will go neither to Durban nor Capetown, both of which are already overcrowded with refugees, but to Port Elizabeth, Port Alfred and East London, from which points railways converge directly on the Free State. The concentration will be effected somewhere in the neighborhood of Norvalspont. The advance will then begin towards Pretoria, straight through the Free State.

NATIVES FOR THE QUEEN.

Would Willingly Fight to Avenge Cruel Treatment by Boers. Capetown, Oct. 19.—Complaints of Boer outrages upon natives continue to arrive. These serve further to inflame the Basutos and Zulus. Yesterday 150 Basutos from Johannesburg arrived at Burgheersdorp, Cape Colony, and alleged Boers robbed them, wholesale and flogged them with "black snakes." The party, which included the son of Chief Lerotheri, was supplied with provisions, and the Basutos then started homewards, cheering the Queen and chanting a war song.

It is reported from Delagoa Bay that Swaisking Dunn is collecting his forces with the object of attacking the Boers. It is stated that the Portuguese forces at Delagoa Bay will be raised to war strength.

SCHREINER'S GOOD ADVICE.

Dutch Residents of Cape Colony Told What is Most to Their Interest. Capetown, Oct. 19.—(Delayed in transmission)—Premier Schreiner continues to issue circulars to the Dutch residents, advising them to maintain strict loyalty to the Imperial government. The British authorities here now agree that the danger of a general revolt is very slight.

A MILLIONAIRE THREATENED.

Must Return to Transvaal or His Property Will Be Confiscated. London, Oct. 19.—A despatch from Pretoria asserts that the government of the Transvaal has cabled to Mr. Jos. Benjamin Robinson, the millionaire gold miner, owner and chairman of the Robinson South African Banking Co., who is now in London, to return to Johannesburg on pain of the confiscation of his property. Mr. Robinson, who is said to be a British subject, has refused the alleged threat as ridiculous. He says he is a British subject, that the Transvaal government has no right to demand his return and that his property has not been and cannot be confiscated.

THE BOER WOUNDED.

Three Hundred from Mafeking Received at Johannesburg Hospitals. London, Oct. 19.—The Daily Mail's Capetown correspondent says that a refugee who has reached Grahamstown from the Rand states that a train arrived at Johannesburg on Monday from Kloofsdorp with 300 wounded burghers. Every available conveyance, including the wounded to the hospital. The Daily Mail suggests that these wounded were from Mafeking.

BEAR VISITS VAN ANDA.

Gives Manager Treat Sport of His Life and Is Shot at Camp. Vancouver, Oct. 17.—Mr. W. Treat had an encounter with a big black bear on a mountain near the Van Anda mines. When the bear rushed at him his first thought was to fight, but remembering that he held the championship of New York State for two years as amateur high jumper and that he was a crack hurdle racer in his college days, he decided to engage the bear in a hurdle race down the steep mountain side. He beat the bear into camp where the animal was shot. It was the largest ever seen on the island.

RING EVENTS.

Jeffries and Sharkey Postponing Their Date—Dan Creedon's Easy Thing. New York, Oct. 17.—At a meeting to-day between the managers of Jim Jeffries and Tom Sharkey at the Coney Island Sporting Club, it was agreed to postpone the fight for one week from the date originally set. It will take place on Friday, November 3.

HARDY'S RESIGNATION.

His Place to Be Taken By An Eastern Ontario Catholic. Toronto, Oct. 18.—It has been definitely decided that Hon. Wm. Hardy will retire from the Ross government and also that his place will be taken by a prominent Eastern Ontario Catholic. Official intimations of the change is expected in the course of a week. The resignation of Premier Hardy was a big surprise.

Slaughter At Mafeking

Fifteen Hundred Boers Reported Victims of Lyddite Explosion. Three Hundred Wounded Reach Johannesburg—White Flags to Entrap British. Orange River, Oct. 18, afternoon. (Delayed)—The Boers suffered a reverse on Sunday at Spruitfontein, ten miles south of Kimberley. An armored train went out to bring in a train reported to have been captured by Boers near the Spruitfontein siding. A party of Boers who were encamped nearby lowered the railway signals and displayed a white flag, apparently with the idea of inducing the driver to proceed. The driver suspected that the Boers were in possession and stopped the train, whereupon the Boers issued in large force and opened fire but without effect. The soldiers replied from the train and about half a dozen Boers were killed. The British were then ordered to proceed.

Seven hundred Boers surprised a party of thirteen Cape Colony police who were on their way to Mafeking, about 18 miles north of Kimberley, on Sunday morning. The police retired. A terrific explosion was heard later and it is believed that the Boers blew up the station. A relief party of 25 police sent from Kimberley met these Boers near the station. The Boers displayed a white flag to induce the troops to fall into their trap, but the police were ordered to retire. Then the Boers opened heavy fire upon the police, discharging about four hundred rounds. A bullet struck the horse of Surgeon-Major Sullivan, and he was thrown from his horse. He was killed. The Boers were then ordered to proceed.

Volunteers in Peril. Almost Cut Off by Two Thousand Boers but Maxims Saved Them. London, Oct. 19.—The Pietermaritzburg correspondent of the Daily Mail in a despatch dated Thursday says: "The brunt of the fighting at Bester's station was sustained by the volunteer patrols. Fighting was brisk. The Boers numbered 2,000. The volunteers at one moment were in great peril, being nearly cut off, but the officers handled their men splendidly. The Boers were repulsed and the British were able to hold their position. The Boers' shooting was wretched. The volunteers lost their kit and altogether the experience was a pretty trying one."

"Our men were in the saddle three days and two nights with hardly a rest. Boer parties were shooting with the utmost accuracy. It is reported that sixteen Boers were killed. Lieut. Gallaway, who is reported missing, is the eldest son of Sir H. H. Gallaway, chief justice of Natal. He is supposed to be in hiding and searching parties have been sent out to try and find him."

"The cavalry are still brooding about the loss of the battle of Mafeking. They learn officially that Commandant-General Joubert has moved his headquarters to Daanhuysen."

BOER PATROL REPULSED. Outposts in Natal Meet with Advantage to British Cavalry. Glencoe Camp, Oct. 18.—7:35 p.m. (Delayed in transmission)—The British troops here have been under fire. A strong Boer patrol was encountered eight miles from camp and repulsed, the British suffering no casualties.

London, Oct. 17.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Glencoe camp, telegraphing under date October 17, says: "The Boers opposite camp are having their numbers strengthened and the belief prevails that when strong enough they will seek to reach Dundee from the point of attack or a prelude to Boer operations. A clergyman living at Dundee has arrived at camp stating that he saw a strong command of Boers approaching Daanhuysen at 8 this morning."

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