

SOUTH AFRICA.

Further Particulars of the Disaster at Zeefontein.

Latest News From the Front—London News Thinks Laurier Will Want Dual Language at the Cape.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The war office issued Saturday a list of the British casualties at Zeefontein, Dec. 24, when Col. Firman's camp, consisting of three companies of Yeomanry and two guns, was successfully rushed by a Boer force under the command of Gen. De Wet. The length of the list demonstrated the entire success of De Wet's attack. Six officers and 50 men were killed, eight officers were wounded and four are missing. It is presumed that the missing officers were taken along with the captured guns.

The numbers of the non-commissioned officers and men wounded and missing have not yet been received, but the aggregate promises to make the Zeefontein affair a memorable disaster to the British.

Simultaneously with the above, the war office gave out a despatch from Lord Kitchener chronicling a minor success of the South African constabulary, who raided Bothaville and captured 16 Boers.

TORONTO, Dec. 28.—Saturday evening's Telegram's London cable says: Commenting on an article published in the London Times stating that secular education in South Africa will only be given in English, the Daily News (liberal) says the country would be glad to learn the opinion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier concerning this doctrine. The News suggests that the religious influence of such a policy in Canada may be very serious.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The war office has received a despatch from Lord Kitchener, dated Johannesburg, saying that the British prisoners captured when the Boers successfully rushed Col. Firman's camp at Zeefontein, Dec. 24, have been liberated and returned to Bothaville.

MONTREAL, Dec. 28.—In the Church of England churches today was observed as a day of special intercession for the speedy ending of the war in South Africa.

Lord Kitchener sends a stirring account of the fighting at Zeefontein, showing that the wounded and prisoners must number about 150. He says that in the absence of Colonel Firman, Major Williams, who was killed, was in command.

The column was encamped on the slope of a solitary kopje, the southern side of which was precipitous. Outposts held the edges of the precipice. The northern slope, on which the camp was pitched, was gentle. The outposts were all well pushed out, and the position, naturally strong, had been entrenched. It was a moonlight night. The Boers appear to have climbed the precipice and, mastering near the top at 2 a. m., suddenly attacked the picket on the summit. Before the men could get clear of their tents the Boers swooped through them, shooting the soldiers down as they came out. Most of the British officers were shot while trying to stem the rush. The lieutenant in charge of the guns opened fire with the "pom-poms" and was shot through the heart while firing. Lieutenant Watney was killed while leading a charge. There was no panic and all engaged did their best. But once the picket was overwhelmed, the superior force of the Boers had all the advantage.

Including the killed and wounded, about half the column is now at Eliand's River bridge. The remainder are prisoners. A 15-pounder, after two rounds, became jammed. The men composing the detachment stood by the gun and were shot down around it.

Lieut. Scarlett, who was wounded, was overlooked by the Boers and left behind. He saw two wagon loads of dead and wounded Boers carried off. They were mostly hit during the first attack on the picket.

The Boers who apparently numbered about twelve hundred, under Gen. De Wet, behaved well, leaving men to look after the wounded.

The Imperial Light Horse were fourteen miles distant. They heard of the

fight at half-past four and arrived at the scene at half-past six. After breathing their horses they galloped after the Boers, who succeeded in reaching the broken country, where the Light Horse were useless against superior numbers.

THE PROCESS OF EXHAUSTION.

The Cape Argus of Nov. 27th says: A week ago yesterday we took the occasion to express, in the most decided manner, the opinion that all recent news regarding the war had been of a distinctly encouraging character. We went even further than this, and expressed our belief that "if a similar rate of progress were kept up, the war must very soon come to an end, if only—as the number of Boers and rebels is not illimitable—by a simple process of exhaustion." As evidence of this process of exhaustion, and of its magnitude, we publish in another column today an interesting table, summarizing the weekly summaries from Lord Kitchener since June 1. From this table it will be seen that from June 1 to Nov. 18 there have been 965 Boers killed, 785 wounded, 5,336 taken prisoners, while 1,724 have surrendered of their own accord. This makes the total Boer casualties between those dates 9,310; and Lord Kitchener stated that the total Boer losses for the month of May were 2,640; so that, from May 1 to Nov. 18, no less than 11,990 have in one way or other been put hors de combat. The magnitude and effect of this gradual, but sure, process of exhaustion is obvious from these figures without further comment; but its extent is much greater than is thus made apparent. The Boer casualties given by Lord Kitchener in his weekly summaries are those only which are known by our column commanders to be certain; the actual Boer losses must, of course, have been very considerably greater. The tale of rifles, small ammunition, wagons, horses and cattle captured is also a very large one, and shows the extent to which the Boer government must have been preparing for the struggle, long before the fire of war broke out. The figures of this table show that the public confidence in Lord Kitchener is thoroughly well-placed. The nature of the guerilla warfare now being waged does not admit of brilliant strategic movements on a large scale; but the essential business of ending the war—this "process of exhaustion"—is going on steadily and without check.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

HALIFAX, Dec. 28.—William Smith, secretary of the post office department, Ottawa, who has been in Newfoundland for some time on the invitation of that government remedying the colony's postal service, has made many changes. The two principal improvements will go into effect at the end of the year. One will be the issue of the money order service up-to-date and the other will change the system of accounts. Hitherto outside the city of St. John's a delay of one to two weeks has been necessary before payments of Canadian and foreign money orders. Under Mr. Smith's new arrangement there will be no more delay in the payment of orders than exists in this country. Mr. Smith for the past week has been looking after Mr. Macdonald on behalf of the dominion government.

HON. HORACE PLUNKETT.

TORONTO, Dec. 28.—Hon. Horace Plunkett, ex-M. P., who was defeated by Col. Lynch of pro-Boer fame, in the celebrated Galway contest, was an honored guest of the National Club here tonight. He delivered an interesting address on the social and economic affairs of Ireland. In the course of his address Mr. Plunkett said he quite understood how a great many Canadians sympathized with the cause of home rule for Ireland. It was quite natural, since many leading statesmen including Premier Laurier, had based their conclusions upon conditions in Canada, without being thoroughly cognizant of the conditions in Ireland. The conditions of both countries in their relations to England were entirely different.

BOSTON, Dec. 30.—Mrs. Bridget Ryan, a bride of 17 months, died at the city hospital Sunday night, and the police say she was murdered. The husband, William Ryan, is locked up at the Dedham street station on suspicion of having some knowledge as to how his wife came by the injuries which caused her death.

YORK ELECTION.

Mr. Gibson Won by a Magnificent Majority.

FREDERICTON, Dec. 28.—Today's election returns were quite naturally received by the liberals with every manifestation of joy. Mr. Gibson, who stood at the poll at Marysville, came to the city early in the evening, and was hailed about town in a barouche by enthusiastic admirers. He addressed a meeting at the party headquarters, which meeting was also addressed by Alex. Gibson, ex-M. P., Rev. W. W. Brewer, J. D. Phinney, Rev. W. McLellan and others, and the member-elect afterwards held an informal reception at the Queen hotel. He received congratulatory telegrams from all parts of Canada.

The figures were as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Votes. Includes entries for City Hall, Fredericton, Court House, New Maryland, Kingsclear, Cork, Brookway, Harvey, Marysville, Prince William, Dunsmuir, Meadum, Canterbury (front), Canterbury Station, North Lake, Queensbury (back), Nashwaak Village, Douglas (north), Mouth Keewick, Bright (beak), Bright (front), Queensbury (front), Southampton (front), Temperance Vale, Norton Dale, Millville, Bloomfield Ridge, Stanley Village, Non-resident, and Totals.

The figures for the last general election were:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Votes. Includes entries for Fredericton City, Court House, New Maryland, Kingsclear, Manner's Sutton, Manner's Sutton, Prince William, Dunsmuir, Meadum, Canterbury Station, Marysville Town, Marysville Town, Nashwaak Village, Gibson, Douglas North (North), Bright, Queensbury, Southampton, Temperance Vale, Norton Dale, Millville, Stanley, Stanley Village, Non-residents, and Totals.

MOUNTED RIFLES.

OTTAWA, Dec. 27.—The minister of militia has authorized as a special case, issue of rations of food, fuel and light to families of N. C. O. and men on the married establishment of the different units of the permanent force, selected for service with the 2nd Regiment of Canadian Mounted Rifles in South Africa. The families of these N. C. O. and men may remain in the government quarters they at present occupy or draw an allowance in lieu of them if they are now in receipt of the same.

A cable was received by the militia department today from the general commanding the forces at Cape Town, stating the transport Victorian, which is to take a portion of the Mounted Rifles to South Africa, left Cape Town for Halifax Tuesday last. She has on board Lt. Col. Gordon, formerly D. O. C., Montreal; Capt. Mason, Toronto; formerly attached to Victoria Mounted Infantry; Civil Surgeon Farrell, and four men.

The director general medical services says the field hospital company will be entirely independent of the Mounted Rifles, which have their own medical equipment.

A cable from the war office approves of the promotion of Lt. Col. Cameron, senior captain in the Mounted Rifles, to the vacant majority. One of the subalterns will get the vacant captaincy thus created.

The account of the Intercolonial railway for the fiscal year up to the end of June 30th last show earnings of \$4,972,335, and working expenses of \$5,490,425, leaving a nominal deficit of \$518,090. As a matter of fact, the deficit is over a million, but by an old trick of charging up certain expenditures to capital, the deficit has been whitened down.

The undermentioned officers of the Canadian forces will be recommended to have conferred upon them the colonial auxiliary forces officers' decoration under the provision of a royal warrant, dated the 18th May, 1899: Hon. Colonel F. W. Borden, Lt. Colonel

R. Armstrong, reserve of officers; Lt. Col. B. M. Beckwith, 68th Regiment; Lt. Col. E. B. Beer, retired list; Lt. Col. W. M. Humphrey; Surg. Lt. Col. B. A. Weston, 66th Regiment; Lt. Col. H. H. Tolson, 62nd Regiment; Major D. A. Campbell, Major G. Corbin, 63rd Regiment; Major H. L. Chapman, 64th Regiment; Major W. G. Hart, retired list; Major E. G. Kenny; Major J. Menger, 98th Regiment; Major W. E. Ross, 68th Regiment; Major J. J. Brown, Maj. J. T. Twining, 3rd Regiment; Maj. B. Webster, 85th Regiment; Capt. R. H. Humphrey, 64th Regiment.

The undermentioned officers will be recommended to have conferred upon them the colonial auxiliary forces long service medal under the provisions of the royal warrant, dated the 18th May, 1899: Major A. J. King, 98th Regiment; Capt. G. W. Harrington; Capt. W. D. Harrington; Hon. Major H. H. Twining, 3rd Regiment; Hon. Major J. H. Parker, 72nd Regiment.

OTTAWA, Dec. 28.—The war office has called its approval of the appointment of the following additional officers to the Canadian Mounted Rifles: One major, an assistant surgeon, one assistant veterinary officer, an assistant adjutant, a paymaster and an armorer. Dr. Duff of Kingston is mentioned for assistant surgeon, Sergt. Moir, late of the Strathcona Horse, will likely be chosen paymaster, and Robert Donaldson of the military stores as armorer. The war office message states that the regiment will be under control of the general officer commanding the Canadian militia until after the departure of the transport.

OTTAWA.

Export of P. E. Chickens to England—Teaching Nova Scotia How to Pack Apples.

OTTAWA, Dec. 30.—George Dobson is here in the interests of the Sydney Board of Trade, which is making a vigorous propaganda in favor of that port being selected as a calling place, if not the terminal of the yet to be fast Atlantic service. Mr. Dobson is interviewing members of the government upon the matter and collecting data from government officials bearing upon the fast line project and transportation matters generally.

Col. Biggar, assistant quartermaster general, left for Montreal to day to look after the welfare of the western contingent of the Mounted Rifles in their journey from Montreal to Halifax.

W. A. Mackinnon, officer in charge of the fruit branch of the department of agriculture, reports that the first conviction under the fruit marks act had just taken place. The goods examined consisted of apples destined for England. They had been fraudulently faced and apt to mislead the buyer. (This is an upper province case.)

Mr. Vroom, inspector in Nova Scotia, is engaged in the new fruit grading sections of the country, and is doing good work in showing improved methods of packing.

According to reports received by the poultry expert of the department, P. H. Hays, the shipments of poultry to the mother country for the Christmas market, have brought excellent prices. Fifty-four cases from Prince Edward Island, twelve chickens to a case, averaged 12 cents per pound in Manchester, equal to 13 cents per pound in Ottawa.

THE KING RECEIVED MARQUIS ITO.

LONDON, Dec. 27.—King Edward received Marquis Ito in audience at Marlborough House this afternoon. The Japanese statesman had previously called on the foreign secretary, Lord Lansdowne, who accompanied the marquis to Marlborough House and introduced him to the King.

The marquis and his suite, all wearing court dress, were driven to Marlborough House in royal carriages. King Edward, when he received the Japanese statesman, wore a field marshal's uniform.

Marquis Ito, after the audience, said the object of his visit to London was strictly non-political, but in view of the better here of the probable return of the marquis to office, some importance is attached to his interviews with King Edward and Lord Lansdowne.

BOSTON TRAGEDY.

BOSTON, Dec. 30.—The body of Leo Damago, an Italian 30 years old, with a bullet wound in the throat, was found lying in the hallway at 302 Chambers street tonight and since the discovery the police have been making every effort to apprehend Michael Carrisi, 25 years old, who, they believe, fired the fatal shot. It is supposed that the shooting took place late in the afternoon, but the body was not discovered until 3 o'clock, and it was some hours afterwards before it was identified. At a late hour tonight the police had ascertained very little in regard to either of the men.

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DEATH'S MYSTERY

Being Made Public by Scientists in Chicago.

Thrilling Story Told by Prof. Jacques Loeb of His Experiments With Eggs of Lower Marine Animals.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—Experiments which it is claimed are a beginning of the unravelling of the mysteries of death were made public by Prof. Jacques Loeb at the fourteenth annual meeting of the American Physiological Society at the University of Chicago tonight. During the last summer the noted scientist has been continuing his series of experiments with the eggs of the lower marine animals, especially those of the sea urchin, and tonight, in a paper entitled on the Prolongation of Life of Unfertilized Eggs of the Sea Urchin by Potassium Cyanide, he told a group of the foremost physiologists in America that by means of observation of the effects of certain chemicals upon these minute bits of protoplasm he was ready to make a tentative definition of the heretofore unknown nature of death.

Death, Prof. Loeb affirmed, was not a negative process, a simple breaking down of tissues, as it has been regarded up to this time, but an active agent born with the birth of the egg, and destined, if not checked, to gain the upper hand of life instinct, and bring about extinction. But, greater even than the apparent discovery of this death agent in all substance, is Prof. Loeb's announcement that he has been able to check it in the eggs of the sea urchin at least, by means of chemical agents. This, it is claimed, means nothing less than that on a minute scale the secret of eternal life is in the power of mankind.

The experiments, Prof. Loeb said, were simple. Unfertilized eggs of the sea urchin were placed in a weak solution of potassium cyanide and abandoned for several days. In ordinary an unfertilized egg dies in a few hours, destroyed by the death agents born with it. At the end of several days the eggs were again examined and were found to be still capable of fertilization and of producing healthy animals.

Prof. Loeb said that the "mortiferous processes" were due to the action of certain ferments of an unknown nature, whose destructive tendency was counteracted by the potassium salts.

Several other papers of importance were read during the meeting. President D. J. L. Inglis of the University of Chicago, gave the results of his research into the effect of common salt upon the heart beat. He affirmed with great emphasis that contrary to the statements of Prof. V. V. Howells of Harvard, salt is the sole agent responsible for the rhythmic action of the heart.

Prof. F. S. Lee of Columbia University, made some interesting reports upon the action of alcohol upon muscles. By experiments upon the frog he demonstrated that a small amount of alcohol increased the working power of muscle, enabled it to make more rapid contractions in a given space of time, and delayed fatigue. That in short, it made the muscle the much better machine. In larger quantities, however, alcohol was detrimental in all respects.

GERMANY

Will Send a Substantial Fleet to the Caribbean Sea.

BERLIN, Dec. 30.—The German cruiser Gaisels was today ordered to sail immediately from Kiel to Venezuelan waters. The government intends to send one or two other warships to reinforce the present German squadron in the Caribbean sea. The additions to Germany's naval force in the Caribbean will not be sufficient to give rise to suspicions among the people of the U. S. that Germany meditates anything beyond the collection of claims due German subjects. The German government desires, beyond anything else in this matter, to avoid disturbing the government or the people of the United States.

German newspapers published today are full of expressions of this kind and many of these expressions are so much alike that it is easy to infer their utterance was suggested by the government. A remarkable thing is the fact that there is not a single unkind expression towards the United States in any of these newspaper comments. Even

NO, THANKS!

Canada Has Had Enough of Ashburton Treaties and Such Sacrifices.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—Commenting upon the statement from its Washington correspondent concerning the probability that Secretary of State Hay and Lord Pauncefote, British ambassador at Washington, are arranging a commission, in which the United States, Great Britain and Canada will be represented, for the settlement of the Alaskan boundary and other outstanding difficulties between the countries in question, the Daily Mail thinks that, having secured the isthmian canal treaty without an equivalent, the United States should now prove reasonable.

"Although it can hardly be hoped," says the Daily Mail, "that the Canadian claims will be conceded in their entirety, perhaps the wisest course would be to resort to arbitration, and in the question of warships on the Great Lakes, to permit the existing understanding to continue undisturbed."

CHANGES NECESSARY

In Proposed Protocol Between Chile and Argentina.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Advice received by Senor Infante, the Chilean chargé today, confirmed the news already published that the Argentine minister at Santiago had informed the Chilean minister of foreign affairs that Argentina could not accept all the terms of the protocol heretofore signed for the settlement of the dispute, and that some changes would be necessary in the instrument. Senor Infante's information from his government is that there is no foundation whatever for the statement that a change was made in the protocol by the Chilean minister of foreign affairs, but that, on the contrary, it was published as agreed upon between the representatives of the two governments.

The understanding here is that no formal demand has as yet been made upon the Chilean government for a change in the terms of the protocol, but that the matter has simply been one of informal talk at Santiago. This being the case, the hope is expressed that a satisfactory arrangement may yet be reached.

It is said that the largest insurance policy in the world is carried by Mrs. Dunsmuir, mother of the premier of British Columbia. That lady has recently secured two life policies of \$400,000 each, making an aggregate risk of one million dollars.

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