

SLAUGHTER OF BOERS.

They Attack Mafeking, But Are Driven Back With Frightful Losses.

Boers Also Suffer at Colenso—Caught Between Two Fires the Enemy Suffered Terribly—Annihilated Almost to a Man—The British Loss Was Very Small—Boer Treachery Punished.

A despatch from Orange River Station, says:—(By despatch rider from Mafeking)—The Boers bombarded the camp and town for 36 hours. They threw in 300 shells, and did not cease firing till the evening of October 25th.

During the long bombardment of the town by the Boers only four English soldiers were wounded.

The bombardment was so futile that it seemed to be a joke.

At its conclusion the Boers tried to rush the town.

A fearful rifle fire resulted, and the Maxim guns of the British were used with such deadly effect that the Boers broke and stampeded in a mad panic. They were driven back over mines, which were exploded, scattering the Boers in all directions with great loss.

BRITISH VICTORY AT COLENZO.

A despatch from London, says:—

Tuesday night's welcome despatches from the front show the British garrison at Ladysmith not merely standing on the dogged defensive, but executing a series of brilliant sorties.

Accounts from different sources agree that the laconic official description of Thursday's engagement as "an effectual shelling of the Boer laager" was unduly modest.

It appears that Sir George Stewart White sent a strong force of cavalry and infantry to attack the Boers at Tatham's farm, about 10 miles to the north-west, near Bester's, and apparently achieved a surprise, the Boers being caught on the open veldt and cut to pieces, and their camp captured.

Encouraged by this success, General White decided to risk an even more important engagement on the following day, which was again justified by success.

BOERS ATTACKED IN THE REAR.

Ladysmith had been isolated, and a Boer force had intercepted the railway between Ladysmith and Colenso.

This force on Friday had descended upon Colenso, and as shown by the despatches from Estcourt, had compelled a hurried abandonment of Colenso and a retirement of the British to Estcourt.

Gen White had ascertained that the Boers were attacking Colenso, but he was not aware of the British retirement. He had determined, therefore, to attack the Boers in the rear, thus hoping to achieve the double object of drawing off an attack upon the garrison of Colenso, and possibly of reopening communication southward.

The Boers had advanced southward until they had occupied the hills north of Tugela river and dominating Colenso on the other side of the stream. The hills sloped to a plain that reaches to the banks of the Tugela.

PERISHED ALMOST TO A MAN.

Gen. White's division caught the Boers in the rear, and after the hills had been shelled, the British infantry stormed the position.

Meanwhile the British cavalry swept round the hills, and as the retreating enemy descended into the plains, with British bayonets behind them and the river in front of them, they were charged by the cavalry and seem to have perished almost to a man.

The British then returned to Ladysmith without coming into touch with the Colenso garrison, which had retired to Estcourt.

BOER TREACHERY PUNISHED.

A despatch from Durban, Natal, Sunday says:—A native eye-witness of Thursday's battle near Ladysmith says the Boers were caught on the open ground and raised several white flags. The British then advanced without firing to accept the surrender of the Boers, but were received with a volley at close range.

Enraged at this treachery, the Lancers, Hussars, and Dragoons, followed by the infantry with fixed bayonets, charged through and through the enemy, and did great execution.

A lot of prisoners and loot were captured.

TO JOIN HANDS WITH WHITE.

A despatch from Estcourt announces the departure of a strong force of mounted troops and artillery for a destination not given in the despatches.

A special despatch from Pietermaritzburg, dated Sunday, says:—"It is confidently expected that railway communication will be restored with Ladysmith within a few hours."

Another message announces the arrival at Estcourt and Pietermaritzburg, within the last few days, of reinforcements from Durban, and that 3,500 troops are assembled ready for a readvance to Colenso when the opportune moment arrives. The latter despatch throws light on the former, and the force which left Estcourt Monday last doubtless reoccupied Colenso, and possibly is now advancing cautiously up the railroad toward Ladysmith. Gen. White's sortie of Friday almost to the banks of the Tugela river encouraging its commander in the hope of joining hands with him.

General Joubert, the latest advice indicate, drew in his horns after Friday's engagement, and has since withdrawn the southern Boer contingents, leaving only outposts on the line from Ladysmith to Colenso. The Boers who occupied Colenso about the middle of last week, retired without damaging Bulwer bridge, over the Tugela river, or the railroad as far north as the village of Nelthorpe, seven miles south of Ladysmith. Evidently they nurse a hope of eventually using both in their descent on Pietermaritzburg. Meanwhile the British are also able to use both, as they have already done, in running up an armored train, which may at the present moment be covering the advance of the Estcourt force.

At Estcourt and Pietermaritzburg the defensive works have been greatly strengthened within the last few days, and they are now believed capable of holding their own against any Boer force, which General Joubert would, at the present juncture, risk sending. Both are likely to be strengthened before the week is out by a further naval force, and even by the first detachment of General Buller's army corps.

TO CAPTURE KIMBERLEY.

The situation looks brighter at Mafeking, where the Boers are apparently disheartened at the unexpected resistance, a large body of their force having been detached to the south to assist in the investment of Kimberley, around which the cordon is drawing tighter. Evidently the Boers intend to make a concentrated effort to capture Kimberley and their arch-enemy, Cecil Rhodes.

Further details from Mafeking indicate that the Boer firing was easing off, the garrison was in high spirits, and the siege was becoming a farce. The correspondent says that the people were in the habit of shouting from the housetops "ware sherr shells" and that rabbit-holes had been excavated in the town, into which the men would dive when the smoke of the Boers' big gun was seen. General Cronje is accused of dropping shells in the direction of the women's laager.

According to a despatch from Kuruman, British Bechuanaland, dated Monday, Col. Plumer's column, marching from Fort Tuli to the relief of Mafeking, has reached Avogel kop, opposite Oost, ten miles north of Lobatsi, and was nearing Mafeking.

QUEEN TO LADY WHITE.

A despatch from London says:—The feeling of relief inspired by certain good tidings is tinged by a certain alloy of anxiety lest Gen. White should again make some fatal miscalculation. Her Majesty does not share this anxiety, and, apparently, is sanguine of his ability to pull through successfully. It is asserted that she has written to Lady White expressing sympathy with her husband in his trials and difficulties he is now experiencing, and assuring Lady White of her own undiminished confidence in his generalship. The public report in this letter has been cabled to Gen. White by the Marquis of Lansdown.

Her Majesty has written a letter of condolence to the mother of the late Commander Egeon, of the British cruiser Powerful, who was fatally wounded by the explosion of a shell at the bombardment of Ladysmith on November 2, when, as a gunnery lieutenant, he was in charge of one of the cruiser's big guns.

FUSILIERS IN COLENZO.

A despatch from Estcourt, Natal, says:—Details were received from the armored train, which returned from Colenso on Tuesday, of a brilliant little performance. The train, which carried two companies of the Dublin Fusiliers, under Captain Romer, sighted near Colenso, the Boers in considerable force near the line. The Fusiliers immediately opened a brisk fire, which the Boers replied to ineffectively, and, as they were suffering loss, they quickly retired out of sight. But as the train cautiously advanced on its left flank, their presumed object being to take the train in the rear. To avoid this the train retired.

It was then seen that the Boers had no intention of attacking but were in full retreat over the road and bridge. Immediately a strong detachment left the train and entered the town, while the train slowly advanced to the station. Several volleys at long range were fired on the retreating enemy.

The British also succeeded in entering Fort Wyke, near Colenso, and shells, provisions, and stores.

ATTACK ON KIMBERLEY.

A despatch from Orange River, Cape Colony, Monday, says:—"The Boers investing Kimberley have been reinforced by 2,000 men, and have succeeded in corraling about \$25,000 worth of stock belonging to Kimberley merchants, which was intended for the sustenance of the town."

STUCK TO THEIR TARTANS.

A despatch from Cape Town says:—"Many of the Gordon Highlanders who were wounded at Elandsplaagte have arrived here. A majority of them declared that they were shot after the Boers had exhibited four flags of truce and the British bugler had sounded "Cease firing."

The Highlanders admit that their heavy loss was due to their action in unanimously refusing their commander's offer to let them fight without their tartans.

SIEGE TRAIN FOR AFRICA.

A despatch from London, says:—"The War Office is mobilizing a siege train, composed of 14 6-inch howitzers, eight 5-inch, and eight 4-inch guns, with travelling carriages, and 15,000 rounds of lyddite and cordite shells. The 6-inch guns will have a range of 10,000 yards. Eleven hundred and thirty-six officers and men, supplied with 25,000 rounds of small arm ammunition, will accompany the train.

The armament is now being issued from Woolwich, and part of it has already been forwarded to Devonport for shipment to South Africa.

This will be the first employment of a modernized siege train by an European army; and the progress of the reduction of forts by lyddite shell fire, a preliminary to storming by infantry, will be watched with interest and curiosity by all professional soldiers."

MORE GORDONS SAIL.

A despatch from Liverpool says:—"Enormous crowds in the streets and about the docks here bid farewell on Thursday to the First Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders, Dargai heroes, in which a son of General White is a lieutenant. The presence of Lady White and her daughter increased the enthusiasm."

SAVING HIS AMMUNITION.

A despatch from London, Saturday, says:—"Complete silence has again fallen upon affairs in South Africa. The British public must perforce be content with the brief stereotyped report which the censor allows to filter through from Cape Town. That this condition of things is no longer due to pressure of work or defective cables has been amply proved. The Eastern Telegraph Company reckons that the real delay in transmission is about two days. It is evident, therefore, that the censorship is responsible for the other two days of delay which seems to befall all the despatches. Saturday morning, however, the Daily Telegraph announced that its "appropriated" despatch from Ladysmith, dated Monday, which the War Office published on Tuesday, was not delivered in Fleet street until yesterday, Friday, morning."

It is believed that the War Office received further despatches Friday evening, but nothing has been published.

The statement from Ladysmith that the British guns do not reply to the Boer artillery because the concrete beds for the guns have not yet hardened is interpreted in some quarters to mean simply that the British are hoarding their ammunition, as the Boer fire is only a trick to get the British to waste shells.

Among the few items that arrived Friday from the Cape is one saying that the Boers are planting more guns in the hills surrounding Ladysmith. All the correspondents in the beleaguered town are safe, and anxious to open communication.

A gentleman who visited Nicholson's after the engagement counted 25 in the hills and 70 in wounded.

The latest advices from Kimberley, say that all went well there then. An explosion had been heard, and the supposition was that the Boers had blown up the railroad culvert south of Dronfield.

The Belgian Government, it is said, has warned Dr. Leyds, whose headquarters is at Brussels, that Belgium is a neutral country.

FIRE ON REFUGEES.

The War Office has received from General Buller the following despatch: Cape Town, Thursday evening.—Have received by pigeon post from General White, to-day, the following:—"The bombardment at long range by heavy guns continues daily. Few casualties are occurring, but no serious harm is being done."

"The Boers sent in to-day a number of refugees from the Transvaal under a flag of truce. A flag of truce from Ladysmith met them outside the pickets. When the party separated the Boer guns fired on it before it reached our pickets."

Major Gale, of the Royal Engineers, was wounded to-day while sending a message.

"The entrenchments are daily growing stronger, and the supply of provisions is ample."

GEN. BULLER EXPLAINS.

The War Office has issued the following:—"A report having appeared in the South African papers that our artillery fired on the Geneva flag, General Buller telegrams the following account of the incident, given to the Standard and Diggers' News by the Rev. Mr. Martens, a Dutch clergyman with the Boers:—"Directly after the first cannon shot the English thought our men were at the railway station, and fired there. They were not; but one of the shots went through an ambulance. As soon as they found their mistake they ceased firing. The ambulance, in accordance with usages, should have been three miles from the field of battle; so the Boers cannot claim that the English broke the usages of civilized warfare; but I do not think the English would have fired on them had they known this. It was unintentional."

FIGHTING AROUND KIMBERLEY.

A despatch from Pretoria stated that on Tuesday last the bombardment of Kimberley was commenced. Before the attack General Cronje sent a message to Colonel Kekewich, calling on him to surrender before six in the morning, otherwise the town would be shelled, the women and children remaining at Kekewich's risk.

In reference to this, the War Office on Sunday afternoon posted the following:—"General Buller wired to-day, 10.15 a.m., that Colonel Kekewich reported November 8 that the bombardment of Kimberley November 7 did no damage and that there were no casualties."

The following despatches from Gen. Buller refer to fighting preceding the bombardment.

"Col. Kekewich, British commander at Kimberley, reports that the enemy were very active on November 4th, principally with the object of driving off cattle. The Orange Free State troops retired rapidly before Col. Turner without firing."

BOERS ATTACKED KENILWORTH.

"At 12.30 p.m., the Transvaal troops advanced on Kenilworth. Major Peakman, with a squadron of the Kimberley Light Horse, was hiding in the bush, and gave the enemy a warm reception. The Boers retired firing. Col. Turner reinforced Major Peakman, and at 12.40 p.m., the enemy opened fire with one piece of artillery at nearly 400 yards' range."

"Two guns of the Diamond Field Battery were then sent in support of Col. Turner, but the enemy's guns had ceased firing after the fifth round. Consequently our guns did not come into action. The enemy's artillery fire was not damaging, and his shooting was bad."

"Our casualties in the Kenilworth engagement were limited to Major Ay-leff, of the Cape police, who was wounded in the neck. He is expected to recover. Later in the day, our pickets saw the Boers carried off six dead from one spot, probably killed by our Maxim. The total Boer loss was probably heavy, but had not been estimated by Col. Kekewich."

ANOTHER BOER FORCE ENGAGED.

"About 5.30 p.m., Col. Turner was again in contact with a new body of the enemy on Schenst Drift road. From the conning tower a large number could be plainly seen about two miles to the north of Kimberley reservoir, and others held a walled enclosure on their own right flank."

Col. Turner opened with a Maxim and two guns of the Diamond Field Artillery sent in support. He came into action at 5.47 p.m., and continued firing until dusk."

Col. Kekewich is unable to state the enemy's losses, but believes they must have been severe, judging from the precipitate retreat of the Boers."

"At 6.10 p.m. the enemy opened fire with one piece of artillery from Kamposdam on Otto's kopje, the latter being held by the Cape police. The enemy inflicted no damage."

FIGHTING AT LADYSMITH.

A despatch from Estcourt, Natal, says:—"Heavy firing has been heard in the direction of Ladysmith. Some officers say it is heavier than any of the previous engagements. It is believed that this is because the heavy British naval guns are at last working. At Estcourt everything is quiet. The camp is constantly on the alert, however."

The men get up at 4 o'clock every morning. They are ready for any emergency, and have their kits so arranged that they can be removed at a moment's notice."

A party which rode out several miles about noon to observe the bombardment of Ladysmith, could see a "long tom," a 40-pounder, posted on the railway side of the Bulwara, firing at intervals of six to eight minutes."

Another gun was observed in operation a little distance away. Puffs of smoke were discernible on the opposite side, showing that Ladysmith was withstanding a big bombardment. The locality of the town was nothing but a huge cauldron of smoke."

The safe arrival at Ladysmith of Lieut. Hooper, of the 5th Lancers, shows that communication with the garrison is possible. He was anxious to rejoin his regiment, and started hence, accompanied by a Natal policeman. They succeeded in traversing the Boer lines."

MARKETS OF THE WORLD.

Prices of Grain, Cattle, Cheese, &c. in the Leading Markets.

Toronto, Nov. 14. About sixty loads of offerings were received at the Western cattle yards this morning, including 1,000 lambs and sheep and 1,500 hogs.

Prices for cattle were nominally unchanged, but trade was dull, and there was a downward tendency for second-rate and inferior cattle.

Export cattle in poor demand, and nominally quoted at from 4 to 4 1/2c per pound.

In butcher cattle there was a slow movement; the little good stuff we had here sold readily at from 3 3/4 to 4 1/4c per pound; a little more was paid for small selected lots, but these were in no sense representative rates. The enquiry was slow, and prices weak for all ordinary to common stuff. It is hoped the receipts of cattle, will not be large, to-morrow, Friday.

Stockers are a slow sale and quoted about 3c per pound for good cattle.

Feeders and bulls are unchanged. "Small stuff" is in over supply to-day; lambs and sheep are both weaker, lambs being from 25 to 35c per cwt. down. Many are left over.

Milk cows are scarce and dear; a few choice cows are wanted.

Good veal calves are also wanted, at from \$5 to \$8 each, if of the right kind.

Throughout the market prices were so unattracted that the general tendency was to wait and see what to-morrow may bring forth.

Hogs are unchanged. Choice hogs "singers"—scaling from 100 to 200 lbs. are selling at \$12.12-13c per cwt.; and thin and fat hogs at \$3.75 per cwt. Stores are not wanted.

Following is the range of current quotations:—

Cattle.

Shippers, per cwt. . . \$4.00 \$4.50
Butcher, choice, do. . . 3.75 4.25
Butcher, med. to good. . . 3.25 3.50
Butcher, inferior. . . 3.00 3.25
Stockers, per cwt. . . 2.25 3.12-1 3/4

Sheep and Lambs.

Ewes, per cwt. . . 3.00 3.30
Lambs, per cwt. . . 3.25 3.60
Bucks, per cwt. . . 2.00 2.50

Milkers and Calves.

Cows, each. . . 25.00 50.00
Calves, each. . . 2.00 7.00

Hogs.

Choice hogs, per cwt. . . 4.00 4.12-1 3/4
Light hogs, per cwt. . . 3.75 3.75
Heavy hogs, per cwt. . . 3.00 3.75

Toronto, Nov. 14.—Wheat—Outside markets were quiet, and easy to-day. In Chicago, December wheat broke below 68c. Local prices were unchanged, but the market was dull. Red and white Ontario sold to millers at 65 to 66c, according to nearness to the mill. Goose wheat unchanged, 70c. middle freights, and 69c. north and west. Manitobas easy at 79c for No. 1 hard, g.t.t., and 78c, Toronto and west.

Montreal, Nov. 14.—Special — The grain market continues quiet and easy. Peas are in a little better demand at 63 1/2c; barley is quoted at 50c for No. 1, 49c for No. 2, and 46c for feed barley; rye, 60c; buckwheat, 35c; oats, 29c, all afloat, Montreal. Manitoba, No. 1 hard wheat has declined, being quoted, afloat, Fort William, at 67c.

Buffalo, Nov. 14.—Spring wheat Steady; No. 1 Northern, old, spot, 74 3/8c; new spot, 72 3/8 to 72 5/8c; No. 2 Northern, spot, 69 5/8c. Winter wheat — Dull; light demand; No. 1 white, nominally, 70 1/2c; No. 2 red, 71 1/2c. Corn — Easier and dull; No. 2 yellow, 39c; No. 3 yellow, 38 3/4c; No. 4 yellow, new, 36c; No. 2 corn, 36c; No. 3 corn, 37 1/2c. Oats—Dull; barley steady; No. 2 white, 29 1/2c; No. 3 white, 28 3/4c; No. 4 white, 28c; No. 2 mixed, 26 1/2c; No. 3 mixed, 26c. Rye—Dull and unsettled; sales of No. 2 at 61 1/2c, on track. Canal freights — Wheat easier, shipments at 4c; corn 3 1/2c, barley 3 1/4c, to New York. Flour — Easy.

Chicago, Nov. 14.—Flaxseed—Closed —North-West, spot, \$1.27 3/4; South-West, \$1.27 1/4; December, \$1.27 1/4; May, \$1.28; Duluth, to arrive, \$1.24 cash, \$1.24; November, \$1.23 1/2; December, \$1.23 1/4; May, \$1.26 1/4.

Detroit, Nov. 14.—Wheat — Closed —No. 1 white, cash, 68 1/4c; No. 2 red, cash, 69c; December, 69 7/8c; May, 71 1/2c.

ALL FIVE CHILDREN DEAD.

Terrific Bereavement of Brockville in Two Months.

A despatch from Brockville, Ont., says:—By the death of Lester Cole aged six years, which took place on Tuesday evening, the entire family of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Cole, of this town, is wiped out. Two months ago there were five happy children. All were attacked with scarlet fever, and passed away one after the other with the exception of Lester, who survived. Recently he was attacked with brain trouble and succumbed.

PREPARATIONS CALLED OFF.

Arrangements for the Second Contingent Suspended.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—The preparations for a second contingent which were going on quietly at the Militia Department, were all called off on Thursday evening. Telegrams were sent to Messrs. Sanford and Co., Hamilton; Messrs. Workman and Co., Montreal, and others, telling them not to hurry with their contracts, as the uniforms, etc., would not be required for the present. No orders were given for anything which will not be required by the militia in Canada.

DISASTER IN CANTON.

Over Fifty People Either Burned or Drowned.

A despatch from San Francisco says:—"Hoc" Kong papers of October 5th, received by the Doric, give details of a great fire in Canton at midnight on the second, by which over 50 persons lost their lives. It seems a mat-shed theatre had been built by the riverside, and around it about 100 boats had been anchored. While the theatrical performance was going on, fire broke out on one of the boats. It spread rapidly to the inflammable material of the theatre. There was a wild rush among the audience, and many boats were capsized. Over fifty people were burned or drowned.

The Turkish and French consulates at Odessa have been informed that King Menelek of Abyssinia will arrive in May next and will pay a visit to the Czar while on his way to the Paris Exposition in 1900.