

## Building Trenches

**Boers Are Busy With Shovels and Picks at the Modder and Tugela.**

**Big Battle Expected Next Week—The Dutch Rising in Cape Colony.**

London, Jan. 5.—No further light is thrown upon the situation in South Africa by this morning's news. The exact position at Molento and Cypbergat is not yet clear; but in any case these little engagements are of small importance, beyond proving that the British forces are beginning to attain a greater degree of mobility.

It is fully expected, that next week will see a heavy battle on the Tugela river, which is now the pivot of the campaign. The Boers appear to be working incessantly with shovels and picks.

Lord Methuen's cavalry scouting has developed the fact that the Boer trenches extend forty miles, far over-lapping the British positions and making flank attacks exceedingly difficult.

Military men affirm that the Boer trenches confronting Gen. Buller stretch away some seventy miles, and that work upon them is pushed unremittingly.

While the advance is delayed flank movements are rendered most difficult, because long marches are not done with celerity, and it is hard to time an attack with certainty.

The extent of the Dutch rising may now be measured by taking a line from Prieska, on the west to Hirschburg, on the east. Along the whole of this line, except at points actually occupied by the British, the population seems for the most part hostile.

New redoubts are being built at Kimberley and seventeen miles of works now encircle the town.

It now appears that it is Mr. John Churchill, second son of Lady Randolph Churchill, and not Mr. Winston Churchill, who has been given command of a squadron of the South African Light Horse.

Lord Rosslyn has thrown up his engagement at the Court theatre in order to join the Yeomanry.

The offer of Lord Iveragh to provide at his own expense a completely equipped hospital in South Africa has been accepted.

The war office has invited Sir William Thomson to accept the post of staff surgeon to the forces in South Africa, instead of consulting surgeon.

**Calling Out Militia.**

London, Jan. 4.—An army order has been issued directing the mobilization of sixteen additional battalions of militia.

**Every White Man Must Fight.**

Cape Town, Jan. 5.—Intelligence has been received here from the Free State to the effect that President Steyn has issued a proclamation declaring that every white man irrespective of nationality is to be considered a burgher and is liable to be compelled to fight for the defence of the country.

**Narrow Escape of New Zealanders.**

Rensburg, Jan. 4.—A detachment of 25 New Zealanders had a narrow escape while advancing on Colesburg. They were directed to occupy a kopje, but met with a hot reception from a concealed force of Boers. Another body of British troops, seeing their danger, doubled to the rescue of the New Zealanders, and their retreat was successfully accomplished under cover of the guns on the hills westward.

The destruction of the wrecked train shielded 22,000 rations and a supply of rum.

The British casualties to Gen. French's force up to the afternoon of January 3rd were 5 men killed and 24 wounded.

**The Seizure of German Vessels.**

Berlin, Jan. 4.—The seizure of the imperial mail steamer General has considerably aggravated the situation here, and the indignation against England is intensified. The government, however, is still earnestly endeavoring to preserve correct official relations.

No answer that is considered satisfactory has yet been received from London, and according to advices here none is expected for several days longer. Today's news, however, induced the German government to send another protest to London.

**MINERS FREEZE TO DEATH.**

Three More Victims of the Awful Cold in the North.

According to later advices from the North, William Sumnerville, whose tragic death was recorded yesterday, was not the only victim of the blizzard on the snow-covered northern trails.

Three others are now known to have met death by freezing. Two were found on the summit of the White Pass frozen stiff in death. They had apparently been overcome by the blizzard. In a belt tied around the waist of one was found checks upon the Alaska Commercial Co. for \$3,000. The checks were issued in favor of R. C. Jennings. His residence was unknown and the other was not identified. The bodies were discovered by a party of snow shovellers working for the railroad. The men it seems had evidently sought shelter on the side of a large boulder, but were unable to withstand the terrible cold and had succumbed within less than a mile of shelter.

They are believed to be returning Klondikers; their clothes indicated that they had just come in from a long and wearisome journey. The check found on one of the bodies was dated November 7th, seven weeks ago, but the difference in time is accounted for by the fact that the men probably waited in Dawson for some time before starting out.

Another victim of the wintry trail was

D. R. Richter, of San Francisco. He was frozen to death in his cabin near White Pass, several miles from the summit. His dead body was found by an acquaintance living in a neighboring cabin. The dead man was 65 years of age. A week previous to the tragedy some kindly disposed person had reported through the columns of the Skagway Budget the old man's case of distress. He was, said the letter, starting, and unless assistance was sent, he would undoubtedly die. As far as was known the call for help was unheeded, none bothering in that every-man-for-himself country to go to the rescue. At last, noticing no sign of life near the cabin of Richter, a man from a neighboring cabin broke in the door, and found the dead body of the unfortunate man lying in the bunk frozen stiff.

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## Many Rich Strikes

**The Wonderfully Rich Find on Sulphur Creating Excitement.**

**Goes as High as Twenty Dollars to the Pan-Wealth on Gold Run.**

According to news received from Dawson up to the 14th ult. the phenomenal strike on 46 above on Sulphur continues to be the subject of most interested discussion. The depth and richness of the deposit of gravel uncovered is unprecedented in the history of this camp, says the Yukon Sun. If it should prove to be of any considerable superficial area, it will also prove to be the most significant strike that has yet occurred in the Yukon Territory. A deposit of gravel 20 feet deep and yielding from \$1 to \$15 or \$20 per pan will naturally attract the attention of the world.

The Sun is having a report made on the property by one of Dawson's most competent experts. It must be appreciated, however, that time and actual development alone can demonstrate the true extent of this remarkable deposit.

Late and projected experiments with new devices and methods in mining operations bid fair to mark the present winter as a history making epoch for the Yukon. The use of explosives, steam jiggers, novel belts, shafts, and pumps, the underground temperature, have made mining much more profitable, owing to the economy of operation. There can be no doubt that vast areas of ground that have been heretofore regarded as not sufficiently rich to work will be exploited with satisfactory results under improved and more economical methods. Never in the history of the Yukon, says the Sun, was the outlook for a great future so promising as at the present moment.

It is rumored that Alex. McDonald offered the sum of \$250,000 for No. 46 above Sulphur.

Rumors of a rich strike far up on Gold Run—\$50 to the pan—have reached Dawson.

Rich finds have also been made on the property of Dr. P. D. Carper and J. L. Hubbard, on No. 3, American Gulch. The pay streak is extensive, with the whole area of the property—250x640 feet. It has, in its entirety, been let out on lease, six in number, and is being exploited by combined forces of about 20 men. There have been sunk four or five shafts, ranging in depth from 38 to 100 feet to bedrock, and three tunnels, connecting with these shafts, have been driven. The stratum of pay gravel is from 24 to 33 feet thick, and yields from \$3.75 to \$10.70 per bucket.

On Gold Bottom creek a good strike was made opposite No. 7, left limit, second tier. Two holes reached bedrock at a depth of 21 feet in a gravel deposit of its contents, except a few cases of goods belonging to Borden McGregor and two others, were destroyed. The contents of the cabins were also nearly all consumed, and a dog was sacrificed to the flames. So rapid was the progress of the fire, that Mr. McGregor barely escaped with his life, leaving all, even his cap, behind. The loss is quite heavy, as the cache was well stocked with provisions. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is supposed to have been caused by a stovepipe.

James Hall, of No. 17 Eldorado and one of the richest miners of the North, has been arrested at the instance of his friends, charged with insanity. The reason given was that he was driven mad by a mummy Grace Anderson, a vandeville actress who had given her a check for \$10,000, payment of which was stopped.

Mrs. O. F. Smith was committed for trial at Dawson on Nov. 22nd for passing counterfeit bills. All the bills, alleged to have been passed in the Yukon, Canada, of Toronto and San Francisco, printed from plates, though the work on the plates is very clumsily executed and the printing is bad, so poor, in fact, that one accustomed to handling money in any quantity could easily detect the fraud. Little is known of the accused, who has been released on a bond of \$5,000.

**BUBONIC PLAGUE.**

Outbreak at Honolulu Engaging Attention—Other Affected Places.

The second outbreak of bubonic plague at Honolulu is now engaging the attention of shipping men and there is considerable discussion as to what effect it will have on the large amount of shipping now loading for the island port. The quarantine officers are more on the qui vive than ever because of the news of the new cases and all precautions are being taken to guard against the disease being brought to the coast. Until this danger is known to be past the affected port will not be visited by the transports as has been usual. They will go straight through from the Sound and San Francisco. Surgeon-General Wyman yesterday issued a long report from Surgeon Carmichael, who is stationed at Honolulu, bearing on the condition of affairs there regarding the bubonic plague. After giving details, which have already been published, Carmichael says what is considered the plague bacillus has been isolated in two of the cases, although the clinical symptoms were much alike in the first five cases reported.

The origin of the plague is obscure, but it is supposed to have been in some article of food, clothing, merchandise or rats from steamers. Oriental foodstuffs and freights have been landed and

distributed within the past six weeks without disinfection. No cases have occurred among the immigrants landed at the quarantine station so far as known. All those attacked resided in the city for a year or more.

He says: "I shall adopt all measures within my power to insure the safety of vessels leaving for United States ports, but the absence of a plant for disinfection here is severely felt at the present time, and in view of this fact additional precautions should be adopted at all Pacific coast ports, and such measures should insure the destruction of all vermin on board vessels."

The San Francisco Chronicle says: "On the government ships going from here to Honolulu in future, upon the suggestion of the quarantine officer, there will be funnels to cover the mooring hawsers. The greatest danger of the plague spreading is from the rats, which carry the disease germs. When a ship is in port, the rodents climb up the hawsers. To prevent this the funnels will be put on with the big ends towards the dock. The rats cannot climb up the sides of the funnel. The scheme has been in vogue in Indian ports for years and has met with great success."

Advice received by cable from Manila says. Health officers have found a native with all the symptoms of bubonic plague in a house in the walled city, where two suspicious deaths have occurred. The patient has been isolated and a watch kept on him to prevent the spread of the disease.

**Buried Millions**

**Americans Form an Expedition to Search for Luzon Treasure Trove.**

**Gold, Silver and Jewels That Were Buried by a Chinaman Long Ago.**

According to news received by the steamer Manila, a number of Americans have formed a company at Manila to make a systematic search for the buried millions of the Chinese mandarin, Chan Lee Suey, in southern Luzon. For over a century the story of the buried wealth has led many an adventurer into the swamps of the Rio Grande around Calumpit, since the 18th century the Filipinos of Panganga have cherished the idea of some day unearthing the buried millions. No one has been successful in finding any of the cached riches or was a clue found to them until recently, a Macabebe woman picked up three Spanish coins of the date of 1758 near the spot where the Chinese was alleged to have buried his gold. A soldier, who had heard of the treasure, bought the coins from the woman for \$70 (Mexican), and as a result of investigations made by this soldier, the company has been formed which hopes to recover the treasure.

To go back to the burying of the gold in the first place, when the British took Manila in 1762, T. en Simon de Anda, a justice of the supreme court, escaped and retired into the province of Belegu. He rallied the Spanish and an army of natives around him and declared himself viceroy of the islands. In that capacity he proceeded to hold the Philippines for Spain. He made war on the invaders, but the British continued to hold Manila and took Cavite. Outside of these two cities, though, Anda ruled, and with a rod of iron. The Chinese element in the islands were then powerless and Anda not sulking them, they conspired to get rid of him. He, however, was informed of the conspiracy and took a terrible revenge on the entire Chinese population. His soldiers were ordered to "massacre the Chinese traitors," and men, women and children were killed indiscriminately.

In these days of the richest of the Chinese was the mandarin Chan Lee Suey. He had immense riches and gave pearls worth fortunes. The jewels he wore were of almost incredible value, one opal of pearls bought from the Sultan of Sulu being the finest in the East. He did not live at Manila, but at Calumpit. When the Chinese began to rebel, he, a rich mandarin, loaded up two cases with treasure and determined to slip down the river into Manila bay, where he would have the protection of the British fleet. But the attempt was made too late. As the cases and their conveyer five boats with 150 armed Chinese were two leagues below Calumpit on the Rio Grande, an armed force of Anda's men under Capt. Alvarez was encountered. Fearful of running into a trap the mandarin at once changed his plans. The two cases were run ashore and while half the Chinese fought off the Spanish the others carried off the valuables. So well did the Chinese fight that Capt. Alvarez was obliged to send for reinforcements. Meanwhile the boxes and baskets of treasure with which the cases had been loaded had disappeared. A small basket left on one of the vessels by accident was all that was found. This contained fifteen kilos of gold dust. Simon de Anda was greatly exasperated when he learned of the escape of the mandarin and of his riches. A big reward was offered for his recovery and was offered and spurred on by this Spanish and native searched the country without avail, however.

Hundreds of Chinese were captured, and as they would not or could not reveal the place where the wealth was hidden, they were put to sword. Many were put through all forms of torture, but no information could be extracted from any of them. At last the mandarin was found in a rice field, when brought before Anda he defied him and no torture could wring from him the hiding place of his gold. He was killed. With all the search made to recover the gold no more was found but the basketful left behind from the cases.

When the British evacuated Manila, on Francisco de la Torre, when he became viceroy, made a strenuous search but no trace of the treasure was found. Many other attempts have been made to locate the gold, silver and jewels, but all failed. As to how much was hidden estimates vary.

## Exodus From Ladysmith

**Non-Residents Were Given 24 Hours to Leave the Town.**

**How Commander Egerton Died—White With 12,000 Troops Facing 22,000 Boers.**

Ladysmith, Nov. 7.

Ladysmith was wonderfully self-possessed. There were rumors that the ill-fated Dutch had been led into an ambush by Dutch guides. They were devoid of foundation. Yet public feeling ran very high on the subject of espionage.

The Boers appeared to know everything we did. They possessed the ranges of our camps and prominent buildings. Dutch spies entered the town with impunity, and they were even permitted to drive in friends of distinguished Boer wounded, who obtained authorization to visit the sufferers in the hospital at the Dutch church. Two artillerymen are alleged to have come in disguised as drivers of the ambulance vans which took the enemy's wounded back to his camp. The Boer who drove Mme. Kock into Ladysmith to visit her dying husband walked about the place without any sort of surveillance.

24 Hours to Quit the Town.

A unanimous chorus of approval consequently greeted Gen. Sir George White's order that non-residents were accorded 24 hours to quit the town. Immediately upon this suspicious characters were taken charge of by the police and four train loads of Ladysmith "titlanders" were packed off the same night. It was none too soon.

Residents who saw "slogs" writ large across the situation, and who would not face its risks hurried down country—to Pietermaritzburg—farther.

A partial exodus had undoubtedly been provoked by the administrative removal of people who did not belong to the town, and who, independently of considerations of safety, would only have burdened us with so many more useless mouths to fill. The outgoing of a frightened population is always a strange sight. It is ever the same frantic, hurried rush of men and women dying with anxiety to get space between themselves and danger, and the English these people showed when train followed train out of the railway station, and they still stood over the remnant of their belongings upon the platform. What matter whether they left their houses, their business, their cattle, their gardens in the threatened town? For Ladysmith was threatened! Yet we knew it not, and this partial exodus was voluntary on the part of residents, who received no official warning to remove their families beyond the reach of shot and shell.

The Other Way.

It is of no use to attempt to disguise the fact that the exodus among all classes was intense at the prospect of an early investment. The Colonial Imperial Light Horse, Natal Carabines, Natal Mounted Rifles, and Border Mounted Rifles—who know how to fight the Boers on their own lines—were keenly disappointed. They bore the brunt of the scouting for the first three weeks. They acted under one invariable order: "Draw them on and retreat!" They declare that left to their own tactics they would have harassed the Boer and delayed his advance; they even declare that at Acton Homes they could have prevented the invasion of the Free State commando. Instead of being allowed to worry him they were ordered back in the face of the enemy, who plucked up enough courage to assume the offensive and force them to "die to Ladysmith for their very lives."

Now, bearing in mind the small field force Sir George White commanded, it must be evident to anybody that dallying tactics should have been adopted as long as possible to prevent the enemy reaching our base in any numbers. What would not another week of preparation have meant to us here? What should we have done but for the opportune arrival of the powerful men and guns during the campaign which served to reveal the enemy's overwhelming strength? Another week's communication with Durban would certainly have added three weeks to our powers of resistance. Possibly it might have saved the investment.

Colonial vs. British Tactics.

One cannot help thinking that these Natal lads, who feel that they are fighting the battle of the Colony, backed by "Tommy Atkins" ought to have been allowed to harass the Boers after their own fashion on the hill sides while the army from England was being hurried up. To "draw them on" at top speed when we were unprepared to have our base surrounded and isolated strikes one as exhibiting most questionable tactics.

It will be argued that had Sir George White's operation of 30th Oct., known as the battle of Lombard's Kop, though it was little more than a costly reconnaissance, been crowned with success, we should have been in a very different position to-day. That is undeniable. But with a bare 12,000 troops how could we expect to cope with 22,000 Boers, strongly packed along a 12-mile front of hills, with siege guns ready mounted? We could not manage to support the column dispatched over night to hold the enemy's right, and the poor Gloucesters and Fusiliers were left to their fate, although the general must have known that an accident had deprived them of their