

NO TURNING BACK.

General Buller So Informed His Officers and Men Before the Advance Began Battle That Will Probably be the Severest of the Campaign Expected Today.

Boer Atrocities at Mafeking - Colonel Baden-Powell Says it is Impossible to Rely on Boer Honor - Praise for the Canadians.

GENERAL REVIEW.

LONDON, Jan. 19, 4 a. m.—Military critics in affiliation with the war office consider that the expected battle along the wide arc south and west of Ladysmith can hardly be delayed beyond today.

Gen. Buller's forces engaged in the flanking operation across the Tugela are some thirteen thousand, the fourteen thousand by Lyons, 1,200 horses and 40 guns. The disposition of his other 15,000 or 20,000 men is not known, although the assumption is that the whole army will be in action when the hour for combined movement arrives.

Three weeks ago Gen. Buller had 20,000 men. Considerable reinforcements have since reached him, giving him probably 35,000 men and 80 guns, all told. Estimates of how many men and guns the Boers have to oppose him are mere guesswork. In not replying to Gen. Lyttleton's challenge are using the tactics that proved so successful in the battles of Magerfontein and Colenso—lying low in their trenches, and thus hoping to conceal their precise position until the infantry advance.

The Daily Chronicle's military expert sees a curious analogy between Gen. Buller's situation now and on the eve of Magerfontein. Now, as then, the Boers are making a stand, with their backs to investing lines within a few miles. As Lord Methuen, after crossing Modder River, had to attack the Spyfontein and Magerfontein hills, so Gen. Buller, after passing the Tugela, faces invisible entrenchments in a rough country.

One correspondent mentions General Buller's wheeled transport of five thousand vehicles, which connect him with the rail head, about thirty miles to the rear. Among the vehicles are thirty traction engines, which draw from ten to fifteen wagons each.

Gen. Buller's waiting about the misuse of the white flag by the Boers, in his proclamation to the troops, is considered a rather broad hint to give no quarters. His phrase, "There will be no turning back," is played upon editorially by the morning papers, as presaging cheerful announcements.

The absorbing interest felt in the situation in Natal makes other points in the theatre of war seem microscopic. Lord Methuen lies behind his works at Modder River. It is estimated that his forces will have to be nearly or quite doubled before he can relieve Kimberley.

British reinforcements are moving toward Gen. Buller at Rensberg. With these he is expected to advance Gen. Gatacre's men occupy Lopsburg, a slight advance.

The war office announces that next week will be embarked 72 guns, 3,710 men and 2,210 horses. This is the largest consignment of artillery ever sent abroad. The war office invites 500 volunteers to form a sharpshooters' battalion of yeomanry.

Sir Wm. McCormac, in the Lancet, says that of the 200 wounded in the hospitals visited by him, only eight had been hit by shells.

Mr. Kipling has written the following characteristic letter to the British

Ghana branch of the Navy League, in recognition of a contribution to the war fund: "Erova, British Ghana. Seeing what they have had to contend with lately in the sugar line, they have done uncommonly well. Please convey to them my best thanks—first, as vice-president of the League; second, as perpetrator of 'The Absent-Minded Beggar'; and third, as a fellow-contributor to the big jackpot, which we are holding on Thomas' behalf. Have you seen Brazil and Trinidad come into the game?"

The Cape Town correspondent of the Times, discussing Afrikaner disloyalty, says: "I believe the sympathy of every Dutchman in South Africa is with the two republics, and that a general rising is still quite possible. However, there is nothing to implicate the Bond party as a whole in an official or organized conspiracy against the imperial government, although the Bond party is to be seen in order to preserve their popularity."

"The British failures and the appearance of the Boers on British territory have fomented rebellion, but even now a decisive British victory would prevent its further spread."

This correspondent testifies to the value of the services rendered by Mr. Schreiner, the Cape premier, in an embarrassing position. He speaks less highly of Mr. Hofmeyr, the real leader of the Bond party, and severely condemns the Dutch press of the colony, which he says, "is doing its utmost, while keeping on the windy side of the law, to promote rebellion and to envenom racial antagonism."

The British losses, in killed, wounded and captured up to date, are 7,357 officers and men.

NO TURNING BACK.

General Buller so Addressed His Men Regarding the Advance

MOUNT ALICE, near Potgieter's Drift, Natal, Monday, Jan. 15.—The forward movement for the relief of Ladysmith began on Wednesday, Jan. 10, from Frere and Chieveley. Lord Dunderberg's mounted brigade, with the Fifth Brigade, under Gen. Hart, comprising the Durban, the Border Regiment, proceeded northwesterly to Springfield. The position had previously been thoroughly reconnoitred.

A few miles outside of Frere, Lord Dunderberg passed targets erected by the Boers to represent a force advancing in skirmishing order. Evidently the Boers had been firing at these from the adjacent hills.

FIVE THOUSAND VEHICLES. Lord Dunderberg pushed on, and, as the main column advanced, it was noticed that Springfield was not occupied by the Boers and that the Fifth Brigade had taken possession. The British transport extended for several miles and comprised some five thousand vehicles.

The mounted brigade advanced rapidly, not meeting with any opposition. The British scouts had minutely scouted all suspicious country, but there was no sign of the enemy. The

column advanced to Mount Alice, facing the enemy's mountain fortresses. The Boers had been at Potgieter's Drift the previous day, but a body of South African Horse swam the river under fire and brought over the pontoon from the Boers' side.

The Boers were evidently surprised at the appearance of the British on the scene. A large camp could be seen on Tugela heights, facing Mount Alice, but the enemy quickly retreated and closed off into the mountains. A bugle was seen leaving for the Boers on the right, presumably with Gen. Joubert or some other commander.

Gen. Buller took up his quarters in a pleasantly situated farm house belonging to Martinus Prinsloo, his headquarters.

On Friday a loud explosion was heard. Subsequently it was found that the Boers had destroyed a bridge under construction seven miles above Potgieter's Drift.

Gen. Buller has issued a spirited appeal and instruction to the forces, beginning: "We are going to the relief of our comrades in Ladysmith. There will be no turning back."

The order proceeds to advise the men, women and children, regarding the conditions under which they should receive the surrender of any of the enemy. It also warns them that the Boers are treacherous in the use of the white flag.

This order has been received with enthusiasm in every camp. The march was very trying, but the troops are now encamped amid very pleasant surroundings. Their health is excellent, and all are confident.

BOER POSITION SHELLED

SPEARMAN'S FARM, Natal, Jan. 19, 10 a. m.—Gen. Lyttleton's brigade, with a howitzer battery, crossed the Tugela river at Potgieter's Drift on Tuesday, Jan. 15. The water rose above the waists of the men. The Boers fired two shots, and then recalled their forces to the trenches, the passage being unimpeded.

The British advanced in skirmishing order, and the small kopjes on the summit were occupied by 6.30 p. m. During the night it rained heavily.

Yesterday (Wednesday) the Boer trenches were vigorously shelled in front of Mount Alice, while the British remained in possession of the kopjes on the hills, but the naval gunners and the howitzer battery made good practice, thoroughly searching the trenches. On the Boer right a breach was made in a sandbag emplacement, which was supposed to be a machine gun position. The bombardment was heavy and continuous, and the Boers were observed leaving the trenches in small parties. The hill facing the British position was shelled next.

Gen. Warren has forced a passage of the Tugela seven miles to the left.

SEVERE FIGHTING.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—A special despatch from Durban, dated Wednesday, says: "Advices from Potgieter's Drift, dated yesterday (Tuesday), say that Sir Charles Warren has arrived within 17 miles of Ladysmith, and that British wounded are arriving at Moor River field hospital by every train from the front, indicating that there has already been severe fighting.

"Neither report has yet been confirmed."

STRATHCONA'S HORSE

Details Have not Yet Been Arranged. OTTAWA, Jan. 18.—Judging from the number of copies, the announcement that steps are being taken to organize the high commissioner's contingent, now generally known as Strathcona's Horse, and impatiently awaited, the British press in the morning papers, stating that all details had been arranged between the war office and Lord Strathcona, and transmitted to the dominion government, is incorrect, at least as regards the latter statement.

The Boer guns had not yet returned to the return to Ottawa next week of the minister of militia. Meanwhile all that the department can do is to set the wheels in motion for outfitting the men, but it will be some days before recruiting is commenced. As stated, Lord Strathcona's idea is to enlist men exclusively in the Northwest Territories. A restriction of this kind might shut out some splendid men with years of experience in the Northwest, many of them in the mounted police force, and now drifted into the mining districts of the Pacific province.

General Hutton is strongly of the opinion that these men should be given a chance to enlist. The Allan line has offered the Numidian as a transport, the Elder-Dempster line the steamship Monterey.

THE LONDON VIEW.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—The country has received with extreme satisfaction the news of Gen. Buller's successful crossing of the Tugela River, and the result of his further operations, which it is recognized will not fail to involve a struggle at least as severe as anything that has yet taken place. So far as known at the time of writing, the expected battle had not begun, though the British howitzers and naval guns have been searching the Boer trenches with lyddite shells, which, according to one correspondent, have been especially effective.

A telegram from Durban reports that numbers of wounded troops are arriving at the field hospital at Moor River from the front, but Durban readily invents reports of this kind,

nothing contained in the despatches from Spearman's Farm indicates that anything more than long range firing is in progress. Neither is there any mention of the Boers responding to the British artillery.

Gen. Warren's advance guard had a skirmish in crossing the river, and the men who swim the stream to get possession of the ferry boat, as mentioned in yesterday's despatches, did their work under a smart fire, but apparently there were no British casualties.

Despatches received here leave much unsaid regarding the strength and exact disposition of the relief column, but Gen. Buller is apparently taking five-sixths of his whole force with him, leaving the remaining sixth to guard their camp at Chieveley. The comments of the press do not go far beyond congratulations on the successful movements to the point reached, but it is generally felt that barring an unforeseen accident, the conditions under which a further advance will be made are likely to be more advantageous to the British than in any previous phase of the campaign.

BOER ATROCITIES

LONDON, Jan. 19.—The Times correspondent at Mafeking, in a despatch dated Jan. 3, confirms the statement that the Boers who are besieging that place were concentrating their fire on the women's laager and hospital. He says that it was no longer possible to guarantee the safety of the women and children, despite every precaution. Women have been mutilated and children killed. The scenes of terror and consternation among them are pitiable. The garrison's resistance is goading the Boers to commit various atrocities, which is fanning the spirit of revenge among the townfolk.

Col. Baden-Powell, the British commander at Mafeking, has stated that it is impossible to rely on Boer honor. The strictest and most impartial enquiry leaves no doubt that the enemy used explosive bullets at Gamatere.

AUSTRALIANS AMBUSHED.

RENSBURG, Cape Colony, Wednesday, Jan. 17.—A patrol composed of 100 men from the South Wales Lancers and South Australians was ambushed yesterday by the Boers and overwhelmed after a severe fight. Two of the detachments escaped and have arrived in camp. This morning a patrol visited the scene of the Boer ambush, and found one Australian and one wounded man. A number of dead Boer horses were found, showing that the Australians made a gallant fight before surrendering. It appears that when the Australians found their retreat cut off they galloped for a nearby kopje, hoping to be out of the way of the Boers, but on arriving they found another force of burghers concealed there.

Six more of the Australians returned later. The rest of them were captured.

APPOINTED STAFF CAPTAIN.

LONDON, Jan. 18.—The war office announces the appointment of the Duke of Marlborough as a staff captain in connection with the Imperial Yeomanry being organized for service in South Africa.

STRONGLY ENTRENCHED.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—A despatch to the Standard from Spearman's Farm describes the Boer position as revealed by a reconnaissance on Jan. 12. The enemy were strongly entrenched on a series of low kopjes close to the river and extending to Ladysmith. Their second main line of defence was at the edge of a long plateau, which was fortified and flanked by a low hill called Abernethy. The position was further strengthened by the stunted course of the Tugela River, which after flowing beneath the precipitous slope of the Tabamayama Mountain, winds about until it forms a sort of peninsula, over which the Ladysmith road passes to the plateau.

A despatch to the Telegraph, dated Spearman's Farm, Jan. 18, says: "A howitzer battery bombarded the Boer lines occasionally during the night. The firing was resumed this morning."

WAR OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON, Jan. 18, 9.37 p. m.—The war office has issued the following: "From Buller, Spearman's Camp, Jan. 18: 'One field artillery, howitzer battery and Lyttleton's brigade are across the Tugela at Potgieter's Drift. The enemy's position is being bombarded by us.'

"Five miles higher up Warren has crossed the river by a pontoon 85 yards long. He hopes his forces will by evening have advanced five miles from the river to his right front. The enemy is busily entrenching."

"From Roberts, Cape Town, Jan. 18: 'Gatacre reports that 300 men of all ranks have been moved from Bushman's Hoek to Hopesberg, and one company of mounted infantry from Sterkstroom to Bushman's Hoek. Otherwise there is no change.'

PRaise FOR OUR BOYS.

MONTREAL, Jan. 18.—The Star's special cable from London says: 'The Standard's special correspondent at the Modder River says today: "Otez la," "Depchez vous." "Say there, bring her over," and similar commands and exhortations in English, Canadian and French greeted my ears at Orange River station while the train was being boarded by the Gordons, who were going to the front. The Canadians had arrived the day before from De Aar, and in one day had laid and completed a mile and a quarter of railway making under a South African sun in December is no play, and the sight of these sons of the north handling sleepers and rails with the greatest despatch and enthusiasm, working as white men seldom work in South Africa,

THANKSGIVING SERVICE.

LADYSMITH, Jan. 8.—A solemn thanksgiving service was held yesterday. The church was crowded, chiefly with soldiers. Archbishop Barker preached an eloquent sermon of thanks for the victory of Jan. 6th. He told his hearers that probably they would have to fight another and more important battle, but they must place their trust in God. Gen. White and staff stood at the altar while the Te Deum was being sung. The impressive ceremony was concluded with the singing of God Save the Queen by the entire congregation.

EXPLOIT SERIOUS FIGHTING.

LONDON, Jan. 19, 12.30 a. m.—At midnight the war office announced that it had no further news for publication. When questioned with regard to the rumored British victory and the relief of Ladysmith, the officials replied that they had received no information to bear out either feature of the rumor, and were inclined to think that serious fighting must precede the relief of the town.

BOERS OCCUPY PRIESKA.

CRADDOCK, Cape Colony, Jan. 18.—On Saturday, Jan. 13, the Boers, with a commando of colonial rebels, occupied Prieska, a village on the Orange river, about 107 miles northwest of De Aar.

CULVERTS DESTROYED.

STERKSTROOM, Jan. 18.—Yesterday the Boers blew up three culverts on the Dordrecht line, five miles beyond an outpost of the police camp. The commando at Dordrecht numbers a thousand.

GATACRE'S COMMAND.

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 18.—Gen. Gatacre reports that 300 men of all ranks have been moved from Bushman's Hoek to Hopesberg. The 74th Field Battery has moved from Sterkstroom to Bushman's Hoek, otherwise there is no change in his forces.

GOING TO CAPE TOWN.

(Special Despatch to the Sun.) LONDON, Jan. 18.—Mr. and Mrs. Rudyard Kipling will sail for Cape Town on the steamer Kinfauns Castle on Saturday.

SECOND CONTINGENT.

AT HALIFAX. HALIFAX, N. S., Jan. 18.—The transport Laurentine sails Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. She may wait till after the arrival of the Intercolonial train at 3.30. At the annual meeting of the Tiro Condensed Milk and Canning Company it was decided to send to Colonel Irving, for the use of the second contingent, 1,250 pounds of their Reindeer brand of condensed milk, thus supplying every man in the contingent with one pound.

General Hutton, Hon. Dr. Borden, Hon. Wm. Mulock, Hon. W. S. Fielding and Hon. James Sutherland, arriving in the city tonight by the Intercolonial express, which was several hours late. General Hutton at once went to Bellevue, the residence of General Lord Wm. Seymour. The minister of militia and the postmaster general repaired to the Brunswick street Methodist church, the largest in the city, where the ladies of Halifax and others were giving a farewell to the 400 men of the contingent which were in the city. The trains from Quebec did not arrive till 11 o'clock tonight, and neither men nor horses will be detrained till the morning.

Inspection of the force is fixed for 10.30 o'clock Saturday morning, immediately after which embarkation will commence. The transport is timed to sail at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, but it may be an hour later ere the men go. The government steamer Newfield and the commercial cable steamer MacKay-Bennett will both escort the Laurentine to sea.

Members of the Red Cross and postal contingents arrived tonight. The members of the Evangelical Alliance and the members of the various women's societies of the city, which took place tonight in Brunswick street church, was a huge success. It was in a sense a mild protest against the citizens' entertainment for tomorrow night, which is to be in the form of a smoker at the Armories building.

The men were entertained to a sumptuous supper, after which the public entered for a mass meeting. The church was draped with bunting. When the minister of militia entered, the members of the contingent rose to their feet in his honor. Hon. Mr. Mulock was never before in Halifax, and in his remarks to the meeting he congratulated himself on the fact that he had made his first acquaintance with Halifax in a church. It was fitting that such a demonstration as this should be in a sacred edifice, for Britain in this contest is waging "a holy war."

The minister of militia, in his speech, dwelt on the patriotic spirit which prompted so many men to volunteer

for active service. We had now about 2,500 men under arms, but it would have been easy to have raised 10,000 men. The difficulty had not been to raise the men, but to select them. This was particularly true of the officers. There had been volunteers enough for an army of 25,000 men serving in the ranks in South Africa today, he says, are thirty men who resigned their commissions to enlist. Hon. Dr. Borden read the following letter: "265 Peel street, Montreal, Jan. 8. 'Dear Dr. Borden—I am a boy ten years old. Are you going to raise a contingent of little boys to go to South Africa to fight for the Queen? If you are, I know of a party of boys ready to go by the next steamer.'

"That is a sample of young Canada," said Dr. Borden, amid the cheers of the congregation. Speaking of the embarkation at Halifax, Dr. Borden thought it only fitting that it should take place in a city like this, the headquarters of British military power in Canada.

ALL ON ONE VESSEL.

OTTAWA, Jan. 18.—Curiously enough, three chaplains are to go on the last transport, the men on other vessels having no spiritual advisers.

SECOND CONTINGENT.

AT QUEBEC. QUEBEC, Jan. 17.—It was almost two o'clock today when the train containing the first part of "B" Battery and No. 3 troops "A" and "B" squadrons Canadian mounted rifles pulled out of the I. C. R. station at Levis, and the second followed half an hour later. The men began to entrain at 8 a. m., and even from that early hour people from Quebec and Levis began to gather at the station until at noon, some thousands thronged every available foot of ground.

State Band of the R. C. I. was present and discoursed patriotic airs, and altogether such an enthusiastic demonstration took place as has never been surpassed here—not even when the first contingent sailed.

AT TORONTO.

TORONTO, Jan. 17.—The British Empire Insurance Company, the lowest tender, today were awarded the contract for the insurance for the Toronto members of the second contingent. One hundred and thirty-eight men were insured for one thousand dollars each for one year. The total premium is eight thousand five hundred and seventy dollars.

The directors of the Bank of Toronto today voted \$2,500 to the national patriotic fund. The Imperial Bank today subscribed \$2,000 to the national patriotic fund.

GALAIS SCHOONER LOST.

MACHIAS, Me., Jan. 18.—The scho. Nellie J. Crocker of Calais, Captain Henderson, from St. John for New York with a cargo of plating, went ashore at an early hour this morning in a thick fog, on Schoodic Island, Frenchman's Bay, and is a total loss. The crew were saved. The Crocker was built in East Haven, Conn., in 1874, and registered 312 tons.

The Nellie J. Crocker left St. John Wednesday morning. Last evening a despatch was received from Captain Henderson, dated Winter Harbor, Me., stating that the vessel had gone ashore near there and that the goods on board were insured. The cargo, which was shipped by J. E. Moore, was also insured.

NOT LIABLE TO SEIZURE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Ambassador Choate is prosecuting his efforts to learn just where the provisions are that were seized off Delagoa Bay on the Mashona, the Maria and the Beatrice. He has reported that the goods on the Maria are in the custom house at Durban, subject to the disposition of the owners. The goods carried on the Mashona are believed to be still on board that ship at Cape Town, but owing to imperfections in the ship's papers it has not yet been possible to clear up the fact in that case. The Beatrice is in East London, and the British government is trying to learn from its officers the status of the cargo. It is authoritatively stated that there is no difference of opinion whatever between the governments of the United States and Great Britain as to the legal aspects of the seizures of goods in those three cases. The British government has admitted without reserve that these goods were not liable to seizure.

BOER WAR MAP.

Send FIVE CENTS to the Daily Sun Office for a large map of the Transvaal, showing all places where fighting is likely to take place.

A trooper in the Duke of Edinburgh's Own R. V.—the regiment which foiled the Boers' attempt on the railway line at Victoria West—wrote home, marking the envelope with "No stamps obtainable," and "On active service." The G. P. O. marked the letter "id." and then charged 2d. for K.

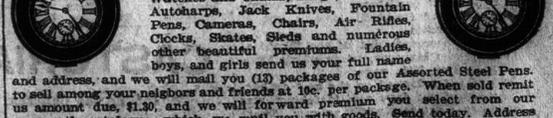


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