

The Klondike Nugget

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ADMIRABLE COURAGE.

Kruger has withdrawn all the Transvaal forces from Natal and the Orange Free State, and now is preparing to continue the struggle beneath the shelter of his own vine and fig tree as long as he shall have the resources left with which to fight.

However much one's sympathies may be aroused in favor of the Outlander, in behalf of whose rights the Transvaal war was undertaken, we cannot suppress a feeling of admiration for the calm courage manifested by the Boers, even though that courage be born of religious fanaticism.

The Boers have retired within the confines of the Transvaal, and are merely awaiting the fate which must inevitably overtake them in the long run.

There is no doubt as to the result of the war. Britain will win; she must win. Her future as the dominant power in South Africa, and, in fact, her future as the great colonial power of the world, has been staked upon the outcome of the Boer war. None realize this more truly than England's statesmen.

Lord Roseberry, in the course of an address in the House of Commons, said:

"If Great Britain were to lose South Africa, she would lose the most important base outside of the United Kingdom, and she would lose that colonial support which has been given, because the colonies have believed that they were associating themselves with a powerful empire, and thus the empire would break away from us. If this be not a life and death crisis, I don't know what is."

The war has been conducted upon a scale which has left no doubt that a full realization of its importance has been felt by the government. The possibility of defeat has never been considered. Success is necessary, and success must come.

The inevitable has swept down upon the Boers. Their race as a power has been run. They realize what the outcome will be, but, like brave men, they will fight as long as it is possible for them to carry on the contest.

Courage is a quality which commands respect under any and all circumstances. The Boers have demonstrated that they possess this quality beyond all doubt. They have proven themselves an enemy worthy the steel of their opponents, which is the highest compliment possible to pay them.

TAKING ACTION.

The American government is calling for bids for the construction of sixty military and telegraphic posts along the line of the Yukon river. It is estimated, according to the dispatches, that the cost of construction will exceed \$100,000. Uncle Sam is going at the Alaska question in dead earnest. He begins to realize that the big northern peninsula is an important possession and worth caring for. It will be only a question of another year until a continuous line of telegraphic communication is established from the mouth of the Yukon along the entire course of the river and extending down

into British Columbia, and so connecting with all the great commercial systems on the outside.

When completed, this system will be one of the achievements to which both the Canadian and American governments can point with pride. With the completion of through telegraphic communication, such as is proposed, the development of the Yukon country may be said to be well under way.

Despite the threats of the rush for Nome, the coming summer gives promise of witnessing a substantial revival in building in Dawson. Notwithstanding the enormous sums which the big companies have already invested in their various plants, several of them will make very extensive improvements. Other smaller concerns have announced their intention of enlarging their store rooms, and new enterprises are coming into the field, all of which will add their quota to the improvements which will be made. Altogether, the outlook for a building boom is quite favorable.

Some hitch in the preparation of the specifications has caused a delay in the construction of the new postoffice building—to be. It is understood now that further instructions must be received from Ottawa before work on the building can be started. Meanwhile, people who bought property in the vicinity of the post-office site when the tip was given out concerning its location are beginning to wonder where they are at. This government red tape is a fearful and wonderful thing.

Another concert will be given at the Palace Grand Theater on Sunday night next. The Nugget hopes that the coming entertainment will receive better patronage than has been tendered the former efforts of the concert managers. Lovers of wholesome amusement should patronize these Sunday night entertainments. They are essentially along the line of an improvement in the standard of public entertainments, which in Dawson has never been exceedingly high.

British Boats for Nome.

Once more the transportation companies of Seattle and the ports across the border are distraught because it may be that the steamers Alpha and Amur, now booking passengers for Cape Nome, may be able to compete with their fleets. History is again repeating itself. The annals of the Klondike rush are as full of their efforts to block the trade of Canadian vessels. Their first objection was to the carrying of America freight in bond to Cape Nome, notwithstanding that they have done practically the same thing for the past three years in carrying British goods from here and Vancouver in bond in American bottoms for shipment via the disputed territory at the head of Lynn canal, to Dawson. When raising this objection, they were not averse to the proposal to make Nome a port of entry. On the other hand, they clamored for it, believing that could they stop the granting of permits such as given last year to carry American goods shipped by rail to Vancouver in bond to Cape Nome, the passenger trade of the local steamers would suffer. However, with this matter still pending, passengers continued to book by the local steamers, and many of them from the other side of the line, and the vessels were filling rapidly with freight, much of it Canadian, on which duty would be paid at Cape Nome, and at this stage of the game came the announcement from the United States treasury department that it had been decided to make Nome a subport of entry. Then—the Washington correspondent of the Post-Intelligencer tells it as follows:

"The announcement that the treasury department was about to make Cape Nome a subport of entry has roused a storm of protest from American ship owners on the Pacific coast. Senator Perkins has received a large number of telegrams, calling attention to the advantages which vessels plying from Victoria and Vancouver would enjoy,

in competition with those from the ports of the United States. It is the desire of the Pacific coast ship owners that masters should remain as they are in Alaska, because British vessels would then be compelled to discharge their cargoes at Dutch Harbor or St. Michael.

"As soon as the news reached British Columbia that Cape Nome would probably be made as subport, ship owners there advertised they would carry passengers and freight to Nome and would give a guarantee against detention on account of the customs officials. This, of course, attracted the attention of the American ship owners who lost no time in placing their remonstrance here."—Victoria Times.

Russian Loan Arranged.

New York, Feb. 27. — The Herald tomorrow will say: Ignoring Berlin, London, Paris and the other European banking centers, the Russian imperial government has come to New York for a loan.

A syndicate of financial institutions of this city—banks, trust companies and insurance companies—have just arranged for the purchase of an issue of \$25,000,000 of 4 per cent bonds, representing a first mortgage on the Vladikawkas railway system. The principal and interest of these bonds are guaranteed by the government, and are payable in American gold dollars at the New York Security & Trust Company. The nature and size of this loan and the disclosure which it makes of this country's present position as a financial power of the world, is the most interesting feature. Another is the surprising showing it reveals as to Russia's purchases in the American market of iron, steel, coal and finished machinery. Besides, there is the fact that a gold loan, guaranteed by one of the great European powers, is selling in the American market at a price which nets the syndicate slightly more than 4 per cent. The first \$10,000,000 of the bonds have just been delivered in New York, and a payment of \$5,000,000 has been made on account. This money is now deposited to the credit of the Russian government at the office of J. P. Morgan Co., the National City bank and the New York Security and Trust Company. A special arrangement made with the Russian government by a representative of the syndicate who has recently returned from St. Petersburg provides that none of the money for the bonds is to be transferred to Russia, but that all of the amounts are to be deposited in New York to the credit of the government and disbursed under the direction of the Russian fiscal agent in America, M. De Rontkowsky, in payment of the balances which Russia is incurring with American shipbuilders, iron and steel manufacturers and others of that class.

Meeting of Committee.

The citizens' committee will meet at the McDonald hotel, Thursday evening at 8 o'clock. The report of the committee, respecting the matters entrusted to it at the last meeting of British subjects, will be prepared; and the final arrangements will be made for the mass meeting to be held at the Palace Grand on next Friday evening. All members of the committee are urged to attend.

Boer Losses.

English newspapers published the following estimate of Boer losses prior to Gen. Buller's operations around Spionkop. The figures are said to have been carefully compiled and many items have been verified by persons who have lately arrived from the republics. The general opinion is that the figures are underestimated:

Mafeking, 500; Kimberley, 300; Belmont, 400; Graspan, 250; Modder river, 400; Magerstontein, 700; Kuruman, 100; Douglas, 75; against Gen. French, 300; against Gen. Gatacre, 100; Glencoe, 300; Elandsplaagte, 600; Ladysmith, 2000; total, 6425.

From the tenor of Gen. Buller's dispatch after Spionkop and of Winston Churchill's telegram after the same affair, the Boer losses must have been quite heavy. Several correspondents state that after the terrific bombardment by Gen. Warren and the abandonment of the outermost positions by the Boers, 200 bodies were taken out of the Boer trenches. If the losses are placed at a thousand in this operation they are still far below those of the British, and the number is probably a conservative one. This would bring the Boer casualties in all to about 7500 as against 10,000 British. Many of the British wounded are, of course, convalescent, some even fighting again, and the same doubtless applies to the Boer wounded. The large figure of 2000 for Boer casualties at Ladysmith is made up chiefly from losses in the two disastrous attacks on the garrison on November 9 and January 6, supplemented by numerous minor skirmishes.

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