

ADVANCING UPON LADYSMITH

Gen. Buller Crossed the Tugela on Monday and is Marching to Relieve White.

ROBERTS AND KITCHENER LEAVE FOR THE FRONT

Despatch From Boer Lager at Ladysmith Reports Heavy Fighting—Burghers Are Attacking Gatacre—Excitement in House of Commons.

(Associated Press.)
London, Feb. 7.—While the suspense regarding Gen. Buller's movements and operations affecting the fate of Ladysmith continues unrelieved even by the vaguest despatch, there comes from other quarters interesting news in the announcement that Lord Roberts, the commander-in-chief of the British forces in South Africa, and his chief of staff, Major-General Kitchener, have left for the front.

As this information was held several hours by the censor, it seems to indicate that an important move is on foot.

Fighting Reported.

A despatch from Sterkstroom, dated this morning, announces that the Boers are attacking Gatacre from two directions. Firing was proceeding between the outposts, and a detained Sterkstroom despatch, dated Monday, February 6, announces that a body of troops left the camp on February 3rd and that important developments were expected.

Boer Account.

British Reported to Have Crossed the River at Two Points—Heavy Fighting.

Boer Head Lager, Ladysmith, Feb. 6.—Since yesterday the British, with naval and other guns, have bombarded our positions on the Upper Tugela.

The troops crossed the river at the point and at Molen Drift, with the object of storming our positions.

At the former Gen. Burger bent them back and they re-crossed in disorder.

The fighting continues at Molen Drift with the Standerton and Johannesburg commands.

The cannonade was the fiercest yet experienced. There was a continuous roaring all day long.

This morning it increased with an increased number of guns.

No Information.

London, Feb. 7.—The war office, at present is only able to add: "The preparations are still in progress, but we have no information regarding the results." The available maps do not show the drifts mentioned in the Boer dispatches.

REPORT FROM COL. OTTER.

Three Men Court-Martialled for Being Asleep on Sentry.

(Special to the Times.)
Ottawa, Feb. 7.—Another report has been received from Col. Otter, in command of the first contingent. The report is up to January 1st. This is the second report that has been received from Col. Otter. A good deal of what is contained in it has been received by cable, such, for instance, as the necessity of sending to Capetown a Halifax man, Private Shaw, on account of ill-health. He also speaks highly of those Canadians who took part in the Saturday affair.

The most serious part of the report is that which refers to the necessity of court-martialling three of the contingent who were found asleep on sentry. This is a serious offence. Two of them belonged to A Company and one of them to B, all three being Western men.

The Patriotic Fund.

(Special to the Times.)
Ottawa, Feb. 7.—A. L. Dean, smelting works, Trail, B.C., has sent \$100 to the Canadian Patriotic Fund.

Mediation Proposed.

New York, Feb. 7.—It is learned that under the terms of the Hague treaty, which has just been ratified by the senate, an effort will be made before long

smith, a news agency telegram was posted saying that one hundred additional ambulance stretchers had been sent to the front from Durban.

The rush in the direction of the war office when it was learned that it had received confirmation of the report that Gen. Buller was again advancing, evidenced the anxiety of the people to obtain the latest detail.

The war office message as given out furnished no clue as to where the Tugela was crossed, nor the numbers supporting Gen. Buller's movement, but it is presumed this third attempt would be a supreme effort on the part of Gen. Buller to cut his way through and that he would employ every available man.

The expression in the official despatch "is now advancing upon Ladysmith" has keyed the public up to an anxious pitch in regard to the next news.

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to exert such offices as may properly be extended to the belligerents to bring about a termination of the war in Africa, says the Washington correspondent of the Times.

Before the treaty was adopted it was maintained that the United States could not, without exposing this government to the suspicion of unfriendly motives, venture to suggest the use of good offices to both parties to the war. Even now there may be some hesitancy about declaring by advance made even with the best intentions, that the Transvaal is or is not a vassal state, but it is believed to be appreciated that it may not be wise to defer too long the offer of friendly intervention to save life on both sides.

London, Feb. 6.—The Daily Mail's Pretoria correspondent, telegraphing yesterday, says:

General Buller has undoubtedly secured the road to Ladysmith and should reach his objective point this week. It is believed here that the object of the Boers in occupying Ingutu, Zululand, is to secure the road from Dundee to Vryheid in case of retreat.

A despatch dated Sunday and referring to General Buller's recrossing the Tugela in his advance upon Ladysmith says: "It is probable that General Buller crossed at a spot above Trichard's Drift and that finding the enemy to the right, he is marching to Acton Homes, whence the road to Ladysmith runs almost due east through a fairly open country. It is expected here that he will reach Ladysmith to-morrow (Monday) night."

No Confirmation.

No actual confirmation of the report that General Buller has recrossed the Tugela on a third attempt to relieve Ladysmith, but it is known that the Boers in occupying Ingutu, Zululand, is to secure the road from Dundee to Vryheid in case of retreat.

There are newspaper dispatches in plenty from Spearman's Camp up to Sunday, but there is no hint that an advance has begun.

On the other hand, dispatches from Ladysmith rather indicate that the advance is in operation, by reporting heavy firing on Friday and Saturday from the direction of Potgieter's Drift and Colesberg.

A despatch from Ladysmith to the Daily Chronicle, dated yesterday, says: "A report has reached us that one brigade has crossed the Tugela."

The reports that the Boers are concentrating around Ladysmith are also an indication that preparations are being made to resist Gen. Buller or for an attempt to retake the garrison in anticipation of his advance. The fact, however, that firing has been reported yesterday's date, either from Ladysmith or Spearman's Camp, might be interpreted as either that the attempt has failed or that Gen. Buller had merely made a demonstration on Friday or Saturday.

Joubert Wounded.

The Pietermaritzburg correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "I learn from a reliable source that General Joubert was seriously injured by a shell in the fight at Willow Grange and that he will never be able to command again on horseback. My informant says that he has, in fact, retired from the field."

The Boers admit that the attack on Ladysmith was a serious blunder and would not have occurred if General Joubert had been in command.

General Louis Meyer played the coward at Talana and sheltered himself in a Red Cross wagon shamming sickness. He has been unable to face the Boers since they threaten to shoot him."

House of Commons.

London, Feb. 5.—Mr. Chamberlain, in the House of Commons to-day, replied to a question in regard to the death notice published by the Standard on Saturday reading: "McLaughlin, on Christmas Day, shot in the Market Square, Harristown, Orange Free State, South Africa, for refusing to fight against his own country. John McLaughlin, jr., aged 30, eldest son of John McLaughlin of Wandsworth, and grandson of the late John McLaughlin of Lambeth."

Mr. Chamberlain said he had received a cable message from the government of Natal to the effect that the report of the shooting of McLaughlin had appeared in the press, but had been subsequently contradicted. The governor added that he knew of no foundation for the report, but was trying to obtain information in regard to the matter. The government, Mr. Chamberlain added, had asked the British ambassador at Washington to request the United States government to inquire into the matter at Pretoria through the United States consul there.

Mr. George Wyndham, parliamentary under secretary for the war office, said, in answer to a question, that the government had no information regarding the alleged shooting of Irish prisoners by orders of Col. Baden-Powell and General Lord Methuen.

Answering another question, Mr. Wyndham said that the British artillery in South Africa was fully up to the Continental standard.

In reply to a question by Mr. Redmond, suggesting the formation of a volunteer corps in Ireland to replace the troops withdrawn, Mr. Balfour said he recognized the patriotism of Mr. Redmond's constituents, but to thus change the settled policy of the government required further consideration.

The debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne was then resumed by Sir William Vernon Harcourt, Liberal, who declared the war was due to a reversal of the policy laid down by the government in 1881 and 1895.

Roberts and Wounded Boers.

Capetown, Feb. 4.—Correspondence

has been exchanged between Lord Roberts and the commandant-general of the Boer forces at Pretoria regarding the release of Commandant Pretorius, whose leg has been amputated. Lord Roberts says he does not wish to detain so gallant an officer and asks where he shall send him.

The reply to this communication states that Commandant Pretorius's wife desires to thank Lord Roberts for his kindness and asks him to send Pretorius to Gen. Methuen, stating that Gen. Cronje will then arrange for his conveyance home.

London, Feb. 6.—The impression that Gen. Buller's forces are fighting will not die out in spite of the cautious assertions of the War Office that it has no news to confirm that belief.

From Capetown under to-day's date comes the statement that up to this morning nothing had been heard there regarding Gen. Buller's recrossing of the Tugela River, while Field Marshal Lord Roberts, in a despatch dated Monday, Feb. 5th, reports no change in the situation.

In view of the latter's dispatches it seems hard to credit the circumstantial reports of the engagement of Gen. Buller's troops.

The complete silence from the front and at home may be significant, as the wisecracker aver, but it probably represents that period of preparation which precedes an important movement.

In Cape Colony.

In other parts than the Tugela conditions of affairs are scarcely more satisfactory.

There is an inconclusive vagueness regarding Gen. French's reported intention to seize Norval's Poot with an overwhelming force of infantry. While news of sharp fighting in the neighborhood of Colesburg is not fairly expected within a few days, it is not likely that it will assume greater proportions than reconnaissance and skirmishes for the purpose of holding the advanced positions of the forthcoming main advance by way of Bloemfontein.

Gen. French is strategically prohibited from running any serious risks.

Lord Roberts's reply to Presidents Kruger and Steyn creates an excellent impression here.

From Kimberley and Mafeking there is nothing new, so it can be presumed that the intermittent bombardment of these places continues.

Roberts's Invitation.

London, Feb. 7.—By orders of Lord Roberts a manifesto has been distributed in the towns bordering upon the invaded colonial territory inviting Free State and Transvaalers to go into the desert, offering them good treatment and a restoration to their farms on the British occupation of republican territory. The manifesto guarantees that those bringing horses can sell them. Foreigners will have their passage paid to Europe. Colonial rebels are advised to surrender in preference to being taken prisoners.

No Word From Buller.

Not a word has been received from the correspondents with Gen. Buller for three days. It is as though Natal had been wiped off the map, excepting the telegraph from Ladysmith, saying that the Boers are cannonading and that fighting is still going on.

Boers Threatened.

Gen. Macdonald, with 4,000 infantry, cavalry, and artillery threatens the Boer right at Magersfontein. This is the first sign of activity on the part of Lord Methuen for some weeks, and doubtless has relation to movements of the British further east.

French Asks for Reinforcements.

It appears that General French's visit to Capetown was to ask Lord Roberts for 7,000 more men. Whether he got them is not disclosed.

As Lord Roberts, since the battle of Spion Kop, has had 20,000 fresh troops to dispose of, it is probable that some have gone to Gen. Buller.

Remington's Scouts Disbanded.

The World says that it learns that Lord Methuen has disbanded Remington's Scouts, one of the most useful colonial commands, because he had accented some members of the corps had been communicating with the Boers.

An Invisible Enemy.

Capt. W. Congreve, who received the Victoria Cross for gallantry in endeavoring to save the British guns at Colenso, writes: "I never saw a Boer all day, and I do not think anyone else did. Though thousands of bullets petered and shells burst all over the place the Boers were invisible."

BOERS ACTIVE.

Are Concentrating in the West to Oppose Advance to Kimberley.

London, Feb. 7.—The following dispatch, dated "Koppie's Dam, Feb. 5th, appears in the Standard:

"Gen. Macdonald with a brigade of infantry, a regiment of Lancers and one battery has reached here from Modder River camp in what is regarded as an important movement to the right of the Boer position at Magersfontein."

"Koppie's Dam commands the roads from Kimberley to Hopetown and Douglas. Two Boer laagers are within striking distance.

"The arrival of Gen. Macdonald's column was opportune, as it just prevented two large commands effecting a junction. He now holds both banks of the river.

"The troops suffered from heat and scarcity of water during the march."

FROM LADYSMITH.

"Long Tom" Still at Work—Three Soldiers Killed.

Modder Spruit, Monday, Feb. 5.—On Saturday the Pretoria corps discovered a party of British from Ladysmith, entrenched at a railroad bridge, protecting a number of coolies who were cutting grass.

A party of Boers dispatched to the scene were attacked from the trenches, and all retreated but four, who were hiding, and permitted the British to advance a volley, killing three men.

This was seen from the British fort, which fired a shell and sent cavalry to assist the British. The Boers beat those back, killing two men.

Modder Spruit, Feb. 6.—A message from Ladysmith, dated Feb. 5th, says continuous cannonading has been proceeding since 5 o'clock in the morning, with the occasional roar of "Long Tom."

THE CANADIANS.

Kingston Volunteer Dies of Fever—The Fight at Sunnyside.

St. Thomas, Ont., Feb. 6.—Word has been received from Belmont, South Africa, announcing the death of Pte. J. E. Farley, this city, a member of the first contingent. The death was due to enteric fever. Deceased was one of the first in the city to offer his services for the first contingent.

An Important Point.

Kingston, Feb. 6.—In a letter Bruce Carruthers, staff-sergeant in charge of the regimental signaller of the Canadian first contingent at Belmont, says: "Lord Methuen told the Canadians that they were more likely to be attacked at Belmont than if they were at Modder River, as they held an important point."

Letter From Capt. Barker.

Toronto, Feb. 5.—Mr. R. W. Barker, of Toronto, this morning received from his son, Capt. Barker, who was in charge of "C" Company of the Canadian force in the fight at Sunnyside on New Year's day, the following interesting letter written at Orange River, under date of January 6th:

"We have just returned from our New Year's skirmish, and are fagged out. Our first fight was on New Year's day, a most fitting occasion. It was pretty to see it work out successfully. I was chosen with my company as infantry, and was lucky in getting under fire before the rest."

"Col. Fitcher, who commanded the column, was very quick and clever, and we were lucky to carry out his instructions to the letter. He therefore thought I was all right and very cool under fire. The march was far harder and required far more pluck than walking or slogging through Boer bullets. The early part of the attack was the hardest as we had marched twelve miles already on empty stomachs and without water."

"The Boers we tackled could not shoot at all, or lots of us would have dropped. We kept our extension wide—eight paces and steady, which helped to save us. The first shot was fired at 10:05 a.m., and no one lost his head or hesitated. The first shot was fired at 10:05 a.m., and the last at 3:20 p.m."

From Col. Otter.

In a private letter to Col. Mason, dated Orange Station, Jan. 8th, Col. Otter speaks of Sunnyside, and says that only one company was allowed to go. He adds: "They did well, and upheld the honor of the country." Col. Otter says that, although the regiment "has not had any work as a whole yet, it is steady down and getting hardened. Officers and men are learning what active service means."

Pte. Cecil McKenzie of "C" Company was wounded in the knee in the Sunnyside affair, but not seriously.

THE EGYPTIAN QUESTION.

Germany Refuses to Join France and Russia in Movement Against Great Britain.

Berlin, Feb. 7.—Reference to the attempt of French diplomacy and journalism to induce Germany in joining against England in Egypt, a high personage at the foreign office made the following statement last evening:

"Germany will not join a movement to reopen the Egyptian question. Aside from the question whether France and Russia mean honestly, Germany is of opinion that it would be unwise and unfair to seize a moment when England is deeply engaged elsewhere for such steps."

Dr. Ledys spent yesterday at Weimar, where he tendered his congratulations to the Grand Duke upon the sixtieth anniversary of his joining the Prussian army. He returned to Berlin last evening.

As he does not find time now to go to St. Petersburg, he will return to Brussels where an enormous mass of correspondence awaits him. Dr. Ledys has announced that the Transvaal government is not engaging volunteers for the war, and will refuse to transport any to Africa.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S SPEECH.

Talk of Peace Terms Premature—"There Will Be No Second Majuba."

London, Feb. 5.—In the House of Commons to-day Mr. Chamberlain dealt on the broad issues of the day. He admitted that a critical state of the war had been reached, and that the situation was undoubtedly serious, though he did not believe that the country was in danger. He refused to discuss the South African committee, and briefly summarized the negotiations with the

Transvaal. If the preparations were insufficient, he continued, it was wholly due to the fact that the government was determined to do everything to secure peace, and do nothing to endanger it. Mr. Chamberlain further declared that the war was

Just, Necessary and Righteous.

He regretted the proposed amendment to the address, because, he said, it would throw doubt upon the unitedness of the Kingdom.

It would be premature to talk of terms of settlement. "But," he asserted, "there will be no second Majuba. Never again shall the Boers erect in the heart of South Africa a citadel whence shall proceed disaffection and race animosity. Never again shall they be able to endanger the paramountcy of Great Britain. Never again shall they be able to treat an Englishman as though he belonged to an inferior race."

Mr. Chamberlain asked the opposition whether it believed in the proposition that the war was necessary, and said that the opposition proposed to vote for the war as "unjust and unnecessary," and then vote for its rigorous prosecution. The war, the secretary claimed, could not be avoided, except by the

Absolute Surrender.

on the part of Great Britain of all to which she attached importance. Believing the war inevitable, how could the opposition vote for an amendment that said that the war was avoidable. A policy of that sort was said to unite the party, but in the eyes of Europe it threw doubt upon the union of the United Kingdom.

"We have suffered checks," said Mr. Chamberlain, "and have made mistakes. I am not anxious to dispute as to the blame. Let the government bear the brunt, until the time comes, when, under happier auspices, we can see how far the blame is to be apportioned between the system and those administering it. In the meantime blame us. What is now urgent is to redress those checks and to repair mistakes. You say that we have sent too few troops, but we are pouring them into South Africa. In a few weeks we will have two hundred thousand men there. We will have as many mounted men as there are mounted Boers. Our colonies are multiplying their offers. Every offer is gratefully accepted and Lord Roberts has selected from among the colonists his Guard of Honor."

"Meanwhile, the spirit of the nation is unbroken. There is no sacrifice which we are unwilling to ask of the colonies, if we think it necessary to ask it. I must go further than this, and admit that the war.

Under New Conditions.

In a new country, with new arms, against a new people, whose tenacity and courage are as admirable as the courage and tenacity of our own soldiers, has required a larger scheme than any government has yet been called upon to meet."

"The Colonial Secretary concluded with a glowing tribute to the manner in which the colonies have rallied to the Empire. "We are now finding the infinite potentialities and resources of the Empire. We are now advancing to the realization of that great federation of our race which must inevitably make for peace, liberty and justice."

Mr. John Dillon said that the Nationalists, believing the war to be an "unjust and iniquitous war of aggression, entirely unprovoked, were unable to support an amendment declaring that the war should be prosecuted with vigor."

Notes.

A Durban despatch says that Lady Randolph Churchill began the serious work of caring for the wounded on Monday.

The Capetown Argus announces that ninety guns have been dispatched from Pretoria to the front, and that the Pretoria forts have been practically denuded of artillery.

An eminent South African authority says the numerical strength of the army which is opposing England is as follows: South African Republic's soldiers, 28,000; Free State's soldiers, 13,000; immigrant Boers, 5,000; Uitlanders, 5,000; neutral Dutch, 5,000; Cape Colony Dutch, about 8,000; total, 64,000.

It is understood that the prize court at Durban has decided to return the £23,000 of gold seized last October on board the steamer Arandora Castle in Delagoa Bay.

President Steyn and President Kruger have communicated with Field Marshal Lord Roberts, protesting against the destruction of farm houses and other property. Lord Roberts, in reply, has declared that the charges were not substantiated, adding that wanton destruction of the property was contrary to British practices.

COLONIAL REPRESENTATION.

(Associated Press.)

Toronto, Feb. 7.—The Globe's London correspondent cables this morning: "Hon. Mr. Chamberlain's eloquent peroration eulogizing the services of the colonies, and congratulating the Empire on its unity, draws from the London Daily Mail a suggestion that the outcome of the war should be the proper representation of the whole federation at Westminster. The Mail adds it thinks colonial representatives should be left to decide all that makes for the well being of our vast Empire."

The correspondent says many in well-informed circles thought Canada will take a free gift to Washington as a powerful lever for the settlement of the Alaskan boundary question as the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. "Was Canada consulted?" is the query on this side.

HOTEL BURNED.

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 5.—The Edna Mountain House, on Mount Lowe, near Pasadena, was burned to-day. All the guests escaped unhurt.