

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

VOL. XXXVIII. ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY JANUARY 30 1900 NO. 31.

AS TO LADYSMITH.

War Office has no Information of the Beleaguered Town's Relief.

Dundonald Captured the Hills Above Potgieter's Drift by a Brilliant Dash and the Army Crossed—A Graphic Description of the Way the Men in Ladysmith Hurdled Back the Determined Boer Attack on January Sixth.

BULLER EVIDENTLY FIGHTING.

London, Jan. 17.—The Exchange and Telegraph Company has received the following despatch, dated Tuesday, Jan. 16, from Pietermaritzburg: "There is no news from the front, but heavy firing was heard today in the direction of Frere. It is probable that Genl. Buller is engaging the enemy."

FROM MODDER RIVER.

Modder River, Tuesday, Jan. 16.—There was a brisk exchange of shells this morning, the Boers returning our fire for the first time in several days. The British entrenchments are being continually strengthened and extended. The permanent railway bridge is almost completed.

KRUGER'S ESCAPE PLANNED.

London, Jan. 17.—The Durban correspondent of the Standard deals with the numerous reports that the Free Staters have tried of the war and will abandon the struggle as soon as the British cross the border. He mentions an extraordinary story with reference to a journey of President Kruger's son-in-law, Eloff, to Delagoa Bay in a German warship. According to this, Eloff has been making arrangements for President Kruger's escape through German Damaraland in the event of the capture of Pretoria.

More Fighting Reports.

The Times publishes the following from Pietermaritzburg, dated Tuesday: "Very heavy artillery firing was heard yesterday in the direction of Springfield."

Smuggling Guns.

"The Delagoa Bay correspondent of the Natal Times asserts that six big turret guns and fifty tons of shells were landed from the French steamer Girondet about the middle of last month under the noses of two British warships and were despatched to Pretoria, causing much rejoicing at the ease with which contraband of war can run the blockade."

Native Trouble.

"The Swazi Queen mother, since the death of King Bantu, has killed all the chiefs who were ever in England or Cape Town and is now plotting with the Boers." "The situation may fairly be considered grave and it would be well to send regiments of Gurkhas to Swaziland immediately."

The correspondent of the Times at Lourenço Marques, telegraphing Monday, Jan. 15, says:—

Mafeking Holding Out.

"I am informed on the best of authority that six days ago, Mafeking was holding out as pluckily as ever. There was then no likelihood of capitulation. The garrison had plenty of cattle and tinned meats." "It is openly stated at Johannesburg that twenty field guns were recently smuggled through Delagoa Bay."

SILENCE IN NATAL.

London, Jan. 17.—4 a. m.—Even rumors are no longer telegraphed from Natal. The conclusion deduced from this silence from the military experts generally is that no decisive blow has been struck either way, as, in such an event, there would be no necessity for silence."

Conciliation Committee.

The South African conciliation committee, quietly formed to represent the peace minority, announces itself to the country today and asks for support. Among the

Gen. Wauchoppe, the night before the battle, saying it would be the last letter he would ever write, as he had been asked to perform an impossible task, and he had either to obey or surrender his sword. An immediate change in the command of the force may therefore be expected, and is anticipated in some quarters that Lieut. Gen. Tucker will succeed Gen. Methuen.

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New Brunswick Men on Horse.

The scene about the rear of the enemy's front line yesterday was at times a lively one. Saddles and uniforms were served out to the Kings' Cavalry and the Scotch horses did not take kindly to the new trappings and gave the driver a most unpleasant ride. The sergeant from getting on his horse, but he was succeeded by another man, and the sergeant landed in the saddle and drove the carriage to the dark green with white facings and red velvet trim. The trappers of the militia were in the shape of the shape of Hussar hats.

Archers to be Erected.

The city has decided to erect an archery hall in the vicinity of the post office. It is proposed to have it covered with spruce and suitable mottos arranged on the great hall. It seems to be decided to have the principal streets paved to the embankment of the first detachment. Shopkeepers north and south of the river will erect arches as was done in Quebec on the embankment of the first detachment. Shopkeepers north and south of the river will erect arches as was done in Quebec on the embankment of the first detachment.

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There is no indication that such an arrangement would be tolerated by any considerable portion of the public. National opinion is now in a state of disquietude over the reverses to British arms, and the British Chronicle, commenting on the universal determination to see the thing through.

Militia and Yeomanry.

Seventeen more militia battalions will be embodied in use course of a fortnight. All the regulars are now out of the country except 14 infantry battalions and 11 cavalry battalions. The war office has placed an order for 32,000,000 cartridges in case.

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Treason in Cape Town.

The military and civil authorities at the Cape are in conflict over the treason cases. A despatch to the Daily Mail from Stellenbosch says on this point:—"Rakoonson and Nel two Dutchmen, who were tried by courtmartial during Christmas week, with General Buller's section, were committed on Jan. 12 for civil trial. The courtmartial proceedings having been stopped by the intervention of the attorney general of Cape Colony."

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Desultory firing continued for some time, but the attack was an utter failure and the Boers retreated to the shelter of the small kopjes at the base of the hill.

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Gen. Warren, the night before the battle, saying it would be the last letter he would ever write, as he had been asked to perform an impossible task, and he had either to obey or surrender his sword. An immediate change in the command of the force may therefore be expected, and is anticipated in some quarters that Lieut. Gen. Tucker will succeed Gen. Methuen.

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