

SOUTH AFRICA.

While British Officers Sleep De Wet Gets in His Work.

Could Not Do It if Face to Face With Commanders.

PRETORIA, Dec. 25.—The formation of a new brigadier corps, to be known as the National Scouts, has aroused great interest among the surrendered burghers. In view of numerous meetings and applications, Lord Kitchener has authorized the creation of fresh wings to operate in the southern and eastern Transvaal, under prominent Boer leaders elected by the burghers themselves.

It is stated that much of the recent success of the British is owing to the co-operation of Colliers' and Corners' commands, acting under Gen. Bruce Hamilton.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Lord Kitchener, in a despatch from Johannesburg dated Saturday Dec. 21, sends reports of sharp fighting in the Orange River and Transvaal colonies. The engagements occurred on Dec. 19 and 20, at points widely apart. The casualties, as far as known, aggregated about 50, equally divided, but heavy British losses, the total of which have not yet been reported, have occurred in the Transvaal. In this last mentioned fighting 300 mounted infantry of the 1st and 2nd Buffs were engaged.

Lord Kitchener also reports that during General De Wet's attack on the British force commanded by General Durnford and Campbell, at Langfontein, Dec. 18, the Boers charged several times, but were repulsed. General De Wet was driven off several times, and the loss of 20 men. There were 12 captured horses and 100000 lbs. of stores.

On Dec. 20, Gen. Buller, with 800 Boers, surprised General Damant's advanced guard at Tafelkop, Orange River. The Boers rushed a kopje commanding the main body and the guns. But Colonel Damant rallied his men and drove the Boers from the kopje. The British casualties were heavy, Damant was dangerously wounded, two officers and twenty men were killed and three officers and several men were wounded. The Boers left six dead on the ground and captured a number of prisoners, including Commandant Keyser.

After the Boers had been driven off, they asked permission to remove their dead. They were refused, but Colonel Damant ordered a night attack on the Boers' camp. The British yeomanry, engaged in a splendid attack, killed 100 Boers, and captured 10000 lbs. of stores. The Boers were driven off, and the British took possession of the kopje. The small amount of cover available, however, was not sufficient to protect the British from all but four of the Boers, who were killed. By that time reinforcements of Damant's force came up and charged and captured the kopje.

General Buller part of the Transvaal army, Colonel Mackenzie attacked Commandant Smit's force of Boers at Lake Barabara, on Dec. 20, killing 100 Boers and capturing sixteen of the enemy. Commandant Smit escaped.

A force of Boers during the night of Dec. 20, attacked the British post at Blaudfontein, but the burghers were driven off, leaving eight men killed, including Commandant Keyser, Field Cornet Mann, who was wounded, and three other wounded men. The Boers were driven off, and the British casualties were seven killed and six officers and eighteen men wounded.

No further details have been received here up to a late hour of the fighting in South Africa. The news received yesterday convinces the newspapers that it is hopeless to expect peace in the immediate future. That is also the government's view of the situation is apparent from the fact that troops are being sent to South Africa from home and the colonies aggregate 15,000 men.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—The following despatch has been received from Lord Kitchener, dated Johannesburg: "Gen. Buller reports that on the night of Dec. 24, Col. Firmans' camp at Zeefontein, consisting of three companies of yeomanry and two guns, were successfully rushed by a strong commando under De Wet. It is feared the casualties were heavy. Two regiments of light horse are pursuing the Boers."

LONDON, Dec. 27.—Boer resistance has always been very strong in that part of the Orange River Colony which was the scene of Gen. De Wet's Christmas camp. A great quadrangle of blockhouses is being built there, the four points of which are Vereeniging, Volksrust, Harrismith and Kromstadt. At the southeast corner of this quadrangle is a long open space from Bethlehem to Lindley, where the square of blockhouses is still incomplete, and here De Wet made his attack. Col. Firmans' force probably

SOUTH AFRICA.

The Republics Still Marching in Battle Array.

COLON, Colombia, Dec. 26 (via the reporter).—Newspapers just received here from coast towns in Colombia and Venezuela, have much to say concerning the present status of the Venezuelan-Colombian imbroglio. The gist of the various newspaper articles is to the effect that each republic is still maintaining its position against the other for permitting the mastering of arms, troops, ammunition, etc., and the actual invasion of the other territory in alleged violation of the laws governing the relations of friendly nations. These newspapers contain no news of a declaration of war by either Colombia or Venezuela. They set forth that the policy of Colombia is one of readiness to meet any emergency, hence she will round the liberal school board, the numbers of her troops now on the Venezuelan frontier.

The Colombian gunboat General Pinzon, with 700 troops, has left here for Rio Hacha. It is reported from the interior of Colombia that there has been no recent serious fighting there. A few insurgents were found near Honda and were easily dispersed by the government troops. The Colombian conservative General Castro, considering it next to impossible to surround the liberal school board, and his followers, who are now in the mountains, has come to the conclusion that the government's best policy is to surround the liberal school board, thus cutting off the liberal's supplies and ultimately forcing him to surrender.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The war office has decided to withdraw at once twenty batteries of artillery from South Africa. This action is taken on the ground that under the present conditions of the war it is impossible to employ them in the theatre of operations. The guns are of little use and are rather a hindrance to mobility and decisive action.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The list of casualties of Col. Damant's engagement at Tafelkop, Orange River Colony, Dec. 20, when the Boers dressed as British yeomanry, defended a kopje against Col. Damant's advance guard, has been first reported by Lord Kitchener. It now appears that the British lost three officers and 23 men killed and had five officers and 35 men wounded.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Christmas for the third year in succession finds the country engaged in war. It is the burden of the editorials in the London papers this morning, and regrets are expressed that the casualty list issued today totals 49 men killed and 111 wounded. Satisfaction, however, is found in the fact that the progress of the war is steadily bringing the end of the struggle perceptibly nearer. Compensation is likewise found in the undiminished loyalty displayed by the colonies.

WOMEN'S VICTORY.

New Constitution of Methodist Episcopal Church.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—Announcement was made here today that the new constitution of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which was adopted at the last general conference of that denomination, held at the auditorium in May, 1900, and referred to the various conferences throughout the country, has finally been approved by the three-quarters vote required. The vote is as follows: Ayes, 8,533; nays, 2,513.

The element which opposed the new organic law of the church because it provided for the admission of women as delegates to the general conference, made war on the new constitution along the line, but met with defeat. One hundred and twenty-one annual conferences voted on the question, a total of 10,700 ballots being cast by delegates.

The principal changes provided for the new constitution are: It gives women the right to sit as delegates in the general conference; it provides for electoral meetings authority to vote on constitutional questions. It changes the vote necessary in the general conference to amend the constitution from three-fourths to two-thirds.

BOSTON, Dec. 26.—Samuel Stevenson, an animal trainer with a menagerie exhibiting in this city, was clawed by a lion this afternoon, and the result may be serious. It is feared by the surgeons that blood-poisoning will set in, and this may result in the loss of an arm and possibly worse. The lion was not angry, but clawed in play without warning.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Snubs Lord Douglas.

His Side of Controversy With Metropolitan Club, Washington.

Assents Attacks Made—Declares That Investigation by Associates Abroad Has Made His Name.

(N. Y. Herald, 24th.)—His attention has just been called to an article in this morning's Herald concerning myself and the Metropolitan Club, Washington. I should like to be allowed to make plain the content of the facts of the case, having done so, I shall be content to leave the issue to the judgment of impartial readers. My cousin, Mr. Wyndham, second secretary of the British embassy, "put me up" for a fortnight as an honorary member of the Metropolitan Club, in accordance with the rules providing for such cases. After I had enjoyed the privileges of the club for about a week, Mr. Wyndham received a letter from a committee of the club, in which it was stated that my attention had been called to the fact that my name had been involved in the Oscar Wilde scandal and calling upon me for an explanation of my action in making me an honorary member of the club.

Mr. Wyndham replied that, while it was true that I had been indirectly involved in the Oscar Wilde scandal several years ago, he was not aware of my act committed by me which identified me to be received in any of the clubs in London, and that I was a member of the Metropolitan Club, one of the exclusive clubs in London, and that I have been a member for over ten years, had, after consideration, decided that I had not committed any act which rendered me unworthy of membership in the club.

The committee of the Metropolitan Club acknowledged Mr. Wyndham's letter, but declined to withdraw their resignation to my name, which was accordingly withdrawn. I was accordingly at Washington I was received with cordiality by the Ambassador and Lady Pauncefote and by the entire staff of the British embassy, and on the evening after the Metropolitan Club had cancelled my honorary membership I had the honor of dining with the Ambassador, the Duke of Devonshire and the Countess of Devonshire.

While the incident has been very painful to me and to my friends, I may say that I have no objection to my opinion that I am a thoroughly vindicated by the letter of my cousin and the attitude of the ambassador, the representative of my sovereign. I have never called in question the honor of my sovereign, and I have never endeavored to intrude myself into the society of those who disapproved of the conduct of my life. I have endeavored to keep my name out of the way to avoid any kind of notoriety or any action which might be offensive to the country in which I was a "guest" and in which I was a member of the club. I have never endeavored to intrude myself into the society of those who disapproved of the conduct of my life.

Apparently the objection of the Metropolitan Club and the American press generally to me is the frequently stated fact that, having been a friend to Oscar Wilde before his downfall, I continued to be so after his imprisonment, and that almost alone of all his countless former friends I attended his funeral. I have never attempted to deny these facts, and I have yet to learn that they constitute a serious indictment against my character, either as a gentleman or as a Christian. Apologizing for the necessary length of my letter, I am your obedient servant,

ALFRED BRUCE DOUGLAS. New York, Dec. 23, 1901.

SHORTAGE OF FUEL.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 26.—Secretary Wilson of the United Mine Workers of America said today that the lack of transportation facilities is doing a permanent injury to the coal industry throughout the country. The shortage of fuel in the larger cities, he thinks, will accustom the people to burn smaller quantities, so hereafter they will know by experience the value of the coal they buy as heavily as they have when the market was well supplied. He believes this will lessen the future demand and tendency to amend the constitution. The lack of transportation facilities, he said, exists throughout the entire mining district of the United States. Many mines have been shut down, and others are operating half time.

President Mitchell, Vice-President Lewis and Secretary Wilson will be elected without opposition at the national convention of the miners, which will begin here in January. A number of reports have been circulated recently, to the effect that President Mitchell intends to retire to engage in some other business, but he has decided to remain at the head of the organization for at least another year.

OTTAWA.

OTTAWA, Dec. 25.—Christmas at the capital passed off in the usual quiet manner. Services were held in nearly all the Protestant and Catholic churches. The weather was pleasant.

An advance of 35 pounds sterling has been made at the request of the Imperial War Office, in order that he may purchase his own uniforms. An interesting story is told in connection with the granting of commissions. When the set of officers came back from the war office it was found that one officer, a particularly capable man, had been dropped by the home authorities, but all other recommendations were approved. There was profound astonishment at the militia department, but no protest could be made, as the regiment is purely an imperial one, and all officers are to be commissioned in the imperial army. The officer in question is a friend of the minister, and he is a distinguished soldier. He is a friend of the minister, and he is a distinguished soldier. He is a friend of the minister, and he is a distinguished soldier.

SMALLPOX IN N. H.

CONCORD, N. H., Dec. 25.—Dr. Irving A. Watson, secretary of the state board of health, tomorrow will take personal charge of the smallpox situation in the north country. His representatives report the existence of the disease. In all there are and have been thirteen cases in North Lisbon, and Whitefield, of which three have proved fatal. The death of the patient was ascribed to heart disease after an autopsy, turns out to have been from hemorrhagic, or black smallpox. The three latest cases came from Whitefield, N. H., Dec. 25.—A

SWAN'S YARN.

Second Mate of Bark St. Mary Spins It.

Remarkable Story of Trade and Adventure in South Seas.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Frank Swan, second mate of the bark St. Mary, which arrived today from Rio de Janeiro, tells a story of adventure during a previous voyage to the south seas which would have delighted the heart of Robert Louis Stevenson. During that voyage he was second mate of the schooner Alice Haecklein, the command of which Capt. Saxton had assumed.

"We sailed out of San Francisco with eight in the crew to trade for copra, pearl shells and pearls," says Swan.

"We had passengers Consul Morgan and his wife, for Juliet, in the Marshall group. When we got within the heavy trade, and had been driven in to the mountains, we gave him a supply of rice and other necessities. The German captain demanded pilot and harbor dues from us, but Capt. Saxton refused to pay. He said he was a private trader and would not pay dues. The German captain demanded pilot and harbor dues from us, but Capt. Saxton refused to pay. He said he was a private trader and would not pay dues.

"On our return to Jaluit, Anderson and Katie were married by the consul and the king of Butariki. The consul wife, who had been with us for a month, was taken six of us at a fourth of July party, at which she was making to drink and eat of a native tree which laid us all out. The king ordered us carried around the town in palanquins.

"At Walker's Island we started in to trade with the natives, but after they had seen several whale boats full of our goods they refused to trade with us. The natives were not except by a day or two, and in two or three canoes, the sailors left from shore to a new island which we called 'The Island of the King.' They were armed with knives made of shark teeth, spears, clubs and poisoned spears.

"The chief told us to go to the island, and we went. We were met by a large party of natives, and we were taken to a large house. The chief told us to go to the island, and we went. We were met by a large party of natives, and we were taken to a large house. The chief told us to go to the island, and we went. We were met by a large party of natives, and we were taken to a large house.

RUSSIA.

Terrible in a Veterinary Institute—Americans After Mining Lands.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 12.—A Siberian newspaper says that American capitalists have offered the government 25,000,000 roubles for a fifty year lease of a large strip of land in the Kirghiz Steppes, which are rich in copper, coal and silver. The territory, 200 by 670 miles in extent, lies between Pavlodar and Lake Balkash. Pavlodar is on the Irtysh river, south of the city of Omsk. Senator Clark of Montana has previously been referred to as having been in negotiations with private interests for a large piece of land in the same province, Semipalatinsk.

The czar has conferred the order of St. Anne, third class, on his dentist, Dr. Wolostow, who is an American.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 11.—The freshmen of the Kharkoff Veterinary Institute handed the chemistry professor a note a few days ago, calling upon him, "in view of his disconnected lectures, based on a text book twenty years old," to vacate his chair in stater. The professor felt aggrieved. During thirty years' experience as a professor he had never taught such freshmen. The minister of education has sent them home, 150 in number, to meditate upon their conduct.

Eight hundred Moscow university students recently paraded, sang and otherwise demonstrated the streets of the old capital in honor of the anniversary of Dobrolouboff, a radical literature of the middle of the last century, and many were arrested, according to the reports received here. The Women's Medical Institute of this city was allowed to celebrate in honor of Dobrolouboff, but the police revised the programme after the minister of education was through with it, and cut out all reference to Dobrolouboff. This did not prevent impromptu speeches and songs after midnight.

TORONTO, Dec. 25.—Col. Nelson, director general of the Canada army service corps, spent today in Toronto making preparations for the enrollment and equipment of the field hospital corps for South Africa. The corps will be equipped with the most modern appliances possible to obtain, and in many respects will have devices not found in those of any other nation. All supplies will be of Canadian make, save the X ray apparatus, which is not obtainable in Canada.

A BLOODY FIGHT.

At Birmingham, Alabama, Between Whites and Negroes.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 26.—In a general fight between white men and negroes at Chalmersburg yesterday afternoon, a white man and his son were killed, and a white boy and negro wounded. With great difficulty a general outbreak was prevented. The negroes are now in jail at Talladega. The dead: J. Bird, middle-aged white man; Reuben Bird, his son, 15 years old. The wounded: Tom Holley, a negro, probably fatally wounded; Geo. Bird, white, shot in the legs.

It is said the trouble grew out of a trap game, the negroes having quarrelled over the windings of Tom Holley shot at one of the party, wounding a white man, came up and addressed the negroes to stop fighting. Holley becoming angered at the interference, fired on Bird, mortally wounding him. Bird's two sons, George and Reuben, were with their father, and when he was shot, Reuben went to his side, while George fired at the negro. Holley, fatally wounding him. The boys began firing on both the boys. Reuben was with his father, but a failure to move, was shot dead. The boy who was shot, was Geo. Woods, a negro, to run. The boy agreed to remain by his father, but a failure to move, was shot dead. The boy who was shot, was Geo. Woods, a negro, to run. The boy agreed to remain by his father, but a failure to move, was shot dead.

For a while it seemed as if serious results would occur, but the quick action of the conservative citizens prevented a further outbreak.

MACDAM JUNCTION.

MACDAM JUNCTION, Dec. 25.—Christmas day passed off quietly. The machine shops were closed. There were no church services.

Mr. and Mrs. Wise spent Christmas in Houston, the guests of Mr. Wise's parents. W. Hallam of Wakefield College is spending his vacation with his parents at Macdam.

A few friends assembled at Mrs. W. Weeks' in the evening and spent a few hours very pleasantly. The new church of England at Macdam is about completed and will be opened for service on Sunday. Rev. J. B. Flewelling will be present. Services will be held at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. At the 11 o'clock service, Holy Communion will be celebrated. All are cordially invited. M. C. Stevens, who was ordained deacon on Sunday last, arrived in Macdam last night. He will be in charge of the church here.

SOUTHERN PLEASANTIES.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Dec. 26.—Wm. Kavanaugh and Jack Diegan were fatally shot tonight in Levan's cafe by W. T. Dortic, a bartender. Diegan was the aggressor and sought to pound Dortic over the counter. Dortic, to defend himself, procured a pistol, and fired three shots. One ball struck Diegan's collar bone, broke it, and lodged in his right lung. The second bullet struck Kavanaugh, an innocent bystander, penetrating the brain. Kavanaugh was a highly esteemed young man, connected with one of the largest cotton houses in the city. Immediately after the shooting, Dortic looked up a policeman and surrendered. The wounded men were taken to hospitals and are dying.

W. B. are giving away free your choice of Watches, Rings, Bracelets, Ladies' Bells, Rings, Knives, Chains, Lenses, Clocks, Dolls, Cars, Cameras, Air Rifles, Skates and numerous other presents to any one selling a small quantity of our goods, which consist of Cello Buttons, Scarf Pins, London Perfume Tablets, and Ladies' Hat Pins, which retail at 5 and 10 cents each.

Send us your name and address and we will forward goods. When full remittance is received, we will forward promptly. Address: ROYAL MFG. AND IMPORTING CO., Box 2, St. John, N. B.



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Advertisement for 'SKATES' by W. H. THORNE & CO. LTD., ST. JOHN, N. B. The ad lists various types of skates: Starr Mic-Mac, Starr Acme, Starr Hockey, Starr Ladies, Starr Chebueto, Starr Beaver, Whelpley's Long Reach, Starr Skeleton Tubulars. It also includes the text: 'If your dealer cannot supply you, write us direct.' and 'W. H. THORNE & CO. LTD., ST. JOHN, N. B.'