

## BOER ARMY AROUND LADYSMITH

### British Troops Are More Than Holding Their Own With the 25,000 Burghers.

## GORDONS USE THEIR BAYONETS

### And Drive the Enemy From a Strong Position--Our Losses in Two Days' Engagements Were Eight Killed and Twenty Wounded.

(Associated Press.)  
London, Nov. 7.—Such scanty intelligence as is filtering from the front is generally accepted here as reassuring, although the latter reports agree that the fighting outside of Ladysmith on Thursday and Friday was more severe than indicated by the official accounts. There is no longer such a disposition to jump at the conclusion that a crushing blow has been inflicted on the Boers as was shown before.

British contempt of the burghers has been chastened by defeat and the best informed are inclined to discount the stories of the cutting up of Boers until further confirmation is received. But the mere fact that Gen. Buller is enabled to undertake a series of successful reconnaissances is taken as an indication that the grip of the Boer investment has been relaxed by the withdrawal of a portion of Gen. Joubert's forces southward.

#### Has Buller Enough Men?

While, however, the anxiety in regard to the immediate stress of Ladysmith is alleviated, there is a widespread fear that the authorities are blundering and may find too late that the main expedition will prove too weak to complete the task with safety and dispatch, as the Natal force has already admittedly failed to perform what was expected of it.

#### More Powerful Than Anticipated.

The confession yesterday of General Lord Wolseley that the Boers were more powerful and more numerous than had been anticipated, sufficiently explains the present happenings, and the War Office will hereafter have awkward questions to answer in regard to its apparent colossal ignorance of the Boer strength, which, both in numbers of men and excellence of artillery, is a complete surprise to the British military authorities.

#### Boer Forces.

Mail news from South Africa shows how inaccurate have been the estimates of the intelligence department and the governmental experts. It is gleaned, therefore, that a fair estimate of the Boer forces is as follows: Around Ladysmith, 25,000; traversing Zululand, 4,000; advancing on Burghersdorp, 5,000; Colonsburg, 3,000; Kimberley, 7,000; Mafeking, 4,000; and on the Transvaal border, 7,000; total, 55,000.

#### Joubert's Artillery.

Exact information about the Boer artillery is lacking, but it is known that General Joubert's detachment, before it was reinforced, consisted of 16 Krupp field pieces of the latest pattern and two heavy Creusot siege guns, which but for the opportune arrival of the British naval brigade, would have rendered Ladysmith untenable.

#### An Interesting Experiment.

In connection with the naval guns a most interesting and important experiment has been successfully carried out at Capetown with a 4.7 inch gun, so serviceable at Ladysmith. One of the British cruiser Terrible's guns, mounted on a Scott travelling carriage, was fired in the same way as a field gun with entire success. The Terrible, with a number of guns thus mounted, is now on her way to Durban, and though the guns cannot now reach Ladysmith, they may be of the greatest value in

the defence of Pietermaritzburg, which, it seems, will probably have to stand a siege.

#### OFFICIAL DISPATCH.

Ladysmith is Believed to be Entirely Safe—Buller Forwards a Message Received from Estcourt.

London, Nov. 7.—The following is the text of a dispatch from Gen. Buller: "Capetown, Nov. 7.—(12:55 p.m.)—The following dispatch has been received from the general commanding at Estcourt, dated November 6:

"Since Friday there has been a cessation of hostilities.

"A notes was sent that day to Gen. Joubert by Gen. White, at the request of the mayor, asking permission for non-combatants, sick and wounded to go south. Gen. Joubert refused the request, but agreed to allow them to go to a special camp, four miles from Ladysmith. The townspeople refused to accept this offer. The sick and wounded and a few inhabitants were moved yesterday at the outpost.

"Friday's bombardment was heavy. Shells fell in the hospital and one burst in an hotel during luncheon. No one was injured. The only casualty in town from shells thus far is one Kaffir killed.

"There was a smart action on Friday towards Dewop. Troops under Gen. Brodiehurst drove the Boers back a considerable distance and disabled a gun.

"There was also fighting near Bulwana.

"Our loss altogether was eight killed and about twenty wounded.

"Ninety-eight of the Dundee wounded arrived here. All are doing well.

"The position here is now believed to be entirely safe. It has been greatly strengthened during the last twenty-four hours.

"People have deserted their dwellings and are living in bombproof places, safe from shell firing.

"There is plenty of good stores of all kinds.

"Capt. Knapp and Lieut. Brabant were killed in Friday's action.

"The foregoing is an exact copy of a press censor telegram brought here by a Kaffir runner. There is no other official news."

#### BOERS FIRE THE VELDT.

Dynamite Explosion Near Kimberley—Flames Spreading—Burghers Entering Cape Colony.

London, Nov. 7.—The Mail publishes the following dispatch from Kimberley, dated Wednesday, by way of Hopetown, Saturday, November 4th:

"This morning the Boers fired the veldt near Dronfeld, seven miles from Kimberley, and this afternoon the flames set on fire the smaller of two magazines, exploding the dynamite with a terrific report. Fortunately no one was injured.

"The veldt is still burning, and it is feared the larger magazine, where there are 1,200 cases of dynamite, will be ignited."

Movement of Commando.

Alival North, Saturday, Nov. 4.—The Boer commando is now located at Governor's Drift, up the river, and is reported to be about to cross into the Colony, probably to join the Bethulle burghers now in the Colony. Natives are greatly excited in the districts near the drift. Many Basutos has been discovered to possess assegais and guns, where none were known previously.

Burghers Reinforced.

Capetown, Nov. 7.—A dispatch which has been received here from Kimberley, dated November 1st, says:

"Apparently Boer reinforcements from Mafeking have arrived, as burghers are more numerous and closer all around Kimberley.

"About 1,200 made a demonstration three miles eastward of Premier mine to-day and opened fire, but no damage was done.

"The explosion of the dynamite magazine, caused by the Boers firing the plant, was terrific. The house contained 35 tons of dynamite, valued at £3,500.

"All the wounded are progressing satisfactorily.

"A committee to regulate the supply

and price of wood is being formed. Mr. Rhodes is making an avenue, to be called 'Siege avenue.' A double row of orange trees and vines will be planted on either side, with pepper trees forming the back ground."

Natal Dutch Aid Boers.

Estcourt, Natal, 10 a.m., Sunday.—An armored train went over Lugela bridge yesterday and found Colenso intact, and also found the road and railway bridges strong.

An Orange Free State force was sighted six miles from Colenso on the Ladysmith side. It is supposed to have been engaged with the British forces from Ladysmith on Thursday, and that the Boers had suffered heavily.

It is rumored the Natal Dutch took part in the engagement, siding with the invading Boers.

Threaten to Destroy Johannesburg.

Coloene, Nov. 7.—Letters received by the Coloene Gazette from Johannesburg, dated October 13th, says the Germans there indignantly repudiate the telegram to Emperor William, signed Colonel Schiel, which they add, in no way reflects the feelings of Germans in the Transvaal.

As a matter of fact, it is declared, Schiel was not responsible for the objectionable character of the dispatch, as he was absent at the time it was sent.

The letter reaffirms that Kaffirs are being conveyed across the border in gangs of from 1,000 to 5,000, and that the escorting Boer forces are robbing them of a considerable amount of their savings. Foreigners, it also appears, are being stopped in the streets and compelled to give up money from their pockets.

"One letter concludes: 'As long as the Boers are victorious Johannesburg has nothing to fear, but if beaten, the town, with all mines, will soon cease to exist.'"

#### PROPOSED INTERVENTION.

Germany Wrecked the Movement by Refusing to Join Russia, France and Spain.

New York, Nov. 7.—A St. Petersburg dispatch says the numerous rumors that certain continental powers have been meditating some sort of a combined move to the detriment of British interests are not without foundation.

It was learned from a high Russian source, and the information can be relied upon, that a definite attempt has been made to bring about a combination between Russia, France, Germany and Spain, with the object of embarrassing Great Britain in the settlement of the Transvaal question. Not merely have unofficial suggestions been made by one power to another, but the proposal has been formally discussed by the various governments concerned.

Russia, France and Spain, as Count Muravieff found in the course of his recent journeys, were agreed as to the desirability of intervention, but the success of the movement was wrecked by the refusal of Germany, the only one of the four powers directly interested in South Africa, to take part in the proposal.

The Canadian Contingent.

Montreal, Nov. 7.—It is learned here on reliable authority that the government has given orders to contractors here to rush equipment for 1,500 more men for a second contingent to the Transvaal.

The adhesion of Spain to the combination appears to have been desired for the purpose of isolating and considerably weakening the British position at Gibraltar.

#### SAMOAN AGREEMENT.

Great Britain Renounces Her Claim and Receives Several Islands From Germany—Samoa Act Repealed.

(Associated Press.)

Berlin, Nov. 8.—It was officially stated this morning that an agreement, subject to the approval of the United States, had been reached between Great Britain and Germany, according to which the Samoan Islands, with the exception of Tutuila and the adjacent islands, will become German territory.

By virtue of the agreement the Samoa Act is repealed, and the islands of Upolu, Savaii and small adjacent islands fall to Germany as free property and the island of Tutuila and subsidiary islands go to the United States. Great Britain, it is added, renounces all claim to the Samoan islands and Germany, in turn, renounces the claim to the Tonga Islands and to Savage Island, in favor of Great Britain, and also cedes Choiseul and San Isabel, the two easterly islands of the Solomon group, with their insular surroundings, to Great Britain.

The consular representatives of the two powers in Samoa and the Tonga Islands are to be withdrawn for the present, and German subjects are to have the same rights as British subjects in regard to the free and unimpeded enlistment of native laborers in the whole of the Solomon group in the possession of Great Britain, including Choiseul and San Isabel.

#### ONE HONEST MAN.

Men who are weak, nervous and debilitated from any cause will find it to their advantage to write to Mr. D. Graham, No. 437 1/2 Richmond St., London, Ont. Mr. Graham has nothing to sell, but has something to say which is worth knowing.

## GENERAL BULLER'S ARMY CORPS

### First Transports With British Soldiers on Board Have Arrived at Their Destination.

## REASSURING NEWS FROM LADYSMITH

### Boers Are Unable to Invest the Town Closely--Held in Check by Naval Long Range Guns--Narrow Escape of Natal Volunteers.

(Associated Press.)

London, Nov. 8.—An air of relief was observable among British war officials to-day on the receipt of reassuring news from Ladysmith, and the tone of comments on the war news has assumed an optimism that has lately been absent, leading to the belief that in addition to the brighter prospects of the beleaguered garrison the war office is cheered by the news of the arrival at their destination of the first transports with Gen. Buller's army corps.

Now officials are inclined to predict that low water has been reached, and that a slowly but steadily rising tide of victory may be expected.

More Troops May Be Required.

The proposal to send out an additional 10,000 troops is highly approved and it is considered probable that fully that number will be required, as all independent reports concur in saying the resistance of the Boers will be stubborn to the last, and not until the resources of the two republics have been exhausted will they acknowledge that they are beaten.

Unconfirmed Reports.

The news of the great victory which was circulated here yesterday evening is not confirmed and the Boer losses, reported by what may be designated "Raaffrags," ought to be greatly discounted, as the Kaffirs, knowing the British wish to hear of Boer losses, are likely to supply them with reports to their tastes.

White's Successes.

Allowing, however, for all exaggeration, Gen. White appears to have given Gen. Joubert's forces several home thrusts, and the war office justified the contention to-day that the news demonstrates clearly that Gen. White is able to more than hold his own, and can strike a blow which will not only insure the safety of Ladysmith, but will probably also have a telling effect on the duration of the pending operations of Gen. Buller's army corps.

In short, the war office officials take a decidedly hopeful view of the entire situation, and believe that even the advance section of the British forces at Ladysmith have seen the worst day.

Alleged Treachery of Boers.

It is hoped the renewed charges of Boer violations of the sanctity of the white flag originated in the lively imagination of Kaffirs. Though similar charges have several times been reiterated during the present campaign and official accounts report similar practices in the former Transvaal war, there has not been any mention of such action thus far in any official reports received from Gen. White and Gen. Buller, who would surely formally remonstrate against such conduct on the part of the Boers.

French Leaves For Capetown.

One of the most important news items to-day is that Gen. French is going to Capetown. This is taken as confirmation of the statement already made by the Associated Press that the main advance of the British forces will be through the open flat country of the Orange Free State and the southwestern part of the Transvaal, otherwise so skillful a leader as General French would hardly be withdrawn from Ladysmith

at the present time.

Held In Check.

There is much speculation regarding the next Boer move. It seems clear that it will be impossible for them to closely invest Ladysmith owing to the fortunate arrival of long range naval guns, which keep the Boers at least four miles off, making the circle of investment about 25 miles in circumference, which, it is claimed, it will be impossible for the Boer force to fully occupy.

There is a belief, however, that Gen. Joubert is waiting the arrival of heavy guns from Pretoria and Johannesburg to effectually bombard and render untenable the British position.

NARROW ESCAPE.

Armored Train Returns From Colenso—Heavy Boer Losses at Talana Hill—No Burghers Near Estcourt.

Estcourt, Natal, Nov. 5.—(5:20 p.m.)—Brigadier-General Wolfe Murray has received important dispatches from Ladysmith by a runner, but their contents have not yet been divulged.

The armored train, with a detachment of Dublin Fusiliers and a railroad engineering staff, which left here for Colenso to repair the line yesterday evening and also to go through to Ladysmith, if possible, has returned here. The commanding officer reports that he proceeded beyond Colenso and found the dwellings there untouched. There has been no looting except in the single case of a store, which was looted by Kaffirs. Several persons were arraigned before General Murray this morning.

It is reported that the Boers are not within 20 miles of here.

Narrow Escape of Volunteers.

The bullet holes in the uniforms of Durban volunteers show the narrowness of their escape from Fort Wylie, which was only effected after the heavy fire of the Dublin Fusiliers had inflicted severe loss on the Boers.

A member of the garrison, who was hard pressed by the Boers, leaped into the river amid a shower of bullets, and, diving repeatedly, reached the far bank unscathed.

Firing on a Train.

General French managed to leave Ladysmith by the last train from there. Four miles from Colenso the Boers fired on the train, but no one was hit. The general is going to Capetown in order to take command of cavalry.

The Border Regiment arrived here on Friday.

Burying the Dead.

Sub-Inspector Petley, of the Natal Police, says that his men alone, fanning one of several burial parties, interred sixty-four Boers, who were killed at the battle of Talana Hill.

Fighting in Their Shirt Sleeves.

The Dublin Fusiliers are now being served with new kits, as they left everything in the retreat from Dundee.

The Colonial forces are already fighting in their shirt sleeves, and it is understood this will spread to all the forces before long.

INVASION OF ZULULAND.

Boers, Under a White Flag, Fire on the Fort at Ingavumuna.

Lorenzo, Marquez, Nov. 5.—(Delayed in transmission.)—A runner from Ingavumuna, Zululand, brings news that on November 1st 350 Boers invaded

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