

# DETAILS OF THE WAR.

## Comparative Strength of Opposing Forces.

### DISTINGUISHED SURGEON WILL GO TO THE FRONT.

#### O'Brien, of Kilkenny, Is Expelled From the House for Violent Speech.

#### Boers Endeavor to Secure Aid of Natives—Cruelty of Boers Toward Prisoners—French Canadians Do Not Reach the Physical Qualifications Required by the Regulations.

New York, Nov. 20.—Col. S. S. Sumner, military attaché of the United States in London, who has been ordered to South Africa to witness the military operations there, has, the Herald says, sent to Washington this statement of the present and prospective strength of the British army:

Force now in South Africa—Regular 12,000; volunteers, 14,000; reinforcements to arrive before Dec. 1st, 10,000. Total force in South Africa by Dec. 1st, 36,000.

Reinforcements contemplated—One complete army corps, divided thus: Cavalry, 5534; infantry, 29,253; corps troops, including artillery, engineers, 5122; troops on the line of communication, 9297; troops to be left at the base, 2832. Total, 52,338. Contingents from Queensland and New Zealand, 25,000. Grand total, 88,588.

Col. Sumner also sends an estimate of the Boer force, said to be based on the official figures of Commandant General Joubert. These total 50,864 men.

#### A SURGEON'S OFFER.

London, Nov. 20.—In the house of Commons today, replying to a question as to what arrangements have been made to employ civilian doctors to assist in the care of the wounded in South Africa, Mr. Wyndham said he was glad to take the opportunity of announcing that Sir Win. McCormack, the distinguished president of the Royal College of Surgeons, had intimated his readiness to accompany General Sir Redvers Buller's force and place his great skill and ability at the disposal of the army medical authorities. Mr. Wyndham added: "We have not hesitated to accept this patriotic offer."

#### O'BRIEN EXPELLED.

London, Nov. 20.—In the house of commons this afternoon while members were discussing the report on supplementary estimates, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, member for Kilkenny City declared that the hands of the British secretary of state for the colonies, Mr. Chamberlain, were as much stained with blood as those of any murderer who ever mounted the scaffold.

The speaker called upon Mr. O'Brien to withdraw his remark, whereupon the house by a vote of 316 to 26 resolved to suspend him, and he left the house remarking: "You had better bring up another army corps, unless you want it somewhere else."

#### THE BASUTOS.

London, Nov. 20.—A cable dispatch to the colonial office from the British high commissioner in South Africa, Sir Alfred Milner, communicates a significant dispatch from Sir Godfrey Lagden British resident commissioner in Basutoland, calling attention to the recklessness of the Basutos, whom he said he had been trying to calm. The resident commissioner adds:

"Our policy, however, has been made difficult by the blustering of the Boers, who have frequently threatened to attack Masuru and other stations. These threats, combined with intriguing, have contributed to cause excitement among the natives. I wish to place on record that the Boers have unwisely attempted to shake the allegiance of the Basutos and frustrate our efforts towards tranquility. The Boers, therefore, are responsible for any commotion and for the alarm regarding native invasions which now prevails."

Capetown, Nov. 20.—Advices from Masra, Basutoland say: "A native

lately visited a laager of Free State troops just opposite Masru. The Boer commandant questioned him regarding the feeling of the different Basuto chiefs, principally the paramount chief, Leorthodi, and in order to draw the commandant, the native replied that the chiefs sided with the Boers. Thereupon the commandant said the two republics wished to kill the British and to take over and govern the Basutos, restoring to the latter that part of the country which the Free State formerly took from them. As for the Britishers, those whom they failed to kill they would drive into the sea. The commandant wished a decision on the part of Leorthodi and the other chiefs as soon as possible, whether they would fight the Boers of the British, because his contingent was anxious to help the Boers elsewhere. He acknowledged his men were afraid of the Basutos."

#### KICKED TO DEATH.

The Capetown correspondent of the London Daily Mail telegraphed on Nov. 8th as follows: "The whole colony is filled with indignation at the horrible brutality which the Boers are practicing on the refugees. The papers declare that this action is arousing a demand for vengeance. Dutch attempts are being made to minimize the reports of the outrages, but they are unfortunately only too true, and prove that the veneer of civilization such as the Boer has is only skin deep."

"It is reported that Mr. Lanham, the secretary of the South African League at Krugersdorp, when about to leave was kicked to death by the Boers."

#### PRISONERS AT PRETORIA.

Pretoria, Nov. 20.—The British prisoners captured on Friday near Dundee were entrained at Dannhauser. They filled ten trucks. The officers traveled first class and a separate van was provided for two wounded officers. An enormous crowd assembled at the station here to witness their arrival, but there was no demonstration. When they alighted the prisoners were received with funeral silence on the part of the crowd. The greatest order and decorum prevailed while they were traversing the streets. The wounded were taken to the hospital, while the other officers and men were marched to the race course, escorted by mounted burghers, and were encamped on the spot where the Jameson's troopers were confined. The officers, Lieut.-Col. Moller, Major Greville and Capt. Pollock of the Eighteenth Hussars, and Capt. Lonsdale, Lieut. Grimshaw, Lieut. Majendie and Lieut. Shore of the Dublin Fusiliers, looked in good health. They are quartered in a building apart from the men. On giving their parole, they will be allowed the freedom of the whole enclosure. The men appear indifferent and spend most of their time smoking. They sleep on the ground.

#### THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT.

Ottawa, Nov. 20.—It is stated that the failure of French-Canadians to enlist was not due to any unwillingness of men to come forward but as the physical standard of the Galic race is not as high as that of the Anglo-Saxon, sufficient men were not forthcoming to comply with the regulations. Acting on this theory instructions were issued today lowering the departmental standard both as regards chest measurement and height, for the French-Canadian company.

It was settled today that there will be two majors for the regiment, Col. Sam Hughes, M. P., and Col. Gordon, D. O. C., of Montreal. Major Drummond, Scotts guards, will be chief staff officer.

#### CONTINGENT AT REVELSTOKE.

Revelstoke, Nov. 20.—Revelstoke turned out en masse this morning to

welcome the British Columbia contingent and wish them God-speed on their way to South Africa. The Kocotenay rifles, headed by the Revelstoke band and followed by a procession of over 250 school children carrying Union Jacks, met the contingent at the depot. The rifles fired a feu-de-joie and the band played the national anthem. The school children, under Principal Sullivan, then sang several patriotic songs and presented the contingent with flags and bouquets of flowers. The train pulled out amid deafening cheers from the crowd, to which the contingent responded.

#### FROM RIETPONTAIN.

London, Oct. 26.—Details of the fighting at Rietfontein are coming slowly. A special dispatch from Ladysmith, dated October 24th, filed after the fight, says:

"On discovery the Boers were massed to the westward of the main road to Dundee.

"An attempt was made by a train to discover the body of Col. Scott Chisholm, killed at Elandslaagte. The train which was fired upon was obliged to retire and Gen. White moved out to attack the Boers, believed to be Free States who should have joined the Transvaalers at Elandslaagte. White commanded personally.

"The Fifth Lancers were placed on either flank. They first came in touch with the Boers below Modderspruit, where 1,500 burghers occupied a strong ridge, whence they opened fire at 1500 yards, hitting several British.

"In the meanwhile, the Hussars and Natal Carbineers, advanced unscathed through an opening in the ridge, under the fire of a Boer gun, while the Imperial Light Horse took part of the crest ridge; the Boers retiring.

#### THE ADVANCE.

"About nine, however, the Boers' guns stationed on the crest of Mattawanaskop opened fire with great accuracy on the main force, which, in the meantime, had come up, but the shells failed to explode and the British artillery silenced opposition.

"The whole British force then advanced and the action became general.

"A large body of Boers occupied a strong position at Mattawanaskop and the precipitous ridges surrounding it. The British guns shelled the positions and the infantry advanced under cover of the fire.

"The Gloucesters and Devons crossed a fearful fire beneath Taitanyone hill, whence the Boers poured a withering fire with such effect that 30 of the attackers dropped within a distance of 200 yards.

"ARTILLERY AND RIFLE DUEL. "Seeing the peril of the Devons and Gloucesters, Gen. White dispatched the Carbineers and Liverpools to the enemy in the rear. The fierce rifle and artillery duel was maintained for some time. The British maxims rattled, but the Boers, under the cover of the rocks, remained cool and replied with an incessant rifle fire.

"The British artillery swept the face of the hill, and at length the shells became so destructive the Boers retreated to another ridge, whence they were dislodged by the volunteers in the face of a gallant fire.

"The Boers soon reformed and took up a position on another ridge, but the volunteers dashed across the intervening plateau, again rushed the Boer position and drove them back to the main force, occupying Mattawanaskop.

"The British then shelled the latter until clusters of Boers were seen leaving and retiring westward, when the engagement closed."

#### Judicial Suggestion.

In open court Monday morning and while some preliminary motions in the case of the Crown vs. D. W. Semple for contempt of court were being heard, Judge Dugas suggested that the Yukon council pass an ordinance requiring all editors and publishers of papers in the territory to file with the official registrar affidavits declaring their professional business.

The suggestion of his honor was probably prompted by the fact that in the case then up for hearing it was admitted by defendant's counsel that his client was neither editor or publisher of the Gleaner on November 26th, the date of the publication of the alleged offensive article.

#### Mail Saturday.

A telegram received Monday morning by Postmaster Hartman stated that the incoming mail had passed Selkirk at 2 p. m. Sunday. The telegram further stated that the trail is in bad condition. Allowing that the trail is in fairly good condition from Selwyn to Dawson, Postmaster Hartman figures that the mail will arrive sometime Friday afternoon or night, and will probably be distributed in time for delivery Saturday. No information was received as to the amount of mail matter coming, nor as to when it was started from Bennett.

#### The 20th Century.

Grand Forks, Nov. 30, '99. Editor Nugget, Dear Sir: My last Wednesday's Nugget we see the statement that this is the 1899th year of our lord. Correct. In the same paragraph you say the 20th century begins Jan. 1st, 1900. How can the 20th century begin before the last year of this century is completed.

Take for instance, the first century. It began with year one we must live to the beginning of the year two to be one year old, or in other words meaning the same thing, we must live to the end of year one to be one year old.

Also by actual count one would have to live to the end of the year 100 to be 100 years or a century old. Hence the Christian era or years of our Lord will not be 19 centuries old till the end of the year 1900. If for instance, we lived in the first year of our Lord, should we write Dec. 1st, year 1 A. D., or would it be made Dec. 1st, year — 1, or to make the idea more plain, was the first year year No. 1 or year 0. If year nothing is correct can our legal papers, diplomas, etc., be correct, if they say, "In the year of our Lord 1899." If they are correct, and why not, this, the 1899th year of our lord, can not complete the century. It takes us to the edge of the 1900th year, but the 1900th year or 19th century can not be completed till the end of the 1900th year. On new year eve they will say, "Ring out '99—ring in 1900."

If the 100th year is ushered in it can not complete itself till Jan. 1st, 1901, which is the only date I have seen given for the beginning. Which is correct? If Jan. 1st, 1900 is please state why, and oblige yours respectfully,

I. S. WETTACH.

(We cheerfully concede all our correspondent says above. The answer to the query as originally written was Jan. 1st, 1901. A typographical error made it appear 1900. It would certainly be a paradox to maintain that we are still in the 99th year of this century and that the 20th century begins on Jan. 1st next.)—ED.

#### THE KLONDIKER'S CHRISTMAS.

As wintry days, in a twilight dim,  
Grew short while the nights increas'd,  
Qu- its snowy wings the remember'd  
time

Drew nigh for the Christmas feast,  
And thoughts arose of the former days,  
That touch'd with tender appeal,  
So we clubb'd together to share the  
cheer

Of a Klondike Christmas meal.  
For Whipsaw Miller, who'd struck it  
rich,  
After rustling all his life,  
Had return'd from town with a woman  
cook

Who register'd as his wife.  
We had some moose and a cariboo,  
With raisins touch'd by the mice,  
And we chopp'd them up for the mince  
meat pies

While Mathias thaw'd the ice.  
We gather'd spruce for the evergreens,  
And we felt like boys releas'd,  
As we sent the dogs and the sled to town  
For the trimmings of the feast.

We tax'd the camp for the coming feed,  
And took the cream of it all;  
We surpris'd the cabin with a clean-  
ing up

And tack'd the greens on the wall.  
And since we wish'd for a guest to share  
Our cheechahko spuds and eggs,  
We requested Bill to invite for us  
The sergeant of the yellow legs.

When all was set and the tin can gong  
Reported the coffee pour'd,  
With candles alight in the sunless day  
We tackled the viands stored.

Ah! that was a feast, you betcher life,  
With turkey an ounce a wing,  
The evaporated stuff was retir'd  
And we'd the genuine thing.

As we had cake and a pudding, too,  
And slighted the flapjack slip;  
While the bacon rind were laying low,  
And the beans they dassent chip.

We ate until the fragments we left  
Would scarce suffice for the dogs,  
And we laugh'd and jok'd as the candle  
light

Reveal'd the knots on the logs.  
But Tom, the chap was a pathetic cuss,  
Began to think about home,  
And the girl whose photo he always  
packed

Where ever he chanc'd to roam.  
That kind of threw a gloom on the  
crowd.  
As we had ties of our own,  
And we knew of things we'd prefer  
to do

To batching up here alone.  
So then we tapp'd a bottle of Scotch,  
With a drop or two of rye,  
And we drank the health of Klondike  
creeks

And hopes of the bye and bye.  
—Asa Thurston Haydon.

HOUSE.  
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PEOPLE.  
Dances.  
Sketches.  
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