POOR DOCUMENT

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The Semi-Weekly Telegraph.

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ROBERTS' HAND VISIBLE.

The Country Being Scoured by Scouting Parties.

Reconnoissances Reported by Methuen, Gatacre and French—Will be Fewer Surprises and Traps in the Future—Boers Reported to be Discouraged by Failure to Take Ladysmith—May Withdraw from Natal.

ROBERTS REPORTS ON THE SITUATION.

London, Jan. 14—The war office issued at midnight a despatch from Field Marshal Roberts, dated Cape Town, Sunday, Jan. 14th, 8.30 a. m., saying: "There is no change in the situation today."

London, Jan. 15—The war office simultaneously issued the following from Lord Roberts, dated Cape Town, Jan. 13th, 3.30 p m:—

Methuen.

"Methuen's cavalry reconnoissance returned on January 11. Went 25 miles into Free State. Country clear of enemy, except patrols.

All quiet at Modder River.

French.

French reconnoitered around the enemy's left flank on Jan. 10. Advanced from Sliumger's Farm on Jan. 11, with artillery and horse artillery to bombard a laager east of Colesburg Junction, was unable to outflank the enemy. Reconnoissance of cavalry and mounted infantry pushed north of Bastard's Nek and examined country north of ridge.

Gatacre.

"Gatacre reports no change.

"All well on Dec. 23 at Mafeking."

BOERS PREPARING TO MEET BULLER.

New York, Jan. 14—Advices from Lorenzo Marquez, through and Pretoria, dated Friday, report no change in the situation except that the Boers were making ready to meet Buller's flanking movement.

STRATHCONA'S OFFER ACCEPTED.

London, Jan. 14—The Associated Press learns that Lord Landsdowne, secretary of state for war, accepted on Saturday the offer of Lord Strathcona, Canadian high commissioner in London, to provide, dismounted, from the Canadian contingents, a force of at least 400 mounted men from Manitoba, Northwest Territories and British Columbia, and to arm, equip and transport them to South Africa at his own expense. All will be expert marksmen, good riders and scouts.

It is estimated that the offer will involve an expenditure of £200,000. The war office regards Lord Strathcona's proposal as an extraordinary proof of colonial patriotism.

LADYSMITH FRIDAY.

Ladysmith, Friday, Jan. 12—(By heliograph)—The besiegers have been quiet for two days, but can be seen in active movement on the distant hills. We have perceived two small bodies galloping with two machine guns.

The Boer's heavy piece on Bulwana Hill has not been fired for two days.

More Boer dead have been found at the base of Caesar's camp.

All is well here.

Durban, Friday, Jan. 12—The entire absence of news from Chieveley or Frere Camp continues, but there is a persistent rumor that Ladysmith has been relieved.

BOERS LOOKING FOR A BATTLE.

Boer Headquarters at Colenso, Thursday, Jan. 11, via Pretoria, via Lourenzo Marques, Friday, Jan. 12—Everything points to a great battle within the next few days.

Ladysmith, for the last two nights, has been firing rockets. The object is not known here.

FRENCH IS DOING SOMETHING.

Rensburg, Cape Colony, Jan. 13—A strong force of British troops advanced this morning under cover of a brisk artillery fire and encamped at Slingersfontein on the Boers' eastern flank. The Boer patrols retired, but subsequently a body of Boers attempted to seize the position, threatening communication between the British encampment and Rensburg. The New Zealanders with a brilliant dash frustrated the attempt. They raced and seized the position first and fired volleys at the enemy, who retired in the direction of Colesburg.

London, Jan. 9—The movement of Gen. French's troops in the vicinity of Colesberg this morning is taken to indicate that Gen. Lord Roberts has recognized the importance of Gen. French's objective, namely, to obtain command of both bridges at the Orange River, and hastened to send him reinforcements. It is thought to partially confirm the suggestion that Gen. Buller's plans include synchronous movements in all the spheres of operation.

About 4,000 troops sailed for South Africa this afternoon.

ANOTHER MODEST BOER ESTIMATE.

Pretoria, Thursday, Jan. 11, via Lourenzo Marques—President Kruger, in the course of a stirring address just issued to the Burghers, affirms that providence is on their side, that their cause is just and that they must succeed.

Reports from Colesburg represent the position there as favorable to the Republicans, but that the British are concentrating for operations on a large scale. The official list of the Boer casualties in what was called the Plat-Rand fight on Saturday, Jan. 6, (the attack upon Ladysmith) shows twenty-six killed and seventy-seven wounded. These figures are described as the first returns.

The embargo at Delagoa Bay upon Transvaal imports is the question of the hour with the Burghers. If this be not removed, it is asserted that steps will be taken prejudicial to prisoners and aliens.

WHAT CAPE TOWN HAS TO TELL.

Cape Town, Wednesday, Jan. 10—The proceedings for treason instituted against the Dutch colonials who were taken in arms at Sunnyside, are being pressed. Witnesses have been interrogated today; the preliminary examination before the magistrate will be held later and the trial will probably be conducted by the supreme court.

The colonial Dutch point out that those prosecutions will serve to make rebels, as they consider the treatment of the prisoners designed to terrify them. Some Britons regard the prosecutions as impolitic, in view of the fact that the Boers are able to retaliate upon the one hundred British officers and the 2,500 privates in their hands, and might do so unless all who fight in the Boer ranks are treated as prisoners of war.

The Boers keep up a continuous sniping near Dordrecht.

Five colonial scouts were captured on Monday.

Yesterday the American residents gave a dinner to Mr. Webster Davis, United States assistant secretary of the interior.

Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener were most fervidly received on their arrival at Cape Town.

PILCHER ON ANOTHER RAID.

Modder River, Thursday, Jan. 11—General Babington, with two regiments of Lancers, the Victorian Mounted Rifles and a battery of horse artillery, left here on the evening of Jan. 7, and crossed the Free State border Tuesday morning.

Simultaneously other movements were made. A column under Col. Pilcher went from Belmont to the south of General Babington's route; while a portion of the garrisons of Klokfontein and Honey Nest Kloff, under Major Byrne, advanced towards Jacobsdale. General Babington penetrated 12 miles and his scouts 20. They saw no signs of armed Boers.

The farm houses were found empty, the occupants having had news of the advance and gone farther into the interior. The British bivouacked at Random. They burned three farm houses, the property of one of the Boer leaders. Yesterday they swept around southward, returning here today. Nothing was accomplished except a reconnoissance.

Col. Pilcher came into touch with General Babington and then returned to Belmont.

Major Byrne reconnoitered the hills about four miles from Jacobsdal and saw seven hundred Boers.

MORE BOERS LOOSE.

Durban, Wednesday, Jan. 10—There is a Boer commando in Zambaan's country, Zululand, within a day's march of the sea, with wagons. It is believed to be waiting for supplies and ammunition secretly landed near St. Lucia Bay.

The Boers have looted all the stores and mines in the Swaziland territory, and the ruined natives are completing the work of destruction.

THE PEOPLE AFTER THE GOVERNMENT.

London, Jan. 13.—The frivolity displayed in his recent speeches by Mr. A. J. Balfour, the government leader in the house of commons, has landed what has been known as the strongest government of modern times in the slough, from which extrication is both doubtful and difficult. His light-hearted remarks, which were pleasantly accepted by the nation when times were good and all was well, are offensive to a people mourning for lost sons and deeply angered by unprecedented reverses. Mr. Balfour, if he had tried, could not have more successfully put his countrymen on edge and when Lord Salisbury speaks he will have much to atone for. The memory of Mr. Chamberlain's "alliance" speech was scarcely dying away before Mr. Balfour put his foot still deeper in the mire.

The Saturday Review, one of the government's staunchest supporters, puts it: "The administration is now face to face not with the opposition but with the nation."

It is a crisis out of which several must come with reputations smirched and may possibly result in the wreck of the government. In any case, a reconstruction of the cabinet seems inevitable. The Spectator protests against making Mr. Balfour the scapegoat and declares that Lord Salisbury should not continue both prime minister and foreign secretary, but that he be retained at the head of the foreign office and Mr. Balfour appointed as premier. The Marquis of Lansdowne being succeeded at the war office by Mr. H. Arnold-Forster. The same paper, gravely reviewing the serious military conditions of the country, advocates an elaborate plan for home defence, including a volunteer army, recruited from civilians and former soldiers, which would not actually be called out except in case of invasion, but which would form a nucleus to enable the standing army to be sent abroad, without qualms.

"If we are to escape conscription," says the Outlook, "the public must be educated to take a more serious, discriminating and self-sacrificing interest in the army."

THIS MAY BE THE NEXT SEIZURE.

Lorenzo Marques, Jan. 13—The German cruiser Schwalbe has arrived here.

LADYSMITH FIGHT WAS HAND TO HAND.

London, Jan. 15.—A special despatch from the Boofd Laager, at Ladysmith, dated Jan. 9 via Lorenzo Marques, describing the assault on Jan. 9, upon Ladysmith, says:—

"The British made no attempt to hold the first line of breastworks, but made an exceedingly stubborn resistance at the next row. Every inch was stubbornly contested and conspicuous bravery was displayed on both sides.

"After 10 o'clock the British artillery fire slackened, and a terrible individual contest ensued among the riflemen for the possession of plat-rand ridge. At noon a heavy thunder storm interrupted the battle, lasting for two hours.

"Although the Burghers succeeded in ultimately gaining possession of most of the British positions on the western side of the plat-rand hy were finally obliged o retire from most of the ground they occupied. The British were most strongly intrenched, their redoubts being skilfully loopholed and the combat was so close that rifles were frequently fired at arms length. It was a hand-to-hand encounter. The men on both sides fought like demons and the horror and bewilderment of the scene could scarcely be paralleled."

RUMORED THAT THE BOERS WILL LEAVE NATAL.

London, Jan. 15—A despatch to the Daily Mail, dated Jan. 12, from Pietermaritzburg, says:—

"Sir Charles Warren marched with 11,000 men eastward from Frere, by way of Weenen. His scouts found no signs of the enemy at Groblers Kloof, while Colenso was ascertained to be deserted.

"There are rumors that the Boers are preparing to leave Natal, discouraged by the failure to reduce Ladysmith. All the colonials and irregulars have been placed under Gen. Warren's command.

"Among the Free Staters killed in the attack on Ladysmith on Jan. 6, was Commandant DeVilliers, who, but for his well known friendlessness to England, would have been commander-in-chief of the Free State forces."

LONDON NEWS AND VIEWS.

London, Jan. 15—4.30 a. m.—Lord Roberts' enigmatical announcement, "no change in the situation", does nothing to allay public anxiety or to explain the mystery surrounding General Buller's movements on the Tugela and, although there is a disposition to regard the despatch as disposing of Saturday's adverse rumors, the week has opened in a state of suspense almost equal to that of last week, because it is recognized that failure in General Buller's present attempt will seal the fate of Ladysmith.

Presumably "no change in the situation" refers to previous despatches sent to the war office which have not yet been revealed to the public. Except the announcement of the seizure of Potgieter's Drift and of the advance of General Warren, there has been no news from the Tugela for a week. A ray of hope is in the fact that the silence prevails on the Boer side. Thus it may, perhaps, be fairly inferred that General Buller has not yet met a serious check.

If the announcement of General Warren's movement be correct, it is evident that General Buller's forces are spread over a very wide front, perhaps 25 miles, and in the event of a sudden fall of the river, his operations might be full of danger. It is believed that General Buller has no good survey maps of the district. This will add to his difficulties.

Sir Charles Warren's advance probably means an attempt to seize Hlangwane Hill, the main post of the Boers south of the Tugela. Upon the success or failure of these operations depends the whole future of the campaign. Until the result is known Lord Roberts will be unable to decide how to dispose of the two divisions and the reinforcements now arriving. The news from other points is of no great importance. Boer accounts tell of another sortie from Kimberley on Jan. 9, in the direction of Kamfer's Dam, with a brisk exchange of firing but no results. A heavy detonation was heard on Jan. 8 within Kimberley.

A despatch to the Daily Mail from Modder River, dated Jan. 10 gives a rumor that Kimberley was being bombarded.

Bastard's Neck, mentioned in Lord Roberts' despatch as the locality of a reconnoissance, is northwest of Colesburg.

Doubts are beginning to be raised whether it will be possible to get together anything like 10,000 Yeomanry. Only a very small per centage of the applicants satisfy the standard of riding and shooting. A large number of officers from the Egyptian army have just left Cairo for South Africa, to replace those killed and wounded.

SOMETHING BIG ON.

London, Jan. 15—The special correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at Frere Camp, in a despatch dated Jan. 10, after describing the situation as already known, says: "Possibly you may not hear from me for the next two days or so, but, believe me, all will go well.

BRITAIN BUYS GERMAN GUNS.

London, Jan. 15—The Berlin correspondent of the Daily Mail says:—

"Great Britain has bought 240 Krupp guns that were supplied about two years ago to one of the southern European states. These guns are not quick fiers, but will be used to replace the guns sent to South Africa from British home garrisons."

BOERS PROTECTING A WAY OUT.

London, Jan. 15—The Standard publishes the following from Ladysmith, Thursday, Jan. 11, by heliograph, via Weenen:—

"The Boers are fortifying positions north and west of Ladysmith, doubtless with a view of securing a safe line of retreat should their opposition to General Buller's advance fail. They still surround Ladysmith in large numbers and may be contemplating another attack.

"It is known however, that they are greatly depressed by their heavy losses. Prior to Saturday, they were perfectly confident of their ability to defeat the garrison and to take possession of the town."

BOER REPORT OF BOER LOSSES.

Boer Headquarters, Outside Ladysmith, Tuesday, Jan. 9—"The Boers occupying the southern edges of Bester's Kop were driven out by the British Saturday. Commandant Nel, on the west of the town and the Pretoria commando, on the north, have taken the kopjes commanding Caesar's Camp, from which they maintain a continuous sniping of the British. The Pretoria commando lost six men killed and six wounded in attempting to storm the fort."

AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS.

Lawrence, Mass., Jan. 15—One of the committee engaged in collecting money for the British South African patriotic fund stated tonight that Lawrence contribution was already $5,000, and that another $5,000 would immediately be raised.

THE BULLER REPULSE STORY DENIED.

London Jan. 15—Mr. Harris has denied having received a telegram referring to another repulse of general Buller.

WARREN ON THE MOVE.

Cape Town, Saturday, Jan. 13—There is good reason to believe that the statement that Sir Charles Warren, with 11,000 men, has gone toward Weenen, is correct, and we may expect important news shortly.

Reports have been received here that dysentry is very rife in Ladysmith.

Everything is phenominally quiet at Sterkstroom.

KRUGER FIGHTING WITH PSALMS.

London, Jan. 16—A despatch to the Daily Mail, dated Saturday, Jan. 13, from Lourenzo Marques, says: "President Kruger has issued a proclamation ordering all Burghers to the front. The Volksstem, the Transvaal official organ, suggests that the moment the British cross the border the gold industry should be irretrieveably destroyed.

"President Kruger also issued a circular dated Jan. 8, to Boer commandants and Burghers, urging them to show more energy in the Transvaal cause. He quotes Psalm XXXIII, verse 7, as God-given instruction to the Burghers and says that the British have fixed their faith in Psalm LXXXIII. He also quotes Psalm LXXXIX, verses 13 and 14, and asserts that he has searched the Bible without being able to find any other mode which can be followed by the Boers who "must fight in the name of the Lord."

"Commandeering is proceeding busily at Pretoria, where the town guard is exchanging Mausers for Martinis, the former are badly needed at the front. It is said that there are nearly 3,000 British prisoners in Pretoria."

London, Jan. 16.—The war office has published the following from Lord Roberts, dated Cape Town, Jan. 15, 8.30 p. m.:

"French reports that a reconnaissance yesterday (Sunday) shelled the Colesberg road bridge. No casualties. Returned today.

"Methuen and Gatacre no change."

AMERICAN OFFICIAL AT CAPE TOWN.

Cape Town, Jan. 13.—Mr. Webster Davis, the United States assistant secretary of the interior, visited the Boer prisoners today and subsequently dined with the admiral. He then visited and bid farewell to the governor, Sir Alfred Milner, previous to starting for the Transvaal.

BOERS WEARY OF WAR.

London, Jan. 16—The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at Pietermaritzburg, telegraphing Thursday, Jan. 11, says: "The gallantry of the Ladysmith garrison last Saturday appears to have depressed, if not actually demoralized the Boers generally. It is believed that they lost at least two, if not three, killed as against our one. Many Boers are believed to be trekking northward."

BOERS GETTING GUNS IN FRANCE.

London, Jan. 16.—The Daily Mail publishes the following from a special correspondent at LeCreusot, France: "After two days inquiry I do not hesitate to assert that the Schneider Company is not only working night and day in the manufacture of guns and ammunition for the Boers, but that it has already packed, ready for shipment to the Transvaal, six heavy guns of large calibre. The workmen told me that ere long thirty additional guns would be despatched to the Boers."

The Hamburg correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "An expert firm here has undertaken the immediate delivery of 300,000 meters of barbed wire to the Free State."

LADYSMITH TO BE RELIEVED.

London, Jan. 16—The Standard gives prominence to the following despatch, dated Saturday, Jan. 13, from Durban:—

"A man who has just arrived here from Springfield, says that a British column, preceding to the relief of Ladysmith, has crossed the Little Tugela. When he left, it was facing the Boer position on the Big Tugela; and a howitzer was shelling the Boer trenches.

"He says also that 270 wagons, laden with commissariat stores for Ladysmith had left Frere, and it was expected that the column would join hands with General White Monday evening."

A GUESS FROM LONDON.

London, Jan. 16, 4 a. m.—General Buller's latest authentic word as to what he and his 30,000 men are doing was wired from Springfield after his first forward step. Striving to think out the unknown London is confused by surmise and rumor and disquieted by suspense. Mr. Spencer Wilkinson, the lucid military expert of the Morning Post, asserts that the Boer force in Northern Natal is larger than General Buller's and Sir George White's together, so that the Boers are able to leave a force around Ladysmith larger than that within the town and yet to oppose General Buller with a force superior to his own.

THE GOVERNMENT PROMPT.

Ottawa, Jan. 15—The dominion government has been officially advised that the Imperial government has accepted the offer of Lord Stratheona to raise, at his own expense, a mounted corps of 400 men in the Canadian Northwest. This was expected, and the department of militia, as already stated in this correspondence, did not remain idle, but has already been making arrangements for the outfitting and equipping of the men. Dr. Borden had an interview with Lord Minto this afternoon on the matter.

MORE CONTRIBUTIONS.

Ottawa, Jan. 15—In addition to the $7,800 already contributed to the Canadian patriotic fund, Senator Miller, of Nova Scotia, sends $50 and the Bank of British North America gives £1,000, making a total of $12,716.

MILITIA CHANGES GAZETTED.

Ottawa, Jan. 15.—The following is gazetted:—

8th "Princess Louise Hussars, New Brunswick," paymaster, honorary Captain J. H. McRobbie, is granted the honorary rank of Major.

10th, Field Battery—Lieut. Colonel F H. Dibblee, on completion of his period of service in command of this battery, is transferred to the reserve of officers.

67th "Battalion," Carleton Light Infantry—To be Lieutenant Sergeant, J. Johnston, vice O. L. Davenport, retired.

MILITIA EXAMINATIONS.

Ottawa, Jan. 15.—A general militia order today says. "Officers before being appointed to command, or second in command of corps, of active militia, other than permanent units, will require to pass an examination in tactical fitness for command. This examination will consist of ability to read a map with facility; to handle in the field a mixed force of not less than 1 squadron, 1 battery and three battalions; in the practical solution of some simple tactical problem, all orders necessary to be written by candidate; to command a unit of candidate's own arm in some similar operation; written solution of a set tactical problem (one only) marking on a map the position of troops required. Each member of the board is to record his opinion individually of the work done by the candidate and to state clearly whether, in his opinion, the candidate possesses the necessary qualifications to make an efficient commanding officer, possessing requisite power to command and handle men. Officers of permanent units will as heretofore be required to pass "tactical fitness test for commands" before a board of officers of the Imperial service, and after same facilities for instruction have been given as to officers of the same service.

CONTRACT SIGNED.

Ottawa, Jan. 15—The contract for the Milwaukee to replace the Montezuma was finally closed with the Elder-Dempster people this forenoon by the minister of militia. The Milwaukee will leave Halifax for Cape Town early in February.

OFFICERS GOING HOME.

Boston, Jan. 15—Two British army officers from the Jamaica station, Captain F. L V. Jenkins, late of the 87th Irish Fusiliers, and Captain Tozer, late of the 5th Fusiliers, are in this city on their way to England to take service in South Africa. Both officers have seen much service and were retired some time ago. Now they expect to be reassigned to duty.

DAUGHTERS OF THE EMPIRE.

Fredericton, Jan. 15.—About 30 ladies met in the city council chamber this afternoon in response to the mayor's invitation and formed a branch of the Daughters of the Empire, electing the following officers: President, Mrs. John Black; first vice-president, Mrs. T. G. Loggie; second vice-president, Mrs. W. C. Crocket; secretary, Mrs. E. J. Payson; treasurer, Mrs. Geo. M. Campbell; executive, Mrs. C. H. B. Fisher, Mrs. J. W. Bridges, Mrs. J. P. Phelan, Mrs. R. McLearn, Mrs. Geo. Y. Dibblee.

WOODSTOCK ARTILLERYMEN.

Woodstock, Jan. 15.—The people of the town turned out en masse today to witness the departure of our soldier boys for South Africa. The stores and buildings on the line of march to the station were decorated with flags and bunting. At 2 o'clock p. m. the men of the contingent "fell in" in front of the Aberdeen Hotel, which has been their headquarters for the past two weeks, and headed by His Worship Mayor Murphy and other prominent citizens of the town in sleighs and the 67th Battalion band with the Woodstock band bringing up the rear, started on their march to the lower station. There was just room for the contingent to march the street on either side being completely blocked with spectators. When the station was reached and the men had boarded the train there were many sad farewells and much handshaking but the crowd was so dense that it was simply impossible for many to get near the cars to say a last farewell. At 2.30 the train pulled out amid loud cheering and bands playing Soldiers of the Queen and The Girl I Left Behind Me. The people of Woodstock and Carleton county feel justly proud of the boys sent from this section of the province as they are mostly men who hold certificates from military schools.

ST. JOHN'S GREETING.

The Woodstock detachment passed through the city last night and the men must have been gratified at the grand reception they were given in loyal old St. John. It was a surprise to the most sanguine to see the thousands who thronged the depot to meet the train and cheer the boys on their way to the wars. No wonder that St. John turned out en masse to give our own boys a send off, and it was expected that there would

[Continued on Page 8.]

Great Bargain Opportunities for Money-Saving People.

LADIES' JACKETS

At Half Price, and many less than Half Price to Clear.

15 BLACK CHEVIOT JACKETS, sizes 32, 34 and 36 at $1.00 each. Some in the lot were as high as $6.00.
12 MIXED TWEED JACKETS, unlined, sizes 32, 34 and 36, at $2.00 each. Some in the lot were as high as $8.00.
10 MIXED TWEED JACKETS, satin lining, at $3.00 each. Some in the lot were as high as $9.90.
15 NAVY BEAVER CLOTH JACKETS, unlined, at $3.50 each. Some in the lot were as high as $9.90.
10 BLACK BEAVER CLOTH JACKETS, same price.
10 NAVY CURL CLOTH JACKETS, silk lined, at $4.00 each. Some in the lot were as high as $8.00.
6 DARK GREEN BEAVER CLOTH JACKETS, unlined, at $4.00 each. Some in the lot were as high as $8.00.
2 BLACK BEAVER CLOTH JACKETS, last year's, very long, size 32, $2.00 each. One was $12.00, the other $16.00.
If parcel to be sent by mail add 50c. for each Jacket.

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