

SOUTH AFRICA.

Sharp Fighting and Continued British Successes.

Several Prominent Boers Captured—Another Batch of Prisoners Arrive in the West Indies.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The war office has issued another long despatch received from Lord Kitchener, detailing the murders of natives by the Boers. One case is given of a wagon driver who was captured from a British convoy in the end of 1900 and burned alive.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Telegrams received here from South Africa still refer to the probable decision of the Boers to surrender, but a despatch to the Daily News from Johannesburg today declares that the Boers are determined to continue the war, and that their recent conference has been with the object of planning a summer campaign.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Sydney announces that Joseph Chamberlain, the colonial secretary, has telegraphed to the Right Hon. W. E. Barton, the prime minister of the commonwealth of Australia, to the effect that the British government would be glad of 1,000 men for service in South Africa. This will be the first Federal contingent to go to South Africa, Premier Barton having previously declined to offer men unless the government asked for them.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Lord Kitchener in a despatch from Johannesburg, dated Saturday, Dec. 22, sends reports of sharp fighting in the Orange River valley (Transvaal colonies). The engagements occurred Dec. 18, Dec. 19, Dec. 20, Dec. 21, at points widely apart. The casualties, so far as known, aggregate about 150, equally divided, but heavy British losses, the totals of which have not yet been reported, have occurred in the Transvaal. In the last mentioned fighting, 200 mounted infantry, in the neighborhood of Belegderyn, took part.

In the eastern part of the Transvaal colony, Col. Mackenzie attacked Commandant Smith's force of Boers at Lake Benagheer, Dec. 20, and killed 32, and captured 16 of the enemy. Commandant Smith escaped.

A force of Boers during the night of Dec. 18, attacked the British post at Strand Spruit, but the burghers were driven off, leaving eight men killed, including Commandant Krieger. Field Cornet Mahon, who was wounded, and three other wounded men, were also left on the field. Other wounded Boers were carried off in blankets. The British casualties were seven killed and six officers and eighteen men wounded.

HAMILTON, Ber., Dec. 23.—The Boer prisoners of war landed on Hawkins Island, Natal, have been isolated, and several of them are suffering from a mild form of measles.

OTTAWA, Dec. 23.—Major H. D. Johnston of Charlottetown gets a captaincy in the field hospital for South Africa, which is to be officially known as No. 10 field hospital company of the Canadian army medical corps. Two lieutenant-colonels have been offered to Ontario men. Director General Neilson today completed the establishment of the company into a ward staff and a compounding staff. There will be 11 company in all with 28 horses, and 17 drivers will also act as batmen.

The militia department was advised today of the death near Bloemfontein, of the S. A. C. His father is J. E. Elliott of Porter's Hill, Ont.

Recruiting for the two additional companies for the Mounted Rifles commenced at Ottawa this morning. There were over 40 applicants for ten places.

Trooper S. T. McNaughton is reported dangerously ill. His father is R. McNaughton, of Black River, Northumberland county, N. B.

Major Ogilvie it seems died on Friday. He was a nephew of Dr. Howell of this city.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—No further details have been received here 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

this is also the government view of the situation of the situation is apparent from the fact that between now and Jan. 1st the drafts of troops proceeding to South Africa from home and the colonies aggregate 15,000 men.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—Satisfaction with the progress of events in South Africa is now general, and there is a marked recrudescence of public opinion in support of Lord Kitchener as commander-in-chief. Only a few weeks ago military men expressed such adverse criticism of Lord Kitchener's generalship. Now, however, he is called an organizer of victory, and people talk of his abilities and unvarying energy. He is given full credit for connecting all the scattered fragments in South Africa and the rest of the Empire into a coherent and mobile fighting machine. The view of Lord Kitchener will probably hold good as long as he continues to record a string of unbroken successes.

KRITZINGER IN HOSPITAL. BLOEMFONTEIN, Dec. 23.—Commandant Kritzinger was captured while bravely fighting the Daily News from Johannesburg today has been shot near a blockhouse on the line near Hanover Road. Kritzinger was the third time he was shot, his wounds being inflicted by the British. Two other men who tried to rescue him were captured. Kritzinger is now in the hospital at Hanover Road.

Commandant Kritzinger has been described by a leader of exceptional ability, not only to the British, but to the Boers. He has been repeatedly referred to in the despatches from South Africa. At one time no fewer than seven British columns were in hot pursuit of Kritzinger, driving him toward the Orange River, which was then unfordable, but when the British thought they had him caught, they discovered that he was fifty miles in the distance, threatening the railroad, after having broken up his command into two sections. An officer of the British intelligence department who fell into Kritzinger's hands, about five feet ten inches in height, broadly built, and speaking English perfectly. At that period, the officer said, Kritzinger was fitted in lavender-colored trousers, with yellow-tanned puttees, a well-cut coat, and a well-cut hat. Kritzinger wore gloves and carried a hunting crop. His men were well-dressed, and all their horses were in good condition.

GOOD WORK OF MOBILE'S BOOTS. (Special Cable to the Mail and Empire.) LONDON, Dec. 13.—A despatch from Bloemfontein says: "Civil supplies in the Orange River Colony have been placed under the control of the civil administration. The Orange River Colony is a well-organized territory. For the month of December 300 tenon trucks have been assigned to bring in military material, and to bring in grain, to enable work to be resumed. Most of the material has already arrived. The Lace Diamond mines in the west of the Orange River Colony were visited by a party of Boers this week. "Business in the colony is generally returning normal conditions, and some are beginning to complain in a general way of the authorities. The land settlement board has already sown 4,000 boxes of French seed and tools."

GERMANY. HIS REPAIRS WITH REGARD TO VENEZUELA. BERLIN, Dec. 23.—The German press, while reluctant as to Germany's specific plans with regard to Venezuela and the time of their execution, gives the impression that something will soon be done. The German press is watching the uprising in Venezuela under the leadership of Gen. Luciano Machado. If anything serious comes of this revolutionary movement, Germany will support it with all the force of her government.

The Berlin newspapers continue to publish everything available on this subject. The Berliner Tagblatt sums up Germany's position in the Venezuelan matter in the following words: "This new rebellion is of the utmost consequence to our relations with that country. Our position toward the government at Venezuela would naturally be influenced if everything there goes topsy-turvy."

MISS STONE ALIVE. CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 22.—A correspondent here of the Associated Press was today informed that the American legation had no agreement had been arrived at with the brigands holding Miss Stone captive, concerning the missionary's release, and that it was not likely that anything would be settled in this connection for another ten days.

Advice received here from Sofia are to the effect that M. Talika has heard that Miss Stone is still being held captive, and that he was not likely that anything would be settled in this connection for another ten days.

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DRY DOCK COMMISSION.

Civic Committee to Inspect U. S. Dry Docks, Returns.

Mr. Robertson Talks of His Trip—He Says He is Greatly Encouraged by What He Saw—Found Wooden Decks in Favor.

The committee appointed by the common council to accompany Gen. Robertson, M. P. P., promoter of the Imperial Dry Dock Co., on a tour of inspection of the docks on the Atlantic seaboard returned Monday. The committee, consisting of Aldermen Christie and Maxwell and Mr. R. H. Coakley, were accompanied throughout their trip by John H. Thomson, who is also interested in the company, and by Lewis Costello, engineer of the dominion public works department.

Seen by a Sun reporter last night Mr. Robertson gave a graphic account of the trip and of the various places visited, but was unable to state what the results had been, as the committee were reserving their opinions for their formal report to the council. Personally, he was greatly encouraged at what he had seen, much of which was a revelation to him. "But with all the vastness of the various docks and shipyards we visited," he said, "I never saw anything being done, and I couldn't be done just as well here. We have the situation and the conditions; we have the men and the ability; all we need is the capital."

Dismissing the tour in detail after commenting on the great amount of ground covered in so short a time, Mr. Robertson spoke of the committee's visit, first to the docks on the Erie Basin in New York. "Here," he said, "there were two large wooden docks, one of which had been in constant use for twenty-six years and the other for about sixteen. Both were in remarkably good repair. The manager, together with one of the firm of Simpson & Co., the great dock builders, had come over to meet us, and were exceedingly kind in pointing out and carefully explaining everything of interest. In response to our questions, the manager expressed himself thoroughly satisfied with the work done, giving strong reasons for his opinion, which reasons will probably be presented to the council in the committee's report. The visit gave us a good idea of the industry as a whole, and from such an industry as this," he continued, "the repairs to the straits New York will cause the expenditure there of \$1,200,000. The docks in New York are about 3,000 and Mr. Robertson then told of the visit to the Brooklyn navy yard, where they inspected the granite dock built by the Erie Basin, which cost \$1,000,000, and also a concrete dock which had never been used owing to some imperfection in construction. "The Erie Basin," he went on, "is an excellent opportunity for forming a comparative opinion. They were in all my travels, and I have visited the principal ports of Great Britain, I met with no opportunity for forming a comparative opinion."

From New York the committee went to Philadelphia, where they inspected the great Cramp shipbuilding works, and were most favorably impressed by what they saw. The dock there was a wooden one, and Mr. Cramp expressed himself highly in favor of this mode of construction, which he intended to adopt for a new dock to be shortly built at Baltimore, the next place visited, they saw the new dock just completed by Wm. Skinner, Sons & Co. Its length over all was 628 feet, and the keel blocks 600 feet. Its width at base of entrance was 60 feet and at the top 80 feet. It was 62 feet wide on the floor and 125 at the coping. The depth of water in the basin was 22-1/2 feet at low water. They were shown through by Mr. Skinner, the builder, who stated that after a careful consideration of all the docks in the United States, he had decided in favor of wooden ones, with concrete entrances faced with granite. "But the revelation of the trip," said Mr. Robertson, "was received when we visited the immense works at Newport News. Here when the first wooden dock still in splendid repair, was built by Messrs. Simpson 16 years ago, and on the keel blocks 600 feet. Its class of naval construction. The yard in its present conditions and with its great possibilities for extension, I consider one of the greatest in the world. The wooden docks have given the management so much satisfaction that they intend building a new one 800 feet long of this material with a concrete and granite entrance. "So when we had finished there," added Mr. Robertson, "as we had seen the best in America we considered it unnecessary to go further. Throughout the whole trip the representatives of the city gave every possible attention to the details of what they saw, and had every opportunity of forming an opinion without the expression of any opinion by me. I await their report with as much eagerness as any other interested in the welfare of the city. I have no doubt the delegation will be able to come to a satisfactory decision from the evidence received, which was far different from what they could obtain from any amount of reading."

Referring to the necessity of the work and its results at Newport News, Mr. Robertson said: "If we could accomplish anything comparable to this in a few years, St. John would

be a great city. I am greatly encouraged at the result of the trip, which I wish thousands of our citizens could take. I am sure that we have more than ever of our possibilities and our future."

ELECTROCUTED.

A Boston Murderer Died Without a Murmur.

BOSTON, Dec. 23.—Without fear Francesco Umilia walked from his cell to the electric chair this morning, and died without a murmur. A wonderful prisoner, he showed that he believed death preferable to imprisonment. When he was on trial for murder he was asked if he would not take a confession and thereby escape death and in his place and he would rather die that time he said no, he would rather die than be behind the bars. He had a murmur, a wonderful prisoner, he showed that he believed death preferable to imprisonment. When he was on trial for murder he was asked if he would not take a confession and thereby escape death and in his place and he would rather die that time he said no, he would rather die than be behind the bars. He had a murmur, a wonderful prisoner, he showed that he believed death preferable to imprisonment. 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