ST. JOHN SEMI-WEEKLY SUN

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ALL UNCERTAIN.

Plenty Rumors as to What is Going on in Natal, But Nothing Definite.

General Buller Has Not Been Heard from Since He Announced His Arrival at Springfield.

The Steamer Milwaukee Has Been Selected to Replace the Montezuma as a Transport, But Will be Unable to Leave Halifax for a Month.

GENERAL REVIEW.

LONDON, Jan. 16.—Gen. Lord Roberts, in a despatch to the war office yesterday, recorded a cavalry reconnaissance by Gen. French. He added that the position of Gen. Methuen and Gen. Gatacre were unchanged, but made no reference to the operations in Natal. At the moment of cabling the latest authentic information concerning Gen. Buller was his Springfield despatch dated Jan. 11. Pietermaritzburg, Durban and Cape Town have been vieing with one another in sending further remarkable reports of the movements of his divisions, but the fact that the censor allows the transmission of such despatches probably proves their complete inaccuracy.

The critics discuss with fearful interest the statements indicating the division of Gen. Buller's column into three parts, operating respectively at Springfield, Colenso and Weenen. They concur in the opinion that such a plan would, under the most favorable view, be extremely daring, as each division would be separated by two or three marches. The situation, though at present neither understood or understandable, certainly creates anxiety, which is in no wise allayed by the rumors that the Boers have evacuated some of their strongest entrenchments. It is recognized that when these wily campaigners begin to "evacuate" and retreat, they are getting dangerous.

Mafeking was apparently holding its own against its besiegers on Jan. 12. A Pretoria telegram of that date records that the Boers began bombarding the town on that morning. Major Baille, one of the press correspondents at Mafeking, sent a runner on Jan. 6th to Moohadi with a despatch stating that the garrison was well.

Gen. Woods' occupation on Jan. 5 of Southpans Drift, a few miles north of the Orange river and within the Orange Free State, marks the establishment of the first British post in the enemy's country since the opening of the war.

The Standard's correspondent at Ladysmith heliographed on Jan. 11th that the Boers had been singularly restless since the assault on Jan. 6th. They failed to continue to fortify the hills to the northwest, and moved some of their big guns to positions commanding the approaches to the town from the south. They have taken their field guns in the direction of Colenso. It is evident that they are making the most strenuous efforts to prepare for the great struggle that is impending.

The Standard's Durban correspondent, under date of Jan. 13, says a man who just arrived there from Springfield states that the Ladysmith relief column is encamped near the Tugela river facing the Boer positions which the howitzers had been shelling. Two hundred and seventy wagons laden with stores for the Ladysmith garrison had left Frere.

It was expected that the column would reach Gen. White Monday evening, Jan. 15. Mounted patrols had discovered parties of Boers in the direction of Annersdale, between Frere and Estcourt.

The military critic of the Morning Leader asserts as if with personal knowledge that "Gen. Warren with his division and something more was yesterday morning five miles northwestward of Springfield, where Gen. Buller then had his headquarters. This represents the fast."

The critic proceeds to ridicule rumors that do not bear out his statement.

The Times correspondent at Lorenzo Marquez, dating his despatch Jan. 10, quotes from the Pretoria Volkstein to the effect that every day the war continues it costs the mine shareholders £17,000. The paper adds that with the invaluable assistance of a considerable number of British subjects the Transvaal is steadily increasing the yield of gold, thus securing funds to pay foreigners for explosives and other means for prosecuting the war.

The service that British mining men are thus rendering the Boers is proportionally ten times greater than that of all an equal number of colonial rebels. The time must come when Great Britain will forbid her subjects to enter into any arrangements with the Transvaal and warn them that for assisting the Boers they will be prosecuted for treason or deprived of their citizenship.

FOR THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

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

LITTLE TUGELA CROSSED.

Wagons With Stores for Ladysmith Have Left Camp Frere.

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

"The traction engines have been doing excellent work in hauling heavy wagons out of holes and swamps.

"British patrols have discovered parties of Boers in the direction of Ennersteal, between Frere and Estcourt."

QUOTES SCRIPTURE.

Oom Paul Issues a Circular Urging Commandants and Burghers to Show More Energy.

LONDON, Jan. 16.—A despatch to the Daily Mail, dated Saturday, Jan. 13, from Lourenzo Marquez, 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 irretrievably 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 instructions 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."

FOR THE BOERS

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 export firm here has undertaken the immediate delivery of 300,000 meters of barbed wire to the Free state."

A THIRD LEVY.

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 13.—A despatch to the Times from Herscel, Northern Cape Colony, dated Jan. 10, says that a third levy of the colonial Burghers has been made by the Orange Free State Boers. All male residents between the ages of 14 and 60 years have been commandered to assist the Boer forces at Stormberg. It is reported that many of the colonial Dutch who joined the Boers are now deserting and returning to their farms. The despatch adds that the reports that the whites in Basutanaland fear a rising of the natives are entirely groundless. The natives are steadfastly loyal to the British. A special police force numbering 400 men is keeping order among the Basutos.

A despatch to the Times from Dordrecht states that five alleged rebels have been committed there for trial. One of the accused is charged with carrying arms and the others with furnishing information concerning British movements to the enemy. More cases are pending.

RECEIVED ELEVEN WOUNDS.

ESTCOURT, Natal, Jan. 13.—Everything is quiet in this vicinity. There is an impression that the Boers are concentrating elsewhere. A remarkable incident is reported in connection with the charge of the Devons, up Wagon hill, in the fighting around Ladysmith, Jan 6. Lt. Materson was ordered to cross the fire swept zone and deliver a message. He was hit by three bullets, but struggled on and delivered his message, which was very important. The lieutenant is doing well, although there are eleven wounds in his body.

The above apparently confirms the statement of Sir William McCormac as to the comparative harmlessness of the Mauser bullets. The "eleven wounds" from three bullets may seem strange, but one bullet going through the arm and then passing in and out of the side or back would make four wounds.

BLOCKADE EFFECTIVE.

LONDON, Jan. 16.—A despatch to the Daily News from Lorenzo Marquez, dated Jan. 11, says that the regulation requiring all persons desiring to enter the Transvaal to obtain a passport is causing heartburning among the Boers in Portuguese territory, who are hurrying to their homes as rapidly as possible.

The despatch adds that the British blockade of the port is very strict. All stocks of food are at the lowest. Communication with the south is almost stopped. For several weeks hundreds of persons have been waiting to go to Durban, but there is no vessel to take them. The only steam vessel in the harbor is a small tug.

WERE DRIVEN OUT.

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.

MAY HAVE BEGUN.

PIETERMARITZBURG, Natal, Jan. 13.—Heliographing has been going on all day between Frere and Ladysmith. Merchants here have received orders to send food stuffs forward. This is taken to mean that a movement for the relief of Ladysmith is expected to begin at once. It is believed that this movement will begin on the evening of January 15. The foreign military attaches have gone to Cape Town to join Gen. Kitchener.

SUNDAY RECONNAISSANCE.

LONDON, Jan. 16.—The war office has published the following despatch from Lord Roberts, dated Cape Town, Jan. 15, 6.20 p. m.:

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

"Methuen and Gatacre no change."

AFTER CATTLE RAIDERS

LONDON, Jan. 15.—A despatch to the Central News from Durban, dated Jan. 13, says that ten train loads of troopers and horses from Gen. Buller's command have arrived at that place and started by train for the mouth of the Tugela River, where they will leave the train and enter Zululand, to operate against Boer cattle raiders, who have been causing unrest among the Zulus for two months.

INSPECTION ORDERED.

HAMBURG, Jan. 15.—It is reported that a shipping firm has undertaken the immediate delivery of 300,000 metres of barbed wire on an order from the Orange Free State.

The government has directed that cargoes leaving German ports for East Africa shall henceforth be closely examined to see that they contain no contraband of war.

RESPONSE WEAK.

LORENSO MARQUEZ, Jan. 13.—A Boer despatch from Molopo, dated Jan. 10, says: "Mafeking is being continuously bombarded. The response from the British garrison is weak. The natives are deserting the town, and it is reported that the Kaffirs are starving."

WAR CORRESPONDENT KILLED.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—Mr. Ferrand, one of the Morning Post's correspondents at Ladysmith, was killed in the fighting that took place at that place on January 6th.

LOCAL WAR MATTERS.

A correspondent writes to the Sun: "Now that Lord Strathcona's offer to raise 400 mounted men in Canada for service in South Africa has been accepted by the British government, would it not be advisable for His Worship Mayor Sears to cable the high commissioner requesting that this contingent be embarked from our port. Anyway let some steps be taken at once to secure the forwarding of these troops from Canada through her winter port."

Word has been received here that a former St. John man, William Fielders, son of John Fielders, now of Edmonton, N. W. T., is doing his part in the heroic defence of Kimberley. Mr. Fielders has been in South Africa for some time, and has enjoyed the friendship of Hon. Cecil Rhodes, to whom he is indebted for some advancement. Mr. Fielders is a crack shot and when the war broke out he hastened to Kimberley and has since been doing his share toward its defance.—Globe.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew have sent to the second contingent at Halifax a large case of illustrated magazines and papers; also 800 hymn sheets.

SECOND CONTINGENT.

Str. Milwaukee Will Replace the Montezuma—Lord Strathcona's Horse.

OTTAWA, Jan. 15.—The department of militia has secured the steamship Milwaukee of the Elder-Dempster line, for the purpose of transporting the 1st Battalion of Mounted Rifles and C Battery Field Artillery to Cape Town. The Milwaukee is somewhat larger than the Montezuma, being nearly 10,000 tons gross, but she is built almost exactly on the same lines. The temporary fittings which have been put into the Montezuma can be taken out and adapted to the Milwaukee.

The new transport is en route for New Orleans with a cargo of sugar. She is expected to arrive there not later than Wednesday, and orders have been sent to the captain of the vessel to proceed to Halifax immediately after she has discharged her cargo. What with the journey from New Orleans to Halifax, and time necessary for the changes which will be required in the vessel to give accommodation for men and horses, it will be practically a month before the Milwaukee can get away from Halifax. Mr. Sinclair of the Elder-Dempster line, who was here today, sets February 15th the outside limit. It will certainly not be before February 18th.

The official acceptance by the Imperial government of Lord Strathcona's offer was received by the government today, but pending the final determination of the composition of the contingent, no official statement is forthcoming. So far the exact terms of the high commissioner's offer are confidential, but it is known that he desires the squadron to be raised in the Northwest Territories.

Lord Strathcona's Horse will consist of three squadrons of 125 men each, so that with officers it will total about 412 men.

The governor general's patriotic fund is making splendid progress. Among the subscriptions received today was one of a thousand pounds from the Bank of British North America.

Hon. A. G. Blair left for St. John, N. B., today. He will go to Halifax to see the troops embark before returning here. Messrs. Fielding, Borden, Mulock and Sutherland leave for Halifax on Wednesday morning. Gen. Hutton and Lieut. Col. Macdonald, chief director of stores, leave tomorrow.

FOR THE RICHIBUCTO MEN.

RICHIBUCTO, N. B., Jan. 5.—The citizens of Richibucto and Kingston have forwarded through Geo. V. McInerney, M. P., the sum of $64.50 for Herbert I. Stevenson and Joseph B. Woods of this town, who are with the second contingent.

COL. DRURY TO COMMAND.

KINGSTON, Jan. 15.—Major General Hutton has cabled instructions to South Africa to have Lt. Col. Drury return to Cape Town to take command of the artillery with the second contingent. Lt. Col. Drury is on the staff of Col. Newbigging, who commands the artillery.

WOODSTOCK QUOTA

Given a Rousing Reception at the Depot Last Evening.

Welcomed by Mayor Sears, Local Militia Officers, and Thousands of Citizens.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., Jan. 15.—Captain Good, with the local contingent, left at two o'clock today. From noon till the hour of their departure all places of business were closed and the streets were crowded as the boys, escorted by the Hartland and Woodstock bands, marched to the station. So much interest was centred in the departure of the volunteers that only a few gathered at the court house at the hour announced for declaration.

McADAM, N. B., Jan. 15.—The Woodstock contingent arrived at McAdam at 5.15 p. m. by special train. The people turned out en masse and gave them a grand reception. The explosion of torpedoes kept up an incessant noise almost drowning the cheers of the people, which was both hearty and loud. The McAdam brass band met them at the depot, playing patriotic airs until the train pulled out for St. John.

Cheers for Capt. Good and his men were heartily given as the train moved out, while the band played "Soldiers of the Queen." "Good bye, and God bless you," was heard from the mass of people on the platform. "No Boer sympathizers at McAdam."

The I. C. R. depot was the scene last night of a very warm reception to Capt. Good and the Woodstock artillerymen, who arrived here about 10.15 on their way to Halifax. Very few of our people were acquainted with Captain Good and his men, but that made no difference. The men were en route to the Transvaal to fight for the Queen, and that was sufficient. The men were cheered again and again, and everything done that men and women could do to show them that our people appreciated the sacrifice made by them for the empire. The men, nineteen in all, including Capt. Good, boarded the train for Halifax, and having put their belongings in the cars, sauntered about the train shed. Hundreds of people shook them by the hand and wished them Godspeed. The train shed gradually filled up until at 10.30 it was full to overflowing, and it was a crowd filled with enthusiasm.

The Neptune Rowing Club, headed by the Artillery band, reached the station about 10.30, and it was with difficulty that they worked their way up through the throng of people. The members of the club and their friends, fully a hundred in all, carried flags, which were waved while the bearers sang patriotic songs.

Members of the Woodstock contingent were lifted on the shoulders of the St. John boys and carried about to the fullest extent that such a performance could be executed.

Capt. Good, the commander of the contingent, was welcomed by Mayor Sears; Rev. W. O. Raymond, who in 1874 was in command of the Woodstock Field Battery; Capt. Geo. Anderson, formerly of that corps; Lt. Col. Jones, Lt. Col. Armstrong, Lt. Col. Markham, Sheriff Sturdee, J. D. Hazen, M. P. P., W. H. Thorne, W. E. Vroom, and many other prominent citizens.

Mayor Sears then addressed Capt. Good and his men as follows: Capt. Good:—May I, as mayor, offer you, on behalf of the citizens of St. John, a most hearty welcome. The sentiment of our community is echoed in the gathering surrounding us. You from Woodstock have responded nobly to the call to join the standard. May you go forward to honor and to victory, feeling that New Brunswick is with you heart and soul as proper representatives in our noble cause.

"I regret your short stop over does not permit me to say more, but St. John bids you Godspeed and a happy issue to your noble contribution to our New Brunswick contingent."

Capt. Good thanked the mayor for his good wishes.

Many officers rushed forward and shook hands with Capt. Good and his men as the train was leaving the station.

The Artillery band played Soldiers of the Queen, and the crowd sang it with all their might. As the train moved out of the shed Auld Lang Syne was played by the band, and the Neptune Rowing Club burned different colored lights. It was a most attractive spectacle, and cheer after cheer went up for the gallant lads of Carleton county.

The contingent took thirteen horses with them.

WISHING ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR

We would inform you that in consequence of having to take account of stock the first of February we have to reduce our stock of Clothing and will make prices lower than ever to clear.

Fraser, Fraser & Co., - Foster's Corner,

40 and 42 King Street, St. John, N. B.

TWO OR THREE TO ONE.

LONDON, Jan. 16.—The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at Pietermaritzburg, telegraphing Thursday, Jan. 11th, 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. The magistrate at Nquta, Zululand, telegraphs that scouts report having seen many Boer families, with wagons, proceeding north, while a European who formerly resided at Dundee, declares that after the repulse at Ladysmith a number of Boer wagons, loaded with dead and wounded, passed through that mining township, and that the Boers burned some of the jubile buildings as they departed.

"Five days have passed since then."

IS PROBABLY CORRECT.

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 dysentery is very rife in Ladysmith.

Everything is phenomenally quiet at Sterkstroom.

WILL STAND TOGETHER

LONDON, Jan. 16.—The Birmingham Mail, the organ of Joseph Chamberlain, says: "We understand on the highest authority that, if the government is defeated in parliament on the question of the war, the cabinet will immediately appeal to the country, all the ministers having decided to stand together and not to permit any individual minister to be made a scapegoat."

FREDERICTON.

FREDERICTON, N. B., Jan. 15.—The meeting called to organize a branch of the Daughters of the Empire, at the city council chambers, this afternoon, was largely attended. The mayor read the telegrams received on Saturday from Mrs. Murray of Montreal, after which the ladies proceeded to organize and elected the following officers: President, Mrs. John Black; 1st vice-president, Mrs. T. G. Loggie; second vice-president, Mrs. W. C. Crocket; secretary, Mrs. E. J. Payson; treasurer, Mrs. G. M. Campbell; committee, Mrs. J. P. Phelan, Mrs. C. H. B. Fisher, Mrs. R. McLearn, Mrs. G. Y. Dibblee, Mrs. J. W. Bridges. A resolution was passed expressing hearty accord with the movement suggested, as outlined by Mrs. Murray, and the secretary was instructed to convey this expression of sympathy and co-operation to the originators of the movement.

As soon as it is known definitely who the Fredericton men on the second contingent are, Mayor Beckwith will call a special meeting of the city council to have life insurance placed for all the Fredericton boys. It seems to be the general opinion that the city council will do as requested in this instance.

Judge Marsh delivered judgment at the police court this morning in the case of ex-Alderman Limerick, arrested Christmas eve by Officer Rideout, finding the defendant guilty of intoxication and imposing a fine of $4. Mr. Gregory, counsel for the defendant, asked for a day or two in which to consider the matter of an appeal from the decision, and the fine was allowed to stand until February first.

The York municipal council meets here tomorrow.

OTTAWA.

OTTAWA, Jan. 15.—Sir Charles Tupper returned to Ottawa today, looking the picture of health. Since the 27th of September he has held fifty-six meetings in all parts of the country. His tour in the Northwest was a prolonged series of ovations.

The department of trade and commerce is calling for tenders for a steamship service between Charlottetown and either Bristol, Liverpool or Manchester, commencing June 1st, and covering six round trips. The service is for three years. Tenders are asked also for a daily summer service between Summerside and Point du Chene, and between Charlottetown and Pictou, both for five years. The tenders are to be in by February 15th.

MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, Jan. 15.—The funeral of the late W. W. Ogilvie took place this afternoon. The funeral was one of the most largely attended ever seen in Montreal. The chief mourners included the Hon. Senator Ogilvie, brother of deceased, and the deceased's three sons. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. J. Edgar Hill, pastor of St. Andrew's church. At the conclusion of the service the remains were conveyed to Mount Royal cemetery for interment.

MAJOR McROBBIE NOW!

OTTAWA, Jan. 15.—The following militia orders have been issued from headquarters today: 10th Field Battery, Lieut. Col. F. H. Dibblee, on completion of his period of service in command of this battery, is transferred to the reserve of officers.

8th Princess Louise Hussars—Paymaster and honorary captain J. H. McRobbie, is granted the honorary rank of major.

Charity covers a multitude of sins, but unfortunately the sin outwears the cover.

SHIPLOAD OF MISERY.

Soldiers' Families Home from Ladysmith—Scenes of Suffering on the Jelunga.

(London Daily Mail, Dec. 15.)

Nearly two days overdue, the British India Associated steamer, the Jelunga, with close upon 500 women and children on board, the wives and families of soldiers in South Africa, drifted into Southampton water in the early hours of yesterday morning.

The ship carried as well about a score of soldiers, invalids from the Cape who had never seen action. Captain Rice, of the 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers, who was wounded at Nicholson's Nek, was in command of the draft.

It was the saddest and forlornest of homecomings. As the Jelunga was being worked into the Empress lock, above the shouting of orders and the clatter of mooring chains those on land could distinctly hear the crying of the children.

And when the vessel came alongside the quay there seemed to be nothing but children on board. Children with pinched, blue-white faces, who leant over the taffrail, children

CLINGING TO THEIR MOTHERS' SKIRTS,

children lying in their mothers' arms, children who swarmed all over the deck. One or two of them smiled, some of them were silent, but most of them were weeping.

And no wonder—only a few of them had outside wraps of any kind. Most of them were dressed in the thin cotton and muslin frocks they had worn in South Africa; some had not even frocks. There were children who held their hands to their heads because they had no hats, and others who tried to hide their little feet in their flimsy skirts because they had no boots. And the bitter east wind of winter froze their little bodies as they sat about on the frost-covered deck and cried with cold and wretchedness.

Why were they not below? That is easy to understand. If there were numbers of children on deck, there were many more below. Down in the close, stuffy hold, where the women's quarters were, one could scarcely move for children. There were over 200 women and children down there, and the atmosphere was dreadful. The only way in which the children could keep warm was

BY LYING CLOSE TOGETHER,

and the only air they had to breathe was each other's breath.

The place was full of the wailing of babies—it was as full of sound like a sheepfold in the lambing season. Then it was dark, so dark, that one had to move carefully lest one trod upon a baby, or fell up against a child. And the alleys between the closely-packed bunks were so narrow two people could not pass without turning sideways, and on those bunks, half-naked, gaunt, attenuated children sat together in bunches, cowering under the blankets and crying softly, but some were too weak even to cry.

But in spite of all the misery, the thinly-clad women were quiet and patient; the woman who had but two children helped the woman who had seven, for there was no sick nurse on board.

And they had been herded together down there in the dark and the smells and stuffiness for nearly a month, for the Jelunga sailed from Cape Town on November 18. And sometimes during gales they had been battened down. No wonder some of the children were in hospital with measles; no wonder six had died on the way.

SIX BABIES HAD DIED

of cold and exposure, and their little bodies, sewn up in canvas, had been dropped into the sea. That hold was a place of horror.

"We were ordered out of Ladysmith without even half an hour's notice," said one woman. "We had scarcely time to collect the children, much less get any things. We've nothing but what we stand up in, not even a change of linen. We don't want to complain, but the accommodation is so bad we've not been able to wash. There are only about half a dozen basins among nearly 500.

"As for food, there has been nothing but rice-milk for the children, and tinned meat and plum-duff, tea (without milk) and black bread for us. Everything else we had to buy at canteen, but most of us had no money."

They were indescribably wretched on board, but they were kindly welcomed at Southampton. Colonel Stacpole, with but two days' notice, started with £5 a fund to buy them clothing, and the mayor had given £10, while Mrs. Walters, a local lady guardian, had organized the work. So, in the big shed was a stall where warm clothing was distributed free, and round it pale-faced mothers asked for this and that for the children.

GRIM OLD SERGEANTS

tied shawls over babies' heads, and Colonel Stacpole tried to comfort the shivering weeping children with hot milk, but they cried all the same. Some of the poor little things cried "dada" incessantly, and their mothers wept too to hear them, because "dada" would never hear them cry again. One woman—a sergeant's widow—came to the stall, and tears were streaming down her face; she was quite unable to speak. Then a woman standing near said, softly, "She wants something black—'er 'usband 'e's killed." So they gently gave her something black.

To each woman was given what pay was due to her and her ticket to go home. Two men, their joints distorted by rheumatic fever, were carried to the special train which took the invalids to Netley. They drank greedily of beef tea. "The first food I've had for two days," said one. "I could not swallow the tinned beef and black bread, which was all the food there was for well and sick alike."

Two men of the Black Watch heard with grave faces the terrible disaster to their regiment. Their wives, they said, did not know they were home, and would think them dead. Somebody offered to telegraph to them, as they had not a penny piece in the world. Yet the men did not make the suggestion, for they were "far too proud to beg or speak."

Among the first class passengers was the widow of the gallant Colonel Keith-Falconer.

"I sent it to a woman for a recipe to make me look young." "What did you get?" "A card saying, 'Always associate with women 20 years older than yourself.'"

She: Let us kiss and make up. He: No; I don't care to kiss a girl who makes up.

FROM YOUR OWN POCKET

In order to introduce our Assorted Steel Pens we are giving away Watches and Chains, Rings, Bracelets, Autoharps, Jack Knives, Fountain Pens, Cameras, Chairs, Air Rifles, Clocks, Skates, Sleds and numerous other beautiful premiums. Ladies, boys, and girls send us your full name and address, and we will mail you (13) packages of our Assorted Steel Pens to sell among your neigbors and friends at 10c. per package. When sold remit us amount due, $1.30, and we will forward premium you select from our mammoth catalogue, which we mail you with goods. Send today. Address

STANDARD WATCH AND NOVELTY CO., P. O. Box 62 F., St. John, N. B.