

By Modder And Tugela.

Buller Engaged In Smashing Bridge and Preventing Boer Entrainment.

Story of Strong Reserve at Pretoria Directed by Skilled Europeans.

Indian Picket Reported Cut Off—Enterprise of British at Ladysmith.

RESERVE AT PRETORIA.

London, Dec. 27.—The Capetown correspondent of the Daily News, telegraphing Wednesday, December 20, says: "Lord Methuen's instructions intend to remain at Modder River about three weeks longer. From Bund sources he has been informed, I learn that there are eight thousand European officers and men skilled in modern military tactics, particularly artillery, now in Pretoria, as a reserve. An administrative official in the Cape says, who has just returned from official relieving duty in the Dutch district, says the news of the British reserves has been received with great joy, even in localities where there is no open revolt."

BOER SUPPLY BASE.

Belief That German Steamers Land Stores at Delagoa Bay Under False Bill of Lading.

London, Dec. 28.—A despatch to the Times from Pietermaritzburg, dated Thursday, December 21, says: "A strong suspicion exists here that the ostensibly innocent bills of lading furnished by German steamers arriving in Delagoa Bay really conceal contraband, and the local newspapers are urging a more rigid examination of cargoes."

REBEL DUTCH STEALTHILY WRECK RAILWAYS AND BRIDGES—A LAAGER NEAR MODDER.

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SECOND CANADA'S OWN. Method of Division For Three Troops—Barbed Wire Clippers—Offer to College Graduates.

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—Dr. Borden has decided to send the Mounted Rifles on the Laurentian, and the third battery and spare horses on the Pomeranian.

The force by the war office of commissions in the army to graduates of the Royal Military College is for Royal Artillery only, and is confined to graduates of the past three years.

The government sends a graduate of barbed wire clippers with the contingent.

Kingston, Dec. 26.—W. H. Ponton, who figured in the sensational Dominion Bank robbery case, has been accepted for the second contingent for Africa.

DANISH WEST INDIES.

Berlin, Dec. 26.—The German government has definitely abandoned all idea of acquiring the Danish West Indies, either by purchase from Denmark or otherwise.

The correspondent of the Times from an authoritative source today, says the German embassy in Washington has left no doubt that any such attempt would be looked upon by the Americans as an unfriendly act and as an infringement of the Monroe doctrine.

ACCORDING TO THE SAME AUTHORITY THE REPORTS REPRESENTING DENMARK AS NEGOTIATING TO SELL THE ISLANDS TO THE UNITED STATES ARE EITHER ENTIRELY PREMATURE OR WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

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British and Delagoa.

Purchase or Seizure of Coveted Port Would Not Be Politic.

Disaffection of Cape Dutch Calls for Stern Action—British Enrolling.

Scarcity of Wagons—Wireless Telegraphy Useful—Consulting Surgeon Named.

By Associated Press.

London, Dec. 27.—Lord Somerset writes to the Times urging the seizure of Lorenzo Marques and its retention if necessary, until the end of the war in order to prevent the landing of war material for the Boers.

The Times in a special article discussing the international law aspects of Boer importations through Delagoa Bay says: "It was wrong to adopt either with or without the consent of Portugal the drastic measures which are so arduously suggested in some quarters, we might find ourselves suddenly confronted with international complications far more serious and injurious to the successful prosecution of the South African war than the evils of which it was sought to secure an abatement."

The Times editorially attacks the administration of the war office, calling attention to correspondence disclosing glaring defects, and declaring that the British army is being massaged for the benefit of the war office, and not of the nation.

CAPE COLONY DISAFFECTION.

The Times advises stern treatment of the disaffected Dutch colonists and the enforcement of the penalties of treason against persons and property.

Despatches from various points indicate the steady growth of disaffection. The Capetown correspondent of the Daily Chronicle reports the discovery of a plot to connive at the escape of Boer prisoners.

The recruiting of the British colonists in Cape Colony is actively proceeding. Thirty thousand are already under arms, and several thousand more will be added.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

The tests of wireless telegraphy have been highly successful, communication over a distance of seventy miles being perfectly established.

DEMAND FOR WAGONS.

The advent of horse sickness throws increased attention upon the question of transport and the want of wagons which may tie the British forces to the railways.

The Daily Chronicle says: "Plenty of wagons could be obtained from the United States, but the government will hardly incur the expense of purchasing them if they can be obtained elsewhere."

GENERAL WARREN ARRIVES.

Pietermaritzburg, Dec. 26.—Gen. Sir Charles Warren, commanding the Fifth division, arrived here last evening with his staff, and immediately received for the front.

COL EVANS.

Winnipeg, Dec. 27.—Col. Evans, who has been commander of the troops in the district, will now have charge of the cavalry contingent for South Africa, reached Winnipeg this afternoon on his way to Ottawa.

THE FRENCH CONSPIRATORS.

Prisoners Released for Want of Evidence Jeer at the Court as They Depart.

Paris, Dec. 27.—The public prosecutor concluded his closing speech to-night before the senate sitting as a high court, in the conspiracy cases. He asked that an especially severe sentence be imposed upon Juss Gering, the president of the Anti-Semite League.

THE INDIAN FAMINE.

London, Dec. 27.—The Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon, telegraphs from Calcutta that there has been no increase of rain and that 2,451,000 natives suffering from famine, are now receiving relief.

OFFICERS OF CANADIANS.

List Announced from Ottawa—Col. Steele with the Police—The Offer of Roughriders.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—The names of officers of the Second Contingent were announced to-night except for the North-west detachment, which will be named by the Commissioners of Mounted Police later.

Col. Drury commands the artillery. Maj. Hudson, of Quebec, "C" battery; Maj. Hardman, of Ottawa, "D" battery; Maj. Irvine, "E" battery.

Col. Lessard commands the Mounted Rifles, with Col. Evans second in command; Maj. Forrester commands "A" squadron and Maj. Williams, of Winnipeg, "C" squadron.

Many requests are coming from British Columbia to open receiving stations for rough riders. The nearest point at present is Calgary. Dr. Milne, who arrived here today, will urge the matter upon Dr. Borden.

Montreal, Dec. 27.—Lieut. Col. Steele, of the Northwest Mounted Police, who, with Mrs. Steele, is spending Christmas in Montreal, received a telegram from Dr. Borden, offering him the command of the Western division of the Mounted Rifles. The Colonel immediately wired his acceptance of the appointment.

Col. Steele said his impression was the mounted Rifles would be divided into two divisions, one consisting of N. W. M. P. and recruits from the Northwest, and the other consisting of cavalry regiments east of Manitoba.

QUEER IR TRIBE.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—A despatch to the Times from Maitland, dated Monday, Dec. 11, by way of Mochudi, Tuesday, Dec. 10, says that Lady Sarah Wild, a daughter of the Duke of Marlborough, who was captured by the Boers while acting as a correspondent for a London paper, has arrived there, "having been exchanged for Viljoen, a notorious horse-thief and convict."

REBELLION RIPENS IN CAPE COLONY.

Times Correspondent Tells of Widespread Seditious With Capetown as Centre.

Rebel Dutch Stealthily Wreck Railways and Bridges—A Laager Near Modder.

By Associated Press.

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The Capetown correspondent of the Times, under date of Friday, Dec. 22, writes: "Anxiety regarding the attitude of the Colonial Dutch is steadily growing. They make no effort to conceal their sympathy with the two republics, and in districts where they are not visited by British troops, they are openly riding about armed. This is the case also in districts only 400,000 miles from Cape town, where a seditious movement is busily propagated. The British forces are inadequate to guard 1,000 miles of communications."

MESSAGE FROM COL. OTTER.

Canadians at Belmont Report No Mishaps, and Story of Captures Unconfirmed.

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—The following message was received from Strathcona today: "Have cable from Otter, dated Belmont, December 18, that compressed meat and lime juice tablets most acceptable."

The committee being formed will act accordingly.

ARTILLERY FROM INDIA.

Offer of Two Batteries Readily Accepted by the Imperial Government.

London, Dec. 27.—The Imperial government, according to a despatch from Calcutta from the Times has accepted an offer of two batteries made by the Indian government.

GERMAN FINANCES.

Berlin, Dec. 27.—The Reichsbank statement issued to-night is regarded in German business circles as highly unfavorable. It shows a total of 530,000,000 marks in stock than a year ago, 34,000,000 marks notes in circulation and 241,000,000 in discount in excess of last year's figures.

Checking The Boers.

British Drive Strong Party Back Across Tugela and Capture Many Cattle.

Shelling From Chieveley Camp and Also Ladysmith Day After Christmas.

Enemy in Positions of Exceptional Strength Along Line of British Advance.

By Associated Press.

Chieveley Camp, Natal, Friday, Dec. 22.—Our scouts having reported Boers in force on this side of the Tugela river, the 2nd and 3rd brigades, supported by artillery and all the available mounted volunteers, under the command of Lord Dunalton, advanced. The Boers retired across the river. The British captured 500 cattle.

A QUIET CHRISTMAS.

Chieveley Camp, Monday, Dec. 25.—Although the two armies were in sight of each other, with the temperature 102 degrees in the shade, the British today enjoyed characteristic Christmas cheer. Capt. Gledhill and Kirkwood of the South African Light Horse, left here yesterday to inspect the patrols along the eastern hills. Their horses returned at night alone.

Col. Donald, of the Royal Fusiliers, has had his collar bone broken by being thrown from his horse while on outpost duty.

SHELLING THE BOERS.

Chieveley Camp, Natal, Tuesday, Dec. 26.—The naval guns began shelling the Boer position at 5 o'clock this morning, using lyddite. The shelling continued about two hours.

Ever since the engagement at Colenso the enemy have been energetically improving their entrenchments. They can be seen galloping freely from hill to hill, and the British have been unable to shell them.

London, Dec. 28.—The Morning Post has received the following from Mr. Churchill, under date of Dec. 26, telegraphed from Chieveley Camp, where he has arrived: "All ranks have complete confidence in Sir Buller's leadership, and there is a stern determination to succeed at all costs. A painful impression was caused by the announcement of the change of command-in-chief, but the soldiers, however, have decided to vindicate their trusted leader. The situation, nevertheless is not so serious as it is being made to appear. The Boer position being a compact one, it is possible to increase our immediate reinforcements are forthcoming. The local Dutch and English settlers are becoming alarmingly impatient."

BOER LOSSES AT MODDER.

Shown That Their Dead and Wounded Exceeded Five Hundred, While Possibly Total Much Greater.

London, Dec. 10.—The Daily Mail publishes the following interesting despatch from Captain Ralph, dated Modder River, referring to the Modder River engagement: "I have now reason to believe that the Boer losses considerably exceeded ours. A hundred were buried in the river, having been sunk by means of stones. Some sixteen of these, including thirty or more were buried in the sand, their slight remains being incidentally hauled up by the Boers. Thirty were wounded are in the two hospitals in our line; three hundred in the hospital at four miles north, and seventy prisoners are held by us."

Many of the dead were carried off the field as at Belmont, where the Boers were seen to throw their dead on their saddles and ride away; in one case a dead man was held up in his saddle by a companion on another horse. The figures make a total beside which our losses are small.

"I visited the Boer hospital on the island in the river with Colonel Enderbush and Rhodes yesterday. The Boer surgeon complained that he was held practically a prisoner, as he could not go away from the hospital."

"What do you want to go away for?" asked Col. Rhodes; "I surely your sole duty is here with the sick?"

"Yes, but I am a physician. Why am I not in authority," said Col. Rhodes, "and cannot explain your status. But I can tell you something by which you can judge what I may and ought to be. You hear on your arm a red cross, the most sacred emblem of humane endeavor, respected all over the civilized world. Unfortunately you associate yourself with an unorganized horde which uses this sacred cross as a target to shoot at, which employs it on wagons filled with armed men, and to shoot at our wounded in wagons bearing the same almost holy device. You must thank yourself, having chosen to be a doctor, for the position you are in. The Geneva Cross, you find yourself in an unpleasant predicament."

Mr. Balph's figures total up 530 Boers killed, wounded and prisoners. The inference implied in his statement is that the actual losses were very much more. Our losses were officially returned at 470.

Ministers, Lawyers, Teachers, and others, whose occupations give but little leisure, will sit every evening at the hotel and meet the merchants half way in making proper readjustment.

VOLUNTEERS FROM TORONTO.

Brisk Enrollment for the Second Contingent and Body of Independent Horsemen Offered.

Toronto, Dec. 27.—One hundred good horsemen from Toronto are prepared to go to South Africa, as an independent organization and fight for Great Britain, provided they are given free transportation. This authority for this statement is Lt.-Col. DeLamare, the Queen's Own Commandant.

Volunteers for the second contingent at this point underwent medical examination. Most of them are members of the Governor General's Bodyguard, with a sprinkling of ex-members of the North-west Mounted Police, and a number of civilians.

HILDA BLAKE'S EXHIBITION.

The Brandon Murders Pays the Penalty of Her Unaccountable Crime.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 27.—At Brandon this morning Emily Hilda Blake, aged 22, paid the death penalty for the murder of her mistress, Mrs. Robert Lane, on July 5 last. The woman was determined to the last. She walked steadily up to the scaffold and then turned and looked searchingly into the faces of the people below until Radcliffe gently urged her on. Then she bid Rev. Mr. McLaurin an affectionate farewell, kissing him. She seemed anxious to delay the awful moment, if only for a few seconds. She asked for Mr. McIlwaine, and he asked for the scaffold. "Do not think too hard of me," she said, sobbing out her "good-byes" to the crowd. "I deliberately crossed her face as Radcliffe tied her together. Her body swayed slightly after the black cap had been placed over her head. In a few seconds the fatal order had been placed around her neck and she broke the stillness. A gratifying sound mingled with the words "Forgive us our sins, and in a couple of seconds, if not a few minutes, she was a dead woman. Her body was thrown into a grave. A crowd of people gathered around at the horrible sight. She died bravely and without a word of regret. In a few minutes the doctor examined the body and pronounced that death had been instant.

Van Anda Is Doing Well.

Confident Enterprise of Mr. Treat Gives Promise of Rich Results.

Mines Steadily Worked, Smelter Kept Running and Town Quickly Growing.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, Dec. 27.—Harry Treat has made the Van Anda Company a going concern widely known in business and society circles in New York. Mr. Treat, in a measure, sacrificed himself to stay with a proposition in which he believed, though the public was rapidly losing faith in it. When Mr. Treat took hold of the properties they were little better than prospects. On all sides in those early days Mr. Treat met wisecracks with the most kindly intentions advised him not to get tangled up with a hopeless proposition. From many prominent Victoria citizens, however, he received a great deal of encouragement and moral support, which was of great help to him in his up-hill fight.

Up to the present moment Harry Treat's hard luck has borne all the burden, and to him is due all the praise for developing the mines from prospects to paying properties, erecting a smelter at a time when he was laughed at as a madman, and to him is due all the credit for persevering over the ridge. Four guns were captured by the Boers, and they began to shell Van Anda at a range of 2,500 yards. A Boer gun dropped four shells near our men, but did not do much damage. The Boers were thoroughly entrenched we withdrew. Their guns are well posted.

A SORTIE FROM KIMBERLEY.

Brief Exchange of Artillery Fire Shows Boer Guns in Commanding Positions.

Kimberley, Wednesday, Dec. 20.—At 2:30 this afternoon mounted detachments under command of Col. Peckham, with three Maxims and three seven pounders under Major May, reconnoitered. Led by the detachments the British advanced to Tolpian. The Boer pickets fired and our Maxims replied, the Boers retreating over the ridge. Four guns were captured by the Boers, and they began to shell Van Anda at a range of 2,500 yards. A Boer gun dropped four shells near our men, but did not do much damage. The Boers were thoroughly entrenched we withdrew. Their guns are well posted.

SALUTED BRITISH PRISONERS.

Story That Spectators at Pretoria Doffed Hats by Order to Captives from Nicholson's Nek.

London, Dec. 27.—The Daily Chronicle publishes the following from Capetown: "Herr Schlessinger, an agent of the New York Equitable Associated Society, who arrived here from Pretoria, says the Boers possess immense stores of food imported by speculative capitalists, under a belief that mining would be allowed during the war. He says also that there were thousands of spectators at the Pretoria railway station when the British Boer commandant to bare their heads, and did so. The British, astonished, returned the salute."

A DOMESTIC TRAGEDY.

Manitoba Farmer Kills His Young Wife and Suicide—No Known Trouble Between Them.

Winnipeg, Dec. 27.—(Special.)—News has just been received in the city of a terrible tragedy, which occurred at the farm house of a quiet German family, Rathwell. On Friday morning Jas. J. P. Dentzer shot and killed his young wife with a shotgun and completed his suicide by ending his own life with the same weapon. Country people are greatly mystified over the said affair and have taken his wife's life, as both had lived on apparently happy life.

TEN YEARS IN PEN.

Winnipeg, Dec. 27.—Quincy, found guilty of manslaughter at Calgary, was today sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in the penitentiary.

Buller's Next Move.

Though Anxious to Retrieve Reverse Another Frontal Attack Not Probable.

Likelihood of Remaining on Defensive Until Still Further Reinforced.

Ladysmith Reported All Well Tuesday—Times on Campaign Mistakes.

By Associated Press.

London, Dec. 28.—(4:30 a. m.)—Mr. Winston Churchill's new arrival at Chieveley Camp is responsible for some over-coloring of the gravity of the situation, but all today's news conveys the impression that Gen. Buller may be intending another attack upon the Boer position. Certainly the Boers are not inactive. At both Modder River and the Tugela they are said to be strengthening their forces and extending defence works, which in both cases are seemingly impregnable.

As showing the difficulty of obtaining accurate information, a correspondent of the Daily News at Capetown, under date of December 21, announces that "Gen. Buller is coming to Capetown to meet Sir Charles Warren." As five battalions of Gen. Warren's fifth division are said to have gone to Natal, his arrival at Pietermaritzburg seems a natural deduction.

Despatches from Chieveley indicate that Gen. Buller's forces will repulse the Boers before attempting another advance. Doubtless he would normally like to attempt another advance. It is more likely that he is preparing to strike should the Boers make any offensive movement.

Mr. Churchill's reference to Ladysmith may imply that the situation of the garrison is more desperate than had been supposed. The Boers continue fortifying the hills commanding Ladysmith. Gen. Buller, however, telegraphs that he was well in Ladysmith on December 26.

Competent military critics in London regard the campaign as a complete disaster for the present, owing to the dispersal of the British forces and the loss of adequate transport. The Boers will be able to reorganize and make an effective movement.

The Boer trench work is so good that it enables the enemy to hold a long line with very few men, and travel great distances under perfect cover, so as rapidly to reinforce any point attacked.

The Times, which comments editorially upon the severe strain, says it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that our troubles are due to the energy of the presumed-practical lesson given in the manoeuvres at Aldershot.

THE VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 189

(From Thursday's Daily Edition.)
Fell Down
The Stairway.

Marvel Conn Accidentally Killed
in Her House on Broad Street.

Falling Down Stairs She is
Believed to Have Fractured
Her Skull.

A woman known as Marvel Conn, but whose correct name is believed to be Mrs. C. L. Johnson, died at her home, 62 Broad street, last evening as a result of injuries received from falling down stairs. Early Tuesday morning the inmates of the house were startled by a crash, and going into the hallway found the unfortunate woman lying at the foot of the stairs, and the fragments of a lamp, which she had been carrying, scattered about the floor. She was unconscious, and could consequently give no explanation of how the accident occurred. A physician was immediately sent for, and after he had made an examination of the wounds ordered her to the hospital. This her friends refused to do until they obtained her consent. When she regained consciousness she refused to go. She was conscious all day yesterday, but she could remember that she had tripped and fallen. The doctors believe that she had an apoplectic fit, and that in falling she fractured the base of her skull.

SURPRISED THE CAPTAIN.
Officers of the Charming Present Capt. Rudin With a Cane and Address.

It is not often that genial Captain Rudin of the steamer Charming, permits himself to be taken by surprise. He was, however, on Saturday last, when on the completion of the run over to Vancouver, his officers waited upon him, and in a most respectful and affectionate manner, presented him with a handsome gold-mounted ebony cane, bearing the simple yet sufficient inscription: "Capt. Rudin, from Officers of the Charming, Xmas, 1899." The captain, in presenting you with this gift, following cordially worded address: "We, the undersigned officers of the S.S. Charming beg your acceptance of this small token of our affection and respect for the spirit of good will and harmony existing between captain and officers may continue unbroken in presenting you with this cane it is our wish that it may be your companion for many years to come. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, we are, Sir, your obedient servants, (Signed) Thos. McLaughlin, Purser; John A. Heritage, Chief Engineer; Geo. C. Brownlee, Second Engineer; Fred. G. Taylor, Engineer; J. D. Griffin, Pilot; John McLeod, Mate; A. S. Netherby, Bartender; Wm. G. McArthur, Steward; J. G. Clark, Clerk; W. Abern, Baggage-master." To say that Captain Rudin was "taken completely by surprise" expresses the situation quite accurately in presenting you with this gift, and it was some moments ere he found voice to express his appreciation of the handsome gift, and his cordial feelings evidenced by his officers.

GOLDEN WEDDING.
Unusual Celebration Held at Lake Hill on Christmas Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Alexander, of Lake Hill, formerly of Saanich, who celebrated their golden wedding on Christmas Day, were married in Springfield, Illinois, on December 25, 1849. Twelve children were born to them, of whom seven are still living, and besides they have 21 grandchildren. With the exception of one daughter all were present at the celebration, which their home was prettily decorated. The couple came to Victoria in 1858 and have since resided here. Refreshments were served on Monday evening at the Misses Tolmie, Postmaster and Mrs. Noah Shakespeare, Aid, and Mrs. Hayward, Mr. D. D. McArthur, Mr. J. G. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Newcombe, Mr. F. Spotts, Mr. H. Young, Mr. and Mrs. J. Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. J. King, Mrs. J. T. Stuart Yates, Mr. T. W. Pierre, Mr. J. T. Helmeck, M.P.P., Miss Maude Goodwin, and Mr. D. D. McArthur. The health of the couple was proposed by Mr. H. D. Helmeck, who congratulated them on the event, one of the few of the kind held in this section of the country. He spoke of the esteem in which they were held and hoped that they would long be spared.

The list of presents follows: Mrs. G. A. McAvish and Mrs. W. R. Higgins, gold belt; Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Spotts, gold mug; Mrs. Chas. Spotts, gold cream jug; Aid, and Mrs. Chas. Hayward, gold flower pot; Mrs. Newcombe, cake plate and cheese; Mr. T. W. Pierre, gold tea set; Mr. and Mrs. Noah Shakespeare, gold salt spoon; Mr. and Mrs. Baraswell, pair gold vases; Mr. A. B. Carter, butter bowl; Mr. T. Spotts, silver gold brooch; Mrs. M. Estes, gold cup and saucer; Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Yates, gold fruit bowls; Mr. and Mrs. Deblin, gold spoon; Mr. and Mrs. J. Simpson, vases and stand; Mr. and Mrs. King, silk handkerchief and cash; the Misses Tolmie, gold brooch; Mr. John Tolmie, gold cuff buttons; Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Helmeck, gold picture frame; Mr. Herbert Carter, cup and saucer; Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Helmeck, gold spoons; Mr. T. W. Pierre, cheese; Mr. and Mrs. (Saanich), cheese; Mr. and Mrs. Monk, cheese; Mr. T. Alexander, cheese; Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Ker, punchbowl; Mr. A. Scott, punchbowl; Mr. and Mrs. Bamfield, cash; Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Anderson, cash.

The evening was spent after a glorious supper in singing and dancing, the merry party not ending up till early hours in the morning.

LOCAL NEWS.
License Commissioners.—The regular meeting of the board of licensing commissioners for Esquimalt district will be held on Saturday at 10 a. m.

Checks Are Ready.—The city treasurer announces that checks are now ready for those holding accounts against the corporation for December services, and the principal amount called for and deposited without delay.

At the Front.—John Davey, a son of Engineer Davey of Bell's cove, is with Lord Methuen's forces at Modder River, being a member of the Second Devonian. The young soldier attended school in Victoria West until he was 16 years of age, and two years ago joined the regiment with which he is now serving.

Will Go to the Lazaretto.—The Chinese patient, believed to have developed leprosy during his recent residence in Sidney, and who has been in isolation during several weeks past, in charge of the provincial hospital, has now reached such a stage in the dread disease that all doubt is dispelled. He will accordingly be taken to the Darcy Island lazaretto without further delay.

Religious Hallucination.—Among the passengers from Bell's cove by the steamer Boscowitz yesterday were Native Constable Lewis and an insane prisoner, Jackson by name—also an aborigine, Jackson, who has taken great interest in the mission work in the North, is laboring under the peculiar hallucination that he is the Lord Jesus. It is expected that he will go to the asylum today, the medical examiners being agreed that his case is hopeless.

Dined Their Employees.—In accordance with a graceful custom inaugurated by the British Columbia Milk and Creamery company yesterday evening their male employees to the number of an even dozen, at the snug little restaurant, owned by Mr. H. C. Marr, is himself a veteran of the company's staff. Manager Welch presided, and the social gathering was heartily enjoyed by all the spread, it may be needless to remark, challenging criticism.

Death of Mrs. O'Reilly.—The sad news was received in Victoria yesterday of the death of the 23rd instant at London, Eng., of Mrs. O'Reilly, wife of the late John O'Reilly, deceased, in company with her husband, landed at Liverpool on the 21st instant from the steamer Oceanic, and succeeded two days later in the serious illness with which she had been afflicted. Mrs. O'Reilly was married in the year 1854. She died of extreme illness for some time, and was going to England in the hope that the change would benefit her. Besides her husband two sons and a daughter survive her.

Dr. Hoyes Takes a Bride.—A quiet home marriage was celebrated last evening by the bride and groom, who were united at 27 Fernwood road, when Miss Mabel Grace Bunting, youngest daughter of the late Wm. Bunting, became the wife of Dr. Wm. Hoyes, of Trail, B. C., the physician of the Columbia & Western Railway Co., and of the Trail smelter. The ceremony was performed by Rev. W. Leslie O'Neil, beneath a floral bell in the prettily decorated parlor, and was witnessed by the relatives of the bride and groom, and other guests. Dr. and Mrs. Hoyes leave by the Charming this morning for their home in Trail.

Important Questions Deferred.—At the adjourned meeting of the Trades and Labor Council yesterday evening, the young men who were present, including James Ferguson, of Seattle, organizer of the American Federation of Labor. The matter of the proposed labor conference at Vancouver was received and tabled until the next regular meeting; the matter of the labor organization of the mill workers, and the proposed municipal elections also going over for subsequent consideration. The adjourned meeting in school, had their reports referred back to them, pending a receipt of information from Professor Robertson; and it was arranged that the next meeting be held next Wednesday night, when the election of officers will also be conducted.

New Year's Hospitality.—For many years past on New Year's Day, the Vancouver Lodge, No. 1, O. G. T., have kept open house in Temperance hall. Next Monday will be no exception to the rule. The hall will be open at 1 o'clock, and refreshments will be served during that time, and in the evening—as has been the custom—there will be a free concert at the district at 8 o'clock, after which there will be a social gathering at the hotel, and the direction of Mr. J. G. Brown. The lodge desires it to be understood that the entertainment is a social one, and is not a reception, especially those who have no homes in the city, or who may be sojourning here for the winter. The entertainment cards have been distributed throughout the city, and it is hoped and anticipated that many will avail themselves of the opportunity. Those who may find their calling time restricted, various amusements will be provided, and an orchestra will discourse good music during the afternoon.

Christmas at Sooke.—Knox church, Soke, was the scene of a very pretty Christmas gathering a few evenings ago, the seating capacity of the sacred edifice being taxed to its utmost, and the interior being very charmingly decorated in honor of the festival occasion. Refreshments were served by the ladies of the district at 8 o'clock, after which there was a good programme was presented by the best district talent, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Hayward, of Metchoin. Mrs. Hayward's rendition of "Loch Lomond" and "Rothsay Bay" were particularly enjoyed, while Mrs. Murray sang "Why Do Summer Roses Fade" in an exceptionally pleasing manner. Mr. Oldershaw, of East Soke, roused the patriotic enthusiasm of all present with "The Star Spangled Banner." Mr. Bone contributed several comic songs, accompanying himself on the concertina. "The Gates of the West" and "Afterwards" were given by Mr. D. A. Fraser, who also presided at the organ. In addition to the musical numbers, "The Roman Soldier" was recited by Mr. Forsyth, and Mr. Hayward favored with a reading. Dialogues were given by the school children, and the hearty approval and approbation of the audience, and the close of the entertainment Santa Claus made his appearance and distributed various gifts to the children. The patron saint of childhood was especially generous, the "crown-ups" as well as the young folks, coming in for a share of his beneficent gifts. The happy gathering was finally brought to a close with the hearty singing of the national anthem.

The Mission
Explosion.

Reformers Refute the Statement
that They Perpetrated
the Atrocity.

Have Their Suspicions But Are
Not Themselves Responsible.

The members of the Methodist Mission of Esquimalt street, which narrowly escaped destruction by an arranged explosion on Sunday evening last, have held a meeting and decided to offer a reward of \$100 for the apprehension of the scoundrels responsible for Sunday's sensational scene. Chinatown has been freely placarded with this announcement and further there is very little to say. As in the case of the murder mysteries, the police are inclined to look wide and say nothing, and it is nothing more than that they are working, with very little to work upon.

It was left for the Times of last evening to launch the sensational story, crediting it to "members of the congregation," that the explosion was the work of members of the new revolutionary society recently organized here by Kang Yu-wei—this theory being based upon the opposition of Rev. Chan Sing Kai, the native preacher, to this order, his disciples having little to do with an organization aiming at revolution. The knowledge that all is not harmony in the ranks of the new order, coupled with the startling disclosures to his news and writings in San Francisco that have recently been made by the press of the California city, gave color to this story. It is, however, unimpeachable by the mission authorities, while the leading members of the Kang Yu-wei party in Victoria have asked the insertion of the following in the Colonist: "A grave injustice has been done to the friends of Kang Yu-wei by an article in last night's Times wherein it is intimated that the friends of that reformer were implicated in the explosion at the Methodist church. We are sorry to see space in the Colonist to repel the disgraceful charge. The reformers are merchants and laborers, most of whom have shown by a long and honorable career in this country that they are men of good order and respectability, and far above the commission of any such sordidly outrageous which, had it been successful, must have involved death or injury to many innocent persons. We have not the slightest idea or claim as the perpetrators. Had we such we would give it at once to the officers of the law. We wish to say in the strongest and most unmistakable manner that we deeply deplore the atrocity. It is true, as the Times says, that we wish to see our true and lawful emperor back on the throne, but we have no feeling of hostility toward the young Christianized Chinese, and we do not intend to address the mission church in opposition to our views. Trusting you will give this letter an insertion in your valuable paper, we are, Sir, your obedient servants, 'FRIENDS OF KANG YU-WEI'."

NORTHERN ARRIVALS.
Willapa and Boscowitz Come from British Columbia Coast Ports.

After a rather rough trip from the Northern British Columbia ports, the N. C. Co.'s steamer Willapa reached port yesterday, with fair freight and passenger list. Those coming down by the Willapa were G. Cunningham, J. Mahood, H. Kirby, E. Draney and W. McKay. The latter is a well known visitor by severe storms recently, some of the canneries suffering. Several small boats were run from the foundations and blown into the bay at the Good Hope cannery, River's Inlet and Nannu and Wadhams' canneries were also damaged by the storm. The passengers are D. J. Mahood, H. Kirby, E. Draney and W. McKay. The latter is a well known visitor by severe storms recently, some of the canneries suffering. Several small boats were run from the foundations and blown into the bay at the Good Hope cannery, River's Inlet and Nannu and Wadhams' canneries were also damaged by the storm. The passengers are D. J. Mahood, H. Kirby, E. Draney and W. McKay. 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