

attention here following review associated Press war office had Lord Roberts, saying the situation: appears very decisive point of Buller's tele-determined to commanded the Having taken done it Wed because he Gen. Buller's a reverse as ship can be to say. To some extent, own decisive yet best, the other point, Kop and keep way or another can be won, Ladysmith be- less successful, tion, for its re- operation. The ear to any point Gen. Warren's and the Boers peed. For this of the importance Gen. White, uler to do his ing up the at- ity lies the best ar showed how eally difficult, al days, and as nd rate of fire sed, the prolon- expected, but re than the tele- is not possible episode of the er sources that ved is credible, ved persistently, and there has s last heard of to cover the in- over, the Boers centrating their oints, but it re-

Situation in Natal

Another Long Pause Probable Before Any Further Movements Are Made.

London, Jan. 27.—(Associated Press.)—The military attempts to maintain the seriousness of the situation in South Africa are apparently lacking this afternoon, and it is frankly acknowledged that the most heroic effort of the present war has failed. There is no sign of a wish on the part of the leaders of public opinion to disguise the ugly facts, and there is every disposition to face the full difficulties and discover the best way out. In short, this policy follows everywhere in the gathering up of forces for more effective blows.

Expert Opinion.

All hopes of the speedy relief of Ladysmith have been abandoned, and the consensus of expert opinion urges the immediate shifting of the theatre of war from the rocky kopjes of Natal to the open valley of the Free State.

One thing appears certain, another long pause is inevitable unless the Boers assume the offensive, because, even in the event of Gen. Buller further attempts to reach Ladysmith, the planning of a new move will necessarily occupy time.

Afternoon papers are drawing attention to the closeness of the parallel between the Federal attack on Gen. Lee at Fredericksburg and the operations on the Upper Tugela.

Curiously enough, there is visible, especially in military circles, an undoubted belief at the news that the British are safely south of the Tugela, for the rumors of Saturday had conjured up visions of an immense catastrophe.

Dundonald's Force Safe.

London, Jan. 29.—Great anxiety has been removed by the announcement that Lord Dundonald's cavalry forces, which it was feared had been isolated among the hills in the neighborhood of Acorn Homes, are safe on the south bank of the Tugela river.

Officers Killed at Spion Kop.

London, Jan. 29.—Gen. Buller writes from Spargmar's Camp on January 29th that the casualties among the officers of the Fifth Division and Mounted Brigade at Spion Kop, January 24th, were: Killed 22, wounded 20, missing 6.

A Denial.

The war office denies the report that Ladysmith has been surrounded and announces that a very heavy list of casualties will be issued to-night.

Discussing the Situation.

The afternoon papers are discussing when are to come the troops for a protracted campaign. It is becoming generally recognized that some form of compulsory service is more and more imminent than previously thought of.

The St. James Gazette, however, suggests that the solution of pouring more troops into South Africa savors of the Spanish action in Cuba, adding that the solution of making better use of the thousands already there has never suggested itself.

The Opening of Parliament.

The Queen's speech at reassembling of parliament to-morrow is awaited with unusual interest.

Criticizing Buller's Report.

The St. James Gazette this afternoon returns to scathing criticism of the language of Gen. Buller's reports. It says: "Gen. Buller's reflection of the terror he put into the foe reminds us of things we have heard about Chinese mandarins."

Steyn Vlies Pretoria.

Pretoria, Jan. 26.—President Steyn of the Orange Free State, and A. Fisher of the executive council of that Republic, arrived here this morning. They were met at the station by President Kruger and other officials.

The Volkstem, the official organ of the government, in welcoming the guests of the state, says: "But for the courageous attitude of the Free State the conditions of the present struggle would be changed. It would be impossible for the Transvaal to have taken the course followed with such success."

An Unfounded Report.

Berlin, Jan. 29.—A semi-official dispatch from Lisbon says the report that the Boers have crossed the Mozambique frontier is unfounded.

Stocks Flat.

London, Jan. 29.—There was an all-round despondency on the stock exchange to-day.

A CHEMIST'S EXPERIMENT.

(Associated Press.)

New York, Jan. 27.—Prof. Walter Theo. Schele, a chemist, last night drank a mixture of bromo-seltzer and cyanide of mercury without any ill effects, says the Herald to-day. This was done as an experiment, and the mixture being the same as that which is supposed to have killed Mrs. Adams, it may have important bearing on the Molnau case.

Practical Patriotism

Citizens' Committee Offers to Equip Fifty Men For Service.

Other Municipalities to Be Asked to Co-operate With Victoria.

Loyal Victoria, which has already given twenty-five of her sons to fight the Empire's battles, which has sent hundreds of pounds to swell the Mansion House fund, and which feels aggrieved to see that it has not been allowed to give more of her sons for service, has once more set an example to the province, and proved worthy of the queenly name she bears, by offering to raise and equip fifty mounted men for the front at her own expense.

This decision was reached this morning at a meeting of the committee appointed by the mayor after the great public meeting a few weeks ago to take in hand all matters connected with the representation of this city in contingents which might be raised in the province, as well as to look after the comfort of these and of the grand-boys who are already in the Transvaal.

The feeling of the committee and the reasons which actuated it in making this public offer is fully explained in the resolution in which the offer was embodied, and which is given below. It is as follows:

Resolved, that this committee believe it to be the duty of the people of British Columbia to aid by contributions of men and money in strengthening our arms in South Africa.

Resolved, that in view of the probability of the acceptance of the offer of the British Columbia legislature of one hundred mounted men being further postponed because the number is too small to load a special transport, this committee proposes that the number be increased by at least two hundred and fifty men by private effort, to supplement the provincial offer and ensure its immediate acceptance, and that Victoria shall undertake to raise and equip fifty mounted men.

Resolved, that these resolutions be communicated to the provincial government with the request that they be transmitted by telegraph to the Dominion government, forthwith, and also to the cities and municipalities throughout the province with a request for their co-operation.

Other matters were taken up at the meeting, such as the endorsement of the communication of the governor, suggesting the opening of list, and it was decided to place these in the banks and other prominent places.

The members of the committee were practically unanimous in their resolve that British Columbia's capital should be well represented, and it is not anticipated that the least difficulty will be experienced in raising either the number of men required or the funds with which to properly equip them.

Later in the day His Worship the Mayor, H. D. Helmecken, M.P.P., and C. H. Lugin, acting on Premier Semlin and laid before him the offer of the city. From him they received the assurance that everything in the government's power would be done to insure the acceptance of this generous offer.

It is probable that reference will be made to Victoria's offer in the House this afternoon, and it is expected that the proposal will be taken up enthusiastically by other municipalities in the province.

Wrecked by Dynamite

Terrific Explosion Caused by a Runaway Freight Train

Three Men Instantly Killed and Several Injured—Locomotives Destroyed.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Jan. 26.—A fearful explosion of dynamite occurred in the yards of the Jersey Central at Ashley, a suburb of this city, at 9 o'clock last night, which resulted in the killing of Frank McLaughlin, of Mauch Chunk, aged 27; McCall Bird, aged 22, of Ashley; Wm. Buckley, of this city, aged 28; all brakemen. Two unknown men were fatally injured. Engineer John Behring, of Mauch Chunk, was badly injured, and Engineer John Grouler, of Ashley, who ran a side engine, was severely scalded. Wm. Brown, of Ashley, night boss at the round house; Brakeman Thos. Rowe, of Newton; and Flagman Michael Coyle, of Ashley, were also badly injured.

The accident was caused by the loss of the control of a heavy freight train of 24 cars coming from Mauch Chunk to Ashley.

At the beginning of the Ashley yards the freight train dived into a car containing 30 boxes of dynamite, and 18 cars were wrecked. Everything that stood near was knocked to pieces. The locomotives were wrecked. The stacks of the roundhouse and a large portion of the roof were blown away.

An immense tank containing thousands of gallons of water was torn to pieces, and several people who happened to be in the vicinity narrowly escaped drowning by the flood in which they were suddenly immersed.

Nearly every window in the town was broken. Even in this city many of the strongest buildings felt the severity of the shock and trembled violently.

The loss is heavy and cannot as yet be fully estimated.

Notes from Nanaimo

(Special to the Times.)

Nanaimo, Jan. 26.—The ladies of Nanaimo have organized a "sock contingent," and will give a concert and minstrel show, the proceeds to go towards purchasing socks and woolen caps for the soldiers in South Africa.

The N. E. P. Society, which has carried on a general mercantile business in this city for the past ten years, has closed its doors. A meeting of the stockholders has been called for Saturday for the purpose of winding up the affairs. The store was started by the misses. Although a large and varied stock of goods was carried, the investment was never a paying one.

The Union Brewery stockholders met yesterday and re-elected their officers for the coming year. A dividend of 8 per cent. will be declared.

Burns' anniversary was celebrated at the Nanaimo Athletic Club last evening by a concert and dance. A dance was also given at Extension mine, the proceeds going to the Mansion House fund. A handsome sum was realized. A special train took a number of people from Wellington and this city out to the dance.

THE PHILIPPINES

Manila Dispatch Says the Time is Ripe for a Conciliatory Policy.

(Associated Press.)

New York, Jan. 26.—A Manila cable to the Herald says:

War in the Philippines is over. No further surrender can be hoped for. The danger in the situation is that a bloody feud may arise between the American army and the Filipinos. This danger can be greatly lessened by action by the congress which is now imperative, outlining the policy of the government in the Philippines. It is likely that many insurgents are still holding, for the very terms which congress will be willing to give. The time is ripe for a conciliatory policy, allowing the Filipinos to have some say in the nature of the government under which they will be obliged to live.

EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP RACES

(Associated Press.)

Newbury, N. Y., Jan. 26.—The ice on Downing Park lake, where the Eastern Championship races are to take place this afternoon, is in excellent condition. Nearly all the skaters entered have arrived. They come from Canada, New York City, Chicago and places in the neighborhood of Newbury.

PHILIP'S DYING

(Associated Press.)

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 26.—The condition of Hon. E. J. Phelps, administrator of England, who is suffering from pneumonia, was unchanged this morning. Grave fears are expressed that the end might be at any moment.

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Ask Your Neighbor.

There is not a town, not a village, scarcely a settled foot of land from one end of Canada to the other, where Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People have not been used with beneficial results. Thousands of persons absolutely unknown to us have written letters in praise of this medicine, but there are thousands and tens of thousands of others who have been cured from whom we have never heard. If you are sick or ailing ask your neighbor, and we are confident you will hear of some hopeless sufferer, some bed-ridden paralytic, some one in decline, some rheumatic sufferer, some weak and wretched woman or pale and nerveless girl, who has been made well and strong by

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills FOR PALE PEOPLE.

A HACKING COUGH.
Mr. James Weir, a well known blacksmith of Boissevain, Man., says: "When I came to Manitoba some years ago, I entered into partnership with a friend in a threshing outfit. Aside from the work being hard, it was attended with constant exposure, and many a night we were compelled to take the warm side of a straw stack for our night's lodging. The result was I contracted a very heavy cold, and was obliged to quit work, and coughed all through the winter. In the spring I attempted to work again, but could not stand it, so I sold out my share of the outfit and settled down at my trade as a blacksmith. I did not improve, however, although I was steadily taking medicine. I thought I was in consumption. I fell off in flesh from 158 to 123 pounds, and looked like a walking skeleton, and suffered from nervousness and a constant hacking cough. My wife made a trip to Winnipeg, and when a drug store there told the druggist of my condition, and advised her to take home some of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. She brought back a half dozen boxes and I began taking them. After I had taken four boxes there was a considerable improvement in my condition and I continued taking them until I had used ten boxes, when my health was fully restored. My case is one of those which substantiate the claim that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure when other medicines fail."

RHEUMATISM CURED.
Mrs. Wm. Hopkins, Nings, Man., says: "Twelve years I was nearly constantly afflicted with rheumatism of the muscles, at times the pains being so severe that I was unable to work. I tried electric belts and numerous medicines, but got no relief. While in Boissevain during the winter of 1894, the druggist there advised me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, as he knew of a number of cases in which they had cured rheumatism. I got half a dozen boxes and took them back home with me and began taking them. I was on the fourth box when I began to get relief, and I continued taking Pink Pills until I had used ten boxes, by which time no trace of the rheumatism remained, and I have not since suffered from rheumatic pains. I cheerfully recommend Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for rheumatism, as I have proved they will cure it."

HEART TROUBLE.
Mrs. S. Johannesdottir, Arnes, Man., says: "It gives me pleasure to add my testimony to the ever increasing popularity of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I suffered for ten years with rheumatism and palpitation of the heart, including other weakness, as dizziness and swelling of the limbs. As time passed, notwithstanding all I did to secure relief, I was growing worse, and endured great pains in every joint of my body. I had read much about Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and finally decided to try them. After I had used three boxes of the pills I found some relief, and I continued taking them until I had taken twelve boxes, by which time all my trouble had absolutely disappeared, and I was as healthy as ever. I had been with my life. I strongly recommend Dr. Williams' Pink Pills to all who may be ailing."

ST. VITUS' DANCE.
Mr. D. Simmons, Fort Saskatchewan, N. W. T., writes: "I think it my duty to let you know of the wonderful cure by your Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in the case of one of my boys, 12 years of age. In the fall of 1898 he was attacked with St. Vitus' dance, in a very severe form. His limbs trembled and twitched at such an extent that he could scarcely walk and could hardly hold anything in his hands. We decided to use Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and as a result seven boxes have completely restored his health, and he is now as bright and active as ever before. I gladly make this statement in the hope that it may benefit some other sufferer."

NERVOUS TROUBLE.
Mrs. Jas. Pryce, Glen Adelaide, N. W. T., writes: "I suffered very much from nervous troubles, being at times so bad that I could not sit still in a chair. I took doctor's medicine for months, but it did not do me any good. My husband then urged me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and they have done me a world of good, and I can heartily recommend them to all nervous sufferers."

A PERMANENT CURE.
Mr. M. Carroll, of Roland, Man., writes: "While living at Sydney, Man., I wrote you informing you that your Dr. Williams' Pink Pills had cured my rheumatism of twenty-five years' standing. After many other medicines had failed, I am pleased to again write you and say that the cure has been permanent, as after a lapse of several years, there has been no return of the trouble. I sincerely hope my experience will be the means of helping some other poor sufferer."

PREVENT CONSUMPTION.
The Sisters of L'Assomption, Onion Lake, N. W. T., who are doing a noble work among the Indians of that section, write: "It affords us great pleasure to bear public testimony to the beneficial effects of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Several of the Indian children in our care have been menaced with consumption, we gave them Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and in each case a cure resulted. We distribute a great many boxes of our cure, and always with the happiest results. We recommend Dr. Williams' Pink Pills as the best preventive of consumption we know."

Pink colored pills in glass jars, or in any loose form, or in boxes that do not bear the full name "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People," are not Dr. Williams'. Other so-called tonic pills are merely imitations of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Imitations never cured anyone. Insist, therefore, upon your dealer supplying you with the genuine. If in doubt send to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., and the Pills will be sent by mail, post paid, at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50.

of experience named on the committee. The motion was passed.

Is There a Scandal?
Mr. Higgins moved, seconded by Mr. W. Smith:
That a committee, consisting of Messrs. McPherson, Prentice, R. Smith, McPherson and Higgins, be appointed to visit the provincial lunatic asylum at New Westminster, with power to examine into and report upon the administration of the affairs, the condition and requirements of the institution, with power to send for persons and papers, examine witnesses under oath, and report the result of their inquiries to this House.

Mr. Higgins said this was an inquiry involving the expenditure of money for fares and witness fees. He thought the government could not object to it. The investigation was very necessary indeed. It was not intended to place the government at any disadvantage in this matter, so he had placed a majority of government members on the committee. Hon. Mr. Semlin was inclined to think the resolution out of order, as involving an expenditure of money.

Mr. Higgins noted that there was a sum set apart for expenses in connection with the session. It was possible for the government to consent to the inquiry being opened, and he thought it might be waived if the committee was not to be held in session. If the committee was not to be held, the matter lay over.

Mr. Speaker—I do not feel sure at all that the matter is out of order.

Mr. Higgins appealed for the passage of the resolution. It was the intention of the government to have the inquiry opened, and he thought it might be waived if the committee was not to be held in session. If the committee was not to be held, the matter lay over.

Mr. Speaker—I do not feel sure at all that the matter is out of order.

Favor Eight Hour Law.
Mr. J. M. Martin presented the following petition from merchants, hotel keepers and mechanics of Rossland asking that the eight hour law should not be interfered with. The petition was received and ordered to be printed.

To the Honorable the Lieutenant-Governor and to the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia:

The petition of the undersigned professional and business men humbly sheweth:

1. That the prosperity which has hitherto attended all business and professional men in the Kootenay district has been due to the cordial relations which have heretofore existed and which are at the present time existing between labor and capital.
2. That many hundreds of thousands of dollars have been invested in real estate and buildings in this district for the suitable protection of trade and business.
3. That since the adoption of the Eight Hour Law the population of the mining communities has greatly increased and is directly traceable to the adoption of such law, and that great good has been the direct result of such increase to year petitioners.
4. That the future stability and prosperity of the country depends on the permanency of cordial relations between labor and capital.
5. That we believe a great depreciation in the value of property and business interests will follow any repeal of the Eight Hour Law, and that there is reason to believe the peace of the community, and all commercial and property interests and credits will follow a repeal.
6. That the greatest good to the greatest number will result from a continuance of the Eight Hour Law.

Your petitioners therefore pray that no change may be made in the present law which might operate as a repeal of the same.

And you petitioners will ever pray.

Here follow the signatures of 988 per cent. of the merchants of Rossland, 40 hotel keepers, being all in the city, and the signatures of others.

Private Bills.
Mr. Green presented the fourth report of the private bills committee, recommending that leave be granted to introduce Mike King's Lake Bennett railway and the Imperial Pacific. The committee also reported in favor of the petition of the Diocese of New Westminster. Received.

In accordance with the report Mr. Clifford presented the petitions of Mike King and the one respecting a railway from Victoria to the eastern boundary of British Columbia.

Small Debts Court.
Hon. Mr. Henderson introduced a bill to allow garnishee proceedings in the Small Debts Court. It was read a first time.

Victoria Reformatory.
Mr. Higgins moved, seconded by Mr. Prentice:
That a select committee be appointed to examine into and report upon the administration of the affairs, the condition and requirements of the provincial reformatory, Victoria, with power to send for persons and papers, examine witnesses under oath, and report the result of their inquiries to this House. Said committee to consist of Messrs. Prentice, Macpherson, A. W. Smith, Helmecken, and the mover.

In moving the resolution Mr. Higgins, who was generally cheered on his return to the House after his illness, explained that he asked that the same committee be appointed that investigated the affairs of the reformatory last year. It was better to have the benefit of their experience in the matter and not ask for a new committee.

Hon. Mr. Semlin said the government had no objection to the resolution, but of course it must be noted that the hon. member for Esquimalt had deviated widely from the rule in naming his committee and not giving the government a majority upon it. He did not wish to offer any objection to the personnel of the committee, but he desired that the hon. members of the House should not take this as a precedent.

Mr. Higgins agreed. He again stated

of railway companies throughout the province are in excess of the acreage proposed to be conveyed by acts of this House?

Hon. Mr. Carter-Gotton replied:
1. \$20,014.
2. From 200 people (names given).
3. None, no facts having come to the knowledge of the government which would lead to the supposition that any such excess has been granted.

Bills Advanced.
The bill to amend the Jurors' Act, brought down yesterday—message—was put through the formal stage of introduction and read a first time.

The Municipalities Bill (No. 10), correcting clerical errors, was read a third time and passed.

The report on the County Courts Vacation Bill and the report on the Farmers' Institutes Bill, were adopted and third reading set for tomorrow.

The report on the Notaries Bill was adopted and the bill read a third time and passed.

Evidence Bill.
The House then went into committee on the Evidence Bill. Mr. Kidd in the chair. The following amendments were moved by Mr. McPhillips and adopted:
"No husband shall be compelled to disclose any evidence in his manner as wife during the marriage, and no wife shall be compelled to disclose any communication made to her by her husband during the marriage."
"10. In any action or proceeding by or against the heirs, executors, or administrators of a deceased person an opponent or witnesses shall not be allowed to obtain a verdict, judgment or decision thereon on his own evidence, in respect of any matter occurring before the death of the deceased person, unless such evidence is corroborated by some other material evidence."
"24. Notwithstanding any statute or law to the contrary, the parties to any action, suit, petition, or other matter of a civil nature in any of the courts of the province, and their wives shall, except as hereinafter excepted, be competent as witnesses, and compellable to attend and give evidence in the manner as they would be if not parties to the proceedings or wives of parties. Provided always that no plaintiff in any action for breach of promise of marriage shall produce a verdict unless his or her testimony shall be corroborated by some other material evidence in support of such promise."
"25. On any action or proceeding by or against the heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns of a deceased person, as opposite or interested party to the action, shall obtain a verdict, judgment, or decision thereon on his own evidence, in respect of any matter occurring before the death of the deceased person, unless such evidence is corroborated by some other material evidence."
"3. On any action or proceeding by or against a person found in question to be of unsound mind, or being an inmate of a lunatic asylum, an opponent or interested party shall not obtain a verdict, judgment or decision thereon, on his own evidence, unless such evidence is corroborated by some other material evidence."
Progress was reported.

The Game Bill.
This bill was held over to Monday in order to allow suggested amendments to be printed.

The Trustees' Bill.
With Mr. Nell in the chair, the Trustees and Executors Bill was considered in committee. Mr. Helmecken moved that the act come into operation at once. This was agreed to and progress reported.

Crown Grants for Mineral Claims.
The Department of Mines Bill was reported from committee, Mr. Robertson presiding. The report was adopted.

Coal Mines Regulation.
When the motion for the second reading of the important bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act was called, Messrs. Prentice and Wells asked the President of the Council to allow it to stand over. The former noted that there were several very important amendments to be considered, while Mr. Wells remarked that they would like to have the report of the recent arbitration before the House preparatory to going on with the bill. There were also, he declared, certain matters leading up to the introduction of the bill that he would like to look into. The second reading was accordingly deferred.

Concerning Companies.
Hon. Mr. Henderson moved the second reading of the bill to amend the Companies Act. It was, he said, proposed to amend section 15 of that act by striking out the line which refers to the location of the registered office of the company. Next it was intended to amend section 20 of the act. At present there was a good deal of confusion in the office at Victoria. The registrar there was the registrar of joint stock companies, and it was necessary for his certificate of incorporation to state where the registered office of the company was to be situated. This was done away with by the amendment. It was also necessary that the certificate should contain at length the objects of the company. The result was that a great many certificates were waiting now to be issued, and it was extremely difficult and sometimes impossible to keep up with the issuing. It was proposed to amend section 20 so that the proposed objects of the company should not require to be set out in the certificate, but should be published in the B. C. Gazette. The section 22 of the act was to be amended. That section provides for the alteration of the memorandum of association, but no provision was made for the publication of the alteration. Section 5 of the bill made it necessary to publish any such amendments in the B. C. Gazette. That was reasonable and in the interests of the public. Clause 10 of the bill set out what were the powers of non-personal liability companies. The other sections were not of much importance.

The second reading of the bill was agreed to.

Order Discharged.
On his own motion the order for the second reading of Mr. Helmecken's bill respecting trustees and executors was discharged, his desire being met by the bill sent with earlier.

West Kootenay Bishopric.
Mr. Tisdall introduced a bill to incor-

