

HEAVY FIRING HEARD

Believed Boers Are Contesting Buller's Passage of the Tugela.

RUMOR BRITISH ARE NEAR LADYSMITH

Brisk Exchange of Shells at Molder Tuesday Morning.

TROOPS LOSE CONFIDENCE IN METHUEN

Tucker Will Probably Snooded Man Responsible for Magerfontein Defeat.

DEMONSTRATION BY GATACR'S TROOPS

Force Moves Toward Stormberg in Belief Boers Intended to Seize Molteno—French Continues to Shell Enemy.

LONDON, Jan. 17.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Pietermaritzburg, dated Tuesday, says:

"There was very heavy firing to the north yesterday. I believe the Boers are contesting General Buller's passage of the Tugela. Howlers were evidently busy, as the firing is described as the heaviest yet heard in Natal."

The Exchange and Telegraph company has received the following dispatch, dated Tuesday, January 16, from Pietermaritzburg:

"There is no news from the front, but heavy firing was heard today in the direction of Frere. It is probable that General Buller is engaging the enemy. A rumor is current here that a portion of the British force is near Ladysmith."

The Times publishes the following from Pietermaritzburg, dated Tuesday:

"Very heavy artillery firing was heard yesterday in the direction of Springfield."

BOERS RETURN BRITISH FIRE

MODDER RIVER, Tuesday, Jan. 16.—There has been brisk exchange of shells this morning, the Boers returning our fire for the first time in several days.

The British entrenchments are being continually strengthened and extended. The permanent railway bridge is almost completed.

Heavy rains have fallen in the hills recently and the fords of the Tugela are all impassable. It is reported that it will be necessary to rely on the rails over almost the entire distance from Molder to Kimberley, the Boers having used the rails and steepers in building their fortifications. Stories still reach camp that the Free Staters desire to end the war. The latest report is that a council was held recently at Bloemfontein, at which President Steyn and General Cronje were present. It was then stated that unless the British began the attack by January 17 the Free Staters would return home. The enormous difficulty the Boers must experience in provisioning their Spoorfontein army, which is far from the railway head, is very evident.

TROOPS LOSE CONFIDENCE IN METHUEN

LONDON, Jan. 16.—Evidence accumulates that General Methuen's blunder at Magerfontein has lost him the confidence of his entire force to such an extent that it is declared that the Boers risked the war following him in another attack on the Boers.

The war office is understood to be in possession of a letter written by General Wauchaep the night before the battle, saying that would not fight for the Boers unless ever write, as he had been asked to perform an impossible task, and he had either to obey or surrender his sword.

An immediate change in the command of the force may therefore be expected. It is anticipated in some quarters that General Buller would succeed General Methuen.

The complete absence of news from Natal proves that the censorship will allow plans are executed, or have failed. General Roberts, in his report of yesterday evening, refrained from mentioning a word about Natal or General Buller. From the other columns there is little news of moment. Molder river advices of yesterday date only report that the Boers made an attempt to shell the British, but they were repulsed and suffered severely.

A dispatch from Stormberg, dated Monday, January 15, reports that General Gatacr's troops had made a demonstration beyond Molteno in the direction of Stormberg, in the belief that they would be able to seize Molteno. The burghers were not sighted and the British remained at Molteno.

Arrivals from Stormberg estimate that there are 4500 Boers at that place, mostly regular soldiers and Free Staters. President Steyn's brother is the laundress.

General French continues to shell the Boer positions, but nothing decisive has taken place.

FRENCH VESSEL LANDS GUNS

Six Big Crescents and Fifty Tons of Shell Ammunition Smuggled Through for Boers.

LONDON, Jan. 17.—The Pietermaritzburg correspondent of the Times telegraphing Tuesday, January 16, says:

The Delagoa bay correspondent of the Natal Times asserts that six big Crescent guns and fifty tons of shells were landed from the French steamer Glorieux about the middle of last month under the name of two British war ships and were dispatched to Pretoria, causing much rejoicing at the ease with which contraband of war can run the blockade.

The Swazi queen mother, since the death of the King Bunu, has killed all the chiefs who were ever in England and Capetown and is now plotting with the Boers. The situation may fairly be considered grave, and it would be well to send reinforcements of Guernica to Swaziland immediately.

Refugees from Swaziland, living in the Lambobed district, recently brought news to Lourenco Marquez that the queen of Swaziland was dead.

Her death following so soon upon that of King Bunu was looked upon with suspicion. According to their story the queen's mother, but Neebo, Bunu's brother, was acting as head of the Swazi nation, and he in conjunction with Toubou, Umbandine's old prime minister, was carrying on a reign of terror, killing off whole kraals all over the country.

HAVOC WROUGHT BY WHITE'S GUNS

Scene at Ladysmith Battlefield Described by a Correspondent.

LADYSMITH, Monday, Jan. 16.—(By Mesopotamia) Tuesday, Jan. 16.—A representative of the Associated Press visited Saturday's battlefield this morning and saw large numbers of Boers dead. The British guns seemed to have worked great havoc. One Boer was completely disemboweled, another had his head clean shot off and a couple of others were killed by the same shell, evidently while eating their luncheon, as half-

eaten, hard-belled eggs lay beside them. Some Natal Dutchmen were recognized among the dead.

A number of Boer bodies and carcasses of horses have been washed down a small stream, which became a raging torrent during a heavy thunderstorm.

The British while digging graves were fired on by the Boer artillery and several of them were hit. Soft-nosed bullets and dum-dum cartridges have been found on wounded men who have been struck either by one or two bullets and handed the bodies over to the comrades at the bottom. Over ninety were carried off wagon hill alive.

EVEN RUMORS ARE CENSORED

No News of Any Character Being Telegraphed from Natal—Peace Announcement.

LONDON, Jan. 17.—A. m.—Even rumors are no longer telegraphed from Natal. The conclusion deduced from this silence by the military experts in general is that no decisive blow has been struck either by one or in such an event there would be no necessity for silence.

The South African conciliation committee, quietly formed to represent the peace interests, announced itself in the country today and asks for support. Among its members are Lord and Lady Coleridge, Herbert Spencer, Sir Robert Threlkeld, George John Shaw-Lefevre, Frederic Harrison, Stephen Gladding, the countess of Carlisle and other notable persons. Leonard Courtenay, an Indian member of parliament for the Bodmin division of Cornwall, is president of the committee.

This movement should be distinguished from the "stop-the-war" group of extremists, of whom William T. Stead is the most active member. His program, summarized, is to await until a general agreement is made for some peaceable settlement. Meanwhile, it will gather and distribute correct information and sound views. The manifesto affirms that as "the war was begun amid misunderstandings on both sides, a pacific settlement is possible."

The war office has issued orders for the formation of five new batteries. Seventeen more militia battalions will be embodied in the course of a fortnight. All the regulars are now out of the country, except fourteen infantry battalions and two cavalry regiments. The war office has placed an order for 32,000,000 cartridges in cases.

The yeomanry committee announces that it has accepted 5,000 out of the 10,000 which it wishes to raise and still has 20,000 applicants for the yeomanry.

The war office has wired to commandant the departure from Baynt of a number of officers who were previously ordered to South Africa.

ATTACK OF BOERS REPULSED

Assault a Strong Position Held by Yorksires and the New Zealand Regiment.

RENSBURG, Cape Colony, Monday, Jan. 15.—The Boers this morning attempted to rush a hill held by a company of the Yorksires and the New Zealanders, but they were repulsed at the point of the bayonet. The Boers had twenty-one men killed and about fifty wounded.

The hill commands a tract of country east of the main position of the Boers and they had determined to make an attempt to seize the heights.

They advanced cautiously, directing their fire at a small wall behind the Yorksires and compelled the latter to keep close under cover. When the Boers rushed the wall the Yorksires fixed bayonets and charged.

Just at that moment Captain Maddocks, with a small party of New Zealanders, came up and the combined force leaped over the trench and charged straight at the enemy, who fled, followed by a withering fire at close range.

The Boers literally tumbled over each other in their hurry to escape, but the persistent fire of the British inflicted a heavy loss on the Boers.

Desultory firing continued for some time, but the attack was an utter failure and the Boers retreated to the shelter of the small kopjes at the base of the hill.

BOERS GET IN THEIR STORY

Destroy One of the Forts at Mafeking—Ladysmith is in Sore Straits.

PRETORIA, Saturday, Jan. 13.—As a result of the bombardment of Mafeking yesterday, one of the forts was destroyed and the British retired. One Boer was wounded. Advice from the head laager at Ladysmith reports that the attack on that place January 6 was disastrous to the British and that Ladysmith appears to be in sore straits.

PLINY OF CANADIAN WILING

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 16.—A special to the Times from London says: Premier Haultain of the Northwest Territory stated today that Lord Strathcona would have no difficulty in finding hundreds of good men only too glad for the opportunity to make up his continent for South Africa.

It is anticipated in some quarters that General Buller would succeed General Methuen.

ARRIVAL OF PUERTO RICANS

Both Get Life Sentences for the Killing of Their Aunt—Money the Motive.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 16.—A special to the Post-Dispatch from Taylorville, Ill., says: Fred Sibley was today convicted of complicity in the murder of Mrs. Jane Brunot, near Paris last summer and was sentenced to the penitentiary for life. His counsel has made a motion for a new trial. Henry Brunot, a nephew of the murdered woman, has also been sentenced to prison for life. Neither of the youths is over 19 years of age. Each accused the other of the actual murder.

Mrs. Jane Brunot was a wealthy widow from Dana, Ind., who was visiting her sister-in-law, mother of Henry Brunot. She disappeared and her body was finally discovered in a well. The crime was committed to cover up a bribe by a young man and to secure additional money and property owned by Mrs. Brunot.

Two men turned on Gas in a Chicago Hotel, Then Flew Down to Die.

CHICAGO, Jan. 16.—Two unidentified men, one about 45 to 50 years old and the other about 25 or 30 years, were found dead in a room at the Santa Maria hotel today. Gas was escaping from a jet and appeared to indicate a carefully planned suicide. The men lay side by side on the bed, with their outer clothing removed. Nothing was found on the men except their pockets. Both had good clothes and in the pockets of the elder man was found \$71. An insurance policy was also found, but the name of the person insured had been torn away.

LEWTON FUND NOW \$300,000

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The total of the Lewton fund is now \$300,000.

WHEELER TO RETURN HOME

Will Start from Manila This Week for United States.

MANILA, Jan. 16.—General Wheeler will start on his return to the United States this week, making a stop at Guam on his way thither.

Three additional cases of the bubonic plague have been reported from the Philippines.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The officials of the War department had very little to say in explanation of the return to the United States of General Wheeler. The correctness of the report was admitted and it was said that the order had been given some time ago, but whether or not it was the result of an application by General Wheeler himself could not be recalled. It was gathered from preceding statements that General Otis had not been able to find a place in the field satisfactory to General Wheeler, and the latter having no mind to serve in Manila was willing to return to the United States.

FLORENCE, Ala., Jan. 16.—The first absolute news of the intended course of General Joe Wheeler, representative to congress from the Eleventh Louisiana district, came today in a letter to W. J. Wood, state tax commissioner and personal friend of the general. The letter follows:

PANIQUE, Island of Luzon, P. I., Dec. 2.—Hon. W. J. Wood, Florence, Ala.: I saw in papers from Manila a notice that you, commissioner of the land office was against recommending that our mineral lands be sold under the act of 1875.

I could not have left yet while this campaign was on without being subjected to several criticisms in the papers. I am truly your friend, JOSEPH WHEELER. The letter was received in Manila, December 2, and reached Florence today.

LONG LIST OF DEATHS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—General Otis has cabled the War department the following list of casualties:

WHEELER TO RETURN HOME

Will Start from Manila This Week for United States.

MAY MAKE A STOP AT ISLAND OF GUAM

Officials at War Department Have Little to Say—General Writes Alabama Friend He Has Resigned.

PERMANENT MILITARY POST

Favorable Report on the Bill to Make Fort McKenzie a Fixture.

UNANIMOUS VOTE TAKEN IN COMMITTEE

Congressman Mercer Desires to Perpetuate the Memory of Grant by a Fitting Memorial Erected in Washington.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—(Special Telegram)—Congressman Mondell, member of the committee on military affairs of the house, was instructed today by that committee to write a favorable report on his bill creating a permanent military post at Fort McKenzie, Wyo., near Sheridan. There was not a dissenting vote to the measure. The bill carries an appropriation of \$100,000 for the erection of permanent barracks, the size of the post to rest entirely with the War department.

Mercer, in speaking of his bill introduced yesterday providing for preparation of plans and designs for a Grant memorial to be erected in this city, said:

Washington offers many tempting localities for the erection of a grand triumphal arch, the intersection of Sixteenth street and New Hampshire avenue, for instance, and it is a standing disgrace that this national capital has never honored President Grant with some statue or other memorial in stone. Congressmen have for years past proposed to erect a Grant memorial. I would place the matter in the hands of the secretary of war, the chairman of the joint committee on library, the president of the senate and speaker of the house.

Let them communicate with prominent artists and architects and obtain designs on the understanding that the five men submitting the best designs shall be compensated for their work. I would like to see an appropriation of \$5,000 made by congress for the beginning of this project.

Congressman Lamb of the Richmond (Va.) district has introduced a bill for the payment of certain claims which interest a number of persons in Nebraska. It provides for the payment of \$728.25 to John Brentling of Nebraska, for commissary stores furnished in 1859, in 1862 at Clinton, Ia., to United States troops then stationed at that place. It proposes to give Henry T. Clarke of Omaha \$2,500 for the value and rent of a building at Fort Crook, used by the government during the progress of the building of that post and after its completion. In 1859, submitted a proposition to the government for the sale of the land upon which Fort Crook now stands, excepting the buildings on the site. These buildings were used by the military and he now asks that he be recompensed for their use.

Bills by Mercer.

Congressman Mercer introduced a bill to provide for the relief of Mrs. Wilhelm Gross, residing at Blair.

Congressman Neville asks for a pension for Rev. Joseph W. Skelton of Broken Bow. Representative McKelton of Iowa introduced a bill today to pension Andrew H. Harlett and Joseph Kramer.

R. B. Schneider of Fremont, who arrived in the city last evening, left today for New York. He had a conference with Assistant Secretary Melkjohn of the War department and also with Assistant Postmaster General Perry H. Johnson as to matters relating to the campaign in Nebraska.

Dr. and Mrs. E. W. Lee of Omaha are the guests of Senator and Mrs. Thurston. They will go to New York tomorrow preparatory to calling for Europe Saturday for a six months' visit to Berlin and Paris.

Dr. and Mrs. Lee will be accompanied by Mrs. Mary H. Dundy, widow of the late Judge Dundy.

Edward Gillette of Sheridan, Wyo., is in the city on matters connected with surveys in Alaska. He is the most prominent business man of the city for a number of years, but of recent months he has been in ill health and suffered two strokes of paralysis.

It is believed that he was temporarily insane when the shooting was done, as he and Shultz had been associated with each other in the business affairs of the bank.

The evidence before the coroner's jury shows that Murphey, presumably insane, placed the pistol close to the temple of Mr. Shultz and fired. He then placed the pistol in his own mouth and fired, which shot penetrating his brain. Captain Murphey was found lying by the side of the wall, several feet from his private desk. The blood was streaming from his mouth and he was dead. There was sitting near the desk the most prominent business man of the city for a number of years, but of recent months he has been in ill health and suffered two strokes of paralysis.

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PERMANENT MILITARY POST

Favorable Report on the Bill to Make Fort McKenzie a Fixture.

UNANIMOUS VOTE TAKEN IN COMMITTEE

Congressman Mercer Desires to Perpetuate the Memory of Grant by a Fitting Memorial Erected in Washington.

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—Partly Cloudy and Warm; Variable Winds.

THEY SHOOT TO KILL

Kentucky Duel Results in Three Dead, One Dying, Two Injured.

TRAGEDY OCCURS IN FRANKFORT HOTEL

Former Congressman Colson Chief Actor in the Bloody Occurrence.

ALL THE VICTIMS PROMINENT PEOPLE

Battle is Terrible and Bullets Fairly Rain Through Hotel Lobby.

FEUD BEGAN DURING THE SPANISH WAR

Colson Was Colonel of Fourth Kentucky Regiment—Scott, a Subordinate, Refused to Obey Orders—Court-Martial Followed.

LIMITATION OF INHERITANCES

President Logan of New York Bar Association Would Limit to Ten Million Dollars.

BRYAN AT KENTUCKY BANQUET

Celebration of the Election of Senator Blackburn—Met at Train by Goebel.

CLAIMING NEBRASKA LAND

Missouri to Sue for a Portion of Nebraska County—Flight on Canal.

REFUSE TO RETIRE HAMNER

Retiring Board Refuses to Grant Request of Omaha Paymaster—Must Serve Out Time.

FOR MILITARY SUPPLY DEPOT

Thurston Introduces the Promised Bill to Establish a Station at Omaha.

ONLY CASE IN SPANISH WAR

William A. English, Son of Former Vice Presidential Candidate, Returns Pay to Treasury.

PASSENGER STEAMER SINKS

Strikes Wall of Lock While Racing with a Rival—All Passengers Saved.

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN VESSELS

At New York—Arrived—Amsterdam, from Rotterdam; Sailed—Boston, for South America; Arrived—Tuscon, from Tacoma; Arrived—Victoria, from San Francisco.

DECEMBER IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

For Twelve Months They Show an Increase—Merchandise—Imports, \$71,547,273, of which \$11,185,514 was free of duty; total increase as compared with December, 1898, \$15,400,000. Exports, \$123,255,163; decrease, \$14,500,000.

STRANGE DOUBLE SUICIDE

Two Men Turn on Gas in a Chicago Hotel, Then Flew Down to Die.

MURDER AND SUICIDE IN BANK

Captain Murphey, Cashier of Third National of Columbus, Ga., Shoots Teller Then Himself.

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