

NOVEMBER 30TH, 1899

THE WATCHMAN-WARDER: LINDSAY, ONT.

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THE EARLY BOERS.

Dr. Livingstone, the Celebrated Traveler, Describes Their Double Dealing.

Many of the Boers visited us afterward at Kolobeng, some for medical advice and others to trade in those very articles which their own laws and policy forbid. When I happened to stumble upon any of them in the town, with his muskets and powder displayed, he would begin an apology on the ground that he was a poor man, etc., which I always cut short by frankly saying that I had nothing to do with either the Boers or their laws. Many attempts were made during these visits to elicit the truth about the guns and cannon; and, ignorant of the system of espionage which prevails, eager inquiries were made by them among those who could jabber a little Dutch. It is noticeable that the system of espionage is as well developed among the savage tribes as in Austria or Russia. It is a proof of barbarism. Every man in a tribe feels himself bound to tell the chief everything that comes to his knowledge, and, when questioned by a stranger, either gives answers which exhibit the utmost stupidity, or such as he knows will be agreeable to his chief. I believe that in this way have arisen tales of their inability to count more than ten, as was asserted of the Bechuanas about the very time when Scheele's father counted out one thousand head of cattle as a beginning of the stock of his young son.

In the present case Scheele, knowing every question put to his people, asked me how they ought to answer. My reply was: "Tell the truth." Everyone then declared that no cannon existed there; and our friends, judging the answer by what they themselves would in the circumstances have said, were confirmed in the opinion that the Bakwains actually possessed artillery. This was in some degree beneficial to us, inasmuch as fear prevented any foray in our direction for eight years. During that time no winter passed without one or two tribes in the east country being plundered of both cattle and children by the Boers. The plan pursued is the following: One or two friendly tribes are forced to accompany a party of mounted Boers, and these expeditions can be got up only in the winter, when horses may be used without danger of being lost by disease. When they reach the tribe to be attacked the friendly natives are ranged in front, to form, as they say, "a shield." The Boers then coolly fire over their heads till the devoted people flee and leave cattle, wives and children to the captors. This was done in nine cases during my residence in the interior, and on no occasion was a drop of Boers' blood shed. News of these deeds spread quickly among the Bakwains, and letters were repeatedly sent by the Boers to Scheele ordering him to come and surrender himself as their vassal, and stop English traders from proceeding into the country with firearms for sale. But the discovery of Lake Ngami, hereafter to be described, made the traders come in five-fold greater numbers, and Scheele replied: "I was made an independent chief and placed here by God, and not by you. I was never conquered by Mosilikatze, as those tribes whom you rule over; and the English are my friends. I get everything I wish from them. I cannot hinder them going where they like."—From Livingstone's Missionary Travels in South Africa.

A FAMOUS VOLUNTEER.

England's Most Famous Surgeon Goes to the Front in South Africa.

The most famous surgeon in Great Britain will go to the front in South Africa as the head of the medical and surgical department of the British army. He is Sir William Mac-

REJECT OF LYDDITE.

WHICH EXPLOSIVE OBJECTED TO BY GENERAL JOUBERT.

Views on Its Use in War—Capt. Lyddite is a new explosive which has been invented in France. It is a mixture of picric acid and nitro-cellulose. It is a very powerful explosive, and is being used by the British army in South Africa.

THE NEW BRITISH BULLET.

Experimenting with it for several years and has brought it to a degree of efficiency. I doubt if any other formula is known here.

protests of the Boers, in that it is inhuman, is ridiculous, and are a little behind in the use of high explosives. The United States Government would have no scruples about using it.

in Taylor, of the Laffin-Rand Company, said to the reporter: "Lyddite is one of the picric acids, and is supposed to be similar to melinite. The Government was very secret about the formula for melinite, and one connected with the manufacture of it sold the secret. It is an improvement on it. It certainly gives great satisfaction to the English Government. Lyddite produces greater fragmentation of the shells than almost any other explosive known. Gun shells will explode a shell, but not a shell. Lyddite, on the contrary, produces a shell into exceedingly small pieces, and has a very large area of destruction in consequence. It is not possible to object to it in war. It produces no gas, and it did that would make a difference, for a shell exploded in a trench will leave no one within a radius of 100 yards who would be injured by the gas. The ordnance department of the British army, in the building, it was

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be fired and the work of destruction completed. A shell was dropped into a mosque at Omdurman, where 120 Mahdists were worshipping. The mosque and its inmates were blown to pieces, and only 12 inmates escaped alive.

In the Chinese-Japanese war of 1894 a 12-inch shell charged with cordite, a similar, but inferior explosive, entered the Japanese flag-ship Matsushima, hurled a 4.7 inch gun from its mountings and then exploded, firing a heap of ammunition, disabling two more 4.7 inch guns, and killing or wounding 90 officers and men.

Lyddite is simply one of a class of high explosives, others of which are dynamite, tonite, cordite, melinite, maxinite, emmentite, ecrasite, forcite, thoricite and pernitrite. It has been improved by the British for the use of their guns as others, notably, melinite by France, have been taken advantage of by other nations. Chemically lyddite is "simply picric acid brought into a dense state by fusion." Picric acid is "obtained by the action of nitric acid on carboic acid."

When lyddite shells explode in the midst of an army, they deal not only destruction, but also terror, for, like the dynamite shells coughed up by the Vesuvius at Santiago, they explode with a noise that suggests the downfall of the heavens and the upheaval of the earth. Unlike the shells that issued from the Vesuvius they can be aimed to a nicety.

DISASTER OF MAJUBA HILL.

The Fearful Slaughter of British by Boers in 1880.

The Boers grew discontented. In 1880 they rebelled. Then came the fearful slaughter of British troops at Majuba Hill. Great Britain came to the Boer terms, and by a treaty signed at Pretoria in August, 1881, guaranteed their independence "subject to the suzerainty of Her Majesty."

There was no mistaking the meaning of the word suzerainty as defined in this convention. It was expressly



MAJUBA HILL.

stipulated that the English crown should appoint a British resident, with a veto power over the internal policy of the republic toward the Kaffirs; that it should control and conduct its entire foreign policy and reserve the right of moving troops over its territory in time of war. To the Boers, however, the reservation was gall and wormwood. As they chafed more and more under what seemed to the colonial office a mere shadow of authority Gladstone cheerfully proposed a revision of the convention.

Thus came the conference which led to the second or London convention of 1884. Though held in the metropolis of Great Britain itself the British public thought little and cared less about the matter. The Boers got pretty much what they wanted. Out of deference to Boer sensitiveness the word "suzerainty," expressly used in the convention of 1881, was omitted in the new one, and the title of British resident was changed to diplomatic agent, with a restriction of his functions to purely consular duties. Complete independence was granted in domestic affairs. The western boundaries of the state were mutually agreed upon.

Though the word suzerainty was dropped the thing itself was asserted in one clause which ran as follows: "The South African Republic will conclude no treaty or engagement with any state or nation other than the Orange Free State, nor with any native tribe to the eastward or westward of the republic until the same has been approved by Her Majesty the Queen."

It is to this convention of 1884 that all the recent discussions between Kruger and Chamberlain had reference. The failure to mention sovereignty was interpreted by Kruger as meaning that no sovereignty existed. The omission was regarded by Chamberlain as leaving the status of the relations the same as in 1881.

Climate of South Africa.

Contrary to popular belief, the climate in South Africa, so far as temperature is concerned, is not nearly so trying as stated. At Pietermaritzburg, 2,100 feet above the sea, the mean temperature for the year is 65 degrees. The warmest month is February, with a mean of 72 degrees; and the coldest month June, with a mean shade reading of 55 degrees. In Basutoland, at 5,600 feet above the sea, the mean temperature is 58 degrees; the warmest month is February, with a mean of 70 degrees; the coldest July, with a mean of 48 degrees. At Bloemfontein, in the Orange Free State, 4,500 feet above the sea, the mean temperature for the year is 62 degrees; the warmest month is January, with a mean of 74 degrees; the coldest July, with a mean of 47 degrees. The monthly average of the minimum, or night temperature, is below the freezing point in June and July, but by October it has risen to 48 degrees, and in January and February it is 59 degrees. The average maximum, or day reading, is as low as 63 degrees in July; but in October it has risen to 80 degrees, and in December it is 87 degrees. In the summer months the absolute maximum frequently exceeds 90 degrees, and in the winter the absolute minimum occasionally falls below 20 degrees. At Pretoria, in the Transvaal, 4,500 feet above sea level, the mean temperature for the year is 67 degrees. January is the warmest month, with a mean of 74 degrees, and in February the mean is 73 degrees. The coldest month is July, with a mean of 59 degrees. In October the mean is 68 degrees, and in both November and December 70 degrees.

NEW DEVICES OF WAR

BRITISH ARMY IN TRANSVAAL AND ITS ELABORATE EQUIPMENT.

It is the Best Outfitted Ever Sent into the Field by Any Nation in the World—An Armored Train—Reconnoitering by Balloons—New Shrapnel and Its Effects.



AN ARMORED TRAIN.

Africa to watch the fight with dispassionate eyes expect to learn much that is valuable about the martial art.

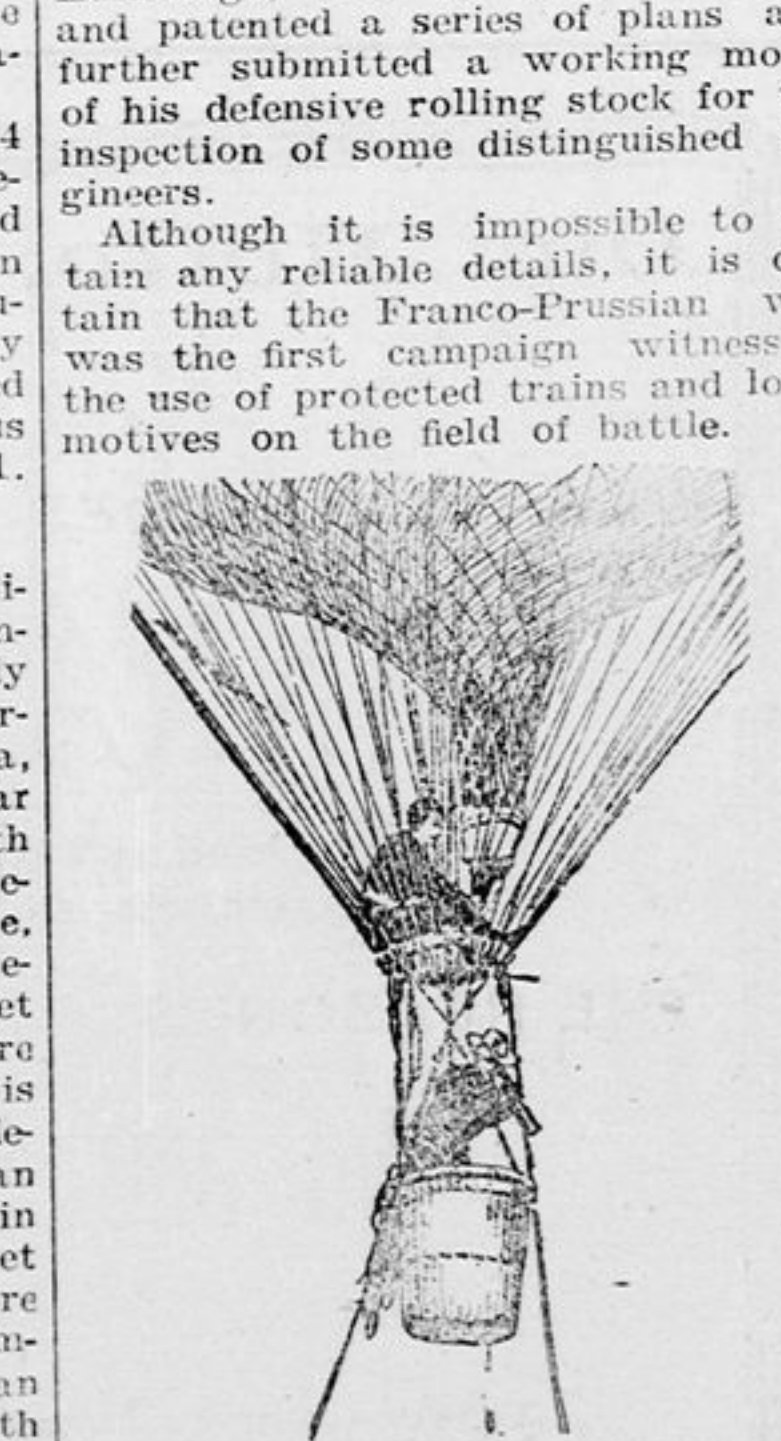
Among the unusual war appliances which the English have already used against the Boers are balloons and armored trains. It is too early to determine whether either of these somewhat unique aids to war is practical or not. The first armored train which was sent out took guns and ammunition to the besieged force of Colonel Baden-Powell at Mafeking. While armored trains are not usually considered as a regular part of the equipment of an army-corp and have been little used in actual warfare, they are not wholly new. In fact, the idea is rather old. It is the practice of using them and the knowledge of their efficiency which are new.

In South Africa the fighting has closely followed the steel rails, chiefly because the British advance has been along these paths. Imaginative artists have pictured many fantastic machines which have been printed as illustrating actual armored train. Such pictures are very interesting.

But, as a matter of fact, the real armored train is nothing more than a train of ordinary freight cars strengthened on the inside with sheets of metal and pierced with holes, through which rifles and small fieldpieces may be used on an attacking party. A flat car, or gondola, with a heavy piece or two of artillery, may be a part of such a train, and in some instances enough of the closed cars may be taken away to allow a maxim gun to be placed in position.

There have been several claimants to the title "inventor of the armored train," but the honor seems to be due to Mr. James Anderson of Edinburgh, who in 1847 prepared and patented a series of plans and further submitted a working model of his defensive rolling stock for the inspection of some distinguished engineers.

Although it is impossible to obtain any reliable details, it is certain that the Franco-Prussian war was the first campaign witnessing the use of protected trains and locomotives on the field of battle. In



RECONNOITERING BY BALLOON.

their sorties from Paris the French troops were frequently backed up by the fire of light fieldpieces carried in this manner.

As far as the British army is concerned, Captain Fisher's armored train, used during the first stages of the campaign against Arabi, was the first and so far only active sample of its type. The train was constructed at Alexandria by a party of British engineers and was composed of a locomotive and a number of trucks protected by iron rails, iron plates and sandbags.

Since then, however, both France and Germany have recognized specially constructed armored trains as formidable units of fighting equipment.

The main objection raised against the practicability of armored trains is the suggestion that the enemy,

with a few men carrying small parcels of dynamite, could easily destroy the permanent way. The Boers have shown that an armored train is easily derailed and that once in that condition it is practically helpless.

The balloons with which the British army in South Africa are plentifully supplied have been of much greater use than the armored train. Perhaps this has been because the balloons have been used with more discretion. Up in the blue air is about the only place where the British are sure of not running into a Boer ambush, so their big gas bags have been undisturbed. Gen. White used them while shut in at Ladysmith. It is even said that he himself went up in one of these captive balloons for the purpose of making observations as to the strength and location of the enemy. It is claimed that 20 of these war balloons have been sent to South Africa.

On the other hand, the American experience with war balloons in the Spanish-American war was highly unsatisfactory. The one used by General Shafter in the advance on Santiago was expected to be of great service. It was raised after much difficulty during the battle of San Juan Hill; but, instead of enabling them to pick out the Spanish positions, it showed the Spanish the exact whereabouts of their troops.

It was like hunting a burglar at night with a candle. The Spanish took advantage of that mistake, and that balloon was hauled down after many lives had been sacrificed. Still, under other conditions there is no doubt that for reconnoitering purposes a balloon might be very serviceable.

Another new device possessed by the British is a new field gun which throws a shrapnel shell that is expected to play havoc with the Boer forces. It is said that this new shrapnel is the most effective missile of the kind that has ever been employed in warfare.

The projectile consists of steel tubing filled with about 200 small balls of hardened lead. The projectile weighs 15 pounds. It is charged with lyddite, that tremendously forcible explosive which is a compound of picric acid.

In firing the gun a time fuse is fitted into the head of the projectile. In the hands of experienced gunners it may be cut so as to cause the bursting of a shell as close as one-third of a second after firing the gun or, on the other hand, the missile may be given a flight of 12 seconds



NEW ENGLISH SHRAPNEL AND ITS EFFECT.

before bursting. The gunners aim to burst the shrapnel about 30 yards short of the enemy's position. At a range of 1,000 yards all the shrapnel balls will be projected within a circle on the ground for about 25 feet in diameter. Each shell ought to be equal to a volley from two companies of infantry fired at short range.

FIRST TO SEND THE NEWS.

The Correspondent Who Holds the Record for the Battle of Glencoe.

To Mr. Joseph Dunn, the senior correspondent of The Central News in South Africa, who is also The New York Journal's representative, belongs the distinction of having been the first to send the news of the brilliant success of the British arms at Glencoe. Mr. Dunn, says The Daily Mail, is a war correspondent of special qualifications. He is a hardy Scot, who has seen service with the Rhodesian Horse, and later with Dr. Jameson's force in the memorable raid. For his share in that abortive expedition he was taken and held prisoner by the Boers, of whose methods of warfare he has a very extensive and intimate knowledge. It was that experience that prompted Mr. Dunn to remain in the neighborhood of Glencoe, between which place and Dundee he has been moving since hostilities commenced. The message announcing the British victory was handed in by Mr. Dunn at Glencoe camp at 8:25 a.m., and reached the Central News office at 11:35 a.m., so that, allowing for the fact that Glencoe-time is one hour in advance of our own, the news came through in about four hours, a remarkably smart piece of work, for which the Eastern Telegraph Company is responsible.

Arms of the Orange Free State.

The coat-of-arms of the Orange Free State shows an orange tree in the middle of the field; on one side stands a lion, on the other a lamb. The motto beneath is "Freedom, Immigration, Patience, Courage." The emblem of the lion and lamb has a Scriptural reference to the peace and harmony within its borders, and does not glance at the geographical position of the Republic between the domain of the British lion and the pastoral Boers of the Transvaal, as a joker might assume.

When Germany is Ahead.

Germany is being aroused by a future of railroad building, mostly electrical. In the month of June 380 railroads were projected. The Germans are ahead of the English in electrical equipping.

SISTERS OF THE ARMY

ENGLISH NURSES WHO HAVE BEEN HURRIED TO SOUTH AFRICA.

Duties of White-Capped Saints Who Are Ministering Angels to the Battle-Scarred and Wounded—Miss Georgina Pope, Who Went as Chief of Nurses' Staff From Canada.

The British War Office believes in women nurses. Connected with the British army is an organization known as the Army Nursing Sisters. It has several hundred members, each one of whom is a trained and experienced nurse. On each of the troopships sent to South Africa a number of these nursing sisters have gone, and on the two hospital ships recently despatched were many more.

Some of these white capped saints will be detailed for duty on the hospital ships, others will be sent to



GROUP OF ENGLISH ARMY NURSES WHO HAVE GONE TO SOUTH AFRICA.

the general army hospital which has been established at Cape Town, while still others will be assigned to the field hospitals. These last will follow the army closely. It may happen that they will occasionally be near enough to the firing lines to hear the shells shriek and the rifle bullets sing.

With the volunteers which the Dominion has sent to South Africa, went Miss Georgina Pope as chief of the nurses' staff. She is a sister of the Under-Secretary of State for Canada, but she was not selected as chief nurse on this account. She has been a nurse for twelve years, and has had a wide experience. She was graduated from Bellevue Hospital, New York, and recently took a post graduate course at that institution. She has served as a nurse in a Washington hospital.

The two hospital ships which the British have fitted out will be sent to Durban, the nearest port to the scene of hostilities. There they will be used as floating hospitals.

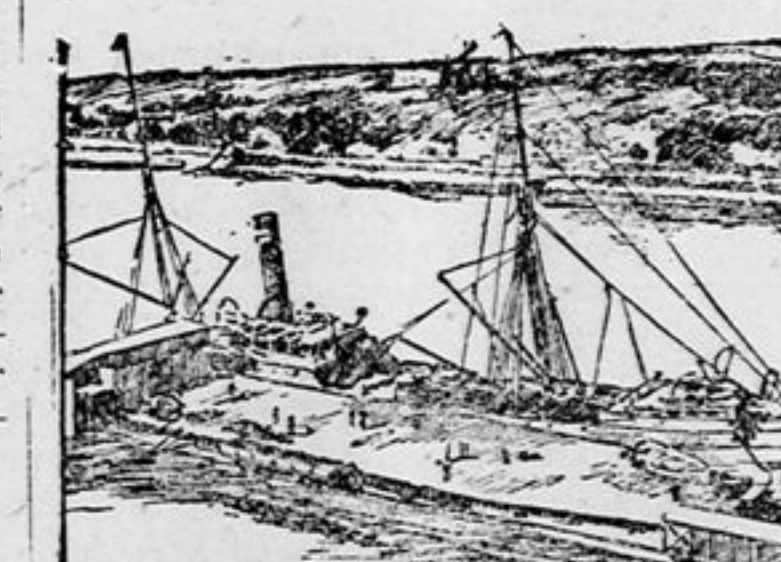
When Tommy Atkins, disabled by Boer bullets, gets to the coast, he will be taken aboard one of these ships and patched up. After he is well enough to be moved, he will be taken to Cape Town, where he may convalesce at ease in the big garrison hospital on the shores of Table Bay.

One of these hospital ships is the Spartan, formerly a Cape liner. Before she was finally accepted, she was carefully inspected from stem to stern by the naval and military authorities and then by the army medical department. Representing the latter was Major Wodehouse, R. A. M. C., who has been selected to assume medical charge of the vessel.

After diligently examining the internal arrangements of the ship it was found that her owners had fulfilled their contract with entire satisfaction, and orders were accordingly given for embellishing the Spartan's bows and quarters with the Maltese cross. By this was signified the fact that the vessel had been definitely accepted by the Government for use as a hospital ship.

As regards the manner in which the Spartan was prepared for her new role, nothing but praise can be bestowed upon all concerned therewith. A strong point in favor of these various arrangements is the simplicity that characterizes them. Efficiency, however, is not in the least sacrificed thereto, and the result is that the vessel is almost as perfectly equipped as is an hospital ashore.

On the main deck, where ventilation is best obtained, four wards have been constructed. These contain 60 beds each. Should necessity arise, however, additional accommodation can be extemporized in other parts of the ship. Communication with the upper deck has been established by means of a couple of elevators. These have been specially



UNLOADING SUPPLIES AT DURBAN.

constructed with a view to their carrying patients on stretchers. For beds swinging cots are adopted. Attached to them is a patent device which keeps them perfectly steady when the vessel is in harbor. An electric fan cools the air, and a powerful arc lamp supplies each ward with light.

The medical officers, nursing sisters and hospital orderlies are furnished with quarters in convenient proximity to the different wards.

The other ship, the Trojan, has been fitted out in a similar manner. There is great need for them, and probably by this time every berth has been filled by a wounded British soldier.

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SIR WILLIAM MACCORMACK.

Cormack, President of the Royal College of Surgeons. He goes as a volunteer, his services having been gladly accepted by the War Office.

Sir William has received many more decorations than could find room on his exceptionally ample breast, for his devotion, skill and courage have been shown no less on foreign battle-fields than in the wards of English hospitals.

His public career cannot be said to have begun with the Franco-Prussian war, for he was already well-known at home when he volunteered his services as an ambulance surgeon therein. But it was there and subsequently in the Turko-Serbian war that he met with the most striking of his experiences and did that work which has won for him orders and decorations from every country.

The experience which he gained as a surgeon in the Franco-German war and afterwards embodied in book form have had doubtless much to do with the vastly improved condition of field hospitals and ambulance service on battle-fields of later date. He was born in Belfast 63 years ago.

Why Ladysmith Was Named So.

Ladysmith is called after the wife of Sir Harry Smith, formerly commanding general in South Africa. She was a Spanish girl, to whom the general gave protection when he was a subaltern in the Peninsula War, and who subsequently married him. Harris Smith is named after her husband.