

TRIBUTE TO THE BRITISH.

Boer General Says They Fought Bravely in the Last Battle.

Heroism of a Fourteen-Year-Old Bugler—The Boer Position on Modder River Has Been Greatly Strengthened—Disloyalty of the Colonists—Gen. Buller's Loss at Tugela River.

A despatch from Pretoria, via Lorenzo, Marquess, says:—The following advices have been received from Modder river regarding the Magersfontein battle:—

"Having received large reinforcements, and his army having rested since Nov. 28, Lord Methuen advanced against General Cronje's army, which occupied a position on both sides of the railway for many miles.

"The fighting opened with heavy cannonading at 4 o'clock in the morning, under cover of which masses of infantry advanced toward the Boers. They were received with a steady fire, which repulsed the advance before the English came within measurable distance.

"A second attack met the same fate, although the English charged bravely against a hail of Mauser bullets.

"About this time the men of the Scandinavian corps, who had a great record for reckless courage, charged, and were cut off on a scrubby kopje. It is reported that they lost several killed and wounded, and that many of them were made prisoners.

"In the afternoon all the British reserves were brought into the attack, which was delivered with sublime courage. The plains north of Modder river were black with the British forces, who were deployed in the attack. But no courage could break the Boers' defences, and late in the day the British retreated to Modder river, leaving dead and dying.

"The Boers' losses were insignificant. Exclusive of the Scandinavians, 18 were killed and 43 wounded.

"English prisoners say their killed and wounded numbered 2,000. They also say the Black Watch was out to pieces."

This great news was received here with nonchalance.

A BUGLER'S HEROISM.

A despatch from London, Thursday says:—Additional reports from Colenso continue to demonstrate the inferiority in range of the British artillery. The naval guns alone were able to reach the enemy's trenches.

The Times' correspondent at Chieveley says that the Boers have dammed the river below Bridle drift, rendering it almost impassable. The Dublin Fusiliers had four men drowned while attempting the passage. People who know the country consider the Boer position to be the strongest possible.

The Daily Chronicle's correspondent at Chieveley tells a story of the fourteen-year-old bugler of the Dublin Fusiliers. He received three wounds in the chest and one in the arm. He staggered back to the dressing station unaided. In reply to the chaplain's question if he was suffering pain, the lad said, "Only a stinging feeling in my hand."

GREATLY STRENGTHENED.

A correspondent of the London Daily News, telegraphing from Modder river, last Saturday, says:—

"The Boer position, already formidable on Dec. 11, has since been greatly strengthened, extending for an area of 12 miles. It is entrenched according to the most modern methods throughout its entire length; wire fences have been placed before all the trenches at every point; guns have been got into position, and there is every evidence that the Boers are well supplied with ammunition. Only a powerful attacking force can hope to make a successful assault."

OPENLY EXPRESSED DISLOYALTY

A Cape Town despatch, dated Saturday, says:

"Five hundred colonists of the Victoria West district have perfected an apparently anti-British organization there, and as individuals have openly expressed disloyalty, and have threatened to attack the railroad station, which is on the direct line between Cape Town and De Aar. The Afrikaner Bundists at a meeting there passed a resolution asserting that the troops in the vicinity irritated the farmers dangerously. The meeting proclaimed its loyalty, but declared the conduct of the troops forced the people to use expressions and commitments which were capable of being interpreted as disloyal."

KILLED NUMBER 137.

A despatch from London says:—An official report from General Buller received on Wednesday, places his number of killed in the battle of Tugela river at 137. Buller's first report said he had lost 83 killed.

Wednesday's despatch adds that the Connaught Rangers suffered the heaviest in the engagement, having 24 officers and men killed. The Dublin Fusiliers, came next with 1 killed. The field batteries, which were subjected to a particularly heavy fire, lost only 10 killed.

BY A FLANK MOVEMENT.

Gen. Buller is ordering the troops now arriving at Cape Town to proceed to Durban to reinforce the Natal column. Absence of news from him has led to the surmise that he is trying to join Gen. White by a flank movement.

\$7,500 FROM MEXICO.

A despatch from City of Mexico, says:—The subscriptions started in the British colony here in behalf of the widows and orphans of British soldiers killed in the war in the Transvaal has already reached the sum of \$7,500.

\$5,000 FROM CHICAGO.

A despatch from Chicago, says:—

President Schull, of the British-American League of the Chicago Board of Trade, on Wednesday cabled \$5,000 to the chairman of the Soldiers' Relief Committee in London, the money to be used for the relief of the families of the British soldiers killed in the South African war.

VOLUNTEERING ENTHUSIASM.

A despatch from London, says:—The War Office has issued the particulars of the enrolment of volunteers. The mounted infantry will be named the Imperial Yeomanry. The term of enlistment will be a year, or not less than the duration of the war. The men will be drawn from the existing yeomanry, into which others possessing riding and shooting qualifications may be drafted for the occasion. Each man will provide his own horse, clothing, saddlery, and accoutrements, the Government making a capitation grant therefore, and supplying arms and camp equipment. The pay will be at cavalry rates.

Regarding the infantry, volunteer companies will be raised for attachment to each battalion of regulars serving, or ordered to South Africa, with a corresponding reserve company at home. The terms of enlistment will be the same as that of the yeomanry.

The volunteering enthusiasm continues everywhere. It is remarkably strong in Scotland. A colonel in Edinburgh says he could lead a thousand men out of that city in a week. Among the prominent volunteers are the Earl of Dudley and Lord Arthur Grosvenor, son of the Duke of Westminster.

The yeomanry are to wear neutral tint cloth shooting jackets, not necessarily uniform, felt hats, breeches, and gaiters. All must be good riders and marksmen.

The Lord Mayor of London, Mr. Alfred Newton, is raising and equipping a force of a thousand volunteers among the city corps. The large city firms are contributing the necessary assistance. Col. Sir Charles Howard Vincent, commander of the Queen's Westminster Volunteers, has also offered to raise a regiment of a thousand picked marksmen.

GUNS BEING PREPARED.

There are being prepared at the Woolwich arsenal, for shipment at once, eight 5-inch guns, on specially designed carriages. These guns are adapted for the use of a flying column, in view of facility of attack, pursuit, and retreat. They are of long range, and fire 50-pound shrapnel or lyddite shells, or common shells. The arsenal is also furnishing 18 more 5-inch howitzers.

QUEEN'S MESSAGE.

The Queen has sent a letter to Gen. Lord Roberts, the newly-appointed commander-in-chief of the British forces in South Africa, warmly sympathizing with him on the death of his gallant son, and thanking him for the great patriotism he has displayed in putting aside his terrible private grief in order to devote himself to the affairs of the nation.

BULLER FALLS BACK.

A despatch from Chieveley Camp, Sunday says:—General Buller's army moved back five miles to-day, the march beginning at one o'clock this morning, two brigades going to Frere, in order to defeat a possible attempt on the part of the Boers to execute a flank movement to destroy the railroad on the British rear.

The Boers admit that they suffered considerable loss during Friday's battle.

The British lost in Friday's action 140 killed, 634 wounded, and 311 missing or prisoners.

The most daring exploit of that great action was the attempt of Capt. Schofield, Capt. Colgrove, and Lieut. Roberts, son of Lord Roberts, to bring off the disabled guns left near the river bank on the British right. Lieut. Roberts, who was mortally wounded, was buried to day.

Capt. Colgrove was wounded in the leg, and four other bullets pierced his clothing.

The Boers express themselves as satisfied with Friday's battle, and boast that they cannot be turned out of their present position. The Dutch stripped our dead.

During the fighting some heroic deeds were performed, the irregulars vying with the regulars for distinction. Lieut. Ponsoby, of Thornycroft's Mounted Infantry, and Pte. Farmer, of the Natal Carbineers, attempted to save some of their comrades at imminent peril to their own lives. An injured man carried by Lieut. Ponsoby was mortally wounded while in the arms of that officer.

An eye-witness of the battle of Colenso states that the ammunition column thrice attempted to get to the abandoned field guns, but the fire was too hot. An armoured train also made an unsuccessful attempt.

The prominent feature of the fighting was the marvellous rapidity with which the Boers moved their heavy guns from point to point.

WHITE CAN HOLD OUT.

The London Daily News says it is assured by high authority that the War Office is not anxious concerning the safety of Ladysmith, and that there is a supply of food in the town

which is sufficient to last for more than three months.

Another statement claims that the troops in Ladysmith have plenty of ammunition.

FLAG OF TRUCE AGAIN.

The New York World prints the following despatch from Chieveley, Natal, dated December 16th:—

There was heavy firing this morning at Ladysmith. Col. Bullock, of the 1st Devonshire, three of his officers, and forty of his men were taken prisoners by Boers flying a flag of truce, and looking for their wounded. An ambulance train is taking the British who were wounded in yesterday's, Friday's, battle at the Tugela river to Estcourt and Pietermaritzburg. An armistice has been asked for until midnight to bury the dead. The Boers state that their loss was small. They can be seen to-day placing guns in new positions, commanding the camp. The heat is intense, but the British troops are well.

SPIES CAPTURED.

A despatch from Modder River says: While the British litter-bearers, under Chaplain Robertson, were burying their dead at Magersfontein some of the Boers were inclined to be communicative. The gist of their statements was that while the fighting was outside their own boundaries they were entirely satisfied. They said they knew their own farms were safe, and furthermore, even if the British were victorious, the burghers felt that their farms would not be confiscated. Therefore, they had descended on Kimberley and Aliwell North, marched through Laing's nek into Natal. Their Government believed that in fighting in British territory they might induce their compatriots in all of South Africa to fight for the control of the country; whereas if the Boers retired within their own frontiers this hope would be at an end.

Three suspected spies, including two milk sellers, were arrested here yesterday and held for examination.

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS.

The London Daily News' Cape Town correspondent says that the Boers marched the British prisoners taken at Stormberg to Burgersdorp, the march occupying 48 hours, during which time the prisoners were without food or water.

The wounded were at first placed in a school-house by the English residents, but the Boer women in the town remonstrated, declaring that the "Rooneks," as they term the English, ought to be shot.

The blankets were taken from the wounded men and their beds were given to the Boers.

TO CALL DOWN PORTUGAL.

The London Standard hints editorially this morning that if Portugal continues to allow supplies of war material and foreign volunteers to reach the Transvaal through Delagoa Bay, England will have something to say in the matter.

MASSING AT STORMBERG.

A despatch from De Aar says that the Boers intend to make a determined stand at Stormberg. They are massing in great force at the abandoned British camp. One of their camps is occupied by 2,000 men, mainly colonial Afrikaners. A number of natives have been sworn in as special constables to watch the Dutch residents on the border.

A STARTLING STATEMENT.

Premature Burials in the Proportion of One to Two Hundred.

A despatch from New York, says:—Members of the Academy of Medicine were startled on Tuesday night by an uncanny declaration made by Dr. Henry J. Garrigue. "Those who have made a special study of the question assert that out of every 200 coffins put underground in this country the occupant of at least one of them is simply in a lethargic state, and is buried alive." The cabinet met to discuss the subject of premature burial, and to witness the workings of a graveyard life-saving apparatus recently invented by Count Michael De Karnick Karnick, Chamberlain to the Emperor of Russia. Dr. Garrigue asserted that decomposition of the vital parts is the only irrefutable and reliable sign of death.

FRANCO-CHINESE WAR NEXT.

Half a Dozen Frenchmen Wounded in a Lively Skirmish.

A despatch from Tacoma, Wn., says:—Hong Kong mail advices state another Franco-Chinese war is imminent over the delimitation of French "leased" territory at Kiang-Chou bay, on the Tonkin border. Marshal Su, China's most famous general, and the victor of the battle of Liang Shan in the last Franco-Chinese war, was sent to Kiang Chou bay with 30,000 well-drilled troops. He bore special orders from the Empress Dowager to uphold the Chinese cause, and fight, if necessary, without further orders from Peking. A skirmish between Chinese and French troops followed his refusal to longer temporize over boundary negotiations. Half a dozen Frenchmen were wounded, and sixty Chinese. Marshal Su is preparing for a big fight.

A STOLEN KISS.

Jone's wife left him because he stole a kiss.

She must be particular.

She is. He stole it from the cook.

AN INSULT.

Tramp—Please, ma'am, will you give me a bite to eat?

Lady—I haven't anything cooked, but I can give you a pair of old shoes.

Tramp—Excuse me, ma'am, but I'm no goat.

CANADA'S SECOND CORPS.

DIVIDED BETWEEN ARTILLERY AND MOUNTED INFANTRY.

Total of 1,044 Men—A Very Rigid Inspection—Not a Great Many Men to Be Taken From the Militia—Possible Officers.

Details of the composition of the second Canadian contingent have been given out. It will consist of three squadrons of mounted infantry, each 177 officers and men—total, 531 officers and men, and 536 horses; and three field batteries of artillery of 171 officers and men each—total 513 officers and men, 393 horses and 18 guns. The grand total is, officers and men, 1,044; horses, 929.

THE OFFICERS.

For the mounted infantry there will be a Colonel, a Major, two surgeons and two veterinaries, and for each squadron a captain, three lieutenants and a veterinary. For the artillery there will be colonel, major, two officers and perhaps a veterinary captain, and for each battery, a captain, three lieutenants and a veterinary surgeon. This roster of officers may be changed subsequently.

Of the three squadrons of mounted infantry one and a half squadrons will be recruited from the Northwest Mounted Police and the ranches of the Northwest, the other squadron and a half will be drawn from the Royal Canadian Dragoons and the militia cavalry. With the levy from the Royal Canadian Dragoons this practically leaves only one squadron to be recruited.

FROM THE MILITIA.

Moreover, according to Mr. Chamberlain's cable to Lord Minto, previous cavalry training is not necessary as long as a man is a good shot and a good rider. The uniform will be khaki and a cowboy hat—rough-rider togs in fact.

The artillery will be recruited from the field batteries of the Dominion. This arrangement leaves about a battery and a half to be drawn from the militia.

THE RECRUITING STATIONS.

Recruiting will be commenced at once, the District Officers Commanding have been notified last night. The recruiting stations will be:

For artillery—Winnipeg, Kingston, Gananoque, Hamilton, St. Catharines, Toronto, Guelph, London, Ottawa, Port Hope, Quebec, Montreal, Granby, Woodstock, N. B., Newcastle, N. B., and Sydney, N. S.

For Mounted Infantry—Toronto, St. Catharines, Peterboro, Ottawa, London, Kingston, Montreal, Quebec, Sussex, N. B., St. John N.B., Canning, N. S., Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Virren, Brandon, Yorkton, Regina, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Battleford, Moosomin, Qu'Appelle, Lethbridge, Fort McLeod, Medicine Hat, Maple Creek, Calgary, Edmonton.

THE HORSES.

Commissioner Herchmer, of the Northwest Mounted Police, has been instructed to grant discharges to all men applying for enlistment, and also to have the horses of the force and the mounts brought in by civilians closely inspected by the veterinaries. The Government will buy the latter at a valuation, the maximum price, which is seldom reached, being \$150.

The Imperial Government will pay officers and men from the time they arrive in South Africa. The Canadian Government will make up the difference of 12 cents, between the regular pay of a Northwest Mounted policeman and that of a British cavalryman.

VERY CAREFUL SELECTION.

Men and officers will be selected with great care and compulsion will be an insuperable obstacle to enlistment. Everyone must be as hard as nails. The mounted infantry will be armed with the Lee-Enfield rifle and revolvers; the artillery will have sabres and revolvers, and each battery will carry twelve carbines attached to the gun carriers. The khaki uniforms are being rushed through. The transport bill will be about \$276,000. The contingent is expected to leave Halifax early in January.

POSSIBLE OFFICERS.

Some names are already mentioned for officers: Dr. Fleming, a son of Sir Sanford Fleming, for surgeon Major Hurdman, of the Ottawa Field Battery, for a captaincy; Lieut.-Col. Evans, now on his way home from the Yukon; Dr. Evans, of the Royal Military College, for surgeon; Lieut.-Col. Wilson, Quebec, for the artillery brigade. Offers of service are pouring in from all over the Dominion. Infantry officers have a small chance of enlistment.

Charles Ross, a well-known Northwest scout, and Capt. "Gat" Howard, of Northwest rebellion fame, have volunteered their services.

MOUNTED POLICE MISSING.

Three Who Went Out From Dawson to Search for Edmonton Trail Unfortunates, Possibly Lost.

A despatch from Seattle says:—During the latter part of last August, Corporal Skirving of the Northwest Mounted Police and two comrades were sent out from Dawson to search for ill-fated parties on the Edmonton trail. Nothing has been heard from the rescuers since, and fears are entertained for their safety.

MARKETS OF THE WORLD.

Prices of Grain, Cattle, Cheese, &c in the Leading Ports.

Toronto, Dec. 26.—Wheat—Outside markets were easy, and local business dropped into a dull rut again. Red and white Ontario is quoted at 65 to 67c, according to nearness to the mill, goose wheat at 70 to 70 1-2c, middle freights, and 69 1-2c, north and west; and spring, east, 65c, for export. Manitobas easier; No. 1 hard, g.i.t., 77c; and Toronto and west, 76c, asked; and track, Midland and Owen Sound, 73c.

Flour—Dull. Exporters were bidding only \$2.55 per bbl., for strongest roller, in buyers' bags, middle freights. They report cables easy.

Mill feed—Scarce. Bran is quoted at \$12 to \$12.50, and shorts at \$14 to \$14.50 west.

Corn—Dull. No. 2 American, yellow, quoted at 41c, track, Toronto; and mixed at 40 1-2c. Canadian corn dull at 39 1-2 to 40c, track, Toronto.

Peas—Unchanged. Car lots sold at 67c, north and west, and at 58c, east.

Barley—Demand quiet; car lots of No. 2, middle freights, sold at 38c; and No. 1 was quoted at 40c.

Rye—Demand light. Car lots, 49c, west, and 50c, east.

Oats—Steady. White oats, 25 1-2c, north and west; 26c, middle freights; and 26 1-2c, east.

Buckwheat—Easy. Car lots, east, 49c, asked, and west, 48c, asked.

Oatmeal—Rolled oats, in bags, track, Toronto, \$3.25; and in wood, \$3.35 per bbl.

Detroit.—Dec. 26.—Wheat—Closed—No. 1, white, cash, 70 1-2c, No. 2 red, cash and December, 70 1-2c; May, 73 1-2c.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—A slack demand and small clearances at the seaboard took the starch out of wheat to-day, May closing 3-4c under yesterday, 1-8 to 1-4c down, and oats 3-8c lower. Provisions closed unchanged. New York reported only ten boat loads taken for export. Seaboard clearances, in wheat and flour, were 46,000 bush; primary receipts were 562,200 bush, against 1,169,100 last year. Minneapolis and Duluth reported 353 cars, compared with 349 last week, and 918 a year ago. Local receipts were 75 cars, 32 of contract grade.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Flaxseed—Closed—North-West and South-West, \$1.48 1-2; December, \$1.48 bid; May, \$1.44. Duluth, to arrive, \$1.38 1-2; cash, \$1.42 bid; December, \$1.42; May, \$1.43.

Minneapolis, Dec. 26.—Wheat—In store, No. 1 Northern, 64c; May, 66 1-2c; July, 66 7-8c; On track—No. 1 hard, 66 1-4c; No. 1 Northern, 65c; No. 2 Northern, 63c. Flour and bran—Unchanged.

Milwaukee, Dec. 26.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, 66 1-2c; No. 2 Northern, 64 to 66c. Rye—No. 1, 55 1-2c. Barley—No. 2, 44c; sample, 37 to 43 1-2c.

Buffalo, Dec. 26.—Spring wheat—Very dull; No. 1 hard, spot, 76 1-4c; No. 1 Northern, spot, 74 1-4c; No. 2 Northern, 71 1-4c. Winter wheat—Quiet; No. 2 red, 71 1-2c; mixed, 71c; No. 1, white, 70 1-2c; asked, Corn—Steady; No. 3 yellow, 35 3-4c; No. 4 yellow, 35 1-4c; No. 3 corn, 34 1-2 to 34 3-4c; No. 4 corn, 34 1-4c. Oats—Steady; No. 2 white, 28 3-4 to 29c; No. 3 white, 28 to 28 1-4c; No. 4 white, 27 1-2c; No. 2 mixed, 26 3-4 to 27c; No. 3 mixed, 26 1-2c. Rye—No. 1, in store, 59c; No. 2 do, 58c. Flour—Firm.

Duluth, Dec. 26.—Wheat—No. 1 hard, cash, 65 1-8c; No. 1 Northern, cash, 64 1-8c; December, 65 1-4c; May, 68 1-8c; July, 69 1-8c; No. 2 Northern, 61 5-8c; No. 3 spring, 58 1-8c.

Toledo, Dec. 26.—Wheat—No. 2, cash and December, 69c; May, 73c. Corn—No. 2 mixed, 31 1-2c. Oats—No. 2 mixed, 24c. Rye—No. 2 cash, 55c. Cloverseed—Prime, cash, old, \$4.95; December, \$5.70; March, 5.80. Oil—Unchanged.

CONTINENT OF MINES.

Powerful Incentive That Has So Rapidly Developed South Africa.

The rapid development of Africa is due to the gold, iron, coal and other mineral deposits. The Kimberley mines are located in British territory, just outside the boundaries of the Orange Free State, about 600 miles from Cape Town, and supply 99 per cent. of the diamonds of commerce. The existence of these mines was unknown prior to 1807, and since their discovery \$350,000,000 worth of rough diamonds have been taken from them, which, after cutting, were easily worth double.

Equally wonderful are the Witwatersand gold fields, located in the South African Republic, better known as the Johannesburg mines. A few years ago this territory was worthless, and used only for pasturage. Gold was discovered there in 1883, and the first year \$50,000 was taken out. In 1888 this amount was \$5,000,000, in 1889 \$10,000,000, in 1892 over \$20,000,000, in 1895 over \$40,000,000, and for the last two years \$55,000,000 a year.

But more important than gold or diamond mines are the vast virgin coal fields of Zululand and the practically unlimited iron and lead mines in the other parts of Africa, waiting, untouched, for the pick of the white man.

NEW FRENCH RIFLES.

The French War Office is rejoicing over a new civilizing influence which may outdo even our dum-dum bullet. It is a rifle, and experiments have proved how deadly a weapon it is. At 2,000 yards the bullet went right through a horse placed obliquely to the line of fire, the bones in the track of the bullet being shockingly smashed.