

FIGHTING AT LADYSMITH

Two Fierce Onslaughts Made, the Enemy Being Driven Back at the Point of the Bayonet.

A despatch from London says:—General Buller, commanding the Ladysmith relief column, cables to the War Office, as follows:—

"Frere Camp, Jan. 6.—The following telegram was received from General White, the commander at Ladysmith, January 6, 9 a.m.:

"The enemy attacked Caesar's camp at 2.45 a.m. in considerable force. The enemy was everywhere repulsed, but the fighting still continues."

"Frere Camp, Jan. 6.—The following was received at 11.30 a.m., to-day, from General White:—

"Jan. 6, 11 a.m.—The attack continues. The enemy has been reinforced from the south."

"Frere Camp, Jan. 6, 12.45 p.m.—The following has been received from General White:—

"I have beaten the enemy off at present, but they are still round me in great numbers, especially to the south, and I think a renewed attack very probable."

"I see the sun has failed, so I cannot get further information from Ladysmith until to-morrow."

A third despatch from General Buller says:—

"Frere Camp, Jan. 7.—I received the following to-day from General White:—

"At 3.15 p.m., Jan. 6, the attack was renewed, and was very hard pressed."

"I have absolutely no more news. There is no sun."

"There is a camp rumour that General White defeated the enemy at 5 p.m., and took 400 prisoners."

"I sent all available troops to make a demonstrative attack on Colenso."

"The trenches there are all occupied by the enemy."

EARL OF AVA WOUNDED.

The London Morning Post's correspondent at Frere camp, in a despatch dated Jan. 6, says:—

"A private telegram from Ladysmith states that the Boers attacked at two o'clock this morning in great force from all sides. The garrison opened a tremendous fire, and repulsed the enemy."

"Three distinct attacks were made. The fighting continues, but the cannonading has dwindled."

"The Earl of Ava, eldest son and heir of the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, was seriously wounded in the thigh during the assault on Ladysmith."

BOERS CAPTURE PRISONERS.

The War Office has received the following despatch from General Sir Frederick Forester-Walker:—

"Cape Town, Jan. 6.—General French reports to-day that the situation is much the same as yesterday, but regrets to report that a serious accident has happened to the 1st Suffolk Regiment. From news which has just come to hand from General French, I gather that with his authority and knowledge, four companies of the 1st Suffolks advanced by night against a low hill, one mile from their camp. They attacked it at dawn. Lieut.-Col. Watson, commanding, gave orders for a charge. He was at once wounded."

"Orders for retreat were given it is said, by the enemy, and three-fourths of the force retired to camp. The remainder held their ground until they were overpowered by greater numbers, when they surrendered. Seventy were taken prisoners, including seven officers."

"Gen. French reports that the commando which attacked him on January 4, lost 500 men killed, besides the wounded and prisoners. The commando was dispersed."

"Referring to my telegram of Jan. 3, General French reports that a medical officer set out to collect all the wounded north-east of Colenso Saturday. An exact list of the prisoners has not yet been ascertained. The number is probably about 70. The 1st Essexes have been sent to replace the Suffolks."

"The position of affairs, tactical and strategical, shows no alteration. A Boer medical officer admits it was intended to leave Colenso. The enemy's loss day by day from our fire is heavy."

"There is no change in the situation as regards General Methuen and General Gatacre."

GUNS IN PLANO BOXES.

A despatch from London, Monday, says:—The Customs officials have detained as contraband two large guns that were being shipped on a steamer in Millwall docks. The cases in which the guns were packed had been used for pianos. They were consigned to a well-known firm in Christiania, Norway, and had been declared as ironmongery."

The Customs officials are very busy, the War Office having ordered that all vessels leaving British ports be most carefully searched for contraband."

It was recently found that the Boers were supplied with arms and tinned foods that were made in England. On Friday the port of London Customs detained a ship that was carrying six Maxim guns, and another that had a cargo of biscuits and preserved meats. The captains' explanation of the destination of their vessels were deemed unsatisfactory, and the ships were consequently held."

A despatch from Cape Town, says:—

"A despatch to the Times from Rensburg, says that Tuesday night the British set fire to the trucks of the runaway train which has been wrecked by the British artillery when it was seen that the train, which was loaded with provisions, would otherwise fall into the hands of the Boers. The New South Wales troops, who were detailed to set the trucks on fire, worked under a heavy shell and rifle fire. A party of Boers were trying to loot the wrecked train, but were compelled to retire by the British artillery. The shrapnel shells burst over the enemy, doing considerable damage. Many riderless horses were seen running about after the fire began."

The Boers sought shelter at Flewman's siding, but well-directed shelling compelled them to abandon this place."

The enemy took a field gun at a gallop through a pass opposite the British right. The British immediately shelled the gun, but the enemy made no reply."

The despatch adds:—

"The Boers are practically surrounded, and if there were more British troops here we could cut their lines of communication."

"The booming of cannon can be heard from the centre at Colekop. The Berkshires have been reinforced. The Inniskillings, Tenth Hussars, and B Horse Artillery command the left of the position. The O Horse Artillery, Mounted Infantry, New Zealanders, and barneers, under Col. Porter, are on the extreme right. Gen. Brabazon is in command."

"Our troops are playing the Boers at their own game, but they are unappreciative."

The British casualties to Gen. French's force up to the afternoon of Jan. 3 were five men killed and 24 wounded."

A detachment of 25 New Zealanders had a narrow escape while advancing on Colenso. They were directed to occupy a kopje, but met with a hot reception from a concealed force of Boers. Another body of British troops, seeing their danger, doubled to the rescue of the New Zealanders, and their retreat was successfully accomplished, under cover of the guns on the hills westward."

Colekop is now the principal scene of the fighting."

The British supply train wrecked contained 22,000 rations and a supply of rum."

GEN. BULLER'S FORCE.

A despatch from London says:—The critics, in summing up the probabilities of General Buller making another attack, estimate his force at nearly 30,000 men, with 66 guns, including six howitzers against General Joubert's 25,000 men and 60 guns, but whose position and mobility will more than counterbalance the numerical superiority of the British. The critic of the Morning Post labours daily to prepare the public for heavy losses. He says:—

"Once General Buller sets out his object will be to win decisive battle. His aim will be to inflict the greatest possible loss on the enemy, and if he can, to crush or cripple the Boer army. It will be necessary for that purpose that he does not spare his own force."

WORRYING THE ENEMY.

Winston Churchill sends the following to the London Morning Post, dated Camp Frere:—

"The increased activity of the British cavalry has proved very satisfactory to Gen. Buller."

"In my judgment this war will not be ended by the capture of any particular place or town, but by the commandoes in the field getting tired of their losses. The killing of high officials of the Boer army, I believe, is the only sure and certain way of arriving at peace."

"Ceaseless worrying of the Boers by the British in the last few days has proved very effective."

"The Boer entrenchments are daily extending in all directions along the hills beyond Tugela river, but their work within range of the British naval guns is most uncertain business."

CARRIED THE BABIES.

A despatch from Belmont, Cape Colony, Wednesday, says:—Colonel Pilcher, it is officially announced, being only on a raiding expedition, and for military reasons being unable to occupy Douglas permanently, has evacuated the town, bringing off all the loyalists. He has now returned safely to close proximity to Belmont. When he announced the necessity of evacuating the place, the inhabitants of Douglas declared their lives were not worth five minutes' purchase after the troops left. Colonel Pilcher therefore invited them to accompany him to Belmont. The preparations were speedily completed, but the vehicles of the town were totally inadequate to convey the refugees, so the troops gave up the transport wagons to the women and children."

"C" CO. ACTED AS AN ESCORT.

The Canadians acted as an escort of the refugees, carried babies for the women, and kept everybody lively by singing, as they marched pluckily along, in spite of sore feet, occasioned by the heavy sand."

The force received General Buller's

congratulations on the success of the expedition with great satisfaction."

REINFORCEMENTS FOR FRENCH.
Reinforcements of infantry and artillery have been despatched to General French from De Aar. There is great satisfaction here at the news that De Aar has been able to send General French reinforcements of guns and infantry, of which he appears to be so much in need. General French reported that with slight reinforcements he could take the town. The fighting in the hills is incessant."

FLOTILLA OF WARSHIPS.

A despatch from London, says:—The Admiralty announces that the first-class torpedo gun boat Harrier, which was ordered to watch suspicious foreign vessels dealing in contraband goods, has arrived at Aden."

It has been decided that a small flotilla of warships shall be maintained on duty watching all South African ports."

FIGHT AT MAFEKING.

A despatch from Colonel Baden-Powell, dated December 26, describing the last known sortie from Mafeking, says:—

"We attacked the enemy's works this morning, endeavoring to push back the cordon northwards. Our force consisted of three guns, two squadrons of the Bechuanaland Protectorate Regiment, one squadron of the Bechuanaland Rifles, and an armoured train."

"The enemy had strengthened their works during the night, and had doubled their garrison since yesterday's reconnaissance. Nevertheless, our attack was pressed home with the greatest possible gallantry and steadiness under a very hot fire, but all our efforts to gain the interior by escalade failed, the fort being practically impregnable to attack."

"We only withdrew after six of our officers and a large number of men were hit."

"The general situation is unchanged. The health and spirits of the garrison are most satisfactory."

"Our casualties were:—Killed 3, officers and 18 non-commissioned officers and troopers; wounded, 1 officer and 23 non-commissioned officers and troopers."

No mention is made in the despatch of the reported wounding of Lord Edward Cecil and Lord Cavendish Bentinck. Gen. Forester-Walker, at Cape Town, points out in forwarding the message that while the despatch gives all the names it fails to show that six officers were hit."

It is believed that a traitor in town warned the Boers, as the works were crowded with burghers awaiting the attack. The British retired slowly, reforming at a distance of 400 yards. The British loss was 21 killed and 23 wounded."

BOER GUNS DISABLED.

A despatch from Frere Camp, Friday, says:—A native who has arrived here reports that two of the Boer guns have been knocked over by the British naval guns. One of the wrecked guns is a 40-pounder."

Lord Dandonald, with 200 mounted men, two field guns, and a Maxim, opened fire on the Boers this afternoon, while patrolling towards Hlangwane hill."

The Boers had fired on the British outposts. The naval guns soon followed, shelling the trenches, which were full of Boers."

The troopers then retired, covered by the field and naval guns."

The British sustained no losses. The Kaffirs are evidently giving the Boers assistance by lighting beacon fires when the British patrols start out. The result is that the British never succeed in cutting off the enemy and return to camp tired and disappointed after their hard work."

A fact that goes to support this belief is that the sheep, cattle, and goats belonging to the Kaffirs are never looted by the Boers."

BOERS' NIGHT ATTACK.

A despatch from Rensburg, Cape Colony, says:—About 1,000 Boers while leaving Colenso last evening made an attack under cover of the darkness on General French's forces."

At 5 o'clock this morning the Royal Horse Artillery, with four guns, compelled the Boers to retire upon a kopje. After a considerable rifle and shell fire the mounted infantry dismounted, charged the Boers successfully, and took 19 prisoners. The Boer casualties were 50."

During the fighting the Inniskilling Dragoons effected a surprise movement and charged on the retreating Boers. They killed seven, and cut their way clear through."

Two British officers, who mistook the Boers for the New Zealanders, were captured."

The Boers' attempt at a night surprise was very gallant and determined, but it was frustrated by the British vigilance. The Boers gained and held a small kopje and commenced a turning movement. The British then opened a withering fire, which the burghers were unable to withstand, and they broke away."

The 10th Hussars started in pursuit of the Boers. Major Harvey, commanding the Hussars, was killed while leading his men, and Major Alexander, the second in command was wounded."

General French has been reinforced with a battery of field artillery and a battalion of infantry."

ZULUS BEYOND CONTROL.

A despatch from Pietermaritzburg, says:—The restlessness of the Zulus is increasing. Many of them are on the verge of starvation and there have been several instances of looting stores. It is feared the magistrates will not be able to restrain the warriors much longer. It is asserted they are anxious to attack the Boers."

After an interval of thirteen days, in which no cases were discovered, bubonic plague has broken out again in Honolulu."

CANADIANS IN BATTLE.

Toronto Company Receive Their Baptism of Fire--Help to Defeat the Boers.

A despatch from Belmont, Cape Colony, says:—A force consisting of 100 Canadians, of the Toronto Company, and 200 Queenslanders, commanded by Col. Rickards, two guns and a horse battery, under Major de Rougemont, forty mounted infantry, under Lieut. Ryan, and 200 of the Cornwall Light Infantry, the whole commanded by Col. Pilcher, left Belmont on Sunday at noon on a march westward, covering 20 miles before sunset."

The force encamped at Cook's farm, where the troops were welcomed enthusiastically. At six o'clock Monday morning the force approached a spot where a laager of the Boers was reported."

Col. Pilcher, on approaching the position, which was a line of strong kopjes, detached Major de Rougemont with the guns, Torontos, and mounted infantry, to work towards the right, making a turning movement himself with the Queenslanders towards the south position."

The manoeuvre was a complete success. The British shells were the first indication of the presence of the troops."

The Boers left their laager and opened fire, but the Queenslanders completing the movement, the laager was captured, with forty prisoners."

The British casualties were two men killed, three wounded, and one missing. The whole force worked admirably. The two men killed belonged to the Queensland contingent."

DYSENTERY AND FEVER.

The War Office has issued a message sent by General White at Ladysmith on December 31, in which he states that dysentery and fever are on the increase in his camp."

BRITISH PRISONERS.

The War Office publishes a telegram received from the Boer commandant-general at Pretoria under date of December 29, in reply to a request from the British commander at Cape Town for particulars as to the condition of the wounded English soldiers now held as prisoners by the Boers."

The Boer commander furnishes the information desired. His telegram states that nine of the wounded British prisoners are at the hospital at Pretoria, and 30 others are being taken care of in the Boer hospital at Indee."

TREACHERY IN FRENCH'S CAMP.

A despatch from Rensburg, Cape Colony, says:—A train containing supplies, to which no engine was attached, started moving within the British

lines on Monday, and ran down an incline towards the Boer lines. It was found that the train could not be stopped, and the British gunners were therefore ordered to destroy it to prevent the supplies from falling into the hands of the Boers. Their aim was accurate, and the cars and their contents were soon worthless. What started the train is unknown, but treachery is suspected. One man has been arrested in connection with the matter."

LOYAL PEOPLE OF DOUGLAS.

A despatch from London says:—Lacking news from the British camps in South Africa, whose future action can alone have an important effect on the larger issues of the campaign, the British public is making the most of Col. Pilcher's miniature battle. Unbounded tribute is paid to the prowess of the Canadians and Australians, and graphic accounts are published of the enthusiasm in Douglas as the victorious troops entered that place. The representative of the Associated Press with the flying column says:—

The immediate result of Col. Pilcher's success is the entire dispersal of the rebels, who have been governing the country for the past six weeks."

After Sunnyside was captured the Torontos occupied the laager for the night, and joined the main body the following morning, bringing the whole of the Boer tents, wagons and loot, and leaving the Cornwall in garrison at Sunnyside. The British force then started for Douglas, the Torontos bringing up the rear, in wagons."

In the afternoon the wagons entered the town unopposed, and amid extraordinary scenes. The inhabitants were overjoyed, and crowded about the soldiers, shaking hands with them, and when they learned that their deliverers were Canadians and Australians the enthusiasm became frenzied."

There were deafening cheers as the troops traversed the main street, and it was almost impossible for them to make progress, the crowds being so eager to shake hands with the Colonials."

It appears that the landroast and all the mounted rebels evacuated the place on the previous night. The unmounted rebels are reported to be entrenched in the vicinity. Quantities of ammunition were captured and destroyed."

THE PRISONERS ARE REBELS.

A despatch from the Modder River intimates that the Sunnyside prisoners will not be treated as prisoners of war, but as British subjects caught in open rebellion."

At the Modder River camp the conduct of the colonials is greatly admired and all are delighted that they have struck the first blow on the western frontier since the battle of Magersfontein. It is believed the relief of Kuruman will quickly follow."

MARKETS OF THE WORLD

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

Toronto, Jan. 9.—There was a much more satisfactory and business tone pervading the western cattle market here this morning. The trade has not quite got over the holiday feeling, but we had some quick sales of good stuff to-day, and the indications are that there will be a more lively general demand."

Shipping cattle is in fair demand at from 41-4 to 43-4c per lb. Choice offerings will realize 5c per lb."

By no means all the butcher cattle here sold to-day, but there was a good enquiry for the best stuff, which sold quickly at steady if unchanged prices; for the choice butcher cattle here 4 to 41-4c per lb. was paid."

Shipping bulls, stockers, milkers, and feeders were practically unchanged."

"Small stuff" was in demand and sold well at a slight advance in prices for the better grades."

Good veal calves are wanted. Hogs are unchanged; for choice hogs the top price is 43-8c; light hogs sell at 4c; and fat hogs are only bringing 33-4c per lb. Too many fat hogs are coming in."

Following is the range of quotations, which are largely nominal:—

Cattle.	
Shippers, per cwt.	\$4.00 \$4.75
Butcher, choice do.	3.75 4.25
Bu cher, med. to good.	3.40 3.50
Butcher, inferior.	2.40 2.75
Stockers, per cwt.	2.25 3.25
Sheep and Lambs.	
Sheep, per cwt.	3.00 3.62 1/2
Lambs, per cwt.	3.50 4.25
Bucks, per cwt.	2.25 2.50
Milkers and Calves.	
Cows, each.	25.00 50.00
Calves, each.	2.00 10.00
Hogs.	
Choice hogs, per cwt.	4.00 4.37 1/2
Light hogs, per cwt.	4.00 4.00
Heavy hogs, per cwt.	3.62 1-2 3.75

Toronto, Jan. 9.—Wheat—Outside markets continued very dull to-day and prices were practically at yesterday's level. Local prices were steady and trade quiet. Red and white Ontario is quoted at 65 to 67c, according to nearness to the mill, goose wheat,

69 1-2 to 70c, outside; Manitobas firm; No. 1 hard, g.a.t., 78c, Toronto and west, 77c, and track, Midland and Owen sound, 73 1-2c; spring wheat, on the Midland, sold at 65 1-2c."

Flour—Dull. Exporters bid \$2.55 per 'bbl. for straight roller in buyers' bags, middle freights, and holders ask \$2.70. Millfeed—Scarce. Bran is quoted at \$12 to \$12.50 and shorts at \$14 to \$14.50 west."

Corn—Quiet. No. 2 American yellow, quoted at 41c, track, Toronto; and mixed at 40 1-2c; Canadian corn dull at 39 1-4 to 40c, track, Toronto."

Peas—Demand quiet. Car lots sold to-day at 57c, north and west, and at 58c east."

Barley—Quiet. Car lots of No. 2, middle freights, sold at 38c; and No. 1 was quoted at 40c."

Rye—Demand light. Price a shade better; car lots 49 1-2 west, and 50 3-4 east."

Oats—Rather firmer. White oats, 25c, north and west, 25 1-2 bid, middle freights; and 26c, bid, east; mixed 1-2c lots."

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."

Duluth, Jan. 9.—Wheat—No. 1 hard, cash, 65 7-8c; No. 1 Northern, cash, 65 3-8c; May, 68 3-8c; July, 69 1-2c; No. 2 Northern, 62 7-8c; No. 3 spring, 59 3-8c."

Minneapolis, Jan. 9.—Wheat, in store—No. 1 Northern, Jan., 65 3-4c; May, 65 3-4c; July, 68 to 68 1-8. On track—No. 1 hard, 66 3-4c; No. 1 Northern, 65 3-4c; No. 2 Northern, 63 1-4c."

Chicago, Jan. 9.—On a heavy demand and light offerings provisions showed a strength and activity far outshining the grain markets to-day. May pork closing at 22 1-2 to 25c; May lard, 12 1-2 to 15c, and May ribs, 15c, higher. Wheat was depressed by the Liverpool weakness, but steadied on war news and strength of provisions."

Buffalo, Jan. 9.—Spring wheat—Enquiry good; limits unchanged; No. 1 hard, 76 1-4c; No. 1 Northern, 74 3-4c; Winter wheat—Unsettled; no enquiry; No. 2 red, 71c; No. 1 white, 70 1-2c bid. Corn—Active enquiry; firm; No. 3 yellow, 37c; No. 4 yellow, 36 1-2c; No. 2 corn, 36 3-4c; No. 3 corn, 36 1-4 to 36 1-2c. Oats—Dull; No. 2 white, 30c; No. 3 white, 29 to 29 1-4c; No. 2 mixed, 27c; No. 3 mixed, 26 3-4c. Rye—Quiet; No. 2, in store, 57 1-2c. Flour—Firm."

With the arrival at Manila of the U.S. transport Grant, which left San Francisco on Dec. 21, Gen. Otis will have command of an effective force of about 65,000 men."