

# GREAT NATION IN ARMS.

## Voluntary Training Throughout the British Empire.

A despatch from Johannesburg says:—The Caledonia Society gave a banquet in honor of St. Andrew's day. There was a brilliant gathering, including representatives of the Army and the Administration. Governor McKenzie made an important speech. He said that he would follow the custom observed in many of the colonies of the Ministers making a forecast of the Government's policy at the banquets given on St. Andrew's day. He declared that the decision had been taken that all British subjects of suitable age should in the future bear arms. He expected that the citizens of Johannesburg on returning to the district would make a force of 20,000 men, which would be named the Rand Rifles. This force would be able to defend the district against any possible hostile force in South Africa. This was in the interest of the people, who would thus be enabled to recommence industry without fear of interruption.

A probable result of the war would be that the principle of a nation in arms as against a standing army would be accepted throughout the Empire. He believed that the beneficial training, physical development, and independence of the race would not interfere with its commercial and industrial progress. Germany, with conscription, was making a great industrial advance. The plan he mentioned was not conscription, but voluntary training. Governor McKenzie thanked the society for the references made to the Administration, and said he was doing his best to continue the Government until the civil authorities were replaced.

Messrs. Hoskins, Dunn, and others referred to the war as inevitable, saying it resulted from the irreconcilable conditions prevailing in South Africa, which were due to the Boers having diverged from their peaceful progress of fifty years ago.

### FIRED ON THE AMBULANCE

#### Driver Killed and the Assistant Wounded.

A despatch from Pretoria says:—One hundred New Zealanders who were in Gen. Knox's fight at Rhenoster kop had all their officers and thirty men killed or wounded. They fought with dogged courage for seventeen hours without moving.

An incident of this fight deserves mention. A gunner of the Seventh Battery was lying wounded on the flat glacis which sloped toward the Boer position. One of the British surgeons tried to remove him, but the Boer riflemen made a target of him at once. The doctor crept back over the rise and brought up a Red Cross ambulance wagon so that the Boers would understand the nature of his mission. The moment the ambulance wagon appeared on the sky-line the Boers concentrated a fire on it at a distance of 400 yards. The native ambulance driver was killed and another assistant was wounded. The latter and the wounded gunner had to remain unattended until night.

### RELEASED PRISONERS.

#### De Wet Has Also Abandoned a Krupp Gun.

A despatch from Aliwal North says:—Wednesday night a British patrol came into contact with De Wet's outpost, close to the place where his main force was laagered. They took one prisoner, who stated that De Wet was suffering from continual trekking, and had abandoned a Krupp gun near the south bank of the Caledon river. The prisoner also asserted that all British prisoners captured at Dewetsdorp had been liberated, with the exception of the officers.

### BURIED IN A MINE.

#### Desperate Battle for Life by Thirty-Two Miners.

A despatch from Scranton, Pa., says:—Imprisoned one thousand feet in a coal mine at Dunmore, near here, 32 men had a desperate battle for life on Wednesday, as the result of a mine cave-in, and only succeeded in gaining their liberty by digging their way out. The cave-in was at the mine of the Nay Aug Coal Company. Five acres of surface fell into the mine and completely blocked the exit of the 32 men, who were far in the interior. Those on the outside formed themselves into rescuing parties, and, while feeling that the men could not be reached in time, worked with a will. Meanwhile the imprisoned men were not idle. With their shovels and picks they began working at a point where the fall had blocked the main gangway at a point where it led to a roadway through which an exit could be made. After some hard work they succeeded in clearing away sufficient of the fall to get through before the rescuing party reached them. None of the men were injured.

### AT BRONKPORT'S SPRUIT.

#### 2,500 Boers Surrounded and 80 Have Been Killed.

A Pretoria despatch says that fighting has been going on for four days at Bronkport's spruit. Commandants Viljoen and Erasmus, with 2,500 Boers, are surrounded, and so far 80 Boers have been killed.

### WANTS THE WAR TO END.

#### The British Cabinet Is Anxious That It Be Finished.

A despatch from London says:—Strong pressure is being brought to bear on Cecil Rhodes to induce him to hasten his plan for the pacification and federation of South Africa. Foremost among those who are applying this pressure are some of her Majesty's Ministers. Although they are working quietly and through unofficial channels, they are now convinced that the solution of the question lies in putting forward such terms as will enable Great Britain to maintain its dignity and yet clear the troops out of South Africa with as little delay as possible.

They also think that Mr. Rhodes is the only man equal to the demands of the hour. Several cablegrams have been despatched to him during the last few days, urging that he throw himself unreservedly into the van of the conciliation movement. It is felt that if he does so he will be the greatest man in the Empire, and can take almost any position he wants.

A high commanding officer, lately home from the Transvaal, states that the British Army in South Africa has been thirteen months without tents, and on half rations; their clothes are in rags, and all this has made the army unanimous in the cry to be allowed to go home. People may talk of the sufferings of the Boers, but the sufferings of our own soldiers are more severe. Nobody can stir without being shot at, and the shooter invariably rides away before anything can be done against him. Added to these things, there is the certain prospect of famine in the "conquered districts."

### DE WET'S NEMESIS.

#### Guerilla Leader Again Treks, With Knox at His Heels.

A despatch from London, says:—Lord Kitchener informs the War Office that it is reported that De Wet's force has gone east and north-east from Odendaal. Gen. Knox is following it.

He also confirms the despatch from Aliwal North, that a Krupp ammunition wagon had been captured, and that all the British prisoners taken at Dewetsdorp, with the exception of the officers, have been released.

Lord Kitchener states that while the British, at the request of a Boer field cornet, were handing over some women to the Boers near Belfast, under a flag of truce, the burghers vigorously attacked a neighbouring infantry post, which held out until relieved.

### CHINA'S PARTITION.

#### Peace in China Impossible, Say Peking Advisers.

A despatch from London says:—The Peking correspondent of the Morning Post, in a despatch dated Thursday, says the impression is growing among all the nationalities there that peace is impossible. It is believed that a resumption of the campaign in the spring is inevitable. The partition of the empire is regarded as the only solution of the trouble.

## MARKETS OF THE WORLD

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

### BREADSTUFFS, ETC.

Toronto, Dec. 11.—Wheat—Export demand for red and white wheat continues at 64c, middle freights, and 65c east. Goose wheat was rather better at 62c, middle freights. Manitobas are steady. No. 1 hard is scarce. Quotations are as follows:—Red winter, 64c; and white, 61c, middle freights; goose wheat, 62c, middle freights; No. 1 spring wheat, east, 66c; Manitoba, No. 1 hard, old, g.l.t., 93c; and No. 2 at 88c.

Millfeed—Scarce, Ton lots, at the mill door, sell as follows:—Bran, \$12 to \$12.50; and shorts, \$14 to \$14.50, west.

Corn—Steady. No. 1 American, yellow, 47c, on track here; and mixed, 46c; Canadian corn, here, 45c.

Peas—Bids have declined, and offerings are light. There would be good buying of No. 2 on a basis of 60c, high freights, and 61-2c east, but holders want more money.

Barley—Quiet, and about steady. Exporters still buyers, especially of heavy feed barley. No. 2 east, 41-2c; and middle freights, 40-1-2c; No. 3 extra, 40c east; and 39c, middle freights.

Rye—Easy. New rye, 46c west; and 47c east.

Buckwheat—About steady but quiet. Car lots, west, are quoted at 49c, and east at 50c.

Oats—Quiet and about steady. Choice new white oats, middle freights, are quoted at 26c; and east at 26 1-2c. Light white oats, and mixed oats, west, 24c.

Flour—Irregular. Export buyers say there are fair offerings at \$2.60 and they report buying under that figure. Holders ask \$2.60 for 90 per cent. patents, in buyers' bags, middle freights; and exporters bid \$2.55. Special brands sell locally from 10 to 20c above these figures.

Duluth, Dec. 11.—Wheat—No. 1 hard, cash, 73 1-4c; No. 1 Northern, 71 1-4c; No. 2, do, 62 to 67c; No. 3 spring, 53 to 60c; to arrive, No. 1 hard, 75 1-8c; No. 1, December, 71 1-8c; May 75 1-4 to 75 3-8c. Corn—Not quoted. Oats—23 1-2 to 23 1-4c.

Buffalo, Dec. 11.—Spring wheat—Unchanged. Winter wheat—No. 2 red, held at 78c; white, 75 1-2c; mixed, 76 to 78 1-2c. Corn—Steady, No. 2, yellow, 43 1-2c; No. 3 yellow, 43c; No. 4 yellow, 42c; No. 2 corn, 42 3-4c; No. 3 corn, 42 1-2c; No. 4 corn, 41 1-2c; Oats—Firm; No. 2 white, 28 1-2 to 29c; No. 3 white, 29c; No. 4 white, 26 3-4 to 27c; No. 2 mixed, 25 3-4c; No. 3 mixed, 25c. Barley—Extra, 64 to 65c; choice to fancy, 62 to 63c; fair to good, 57 to 60c; low grades, 54 to 56c. Rye—Nominally 55c. Flour—Quiet, steady.

Detroit, Dec. 11.—Wheat—No. 1 white, cash, 77c; No. 2 red, cash, 77c; December, 77c; May 79 7-8c.

Chicago, Dec. 11.—Wheat was weak to-day, on lower cables and a poor shipping demand; January, closing 7-8 to 1c lower. Corn closed a shade to 1-8c higher, and oats 1-8c lower. Provisions at the close were 21-2 to 7 1-2c improved.

Minneapolis, Dec. 11.—Wheat—Cash, 72 1-2c; December, 72 1-8c; May, 74 1-4c; on track, No. 1 hard, 74 1-2c; No. 1 Northern, 72 1-2c; No. 2, do, 70 1-4c.

### LIVE STOCK.

Toronto, Dec. 11.—We had a total here to-day of 50 carloads of live stock, comprising 1,600 hogs, 1,000 cattle, 700 sheep and lambs, two dozen calves, and a few milkers.

We had no export business to-day. In other respects the market was steady, and quotably unchanged.

All the goods to come, butcher cattle sold readily at good steady prices the prices for the best stuff ranging from 4 to 4 1-2c, per pounds. More cattle of good quality was here to-day than has been the case for some time. In regard to medium and inferior cattle, there was no change, sales were slow and prices were weak.

Stockers, feeders, and export bulls are unchanged, and slow of sale; bulls were a shade weaker.

Little was done in milkers, as few were up to the requisite mark; good cows are enquired for, and will sell up to \$50 each.

Calves are steady and in fair demand; good calves are wanted.

No change occurred in sheep, though there were indications of weakness; prices range from \$3 to \$3.30 per cwt.

Lambs are firm, though for extra choice lambs a shade more than the figures quoted below might be paid.

Hogs are firm and unchanged. Hogs to fetch the top price must be of prime quality and scale not below 160 nor above 200 lbs.

Following is the range of quotations:—

## THE CHASE AFTER DE WET.

### Belief in London That the Great Raider's Capture is Near.

A despatch from London says: The fox chase has gone on in the worst possible weather, with drenching rains and swollen rivers. De Wet, having failed in a second attempt to force the passage of the Orange river, with Knox's troops in hot pursuit. He doubled back northeast on a zig-zag was not overtaken at Rouxville, and was apparently heading for Wepener over the road taken by Olivier in his retreat from Aliwal North last spring. But there was a chance that he might turn about on a fresh zig-zag and strike for Herschel, on the way to Barkley East.

The fox was still running when Gen. Kitchener's bulletin was sent out on Saturday morning, but was hard-pressed on all sides, and well-nigh caught.

Military men were convinced Saturday night that General Kitchener had not neglected to send a strong column to Wepener from Dewetsdorp, and if this had been done they could not perceive how the great raider could escape.

His abandonment of horses and carts they considered a sign that he was hurried nearly to death, and they confidently predicted news of his capture any hour.

The British mounted forces are riding as never before during a campaign. One secret of their remarkable mobility is explained by military men as the adoption of Boer tactics. The British columns are moving light, and have horses to spare for remounts. The accounts of their wonderful marching have revived interest in the campaign.

Cattle.	
Shippers, per cwt. ...	\$ 400 \$ 450
Butcher, choice do. ....	400 440
Butcher, medium to good. ....	350 400
Butcher, inferior ..... ..	300 350
Stockers, per cwt. .... ..	225 300
Export bulls, per cwt. ....	325 400
Sheep and Lambs.	
Sheep, per cwt. .... ..	275 330
Lambs, per cwt. .... ..	325 400
Bucks, per cwt. .... ..	250 300
Milkers and Calves.	
Cows, each ..... ..	2000 5000
Calves, each ..... ..	200 800
Hogs.	
Choice hogs, per cwt. ....	575 600
Light hogs, per cwt. ....	550 575
Heavy hogs, per cwt. ....	550 575
Sows ..... ..	375 400
Stags ..... ..	225 250

### EIGHT DROWNED.

#### Barge Founders in a Great Storm in Lake Erie.

A despatch from Erie, Pa., says:—In the midst of one of the most bitter gales that ever swept Lake Erie, the iron ore barge Charles Foster, in tow of the Iron Duke, went to the bottom at 4 o'clock this morning, 10 miles off Erie, and eight persons were drowned as follows:—Captain John Bridge, of Cleveland; first mate, unknown; second mate, unknown; seamen Robert Woods, William Kelly, of Port Austin, Mich.; Cook, Mrs. May, of Detroit, two unknown deck hands.

The Foster was one of the fleet of James Corrigan, of Cleveland, and for two months had been running from Duluth, to Erie with iron ore. Her cargo consisted of 1,500 tons of ore.

Captain Ashley, of the Iron Duke, made Erie in safety. In an interview he said:—

When we turned for the harbour a sea much heavier than any other experienced struck us. I ran to the stern. Just as I got there the Foster plunged in an awful sea and dove down nose first. There was not a cry from a soul of the crew of eight she carried.

The storm was so heavy that I could not put about to hunt for anyone. There would not have been a particle of use anyhow, because in those tremendous seas no one could have lived a minute, even if the water had not been icy cold. Had there been a cry for help I would have turned and risked my ship. It was all I could do to make part in safety myself. There had not been a single signal of distress from the Foster up to the time she sank.

There is from 800 to 1,000 feet of water where the wreck occurred, and there is little hope of ever being able to locate the place. The Foster was valued at \$19,000, but there was no insurance, as it elapsed December 1. The cargo was not insured. The life-saving crew took a trip out to-day but could find no traces of wreckage.

### BOERS WERE HEADED OFF

#### Knox Prevents Them From Reaching Cape Colony.

A despatch from London, says:—General Kitchener reports from South Africa that the mounted troops of General Knox were engaged all day long on Sunday with part of General De Wet's forces north of Bethulie. The Boers, he adds, were headed off, and retired in a north-easterly direction.

A despatch from Cape Town reports Hans Botha has been raiding near Standerton, capturing cattle and stores. The British sent out a force which drove the Boers off and recaptured the loot.

### TRAVEL INTERRUPTED.

#### Bridges Washed Away Between Pretoria and Johannesburg.

A despatch from Pretoria says:—It was hoped that direct railway communication with Johannesburg, which has been interrupted owing to the destruction of a bridge at Irene, would be restored in a day, and that the use of a deviation from the regular line would not be necessary. Owing to the heavy rains, however, it has been impossible to repair the break caused by the washout, and it is now reported that another bridge has been washed away, making a further deviation necessary, in the line between here and the Cape. Heavy supplies are now being sent here to guard against any shortage that might be caused by further breaks.

It is probable that a town guard of British residents will be established here similar to the one at Johannesburg.

### EXPENSES OF TWO WARS.

#### What the South African and Chinese Wars Cost.

A despatch from London says:—The second supplementary estimate of the war in South Africa, and the expedition to China for the financial year ending March 31st next, was presented on Friday. It amounts to £16,000,000. The expenses of the war in South Africa and China up to August last were £69,323,000, \$346,615,000.

### LOST OVER 100 MEN.

#### Boers Suffered Heavily in Their Attack on Convoy.

A despatch from Pretoria says: It is stated that the Boers suffered heavily in the attack on the British convoy that was proceeding from Pretoria to Rustenburg. Their casualties are estimated at 100. They were also frustrated in their attempt to obtain supplies.

## BOERS BURNED CONVOY.

### They Score Another Success Near Rustenburg.

A despatch from London says:—Gen. Kitchener, who is now commander-in-chief of the British forces in South Africa, has cabled to the War Office from Bloemfontein that 500 men belonging to the commando of Gen. Delarey, made a determined attack on a British convoy at Baffelspoort, that proceeding from Pretoria to Rustenburg.

The troops in charge of the convoy hastily took up a position to

make a defence, but the Boers burned half of the convoy.

Reinforcements for the British arrived, and the Boers were then dispersed.

The British lost 15 killed, including Lieut. Baker, and 23 wounded.

The Boers suffered considerable loss, some of them being killed with case shot at 50 yards. Guns and assistance were sent from Rustenburg and Commando nek, and the Boers driven off.