

BOERS CAPTURE HORSES.

Stopped Two Trains and Took British Remounts.

A despatch from Pretoria says:—A train proceeding from Natal to Johannesburg was held up early Saturday morning by 150 Boers near Vlak-eagle. The Boers used oxen to pull up two lengths of rails, and the train, which contained remounts for the troops, was necessarily compelled to stop. The burghers made the horses jump out of the trucks and captured 131 of them.

A second train, conveying provisions, was fired on, and the engineer was wounded. The locomotive was slightly damaged. The men in charge of the

train were compelled to alight and watch the Boers getting the horses off the train ahead.

While this was being done, a third train, with a few soldiers aboard, came up. As soon as the soldiers saw what was going on, they opened fire on the Boers, who having secured the horses galloped away on them. They left two trucks untouched.

Later the rails were relaid and the trains proceeded.

The Boers raided the Riverton road station on Tuesday. They are being followed up.

MARKETS OF THE WORLD

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

THE STREET MARKET.

Toronto, Dec. 18.—On the street today 400 bush white wheat sold at 67 to 67 1/2c, 400 bush red wheat at 67 1/2 to 68c, 1,000 bush. goose wheat at 61 to 61 1/2c, 1,000 bush. barley at 41 to 45c, 900 bush oats at 29 to 30c; twenty five loads of hay sold at \$12 to \$14 a ton, and six loads of straw at \$12 to \$12.50. Dressed hogs sold at \$7

Following are the range of quotations:

Wheat, white, straight	\$0.67	\$0.67 1/2
Straw, per ton	12.00	12.50
Wheat, spring	0.61	0.61 1/2
Wheat, goose	0.60	0.60
Peas	0.40	0.45
Barley	0.40	0.45
Rye	0.60	0.61
Oats	0.29	0.30
Hay, per ton	12.00	14.00
Straw, per ton	12.00	12.50
Dressed hogs	7.00	7.50
Butter, lb. rolls	0.40	0.42
Eggs, new laid	0.24	0.25
Chickens, per pair	0.93	0.94
Turkeys, per lb.	0.09	0.10
Geese, per lb.	0.06 1/2	0.07
Ducks, per pair	0.45	0.47
Potatoes, per bag	0.35	0.41
Apples, choice, per bbl	1.15	2.00
Apples, fair, per bbl	0.75	1.50
Bees, hnd quarters	7.00	8.00
Beef, fore quarters	4.00	6.00
Beef, carcasses	5.50	7.50
Calves, ea h	0.70	0.80
Mutton, per lb.	0.05	0.07
Lamb, spring, per lb.	0.77	0.8 1/2

DAIRY MARKETS.

Dairy.—Trade is active. Demand is good, supplies large and prices easy. An excellent local trade is being done. Commission houses sell to the trade as follows: Dairy, tubs and pails, choice, 17 1/2 to 18 1/2c; medium, 16 to 16 1/2c; poor, 13 to 15c; dairy prints, choice, 18 to 19c; large rolls, good to choice, 17 to 18c; creamery boxes, 20

Cheese—Full cream, July and August make, sells at 11 to 11 1/2c.

PRODUCE

Eggs—Fresh eggs are getting scarcer as cold weather becomes more prevalent. Lined are in fair demand and steady. Prices are as follows:—Boiling stock, 22 to 26c; fresh gathered, 17 to 19c; lined, 15c.

Poultry—Receipts to-day were larger, but the weather was favourable, and prices were firm. Turkeys were especially firm, probably owing to the large exports to Britain for the Christmas trade. Ducks were also firm. Prices were firm. Quotations are as follows:—Chickens, per pair, 25 to 30c; ducks, per pair, 40 to 65c; turkeys, per lb., 8 1/2 to 9 1/2c; geese, per lb., 6 1/2 to 7c.

Pork—Firm. Car lots on track here, and to-day at 50c. Sales, out of store, and made, at 33 to 40c.

Fruit, produce, etc.—Turnips, out of store, 40c per bag; onions, 40c per bag; carrots, 40c per bag; apples, per box, 40c to \$1; sweet potatoes, per box, \$2.00.

Dried fruits—Dried apples sell at 3 1/2 to 4c, and evaporated at 5 to 5 1/2c.

Beans—Ordinary white beans bring \$1.00 to \$1.25, choice hand-picked beans are quoted at \$1.40 to \$1.50.

Honey—Dealers quote from 2 to 3 1/2c per lb., for 10, 15, or 20-lb. tins, according to the size of the order. Comb honey sells at \$2.40 to \$2.75 per dozen sections.

Lard—Firm. Choice timothy, on track here, \$10.25; two-ton lots, delivered, sell at \$11.

Straw—Very scarce. Car lots of good straw, on track here, would bring \$7.00.

Hogs—Quiet. New crop is quoted here at 14 to 15c, and yearlings at 9 to 10c.

Toronto Dec. 18.—At the western cattle yards to-day we have a heavy run, as about 80 carloads of live stock came in. Cattle has been arriving every day this week, and some excellent specimens of Christmas cattle are among the receipts.

There was some shipping trade in cattle done to-day, and prices, advanced, good cattle selling up to 5c per lb., and in a few instances a little more was paid for selections. Prices ranged from 4 1/2 to 5c per lb.

For ordinary butcher cattle there was not much change and business was quiet, but all the good to prime cattle sold quickly at firm high prices.

RAIDING NEAR KIMBERLEY.

Stores Looted and Mail Bags Rifled By Boers.

A despatch from Fourteen Streams says:—A party of ten Boers, under Paul Martis, a Transvaal Boer on parole, surprised the inhabitants of Border Siding on Sunday, and seized two of the Cape Mounted Police, who were sitting in Barnes' store, took their horses, and after completely rifling the men, ordered them to proceed to Fourteen Streams and tell the British that 1,000 Boers were awaiting them. They looted a store, and the mail-bag, and made Barnes himself prisoner, subsequently releasing him on condition that he would remain at the siding. From Coelies store they also commandeered a large quantity of goods, for which they gave a promissory note. Two shots were fired by the party at a ganger's wife, but they missed.

Mr. McCra, a Phokwani farmer, who was proceeding to Fourteen Streams, was taken prisoner, but was immediately released. The Boers subsequently evacuated the siding. Natives state that the Boers fired upon a passenger train, and that two shots passed through a little girl's hand, afterwards wounding a man and a woman.

Neither railways nor telegraphs have been injured. Monday armoured passenger trains proceeded south. A patrol of ten men, under Lieutenant Fitzgerald, visited the siding, but found no signs of the Boers, although

o had already visited the stores for provisions.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, of Dgefontein farm, twenty-eight miles east of Boshof, with their two daughters and their son, who is only six years old, have arrived here after suffering severe privations at the hands of the Boers. Their farm was raided by a party of the enemy, under Captain Hendrik Snit. Mr. Roberts, was in bed with rheumatic fever, but he was made to get up and was placed in a cart, while his wife and children were compelled to walk. They started at four in the afternoon, and walked twelve miles, when they halted for the night. Next morning they walked from six to ten miles, when the ladies were unable to proceed further.

Another cart was commandeered for the family, and two days later they arrived at Petrusburg. Here they were housed in a dirty room with a mud floor, and were given nothing to eat or drink until the next day at noon, when they received some meals. They were only in the hands of the Boers for a fortnight, and during that time Mr. Roberts became so ill that he had to be attended by a Boer doctor, through whose influence his family was eventually released. He then procured an ox-wagon and came to Kimberley. He is still ignorant of the fate of his farm and belongings.

ROBERTS ON FARM-BURNING

Hopes the Necessity for Extreme Measures Will Disappear.

A despatch from London says:—In a memorandum to the Premier of Cape Colony, Sir John Gordon Sprigg, Lord Roberts explains that farm-burning has been ordered strictly in accordance with the usages of war. He says in part:—

"Whether the people whose houses are burned are actual accessories to the cutting of railways and other damage must be left to the general officers commanding to decide. They must be trusted to make a full enquiry before having recourse to extreme measures; but as this is essentially police work, I anticipate that when the police are established we shall find the necessity for burning gradually disappear, with less danger of the innocent suffering, and that my successor will eventually be able to abolish altogether a distasteful task."

POWERS SIGN THE NOTE.

Count Von Buelow's Proposals Agreed to by the Allies.

A despatch from New York says:—Herr Von Holleben, the German Ambassador, in discussing the Chinese situation, is quoted in a Washington despatch as saying:—

"The Chinese question, so far as vital issues are concerned, may be treated as solved. The work of the powers in China is now one of detail. The vital questions from this time will be the disposition of the various treaty rights and concessions. Germany stands for open ports and free access to the Oriental trade. If new treaties are negotiated—individually by the powers with China—or collectively by the Congress of Ministers now in session at Pekin—other questions of detail and administration may intrude themselves."

POWERS AGREE ON JOINT NOTE.

A despatch from London, says:—The negotiations of the powers in regard to the joint China note were concluded satisfactorily on Tuesday, all agreeing to the conditions identically as outlined by Count Von Buelow, the Imperial Chancellor of Germany, November 19, with the exception of the introductory clause saying the demands are irrevocable, which is eliminated.

FARM-BURNING ORDER.

Text of Lord Roberts' Regulation on the Subject.

A despatch from London says:—Forty-one proclamations of Lord Roberts have been published. They have been mostly summarized previously in the newspapers. The last one, dated November 18, says: "As there appears to be some misunderstanding as regards the burning of farms, the Commander-in-Chief wishes the following to be the lines upon which general officers commanding are to act: No farm is to be burned except for an act of treachery, or when our troops are fired on from the premises, or as punishment for the breaking of the telegraph or railway, or when used as bases of operation for raids, and then only with the direct consent of the general officer commanding. The mere fact that a burgher is absent on commando is on no account to be used as a reason for burning his house. All cattle, wagons and foodstuffs are to be removed from all farms. If that is impossible they are to be destroyed, whether the owner is present or not."

FIGHTING IN THE WEST.

Reinforcements Sent to Col. Meyrick at Wonderfontein.

A despatch from Cape Town says:—Col. Meyrick has been heavily engaged with the Boers at Wonderfontein, on the western border of the Transvaal. Lord Methuen has sent reinforcements to beat off the enemy.

PENSIONS FOR DISABLED.

Minister of Militia Will Introduce Bill This Session.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—The minister of Militia will introduce a bill at the coming session of Parliament to provide a pension fund for the Canadian soldiers who were disabled in South Africa.

A PRINCELY GMT.

Lord Mount Stephen Clears Aberdeen Infirmary of Debt.

A despatch from London, says:—Lord Mount Stephen, formerly president of the Canadian Pacific, has donated £25,000 to the Provoc' o' Aberdeen for the purpose of clearing the Aberdeen infirmary of debt.

TERRIBLE MARINE DISASTER

Steamer Capsizes Near Hong Kong 200 Lives Are Lost.

A despatch from Hong Kong says:—A frightful disaster resulting in the loss of two hundred lives occurred on the West river. A man fell overboard from a steamer near Hokow, and the four hundred passengers aboard made a rush to the side of the vessel to see what would become of him.

It transpires that the steamer overloaded, and the sudden uneven distribution of weight caused her to capsize.

Everybody was thrown into the water, and before aid could be rendered two hundred of the passengers were drowned.

DUTCH MINISTRY'S REPLY.

Definitely Declines to Do Anything for Kruger.

A despatch from The Hague says:—The Dutch government on Tuesday finally and definitely refused to take the initiative in behalf of arbitration between the Transvaal and Great Britain.

The decision of the government was communicated in an interview between Mr. Kruger and Dr. Leyds and the Dutch Foreign Minister and the Minister of Finance, N. G. Pierson. Mr. Kruger explained that the object of his journey was to disseminate the idea of arbitration, and the Dutch Ministers replied that the role of the Netherlands must be passive. The initiative belonged to the great powers, they added. When they should have reached a decision the Dutch government might see what it could do.

A serenade of Mr. Kruger by the scholars fixed for Tuesday night, was prohibited by the police out of fear of disturbance.

15,000 CASES OF TYPHOID.

Nearly Four Thousand of Which Proved Fatal.

A despatch from London says:—A question in the House of Commons on Tuesday elicited the statement that there had been 15,625 cases of typhoid fever among the British troops in South Africa, and that of this number 3,642 had proved fatal.

ECONOMIC CRISIS.

Extraordinary Slump in Prices of Mortgage Bonds in Germany.

According to a Berlin despatch there has been such a slump in the prices of mortgage bonds that unless public confidence is restored the economic stability of Germany will be imperilled.

The amount of mortgage bonds in circulation is five millions of marks, \$1,250,000,000. The mortgage banks were the principal sources of supply to the money market, their bonds being regarded as first-class securities. This confidence has disappeared and the public are selling bonds indiscriminately. The Pomeranian Bank in one week purchased \$4,000,000 worth of its own bonds. The First Preussische Hypothek Bank, and the Deutsche Grundschuld Bank are unable to meet the strain, and the Government has appointed receivers in both cases. The papers demand the arrest of Directors Sanden and Schmidt.

BUSINESS PARALYZED.

Newfoundland's Railroads Blocked by Snowstorms.

A despatch from St. John's, Nfld., says:—Fierce snowstorms continue to beset the island, blocking the railroads and paralyzing the transport system generally. Mr. Reid, the contractor, has given up running the street railroad in St. John's until next spring, owing to the heavy fall of snow. Several vessels are now stranded along the coast, and it is feared that they have foundered in the gales. The colonial cruiser Fionia was driven ashore on Monday in the storm, and carried away a part of her keel. She is leaking badly.

DROUGHT IN AUSTRALIA.

Not Enough Wheat for Bread in New South Wales.

A despatch from Ottawa, says:—J. S. Lark, Canadian commercial agent in Australia, reports that there is a poor outlook for good crops in New South Wales, owing to the drought. Some of the wheat was cut for hay, and if rain did not arrive soon there would not be enough for bread, far less for exporting. Victoria and South Australia promised better.

YIELD OF GOLD.

Klondike and Alaska Returns for the Present Year.

A despatch from San Francisco, says:—A careful estimate of the total yield of gold from the Klondike and Alaska, including Nome, for the present year has been completed by a smelting company, acting in conjunction with the statisticians of the San Francisco mint. The amount aggregates \$25,724,223.81, divided as follows:—Klondike, \$21,358,329.17; Nome, \$4,365,894.64.

SPARKS FROM THE WEST

Newly Items About Ourselves Our Neighbors—Something of Interest From Every Quarter of the Globe.

CANADA.

Parliament may meet February. A new building may be erected for the Supreme Court at Ottawa.

Brantford citizens have made a proposal to erect a soldiers' monument.

An important development series in the North-west of Canada will be represented at the Glasgow Exhibition which opens May.

The Kingston Board of Education decided to exclude non-residents from the present.

M. J. Haney has been elected of Hon. Wm. Hartly as Locomotive Works.

Woodstock ratepayers are questioning the question of incorporation at the January meeting.

Gen. Sir Charles Wolcott, Lord Seymour and Halifax.

The Hamilton "City Society" has awarded prizes to citizens for the most beautiful and windows.

Hon. Sydney Fisher has arranged for the fair there.

Dr. Anderson, of St. John's, has been appointed to the Government quarantine station, Victoria, B.C.

The Dominion authorities are considering the question of the Welland canal and its lawless characters.

The Adler-Dempsey likely use the North steamer Elbe, recently the St. Lawrence, round the fair there.

Hamilton policemen more a day on their contributions to the have also been increased.

The Central Canada tawa, has a deficit of receipts this year while expenditure was

David Horn inspected the wheat in Manitoba, October 19, against 13,087,460 bushels during the same period.

The American Cereal establish a factory will employ from 600 to 800 all the town has to do assessment of the \$700 for 42 years.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. Kipling has been recruited his

A New York contractor to build surface roads.

For publishing his paper a London was fined £300 and being sued for alleged libel of Mr. Joseph.

The late Lieut. F. of the Essex regt. awarded the Victoria Cross.

Sir Charles Welby, has been appointed to re-organization of the Department.

A station has been opened between Belgium and the statement of the of Trade for the month shows increases of 4 ports, and £52,700 in

Lord Roberts is expected in London on January met by the Prince and Wales, and will proceed to Cathedral, where a special thanksgiving will be held.

The British members of the national Arbitration Court are Poncefote Sir Edward Malins late British Ambassador to Gen. Lord Justice of Appeals, and John Westlake, professor of national law at Cambridge U.

UNITED STATES. Another negro lynching is from Rome, Georgia.

Geo. S. House, attorney, died from the effects of a his toe.