

A VERY TIGHT CORNER.

British Force Mistook Boers for British.

A despatch from London, says:—The news from South Africa is fragmentary, and adds little to the knowledge of the situation. Gen. Kitchener has left Naauwpoort and gone northward. His destination is unknown.

An unofficial report from Cape Town says that a squadron of Yeomanry who were pursuing the Boers who retired from Britstown, were ambushed by the burghers, and that several were killed and wounded and the rest captured. The War Office denies any knowledge of the affair.

There is a report that a British force mistaking 300 Boers for Boerpoort, near Burghersdorp, for Brabant's Horse, withheld their fire, and shortly found themselves in a very tight corner. Their commander extricated them with the loss of one prisoner and one man wounded. The British lost six horses. It is stated that the Boers lost a number of horses, and had several men killed

and wounded.

It is reasserted that the Dutch colonists continue to hold themselves aloof from the invaders, and although the presence of the latter in the Cape Colony renders the position serious, confidence is felt in the final result.

Mr. Duplessis, a member of the Afrikaner Bond and of the Cape Assembly, has sent a letter to the electors of Cradock expressing sympathy for the Boers, but urging the Dutch colonists to remain calm and quiet, and not to forget that they are British subjects.

Gen. Clements' success against the Boers in the Magaliesburg region is doubtful, the last despatch reporting that "it was considered advisable not to force the Boers from their positions."

The Daily Mail, which makes a strong appeal to the Government to "face the facts and send Lord Kitchener more troops," says:—"There is a real risk in being lulled to sleep by carefully censured messages."

FALSEHOODS FROM PULPIT.

How the Burghers are Deceived by Their Advisers.

A despatch from Pretoria, says:—Sunday four troopers who were severely wounded in the course of Gen. French's march to Machadodorp, and have since been prisoners in the hands of the Boers, were sent from Ermelo to Grobelaar's farm, three miles distant, where they were met and brought into camp on an ambulance. The men state that they were well treated. Dr. Everard, who accompanied them, reports that food is very scarce at Ermelo. All the flour, sugar, and coffee is finished, and the supplies consist of meat and mealies. The residents are kept utterly in the dark as to what takes place outside Ermelo. The Dutch minister last Sunday informed them from the pulpit that Queen Victoria was dead, that De Wet had crossed into Cape Colony and was carrying everything before him, and that Mr. Kruger was returning from Europe, having arranged intervention. Gen. Louis Botha with his staff paid them a visit a few days ago, and seemed inclined to advocate peace.

LOCOMOTIVE VS. MOOSE.

Curious Incident to a Canadian Pacific Train.

A despatch from Brandon, Man., says:—The Pacific Express was half an hour late in reaching this city Monday evening, and the delay was caused by one of the most curious happenings ever known in Manitoba.

The train was travelling at a slow rate of speed, and had just reached the Brandon mills when the engineer saw a giant bull moose standing on the track. He tooted the whistle and slowed up his train, but the king of the forest refused to move. He was not to be bluffed by any red-eyed animals with no more horns than a locomotive.

He was bent on fight, and tossing his antlers in the most defiant manner dashed toward the engine. The engineer saw him coming and opened up the throttle and went at him. It was only a fight of a minute. The bull's horns became wedged in the but to no avail. The train pulled up, and the remains were cleared away.

Conductor Fayhe brought a hind quarter of the carcass into the city, pickled, and he belovied and kicked, and his friends are now enjoying venison.

SERVICE RESTORED.

Trains Run Regularly From Cape Town to De Aar.

A despatch from Cape Town says:—The railway service between Cape Town and De Aar has been restored. The destruction of a bridge at De Aar turns out to be a culvert was damaged from De Aar. Regularly. There are no snows as the

SPARKS FROM THE WIRES

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

CANADA.

Typhoid and pneumonia are prevalent at Dawson.

Brantford market fees for 1901 were sold by auction to Joseph Bowes for \$1,310.

Berlin has had 151 new buildings and additions erected in a year, worth \$150,000.

The recent auction sale of Crown claims in Dawson brought \$60,000 for 13,000 sold.

The Government has ordered a survey of the French river, with a view of improving navigation.

A building is being fitted up at Ottawa for a census bureau. The census will be taken in April.

February 26th is the date fixed for the annual meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association at Ottawa.

Halifax temperance people are anxious to introduce a prohibitory liquor law in the Provincial Legislature.

Several more aliens have been deported from Hamilton to the United States under the Alien Labour Law.

A jury gave six Guelph district farmers \$50 damages against a storekeeper for selling them the wrong seed.

A conference will meet in Ottawa next January under the auspices of the Dominion Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

Alien Labor Officer Williams is at Bruce mines on the Soo branch of the C.P.R., investigating a complaint that the Copper Company has imported aliens.

An old man who stole a scarf at Hamilton, giving poverty as his excuse and declaring it to be his first offence, was sentenced to two months in jail.

The City of Kingston, has notified the Kingston Light, Heat & Power Co. of its intention of taking over the plant at a price to be decided by arbitration.

A cablegram to the department of Finance states that official notice has been given in The London Gazette of the admission of the Dominion inscribed stocks to the list of securities in which trust funds may be invested.

GREAT BRITAIN.

An organization has been formed in London to recover stolen milk cans.

A Government bacteriologist says he can inoculate horses against the fatal horse disease in South Africa.

Two cavalry regiments and a large number of horses will be sent to South Africa at once from England.

The Queen has appointed the Empress of Corea an honorary Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire.

Viscount Goschen and Viscount Ridley—these are the new titles for Mr. George J. Goschen and Sir Matthew White-Ridley.

The London dailies are showing that England is losing trade supremacy, being over-reached by the United States and Germany.

UNITED STATES.

A seat on the New York Stock Exchange was sold for \$50,000, the highest price on record.

It is said that a company has been formed in New York to control the crude rubber trade.

Alleged maladministration of the United States mining laws at Cape Nome, Alaska, is to be investigated.

A train robber named Barnes, pursued and wounded by officers of the law, cut his throat in a swamp near New Orleans.

The proprietor of a knitting mill at Bennington, Vt., unable to make any terms with his striking operators, has decided to move his mill to Elmira, N. Y.

Four large freighters are to be built at Cleveland for a new steamship company. They will carry grain, ore and general freight between Duluth and Buffalo.

GENERAL.

At Antwerp 30,000 dock labourers are out on strike.

A severe epidemic of influenza is reported at St. Petersburg.

It is stated that the Czar's illness will make him resign his throne.

Pare, the noted bank robber, had his leg amputated in Kingston Penitentiary.

Manufactures in Kingsville and other points in South Essex have been notified that in consequence of a shortage in supply their natural gas will be shut off. The Government will be appealed to to stop exportation of the gas.

The English Catholic Church of St. Joseph in Paris has been seized for arrears of taxes. The fathers will appeal for help to their co-religionists in Britain and America.

A Vienna doctor, ear specialist, has made a new drum for a patient in twenty weeks' treatment and destroyed the old ear drum, in which the "hammer and anvil" bones had grown together.

RIGHTS IN MODERN JERUSALEM

People in Quaint Costume Greet the Traveler on All Sides.

Studied, then, from its thoroughfares, says Cleveland Moffet, Jerusalem looks for all the world like a huge rambling fortress, with fighting towers and dungeon depths. On either hand, instead of lines of houses, you have formidable and continuous walls pierced with low doors and body-wide stairs and iron-caged windows. You cannot tell where one house begins and another leaves off, nor whether a certain opening leads to roof or courtyard or dwelling room. There is, indeed, one way to tell; that is, to push boldly in and up along stairs and passages and see what you can see.

Whatever else you fail to do in Jerusalem, and you are sure to neglect half the guide book admonitions, do not fail to study the streets from overhead, as many of them as possible. You can always find a viewpoint by a little searching. Take Christian street about mid-day, when the sun lights both sides, and get your station on the arch near David street, no matter if you have to do some clambering. Now look to the north, there where the greenish dome and white minaret rise. You see a straight way along the base of a high wall, window-pierced, with a lower wall on the other side, its stones old and grass-grown. Below, you see two lines of flimsy awnings, tipped down like the visor of a cap to shelter booths beneath from the white glare. You see donkeys, camels, sheep, peasants, soldiers, Greek priests, sisters of charity, tourists, pilgrims, Turks, and all who visit Syria, veiled women, sheeted women and beggars, you will see them all if you wait a little, moving to and fro, now lost under the awnings, now coming into the open. You can follow them between two squalid archways, the one that you are on and another, yonder where a cross-wall stops your view. You can watch them until you tire.

WILL NOT BE DEPORTED

Kitchener's Proclamation to Burghers Inviting Surrender.

A despatch from London, says:—Lord Kitchener, according to a despatch from Johannesburg, has issued a proclamation announcing that burghers who voluntarily surrender will be allowed to live with their families in the Government laagers until such time as guerilla warfare has sufficiently abated to admit of their returning in safety to their homes. The proclamation also promises that all property and stock brought in at the time of surrender will be respected and paid for if requisitioned by the military authorities.

SHE COULDN'T.

His 'aunt, horrified,—I wouldn't smoke a nasty cigar like that, if I were a little boy like you, Bobby! Bobby, complacently—You're right, you wouldn't! There ain't a kid in my gang that can smoke one of this brand without being laid up!

DIVERSITY.

Prunella—Do you know, after I had done all I could to encourage him he wouldn't kiss me. Perdita—Well, he kissed me. How did you manage it? I did all I could to discourage him.

THE OLD MAN'S BIRD.

MARKETS OF THE WORLD

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

BREADSTUFFS, ETC.

Toronto, Dec. 31.—Wheat—The local market was very slow again to-day. Quotations are as follows:—Red winter, 63 1-2c, and white, 63 1-2c, middle freights; spring wheat, east, 66c; Manitoba, No. 1 hard, old, g. t., 92 1-2c; No. 2 at 87c; No. 1 hard, North Bay, 91c.

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

Corn—Easy; No. 1 American, yellow, 45c, on track here, and mixed at 44 1-2c.

Peas—Steady; No. 2 sold, middle freights, at 61 1-2c; and east at 62c.

Barley—Very dull at present; No. 2 east, 41c; and middle freights, 40c; No. 3 extra, 39 1-2c, east; and 38 1-2c, middle freights.

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

Buckwheat—About steady. Car lots, west, are quoted at 45c; and east at 50c.

Oats—In fair demand; No. 1 white, east, 27c; No. 2 white, north and west, 26c.

Flour—Dull. Holders ask \$2.65 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.

PRODUCE.

Toronto, Dec. 31.—Eggs—Trade fair, mostly in cold stored. Prices are as follows:—New laid, 26 to 28c; cold stored, 18c; hmed, 15 to 16c.

Poultry—Receipts to-day were large, consisting of stock held by country storekeepers over Christmas. Quality was not up to the mark, and demand was slow. Turkeys sold at 7 1-2 to 8 1-2c; geese, at 6 to 7c; chickens, at 20 to 35c; and ducks, at 40 to 70c.

Potatoes—Firm. Car lots, on track here, 32c. Sales, out of store, are made at 40 to 45c.

Field produce, etc.—Turnips, out of store, 30c per bag; onions, 60c per bag; carrots, 40c per bag; apples, per bbl., 40s to \$1; sweet potatoes, per bbl., \$2.50.

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

Beans—Ordinary white beans bring \$1.20 to \$1.25; choice hand-picked beans are quoted at \$1.40 to \$1.45.

Honey—Firm. Dealers quote from 9 1-2 to 10c per lb for 5, 10, or 60-lb tins, according to the size of the order. Comb honey sells at \$2.40 to \$2.75 per dozen sections.

Baled hay—Firm. Choice timothy, on track, \$10.25. Two-ton lots, delivered, \$11.

Straw—Scarce. Car lots of straw, on track, here, \$7.

DRESSED HOGS AND PROVISIONS.

Toronto, Dec. 31.—Dressed hogs on the street to-day were unchanged at \$7.40 to \$7.75. Car lots, on track here, were quoted firm at \$7.10 bid for mixed lots. Provisions continue in good demand at firm prices.

Quotations for provisions are as follows:—Dry salted shoulders, 8c; long clear bacon, loose, in car lots, 10c; and in case lots, 10 1-4 to 10 1-2c; short cut pork, \$19.50 to \$20; heavy mess, \$17.50 to \$18.

Smoked meats—Hams, heavy, 12c, medium, 12 1-2 to 13 1-2c; light, 13 1-2c; breakfast bacon, 13 to 13 1-2c; picnic hams, 10c; roll bacon, 11c; smoked backs, 13c. All meats out of pickle 1c less than prices quoted for smoked meats.

Lard—Terres, 10c; tubs, 10 to 10 1-4c; pails, 10 1-4 to 10 1-2c.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—December corn closed 1c lower, January a shade higher, and May unchanged. Oats closed unchanged. Provisions at the close were 2 1-2 to 7 1-2c lower.

Minneapolis, Dec. 31.—Wheat Cash 72 1-2c; May, 73 3-4c; July, 75c. On track, No. 1 hard, 74 1-4c; No. 1 Northern, 72 1-4c; No. 2 Northern, 68 3-4 to 69 1-4c. Flour—First patents, \$4; second patents, \$3.90; first clears, \$2.80 to \$2.90; second clears, \$1.90 to \$2. Bran higher; in bulk, \$11.75 to \$12.

Duluth, Dec. 31.—Wheat—Cash, 78c; No. 1 Northern, 70 7-8c; No. 2 Northern, 66 1-2 to 66 1-2c; No. 3 Northern, 59 1-2c; to arrive, No. 1 Northern, 70c.

CHILDREN'S COLUMN.

Nine Men's Morris.

This interesting little game is played by two persons on a board marked with the diagram here shown, and buttons, beads or grains of corn of two colors may be used as men. Each player has nine pieces, none of which is on the board at the opening of the game.

The players take turns in placing their men, one at a time, at the points where

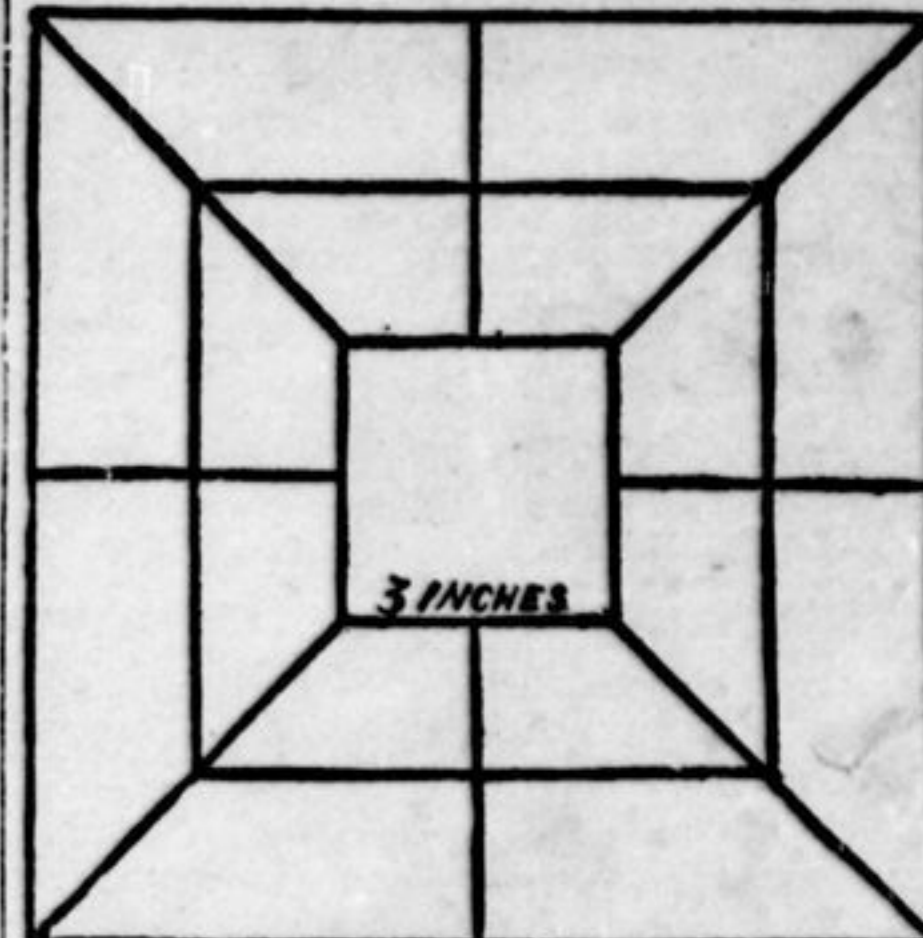


DIAGRAM OF NINE MEN MORRIS.

the lines meet each other and after all have been put on in moving them from one spot to the next in any direction along the lines. Each player's object, both in placing the men and moving them, is to form a row of three of his own pieces, and whenever this is done he may take from the board one of his opponent's pieces, but he must not disturb a row of three if there is any other that he can take. He who takes off all the hostile pieces wins. Sometimes when a player has lost all his men but three he is allowed to "hop"—that is, to play a man to any vacant spot on the board. The player must avoid crowding his men together and try to place them on or near the corners of the board, at the same time trying to block his opponent as well as to get his own men into line. When possible, it should be arranged to make more than one line in successive moves when by moving one man backward and forward two lines can alternately be made and broken.—Chicago Record.

A Brave Little Cripple.

A cripple boy looked up with bright eyes as the surgeon and the hospital nurse, followed by a group of young medical students, approached his bed. He knew what they were going to do. His weak, wasted, twisted leg was held rigid by a plaster cast. He saw the bowl of new plaster and the big basin and the sponge which the nurse was placing near the bed, and he saw the fresh bandages and the surgeon's glittering scissors and needles. His lips closed tightly for a moment.

"You're going to change my leg again, doctor?" he piped in a thin voice. "No, not your leg, my boy," said the surgeon cheerily; "only the plaster, for we're going to save your leg, you know. We won't hurt you much, so be brave now. It will soon be over."

"All right, doctor. Go ahead," said the boy. The lady who was visiting the hospital reached out and took his hand in hers.

"Is the operation very painful?" she whispered to the nurse. The nurse nodded.

The surgeon ran a sharp knife through the cast and peeled off the plaster in great flakes. The yellowed, tightly clinging linen was removed. The pitifully thin leg was sponged, and fresh bandages were drawn around it, the surgeon all the time keeping up a flow of kindly, encouraging words. The little sufferer did not stir or wince once during the operation, but he gazed fixedly at the ceiling and made a continual buzzing noise with his mouth.

After the surgeon and his attendants had left the bedside the lady visitor said to the boy: "How could you bear it so bravely? It must have hurt you dreadfully."

"Well, yes'm, it did hurt," he replied, "but I just made believe that a bee was stinging me. Bees don't hurt very much, you know. And I kept buzzing because I was afraid I'd forget about its being a bee."

The Good Ship Hayrack.

The captain's on the quarter deck: Ho, ye mariners, ho! The bos'n's mate is at the helm; So, ye mariners, so!

The wind is blowing sou'-sou'-west; To quarters pipe the crew And cast the good ship Hayrack off Her countries strange and new. —Good Housekeeping.