

THE WAR IN AFRICA.

British Campaign Has Been a Succession of Blunders.

Englishmen Have Noble Faith in Their New Commander, Lord Roberts, and Gen. Kitchener, His Chief of Staff.

[Special Correspondence.]

As was foreshadowed in these columns several weeks ago, the government of Great Britain has been forced, by recent events in South Africa, to mobilize its entire reserve and to call upon the volunteer corps of the United Kingdom for service away from home.

Surface observers forgot that the Boers did not engage in this unfortunate war for purposes of conquest, but, as they firmly and honestly believe, for the defense of their homes and their liberty.

The British reverses at Ladysmith, Stormberg, on the Modder river and at Tugela ferry were not accidents. It may be true, as some British authorities assert, that they were due to the ineffectiveness of British artillery; but even admitting this rather lame excuse each of the engagements mentioned proved the Boer leaders to be more efficient generals than their European antagonists.



TUGELA FERRY, THE SCENE OF GEN. BULLER'S DEFEAT.

into a strategic trap from which they extricated themselves only after most stubborn resistance and terrible loss.

The bravery and courage of the British privates and subalterns cannot be praised too highly. Their valor was magnificent, but, like the gallant charge at Balaklava, it was not war. Hundreds of noble lives were wantonly sacrificed to the shortsightedness of commanders who failed to take even ordinary precautions against ambushes and who conducted their campaigns along the lines of semi-savage warfare.



GEN. LORD ROBERTS. (From the Latest Photograph of the South African Commander.)

become convinced of a fact which has been patent for years to every war office on the continent of Europe, but which was denied and even ridiculed by every British commander from Wolseley down to the lowest general officer in the pay of the British crown—the fact that the Boers were fully prepared for the struggle.

Mistakes in military operations are, and always have been, looked upon as crimes unless, perchance, accident converted defeat into victory. Gen. Buller, whose arrival at Cape Town a few months ago was hailed with joy and popular acclaim, met the enemy—and the idol is shattered. The defeat at Tugela ferry, near Colenso, which resulted in loss of 1,100 men and a number of guns, was an incident for which the commander's superiors could patch up no satisfactory excuse, and consequently Buller had to be sacrificed.

quoror of the Soudan, was instructed to join Lord Roberts as chief of staff.

Whether Roberts, who is one of the bravest men in the British service, will succeed in invading and subjugating the Boer republics remains to be seen. Buller is as brave a man as ever rode a horse; yet he made a miserable failure, principally because he had never had an opportunity to fight a progressive, civilized foe. Roberts is in the same position. All his victories were won in the orient, the most notable being the battle of Kandahar, in 1880. He was at that time commander of the British forces in Afghanistan.

Gen. French reports, under date of January 6: "The situation is much the same as yesterday, but I regret to report that a serious accident has happened to the first battalion of the Suffolk regiment." "From news just come to hand from them, I gather that with the authority of Gen. French, four companies of the First battalion advanced by night against a low hill one mile from their camp. They attacked at dawn, Lieut. Col. Watson, commanding, gave orders to charge. He was at once wounded. Orders for retirement were given. Three-quarters of the force retreated to camp. The remainder held their ground until they were overpowered by greater numbers, when they surrendered. Seventy were taken prisoners, including seven officers.

A special dispatch from Frere Camp, dated January 6, says: "Gen. White heliographs that he defeated the Boers this morning. They crept up so close to the defending forces that the Gordon Highlanders and the Manchester actually repulsed them at the point of the bayonet."

London, Jan. 9.—Gen. White still holds out, or did so 60 hours ago, when the Boers, ousted from their foothold inside the works, suspended their assault at nightfall. England has taken heart. The situation, however, is worse. The beleaguered force must have expended large amounts of ammunition, which cannot be replenished, and must have lost a number of officers and men, which is counterbalanced, so far as the garrison is concerned, by the greater loss of the Boers.

Gen. White still needs relief, and the difficulties confronting Gen. Buller are as great as ever.

The former's unadorned sentences suggest eloquently the peril in which the town was for 14 hours, and how barely his 9,000 men were to keep from being overcome.

The chief concern for Gen. White is in respect of ammunition. His stock of ammunition must now be very low. The war office has published the following dispatch from Gen. Buller:

Frere Camp, Natal, Jan. 8.—The following is from White, dated 2 p. m., Sunday: "An attack was commenced on my position, but was chiefly against Caesar's camp and Wagon Hill. The enemy was in great strength and pushed the attack with the greatest courage and energy. Some of the entrenchments on Wagon Hill were three times taken by the enemy and retaken by us. The attack continued until 7:30 p. m. One point in our position was occupied by the enemy the whole day. But at dusk, in a very heavy rain storm, they were turned out of this position at the point of the bayonet, in a most gallant manner, by the Devons. The enemy were repulsed everywhere with heavy loss, greatly exceeding that on my side, which will be reported as soon as the lists are completed."

London, Jan. 11.—During the interlude of apparent military inactivity and official secrecy Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener have arrived at the seat of war.

London, Jan. 12.—Lee-Metford cartridges are running short in the British magazines and, according to a semi-official report, the war office purposes to fall back temporarily upon 100,000,000 "Mark IV" expanding bullets, most of which are already in storage in South Africa. The war office, however, has issued a strict order to the volunteers that the 50 rounds of "Mark IV" given them must be used in practice at home, none being taken to South Africa.

After the public announcement that no such bullet would be used in this war, its employment, the Daily Chronicle thinks, would be a serious breach of faith, especially as the British commanders have complained that the Boers occasionally use such projectiles.

The Daily Mail accuses the war office of "doctoring" official dispatches before their issuance, and cites particulars. The Daily Chronicle avers that there seems to be an official conspiracy against letting the truth be known.

Although the war office declines to confirm the report that Lord Methuen has been recalled to England, inquiries made at Methuen's home in Wiltshire have elicited the information that when he received his wound his horse threw him heavily and spinal and other injuries supervened.

The Daily Mail says: "We learn that in the attack on Ladysmith last Saturday the British losses were 14 officers killed, 34 wounded and over 800 non-commissioned officers and men killed or wounded. The Boer losses, we hear, are estimated at between 2,000 and 3,000."

Lorenzo Marquez, Jan. 12.—Inspection of travelers bound to the Transvaal is revived under an old law. No one will be allowed to proceed unless he declares before his consul that he has no intention of fighting for the Boers.

Methuen Is Said to Be Crazy. Chicago, Jan. 12.—A special cable to the Tribune from London says: Lieut. Gen. Lord Methuen, commanding the column advancing to the relief of Kimberley, is to be relieved of his command within two weeks. Later he will be sent to Cape Town and eventually ordered home. When he reaches England he will be retired. Those who know the circumstances and the situation on Modder river equally well and who are willing to state facts plainly, say that Methuen's mind is unbalanced.

BOERS REPULSED.

A Fierce Attack on Ladysmith is Beaten Back By the Town's Defenders—Other News of the War.

London, Jan. 8.—The war office publishes the following dispatch from Gen. Forester-Walker, commanding at Cape Town:

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"Gen. French reports that the Boer command which made the attack on January 4 lost 50 killed, beside wounded and prisoners. The command was dispersed."

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PRODUCED THE CASH.

A Witness in the Clark Bribery Case Exhibits \$30,000 that is Alleged to Have Been Given Out to Buy Votes.

Washington, Jan. 12.—More progress was made Thursday in the senatorial election investigation case of Senator Clark of Montana, than on any previous day of the sittings of the senate committee on privileges and elections in this case. Mr. Whiteside concluded his testimony and three other witnesses, State Treasurer Collins, State Senator W. A. Clark, of Madison county, a namesake but not a relative of the senator; Fred W. Cowan, a railroad conductor residing at Missoula, the home of Speaker Stiff, of the Montana house of representatives, were heard.

Mr. Collins' statement related entirely to the depositing of the \$30,000 in \$1,000 bills turned over to the legislative investigating committee by Mr. Whiteside and by that committee deposited with the treasurer. Mr. Collins exhibited this money and the exhibition attracted a large attendance of outsiders in the committee room.

Senator Clark's namesake detailed the particulars of his acceptance of \$10,000 from Mr. Wellcome, said to be one of Mr. Clark's managers, on the understanding that he was to vote for Mr. Clark for the senate. The witness said he had only accepted the money for the purpose of exposing the proceeding.

State Senator Clark said Mr. Wellcome had told him that he would put the money in Mr. Whiteside's hands for him, but Mr. Clark said he replied that that was not satisfactory; that he did not doubt Mr. Wellcome's word, but that he "must see the money." Mr. Wellcome had then told him that big bills were scarce, but that "the old man" would arrive from Butte that night and he would bring plenty of cash with him. Accordingly the money—\$10,000 in \$1,000 bills—was given to him by Wellcome that night. After counting it he placed it in an envelope, marked the envelope and handed it to Mr. Whiteside for safe-keeping. He said that when Mr. Wellcome gave him the money he had called him over into a corner of his room and, holding the bills up, had said that he had a fine engraving he wanted to show him.

He stated that when the \$30,000 in money was taken out of his pocket by Mr. Wellcome the latter laid it down on a steam radiator in the corner of the room. "I was not interested in the picture on the wall to which Mr. Wellcome directed my attention," he said. "I was looking after the money."

Speaking of the fact that he had not kept some of his promises to Mr. Wellcome, the witness said that he did not consider it wrong to deceive "that kind of a man."

Mr. Cowan's connection with the proceedings were confined to a visit to Helena at the request of Mr. Bickford, one of Senator Clark's friends.

SEIZURES DISAVOWED.

The English Government Declares that the Capture of Food Stuffs Was an Error.

Washington, Jan. 12.—The answer of the British government to Mr. Choate's representations respecting the seizures of American flour and other goods on the three vessels Beatrice, Mashena and Maria has been received, and the following official statement has been given out by the state department:

"A telegram has been received from Ambassador Choate reporting an interview had by him with the Marquis of Salisbury in regard to the American shipments of flour and provisions on the detained British steamers Beatrice and Mashona and the Dutch steamer Maria. The British position as to food stuffs and hostile destination is that they can only be considered contraband of war if supplied for the enemy's forces, it not being sufficient that they are capable of being so used, but it must be shown that this was their destination at the time of seizure. This qualification virtually concedes the American contention that the goods were not subject to seizure and practically disavows the seizure, it not being claimed that there is any evidence of hostile destination."

COAL IN CUBA.

An Important Find is Made in the Mayari District.

Santiago de Cuba, Jan. 12.—Business men, especially those interested in mining, were greatly interested in a test made Thursday of coal recently discovered in the Mayari district. A coal mine in Cuba would be of the greatest possible value. At present the price of coal is \$8 per ton for ships and steam plants; and there is virtually no domestic consumption, owing to this prohibitive figure. Scientists have always held that it was impossible that coal should exist in Cuba; and all tests of reputed discoveries heretofore have resulted in failure.

In yesterday's test the fire was kept burning continually for ten hours. The coal appears to be a product between bituminous and cannel. With a strong draft it developed a remarkable degree of heat, and experts declare it equal to the best steam coal in the southern states.

The mining possibilities of Cuba would be enormous if cheaper coal could be secured. Many iron and manganese mines would be developed. Julian Cendoya is the owner of the claims, and there are indications of a deposit practically unlimited.

Explosion Causes a Panic.

Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 12.—The explosion of a bomb in a closet in Sanderson theater at Harvard last night, while 500 or 600 people were listening to a Beethoven pastoral by the Boston Symphony orchestra, not only put a sudden end to the concert, but for a few minutes, by reason of the panic which followed, threatened the lives of many in a rush for the doors. Fortunately the tunnel was cut and the audience left quietly. The college authorities believe the whole affair was intended as a joke on the history

ECUMENICAL COUNCIL.

It Will be Held in New York City in a Few Weeks and Thousands of Delegates are Expected to Attend.

New York, Jan. 12.—At meetings held yesterday and last night the foundation plans were laid for the ecumenical conference to be held in this city from April 21 to May 1, 1900. The meeting last night was merely a preliminary one, presided over by President Seth Low, of Columbia university, for the purpose of placing before those interested in the conference a general scope and working plan of the body to meet here in April. The meeting in the day was of a private nature, the best methods of interesting church men and women of the country in the undertaking being discussed.

It is expected that there will be present about 2,200 delegates from all over the world. Those from the United States and Canada will be expected to pay their own expenses, but the 400 or more from foreign countries will have their expenses paid and be entertained while here in the city.

A special committee will go to Washington to urge President McKinley to be present during one of the days.

Ex-President Benjamin Harrison has consented to act as honorary president, and the officials expect to have present ex-President Cleveland, Admiral Dewey, Rear Admiral Philip, Chief Justice Brewer and many other notables from this and other countries.

The conference will be formally opened April 21, with a meeting in Carnegie hall. At this meeting addresses of welcome will be given and a general reception will follow. In the morning of the days during the conference delegates' meetings will be held at which the fundamental principles of missionary work will be discussed. In the afternoon public meetings will be held, at which prominent speakers will address the audiences. The plans of the conference also provide for a series of public receptions for the delegates.

The departments of work to be discussed in their relation to the determining aim of missions and the proportion and utility of each in conserving that aim, are those of evangelistic work, educational work, literary work, medical work, benevolent work and women's work.

A CHEMIST'S STORY.

He Tells of Finding Poison in the Corpse of Mrs. Adams and Barnett.

New York, Jan. 12.—The principal witness yesterday in the trial of Roland B. Molineux for the murder of Katherine J. Adams was Prof. Rudolph H. Witthaus, the well-known chemist, who made an analysis of Mrs. Adams' stomach, of various portions of Harry C. Barnett's exhumed body and of the box containing an effervescent salt which it is said Barnett took before his death. Dr. Witthaus said that he found mercuric cyanide in the contents of the Barnett box and the common constituents of Kutnow powder. He found a small quantity of cyanide of mercury in Barnett's liver. In the kidneys he found mercury and in the brain mercury.

Witness then took up the Adams case. In the deadly bromo-seltzer bottle Prof. Witthaus said all the constituents of the powder found by him were the regular constituents of bromo-seltzer, except mercury and cyanogen.

Mrs. Florence E. Rogers, daughter of Mrs. Adams, who was present at the time of her mother's death, described the poisoning. Her story agreed with that told by Henry Cornish.

CHARGES OF BRIBERY.

Four Members of the Omaha School Board are Accused of Selling Their Influence.

Omaha, Neb., Jan. 12.—Four members of the board of education were arrested Thursday on warrants charging them with accepting a bribe. They are: A. M. Cowie, G. G. Ivey, George H. Hess and Frank A. Sears. The case grows out of the letting of a contract for Venetian blinds for several large new school buildings erected last year. The evidence on which the charge was made was furnished by Charles Chiniqy, the representative of the Bestwick & Burgess Co., of Ohio. He made affidavits to paying all of the accused except Cowie certain sums for their influence, and turned over to the authorities the checks with which the sums were paid, showing the endorsements of the accused, which were made when the checks were cashed. Cowie, he alleges, demanded money, but wanted more than he was willing to pay. A committee of the board is also investigating charges of bribery connected with other contracts.

Russia Wants the Land.

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 12.—The opinions of the principal Chinese-Japanese papers as received by the steamer Empress of Japan, 13 days from Yokohama, indicate that Russia is revealing her intentions in the far east. The China Gazette says that, taking advantage of England's engagements in South Africa, the Russian government, through its consul at Hankow, has received its claim to the Jardine-Matthewson land, making a demand for the property in the most peremptory fashion. The Russian consul has announced his intention to take forcible possession of the property without further negotiations.

The Plague Appears at Rio.

Washington, Jan. 12.—The bubonic plague has appeared at Rio Janeiro, as is shown by the following cablegram received here last night by Surgeon General Wyman from Surgeon Havelburg, of the navy, and who is at Rio Janeiro: "There has been one death from plague at Rio Janeiro. This diagnosis is confirmed by bacteriological examination." Some weeks ago cases of the plague were said to exist at Santos and it would not be surprising to the officials here if later developments show that the case at Rio Janeiro is traceable to Santos.

Thousands of Witnesses Expected.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 13.—The Gobel-Taylor and Beckham-Marshall contest committees will each hold meetings to-day at which they will arrange for the trial of the contests. The hearing of evidence will begin Monday. About 5,000 witnesses are expected.

Newton in a Prison Cell.

Buffalo, N. Y., Jan. 13.—Fred L. Newton, the defaulting paying teller of the Fidelity Trust and Guarantee Co., was on Friday placed in a cell at police headquarters, pending the report of the grand jury.

NOT ONE ESCAPED

Every Person on a Wrecked Steamer Perished.

AT LEAST 60 IN NUMBER.

An Appalling Disaster on Newfoundland's Coast.

SANK BENEATH THE WAVES.

A Two-Masted Steamer, Name Unknown, Goes Ashore on a Rocky Ledge and the Wreck Takes Fire—Futile Attempts at Rescue.

St. Johns, N. F., Jan. 13.—The following comprise all the details regarding the wreck in St. Mary's bay that could be obtained up to midnight. The ship is a two-masted steamer, of nearly 3,000 tons, and probably carried a crew of 60, with possibly some passengers. She went ashore before daybreak on Thursday, striking a ledge at the foot of the cliff, where escape was hopeless. The crew launched the boats, but probably during the panic some were crushed against her sides, others being swamped, and all the occupants apparently perishing.

The ship was seen to be on fire by residents six miles away. Attracted to the scene, they found the after half of the wreck blazing fiercely, and the fore part under water. Kerosene in the cargo helped the blaze.

At that time only three men were left on board. Two were on the bridge and one was in the rigging. Those on the bridge were safe until about 2 p. m., when they were washed overboard and drowned, the bridge being carried away. The survivor, soon after leaving the rigging, swam to the rocks and twice endeavored to get a footing. Failing in this he made his way back to the rigging, where he died of exposure during the night.

Many dead bodies were visible in the surf. Two of them thrown up in a cove cannot be reached, owing to the heavy sea. One is thought to be that of a woman.

Boats and other wreckage are strewn among the rocks for miles. Yesterday was more stormy than the day before and it was impossible to reach the wreck, which has gone to pieces to such an extent that it has sunk beneath the waves. A severe gale is raging, which is likely to reduce her to fragments.

The wreck commissioner hopes to be able to obtain her name to-day. Residents along the shore made every possible effort to rescue the survivor in the rigging, but lacking proper outfits they were unable to succeed.

There is not the slightest prospect that any soul on board escaped death, as the intense mid-winter cold would kill any who escaped drowning.

\$1,710 for a Postage Stamp.

New York, Jan. 13.—One postage stamp brought \$1,710 last night at the sale of the collection of F. W. Hunter, of this city. This is the largest sum any stamp as ever brought in this country at auction. It was a specimen of the first issue of British Guiana, in 1850. It is of the two-cent denomination, printed in black on a pink ground and without perforations. The stamp was purchased by a prominent stamp and coin company of this city, who represented an English collector, Mr. Hunter bought this specimen for \$1,010.

A Huge Freight Wreck.

Wilmerding, Pa., Jan. 13.—A monster freight wreck occurred here last evening on the Pennsylvania railroad. Freight train No. 808, eastbound with 75 cars, broke in two just when it reached this point and 30 cars were derailed and piled high at the side of the track. Traffic is blocked on all trucks. The train was made up of merchandise cars and the wrecked cars are piled 75 feet high. All of the train crew has reported safe and it is not yet known whether any one is under the wreck, but it is thought not.

Boers' Strength Grows.

London, Jan. 13.—An apparently well-informed correspondent of the Morning Post says: "The Boer strength, originally 82,000 men, is now heavily augmented by Cape Colonists, and the enemy's fighting forces may be estimated fairly at 100,000 men and 200 guns. The Boers are not compelled to guard their communications. Their grass is good, the crops are growing, vegetables, cattle and sheep are plenty and game is abundant."

An Earl Dies.

London, Jan. 13.—The death of the Earl of Ava is reported from Natal, where he was wounded in a fight with Boers. As the earl never married, Lord Terrence Blackwood, of the foreign office, who married Miss Florence Davis, daughter of John H. Davis, of New York City, becomes heir to the marquise of Dufferin and the estates. The late earl went out as a war correspondent, although latterly he had been on Sir George White's staff.

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