

BOERS ARE FIGHTING THE KAFFIRS

AND DEFEAT THEM.

They Also Prevent the British From Capturing a Fort After a Hard Fight—Kimbberly Still Besieged.

Commandant Swart, of the Boers, reports from the laager at Alowyns, that he had an engagement on Friday, December 22, with Kaffirs in the neighborhood of Dordrecht. The Kaffirs occupied a strongly fortified ridge and were well prepared for the attack. After heavy fighting the burghers captured the Kaffirs' position, losing three killed and five wounded.

Commandant Snyman reported as follows from Molopo: "On Monday morning the enemy (the British) from Mafeking attacked one of our forts in force with cannon, Maxim and an armored train and so persistently that there was fighting on the walls of the fort; but we have retained our fort. The British loss is reported as fifty-five."

The other commandoes report "all quiet," with the exception of the usual bombardment of Ladysmith.

Before dawn Friday, detachment of the mounted forces, with artillery and light infantry, moved out in a westerly direction. Boer artillery from Kamperdam opened fire at Ottoskopic, the Kimberley fort replying with twenty shells.

The British force reconnoitered outposts along Lazaretto ridge, the Boer patrols retreating. Having accomplished this, and having discovered Boer reinforcements approaching from Wimbledon ridge, Col. Chamier, with the Royal artillery, exchanged a dozen shells as soon as the runs could be limbered up. Some 500 Boers poured in a heavy fire from their earthworks, the British finally retiring with the loss of one horse.

The movement showed that the Boers were still keeping their guns in the vicinity of Kimberley and are able to summon reinforcements rapidly. It also showed their proneness to vacate a position immediately when weaker than the opposing force.

The London war office is issuing lists of further deaths and wounded as well as accounts of sickness. The most serious report of the last class is that horse sickness has broken out in both British and Boer camps in Natal. Four hundred British cavalry horses, it is said, have already been shot owing to the occurrence of glanders. The disease is likely to spread with much greater rapidity among the British horses than among the hardy Boer ponies, and this may mean a considerable prolongation of the campaign.

A dispatch from Chieveley, dated Tuesday, December 19, says: "The British naval guns have destroyed the Colenso foot bridge, thus preventing the Boers holding any position south of the Tugela river. The enemy are taking up fresh positions on the eastern side nearer the British camp."

"The British position at Freze is being strengthened. The Tugela river is rising and there is a prospect of heavy rains."

"A two-hour bombardment of Ladysmith has been heard. According to reliable native reports, the Boers had 200 killed in the fight at Colenso."

The news that the Colenso foot bridge has been destroyed, seems to show that Gen. Buller is more anxious to keep the enemy at bay than to attempt a further advance.

Despite the severity of the censorship, hints are being continually received of the serious spread of Dutch disaffection in both the Queenstown district of Cape Colony and Natal. A correspondent of the Daily Mail at Pietermaritzburg says: "The extent of Dutch disaffection should make the imperial authorities realize the magnitude of the task before them."

Gen. Buller will pursue the campaign in Natal. The other generals will try to hold their own until the arrival of Gen. Roberts and Kitchener.

Fever and dysentery are reported to be more effective in reducing the strength of the British at Ladysmith than are the weapons of the Boers.

On December 22 the British lost 24 men in an engagement near Ladysmith. Gen. Joubert has recovered from his illness and is again in command of the Boer forces.

British prisoners captured in the Tugela river battle have arrived at Pretoria.

German authorities in Damarland, on the west coast of Africa have put a stop to Boer recruiting, which had been going on quietly.

LATEST NEWS NOTES.

Roland Reed, the rector, is seriously ill. The trust has advanced the price of pasteboard \$2.50 per ton.

The Boston common council has congratulated Kruger on his victories. William Boynton Gale, a famous lawyer, of Boston, died last Wednesday.

Alderman George Hill, of Milwaukee, committed suicide by shooting himself. Ex-president Cleveland is confined to his home at Princeton, N. J., suffering from gout.

The Salvation Army fed 3,500 poor at Cincinnati on Christmas day and 2,000 at Pittsburg.

Dr. Thomas O'Callaghan, of Jersey City, died suddenly while making a professional call.

A statue of Vice President Hobart will be erected at Paterson, N. J., at a cost of \$15,000.

Supplies for English troops in the Transvaal are being placed aboard vessels in New York harbor.

Gov. Pingree, of Michigan, is reviving his scheme of removing the capitol from Lansing to Detroit.

Sentiment favors Milwaukee, Wis., as the place for holding the next Democratic National Convention.

Frenchmen in Canada are being stirred up against England, their sympathies tending toward the Boers.

The Panama Canal Company, of America, with an authorized capital of \$30,000,000, was incorporated here.

Carrie and Olivia Stokes, of New Haven, Conn., have offered \$500,000 to Yale for a new administration building.

All the stores in Havana closed at 10 o'clock Christmas morning, and the rest of the day was devoted to conviviality.

Irishmen in Chicago held a meeting Saturday night and discussed plans for raising a fund with which to aid the Boers.

The course of the rock was from the town and no lives have been reported lost, although considerable property was destroyed.

Cecil B. Leach, a telegraph operator, was found dead in his room at Pittsburg a few days ago. Escaping gas caused death.

Henry Miner, aged 11, killed his brother Jesse, aged six, with a hatchet at Broughton, Ill., last Friday. They had quarreled.

The Produce Exchange Trust Company, which suspended in New York last week announces that it will pay depositors in full.

Emily Hilda Blake, a servant, aged 22, was hanged at Brandon, Manitoba, for the murder of Mrs. Lane, her mistress, on July 5 last.

James J. Cavanaugh, of Watertown, Mass., celebrated his 100th birthday last Wednesday. He saw Napoleon after the battle of Waterloo.

GEN. OTIS INTRODUCES REFORMS.

BRIBING STOPPED.

He Insists on Civil Marriages Which Permit Protestants and Non-Christians to Wed—Americans Win a Battle.

The adjutant-general at Washington has received a copy of an order, recently issued by Gen. Otis, aiming at the suppression of bribery, which, it is reported, has been extensively practiced in the Philippines. Gen. Otis says the persistence of these reports, touching both the military and civil service in the islands, has forced him to the conclusion that there may be some foundation for the general charge.

He cautions all commanding officers, heads of departments and others in authority to probe to the bottom any such reports that may reach them and announces that all offences of this nature will be suppressed with a strong hand.

Gen. Otis has issued a decree authorizing the celebration of civil marriages in the Philippines. He cabled Secretary Root to that effect to-day and the Secretary promptly approved the action.

Heretofore all marriages were celebrated by the Catholic Church so that Protestants and non-Christians were prohibited from marrying. The decree does not interfere with the Catholics, who may be married according to their own rites.

Col. Lockett, with a force of 2,500, including artillery, attacked Thursday morning a strong force of insurgents entrenched in the mountains near Montalban, about five miles northeast of San Mateo. The enemy were completely routed, the Americans pursuing them through the hills, amid which they fled in every direction.

Four Americans were wounded. The Filipino loss was large, resulting from a heavy infantry and artillery fire for three hours into the trenches.

It is supposed that the insurgents were those who were driven out of San Mateo on the day Gen. Lawton was killed. They numbered probably 1,000. A dozen lines of insurgent trenches covered the steep trail through the hills and likewise the valley below, along which the Americans passed.

The main attacking party consisted of the Forty-sixth volunteer infantry, a troop of cavalry and artillery. Col. Lockett commanding in person. The rest of the command operated from remote points in an endeavor to carry out Col. Lockett's plan of throwing his lines around the enemy and thus cutting off retreat.

The nature of the mountainous country made it impracticable to execute this movement successfully.

Members of the Clan-na-Gael Talk of Invading Canada.

There is a general movement among the Irish citizens in Philadelphia to aid the Boers in their war with England. A call was sent out for a special assessment on every member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of which there are 25,000 in the city.

A return of \$25,000 is expected, which will help to swell the general fund of \$1,000,000, which Irish organizations throughout the country seek to raise.

Relative to the attitude of the Irish revolutionary societies toward Great Britain, the Evening Post, of New York, quotes an officer of the Clan-na-Gael as saying: "England can only be made to feel by physical force, and we're now going to give her some Boer treatment. We did intend going out and sinking that first expedition from Canada to South Africa, but thought it better to wait a little. We can mobilize our men without much difficulty for an attack upon Canada, and we are fairly well armed—as well as the United States troops in the Spanish war. We have lots of Springfield rifles and are handy with the bayonet."

"No decision has been arrived at yet. Everything will depend on the immediate future. We have either regiments or companies all over the United States, and are fairly well drilled, and a great many of our men are in the militia."

"The Ancient Order of Hibernians has really nothing to do with this. It numbers about 250,000 and a majority of its members belong to our organization. All its officers do, and so, of course, it will act with us. We have lots of men in the regular army—camps or clubs in every post—and even if they were sent against us to stop us on the border, they would either march across with us or give us blank cartridges."

"If it is decided to attack Canada we shall do all in our power to keep matters so secret as not to embarrass the government until we are actually on the border. The French population in Canada would be with us, and there are numbers of our own countrymen ready to welcome us. Canada would be an easy mark. We would have the Canadian loyalists on the run in a week."

SAD NEWS AWAITS HER. Girl on the Way to Manila to Meet Her Lover Who is Dead.

In the list of dead forwarded by Gen. Otis Monday is the name of Henry C. Merriam, of Company G, Sixth Infantry, of typhoid fever. This is the young man to whom Miss Bessie Ray of Fairbault, Minn., was to have been married.

She left with her mother for Manila in November and is now on her way.

REVIEW OF TRADE.

Failures for the Year Run Up into the Millions Although Small Comparatively.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade reports as follows for last week: No correct report of failures in 1899 can be made until the year has closed. A collapse of speculation in copper stocks has swollen the aggregate at Boston alone over \$18,000,000 within a few days, and might yet add to the record.

The failures thus far reported are fewer than in any year since 1883 and smaller in amount of commercial liabilities than in any year since 1881. The aggregate of defaulted liabilities is \$120,100,000, but nearly two-thirds of the banking liabilities were added within a few days, the aggregate reaching about \$30,000,000.

The commercial liabilities have been about \$80,200,000, though exact returns for a few recent failures are not yet obtainable. No other year except 1881 with defaulted liabilities of \$81,155,932, and 1880, with \$75,752,000, have failures been so small since the agency commenced quarterly returns in 1875.

The average of liabilities per failure is less than \$9,500, the smallest in any year of the twenty-five, a gratifying evidence that commercial liabilities are further removed than usual from the point of danger.

The speculative troubles come because the volume of legitimate business and the unprecedented distribution of profits, interest and dividends made it no longer possible to carry some stocks on borrowed money.

Prosperity itself placed a check on speculative ventures. The industries are closing the most extraordinary year of their history. Long established branches have undergone a veritable reconstruction, vastly increasing their capacity, while new industries, which scarcely existed a year or two ago, have enlisted a vast capital, altered modes of business and of production in almost every direction.

Improved conditions for the future almost beyond calculation. Electrical developments in light, heat and power, in making cataract work, performing wonders in production of materials and providing transportation all over the land, deserve special attention.

For such reconstruction, the increase in demand for iron and steel products is the great feature of the year. When 415,733 tons unsold, and 243,516 produced weekly, January 1, hindered by severe weather so that the output March 1, dropped 15,000 tons, but expanding in every month afterward, the industry is now producing about 300,000 tons weekly and unsold stocks are reduced to 122,933 tons, and yet orders unfilled will require from six to nine months' work from most of the establishments.

Prices have not changed the past week, though demand for some products improved a little. The average of prices closes 119.5 per cent higher than January 1 for pig, and 102.8 per cent higher for products.

Industries which depend on individual consumption, have gained less, though more than population. Consumption of cotton has been larger than ever, with an average advance of 29.5 per cent in prices of goods, though cotton was for a time 32 per cent, and is now 20 per cent higher than January 1. Wool has been raised by speculation 35 per cent, but has been very largely consumed with great demand for goods, which have advanced but 17 per cent. Stocks now held are said to be 157,308,879 pounds. Of boots and shoes, the East has shipped 400,000 cases or 9 per cent more than last year and 27 1/2 per cent more than in 1892, but prices have advanced only about 11 per cent, since January 1. In all these products trade shows a continuing strong demand, although quiet in the holiday week.

AGRATEFUL PEOPLE.

Already a Fund of \$15,000 Has Been Collected for Gen. Lawton's Widow.

The total subscription to the Lawton fund up to noon of Christmas day was \$14,320.55. It is not at all improbable that the fund will eventually reach the proportion of \$50,000. The original intention was to raise only a fund sufficient to pay off the mortgage of about \$5,000 on the Lawton homestead at Redlands, Cal., but the generous response to the typical encouragement of the committee to believe enough money will be subscribed beyond that sum to place Mrs. Lawton and her children above want for the rest of their lives.

Secretary Root and Adjutant-General Corbin sent personal appeals to about 150 bankers and business men in New York, with the result of a large increase in the fund.

Among those who have promised subscriptions are: William K. Vanderbilt, \$1,000; J. Pierpont Morgan, \$1,000; C. P. Huntington, \$1,000; Thomas F. Ryan, of New York, \$1,000, and Miss Helen Gould, \$500. The committee expects to receive at least ten subscriptions of \$1,000 each.

JOINING THE BOERS.

Many Applications Received at the Orange Free State Consulate.

The offices of the Orange Free State consulate in New York are visited every day by a large number of men who want to go to the Transvaal and join the Boer army. By Charles D. Pierce, the Consul of the Free State, they are referred to Dr. Hendrik Muller, the Orange Free State Minister at the Hague. Before starting for Holland, however, many of them visited George W. Van Sicken at his office in Broadway.

Most of the men who apply to Mr. Pierce, to judge by appearances, are rough men, with little or no money, belonging to the laboring class. But there are not a few that are educated. Mr. Pierce said frankly that he was referring these men to Dr. Muller, who he added, saw that they arrived in the Transvaal. When asked how it was possible to get the men into the Transvaal at the present time, he said they were taken into the country by way of Delagoa Bay.

Score of Sailors Drowned.

The weather bureau official at Hatteras, N. C., reports that the British steamship Ariosto, Capt. Barnes, from Galveston to Norfolk, for coal, thence to Hamburg, loaded with cotton, corn, wheat and meal, is stranded on Ocracoke beach, six miles south of the Hatteras.

The steamship carried a crew of thirty men. Twenty-one men abandoned the steamer and took to the boats soon after she stranded. The boats were wrecked in the heavy seas and the entire twenty-one were drowned.

YEAR'S WORK OF A PHILANTHROPIST.

CARNEGIE'S GIFTS.

More Than \$5,000,000 Expended by the Iron King in Advancing Wages, Establishing Libraries, and Endowing Colleges.

Within a year Andrew Carnegie has given, or pledged himself to give, upwards of \$5,000,000. A considerable part of this wealth has gone out in the shape of voluntary advances in wages to the workmen of his great company. The advances to the common day, and tonnage laborers made last April aggregated for the year nearly \$1,500,000 to the thousands of men concerned. This was an advance of 12.4 per cent. On last Friday notices went up in the mills announcing another advance, which will dispense close to \$1,000,000 to the men. This advance was over 7 per cent.

Personal charities of Mr. Carnegie within the year just closing amount to about \$3,000,000. The great wealth of the steel king is being, to a considerable extent, diverted to the benefit of public institutions of learning and to public and private charity at a rate, showing the full intent of the philanthropist of fulfilling his pledge, made a great while ago, to leave little of his riches to be dispersed by will.

The year closing has been one of tremendous benefactions by Mr. Carnegie, who is known to have given away more than \$5,000,000 in the twelve months, and if the full sums of his gifts were known this amount would be increased to a considerable amount. The wage advances, dispensing about \$2,500,000 for a year, are regarded with the most general favor. Among his other gifts were the following:

Library and art galleries, Pittsburg, \$1,750,000; public library, Washington, D. C., \$250,000; Birmingham, Ala., University, \$250,000; Polytechnic library, Louisville, Ky., \$125,000; Dunfermline, Scotland, \$100,000; Public library, Atlanta, Ga., \$100,000; State college, Bellefonte, Pa., \$100,000; Public library, Lincoln, Neb., \$75,000; Public library, Fort Worth, Tex., \$50,000; Public library, Oakland, Cal., \$50,000; Stevens institute, Hoboken, N. J., \$50,000; X. X. I. Women's club, Denison, Tex., \$17,000; Zoological gardens, New York, \$5,000. Of these gifts the conditional ones are quite sure to be fulfilled, and there are a number of other offers, amounting to perhaps another \$1,000,000.

GOVERNMENT HAS NO REMEDY.

The Greed for Wealth Causes the Stringency in the Money Market.

Mr. Roberts, director of the mint, was asked recently as to whether the present monetary stringency, in his opinion, signifies an actual scarcity of money to meet the present requirements of trade. He said: "No possible supply of money can prevent stock exchange panics or periods of monetary stringency, because speculation and rising prices will absorb any possible increase until the pressure for ready cash is just as great upon the new plane as it was upon the old. The cry for more money is as unappeasable as the demand for more wealth. A new supply, instead of satisfying the demand, stimulates it. Men want money to buy things with—good things that they think are going higher. Given easy money in the banks, and have bankers encouraging borrowers. As a result, stocks go up, and as they go up more people want to buy and so the demand for money increases. You can't furnish money fast enough to meet the demand of all who would like to borrow while prices are going up, nor could all the gold and silver mines in the world together keep prices going up forever."

A BLIND MURDERER.

Civil War Veteran Strangles His Wife to Death

F. B. Livingston, a blind man, aged 56 years, choked his wife, Rosie Livingston, to death the other morning at their home in Baltimore. The first knowledge the police had of the crime was when Livingston walked into the Southwestern police station. Livingston gave his name and address and told a very circumstantial story of the killing. Livingston claimed that his wife tried to smother him with a feather bed but that he succeeded in choking her and put her body in the bathtub.

Livingston was locked up and the notice went to the house, where they found the nude body of the woman in the bathtub as Livingston had said. Both rooms gave evidence of a struggle. Jealousy is thought to have been the motive for the crime. The man is a Civil War veteran, having lost his eye sight by a shell in the battle of Fair Oaks. He had a pension of \$72 a month.

Coached by Foreign Officers. The Daily News' Cape Town correspondent, under date of December 20, says: "I learn from Afrikaner Bund sources, hitherto singularly well informed, that 8,000 European officers, men skilled in modern military tactics and particularly artillery, are in Pretoria as a reserve."

"Undoubtedly the enemy's tactics at Colenso and Magersfontein were directed by men of this class, as these tactics were quite unknown to Boer generals."

CABLE FLASHES.

Lord Salisbury, the English premier, will resign at the close of the Transvaal war.

The British war office has accepted the offer of a squadron of Canadian rough riders.

Twenty-two million natives in India are suffering from famine. An absence of rain is the cause.

King Carlos, of Portugal, Thursday, gave an audience to the new United States minister, John N. Irwin.

Prof. Benjamin D. Woodward, assistant United States commissioner general to the Paris exposition, has taken official possession of the spaces allotted to the United States.

Scholars in Switzerland are agitated concerning the date of the end of the nineteenth century. Some contend that it will begin with 1900, while the authorities of the Cantonal Protestant church have decided that 1901 starts the century.

DEAD NUMBER EIGHTEEN.

Terrible Result of a Gas Explosion in a Mine Near Brownsville, Pa.

Over thirty men were entombed alive in the Braznell mine near Brownsville, Pa., Saturday morning, by a terrific gas explosion. The mine is operated by the Stockdale Coal Company, and is situated on the Redstone branch of the Pittsburg, Virginia and Charleston railroad.

Fifteen dead bodies have been taken from the mines. All have been identified. The names are as follows: Henry Hagar, stable boss; Samuel Meese, stable boss; William Thomas, cager, leaves wife and four children; Peter Aros, digger, single; Michael Robert, digger; Martin Martisic; Albert Meese, trapper boy; George Kovash; Joseph Botshak, married, wife in Europe; Joseph Magyar; Andy Rapship; John Pakela; Michael Perabeck; Andrew Perabeck; George Voyko.

The search for the entombed miners continued through all Saturday night, one set of men after another taking turns at the difficult work. The force of the explosion, it was found, was so great that heavy timbers, 15 or 20 loaded coal wagons and other material were driven into the lower end of the shaft till the debris was 16 feet deep. This had all to be cleared away before the cage could be lowered to the bottom.

Sunday 15 persons were drawn up alive by bucket and rope. The first one was Albert Meese, a 13-year-old, but after giving one or two gasps he was dead. The other 14 were dead, but several had to be carried to their homes.

Notwithstanding the assertions of mine officials that the examination of the mine Saturday morning showed it to be almost clear from gas and in their judgment safe, the fact develops that there was gas in the mine of such volume as to be dangerous. One miner says the mine was not safe to be entered with an open lamp. Another reports that some weeks ago a fall occurred in one of the entries. It was timbered up, but gas accumulated above the timbers to such a degree as to make it dangerous and was not driven out, as the fan was a small one, not sufficient to do the necessary work.

Arrangements were made, it is said, to place a larger fan at the top of the main shaft, but this work had not yet been done. It was the intention of the company to this week commence the work of constructing a slope in order to get more air into the mine and provide means of escape.

Three dead bodies were removed from the mine on Tuesday, making the loss of life thus far eighteen. The searchers say that there are a half-dozen corpses in sight in the pit.

The bath tub combine, with a capital of \$7,500,000 is ready for business. Capt. Jacob J. Vandergrift, a wealthy resident of Pittsburg, died last Wednesday.

Another body was taken from the mine last Wednesday, making a total of 19 dead recovered thus far.

MADE IDLE BY STRIKES.

A Hundred Thousand French Workers Affected by the Demands of Coal Miners.

At a meeting of 2,500 miners held Tuesday in St. Etienne, near Paris, a resolution was adopted in favor of declaring a general strike in the coal basin of the Loire. A sympathy movement involving 50,000 men is feared. The prosperity of the coal trade led the miners to demand an increase of wages, shorter hours and a formal recognition of the Miners' Federation by the company. The latter made an offer of 5 per cent increase, but this was refused.

Twelve thousand five hundred lace workers are on strike in St. Etienne for higher wages. Their idleness involves that of 35,000 other dependent workmen, making with the miners, if the coal strike spreads, as is expected, nearly 100,000. Moreover, a number of factories and works will soon be compelled to close, owing to the coal shortage.

AN OPEN GRATE DID IT.

Two Girls Burned to Death While Enjoying Their Presents.

Dr. William Reese, of Federal, near Pittsburg, reported the details of a Christmas tragedy at that place to the coroner, of Pittsburg, last Wednesday. Elizabeth Hahn, aged 4, and Anna Banks, aged 9, were the victims. They were playmates and neighbors. Their fathers were miners. A Christmas tree loaded with presents had been left by Santa Claus in each home. There was an exchange of visits during the morning, each visiting the other and enjoying the gifts received. After dinner, and at the same hour, both girls, while dancing around in childish glee, caught fire from the open grate. The little Hahn girl died within an hour, while the Banks child lived until yesterday afternoon. The parents of each were painfully burned while trying to save the children.

Son Kills His Father.

Charles Heiner, aged 40, a butcher, was killed at his home in a New York tenement Tuesday by his son, Harry, 18 years old. Mrs. Heiner gave her son an album and a writing desk as Christmas gifts. The father, who, it is said, had been drinking heavily lately, was displeased when he saw the presents and he proceeded to tear up the album and smash the desk. The son interfered and a fight ensued. The boy finally picked up a carving knife and stabbed his father in the neck, severing the jugular vein. Heifer fell dead and his son placed under arrest.

Earthquake Damages a City.

A severe earthquake shock was felt over a large portion of Southern California Tuesday morning, the undulations lasting about twelve seconds. The entire center of the shock appeared to have been at San Jacinto, a small town in Riverside county. The business portion of San Jacinto consists of two blocks of two-story buildings, some of which are built of brick. Ten or 15 buildings were damaged, chimneys being toppled over and walls cracked and shaken. The total damage at San Jacinto and Hemet, a small town nearby, is estimated at \$50,000.

English Subjects Warned.

The privy council of Great Britain held a meeting at Windsor castle Wednesday, at which Queen Victoria proclaimed a warning to all British subjects not to assist the inhabitants of the Transvaal or the Orange free state, or to sell or transport merchandise thereto under penalty.