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ARRESTED FOR CONSPIRACY. Wealthy Venezuelans Plotted Against the Government. NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—Advices from Caracas, Venezuela, announce the imprisonment of Manuel A. Mattos, who was minister of finance under President Andrade.

AT A STANDSTILL. Buller Is Unable to Make Further Headway.

LONDON, Jan. 24, 2:50 A. M.—Contrary to the announcement made shortly before midnight by the war office that nothing further would be issued before Wednesday morning, the following dispatch from General Buller, dated Spearman's, January 23, 6:50 P. M., has just been posted:

"Warren holds the position he gained two days ago. In front of him, at about 1400 yards, is the enemy's position, west of Spionkop. It is on higher ground than Warren's position, so it is impossible to see into it properly.

"The enemy is replying with Creuset and other artillery. In this duel, the advantage rests with us, as we appear to be searching his trenches, and his artillery fire is not causing us much loss.

"An attempt will be made to seize Spionkop, which will form the enemy's position facing Trichard's, and which divides it from the position facing Potgieter's drift. It has considerable command over all the enemy's entrenchments.

Preparing for a Night Attack. General Buller's great turning movement of which so much was expected, has come to a standstill. His carefully worded message to the war office telling this, after a two days' rest, like an apology and an explanation.

The Fight at Oliver's Hoek. BOER HEAD LAAGER, Ladysmith, Monday, Jan. 23.—A battle has been fought at Oliver's Hoek since Saturday, between the Boers under Pretorius and 6000 British. The fighting is in full swing at Spionkop. The Boers under Botha are replying to the British. The British elsewhere are only making a reconnaissance of the Boer positions.

British Headquarters Smashed. HEAD BOER LAAGER, Ladysmith, Jan. 23.—The headquarters of Generals Buller and Hunter were smashed this morning by a shot from a "Long Tom." It is not known whether any of the occupants of the building were killed.

BULLER'S BIG OPERATIONS. It Will Take Considerable Time to Work Them Out. LONDON, Jan. 23.—Absence of news yesterday's movements north of the Tugela river has occasioned some speculation as to what General Buller is engaged in big operations, which will take considerable time to work out.

Political considerations, both foreign and domestic, press upon the military authorities the necessity of speedy action in relieving something. These authorities have been persuading General Buller to attempt his great operation without adequate preparation to the impulsion, whether true or not, is abroad.

Apparently, Lord Roberts has nothing whatever to do with General Buller's operation. General Buller and the war office communicate with each other direct. The fact that the judgment of Lord Roberts has not been brought to bear upon the movement does not add to public confidence.

From Vienna comes the statement that the disposition of the intervention of European powers is gaining adherents in influential quarters. Special dispatches telegraphed from Ladysmith Monday say that the investment has not been relaxed and that the garrison has ceased to speculate regarding the precise date of deliverance.

The position of the British forces outside of Natal is unchanged. The forward movement elsewhere appears to be waiting for reinforcements.

NEWS FROM BOER SOURCES. Account of the Opening Engagement on the Tugela. BOER CAMP, Upper Tugela river, Jan. 23.—The British now occupy three positions along the Tugela river. Their naval guns have been firing steel-pointed, armor-piercing shells.

Reports being received that 2000 British cavalry were attempting to outflank us along the Drakensberg ridge, a strong line was sent to reconnoiter. Mistaking the signals, the scouts and patrol proceeded to a kopje, from which a terrific rifle and Maxim gun fire suddenly opened. The Boers lost 14 killed and 20 wounded. The British loss was probably insignificant.

The bombardment of the Boer positions at Zwartkop resumed yesterday, chiefly with a battery brought across the river. In the afternoon the cannonading became exceedingly brisk, and under its fire their infantry advanced in three lines to ascend a row of kopjes, which they occupied at nightfall, but later they retired to their old position.

During the night a score of shells were fired by the British, and a balloon was sent up to spy out the Boer position. The naval guns resumed the bombardment this morning from a new position, but without result.

The British positions are the old Chevelley camp, near Colenso; Zwartkop drift, the central position, where they hold both banks of the river, and a point higher up in the direction of Zwartkop, where they have bridged the river and established an immense commissariat. On the summit of the terraces at Zwartkop they have placed five naval guns, and they have brought field artillery across the river to a small kopje on the northern bank, whence they keep up an incessant and terrific cannonade on the Boer trenches. Since the beginning of the week, communication with the different positions has been kept up by a continuous cannonade, the casualties under which the Boer positions are being

resulting from this being heavier than those occurring at Colenso. One of the shells from a naval gun killed a father and son, Free Staters, who were chatting at the time. Strangely, neither had any visible wounds.

Sunday, Jan. 21.—After Commandant Botha checked the British advance yesterday morning, it was expected that there would be no further action until tomorrow.

This morning, however, signs were discernible of an intended movement in the British northern camp. When the heat, which was more frightful than any yet experienced, had worn off, the British cannon started in full force, and the infantry on the Tugela unrelentingly opened a pandemonium of sound filled shells, the sharp volleys of Lee-Metford and the whip-like crack of the Mausers were interspersed with the boom of the Boer Maxim. The battle ended with darkness, but not without evidence of execution among the British that was manifest at sunrise. Field Cornet Ernst Emilio was killed, nor did the generals escape.

At the central position, Zwartkop, where the other road to Ladysmith crosses the hills, the British advanced from low kopjes on the banks of the Tugela unrelentingly until they entered the zone of Mauser fire, and although their naval guns kept up the usual terrible racket, the advance was stopped, and the British had to count the cost. The morning's fighting was dramatic. Taking advantage of the issue raised by the division in the committee as to the method of ousting him, he appropriated to himself the argument of the minority that he was constitutionally entitled to be sworn in, and the argument of the majority that once sworn in, he could not be expelled. He defended the action of the majority in fighting the authority of the United States for years, because, he said, he believed that sentiment would change, and dramatically stated that in those days he had rather have his flesh eaten from his bones than to have renounced his religious tenets. He concluded with an eloquent peroration, in which he said he had never been content of a shameful death, and if he were sent forth he would go with head erect and undaunted brow.

POLYGAMISTS' FATE. Opening of the Debate in the Roberts Case.

TAYLOR AND LITTLEFIELD SPOKE. Plans of the Majority and Minority of the Committee—No Agreement for a Vote.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—This has been an oratorical day in the house over the case of Brigham H. Roberts, the Mormon representative from Utah. The gathering was packed to suffocation, chiefly with women, and the spectators, after listening attentively to the arguments of Taylor of Ohio and Littlefield of Maine, were divided into two camps.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—The pending bill in the senate is that fixing the gold standard, yet the discussion seems to be on every other subject. The talk has been on the Philippines and on the negro vote in the South. This is most significant. Southern Democrats fall back on the race question.

NO FINANCIAL TALK IN SENATE. Elkins Comes to the Front as a Vice-Presidential Candidate—Littlefield's Maiden Speech.

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