

THE TIDE TURNING

British Regaining Ground Recently Lost.

BOERS ARE IN A SORRY PLIGHT

Kimberley is Said to Be Nearly Isolated—General Colville Defends His Actions in Lindley Affair, Blaming Lord Roberts.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Last night's cable dispatches from South Africa add little or nothing to the information concerning the situation, though the general trend of events seems to show that the British are regaining the ground recently lost.

A special from Nieuwpoort, dated December 28, reports that Colonel de la Motte, 13 miles west of De Aar, capturing a number of weapons and releasing the prisoners captured at Philippstown. Lieutenant-Colonel Grenfell forced back General Kitchener toward Ventersdorp. Both commanders are in a desperate plight, and will probably never recross the Orange River.

A Standard dispatch, dated December 28, says it is estimated that 300 Boers were engaged in the operations in North Natal, hoping to break the British line of communication. This plan failed, and the Boers were driven off, in each case with more or less losses, their casualties in the last day or two numbering 45, while the British casualties were slight.

According to a Johannesburg dispatch of Friday's date, General French occupied Ventersdorp that day without opposition. This place, being a great telegraphic center, has been much used by the Boers for the dissemination of information. The possession of Ventersdorp, Kitchener and Zeerust gives the British a strong hold upon this part of the country.

From Carnarvon, under yesterday's date, comes a dispatch saying the Boers occupied Voiburg December 27 in force, and were reported to be moving on Carnarvon, where a martial law has been proclaimed. The local field cornet and farmers have assured the authorities that they will remain loyal and will suppress disloyal talk.

It is credibly reported, according to a dispatch from Nieuwpoort, dated December 28, that Lord Roberts has informed Commander Spruit that Kruger has sent word that the burghers must lay down their arms or continue fighting on their own account, as no support from Europe can be expected.

Kimberley Almost Isolated.

CRADDOCK, Cape Colony, Friday, Dec. 29.—Kimberley is almost isolated by Boer raiders. No mails reached there from December 30 to December 31. Provisions are at famine prices. The military took charge of all the foodstuffs December 28. The Leinster Regiment, commanded by Major Barry, had a skirmish lasting four hours with the Boers at Drifonts, December 27, suffering slight losses. The Boers at Glunk captured a convoy of 25 wagons Christmas eve.

Boers Attacked Baggage Column.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—General Kitchener, telegraphing from Nieuwpoort, dated Friday, December 28, sends a summary of the number of attacks made by the Boers at various points. The only important incident was the attack upon the baggage column near Greylingstad. A company with a pom-pom made a sortie from Greylingstad and drove off the Boers. Captains Radcliffe and Harvey were wounded, eight killed, and 20 were wounded and 30 were reported missing.

Roberts' Homeward Trip.

GIBRALTAR, Dec. 29.—The steamer Canada, with General Lord Roberts on board, which arrived here from South Africa yesterday, sailed for home this afternoon.

British Occupy Ficksburg.

BLOEMFONTEIN, Dec. 29.—The British have reoccupied Ficksburg, which for some time has been in the hands of the Boers.

Colville's Counter Strike.

De Blames Lord Roberts for the Lindley Affair.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Major-General Sir Henry Colville, whose resignation has been demanded by the War Office, but who refused to resign and came to England today, to demand a trial by court-martial to establish the responsibility for the Yeomanry disaster at Lindley last May, has made a counter strike at the War Office in a 200-word statement which he has given to the press. He says he has come home to demand a free inquiry, and does not intend to be made a scapegoat for the sake of the staff. He avers that the Lindley disaster could never have happened had he been informed of Lord Roberts' intention to demand the surrender, he says, was the insufficient information given by the headquarters staff to Colonel Sprague and himself, and he declines to accept the blame. He lays out the facts and blames other General Colville and his influential friends, in and out of the army, are thus beginning a campaign against the Secretary of State for War, Mr. H. H. Asquith.

German Cuba Claims.

BERLIN, Dec. 29.—Negotiations for the settlement of German claims for damages in Cuba, during the war have been going on with the United States for some time, the National Zeitung learns, but have not reached a definite conclusion.

Kansas City Hotel Burning.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 29.—A M. T. The large Pennock block, at Twelfth and Main streets, across the alley from the Baltimore Hotel, is burning. The loss will be heavy. Guests are leaving the Baltimore Hotel, but there is no confusion, and it is not likely that there will be loss of life.

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ST. PAUL, Dec. 29.—John Justus Chase, health commissioner of this city, has issued stringent quarantine orders against the City of Wilkes, where there are said to be 100 cases of smallpox.

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THE COMEDIE FRANCAISE.

Brilliant Spectacle on the Return to Its Old Home.

PARIS, Dec. 29.—A brilliant spectacle was presented at the Theatre Francaise tonight on the return of the Comedie Francaise to its old home, which has been rebuilt upon scientific methods since it was gutted by fire last March. The occasion was celebrated with a gala performance, and it is doubtful if the historic playhouse ever held a more distinguished gathering of representative Frenchmen. The Chief of State and Mme. Loubet occupied the Presidential box, while the King of the Belgians made a special trip from Brussels to attend the performance, and the Duke of Aumale, M. Waldeck Rousseau, the Premier, members of the Cabinet and all of the leading lights in politics, literature and the drama were assembled within the famous edifice. United States Ambassador Porter and his daughter sat in the Ambassadorial box.

The programme consisted of the fourth act of Corneille's "Le Cid," the third act of Moliere's "Femmes Savantes," concluding with a prelude on the reopening of the theatre written by Hippolyte, Mounet Sully, Salvat, Coquelin, Cadel and Mmes. Dudley (who escaped the fire when Mlle. Henriot perished), Bartoli and Bartet.

The traditional ceremony which attends every historical performance at the Theatre Francaise was a most picturesque scene. The stage represented a Parisian hall, with two stone benches on either side. The bust of Moliere was decorated with the tricolor and a golden wreath. All the members of the troupe, adorned in the costumes of the period, bowed to the audience and placed a laurel wreath around the bust, to which they bowed, afterward taking their places on the benches. Mounet Sully, in the role of the doyen of the company, Mme. Bartoli as the Muse of Comedy, and Mlle. Bartet as the Muse of Tragedy, then spoke an eloquent prelude, and the curtain fell to the strains of the "Marseillaise."

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NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—A special to the Herald from Vienna says: Reports which have arrived here from Belgrade, give an account of the new configuration of the Balkans of the greatest political interest, which, if it should turn out to be true, will throw a curious light on the relations of Germany and Austria to Russia. It is stated in the Burehauer press that at the suggestion of Count von Bulow, an offensive and defensive alliance has been concluded between Turkey and Roumania, which was directed against any power which would try to disturb the peace in the Balkans. This is perhaps only designed to distract Russia's attention from the Balkan problem, which is a view to paralyzing this alliance an entente has been arrived at between Serbia and Bulgaria under the patronage of the Russian Government.

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The United States has been invited, through the German Ambassador at Washington, to take part in the international exhibition of fire-preventing and fire-saving apparatus, to be held in Berlin during June and July next, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the organization of the Berlin fire brigade. Cordial invitations are extended to municipal authorities, manufacturers, associations, national unions, manufacturers and interested persons of every country to compete and to promote the object in view by the exhibition of suitable apparatus.

Parcel Post Convention.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Lord Pauncefoot, the British Ambassador, had a conference with the Second Assistant Postmaster-General today upon the establishment of a parcel post convention with Great Britain. The convention established with Germany has been largely experimental, and the department is collecting data upon its operation during the past year in order to determine whether or not it is desirable to establish a parcel post convention with the larger European countries. These reports will probably be completed about the middle of January.

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Grover Cleveland on Presidential Tenure.

FOUR YEARS NOT ENOUGH

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"The usual chief of state will more and more appreciate the objections urged against the present indirect and cumbersome mode of electing their Presidents. The circumstances in