

SOUTH AFRICAN REVERSES ABSORB LONDON DISCUSSION

General White Blamed and Defended by Two Factions of Public Opinion.

GRIEVING OVER LACK OF PREPARATION

Troops Should Have Been Rushed to Transvaal Sooner—Much Criticism of Military Mobilization Methods.

LONDON, Nov. 4. (Copyrighted, 1899, by the Associated Press).—Almost the only subject of discussion this week in England was the disastrous reverse suffered by General Sir George Stewart White, the British commander at Ladysmith and this was made the occasion for pouring out torrents of criticism and advice. Public opinion seems fairly divided, one section bitterly blaming the general commanding and the other maintaining that he probably is not so much at fault as he made himself out. The latter section, which included many service men and nearly all the service publications, urges the withholding of definite criticism pending more detailed accounts. The Naval and Military Record, after expressing this sentiment, sums up the situation as follows:

"Considering the nature of the country, the lamentable unpreparedness of England and the unwillingness of the opposition to allow a British regiment to go to South Africa until President Kruger's ultimatum was received, it is almost surprising that we have been able to hold our own so far. Not only have the Boers themselves proved determined fighters and splendid sharpshooters, as we know them to be, but they have developed surprising military and strategic qualities.

"They have nearly surrounded every garrison we hold, and have invariably occupied unassailable positions, fighting with great courage. Against such fighters our little force, left isolated far from our base and without hope of relief for days to come, has not only done splendid work, but has gained successes which we venture to believe no other soldiers in the world, placed in similar positions and in similar unfortunate conditions could have achieved."

Although this may fairly be said to represent conservative military opinion, its reference to the action of the opposition as preventing the sending of troops in good time is extremely erroneous. Since the first news of the Ladysmith disaster reached England there has been a storm gathering over the head of Sir George White, but of the secretary of state for war, the Marquis of Lansdowne and his emanates not so much from the opponents of the government as from its warmest supporters.

Some of the ablest of the latter have no hesitation in saying privately that almost criminal neglect has been shown in not sending at least 10,000 more troops before or by October 4, and that if Lord Lansdowne's hands were tied by higher powers he ought to exculpate himself beyond a shadow of suspicion. The failure to send out troops enough cannot be charged to the opposition for parliament was not then sitting. If there was any intention to hold Natal at all costs an adequate force should be sent out by October 4, when the excuse that such reinforcements might be taken by the Boers as a menace no longer held good, as the Indian troops were already on the way.

Hearing these criticisms in unexpected quarters, the correspondent of the Associated Press repeated them to a high government official. While non-committal regarding the failure to send reinforcements earlier, this official declared that the broad lines of policy affecting Natal had been much misunderstood.

In Natal unless we made a vigorous stand there.

"Natal has risked her little all on behalf of the empire, and the least we can do is to risk something ourselves and to prevent the overrunning of her prosperous towns and rich fields by hordes of the enemy. Purely military considerations, I admit, might point to the fact that we ought to have immediately withdrawn from our advanced position, but purely military considerations have sometimes to be subordinated to the interests of the empire and, although many good lives have been lost in the cause, they have not been wasted."

Deserters from both the army and navy continue to give themselves up in order to be returned to their regiments and ships for active service. Several small detachments of county yeomanry are going out independent of the war office, to the east of war, on the chances of joining the Light Horse. Lord Lansdale and Lord Harris, both yeomanry officers are aiding the movement.

The heavy losses among the British officers in Natal have led the Military Journal to suggest that the sword be abolished not only on account of its uselessness but also because its glittering attracts the aim of the enemy and indicates the officer.

Her majesty, it is reported, has personally conveyed to Field Marshal Lord Worsley an expression of her gratification at the manner in which the whole military machine has worked since it was first set in motion by the Boer ultimatum, especially in the matter of mobilization. Apparently the queen has not forgotten the existence of the commander in chief—a lapse of memory to which the public is now rather prone and which, so it is said, the Marquis of Lansdowne committed intentionally. Although agreeing that the mobilization, so far as it has been carried, is well done, the foreign military attaches are anxious to see the effect of a more severe test. Said one of them to the correspondent of the Associated Press today:

"When England calls out a second and a third army corps, as I believe is quite possible, it will be time enough to say whether the mobilization system is excellent as at present seems to be the case."

Although no orders have yet been received for the commissioning of additional warships, there is little doubt, judging from the activity on board them, that the first-class cruisers Amphitrite, Argonaut and Blake and second class protected cruiser Charbyllis, will soon hoist the flag. In addition to these, there is now at Chatham a powerful reserve fleet, consisting of two battleships, three first-class cruisers, six torpedo boat destroyers and seven torpedo boats.

The efforts of his constituents to induce Dr. G. B. Clark, liberal member of parliament for Calthnesshire, to resign on account of his pro-Boer attitude have thus far been fruitless. Meanwhile Mr. Clark publishes letters received from the Transvaal secretary of state, written the day the Boer ultimatum was presented, in the course of which Mr. Holtz says that Dr. Clark's protests against the British action has been like "the voice of one crying in a wilderness of jingoism, race hatred and militarism."

Lord Hillingdon of the banking house of Glyn, Mills & Co., in a recent address before the Institute of Bankers, said that the increased Transvaal gold output for the year ended August 31 amounted to more than £3,000,000. He said he believed the world's gold production during the present year would be nearly three as great as it was ten years ago. Referring to the enormous proportion of the gold fields of the world now under British control, he congrat-

ulated the bankers upon the fact that the Venezuela boundary award had added to Great Britain's share almost the whole of the extensive gold fields of that region.

THE TELEGRAPH MONOPOLY.

Bitter Fight to Be Made for Control of New York City Lines.

NEW YORK, Nov. 4.—The Herald says:

Proofs continue to multiply that the Whitney-Widener-Elkins-Malone syndicate is the prime mover in the colossal telephone project for fighting the American Telephone Company, and that so far as this city is concerned it will exercise supreme control of the opposition companies in this city.

A majority of the stock of the People's Telephone Corporation has been acquired by the Whitney syndicate, and has been securely locked up in the same vault with that containing a majority of the stock of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company. In fact, it is said that all but a few shares of the People's Telephone Corporation stock have been turned over to the Whitney interests. It is alleged that a deal has been made with certain promoters for the issue of something like \$1,500,000 of this stock for patent rights and franchises.

The Whitney syndicate has now secured all of the facilities or telephones in this city that it desires and before long some startline developments are expected. Negotiations have been in progress for several days between the People's Telephone Corporation and the Knickerbocker Telephone Company, with a view to effecting a consolidation so that they may present a united front against the New York Telephone Company in this city. It is considered likely that an amalgamation will be brought about within a few days.

THEY MUST BE RETAINED

CABINET'S PHILIPPINE POLICY

Congress Will Be Asked to Pass Joint Resolution Announcing Such Intention of the Government.

NEW YORK, Nov. 4.—A special to the Herald from Washington says:

It was unanimously agreed at the meeting of the cabinet today to urge upon congress the immediate passage of a joint resolution declaring it to be the intention of this government to retain the Philippine islands, to suppress insurrection and to grant the broadest kind of local self-government to the inhabitants of the islands under such form of United States civil government as may be expedient.

The decision was reached after the cabinet officers had carefully read and discussed the unanimous report of the Philippine commission. The opinion was expressed around the cabinet that congress could be depended upon to pass such a resolution. While it is apparent that the publication of the Philippine commission report was so timed as to have an effect upon the forthcoming election, the president purposes to free himself from the charge of making it a campaign document by endorsing it to the fullest extent in his coming annual message, and by asking congress to accept its conclusions and thereby strengthen the hands of the administration in dealing with the insurrection.

In speaking of the commission's report, Secretary Long said: "I think the report is calculated to have a very salutary effect upon public sentiment and to enlighten the public mind. It is especially gratifying that the report backs up and indorses the position and the statements of the president upon this whole matter."

BEAT THE LENOX.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 4.—The transports Leelanaw and Conemaugh have sailed for Manila with horses for the United States troops in the Philippines.

INSTANCES OF BOER TREACHERY

From the St. James Gazette. After the annihilation of the hapless 94th two wounded officers, Captains Elliott and Lambert, were set free on parole. They were taken to a drift on the Vaal river and were forced to attempt a crossing where the river, owing to heavy floods, was impassable. The Cape cart in which they were sitting was turned over, and when swimming for the lines the Boers poured in a volley upon them, killing poor Elliott at once. Lambert, who like myself, had been on remount work, escaped by a miracle, and managed, half naked and



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footnote, to reach Natal. After peace was established some of the murderers were tried by the Boer jury at Pretoria, and needless to add, promptly acquitted. No other reparation was ever made or asked for by our government for the foul deed.

Another shocking instance of Boer treachery is that of a civilian doctor, who, with a surgeon major, was dispatched from Pretoria to the scene of the Brunkers Spruit massacre to succor the wounded prisoners. His uniform saved my friend Comerford, the army medic, but the other doctor, the Boers having deceived him into a house on the pretense of giving him a drink of milk, was stripped of his netter garments and cowhided—yes, incredible as it may seem, actually cowhided—to within an inch of his life.

The flag of truce dodge was tried over and over again in the disastrous campaign of 1880-'81, and just as many times our innocents walked into the trap. At the opening of the ball at the massacre of Brunkers Spruit, when the 49th were cut to pieces, "la drapau blanc" was used simply as a cover under which the Boers closed in upon the doomed regiment. And at the action of the Ingoro river these chivalrous genetry fired upon one of the heroes of Rorkes Drift—the Rev. Mr. Ritchie—who had gone forward with a white flag in response to one hoisted by the enemy.

AMERICAN SYMPATHY.

Victoria Colonist. History repeats itself quickly now-a-days. Last year it was from Great Britain and her colonies alone that the United States received words of sympathy and support in her war with Spain, and this too in the face of an openly hostile Europe. Yesterday when word came of British disaster, it was from the United States that the first expressions of sympathy came, and they were the only ones which any country except Italy had to offer. But as the London Standard says, that is enough. The Anglo-Saxon stock when it stands solidly together can afford to face the hostility, concealed or open, of all the rest of mankind.



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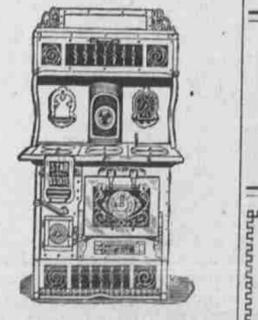
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