

# ESTCOURT NOW BELIEVED SAFE FROM ASSAULT

## British Have Grown Wary and Cannot Be Drawn Out Into Boer Traps.

### PROSPECTS ARE MUCH BRIGHTER

#### London Critics Contend That the Boers Have Delayed Too Long and Have Missed Their Last Chance of the Campaign.

NEW YORK, Nov. 20.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London, says: Estcourt has remained the center of interest for the last 24 hours, since the Dutch allies are attempting to carry out at the last moment the tactics which might have been most effective a fortnight ago.

The war office bulletin during the forenoon tended to minimize the earlier reports of a Boer repulse by the garrison. It was a slight outpost affair, with a single shell fired from the naval gun and a hasty retreat of the small fire of the enemy. It might have been explained as an unsuccessful attempt of Free State raiders to destroy the railway bridge a half mile away, if General Hildyard had not reported a large Boer force further back on a high hill.

The inference was plain that the Dutch allies were concentrating several commandos upon Estcourt and meant to night attack the garrison or draw it into an ambush before adequate reinforcements with field artillery could be sent up from the coast.

Between the lines of the official dispatch could be read the motive of this maneuver of a weak Boer force which was neither reconnoitering nor attempting to carry the position by a sudden rush, but was evidently seeking to draw out the provincial cavalry after it a few miles, where it could be entrapped by a larger body in reserve. These tactics, which had succeeded after the battle of Glencoe, failed on second trial. Military men in commenting upon the affair last evening derived comfort from the practical evidence that the British forces were becoming more wary and suspicious and also from the plain admission that the naval guns were in position.

## THE KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF HONOR ENGAGE IN BITTER WAR

### New Jersey Will Secede From the Order on Account of the New Assessment Rate.

NEW YORK, Nov. 20.—Dissatisfaction is not yet at an end among the 6,000 members of the Knights and Ladies of Honor in New Jersey over the recent adoption by the supreme lodge in session in Indianapolis of a new assessment rate table to go into effect on January 1, 1900. From present indications the outcome of the trouble will be a big legal battle between representatives of the New Jersey members and the supreme lodge of the parent order.

It will then be argued whether the latter has a right to renege old members, taking into account their present age, as if they were new members without regard to the fact that many of them have been in the order more than twenty years, thereby increasing the amount of their assessments from 20 to 30 percent over the old rate.

At a special meeting of the grand lodge of New Jersey held in Newark, Supreme Vice-Prosecutor Presidential and Supreme Medical Examiner Dr. Witherall were joined and hoisted down in their attempts to address the representatives of the subordinate lodges of New Jersey.

Immediately after adjournment another meeting was organized by the delegates in their capacity as members of the order. The supreme officers and some visitors from New York were required to leave the hall and no one was admitted unless he or she could give the semi-annual password for New Jersey. The assessment question was thoroughly discussed and it was finally disposed of by the appointment of a committee to consider the advisability of withdrawing from the Knights and Ladies of Honor and forming a new and independent order with New Jersey as the nucleus for a national organization.

It is not likely, however, that this committee will recommend secession and independent organization until the question of the legality of the action of the supreme lodge is settled.

Prominent lawyers have been consulted by the committee, and it has

practically been decided to advise the members to tender the old rate of payment for the first assessment which is levied by the supreme lodge after January 1, 1900, under the new order of things.

That the tender will be refused is certain. The members will then decline to pay the amount of the assessment and this will lead to the suspension of the members. The next step will be for the members to go into court and ask that the supreme lodge be enjoined from suspending them and from enforcing the collection of the new rate of assessment. The fight will then be on. This action will be based on the ground that when the members joined the order they entered into a contract, which contract will have been broken by imposing a new and higher rate of assessment without the consent of all the members.

### TO START NEW MISSIONS.

The Episcopal Church preparing to enter the Territories Acquired by the Spanish War.

NEW YORK, Nov. 20.—Aggressive missionary work in the islands acquired by the United States in the war with Spain has been determined upon by the board of managers of missions of the Protestant Episcopal church in this country. This decision which was reached at a meeting of the board, held in this city, is the result of long deliberation by the authorities of the church.

At the general convention held in Washington a year ago a commission on increased responsibilities was appointed to investigate the question. This commission, of which Bishop Doane, of Albany, was chairman, reported in favor of the extension of work to the islands at the missionary council concluded recently at St. Louis.

The report was unanimously accepted by the council and the commission instructed to lay the matter before the board of managers.

### SAMOAN TREATY READY FOR ACTION

#### IS SATISFACTORY TO HAY

#### The Island Falling to America is Quiet and the Natives Well-Disposed Towards United States.

NEW YORK, Nov. 20.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: It is the expectation of Secretary Hay that the treaty for the partition of Samoa will be finally disposed of this week. Ambassador Choate is understood to have mailed the text of the agreement reached by Germany and Great Britain. When this is received final arrangements for signing the treaty will be made.

Ambassador Von Holleben, the German representative here, was at the state department yesterday but Secretary Hay does not desire to act in the Samoan matter until he has before him the text of the agreement between the London and Berlin governments, and it is understood has delayed agreeing to sign the treaty for some days.

There is no doubt that this government is agreeable to the action taken by the other powers in relation to Savaii and Upolu, so that nothing remains to be done except to formally sign the convention.

As soon as the Samoan partition negotiations are at an end, the three governments will determine the disposition of the arms handed over to the joint Samoan commission by the Mataafa and Malietoa factions and brought to Mare Island by the Badger. It is understood here that the commission has agreed to pay for the arms.

The report as to the prospect of further trouble in Upolu is not causing the authorities any uneasiness. The American island of Tutuila is quiet and according to the latest reports the natives are friendly toward the naval officers and men of the auxiliary cruiser Abarenda, stationed at Pango-Pango, where a coaling station is under construction.

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### THE STRAITS OF MAGELLAN.

Ten Wrecks Reported in Consequence of the Recent Storm.

CHICAGO, Nov. 20.—A special to the Tribune from Norfolk, Va., says: According to reports brought in today ten ships are ashore in the Straits of Magellan. The steamship Kurdistan, Captain Littlehale, reported six and the Needleless, Captain Milton, reported four. Each vessel came through the straits bound here for coal and had an extremely rough voyage.

While off the Patagonia coast, the wrecked vessels could be discerned but owing to heavy weather and the treacherous formation of the coast line, neither vessel dared approach and the names of the wrecked steamships or fate of the crews could not be learned. The wrecks stretched for several miles. Judging from a former experience of the Kurdistan, the crews of the wrecked vessels may have been devoured by cannibals. The Kurdistan was disabled on the straits once and the crew were obliged to give battle to the man-eaters.

**HAS ITS USEFULNESS.**  
[From the Philadelphia Ledger.]  
After all, football appears to be an incentive to education. After a man has been so badly crippled that he can't walk he has nothing to do but study.

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