

RUMOR OF GREAT BRITISH VICTORY

Boers Said to Have Been Surrounded and Totally Defeated.

MANY KILLED AND WOUNDED

Officers Now Being Fed in England Regret Their Premature Departure From South Africa and Some Will Probably Return.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The report of another severe battle fought in a British victory, is current here. According to the story the fighting began at daybreak today and lasted for several hours. The Boers, who numbered from 1500 to 2000 men, were surrounded at the Orange river and totally defeated, with very heavy losses in killed and wounded. A number of Boers, it is stated, were captured.

BRITISH MISCALCULATIONS. NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says: The release of prisoners and other incidents reported by General Kitchener fail to reassure the public. The last phase of the campaign is remarkable for the miscalculations on the British side and the many excited outbursts of candor. The staying power of the Boers has been underestimated and their preparations for continuing hostile operations in the extremity of their fortunes by means of buried stores of ammunition have not been taken into account.

There has been a futile discussion for months on the requirements of police work and fox hunting and suddenly Nicholson's Nek has been reproduced within forty miles of Pretoria, with an isolated command surrounded and forced to surrender after its ammunition had been exhausted and with the main body retiring without making an effective effort to retrieve the disaster. General Clements' explanation that the Northumberland fusiliers were short of ammunition makes every Englishman grit his teeth. The collapse of the Boer cause has been assumed as the inevitable consequence of the exhaustion of war material and here is the "fighting fifth" without powder and shot compelled to surrender.

The general now receiving the congratulations of his friends upon their return frankly confess that they have an uncomfortable feeling in being toasted and feasted. Lord Dundonald said before the public banquet at the Hotel Cecil that he could not help regretting his premature return since the war evidently had not ended and a soldier's place was at the front. General Pole-Carew, who is overwhelmed with the kindness of Devonshire friends, probably finds it equally difficult to reconcile his soldierly sense of duty with a full appreciation of the delights of home hospitality. Lord Methuen's friends are emphasizing the fact that while he has been more sharply criticized than any other general except Gatacre, he has at least remained on the fighting line bent on seeing the job through.

Do Wet and Delarey are spoiling in advance the stately thanksgiving service in honor of Lord Roberts' return. The book writers have also been taken aback by the recrudescence of hostilities, which cannot be minimized as guerrilla warfare.

Dr. Conan Doyle, who has written what was considered a complete history of the Boer war, anxiously waited during Lord Dundonald's speech at the Vagabonds' dinner for some explanation of the unexpected revival of hostilities which seem to involve the necessity for additional chapters, if not a fresh volume. The war correspondents were equally ill at ease on the same occasion. Among them was Julian Ralph, with an article over his signature in the Spectator on a hypothetical question of the censorship of dispatches but with the admission on his part that the newspapers had made a mistake in withdrawing their men from the field prematurely and in leaving some of the interesting exploits of the war unrecorded.

The latest editions of the newspapers all comment upon the seriousness of the defeat which befell the British force under Clements last Thursday. The Telegraph considers that the reversal was only rendered possible by the carelessness of those in command and that a heavy responsibility rests upon some one for neglecting to see that the troops were in position to hold the hill against all comers. Broadwood's conduct seems inexplicable and people are asking why there was no cooperation between him and Clements. The authorities are quite alive to the ugliness of the present situation in South Africa and an additional contingent of 5000 mounted infantry will shortly be sent out. General Kitchener, it is stated, is to be allowed an absolutely free hand.

CHINESE IMMIGRANT ON TRIAL. Claims to Have Been Born in San Francisco But Returned to America Via Canada. OGDENSBURG, N. Y., Dec. 17.—The first Chinese trial to come before United States Commissioner Gray since the federal authorities decided that too many Chinamen were finding it comparatively easy to get into this country from Canada via Malone will soon be heard here, the case having recently come up. The prisoner is Lon Fum, arrested last summer at Malone for violating the Chinese exclusion act. The Chinaman claims to have been born in San Francisco and went back to China, and was arrested when about to return to his native home in this country via Canada. An alleged father swore to his birth. Inspector Ralph Iard, of New York, was present with two Chinamen from Mot street, who testified that they are acquainted with the alleged father of the prisoner, but they were not aware that the prisoner is his son. Their evidence went to show that the prisoner had never been out of the rice fields until arrested last summer. The hearing was adjourned for a week.

FEMALE "FIREMEN." Young Ladies of University of Chicago Battled With Flames. CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—A bad blaze which threatened the destruction of Foster Hall, at the University of Chicago, Sunday, aroused the "co-eds," who live in the hall, and forced them to assume the role of firemen in a hastily improvised pitcher brigade. When the fire was discovered they immediately rushed to the scene with pitchers of water, but found they were unable to reach the blaze, as it was on the roof. Securing a ladder one of the young women climbed to the roof and, as fast as her companions brought the pitchers, poured the water on the fire. It proved too strong for them, however, and it was not until the firemen had arrived and torn off the slate roofing that the blaze was extinguished. The damage was small.

PREMIER MAKES PROPOSALS. Wants Mr. Reid to Surrender His Claim on the Newfoundland Railroads. ST. JOHN'S, N. F., Dec. 17.—Mr. Bond, the premier, in his negotiations with Mr. Reid, the contractor, is endeavoring to effect an amicable arrangement whereby Mr. Reid will surrender his right to the reversion of the ownership of the railroads, being compensated for the purchase and accepting a fifty-year operating lease instead.

The colony is in favorable circumstances now to make better financial arrangements. The balance sheet for the last fiscal year shows an actual surplus of \$258,000, figures never previously approached in the history of Newfoundland.

COUNT WAS A FRAUD. Issued Life Insurance Policies and Pocketed the Premiums. CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—"Count" William Von Zedlitz is a prisoner here, charged with having swindled nearly one hundred persons by issuing fraudulent life insurance policies. The prisoner, it is claimed, secured blank policies from several prominent companies and filled them out himself, pocketing the money he received for premiums. He has been operating in Chicago for many months. The companies have had detectives searching for him since last spring. The prisoner cried like a child when he was confronted with the evidence against him. He is 40 years old.

NEXT YEAR'S SALON. Artists Will Display Their Work in the One Permanent Building of the Paris Exposition. PARIS, Dec. 17.—Next year's salon will be held from May 1 to June 30 in the Grand Palace de Beaux Arts, the one permanent exhibition building. There is room for 1600 pictures and 600 drawings besides sculpture. Artists can show only two works each, as there is space for eight hundred pictures less than in the old galleries. The vanishing day will be April 29.

BASEBALL PLAYER DYING. Celebrated Catcher Chances Hit in the Head By a Pitched Ball. LOS ANGELES, Dec. 17.—Frank Chance, the celebrated catcher of the Chicago base-ball club and at present playing in the Southern California State League, is hovering between life and death as the result of being hit in the head with a pitched ball.

DUMB GIRL SPEAKS. Remarkable Attainments of Miss Helen Keller. BOSTON, Dec. 17.—Helen Keller, the deaf, blind and heretofore dumb stu-

MINISTER IS MISSING.

Rumor Coupled His Disappearance With That of a Wealthy Young Nurse.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The Herald prints the following: Much speculation is being indulged in by the friends of Rev. James Lebanon Johnson, as to his whereabouts. He was last seen about one week ago at Watkins, N. J., where he has been a patient in a sanitarium, having gone there several months ago because of a most serious attack of nervous prostration.

Mr. Johnson left the sanitarium ten days ago and came to New York for some purpose and after remaining here one day returned to Watkins. He stopped at the sanitarium for two days and then went away, taking all his baggage with him. He left no address and his relatives in this city and elsewhere are wondering what has become of him. Mr. Johnson's shattered health is said to be the result of his duties as one of the chaplains of the fire department, which he assumed on March 28, 1899, having been appointed to that position by Fire Commissioner Scannell. Several years ago he lived in Tacoma, Wash., before he took holy orders, and was a member of the local fire department of that city. For two years he stepped in the engine house of the volunteer company to which he belonged so that he might be promptly on hand whenever a fire alarm came in during the night. After leaving Tacoma he went to San Francisco and remained there for some time.

Mr. Johnson came to New York several years ago and, after having studied for the Episcopal ministry, was admitted to the church. He was made assistant rector of Grace church. The fact that he had become a minister did not quench Mr. Johnson's interest in fire department affairs, however, and on March 28, of last year, he received the coveted appointment of chaplain.

Mrs. Johnson, who was Miss Mabel Van Rensselaer, is living with her mother, Mrs. Alexander Van Rensselaer, at the family residence in this city. Mr. Johnson met the family of Miss Mabel Van Rensselaer after coming to New York and in due course of time became engaged to the young woman. The wedding took place at Grace church on April 28, 1899, and was one of the most brilliant affairs that has ever taken place there.

Mr. Johnson is believed to be somewhere in the West. Almost simultaneously with the disappearance of Mr. Johnson from Watkins, comes the discovery that Miss Mary Hoffman, daughter of Southard Hoffman, of San Francisco, who for nearly two years has attended the Bellevue training school for nurses in this city, left the institution very suddenly last week. It is said that she went to San Francisco.

Miss Hoffman, who is wealthy in her own right, entered the training school for nurses simply for the purpose of gaining experience. She made excellent progress and was at the head of her class, which is to graduate early in January.

Miss Brennan, who is in charge of the school, said that she knew no reason for Miss Hoffman's sudden departure except that the young woman told her last Wednesday that she had received a dispatch containing bad news from her family in San Francisco and that she was obliged to leave for that city.

FRANCE WANTS TERRITORY. State Department Is Watching Her Attempt to Violate Monroe Doctrine. NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—A special to the Times from Washington says: The territory until recently in dispute between Brazil and France and which has been decreed to belong to Brazil may shortly become an object of dispute between France and the United States should it violate the Monroe doctrine. The territory lying south of French Guiana in the state of Para and containing 100,000 square miles was claimed by Brazil and France, and Switzerland was made the arbitrator. Her decision was in favor of Brazil. It is now reported that some French financiers anticipate that the decision would be favorable to France had already invested their capital in this territory. They are now, it is said, trying to engineer a deal by which the French government will buy this land from Brazil. The state department has absolutely no knowledge on the subject. Its attention, however, has been called to the matter and the attempt of the French capitalists to secure government aid in getting their money back will be watched with interest. There is hardly any question, it is said at the department, that such action would be a violation of the Monroe doctrine and would call forth a protest from the United States.

As long as the claim was in its original form, France might have maintained that she was simply ratifying her boundaries and that the United States cannot object to that. Even in that case a ratification of boundaries which involved an area of 100,000 square miles would be closely scrutinized. France has, however, forfeited the right to make that claim by submitting the matter to arbitration in Switzerland. The territory has been officially decreed by the Swiss tribunal to be outside of the boundaries of French Guiana.

USED FORGED CHECKS. Wholesale Swindling Done by a New Jersey Waiter. CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—A waiter threatened to become a wholesale swindler by means of forged checks was frustrated by the arrest last evening of George Kisch, a waiter 20 years old. Kisch, until three weeks ago, lived at Perth Amboy, N. J.

He was attempting to secure \$40 on a forged check when arrested. In his possession were found thirty-six checks made out in sums of various amounts, stamped and signed with the name of firms in Chicago. Kisch admitted his guilt.

WANT TO KEEP WORKS.

Paterson Citizens Trying to Buy Rogers' Locomotive Works.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Bernard and Philip Katz and several members of the citizens' committee appointed to keep the Rogers' locomotive works at Paterson, N. J., have been in conference with Jacob S. Rogers for several days.

They wanted Mr. Rogers to give a written option of 90 days on the works to the Katz Bros., on the terms already agreed on, namely, that the Katz Bros. organize a company with \$500,000 and take \$200,000 of the stock. Mr. Rogers to retain \$100,000, the remainder to be raised by the committee by popular subscription. Mr. Rogers to sell the whole concern, real estate and plant to the new company and take in payment five-per-cent bonds secured by a mortgage, the price to be ascertained by an appraisement.

Mr. Rogers refused to give the option unless the Katz Bros. would bind themselves to buy the works at the end of 30 days. This they would not do. The men who asked for the option argued that the transaction was a big one and they needed something more substantial than mere verbal promises on which to saddle subscriptions.

Mr. Rogers replied that his work was good enough and he certainly would give nothing more unless he got something in return more substantial than mere speculations as to the purchase of the works. Finally he agreed to give a verbal option of ten days for the purchase of the works on the terms agreed to, but he reserved the right to cancel that option on forty-eight hours' notice.

COPPER MINE DISCOVERED. New York Men Have Been Secretly Developing a New Jersey Vein for Months. NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Copper in paying quantities has been discovered in the Watchung mountains, two miles north of Bound Brook, N. J. The fact that a copper vein had been found has just been made known, it having been developed that the mine has been worked secretly by New York men for several months.

The principal owner of the newly-discovered mine is Josiah C. Reiff of this city. Six months ago he went to Bound Brook and after acquiring a lease on a tract of land near the Potts place, where twenty years ago copper was found, and where a mining company dug into the side of the mountain, he began operations. Work at the time was conducted in a most secret manner, even the few men who were employed and who went to Bound Brook Saturday nights refused to talk of the work and results.

They talked freely, however, last Saturday of the rich find of copper, and a man who is thoroughly familiar with the enterprise said that Colonel Reiff had struck pay dirt. He said that there are 1500 feet of underground workings and at least 3000 tons of ore on the dump. Concentrating works of fifty tons a day capacity have been built at the mine. The ore is of fine quality and will run fully 40 per cent pure copper. In with the copper is mixed silver ore amounting to from six to ten ounces to the ton.

BROOKLYN STAKES. Jockey Club Makes Its Announcement for the Coming Season. NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The Brooklyn Jockey Club, through its secretary, Hugh D. McIntyre, is out with a list of stakes for the coming season. All time stakes close on Wednesday, January 7, 1901.

There are six stakes for horses 3-year-old and upward, four for 2-year-olds exclusively, and three for 2-year-olds. Of these stakes interest of course centers in the Brooklyn handicap, which follows: The Brooklyn handicap of \$10,000 for 3-year-olds and upward; \$200 each, half forfeit or only \$15 if declared by February 20; to the winner \$500; to the second \$150 and to the third \$50; weights to be announced February 1; one mile and a quarter.

NEW IMMIGRATION STATION. New Quarters at Ellis Island Used Yesterday for the First Time. NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The new immigration station on Ellis Island will be used for the first time today. It forms a marked contrast to the barge office with its dirty, dimly-lighted cramped quarters. In place of worn floors and board partitions, grimy and greasy, there are concrete floors and white, hard-surfaced plaster walls. Instead of narrow, gloomy passages there are spacious, well-lighted rooms. The change from the old station to the new one will be a welcome one to the immigration officials, as it will make their work easier and pleasanter and give them more cheerful quarters. The hospital, the power house and the physician's house will not be ready for occupancy before February.

NAVY LOSER BY FIRE. Small Blaze at Norfolk Navy Yard Destroyed Valuable Records. WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—It is said at the navy department that serious loss has been suffered by the navy in the fire at Norfolk navy yard yesterday. The first destroyed valuable records that cannot be replaced and many necessary plans which can only be replaced at such expense in time and money.

CANNOT CHOSE A PLACE. G. A. R. Encampment Will Not Be Held at Denver Next Year. ST. LOUIS, Dec. 17.—The executive committee of the G. A. R. held a meeting today to decide on a place for the next national encampment, which will be held September 10, 1901. The cities desirous of securing the

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MURDERED STATION AGENT. Guilty Man Arrested While Attending Bicycle Race. NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Edward C. Burns will be placed on trial today at White Plains to answer the charge of murdering Herbert B. Fellows, the station agent at Scarsdale, N. Y., on December 4, 1899. Burns, it is alleged, murdered Fellows as he was returning home from the station and rifled the contents of a satchel which Fellows carried, con-

verting about \$60 in money with which he came to New York to enjoy himself. He was arrested at the bicycle races in Madison Square Garden. Burns' defense will be hereditary insanity.

ROLAND REED WORSE. NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Roland Reed, who has been for some time at St. Luke's hospital, is worse. It is said his condition has become critical.

WANT NO PRIZE FIGHTS. Chicago City Council Passes an Anti-Fight Resolution. CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—There will be no more prize fights in Chicago unless Mayor Harrison vetoes the anti-fight resolution almost unanimously adopted by the city council tonight.

WHEAT MARKET. PORTLAND, Dec. 17.—Wheat, Walla Walla, 50¢ 3/4. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17.—Wheat, May, 79¢; cash, 77¢. CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—Wheat, May, opening, 73 3/4¢; closing, 73 3/4¢. LIVERPOOL, Dec. 17.—Wheat, March, 5s. 11 3/4d.

PRICE OF SILVER. NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Silver, 64.

TO POSTPONE OLD AGE. The latest theory is to apply electricity to the base of the brain. The hardening of the arteries—the first symptom—is followed by a crumbling away of the brain cells. This process produces the mental characteristics of old age. Not alone does this treatment restore the feelings of youth, but it produces the appearance of it. While hundreds of experiments have been produced, there is but one way of prolonging youth, and that is by the preservation of health. For this purpose, and for the cure of constipation, indigestion, dyspepsia, liver and kidney disorders, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters were placed before the public over fifty years ago. Money cannot buy a better remedy. Try it, and you will be convinced.

JUST RECEIVED A Full Line of STOCKFISH... Heinze's Mince Meat, Queen Olives and all kinds of Holiday Delicacies.

FISHER BROTHERS, ASTORIA, ORE. Fancy and Staple Groceries FLOUR, FEED, PROVISIONS, TOBACCO AND CIGARS... Supplies of all kinds at lowest rates, for fishermen, Farmers and Loggers. A. V. ALLEN, Tenth and Commercial Streets.

KOPP'S BEST A Delicious and Palatable Drink Absolutely Pure The North Pacific Brewery of which Mr. John Kopp is proprietor, makes beer supplied for family use or keg beer for domestic and export trade. In the city free. North Pacific Brewery ..The Esmond Hotel, PORTLAND, ORE., FRONT AND MORRISON STS. European plan, \$6 to \$10 per day. American plan, \$1.00 to \$2.00 per day. OSCAR ANDERSON, Manager. J. C. PENDELAGST, Chief Clerk.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL MONMOUTH, OREGON Full Term opens September 18th. The students of the Normal School are prepared to take the State Certificate immediately on graduation. Graduates readily secure good positions. Expense of year from \$120 to \$150. Strong academic and professional courses. New special Department in Manual Training. Well Equipped Training Department. For Catalogue containing full announcements address P. L. CAMPBELL, President. Or W. A. WANN, Sec'y of Faculty.

Pears' To keep the skin clean is to wash the excretions from it off; the skin takes care of itself inside, if not blocked outside. To wash it often and clean, without doing any sort of violence to it, requires a most gentle soap, a soap with no free alkali in it. Pears' the soap that clears but not exoriates. All sorts of stores sell it, especially druggists; all sorts of people use it.

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