

HARD FIGHTING ON THE HILLS

British Slowly and Cautiously Moving Ahead.

BOERS FORCED STEADILY BACK

Seem to Be Short of Ammunition—The British Took Three Boer Positions on the Mountain.

Spearman's Camp, Jan. 23.—After 10 hours of continuous and terrible fire yesterday, Generals Hart and Clerly advanced 1,000 yards. The Boers maintained an irregular fire during the night, but the British outposts did not reply.

This morning at daybreak the Boers opened a stiff fire. The British stood to the guns where they had slept and an engagement was renewed vigorously. The field artillery poured shrapnel into the enemy's trenches.

A rumor that Ladysmith had been relieved enlivened the British, who sent up a ringing cheer. This was taken for an advance. The first kopje was carried at the point of the bayonet, and the Boers retreated to the next kopje, which, like most others, was strewn with immense boulders, surmounted by mounds on the summit.

The British advanced steadily and the Boers relaxed slightly. The latter did not show such tenacity as previously. Their Nordenfeldts fired at long intervals, and their cannon fired but seldom. Apparently the Boers were short of ammunition. All day the roar of musketry fire continued. The British took three Boer positions on the mountain and found shelter behind the boulders.

EX-TRANSVAAL CONSUL ARRIVES.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Mr. Montagu White, formerly consul to the Transvaal republic at London, and who, it is understood, is in this country to endeavor to obtain recognition as the diplomatic representative of the republic here, arrived in this city today, from New York.

Letter From Kruger.

London, Jan. 23.—A special dispatch from Naples says that Mr. Marum is reported to be the bearer of a letter to President McKinley from President Kruger, in which the latter proposes peace terms based on the status quo, with complete independence and a seven years' franchise.

WALL OF GOLD ORE.

Thousands Upon Thousands of Tons in Sight.

Prairie City, Jan. 23.—What is in some respects the most phenomenal gold find in Eastern Oregon, is 7½ miles south of Prairie City, in Grant county. The width of the ledge is 600 feet, and the walls are broken away for a distance of more than 3,000 feet, leaving the ore exposed 150 to 200 feet in the air. It is said that nowhere in the world has such a body of ore been found, standing, as this does, where no tunneling is necessary. The value of the ore runs from \$3 to \$63 per ton in gold, and it is free milling. Thousands upon thousands of tons of ore, unincumbered by mountains of dirt and valueless rock, stand uncovered.

Battle With Yaquis.

Nogales, Ariz., Jan. 23.—News was received from the south this morning that General Lorenzo Torres had engaged the Yaquis at Macoyata, killing over 200 and taking 500 prisoners. Father Beltrán and several sisters of charity who have been held as prisoners of war by the Yaquis for the last six months were rescued by the victorious Mexican troops and are now with General Torres. It is expected that this last important victory of General Torres will have the effect of scattering the Yaquis and will result in ending the war.

Killed by Earthquake.

City of Mexico, Jan. 23.—News is arriving from the interior points affected by the earthquake Friday night and Saturday morning. Much damage was done to property in Guadalajara, and the city of Colima, capital of the state of the same name, was the scene of terrific experiences, accompanied with the loss of seven lives. The City of Mexico came off comparatively unscathed in the earthquake, few accidents occurring here or in the suburbs. The church of the Three Kings, in the suburbs, was cracked, and will be closed for repairs.

How Men Were Ambushed.

Manila, Jan. 23.—The escort of 50 men of company C, Thirtieth infantry, Lieutenant Ralston commanding, which was ambushed near Lipa, consisted of 50 convalescents from the hospital, who were going to rejoin the regiment. The insurgents hid in the bushes along the road and opened fire upon the pack train from three sides. The Americans, in addition to their casualties, were compelled to abandon the train, which consisted of 22 horses. The latter, with their packs, fell into the hands of the insurgents, who pursued the retreating escort for three miles along the road, until the Americans were reinforced.

RELIGIOUS MONOPOLY.

Professor Herron, of Iowa, on the Effect of Socialism.

New York, Jan. 24.—George D. Herron, formerly a professor in Iowa college, who is on his way to Russia to visit Count Tolstoi, said in a lecture last night before the Social Reform Club that what Protestant Christianity termed religious authority was essentially a monopoly.

"There is no difference," he said, "between the oil combination that says 'Pay unto me so much tribute, or else go without oil,' and that of the church that says 'Whorship as I say or be damned.' It is exactly the same principle; that which lies back of the Standard Oil combination and the Protestant church.

"Socialism has come to us not as an economic change, but it stands for a new spirit and a new world. From the various forms of individualism, through capitalism and the various forms of distribution, from what a man is supposed to earn and what he really needs, we must finally reach that stage where human need is the only recognized coin of the realm for a decent society. The central idea of socialism is that of every human being an equal inheritor of worldly benefits. And in this day all things objective and subjective are tending toward the socialistic idea.

"One of the grave questions is the effect socialism will have on religion. What will be the effect on the general mental attitude in human life if socialism should predominate? What will be the effect of the creeds and the dogmas, the gods and the temples? The effect of socialistic idea possessing the world would change the whole attitude of human life toward the future.

Protestantism stands by, menacing the integrity of the human soul. The element of fear has been dominant in man for centuries. They are afraid of the gods they worship, and must propitiate them. They must sacrifice to their unknown gods more fruits of one kind or another; perhaps by founding universities or theological seminaries.

"If we really had democracy—if it were a fact instead of dogma—in the state and industry, we could not escape democracy in ethics. No human being has the right to impose ethical or religious authority on another human being. All imposed authority is essentially atheistic. The man who seeks to coerce another into accepting his views is atheistic and cannot believe in a God. What you call religious authority is essentially a monopoly.

"It is too late to reform society in America. It is no longer a question whether you will have social revolution or not, it is simply a question of what kind of a revolution you are going to have. A revolution you are sure to have. Socialism is the only living religion, the only programme of faith that is offered at the present time."

More About the Fight.

Spearman's Camp, Jan. 24.—Early Sunday morning General Warren commenced a flanking movement on the extreme left of the Boer position. The infantry advanced at 5 o'clock in the morning along the irregular sides of Tabamya mountain, which ends at Spionkop. The artillery positions were behind and on the plain. The British carefully worked along the hills until within 1,000 yards of a commanding kopje, on which the Boers were concentrated, concealed behind immense boulders strewn thickly over the hill.

The artillery opened the attack, and the batteries worked continuously, pouring tons of shrapnel among the Boers, who devoted their attention to musketry firing on the British infantry. The Boers stuck to their rocky fastness with greatest tenacity, and at the conclusion of the day the British had only advanced across a few ridges.

The Boers apparently have few guns, and they did little damage.

Captain Honley, of the Dublin fusiliers, fell mortally wounded while leading his men to seize a fresh point of vantage.

A Pietermaritzburg Rumor.

Durban, Natal, Jan. 24.—The statement comes from an excellent source in Pietermaritzburg that Lord Dundonald has entered Ladysmith with 1,600 men. This is not confirmed from any other quarter; but it is known that Lord Dundonald's flying column has been acting well to the left of the line of advance.

Eight Men Rescued.

Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 24.—Eight of the 11 men who were entombed in the Third-street tunnel by the caving in of earth yesterday, were rescued uninjured today. John Dejeo is still entombed, and is injured, but it is not known how seriously. Foreman Crawley is dead. Many tons of earth fell in the part of the tunnel where he was. The theory advanced for the cause of the tunnel caving in is that a sewer broke over the place where the men were working, and water, saturating the earth, caused it to become heavy and fall. Street Inspector Lombie, who was so badly injured, died this morning.

Almost a Centenarian.

Tacoma, Wash., Jan. 24.—Dr. Robert H. Dalton died suddenly in this city yesterday, while in his chair. He was in his 94th year, and had been in usual good health. The day before his death he wrote an epitaph for his own tombstone.

FLORICULTURE.

The Census Bureau Desires of Preparing Returns of Last Year's Statistics.

Owing to the unusual intelligence of florists as a class, and the fact that the statistics of their business which the census office requires, relate almost entirely to the year 1899, a plan has been formed for taking an early census of floriculture by mail, on special schedules, and to tabulate and publish the returns thereof early, while other branches of the great work of enumeration are in progress.

There are approximately 10,500 florists in the United States. The names and addresses of a majority of them have been secured and classified by the division of agriculture in the census office, and each known proprietor will soon receive a copy of the special schedule devoted to this interest. It will be accompanied by a list (so far as ascertained) of all the florists in his section, to be by him corrected, added to and returned to the department for use in making the record complete and reliable.

This special schedule is not elaborate or complicated. It may be filled out easily and quickly by any florist who keeps a reasonably accurate run of his business. It asks for the (1899) acreage devoted to floriculture and of each crop or variety of plants and flowers; the total area in square feet under glass and the area of each crop or variety of flower or plant raised thereunder; the number of persons employed and the total wages paid to them; the amount expended for catalogues, postage, and fertilizers respectively, and the gross receipts from the sales in each subdivision of the business.

No private individuals will be permitted to have access to the schedules after they have been filled out and returned, nor will the names of persons or firms giving information be published in the census report. Figures only will be used and published, and the entire process and record of gathering information will be confidential.

As the law requires the regular enumerators to obtain certain information as to tenure, value, etc., during their visits in June, the next census of floriculture, if the florists themselves shall be prompt and conscientious in filling out and returning the special schedules soon to be sent to them, will be the most perfect in history.

They will be put to no expense, as the necessary stationery, with envelopes properly franked, will be provided for their use.

Dawson to Skagway on a Wheel.

The second man from Dawson to Bennett over the ice with a wheel has arrived in Skagway, and is elated over the prospects of the bike for use on the trail, says the Alaskan. He says the automobile is being talked of in Dawson for use on the interior roads, one advantage over horses it is hoped it may have in the land being the elimination of feed bills. R. P. McLennan is the man who brings the news.

Mr. McLennan rode a great part of the distance on the wheel, and predicts the bike will be a big factor in winter travel on the Yukon. He recommends it to any one wishing to make a quick trip without freight or much baggage.

He was 14 days making the trip, but predicts that after the lakes are all frozen and the roads are packed well and the roughness worn off the trip between Dawson and Bennett should be made without any great effort in from five to six days.

"The first 100 miles out from Dawson," says Mr. McLennan, "was good traveling. Then on either side of Selkirk for 20 miles the road was very rough. This side or that the road was very good, save for 10 miles of the Dominion cut-off. The Canadian Development Company is cutting down with axes and mattocks the 10 miles of rough road along the river this side of Selkirk, and Dumbolton is cutting down the other side, thus making the stretch on both sides suitable for double teams. Sledding is good from Caribou through to Dawson, and the road in all places, except those mentioned as rough, is as a rule packed hard and smooth as a pavement. All freight on scows blockaded near Thistle and Stewart is being moved to Dawson by sled, also some from Five Fingers. The Klondike will be a greater producer next season than ever, as much dear work done in primary development last season will help. Steam thawers will help, and Sulphur, Gold Run and Dominion promise to rank among the star creeks."

Pacific Coast Chat.

Lake county, Oregon, pays \$4.25 a week each for the keep of its paupers.

The Lake county court last week put its O. K. on 721 bounty scapals—one cougar, 47 wildcats and 673 coyotes.

In 1898 Whatcom postoffice receipts were \$10,355.43, and in 1899, \$12,732.10.

The quarterly report of Pierce county shows receipts of \$336,000, of which \$100,000 goes to Tacoma as its share of the taxes.

There is talk of putting in two new salmon canneries at Blaine. One of the plants, if built, will be operated by Oregonians.

GRAND RONDE AWAKE.

Will Feed the Rich Mining Country Tributary.

The effect of the mining development of Eastern Oregon is beginning to be felt in the agricultural districts, says a writer in the Oregonian. An agrarian population is slow to take up new lines of industry. Remaining for years in one place and settling into fixed habits of action, varied only with the seasons, farmers and interior merchants do not readily adapt themselves to changing conditions. Revolutions in agricultural systems often are delayed until imposed by immigrants who infuse fresh blood and foreign ideas into the community. Thoughtful experiment and moderate speculation bring about development.

The Grand Ronde valley, the richest and most extensive valley of Eastern Oregon, is waking up to wonderful opportunities. It finds itself the agricultural center of a mineral zone which is attracting and giving support to thousands of people. The Cornucopia and Snake river mines, 60 miles east, and the Baker City, Sumpter and Granite mines, within the same distance south and southeast, are tributary to the fields, meadows, gardens and orchards of the Grand Ronde. And now that the mining camps are making frequent and heavy demands upon this land of plenty, residents begin to have an appreciation of their holdings. So many of them have had their cupidity aroused by touching the gold and silver which is flowing in from the mining camps that organization is under way to get more of the precious stuff. It is agreed that Grande Ronde should place herself in position to traffic directly with all the producing mining centers. The Hilgard, Granite & Southwestern Railroad Company is an effort in that direction.

The project of a railroad up the Grand Ronde canyon and over the summit of the Blue mountains and down a fork of the John Day river to Granite is not a result of mining enterprise only. It is a necessity for timber and sawmill operators. But the farmers of the Grand Ronde valley look upon it with great favor because it will put them in quick and close communication with the best market which a farmer may hope for—a mining camp.

Oregon's Gold Output.

The question of having Oregon's gold output correctly reported by the mint officials was brought up by a letter from Representative Tongue by the Portland Chamber of Commerce. The letter read: "The director of the mint still undervalues the output of Oregon's gold mines. Can you give me any definite information?" It was brought out in the discussion which followed that complete figures of Oregon's gold yield are difficult to obtain. Mr. Batchelder explained that the mines are private enterprises, the same as mercantile houses, and that mine-owners are naturally averse to telling the public how much business they do. An effort will be made by the Chamber of Commerce to supply Representative Tongue with trustworthy data.

Progress at Copper Butte.

W. B. Gilkison, one of the original owners of the new mines at Copper Butte, east of Union, in Union county, speaks very enthusiastically of the work that is being done on the new property. He says the pay-roll at Copper Butte now aggregates \$1,600 per month. A shaft 55 feet deep has been sunk and drifts are now being run from this. Sixteen or 17 men are employed there, a double shift working in three places. Some of the ore now being extracted is very fine, and is satisfactory to owners. Great things are predicted for this camp.

Pacific Mail's Big Boat.

The Pacific Mail Company's steamer Alcoa, which recently arrived at San Francisco from China, is the largest vessel that ever entered that port and carried the largest cargo that ever entered at San Francisco, although she was partly discharged at Honolulu. She was loaded with 11,854 tons, of which 9,614 tons went to San Francisco. She had to use three docks to unload.

Fine Was Reduced.

The barkentine J. M. Griffiths, which reached Port Townsend from Neuchang, China, some time ago without consular bills of health, was fined \$5,000 by the Port Townsend customs officials. The vessel appealed to the treasury department and notification has been received to the effect that the fine has been reduced to merely a nominal sum—\$10.

A new method of domestic refrigeration was shown at the recent international export exposition held in Philadelphia. Instead of delivering blocks of ice to put into the home refrigerators, a sheet iron tank filled with frozen distilled water is delivered and this tank is slipped into the refrigerator. The water in the tank is completely frozen when delivered, of course, and as it melts much more slowly the consumer's expense is not so great. And then, too, the ice water made by the melting ice is held in the tank and assists in keeping things cool.

Refreshments are not served at parties because guests are hungry, but because people drop their reserve when eating begins and become sociable.

SPECULATION WAS SLACK.

Payments Through Clearing-Houses Less Than a Year Ago.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: Whether the new year will surpass or keep pace with the old is the question which gives special interest to every week's returns. Comparing now with business by far the largest and most prosperous ever known a year ago, more than 40 per cent larger than in January, 1898, which, in its turn, had shown heavier business than in any preceding year, it cannot be expected that such a gain will be repeated. But the decrease of 9.6 per cent in payments through the clearing-houses is wholly due to great speculative activity at New York last year, with sales of 12,031,832 shares against 6,518,920 to the same date this year, for payments outside this city have been 4.3 per cent greater than a year ago, and greater than in the same part of any other month.

This week one contract of 10,000 tons for a Western road, and two for bridges requiring 11,000 tons, are the only big transactions reported in iron products. Perhaps the most important industrial event is the marketing of wolen goods at prices averaging 18.4 per cent higher than last year, many makes being promptly sold up and withdrawn, while others sell so well as to give great encouragement.

Business in cotton goods begins to increase, though in staples it is still moderate.

The market for breadstuffs is not active nor have changes in prices of elevator wheat been of any consequence, but the active May option shows a sharp decline. Atlantic exports continue far below former years; in three weeks, 6,093,325 bushels against 13,224,082 last year.

Failures for the week have been 242 in the United States, against 248 last year, and 40 in Canada, against 32 last year.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.

Onions, new, \$1.50 @ 1.75 per sack.
Lettuce, hot house, \$1.25
Potatoes, new, \$16 @ 20.
Beets, per sack, 75 @ 85c.
Turnips, per sack, 60c.
Carrots, per sack, 50c.
Parsnips, per sack, 75 @ 85c.
Cauliflower, 75c @ \$1 per dozen.
Cabbage, native and California, 75c @ \$1.00 per 100 pounds.
Apples, \$1.25 @ 1.50 per box.
Pears, \$1.00 @ 1.25 per box.
Prunes, 60c per box.
Butter—Creamery, 32c per pound; dairy, 17 @ 22c; ranch, 34c per pound.
Eggs—20 @ 21c.
Cheese—Native, 16c.
Poultry—13 @ 14c; dressed, 14 @ 15c.
Hay—Puget Sound timothy, \$12.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$18.00 @ 19.00.
Corn—Whole, \$23.00; cracked, \$23; feed meal, \$23.
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$21; whole, \$22.
Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.25; blended straight, \$3.00; California, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$6.00; graham, per barrel, \$3.80; whole wheat flour, \$3.00; rye flour, \$3.80 @ 4.00.
Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$14.00; shorts, per ton, \$16.00.
Feed—Chopped feed, \$19.50 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$20; oil cake meal, per ton, \$30.00.
Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef steers, 7½ @ 8c; cows, prime, 7c; pork, 7c; trimmed, 8½c; veal, 8½ @ 10c.
Hams—Large, 13c; small, 13½c; breakfast bacon, 12½c; dry salt sides, 8c.

Portland Market.

Wheat—50c Walla Walla, 50 @ 51c; Valley, 50c; Bluestem, 52c per bushel.
Flour—Best grades, \$2.90; graham, \$2.25; superfine, \$2.15 per barrel.
Oats—Choice white, 35 @ 36c; choice gray, 34c per bushel.
Barley—Feed barley, \$15 @ 16.00; brewing, \$18.00 @ 18.50 per ton.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$17 per ton; middlings, \$22; shorts, \$18; chop, \$16 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$9.50 @ 11; clover, \$7 @ 8; Oregon wild hay, \$6 @ 7 per ton.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 50 @ 55c; seconds, 42½ @ 45c; dairy, 30 @ 37½c; store, 22½ @ 27½c.
Eggs—17 @ 17½c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 12½c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$2.50 @ 4.00 per dozen; hens, \$4.50; springs, \$2.50 @ 3.50; geese, \$7.00 @ 8.50 for old; \$4.50 @ 6.50; ducks, \$6.00 @ 9.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 15 @ 17c per pound.
Potatoes—55 @ 80c per sack; sweets, 2 @ 2½c per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, \$1; turnips, 90c; per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cabbage, 1½c per pound; parsnips, \$1; onions, \$1.15 @ 1.50; carrots, \$1.
Hops—7 @ 10c; 1898 crop, 5 @ 6c.
Wool—Valley, 12 @ 13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8 @ 14c; mohair, 27 @ 30c per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 3½c; dressed mutton, 6½ @ 7c per pound; lambs, 7½c per pound.
Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$5.00; light and feeders, \$4.50; dressed, \$5.50 @ 6.00 per 100 pounds.
Beef—Gross, top steers, \$8.50 @ 4.00; cows, \$8 @ 3.50; dressed beef, 6½ @ 7½c per pound.
Veal—Large, 6½ @ 7½c; small, 8 @ 8½c per pound.