

REGRESSED THE TUGELA

Buller's Forces Have Retreated Southward.

BOERS DID NOT PRESS THEM

British Lost Heavily—Buller Thinks Transvaalers Have Been Taught to Respect English Fighting Qualities.

London, Jan. 30.—General Buller says General Warren's troops have retreated south of the Tugela river. The Boers say the British lost 1,500 killed Wednesday. It is believed here this includes the wounded. The Boers also claim that 150 of the English troops surrendered at Spionkop.

British Left 1500 Dead.

Boer Head Lager, Ladysmith, Jan. 30.—The British dead left on the battlefield yesterday numbered 1,500.

ACCOUNT OF THE MOVEMENT.

Buller's Official Dispatch to the War Office—The Fighting.

London, Jan. 30.—General Buller's dispatch to the war office states that Spionkop was abandoned on account of lack of water, inability to bring artillery there and the heavy Boer fire. General Buller gives no list of casualties. His whole force withdrew south of the Tugela river, with the evident intention of reaching Ladysmith by another route.

Following is the text of General Buller's dispatch, dated Spearman's Camp, Saturday Jan. 27:

"On January 20 Warren drove back the enemy and obtained possession of the southern crests of the high tableland extending from the line of Acton Homes and Hongerspoort to the western Ladysmith hills. From then to January 25 he remained in close contact with the enemy.

Boers Held Strong Position.

"The enemy held a strong position on a range of small kopjes stretching from northwest to southeast across the plateau from Acton Homes, through Spionkop, to the left bank of the Tugela. The actual position held was perfectly tenable, but did not lend itself to an advance, as the southern slopes were so steep that Warren could not get an effective artillery position, and water supplies were a difficulty.

"On January 23 I assented to his attacking Spionkop, a large hill, indeed, a mountain which was evidently the key to the position, but was far more accessible from the north than from the south. On the night of January 23 he attacked Spionkop, but found it very difficult to hold, as its perimeter was to large, and water, which he had been led to believe existed, in this extraordinary dry season was found very deficient.

"The crest was held all that day against severe attacks, and a heavy shell fire. Our men fought with great gallantry.

"General Woodgate, who was in command of the summit, having been wounded, the officer who succeeded him decided on the night of January 24 to abandon the position, and did so before dawn January 25.

"I reached Warren's camp at 5 A. M. on January 25, and decided that a second attack upon Spionkop was useless, and that the enemy's right was too strong to allow me to force it.

Decided to Withdraw.

"Accordingly, I decided to withdraw the force to the south of the Tugela. At 6 A. M. we commenced withdrawing the men, and by 8 A. M., January 27, Warren's force was concentrated south of the Tugela without the loss of a man or a pound of stores.

"The fact that the force should withdraw from actual touch—in some cases the lines were less than 1,000 yards apart—with the enemy in the manner it did, is, I think, sufficient evidence of the morale of the troops, and that we were permitted to withdraw our cumbersome ox and mule transports across the river, 85 yards broad, with 20-foot banks and a very swift current, unopposed, is, I think, proof that the enemy has been taught to respect our soldiers' fighting powers."

Plague in New Caledonia.

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 29.—From Noumea, New Caledonia, the steamship Miowera brings alarming reports of the ravages of the plague, which has been prevalent there since early in December. There were 16 deaths during the first 10 days following the outbreak. The plague is attributed to the filthy quarters of the Japanese, Tonkinese and Kanakas. All the Kanakas have been isolated on an island adjacent to the town. Up to December 23 there had been no deaths among the whites, eight of whom had been infected, but nine Kanakas, two Japanese and five Tonkinese had died of the disease. Much alarm is felt by the residents and business is at a standstill. The natives believe the plague is a visitation of providence, and that it is wrong to take means to check it.

At Pomeroy last week 81 horses were daily inspected, and purchased by the government. About as many were rejected.

ROBERTS' NEXT MOVE.

The British Army Will Now Advance Through the Free State.

London, Jan. 31.—History pauses for a time in South Africa. It is one of those unsatisfactory pauses that are nearly as trying to British nerves as a sequence of reverses, and apparently it will terminate only when Lord Roberts gives the word for the forward movement into the Free State, which, according to the most cheerful view, he will be unable to do for a fortnight. Whether he will permit General Buller to make another attempt to relieve Ladysmith is quite outside the knowledge even of those closely connected with the war office. With the troops due to arrive next month he may think himself strong enough to try two large operations.

Combining the forces under Generals Methuen, French and Gatacre, and adding to them the arriving troops, Lord Roberts would have 70,000 for the invasion of the Free State, with 40,000 to 50,000 guarding communications, and 40,000 trying to rescue Ladysmith.

The public burns with impatience that something should be done, but there is nothing to do but wait on the preparations. Oceans of ink are poured out in advice. Orators are at work in the provinces, telling the people that England has set her teeth in grim determination to see it through.

The government's declarations in parliament, the counter-declarations of those outside the government and the consequent discussion in the press and on the platform will immediately enthrall the public interest.

The thing on which everybody seems agreed is that more men must go. Twenty thousand two hundred and twenty-two men and 155 guns are at sea. Eleven thousand infantry and 9,000 cavalry, including 5,000 yeomen, are practically ready to embark. Therefore, the government, without doing more, can place at the disposal of Lord Roberts 40,000 additional men and 155 guns. The further purposes of the war officials are supposed to embrace somewhat in the neighborhood of 50,000 men. As the indication is that candidates will be rather scarce, the war office will issue orders for those reservists who were found unfit at the previous mobilization examinations to report for further examination. Applicants for cavalry service are still freely offering as yeomanry.

General Buller's operations has cost 912 men so far officially reported within 10 days. Applying to the 206 Spionkop casualties reported today the rule of proportion, the loss of officers indicates 500 casualties yet to come. The total casualties of the war, compiled from official reports, are 9,523—nearly a division. Of these 2,486 were killed, 4,811 wounded, and the rest are prisoners.

The aggregate British home troops in South Africa number 116,000, the Natalians 7,158, and Cape Colonials 21,000.

The war office announces that no further news has been received from South Africa, except a report from Lord Roberts that the situation is unchanged.

MONEY FOR THE BOERS.

Administration Will Refuse to Forward It on Neutrality Grounds.

New York, Jan. 31.—A special to the World from Washington says: The fear of offending Great Britain and provoking a protest would cause the administration to decline to comply with the request of Dr. Pretorius, of St. Louis, who, it is said, has forwarded to Secretary Hay money and letters expressing sympathy with the Boers, which he asks to be sent to President Kruger through the American consul at Pretoria. It is indicated that the state department will take the ground that it would be a violation of the neutrality laws for this government to give financial aid to a belligerent.

It is pointed out that this request differs from the request made by the American consul at Pretoria in behalf of Great Britain to be permitted to forward money to be used by the British sick and wounded in the purchase of delicacies, in that the latter request is made by one belligerent of another, using a neutral as means of communication.

Robber Gang Run Down.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Jan. 31.—A report has reached this city that a posse of Union Pacific detectives, headed by Tom Horn, had run down two of the Union Pacific train robbers in the Hole in the Wall, and after a desperate fight, killed both of them. One of the pursuing party was shot, but it is thought not seriously. It is known that the robbers separated in two gangs after leaving the railroad, and the men reported killed were those who were trailed through the mountains so closely and afterwards escaped.

It is supposed they returned to the Hole in the Wall when they thought the pursuit was over, and the detectives have been watching the rendezvous ever since, until they got their men.

Denial by Ezeta.

Oakland, Cal., Jan. 31.—Carlos Ezeta, ex-president of San Salvador, has returned to his home here after a trip of four months' duration to Mexico. It was reported at the time of his departure that he proposed to regain his lost power if possible, but he denies that such was his intention.

THE ARID REGIONS.

Twelfth Census Will Show Present Condition and Values of Agriculture in Arid, Sub-Humid Sections.

The preliminary work of the census office in collecting data relative to the arid and sub-humid regions shows that during the past 10 years vast areas have been reclaimed by irrigation, both by ditching from running streams and drilling for subterranean waters.

Where only a few years ago the sage brush struggled for existence in the midst of a waste of alkali and sand, today are fields of waving grain and blossoming orange-groves. Hundreds of miles of canals and ditches have been constructed; hundreds of wells have been sunk, and thousands of acres of land have been cultivated in zones where once the desolation of Sahara reigned.

Moistened by fresh waters and fertilized by the rich silt of the swift mountain streams, once trackless wastes and desolate valleys in the arid Southwest, have become as fertile as the famous valley of the Nile, and send forth crops of endless variety and exceeding abundance.

Irrigation is intensive farming. Where the water supply is ample, it is sure farming. There are no failures, and crops are enormous. The experienced irrigator is like the trained engineer with his hand on the lever. The movements of his hand regulate the amount of water supplied to his fields as those of the engineer control his engine.

In most of the irrigable sections of the West, fertilizers have never been used, although the land has been constantly cultivated for over two centuries. In many sections fields may be seen which have yielded successive crops of wheat for 40 years and show no diminution of productive strength.

Wonderful progress is shown in the methods of constructing canals, dams, and pumping machinery, and in the manner of distributing water. Modern inventions in machinery have greatly lessened the time, labor, and cost of construction and management, and made possible many gigantic enterprises of land reclamation and water utilization.

Mountains have been tunneled and whole rivers have been lifted from their beds and spread over the valleys precisely as wanted. High up in the ranges and on the elevated plateaus immense storage reservoirs have been constructed to impound the flood waters of the streams so that the thirsty land below shall not suffer during the long rainless summer.

As the successful solution of the problem of conservation of flood waters means the reclamation of millions of acres of public land, the people naturally ask the government to promote measures having this end in view. To this demand the government responds. Lands containing excellent reservoir sites have been set aside and a thorough study of the sources and permanence of the water supply of arid regions has been made to enable congress to legislate with intelligence upon this important subject.

In aid of this work the twelfth census will endeavor comprehensively to show the present condition and values of agriculture in the arid and sub-humid regions; the length, irrigable extent and cost of the various canals, wells and ditches; the character, volume and constancy of water supply; systems employed in distribution; amount paid for water and the crops, acreage and yield of irrigated farms.

This effort will be successful if those interested in irrigation shall heartily co-operate with the census office and its agents.

Within a brief period the main schedules for taking the census of irrigation will be distributed, and Director Merriam requests that all recipients prepare properly to fill them out and to return them promptly.

Pacific Coast Notes.

Mormon elders are holding meetings at points in Wallowa county.

Baker City's special tax to continue her schools was carried by a vote of 50 to 1.

Eagle valley has a "whisky wagon"—presumably a concern that peddles fire water.

Another sawmill will soon be in operation on the Siuslaw. It will be owned by Saubert & Co., and will cut about 30,000 feet daily.

The Marshfield Sun understands that the Western Union Telegraph company will extend its line to all points in the county the coming summer.

There will be no debate this winter between the state universities of Oregon and California, but effort will be made to have a "meet" next winter.

A barrel of whisky, supposed to have come from the wreck of the Brother Jonathan, which was lost off Crescent City in 1865, was washed ashore last week, says the Marshfield Coast Mail. The barrel is in good condition, and the whisky should be of rare quality.

A river steamer is being built on the Coquille by D. T. White, Alex Snyder and John Moomaw, which is to have a speed of 14 knots an hour. It is the intention to make two round trips per lay between Coquille City and Bandon during the summer months.

MINES AND MINING.

Mayor Cashel Tells of the Richness of the Cape Nome District.

Mayor Cashel, of Nome, tells of its wonderful riches:

When I first came to Nome, on June 27, from Dawson, some men were working on the beach to see what they could get out of it. They worked quietly at first, but pretty soon the news of the richness of the beach got out. Business men quit their business in town and went to the beach to work. The whole shore became an attraction.

As regards the gold, there are two, and sometimes three, pay streaks. In the first the gold is almost always found in a strata of ruby sand, especially when found above bed rock. This bed rock is really a false rock, for it consists of a stratum of clay or sand. It varies. I think that below it is another bed rock.

When gold is found on this so-called bed rock it is sometimes deposited with a sediment of the character of ruby sand, and sometimes otherwise. This ruby sand is nothing more than iron. The water runs over the tailings in the color of blood. The redder it is the richer the deposit.

I don't like to theorize as to where the gold comes from, but the gold is nearly always coarser near the shore than at the edge of the tundra, giving the impression that it comes out of the sea, because the finest particles are found deposited at the furthest point from the present surf action. Within a radius of two miles on the beach—from the spit to the northwest—I counted personally, about August 15, 280 rockers. There were at least two men to each, and away beyond these rockers, below the Indian village for seven or eight miles, was an almost continuous line of men.

Taking it as a conservative average, I should think 2,500 men were working on the beach between the mouth of Snake river and Cripple river. I judge very few men made less than \$10 a day, and the average was at least an ounce a day, or \$16.

I know personally two men who took out \$13,000 between July 15 and October 4. These were Cummings and Missouri Bill, and there were others that I know in a short space of time took out lots of gold. J. W. Logan, a San Francisco newspaper man, and three associates, took out \$7,000 in 30 days and left the country. They just worked one little draw. This is conservative.

I made myself, under favorable circumstances, \$100 a day for a time. Any man who went on the beach and would work ten hours a day made big money. Most men didn't work hard, and in a great many instances they rocked over and lost more than they saved. The appliances were crude and the men inexperienced. But after the introduction of copper and silver plates, better results were obtained. I estimate that an average of 2,000 men were working on the beach and that they made \$1,500 each. This would bring the product up to \$2,000,000, and I believe that at the least the product was from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000. They worked nearly thirteen miles of this beach.

Mines in Rossland Streets.

Several promising quartz claims have been located in the streets of Rossland. B. C. A shaft has been sunk to a ledge uncovered by a street grade at First avenue and St. Paul street and a shaft in fine ledge matter has been sunk on the Paris Belle on Butte street, and as good croppings as have ever been found in the camp were recently discovered in a basement of a residence. It is stated that lying between Monte Cristo and Butte streets there is every indication of an immense body of ore. The Rossland Miner says that on account of the surface of the Paris Belle being covered with houses, the work of prospecting and development has been prosecuted under difficulties, but it is being accomplished and along practical lines.

Paint Mine Bounded.

The announcement of a paint mine and iron deposits, near Scappoose, in Columbia county, have led Portland capitalists to investigate. After a careful survey of the country by competent engineers and expert mineralogists, a half section of land owned by Frank Payne, on the north fork of Scappoose creek, was bonded for \$53,000 by a Portland syndicate. An amount sufficient to satisfy Mr. Payne that the investors mean business has been paid, and if the weather shall permit, work on permanent improvements will soon be started.

Lead Furnace Resumes Work.

The removal of the duty on pig lead, resulting from Canadian bullion being refined in the United States, has already had its effect in the "blowing in" of the lead furnace at the Trail, B. C., smelter. This smelter has a stock of ore sufficient to keep it in operation for two or three months, independent of any new purchases.

The members of the Dublin (Ireland) Fire Brigade are about to memorialize the corporation to increase their wages. The maximum salary paid to the employees is \$7.50, while the minimum salary is \$6. The men on escape duty also are going to apply for a reduction in the hours they have to work presently.

WOOLEN GOODS ACTIVE.

Prove an Exception to Dullness Shown in Other Lines.

Bradstreet's review says:

Exceptions to the quiet and even dullness shown by the many lines of trade and speculation are found in the active demand for woollen goods for next fall's delivery, and in the active call for dry goods on spring account. In the latter direction, prices show special strength, and the bulk of the business placed in woollens has been at an advance of 25 to 40 per cent. In other lines, notable steadiness is shown in prices. Weather conditions throughout the country part of the week have been against trade in seasonable goods, and there is very general complaint of large stocks of winter goods in the hands of this branch of trade. Another effect of the usually mild weather is that shown in the Northwestern lumber business. The lack of snow will probably insure a reduction on the cut of last year, and this, combined with smaller stocks, points to at least a maintenance of present lumber quotations.

Woollen manufacturers have constituted an exception to the general quiet. They opened their order books this week, and an unusually heavy volume of business is reported to have been recorded. Cotton goods are reported in good demand in nearly all markets, and the confidence as to spring business in dry goods and clothing is a notable feature, in sharp contrast, in fact, with the reports received from retailers as to the present season's business in winter-wear goods. Scarcity of water is complained of as limiting the output of New England cotton mills, which are reported as backward in deliveries.

Business failures for the week number 252, as compared with 255 last week, 246 in the week a year ago, 288 in 1898, 326 in 1897, and 393 in 1896. Canadian failures for the week number 39.

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, 29c per pound; dairy, 17@22c; ranch, 34c per pound.
Eggs—20c.
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, \$20.00 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$20; oil cake meal, per ton, \$30.00.
Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef steers, 4 1/2@5c; cows, 4@4 1/2c; pork, 4 1/2c; trimmed, 6 1/2c; veal, small, 6c; large, 4c.
Hams—Large, 13c; small, 13 1/2c; breakfast bacon, 12 1/2c; dry salt sides, 3c.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 51@52c; Valley, 50c; Blugstem, 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, \$10@12; clover, \$7@8; Oregon wild hay, \$6@7 per ton.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 50@55c; seconds, 42 1/2@45c; dairy, 30@37 1/2c; store, 22 1/2@27 1/2c.
Eggs—16@17 1/2c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 12 1/2c; 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@85c per sack; sweets, 2@2 1/2c per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, \$1; turnips, 90c; per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cabbage, 1 1/2c 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, 3 1/2c; dressed mutton, 6 1/2@7c per pound; lambs, 7 1/2c 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, \$3.50@4.00; cows, \$3@3.50; dressed beef, 6 1/2@7 1/2c per pound.
Veal—Large, 6 1/2@7 1/2c; small, 8@8 1/2c per pound.