

A BRITISH DISASTER

Clements' Force Defeated by Boers Under DeLarey.

WERE HEAVY LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES

English Forced to Abandon Their Position—General French With Reinforcements Has Gone to the Rescue.

London, Dec. 17.—Lord Kitchener reports that, after severe fighting at Nootgedacht, General Clements' force were compelled to retire by Commandant DeLarey, with a force of 2,500 men. Five British officers were killed. The other casualties were not reported. Lord Kitchener's official dispatch to the war office is as follows:

"Pretoria, Dec. 15.—Clements' force at Nootgedacht, on the Magalies' Berg, was attacked at dawn today by DeLarey, reinforced by Beyer's commando from Warmbath, making a force estimated at 2,500. Though the first attack was repulsed, the Boers managed to get to the top of the Magalies' Berg, which was held by four companies of the Northumberland fusiliers, and were thus able to command Clements' camp. He retired on Helport, and took up a position on a hill in the center of the valley.

"The casualties have not been completely reported, but the fighting was very severe, and I deeply regret that Colonel Legge, of the Twentieth Hussars, and Captains McBean, Murdoch and Atkinson were killed."

Lord Kitchener also reports that the Boers made an attack and were repulsed at Lychtenberg, and that General Lemmer was killed. Attacks upon Bethlehem and Vrede were also repulsed, the Boers losing 10 killed and 14 wounded. Vryheid was attacked December 11. Sniping continued when the message was dispatched.

The scenes at the war office today recall those witnessed in the early stages of the war. A constant stream of excited people filled the lobbies, all seeking details of the disaster. The absence of the names of any of the officers of the Northumberland fusiliers in General Kitchener's dispatch leads to the foreboding that the four companies of the fusiliers mentioned are in the hands of the Boers. The war office officials evidently expect a heavy casualty list, but they are hopeful from the fact that the dispatch does not mention the capture of the Northumberlanders that such a great catastrophe has been escaped.

Orders were issued at Aldershot, Malta and other military centers to dispatch all the available mounted infantry to South Africa.

It is reported that General Knox, co-operating with the British column at Reddersburg, has stopped General Dewet, and that a battle is proceeding. The report adds that many of General Dewet's followers have been captured.

The scene of the fight is ominously close to Pretoria. Nootgedacht is only 22 miles northwest of Pretoria.

English Loss Heavy.

London, Dec. 17.—Lord Kitchener reports that 18 officers and 555 men are missing from General Clements' force. They consist of four companies of the Northumberland fusiliers. Judging from the message these were captured by the Boers. Clements' casualties December 15 amounted to five officers and nine men killed and many apparently wounded.

French Goes to the Rescue.

Johannesburg, Dec. 17.—The battle still continues within a few miles from Krugersdorp. General Clements has asked for reinforcements, and mounted men under General French have already gone. There have been many casualties on both sides. It is estimated that the Boers number 2,800.

Montana Town Shaken.

Guthrie, Mont., Dec. 17.—The inhabitants of the town of Cashion were awakened this morning by a peculiar wave-like motion and trembling of the earth. Many of them rushed into the streets, so badly were they frightened. No damage was done.

Increase in Wages.

Calumet, Mich., Dec. 17.—Commencing January 1, the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company will increase the wages of its 4,000 employees 2½ per cent. Last March the company raised the wages of its employees 10 per cent.

Paddy Ryan Dead.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 17.—Paddy Ryan, a one time champion pugilist of the world, who was defeated by John L. Sullivan, in their famous fight in Mississippi some years ago, died at his home in Glens Falls, N. Y., this afternoon.

Earthquake in Missouri.

Joplin, Mo., Dec. 17.—An earthquake shock lasting nearly a minute was experienced in this city at 7:45 o'clock this morning. The motion was from north to south, and of a quivering nature.

LYNCHED BY A MOB.

Vengeance Dealt Two Negroes in Indiana—Authorities Were Overcome.

Rockport, Ind., Dec. 19.—Two negroes, Jim Henderson and Bud Rowlands, who waylaid, murdered and robbed Hollie Simons, a white barber, early this morning, were lynched to-night in the jail yard by a mob of 1,500. The negroes were arrested soon after the murder occurred, and although Rowlands' clothing had blood stains on it they claimed they were innocent. In the meantime Sheriff Clements, of Union county, Kentucky, arrived with a trained bloodhound. When the dog was placed on the trail he followed it to the house where Rowlands lived, six blocks from the scene of the murder, and went baying to the bed the negro had occupied. This was enough for the excited citizens. Within a few minutes a mob of a thousand and howling, bloodthirsty men with sledge hammers, ropes and guns were on the way to the jail.

Sheriff Anderson and his two deputies made a stand and attempted to protect the prisoners. The officers were seized by the leaders of the mob and disarmed. The sheriff, although locked in a room and placed under guard, stoutly refused to give up the keys or tell where the prisoners were hiding.

The mob made a determined but unsuccessful attempt to break in the jail door. Finally they secured a telegraph pole, and using it as a battering ram caved in the side wall of the jail. The door of Rowlands' cell was then quickly broken in with sledge hammers and he was dragged from the jail to the east side of the court yard, where a noose was placed about his neck. He was given time to make a statement, in which he implicated Jim Henderson and another negro. Rowlands then begged piteously for mercy, but the mob quickly swung the confessed murderer to a tree and riddled his body with bullets.

Leaving the dangling body of Rowlands, the mob rushed back to the jail and burst open the cell occupied by Henderson. Before the bars yielded to the blows of the sledge some one in the crowd fired upon the terrified negro as he crouched in the far corner. It took but a few moments to get at Henderson, and the negro, more dead than alive, was dragged at the rope's end to the court house yard and swung to the tree beside the body of Rowlands. Firing a parting volley at the swinging bodies, the mob, eager for another victim, hurried away to catch the other negro implicated by Rowlands. He was found at a hotel where he was employed as a porter. The negro escaped to the roof of the building, and Manager De Bruler succeeded in convincing the mob that the porter had nothing to do with the crime. The mob then dispersed, apparently satisfied with its work of vengeance.

Simons was murdered in the most brutal manner, one square from the main street of the city, as he was going to his home from his barber shop at 2 o'clock this morning. He carried the receipts of the day's work, a fact of which the negroes were aware. They attacked him from behind, striking him over the head with a heavy club into which a large nail had been driven. Although terribly beaten, Simons made a desperate fight. His cries attracted two boys. The negroes drove them away and accomplished their original design, securing a bag containing something over \$40 from their victim, and made their escape. When others arrived Simons was dead. His skull was crushed in and his head and face beaten to a pulp. The spike on the club had punctured the skull in four places and penetrated his brain.

Walter Evans, one of the young men who attempted to rescue Simons, and who afterwards witnessed the lynching, has become a raving maniac.

The dead man's wife is prostrated, and it is believed she will die from the shock.

Earthquake in Cuba.

Santiago de Cuba, Dec. 19.—A sharp earthquake shock was felt here about midnight last night. It was the most severe that has been experienced in several years, and created a panic at the San Carlos club, where a grand ball was in progress. The shock was preceded by a dull sound like a mine explosion. Two shocks followed, the former being quite severe and the latter scarcely perceptible. The club rooms became scenes of frantic commotion. Several people rushed into the streets. At Morro Castle a liberty ball was in progress. American ladies present expressed great interest in the earthquake, which was the first they had experienced, but displayed no fear.

Fighting in Colombia.

Kingston, Jamaica, Dec. 19.—Advices from Colon, Colombia, today regarding the fighting between the government troops and the insurgents at Tumaco, say that the withdrawing insurgent force was not dispersed. On the contrary, fears are entertained that this body of rebels will effect a junction with the force operating around Begua Ventura. Both sides lost heavily in the battle of Tumaco. When the government forces destroyed the rebel steamer Gaitan they also destroyed a large lot of ammunition.

OREGON STATE NEWS

Items of Interest From All Parts of the State.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL HAPPENINGS

A Brief Review of the Growth and Improvements of the Many Industries Throughout Our Thriving Commonwealth.

Elmira has a football team.

John Day has three smallpox cases.

A telephone line from Huntington to Burns is projected.

The sheriff of Grant county collected \$9,418.40 in November.

An organ has been purchased for the Gold Hill school house.

The Corvallis creamery is paying 25 cents per pound for butter fat.

J. J. Fitzgerald, of Shelburne, has a contract for 20,000 fence rails.

The McDonald & Fisher sawmill at Summerville is in running order.

Repairs to the Blanchard bridge east of Aurora were finished last week.

The Clerks' union, of Pendleton, has organized with nearly 100 members.

The Enterprise council has passed acts against bawdy houses and vagrancy.

A breakwater is being built at Eugene at the east side of the bridge over the Willamette.

Malheur county has accepted the new bridge across Succor creek below Barney Malloy's place.

Lincoln county has allowed M. D. Welton \$500 on his claim for damages sustained from the collapse of Little Elk bridge.

The body of young Hays, who was drowned November 2, eight miles above Dallas, at the flood dam, has been recovered one mile below that city.

Captain R. P. Wainwright, of the United States Army, purchased 35 horses for the government at Huntington. The price paid averaged about \$50 a head.

Tillamook county commissioners have leased the county sawmill to County Judge G. W. Sappington until April 1, who will furnish road plank at \$4 per 1,000 feet.

Frank Hatch was arrested at Eugene on a charge of forgery. His offense is that of endorsing the name of a man named Davis to a check given by the Acme Commercial Company, amounting to \$9.57.

While returning from the Umatilla house to his room in the Chapman building, The Dalles, Fred Stewart, a young traveling man representing the Merchants' Supply Company, of Portland, was held up by two thugs and robbed of \$45.

The Homestake mine, located on the North Fork of John day river, seven miles from Lawton, has been bonded to Eastern capitalists by the owners, Messrs. Tom Johnson and Joseph Robinson, for the sum of \$25,000 on a year's time. Further conditions of the bond are that the persons holding it are to take immediate possession and prosecute the work of development with a large force of men divided into three eight-hour shifts, says the Lawton Standard.

Petitions have been circulated for three different free rural deliveries out of Albany, nearly covering the entire field in all directions around the city, and there are hopes of the same being established, but it is not known whether they will reach the department in time for the agent now establishing routes in the state to act upon them before his departure. The route out of Shedd has given such general satisfaction that there is a general desire to have the system extended here.

The Wallows marshal ran in a man for peddling without a license, who defied the city authorities and would not even listen to the reading of the complaints by the recorder. He was incarcerated in the city prison for contempt of court, where he languished for two or three days or until some people around town put up \$6 for a jury trial. The jury thought upon the evidence offered that the man was entitled to a discharge, and so rendered its verdict. The man is a foreigner, presumably an Italian. He threatened to sue the city for damages.

From private letters received by M. G. Hope, of Vale, it is learned that the Ocean Wave mine is making a splendid showing. I. N. Clark, a mining expert, has the development work of the mine in charge, and in a letter that was received from him he says that several fine nuggets have been taken out lately. In a former letter he stated that the gold is not confined to the rich vein that is being followed, but that small particles of it may be seen in the dirt over the entire face and walls of the tunnel. It is his opinion that it would pay to mill the whole hill on which he is working. This mine is an extension of the Golden Eagle, which is owned by Portland capitalists.

DEWET EVADES KNOX.

General Kitchener Reports a Running Fight With the Boers.

London, Dec. 17.—Lord Kitchener cables the war office from Pretoria under date of December 12 that General Knox reports from Helvetia that he is engaged in a running fight with General Dewet, and that the enemy is moving towards Reddersburg, where there is a column ready to co-operate with the other British forces. Lord Kitchener in another dispatch reports that Boers attacked the post near Barberton. The British casualties were three killed, five wounded and 13 taken prisoners. The captured men have since been released. The Boers raided the Riverton road station December 11. They are being followed up.

General Kitchener's message indicates that Dewet has again evaded Knox. After the latter had foiled the Boer general at Coomassie drift, the Boers seem to have doubled back, crossed the Caledon river elsewhere, and turned thence northwest—in the direction of Reddersburg, the memorable scene of the British disaster in April, when Dewet captured the British Rifles.

Tragedies on Shipboard.

San Francisco, Dec. 17.—The British ship Crown of Scotland, which arrived today, 130 days from Penarth, Cardiff, had three tragic entries in her log. November 24 John Warrington stabbed P. C. Haglund, his shipmate, while the latter was asleep in his bunk. Leaving his sheath-knife in his victim's breast, the murderer ran up on deck, jumped overboard and was drowned, despite efforts to reach him with a lifeboat. No one on board of the ship knows of the motive. The second tragedy occurred August 1. Salvatore Servis fell from the foreyard, struck the deck and fractured his thigh and received internal injuries which caused his death.

Correcting an Extradition Treaty.

Washington, Dec. 17.—A treaty has been concluded between the United States and Great Britain amending the existing extradition treaty and intended to correct certain imperfections in that instrument, developed by recent experiences. The changes do not materially affect the scope or principles of the existing treaty, the chief item in the list being provisions classifying as a crime subject to extradition the obtaining of money under false pretenses. At present the treaty makes extraditionable the reception of money obtained under false pretenses and omits the principal in the crime, constituting a manifest absurdity. To correct this the amendment is made.

Grounding of the Garonne.

Seattle, Dec. 17.—Letters have been received in this city announcing the grounding of the United States transport Garonne on the northern coast of Luzon. She struck twice, being rescued both times by the Yorktown. The second time the Yorktown's cable caught in the Garonne's wheel, causing a further delay of 12 hours. The letters also tell about a hard march of the American troops under General Hall. The line of march was over steep mountains for a distance of 45 miles, taking in all six days. At the conclusion, 165 men were under medical treatment for several days.

Search for Hidden Gold.

Pekin, Dec. 17.—A few days ago the British troops were notified of the existence of a large amount of treasure 20 miles northwest of here. Colonel Tullock and 100 men left today to investigate the truth of the report. Colonel Tullock requested, however, that 50 extra men be detailed. It is believed that a large amount of gold and valuables were buried at that point by persons connected with the Chinese court during the recent flight. The information regarding the treasure was received from a former court official.

Trial Trip of the Alabama.

Philadelphia, Dec. 17.—The United States battleship Alabama sailed today from League Island navy yard for New York, where she will await further orders. She will make a trial trip on the run, which will begin as soon as she passes out to sea. After the sea trial is completed the vessel's course will be shaped further out to sea to avoid shipping, as all of her guns and turrets are to be tested. If the report is satisfactory, it is probable that the battleship will be ordered to Hampton Roads to join the North Atlantic squadron.

Anti-Foreign Plot in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong, Dec. 17.—The city was placarded today with statements inciting the people and the members of the secret societies to unite and rise during the month of January and drive out all the foreigners. Crowds gathered about the placards, but no actual outbreak is reported.

Wisconsin's Vote.

Madison, Wisconsin, Dec. 17.—The total vote of Wisconsin, as officially canvassed, was 425,151. McKinley's plurality was 106,581. LaFollette, Republican, for governor, has a plurality of 103,745.

BETTER TRADE CONDITIONS.

Holiday Preparations Dominant in Retail Business Throughout the East.

Bradstreet's says: Favorable conditions rule generally in all lines of seasonal trade. Holiday preparations are, of course, dominant in retail business, and, where this has hitherto lagged, it has been stimulated by more seasonable weather. Wholesale distribution is lifted, and is now natural at this period, but western jobbers are in receipt of a fair re-order business. So far, the best reports as to retail trade come from the West and South. In leading industries the best report is still that made by finished products of the iron and steel industry, but other favorably situated lines are boots and shoes and lumber. New business in the former is rather light at wholesale, but manufacturers generally are busily employed, and leather is firm in sympathy. A good export demand for the latter is noted.

The cereals are lower in price, due to profit taking on the late upward move, the larger movement of supplies, particularly of corn, which is favored by the weather, and to less interest of the present foreign buyers.

While business in iron and steel as a whole is quieter than of late there is no apparent diminution in strength and actual transactions in rails and plates compare well with the best recorded. Pig iron is dull except for some business at Chicago and 25 cents per ton has been conceded on Bessemer at Pittsburg.

Wheat including flour shipments for the week aggregate 4,785,577 bushels against 3,432,133 last week.

Business failures for the week in the United States number 247 as against 234 last week.

Canadian failures for the week number 18 against 27 last week.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Market.

Onions, new yellow, 2@2¼c.
Lettuce, hot house, \$1 per crate.
Potatoes, new, \$16.
Beets, per sack, 85c@1.
Turnips, per sack, \$1.00.
Squash—1¼c.
Carrots, per sack, 60c.
Parsnips, per sack, \$1.00@1.25.
Cucumbers—40@50c.
Cabbage, native and California, 2c per pound.
Butter—Creamery, 30c; dairy, 18@22c; ranch, 16c@18c pound.
Cheese—14c.
Eggs—Ranch, 40c.; Eastern 25c.
Poultry—12c; dressed, 14c; spring, 13@15c turkey, 18c.
Hay—Puget Sound timothy, \$14.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$10.00.
Corn—Whole, \$23.00; cracked, \$25; feed meal, \$25.
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$20.
Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$5.30; blended straight, \$3.25; California, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$6.00; graham, per barrel, \$3.25; whole wheat flour, \$3.25; rye flour, \$3.80@4.00.
Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$14.00; shorts, per ton, \$14.00.
Feed—Chopped feed, \$19.00 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$20; oil cake meal, per ton, \$30.00.
Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef steers, price 7½c; cows, 7c; mutton 7½c; pork, 7½c; trimmed, 9c; veal, 9@12c.
Hams—Large, 18c; small, 13¼c; breakfast bacon, 12c; dry salt sides, 8½c.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 54@54½c; Valley, nominal; Bluestem, 56½c per bushel.
Flour—Best grades, \$3.40; graham, \$2.60.
Oats—Choice white, 45c; choice gray, 42c per bushel.
Barley—Feed barley, \$15.50 brewing, \$16.50 per ton.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$15.50 ton; middlings, \$21; shorts, \$17; chop, \$16 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$12@12.50; clover, \$7@9.50; Oregon wild hay, \$6@7 per ton.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 50@55c; store, 32½c.
Eggs—30c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 13½c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$2.75@3.50 per dozen; hens, \$4.00; springs, \$2.00@3.50; geese, \$6.00@8.00 doz; ducks, \$3.50@5.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 11c per pound.
Potatoes—50@55c per sack; sweets, 1½c per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, \$1; turnips, 75c; per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cabbage, 1½c per pound; parsnips, 85c; onions, \$1.75; carrots, 75c.
Hops—New crop, 12@14c per pound.
Wool—Valley, 13@14c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 10@12c; mohair, 25 per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 3½c; dressed mutton, 6½@7c per pound.
Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$5.75; light and feeders, \$5.00; dressed, \$5.00@6.25 per 100 pounds.
Beef—Gross, top steers, \$3.50@4.00; cows, \$3.00@3.50; dressed beef, 6@7c per pound.
Veal—Large, 6@6½c; small, 7@8c per pound.