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THE TRANSVAAL WAR

Latest Dispatches on the Situation of Affairs in South Africa

British Making No Progress at Relieving Their Garrison While the Boers Are Closing In -- Preparing For a Final Attack On Ladysmith -- Methuen Waiting at Modder River For Supplies -- Scott-Turner's Sortie From Kimberley

By Associated Press to the Journal.

LONDON, Dec. 7.—Following is from General Forestier Walker, British commander at Cape Town:

"Wednesday—General Methuen wires that he has resumed command and is in nightly communication with Kimberley."

LONDON, Dec. 7.—A story was current at Durban Dec. 5th that the Boers had made a final effort to capture Ladysmith Dec. 4. and were defeated and retreated. The story was brought by runners and should be received with reservation.

Perhaps the explanation of the retirement of the Burghers from Natal can be found in a dispatch from Modder river Dec. 7, saying that a Boer force, estimated at $3,000 men, was reinforcing Cronje from Natal.

The same dispatch says that everything indicates that a great engagement will be fought at Spotfontein. The Boer advance in Northeastern Cape Colony is becoming remarkable. The local farmers are flocking to the Boer laagers.

Anexation of British territory proceeds daily. Reported Boer successes has made a great impression among the Basutos. A dispatch from Bloemfontein Dec. 3 says President Steyne, of the Orange Free State has joined the Boer forces at Modder river. His appearance caused great enthusiasm among Boers.

LONDON, Dec. 7, 4:30 a. m.—Again there is a complete lull in the war news. Ladysmith has established heliographic communiction with Frere, and it is reported that all was well up to Sunday. A dispatch from the Boer laager, by way Lorenzo Marquez, dated Thursday, November 30, confirms the report that the commandos have been closing in upon Ladysmith and mounting big guns in new positions. According to the same advices a heavy canonade has been ordered for Thursday morning, but was counter-manded at the last moment.

Modder river dispatches say that the Boers are encamped amid the hills half way to Kimberley; but it is also asserted that a large body of the enemy have gone in the direction of Jacobsdahl. It is possible, therefore, that Lord Methuen may endeavor to clear his right flank as far as Jacobsdahl before continuing his advance. He is still waiting at Modder river for stores, guns and ammunition.

The stories from Kimberley, November 25, appears to have been much more serious than had been supposed. Details are now arriving of a reconnoissance in force by mounted troops, under Major Scott-Turner, at dawn, on a ridge near Carter's farm, where the Boers were strongly entrenched. Finding the Boer pickets asleep, Major Scott-Turner proceeded along the ridge under cover, and rushed the Boer redoubts at 5:25 a. m. in the face of a hail of bullets.

The Boers hoisted a white flag, and fired at the British under its protection before surrendering. Owing possibly to the exhaustion of their ammunition, the British were unable to follow up the attack and seize a large Boer force about about 300 yards ahead, especially as the Boer reinforcements were seen approaching, and the enemy was keeping up a heavy fire from the shelter of the thick brush.

During the sorties, an armored train reconnoitered north and south, while a considerable force of British, with field guns and maxims, advanced toward Spyfontein, holding the Boers in check in that direction. Ten guns were engaged simultaneously, and, viewed from the conning tower, an artillery duel seemed to be proceeding in every direction, except toward Kenilworth, the fusillade being terrific. At 8 o'clock, having no force sufficient to hold the position he had stormed, Major Scott-Turner began gradually retiring his men. He had a horse shot from under him and a bullet went through the fleshy part of his shoulder.

Several men had terrible wounds. It is alleged that the Boers used Martinis and explosive bullets, and that they frequently fired at the British ambulance wagons. The British captured 28 of the enemy.

There appears to be some doubt as to whether this was the reconnoissance in which according to the announcement of the war office, Major Scott-Turner was killed, or whether that officer met his fate in a subsequent sortie. Some of the special dispatches report that he was killed while leading the final attack on the Boer position November 28. If this be correct, it looks like a sortie concerted with Lord Methuen.

The Times print a letter from an American citizen, who left Johnansburg because he was liable to be impressed, and who had learned that the United States consul was unable to protect him. He complains bitterly that the American flag was not respected in Pretoria, that his position was practically unbearable. It is reported from Cape Town that the Transvaal government still refuses to acknowledge the right of the United States to interfere regarding prisoners in Pretoria, insisting that Great Britain must inquire through Commandant-General Joubert.

A dispatch from Frere camp, dated December 5, says:

"The Boers are firing into Ladysmith. It is rumored that 500 Free State troops have left Ladysmith, entertaining the gravest fears as to the safety of their own country."

CONGRESS ORGANIZING

Speaker Henderson Names His Committee On Rules -- Gives Democrats Recognition

Senator Chandler Calls Into Question the Seats of Clark of Montana and Scott of West Virginia--Restriction on Price of Armor Plate Must Be Removed -- May Be a Fight On the Appointment of Wood

By Associated Press to the Journal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—In the house immediately after the reading of the journal the speaker announced the appointment of the committee on rules as follows: The speaker, Mr. Dalzell, of Pennsylvania; Mr. Grosvenor, of Ohio, Republican; Mr. Richardson of Tennessee and Mr. Bailey, of Texas, Democrats; Mr. Overstreet, Indiana, in charge of the finance bill, asked that an arrangement be made for commencing the debate Tuesday. Richardson said the proposal was most unusual. He insisted that the bill go to committee for first consideration.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—In the senate today Mr. Chandler, of New Hampshire, offered resolutions instructing the committee on privelidges and elections to investigate the right of W. A. Clark, of Montana, and Nathan D. Scott, of West Virginia, to seats in the senate and to take testimony. The resolution was referred to the committee on contingent expenses.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—The Secretary of the navy has transmitted to the Senate the report made by Rear-Admiral O'Neil upon the subject of armor plate for naval vessels. It concludes by recomending that the restriction of price be removed. If the restriction is not removed, the report asserts that it will be impossible to continue the construction of modern naval vessels.

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—The Washington correspondent of the Herald says:

Though it has been apparent that the president has a further reward in store for General Wood, there has been a strong opposition to his appointment as brigadier-general of the regular service, and this opposition caused the president to make Wood a major-general of the volunteers.

So oppased are some officers to Wood's advancement that it is expected a movement will be inaugurated to prevent the confirmation by the senate. Of course Wood's appointment as governor of Cuba will depend upon confirmation of the nomination.

HAYWARD'S SUCCESSOR.

Governor Poynter Will Not Discuss Matter Until After Funeral.

By Associated Press to the Journal.

OMAHA, Dec. 7.—Ever since the late Senator Hayward was taken sick and it was known that the chances were against his recovery there has been considerable talk as to whom Governor Poynter would appoint to the vacancy.

The only ones prominently mentioned are ex-Senator Allen and G. M. Hitchcock, editor of the Omaha World-Herald. The Democrats are urging the appointment of the latter on the ground that they have not received their proportion of the offices under the fusion deals of the past few years.

They also urge that the next legislature, which must permanently fill the vacancy, will have two senators to select, the Hayward successor and one to succeed Senator Thurston, whose term expires one year from next March.

The Populists insist upon the naming of ex-Senator Allen. It was reported that Allen had stated that he did not desire the appointment, but a telegram from him denies this.

The Populist members of congress from Nebraska have telegraphed Governor Poynter, urging Mr. Allen's appointment, and this has been supplemented by telegrams from the populist and free-silver senators from other states and some of the representatives.

Governor Poynter refuses—publicly, at least—to discuss the matter until after the funeral of Senator Hayward. The funeral of the late senator was held at Nebraska City this afternoon.

YOUNG HEARD FROM

He Met the Enemy at Marbacan and Captured Six Hundred Filipinos

The Insurgent Army Driven Into San Quintin Canyon -- Lost Only One Man and Killed Twenty-five Natives -- Provisions Going Forward

By Associated Press to the Journal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—General Young has been heard from after a week's absence in the interior of Luzon. Otis cabled this morning:

"Manila—Young's report shows his arrival at Vigan, having encountered the enemy at Narbacan, 12 miles south of that city, whom he drove to the eastward into San Quentin canon. His troops are now pressing them back.

"About 600 prisoners were taken. We will send transportation with subsistence and medical supplies to Vigan to bring the prisoners to Manila and supply Young's troops with the necessary stores. Our casualties are one killed and 12 wounded. The enemy left in the trenches 25 dead."

Situation in Luzon.

By Associated Press to the Journal

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—Otis cables as follows respecting the military situation in Luzon:

"Manila"—In central Luzon there is no insurgent force of importance except in Bulacan province, where General Pilar holds nearly 1,000 or more men which will be attacked soon.

General Grant has moved a small column down the East coast of the Batuavan province encountering little opposition. The column moving Westward from the mountains is expected to reach the Western coast of Luzon on the 10th inst.

Many small insurgent bands in the country are robbing and murdering the inhabitants which are being pursued by troops quite successfully.

To south of Manila the insurgents still maintain their positions, but the necessary force to scatter them will be sent there soon."

Mutiny in Negros.

By Associated Press to the Journal.

MANILA, Dec. 7.—There has been a mutiny of native police in one of the islands of Negros. One American officer was killed. No particulars received.

Contested Senatorships.

By Associated Press to the Journal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—The Senate committee on privileges and elections today arranged the preliminaries for consideration of the protest against Quay, Clark and Scott.

In the Quay case it was decided to hear counsel December 16th and that the hearing be concluded on that date. Only legal questions are involved and no witnesses will be heard. Preliminary preparation for the Clark and Scott cases were placed in the hands of Chandler and Rettus.

WHEAT MARKET.

CHICAGO, December 7. — May 69½; cash 68½.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 7, —Cash 90¾