

THE BOERS GAIN ANOTHER VANTAGE.

The British War Office Issues the Official Announcement

That the Troops Have Been Withdrawn From Colenso, Going South.

The Evacuation Regarded at London as a Most Serious Matter for the British in Natal, Testifying Not Only to the Complete Investment of Ladysmith by the Boers, but Making the Relief of General White an Extremely Difficult Operation.

LONDON, Nov. 4.—The War Office has issued the following announcement: "The Colonial office has received information to the effect that the troops have withdrawn from Colenso and have concentrated further south, but we have no news of any engagement in that neighborhood."

Another special dispatch from Ladysmith bearing date of November 2d says: "The artillery duel is proceeding splendidly. The British guns are firing three shots to the Boers' one."

A special dispatch from Cape Town dated November 2d says the Boers occupied Colenso, Cape Colony, on Wednesday, meeting with no resistance from the local police, who yielded to superior force.

The sailing of the transports for South Africa loaded with troops is now an event of daily occurrence, but the departure of the steamer Kildon Castle from Southampton last evening merits notice, as she is the largest troopship in the world, and has more than three thousand souls on board, with their kits and weapons.

LONDON, Nov. 5.—The evacuation of Colenso is undoubtedly a most serious matter for the British in Natal, as it not only testifies to the complete investment of Ladysmith by the Boers, but makes the relief of General Sir George White an extremely difficult operation.

Colenso is the point where the railway from Ladysmith crosses the Tugela River, which is now in flood. The town itself is of the utmost importance. It is dominated by the hills on the north side of the river, and so was untenable, if the Boers have advanced as they seem to have done. Moreover, only a small naval and colonial force was stationed at Colenso.

The seriousness of the evacuation, however, lies in the fact that Commandant General Joubert, while completely invested by the Boers, is completely isolated. The British, under Ladysmith, can seize this Tugela bridge, and, if he has sufficient troops, can detach a force and send it southward on Pietermaritzburg, and, in any case, by destroying the bridge and railway, can prevent any relief expedition reaching Sir George White for some time.

Military men optimistically predict that General Joubert will withdraw from Natal immediately Sir Redvers Buller's force enters the Orange Free State, but the latter cannot be far on his way for at least three or four weeks, and even then General Joubert may not decide to intercept the British on the Free State's open belt, which would suit the British admirably, but he may wait until the last moment, and then proceed by train back to Pretoria and take up strong defensive positions on the range of hills lying in front of Johannesburg and Pretoria.

This General Joubert might remain in Natal several weeks longer, endeavoring to force Sir George White into capitulation, the destruction of the Tugela River bridge helping him by cutting off British relief. Moreover, another Boer force is reported to have marched through Zululand, the destruction of Durban and already to have reached the Natal frontier.

Thus it will be seen the position in Natal, taking into consideration possible uprising of the disaffected Dutch, is most disquieting, and, in fact, may be described as critical.

British reinforcements in any number cannot reach Durban before the end of next week.

A dispatch from Ladysmith, dated November 2d, morning, says: "During the night the Boers moved near the British position, and mounted guns in fresh places. Meanwhile the naval guns have been moved to more favorable positions nearer the town and commanding some of the Boer batteries."

"At 6 o'clock this morning General White ordered the bombardment of the enemy, and the blue jackets opened the ball. The Boers replied vigorously. They fired straight and some of the British were hit."

"A terrible artillery duel has been proceeding over three hours. So far the naval guns are the only ones that have engaged the enemy."

RUMORS THAT LADYSMITH HAS BEEN TAKEN.

NEW YORK, Nov. 4.—A dispatch to the "Herald" from Amsterdam says: One newspaper office has been thronged all day by inquirers for information about the report that Ladysmith has been taken. The rumor is heard on every hand, although it is hard to say on what it is founded.

CAPE COLONY TO BE INVADED.

LONDON, Nov. 4.—The fact that the British War Office has received no news of the situation at Ladysmith seems to effectually dispose of yesterday's continental rumors of General White's capitulation and kindred stories, as if the General had sustained a severe reverse, there is no reason to believe that that General Joubert would be only too glad to forward General White's official announcement of the fact to the nearest telegraph station, while, it is added, had news of such a serious character reached a foreign Government

in cipher it would undoubtedly have been promptly conveyed to the British Government. As the Mozambique cable is still broken, it is impossible for any uncensored messages to reach Europe, with the exception of the dispatches of foreign governments.

In view of the fact that an important victory would be of the greatest moral assistance to the Boers, it seems obvious that the Boer sympathizers would make such an event known as quickly as possible.

The War Office here is making every endeavor to communicate with Ladysmith, so news may arrive at any moment. Meanwhile, the best opinion is satisfied that if General White keeps strictly on the defensive he will be able to hold his own.

The British experts smile at the Boer plan of campaign which contemplates seizing Durban in order to prevent the landing of British troops there. They say it has one fatal defect, namely, that it ignores the British fleet, under whose guns, it is alleged, the seizure of Durban will be impossible.

The dispatches to-day show that the forces of the Orange Free State are at length prepared to invade Cape Colony. These forces are not overwhelming, but the Dutch in the neighborhood of Colesburg and Burgersdorp are expected to resist the Boer, and their support is evidently expected. The objective of this force of Boers will probably be Naauwpoort, one of the most important strategic railroad points in South Africa, which will probably be, it is said here, the first advanced depot of the second division of the army corps.

Naauwpoort is understood to be well garrisoned and able to take care of itself. Trains thence to Colesburg have been almost suspended.

The dispatches from Ladysmith, though three days old, are regarded here as being more cheering, and as indicating that the Boers are not disposed to come to close quarters. On the other hand some people assert it is more probable that the Boers are recuperating prior to a fresh onslaught on Ladysmith, as, according to the latest news, after the artillery duel and ineffective skirmish Tuesday, the Boers took up good positions on Signal Hill and Umbulwani mountain.

The two commanders continue to exchange courtesies. General White, in response to General Joubert's request Tuesday, lent the Boers an ambulance to assist in the conveyance of the Boer wounded.

Advices from Cape Town show that the people there are beginning to realize the seriousness of the situation in Natal. Merchants are apprehensive of the Boers overrunning the entire country, and it is reported that the Boers have instructed their representatives to leave Pietermaritzburg.

In spite of the optimism of military men, there is a feeling of general anxiety at Cape Town. The Orange River is reported to be so swollen that the drifts are impassable, and the Boers hold the wagon bridge at Ladysmith, which is the only means of crossing.

The possibility of Lady Randolph Churchill accompanying the American hospital ship Maine to the Cape of Good Hope has aroused much interest here.

Her ladyship said to a representative of the Associated Press to-day: "The Boers are possibly the most formidable of all the contingencies. It is quite possible that I may go, but the matter has not yet been fully determined upon."

Lady Churchill has taken the most active part in the scheme to fit out the Maine, obtaining privileges from the War Office which would otherwise have been impossible. In view of the American nurses, etc., and her friends are now anxious that she should see the matter through personally.

News that Colenso has been evacuated was another bitter pill for the British public, and is arousing fears that the Continental stomachs of a second defeat are true. A significant fact is that the War Office does not know when Colenso was evacuated, so the statement emanating Thursday from Dr. Leyds, the diplomatic representative of the Transvaal, who is located at Brussels, that the Boers had occupied Colenso was possibly true. There is much apprehension that they were suppressing bad news.

BOERS IN ZULULAND.

CAPE TOWN, Nov. 2.—(Delayed in transmission.)—According to an undated dispatch received here from Ladysmith, the body of General Kock, the commander of the Boers who was wounded in the battle of Glencoe, captured and taken to Ladysmith, where he died recently, has been taken to Pretoria. The dispatch added that Ladysmith townpeople, including the women, witnessed the battle at Ladysmith. It was also stated that the resumption of fighting was expected. The Boers are traversing Zululand, holding flags over the British magistracies.

BRITISH PRISONERS ARE WELL TREATED.

CAPE TOWN, Nov. 2.—(Delayed in transmission.)—A dispatch from Pretoria under date of Tuesday, says Colonel Moly, who commanded the British Hussars captured by the Boers, declined, on being interviewed, to give the details of the misfortune, but praised the treatment he and his men had received at the hands of the Boers. The British prisoners were playing football at the time their commander was interviewed. Their officers are anxious to be exchanged.

Among the papers found at Dundee, according to the Pretoria dispatch, was a congratulatory telegram from Lady Symons to her husband, Commandant General Joubert, and a message to Ladysmith. General Symons was buried with the fullest honors.

MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN IN SAN FRANCISCO.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 4.—The municipal campaign practically closed to-night, with rally meetings by the principal parties. The two principal candidates for the Mayoralty were Horace Davis, who heads the Republican ticket, and James D. Phelan, the representative of the Democrats, the incumbent Mayor. Mr. Davis is a former Congressman from this State, and a member of the Board of Regents of the University of California. He is a pioneer of California, and has accumulated a fortune in various industrial enterprises.

The campaign has been a spirited one, especially during the past two weeks. This special activity is due to the decision of the Supreme Court upholding the new city charter, the legality of which was in doubt up to two weeks ago. The charter gives to the incoming Mayor almost unlimited powers. He has the appointing of all heads of departments, and in a great measure controls the patronage of the different

branches of the city government.

The weekly papers are following the

lead of the dailies in swelling on the value of the friendship of the United States. The "Spectator" says: "Apart from their feeling as kinsmen, the Americans are, we believe, universally aware that we saved them from European intervention during the Spanish war, and would hail with delight the opportunity of paying off that debt. That feeling, which is well known on the Continent, tends to save the European Foreign Offices from entertaining rash suggestions."

The acceptance of the offers of Sir William MacCormack, Dr. Frederick Treves and other eminent civilian surgeons in charge of the Imperial force, has drawn attention to the serious undermanning of the army medical staff. The state of affairs is due doubtless to the fact that the number of officers, and actually fifty officers below the absolute minimum decided upon in 1884. The staff of officers is due doubtless to the insufficient compensation offered.

Deserters from both the army and navy continue to give themselves up. In order to be returned to their regiments and ships for active service. Scarcely a day passes without the London magistracies have to deal with a half dozen or so cases of this character, and as the deserters walk out of the court in charge of a military escort, they often turn to the magistrate with a hearty "God bless you," or "Thank you, sir." Many of them come from foreign countries, including the United States.

Several small detachments of country yeomanry are going out, independent of the War Office, to the seat of war, the Light Horse, Lord Lansdowne and Lord Harris, both yeomanry officers, are aiding this movement.

The heavy losses among the British officers in Natal has led the "Military Journal" to suggest that the sword be abolished, not only on account of its uselessness, but also because its glitter attracts the attention of an enemy and indicates the officer.

Her majesty, it is reported, has personally conveyed to Field Marshal Lord Garnet Wolseley an expression of her gratification at the manner in which the whole military machine has worked since it was first set in motion by the Boer invasion, especially in the matter of mobilization. Apparently the Queen has not forgotten the existence of the commander-in-chief, a lapse of memory to which the public is now rather prone, and which, so it is said, the Marquis of Lansdowne committed intentionally.

WHITE'S REVERSES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Almost the Only Subject of Discussion in England.

Have Been Made the Occasion for Pouring Out of Torrents of Lay Criticism.

Public Opinion Fairly Divided, One Section Bitterly Blaming General Commanding, and the Other Maintaining That He Probably is Not So Much at Fault as He Made Himself Out.

LONDON, Nov. 4.—Almost the only subject of discussion this week in England was the disastrous reverse suffered by General Sir George Stewart White, the British commander at Ladysmith, and this was made the occasion for pouring out torrents of lay criticism and advice. Public opinion seems fairly divided, one section bitterly blaming the General commanding and the other maintaining that probably he is not so much at fault as he made himself out. The latter section, which includes many service men and nearly all the service publications, urges the withholding of definite criticism pending more detailed accounts of the "Naval and Military Review," after expressing this sentiment, sums up the situation as follows:

"Considering the nature of the country, the lamentable unpreparedness of England and the unwillingness of the opposition to allow a British regiment to go to South Africa until President Kruger's ultimatum was received, it is almost surprising that we have been able to hold our own so far. Not only have the Boers proved themselves determined fighters and splendid sharpshooters, as we knew them to be, but they have developed surprising military and strategic qualities."

"They have nearly surrounded every garrison we hold, and have invariably occupied almost unassailable positions, fighting with great courage. Again, such fighters as our little force, left isolated far from our base and without hope of relief for days to come, has not only done splendid work, but has gained successes which we venture to believe no other soldiers in the world placed in similar positions and in similar unfortunate conditions, could have achieved."

"Although this may fairly be said to represent conservative military opinion, its reference to the action of the opposition in preventing the sending of troops in good time is entirely erroneous. Since the first news of the Ladysmith disaster reached England there has been a storm gathering over the head, not of Sir George White, but of the Secretary of State for War, the Marquis of Lansdowne, and this emanates not so much from the opponents of the Government as from its warm supporters. Some of the ablest of the latter have no hesitation in saying privately that almost criminal neglect has been shown in not sending at least 10,000 more troops before or by October 4th, and that if Lord Lansdowne's hands were tied by higher powers he ought to exculpate himself beyond the shadow of a suspicion."

"The failure to send out troops enough cannot be charged to the opposition, for Parliament was not then sitting. If there were any intention to hold Natal at all costs, an adequate force should have been sent out by October 4th, when the excuse that such reinforcements might be taken by the Boers as a menace no longer held good, as the Indian troops were already on the way."

"Hearing these criticisms in unexpected quarters, the correspondents of the Associated Press repeated their plea to a high Government official. While non-committal regarding the failure to send reinforcements earlier, this official declared that the broad lines of policy affecting Natal had been much misunderstood."

"We are often asked," said he, "why we sent Sir George Stewart White to the neck of Natal unless we were sure he could hold it. Considering the tremendous reinforcements now on the way to him, it occurs to almost everybody, at first sight, that we ought to have retired without risking engagements, but it is forgotten what would happen in Natal unless we made a vigorous stand there."

"Natal has risked her little all on behalf of the empire; the least we can do is to risk something ourselves and to prevent the overrunning of her prosperous towns and rich fields by hordes of the enemy. Purely military considerations, I admit, might point to the fact that we ought immediately to have withdrawn from our advanced positions, but purely military considerations have sometimes to be subordinated to the interests of the empire, and, although many good lives have been lost in the cause, they have not been wasted."

The British naval guns seem destined to play an important part in the war. The carriage platforms of those used at Ladysmith were designed by Captain Percy Scott of the first-class cruiser Terrible, who has succeeded in designing a carriage capable of bearing and carrying four seven-inch guns. This is considered by experts to be a great achievement.

J. B. Robinson, the South African millionaire, writes that General White will be perfectly safe if he sits tight at Ladysmith, refusing to be lured by the usual Boer tactics into being drawn out with a view of inflicting a defeat on the Boers.

Next Saturday Major General Buller's troops will begin arriving in South Africa, and whether he decides to begin an invasion of the Orange Free State through De Aar Junction or send troops to co-operate directly with General White, the situation will immediately be relieved.

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lead of the dailies in swelling on the value of the friendship of the United States. The "Spectator" says: "Apart from their feeling as kinsmen, the Americans are, we believe, universally aware that we saved them from European intervention during the Spanish war, and would hail with delight the opportunity of paying off that debt. That feeling, which is well known on the Continent, tends to save the European Foreign Offices from entertaining rash suggestions."

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The element that disturbs all calculations is the novel candidacy of Samuel M. Jones, the non-partisan candidate for Governor, an element that disturbs calculations as to the result in Ohio—Close Contest Expected in Kentucky.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 4.—To-night practically closes the battle in Ohio in the campaign in the election for State and county officers. Six tickets are before the people—Democratic, Republican, Non-Partisan, Prohibition, Union Reform and Socialistic Labor. The last three named have not made any showing that indicates any more than the ordinary number of votes, but the progress of the campaign has shown that the other three parties will poll a more than usually full vote. The registration in all the large cities is abnormally large for an election of this kind. How the vote will be distributed between McLean, Nash and Jones for Governor is not easy to predict at the close of the campaign.

The element that disturbs all calculations is the novel candidacy of Samuel M. Jones, the non-partisan candidate. Jones has made a vigorous campaign, and has created enough apprehension among both Democrats and Republicans to make the whole situation uncertain. It is generally conceded that his vote will be considerable, and the puzzling question is from which party will he take the most votes.

The chief issue made by the Republicans is that the President must be sustained in his Philippine policy. That, indeed, has been the most prominent point of attack by the Democrats, so that State issues, the money question and everything else have been generally ignored. The Democrats have made a fight against Trusts, and especially against Senator Hanna.

It does not appear that the gold Democrats of 1896 will join the Republicans this year, and the Democrats are practically united, while the Republicans have serious factional fights in Cincinnati, Cleveland and other places.

COMING BATTLE WITH BALLOTS.

Campaign at All Points Practically Ended Last Night.

The Nominees Now Await the Result at the Polls on Tuesday.

Candidacy of Samuel M. Jones, Non-Partisan Candidate for Governor, an Element That Disturbs Calculations As to the Result in Ohio—Close Contest Expected in Kentucky.

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With these conditions prevailing, it is impossible to do more than to pronounce the result in doubt. The Jones strength is admitted to be greatest in cities and factory towns where large numbers of workmen are employed.

LOUISVILLE, Nov. 4.—The personality of William Goebel, the regular nominee of the Democratic party, has been the principal theme of discussion in the campaign which will end next Tuesday the election of a full State ticket. The Republicans, in the fight for their ticket, which is headed by W. S. Taylor, present Attorney General, have directed their energies mainly against the Democratic leader and the policies which have become associated with his name, notably the Goebel election law and the present statute affecting railroads.

Mr. Goebel is also antagonized by a faction of his own party, which placed in nomination a State ticket headed by John Young Brown. This element, under the name of the "Honest Election League," has waged a bitter election campaign against Goebel, assailing his conduct in the convention which nominated him, his entire career in the State's politics and the Goebel election law. On the other hand, Mr. Goebel has had the support of a well organized State machine, the endorsement of the Democratic National Committee, and the active assistance of several of the national leaders of the party, notably W. J. Bryan, ex-Governor of Missouri, and Congressman Bailey of Texas.

National issues have not figured in the campaign except as they were introduced by this last class of speakers, who urged in favor of the regular nominee, on the ground that the fight in Kentucky this fall is a forerunner of the battle of 1900, and its result might seriously affect the latter.

In addition to State officers, a Legislature is to be chosen which will elect for success to United States Senator Lindsay. Ex-Senator S. C. Blackburn is an avowed candidate for the place, and has stumped the State with candidate Goebel. The State has been canvassed from end to end during the past two months by partisans of the various candidates, the campaign arousing a bitterness of feeling second only to that of 1896, when, as in the case this year, the Republicans were united, while the Democrats were divided, though on entirely different lines.

Tuesday's contest at the polls is expected to be exciting and very close.

IN NEBRASKA.

LINCOLN, Nov. 4.—For an off year campaign the one which practically closed in Nebraska to-day has been more closely contested with many of the elements of bitterness injected than in years. The tickets are in the field, but the Prohibitionists will play so small a part as to hardly be factored, leaders of the party admitting that nominations were made merely to keep up the organization.

The fight is, therefore, squarely between the Republicans, with Judge M. B. Reese for Supreme Justice, leading the ticket, and a compact fusion of Populists, Democrats and free silver Republicans, with ex-Governor Silas Holcomb as the head of the ticket. The Republicans assumed the aggressive at leading issues, but this was changed as soon as Hon. W. J. Bryan, entered the campaign, and for the last month national questions have been discussed almost exclusively. Mr. Bryan has made a very thorough canvass of the State, speaking in opposition to imperialism and trusts, and in favor of the income tax. Republican campaigners identified themselves to the new program, and have defended the policy of the

GERMAN OPINION IS CHANGING.

The People Daily Becoming More Strongly Inclined

In Favor of a Commercial Treaty With the United States.

The Growing Importance of This Country as a Market for German Goods Being Generally Recognized by Everyone Except the Agrarians, and Leads to the Hope That the Long Pending Negotiations Will be Brought to a Successful Issue.

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BERLIN, Nov. 4.—Opinion here inclines more and more strongly in favor of a commercial treaty with the United States, which would be for both sides, and enable the merchants of both nations to make calculations regarding trade between the two countries for a number of years ahead, the growing importance of the United States as a market for German goods being generally recognized by everybody except the Agrarians, and leads to the hope that the long pending negotiations will be brought to a successful issue. The kind reception of the German delegates to the Philadelphia congress is greatly appreciated by the press here.

The additional reciprocity treaty between the United States and France has startled German merchants. The "National Zeitung" devotes a long editorial to the subject, which concludes: "The quarrel between Germany and the United States about the correct interpretation of the favored nation clause must be hereby become more and more Germany gets the same tariff reductions as France."

The Emperor's naval projects have formed the main subject of press discussion this week. The Government now admits that the flotten plan really was hereby inspired, and so the plan of 1897, and that 25,000 additional men will be needed for the new fleet.

The Government, through Herr Krupp's organ, the "Official Politischen Nachrichten," gives among the reasons for the contemplated increase the advent of the United States and the German fleet, the co-operation of Great Britain and the United States in Samoa, and the war in South Africa, which has had much to do with the conception of the plan.

The article is of special interest, because the United States and France, in an admission of what Germany has all along denied, the existence of a strong desire to interfere with the United States last year and with Great Britain this year, which will only be curbed by the potent consideration that Germany did not intend to lay large enough to carry out her desire.

The news of the British reverses and losses has been received in Germany with less demonstration of joy than might have been expected from previous expressions. The mistakes and shortcomings of the British preparations are pointed out, but that view by the press strategists and military writers, and the other newspapers comment on the week's events fairly.

The "Frankfort Zeitung" discusses Anglo-German politics editorially, saying: "England, if successful, will have to thank Germany's neutrality for it, as it was the only thing which prevented Russia and France from interfering. An understanding between Germany and England is possible on a number of isolated questions, but no alliance. It was profitable to go with England only so far as our political relations with Russia are not disturbed thereby. The jingo papers and the entire Agrarian press, of course, are still inimical to Great Britain."

The "Deutsche Zeitung," commenting upon the Emperor's telegram to the British Dragon Regiment, of which he is honorary Colonel, and the Samoan negotiations, says: "We stand in the presence of a total political collapse of the German Empire."

The "Tages Zeitung" and other jingo papers suggest an illumination in honor of the Boer success, neutrality for it, as it was the only thing which prevented Russia and France from interfering. An understanding between Germany and England is possible on a number of isolated questions, but no alliance. It was profitable to go with England only so far as our political relations with Russia are not disturbed thereby. The jingo papers and the entire Agrarian press, of course, are still inimical to Great Britain."

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ROCKEFELLER'S MINES RESUMING.

DULUTH (Minn.), Nov. 4.—The Rockefeller Company's Hull mine at Hibbing has resumed after being idle eighteen months. The company's long idle mill also resumed. The two will employ 500 men. Other Rockefeller mines at Hibbing, employing 500 men, will resume very soon.

Lieutenant Hodgson.

Athens (Ga.), Nov. 4.—Lieutenant Albin C. Hodgson, navigator of the Brooklyn in the battle of Santiago, has had orders to report to Newport, R. I., where he will be put in superintendence of the manufacture of smokeless powder at the torpedo station.

The President Will Vote.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4.—The President will go to Ohio to vote. He will leave here on Monday evening, arriving at Canton about noon, and probably will leave Canton on the return journey the same evening, returning to Washington Wednesday noon.

One thinker is worth more than many collections of thoughts.