

FORESTIER-WALKER TO THE WAR OFFICE.

Has No Further News of the General Situation.

May be Safely Predicted Nothing Will Happen To-Day.

Truce, Either Formal or Informal, Being Kept for Observance of Christmas—Boers Still Extending Trenches at Modder River and English Waiting for England to Realize the Situation and Send More Men.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—4.30 a. m.—The War Office has received a cablegram from General Forestier-Walker, dated at Cape Town yesterday, saying: "Have no further news of the general situation."

It may be safely predicted that nothing will occur to-day. A truce, either formal or informal, is being kept for the observance of Christmas by the opposing forces.

The Duke of Connaught again pressed to be allowed to go to the front, but the Government declined to give its assent.

The Duke's consent was given to Lord Roberts in any capacity as a staff officer. Lord Roberts consented, but the Government again declined.

The "Morning Post" correspondent at Chiveley, telegraphing on Monday, December 18th, and confirming intelligence already cable, says: "At dawn to-day the column struck camp and formed a new one, three miles to the south, owing to the scarcity of water."

A dispatch to the "Daily News" from Modder River, dated December 18th, says: "We are now waiting until England shall have realized the actual facts. It has to be admitted that, man for man, we have found ourselves pretty well matched, but the Boers have always had the choice positions."

"Let England's resources be alive to the need for a further hundred thousand men. Such a force will prove the truest economy in both blood and treasure."

Among minor news items it is announced that Colonel MacKinnon has been appointed to command the city of London Imperial Volunteers.

The morning papers are criticizing the fact that General Sir Charles Warren's fifth division is being utilized to reinforce various points, instead of being concentrated at once.

RECONCENTRATED ORDER.

Persons Within Twelve Miles of Camps Must Come in or Leave.

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 18.—General Gatacre, in order to give the insurrection among the Dutch colonials and to prevent disaffected persons giving information or other assistance to the Boers, has issued a modified reconcentration order.

By its terms all males over 12 years of age, of whatever nationality, residing outside of towns or villages, but within a radius of twelve miles of military camps now established or hereafter to be established north of Sterkstroom, are required immediately to vacate their places of residence and either to remove to some place outside the twelve mile radius or to form a camp in close proximity to the nearest military camp.

The order is to be obeyed by the officers commanding—where they must reside until further notice, providing for their own needs. All persons found within the radius without passes will be arrested.

Advices from Colesburg assert that not many colonial Dutch have joined the Boers in that district.

FRENCH RECIPROcity TREATY

"Journal des Debats" Favors Ratification by Both Nations.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—The "Journal des Debats," in the course of a long article favoring the Franco-American reciprocity treaty, says: "Some are opposing the treaty because they have become the dupes of English newspapers, which are spreading the idea that the United States are only a branch of Great Britain."

The Americans, however, have affirmed their determination to be independent. President McKinley's message showed their ability to disentangle themselves from English embraces when these become oppressive.

"As for ourselves, until there is some proof to the contrary, we must regard the Americans as our allies and friends. Their conclusion of a treaty with us was a friendly act and must be considered as such."

THE HOLY YEAR.

The Pope Inaugurated It Yesterday at Rome.

ROME, Dec. 24.—The Pope solemnly inaugurated the holy year by performing the impressive ceremony of opening the holy door of St. Peter's Cathedral at 11 o'clock this morning. The ceremony was performed in the vestibule, which was handsomely decorated, in the presence of the papal officers, the members of the diplomatic corps, leading representatives of the Roman nobility and a number of specially invited guests.

After donning the pontifical robes, the Pope, borne on the sedia gestatoria and escorted by the papal guards, proceeded with the Cardinals and the court to the Sistine Chapel, in the Vatican Palace, where were gathered representatives of the Roman religious orders and clergy.

After a brief prayer before the Holy Sacrament, the solemn moments of solemn silence followed, the Pope and the papal dignitaries in their state robes being grouped before the door. Then the latter swung back and the officials of St. Peter's laved the threshold and the door posts with holy water.

The psalm "Jubilate Deo," which was taken up by the pontifical choir. The Pope, having covered his head and holding in his right hand a crucifix and in his left a lighted candle, knelt at the threshold amid the strains of the "Te Deum."

Rising to his feet, he stepped alone within the portals of the vast and empty basilica. The Cardinals and others followed. At this moment all the church bells in Rome rang out. Leo stopped before the altar of Michael Angelo, where the janitors of the holy door, kneeling, kissed his feet.

He addressed a few words to them on the importance of the ceremony, and then proceeded to the altar, where the sacrament was offered, followed by a short prayer. Then advancing on the sedia gestatoria to the high altar, he pronounced a solemn benediction, according to the pontifical indulgences.

By quarter past 1 he had returned to his private apartment, having performed the ceremonies with great apparent satisfaction. He was smiling throughout, but grew pale and showed signs of fatigue towards the end. Nevertheless, he gave three blows upon the door with considerable force.

Profound silence was maintained throughout the ceremony save when the Pope gave his blessing, which evoked loud vivas. The weather was fine and the season of incense assembled in the precinct of the basilica. Order was preserved inside by the pontifical guards and outside by the Royal Carabineers and the police.

THE KENTUCKY FUTURITY.

Palo Alto is One of the Largest Nominators, With Twenty.

LEXINGTON (Ky.), Dec. 24.—Secretary Horace Wilson of the Kentucky Breeders' Association announced that section payments in the \$20,000 Kentucky Futurity for foals of 1890 have been made on 824 colts and fillies out of a possible 1,083, which is the largest number since 1883. This is the tenth futurity, and has become the leading colt trotting stake of the world.

The entries come from thirty-eight States and Canada and represent the cream of the American breeding farms. California has thirty. Among the largest nominators is Palo Alto, with twenty. There are 225 different stallions represented, twenty-three of which have records of 2:10 or better, forty-nine others of 2:15 or better, and fifty-four others of 2:30 or better, making 66 per cent of the stallions that are developed sires.

Of the mares, 143 have records from 2:06 1/2 to 2:30, and 174 others are the dams of from one to six winners. Nearly 40 per cent of the dams are thus possessors or producers of standard speed.

The nominated colts include brothers and sisters to Joe Patchen, 2:10 1/2; Directum, 2:05 1/2; Planet, 2:04 1/2; Juice, 2:07 1/2; John Nolan, 2:08; Bratton Boy, 2:08; Directum Kelly, 2:08 1/2; Sunol, 2:08 1/2; Charlie Herr, 2:10; Serpel, 2:10; Exctacy, 2:10 1/2; Borloma, 2:13, etc.

SILVER BRICK SUIT.

It Will Take Considerable Gold to Carry It On.

DENVER, Dec. 24.—Judge A. W. Rucker has returned from St. Louis, where he conferred with a number of leading silver men of the country concerning the proposed silver brick suit, which is to be carried into the Supreme Court of the United States. The Judge says no final plan was adopted, as it is necessary to consult with others before the movement is put under way.

He found many Democrats in sympathy with the idea, but Mr. Bryan is yet to be heard from. "Judging by expressions of prominent men who came to St. Louis to talk over the question," said the Judge, "the feeling is quite strong for the measure. It was shown that two suits are now pending, one from Michigan and the other from Illinois, in which perhaps the same principles are to be decided as in the case which has been under discussion. I was invited to go to Washington and appear before the Supreme Court in the two cases. It is possible that the whole question will be determined in the opinion in the cases now pending. Senator Morgan of Alabama and George Fred Williams of Massachusetts have volunteered to assist in the legal fight without compensation, and others are ready to do the same thing. It is necessary, however, to raise \$2,000 or \$3,000 for expenses, and that is a question which is to be decided soon."

Kitchener Arrives at Malta.

MALTA, Dec. 24.—General Lord Kitchener, chief of staff to General Lord Roberts, arrived here to-day from Alexandria on board the second-class cruiser Isiss. He went immediately on board the cruiser Dido, which sailed for Gibraltar, where he will join Lord Roberts.

Duke of Westminster Cremated.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The remains of the Duke of Westminster, who succumbed to pneumonia last Friday at his town residence, Grosvenor House, were cremated to-day at Woking Crematory. The deceased had been active in the promotion of cremation and was President of the Chester Cremation Society.

THE BRAZELL MINE DISASTER.

Horror Grows in Intensity With Every Hour.

The Number of Dead Now Estimated at Forty.

It May Yet Pass That Figure—Strong Presumption That the Laws Regulating Mining Were Carelessly and Probably Criminally Disregarded—Naked Lights Used for Several Days Before the Explosion.

BROWNSVILLE, Dec. 24.—The horror of the Brazell mine disaster grows in intensity with every hour. The number of the dead is now estimated at forty and may pass that figure. A strong presumption that the laws regulating mining were carelessly and probably criminally disregarded.

To-day the first bodies of the victims were brought out of the mine and never in the history of mine disasters were human beings so horribly mutilated. It was nearly 11 o'clock before the first five bodies were taken out, twenty-eight hours after the explosion. At 5:30 three more were brought to the surface and again at 6:30 three came up in the cage of the main shaft.

The dead taken from the mine so far are: Henry Hager, 30 years old, leaves a widow and six children. Peter Orosy, 36, widow and four children.

William Thomas, 33, widow and four children. Michael Rohtel, 34, single. Samuel Meese, 39, widow and three children.

Albert Meese, 13, died after being rescued yesterday. Michael Mahio, 28, leaves widow and two children.

George Kovitz, 40, single. Joseph Patsky, 22, leaves widow. Joseph Magyer, 19, single. William Molok, 33, leaves widow and two children.

Paul Proloc, 24, leaves widow and one child. At least twelve bodies are in sight but cannot be reached, owing to the debris. The estimates of the number of dead are conflicting.

Among the men missing and known to be dead in the mine are the following Hungarians: Michael Parahok, Andrew Parahok, brothers; Paul Landis, Thomas Kuehler and Andrew Tourisnik. Mine Inspector James Bliok, who has been in the mine almost constantly since last night, came out to-night and gave a graphic account of its condition. Inspector Bliok said: "At the bottom of the two shafts the mine is a complete wreck. Only snags and debris has been removed to allow of the bodies being brought out. There are undoubtedly a number of corpses under the wreckage. The lower parts of the mine are flooded and the water is rising, as the pumps are disabled. The pumps will not run for a day or two. Six-inch pipes draining the mine have been broken and broken like reeds. I penetrated to the face of the mine to-day and saw the bodies there, but the after damp was thick and I had to return quickly. Nothing further will be done to remove the debris until the water has been pumped out. None of the bodies were removed. It will require several days to clear the mine. The bottom of it is wrecked, but the roof and sides are intact. There is no fire in the mine."

Rough but reverent hands carried the bodies of the victims when they reached the surface. They were laid out on a morose on the hillside, a hundred or more away. Of one of the men, Peter Crosby, but a portion of the trunk and the back of the skull remained, and that was virtually but a cinder. He was identified by a shred of his shirt that had been blown out of the mine. Of the twelve dead there was not a broken bone, not a hideous spectacle. Among the men at the Brazell mine to-day were many who had been at many other explosions, but never had they seen such mangled, burned and distorted bodies.

Dr. N. H. Taylor, Coroner of Fayette County, arrived early in the morning from Uniontown. He impounded a jury who viewed the bodies as they were brought to the surface. The inquest will be held at Uniontown as soon as all of the bodies are recovered. A. B. Brazell, President of the Stockdale Coal Company, this afternoon said he believed that the twenty-five men had been killed. Men who were working around the mine yesterday morning give different figures. They say thirty-five to forty men were down the mine shaft in the afternoon, while about twenty climbed down the steps in the elevator shaft. From fifty-five to sixty men were in the mine and of this number but twelve have been recovered alive. All the rest, whatever the number, are dead.

John, or as he is popularly known, "Jonah" Meese, is one of the thirteen men who escaped from the mine alive. He is fearfully mangled and is lying at his home with his head swathed in bandages. He told this story to-day: "I was in the stable," Meese said, "carrying my mule when the explosion occurred. My brother, Sam, was by my side and my boy, Albert, was standing in front of him. There came the crack of the explosion. Never in my life have I heard such a terrific report. I thought my head had been blown off. In about two seconds the mine was filled with a dazzling light as the fine coal dust in the air was consumed. My brother Sam dropped to the ground as if shot through the heart. My mule must have been killed instantly. His boy Albert swayed and fell over upon his father. I began to back out of the stable, that is why my face is so terribly burned. I was afraid to turn my back upon the mine and in about twenty would stampede and run me down. I did not know then that they had all

BEING KILLED BY THE EXPLOSION, FOR OUR LAMPS WERE BLOWN OUT AND WE WERE IN TOTAL DARKNESS.

"After I got out of the stable I heard Albert crying for help. I went back and found him and Henry Atwood, a driver. I proceeded half leading and half carrying them to the foot of the mine shaft. They were both delirious, and I believe I was too. Both of them persisted in standing, and began to walk around. I immediately forced them to lay down, to get them out of the path of the fatal after damp, which hovered about four feet above the ground. Then I felt myself going to sleep, but I did not care, although I realized that upon something which I could feel, although I could not see, was a corpse, and fell asleep as calmly as ever I did in my life. When I awoke someone was forcing me to swallow brandy and coffee, and I was trying to explain that it would be needless for me to do any work, as there had been an accident in the mine."

"The force of the explosion was terrific, my face and scalp is literally filled with coal dust blown into it, just as if it had been shot out of a gun held within a few inches. Another reason for the force of the explosion was discovered to-day. On the hillside, fifty feet back from the main shaft, was discovered an arm and a foot. They were portions of a victim killed 108 feet below the surface, and blown out of the shaft like a bullet from a rifle."

From statements obtained to-day it seems that the presence of quantities of gas in the mine was perfectly well known and that naked lights were used for several days before the explosion. According to creditable authority not a safety lamp was used in the mine by the working crews since Monday morning, four days before the explosion. Fire Boss James Ratcliffe, whose duty it was to look after the safety of the mine and upon whose care and intelligence the lives of the diggers depended in a large degree, told his story. Ratcliffe has not yet recovered from his narrow escape. The fire boss said: "I believe that the explosion was caused by a sudden fall which occurred just before the explosion. I do not believe that there was enough gas in the mine to be dangerous. As a matter of fact the coal itself gives off little gas, but the gas comes chiefly from the roof of the pit. After the explosion I went into the mine with Jones, the pit boss. I went from the entrance of the main shaft toward the airshaft, 150 yards away. Everything was filled with after damp and smoke. Jones gave out in a few moments and I dragged him to the bottom of the main shaft where there was a little air."

Ratcliffe said the explosion must have occurred within 200 or 300 feet of the main shaft. He said the mine was well supplied with air. "It was awful," said the fire boss. "The men were trapped here like rats and there is no hope that a single man is alive. The two shafts were both disabled and there was no other exit. I have never seen a more terrific mine explosion. Stone copings two feet thick and cemented together were utterly destroyed. Not even particles of rock shaft remained. The stone was blown into dust."

William Pastorios, a driver in the mine, tells a sensational story. Pastorios, who has lived in Brownsville for many years, and is regarded as a man of intelligence, says that Pit Boss Jones on last Tuesday morning issued a general order that all safety lamps might be dispensed with and that the miners were permitted to use naked lights. Pastorios also states that the lamps were unlocked, contrary to regulation.

"The miners always prefer to use naked lights," said Pastorios, "when ever possible, and they give better light and are more easily handled. I have been working here a couple of months and used a safety lamp until last Tuesday morning. At that time mine safeties were in use by drivers and others who were constantly moving about the mine and therefore exposed to greater risk than if they had used naked lights. The safeties were provided by the company as usual and they should be locked so that it is impossible for a miner to open them while at work. My lamp was unlocked and I frequently opened and closed it. I may say the pit boss issued an order that they should take to the small boats or wait for the life saving crew to fire a line on board. So far as he was concerned, the Captain said, he would wait for the life savers, but he left it to the crew to decide among themselves."

On Saturday a Kansas City livestock firm took under a mortgage foreclosure his last hoof of stock. Thomas went to some of his neighbors to try to get help to save his horses, but was refused. Then he went to town, borrowed a pistol and a target rifle. Returning to the house he had been burned. He hurried over, and it was a sickening sight that met his gaze. The house had been totally destroyed by fire, and the charred and blackened bodies of Thomas and his three children were lying in the ashes.

Thomas had been the victim of a long series of financial reverses. It was a result of these reverses that his wife took her own life. A story is told that at the time his wife killed herself it was the understanding between her and Thomas that he was to kill himself and the children then, but his nerve failed him and he failed to carry out his part of the agreement.

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TWENTY-ONE OF THE CREW BROWNED

British Steamship Ariosto Wrecked Off Cape Hatteras.

They Tried to Reach Shore in a Small Boat.

It Was Swamped and All Lost Their Lives—Captain and Eight of the Crew Saved by the Heroic Efforts of the Ocracoke Life-Saving Crew Under Captain Howard—Worst Wreck on the Shore Since 1876.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—A special to the "Tribune" from Norfolk, Va., says: The British steamship Ariosto, Captain Baines, bound from Galveston to Hamburg, was wrecked at 4 o'clock this morning, six miles south of Hatteras, N. C., and twenty-one of the crew were drowned. Captain Baines and eight of the crew were saved by the heroic efforts of the Ocracoke life-saving crew, under Captain James Howard.

Those who lost their lives attempted to reach the shore in a small boat, which was swamped shortly after it put off from the ship. Captain Baines and the eight men remained aboard and were saved by the life savers in the breeches buoy, but not until after a struggle which lasted all day.

Wrecking tugs are on the way from here to the scene of the wreck and if they reach the stranded ship in time may save it, as the wind is in the wrecked vessel's favor. The Ariosto was the worst on these shores since the German ship Elizabeth went ashore in 1876, when fifty-five people were drowned.

Thick fogs have prevailed along the Virginia and North Carolina coast for several days and a number of vessels have been stranded. Last night, however, the air was clear, but the wind averaged from forty to fifty miles an hour and the sea was furious around the point which has been designated as the "Grave Yard of American shipping."

The Ariosto, a vessel of 2,265 tons, sailed from Galveston for Hamburg via Norfolk, on December 17th. The skipper, Captain Baines, and his crew, consisting of twenty-nine men, were all British. The Ariosto which had a general cargo, had all the way from port encountered heavy weather.

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When the disaster was made known here wrecking tugs started for the scene, and it is a matter of steam against time if they succeed in reaching the Ariosto before the vessel goes to pieces.

The Ariosto was seven years old and was owned by R. McAndrews & Co. of London.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

The Rescue of Survivors Attained With Much Difficulty. CAPE HENRY (Va.), Dec. 24.—The Weather Bureau official at Hatteras, N. C., reports that the British steamship Ariosto, Captain Baines, from Galveston to Norfolk for coal, thence to Hamburg, loaded with cotton, corn, wheat and meat, stranded on Ocracoke beach, six miles south of the Hatteras Weather Bureau Office at 4 o'clock this morning. The steamship carried a crew of thirty men. Twenty-one men abandoned the steamer and took to boats soon after she stranded. The boats were wrecked in the heavy seas and the entire twenty-one were drowned.

Captain Baines and the remaining eight men were taken from the ship by Captain James Howard and crew of the Ocracoke life-saving station. The rescue was effected with difficulty, owing to the heavy sea, the landing taking almost the entire day. Captain Baines and the eight surviving members of the crew are now being cared for at the Ocracoke life-saving station. Some water is making in the hold of the vessel, but she is still in good condition and probably can be saved if prompt assistance is rendered.

News Sent to Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Superintendent Kimball of the Life Saving Bureau, to-night received the following dispatch: "British steamer Ariosto, Captain Baines, stranded at Ocracoke beach at 4 o'clock this morning. Twenty-one drowned and nine saved in breeches buoy. HOWARD, Keeper."

FAMILY CREMATED.

Supposed That the Father Killed the Children and Himself. KANSAS CITY (Mo.), Dec. 24.—A special to the "Times" from Chillicothe, Mo., says: The charred remains of William J. Thomas, a farmer, and his three children were found in the ashes of their home, eleven miles southwest of here this morning. It is supposed that Thomas murdered the children and set fire to the house and took his own life. About a year ago Thomas' wife committed suicide by taking poison. Thomas had frequently told his neighbors that his wife on her deathbed exacted a promise from him that he would make away with the children and himself and follow her. The dead are: William Thomas, the father, aged 55; Edna, 10 years old; David and John, aged 14 and 18, respectively.

The affair was not discovered until early this morning, when a neighbor living about a mile distant saw that the house had been burned. He hurried over, and it was a sickening sight that met his gaze. The house had been totally destroyed by fire, and the charred and blackened bodies of Thomas and his three children were lying in the ashes.

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