



NINTH LANCERS SAFE.

LORD METHUEN STEADILY PUSHING FORWARD.

DETAILS OF THE BATTLE OF GRAS PAN REACHING LONDON—FOUGHT ON FREE STATE SOIL.

[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

London, Nov. 29, 6 a. m.—Independent accounts of the battle of Gras Pan, published this morning, put an end to all anxiety with regard to the safety of the 9th Lancers. The best description of the engagement comes from the correspondent of "The Chronicle." It appears that the Boers, strongly entrenched, were holding a range of kopjes commanding both sides of the railway. The British force debouched on the plain to the eastward, and four Boer guns at once opened fire. Lord Methuen's guns were very quick in replying, and a fierce artillery duel ensued, lasting three hours. The Boers showed great tenacity, and Lord Methuen, finding he could not disperse them by shell fire, determined upon an infantry attack.

A vigorous assault on the Boer lines was then carried out by the Ninth Brigade, the British displaying the greatest gallantry, and rushing forward in the face of a terrific fire. The Free Staters recoiled, and all the kopjes were taken, some of them being several hundred feet in height.

The Boers suffered under the terrible shell fire as they fled, and a small detachment was cut off by the New South Wales Lancers. But the pursuit of the main body by the 9th Lancers ended in failure. The ground was terribly rough, and the severe fire compelled them to fall back.

As the Boers succeeded in carrying off their guns, apparently the British victory was not a decisive action, but is notable as having been fought on Free State territory. All previous combats have taken place on British soil.

At midnight the War Office issued two important dispatches bearing on the advances of Methuen and General Gatacre. The former was within eight miles of the Modder River on Monday night, and the latter is now in the mountain district of Bushman's Hoek. The Free Staters are retiring to Molteno.

A Kimberley dispatch states that the Boer camp there has been vacated, and General Cronje, with three thousand men, has gone south. This seems confirmed by a report that the Transvaal commandant was present at Gras Pan. I. N. F.

WANTED DEFINITE NEWS.

LONDON'S FEARS FOR THE LANCERS—WHAT THE CRITICS SAY OF THE WAR.

[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

London, Nov. 29, 1 a. m.—While there is no public anxiety over the military situation in South Africa, there is a high degree of suspicion respecting the war news wherever there is the smallest loophole for doubt and uncertainty. Lord Methuen's account of the battle of Gras Pan—or Enslin, as it is now officially known—was clear and direct, but he did not return the return of the 9th Lancers, and for forty-eight hours there was reluctance to accept it as a bulletin of victory until there could be definite assurance that the cavalry had not been entrapped like the hussars after Dundee. Lord Methuen has not yet completed his dispatch by the addition of the trivial detail that the cavalry pursuit after the battle was ineffective, and the suspicious public has been left to infer that the lancers were not carried off to Pretoria by the wily Boers from the appearance of the official casualty list. Two men, an officer and a private of the 9th Lancers, are reported as wounded in a reconnaissance the day after the engagement.

LOSSES SMALLER THAN EXPECTED.

The British losses in Lord Methuen's second battle were much smaller than had been feared from the Admiralty list. The total killed, wounded and missing for infantry, cavalry and artillery was 92, whereas the losses of the naval brigade were 165. This indicates that the brunt of the artillery work was done by the naval brigade, whose guns, being of greater range, concentrated the enemy's fire. Lord Methuen's admirers in military circles here assert that the casualty list bears out the conclusion that a scientific use was made of the artillery in clearing the ground for the bayonet charge, and saving thereby the infantry from heavy losses. The naval officers smile grimly, and add that their brigade had been protecting the infantry battalions at a high cost. The same officers have been twitting their comrades in the military service with the fact that artillerymen have been sent by the War Office from the whole island to learn how to work long range guns under naval coaching.

General Buller's dispatch to the War Office contained explicit confirmation of the press reports that it was well at Ladysmith on Friday, and the details of the condition of the wounded. It also announced that General Joubert had satisfactorily explained the firing upon the flag of truce, against which General White had strongly protested. Similar outrages under the white flag on the western border have excited much resentment in England, and are helping to silence the malcontents who employ their leisure in abusing Mr. Chamberlain.

The relief column for Ladysmith is rapidly moving up to Frere, and is receiving reinforcements steadily from Durban. Two fresh batteries have been sent to Durban from Cape Town, so that the relief column will be strong in artillery. Lord Donaldson, who is leading the advance on Colenso with mounted troops, is a grandson of the famous Admiral Cochrane, who destroyed the French fleet in Basque Roads and fought in the Chilean war of independence. Lord Donaldson served with distinction in the Nile expedition, but is best known in London as the popular colonel of the 2d Life Guards.

The story of General Hildyard's sortie is retold to-day in several journals, and he is now receiving general recognition for the best bit of strategy displayed on the British side since the opening of the war. The fresh details bring out the fine work done by Bethune's Horse, and the splendid practice of the Naval Brigade by which the Boer gun was put out of action.

SAILING OF THE FIFTH DIVISION.

The Fifth Division is rapidly getting off for the Cape. One-half of the composite regiment of the Household Cavalry will sail to-day. The

A STRIKING RAILWAY TRAIN.

The "Pennsylvania Limited," the richest train on the rails, leaves New-York every morning for Chicago via Pennsylvania Railroad—Advt.

WAR OFFICE IS MAKING AMENDS FOR ITS NEGLECT TO SEND A STRONG CAVALRY FORCE FOR THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST MOUNTED INFANTRY BY ORDERING REINFORCEMENTS FOR THREE CAVALRY REGIMENTS.

The cavalry force in the British Army is not large enough. There ought to be two more regiments of Lancers. The War Office is also paying critical attention to artillery details.

Great sensitiveness is shown in military circles over the charge that the Intelligence Department was badly served before the outbreak of war, and that artillery of inferior range was sent to South Africa to be outclassed by the Boer guns. The highest authorities deny that the chief of the Intelligence Department made any mistake respecting the Boer guns. The subject will be brought up in Parliament, and fully discussed, for it is already one of the chief topics of the West End. Military men assert that the Intelligence Department was not in fault, but reported fully upon Boer armaments. It is that he took Lord Lansdowne and the Commander-in-Chief will have to bear responsibility for serious mismanagement of a most important detail of the campaign.

The German Emperor has saluted for the Continent after receiving the final honor of a salute from a British fleet. Like a good politician, he readjusts balances by paying a brief visit to Queen Wilhelmina, and makes a concession to those German subjects who sympathize with the Dutch in Africa. His visit to the English Court cannot be explained away as a strictly private affair. It has strengthened and widened the secret understanding already existing, and opened the way for a close approach to a British-Germanic alliance, which Americans can regard with entire equanimity.

The comments of the French press upon the virtual recognition of the Boers as belligerents by the British Government display slight knowledge of American precedents in the Civil War. Whether the Boers are rebels or belligerents, external intervention will not be allowed by England, and the question of suzerainty will be dropped with the two conventions, and the principal of the paramount authority of the Imperial government established. Two Ministers spoke last night with emphasis on this subject. Mr. Balfour declared that no portion of the Queen's dominions would ever again be converted into a place of arms to be used against English subjects, nor annexed by insolent republics. Mr. Ritchie contended that equal rights for all white men in South Africa would be brought about under the English flag, and added that the British object there was the same as in the Sudan. Conquest for Egypt and Great Britain has been the British policy in the Sudan, as Lord Salisbury has recently explained it. I. N. F.

STORMED THE BOER POSITIONS.

GENERAL METHUEN'S BRILLIANT VICTORY AT THE BATTLE OF GRAS PAN.

Orange River, Nov. 27.—The British arms have achieved a brilliant victory. The enemy, strongly entrenched, held a range of hills commanding both sides of the railway at Rooi Laagte, near Gras Pan. The Lancashires, under Lewis, reconnoitred in an armored train on Friday. The Boers shelled the train, killing Lewis and a private.

General Methuen then advanced. His column made a detour and bivouacked for the night at Swink's Pan, three miles from the Boer position.

At dawn the advance began, the Guards forming the reserve. The column debouched on the plain eastward of the Boer kopjes. The Boer guns opened fire. Two batteries of British artillery, posted on each side, shelled the Boers, practice being good on both sides.

The Boers stuck tenaciously to their positions, firing steadily and accurately. The duel, which continually became hotter, lasted three hours. The Boer shells wounded several men of the naval brigade.

Finding it impossible to displace the Boers by artillery, General Methuen resolved on an infantry attack. A brigade of infantry, including the Yorkshires, the Northampton's, the Northumberland's and the Lancashires, with the naval brigade on the right, gallantly stormed the Boer positions in the face of a withering fire, and carried hill after hill, the brigade under Colonel Meyer capturing the main position against a terrific fire, but suffering severely.

GATACRE MOVES FORWARD.

BOERS RETIRE TOWARD THE ORANGE RIVER BEFORE THE BRITISH COLUMN.

London, Nov. 28.—General Forester-Walker has sent the following dispatch, dated Cape Town to-day, to the War Office:

Kekewich reports from Kimberley, on November 23, some important skirmishes with the Boers. Wounded—Captain Bodley, Lieutenant Hawker and three troopers; all doing well. The health of the garrison is good and the water supply plentiful. The enemy's camps to the south of Kimberley have been vacated, and that Cronje, with three thousand Boers, is marching to the south. The Boers are disappearing from the vicinity of Kimberley. The enemy seems restless.

The railway line was repaired to a point six miles north of Gras Pan on Sunday, and the telegraph was reopened to within eight miles of Modder River, or thirty-three miles from Kimberley, on Monday night.

Later—Gatacre occupied Bushman's Hoek yesterday with a battalion of infantry. His main body is at Futer's Kraal. The enemy retired toward Molteno.

LANCERS BEAT A RETREAT.

METHUEN'S CAVALRY ACTED WITH PRUDENCE ON INTERCEPTING THE BOERS.

London, Nov. 29.—A dispatch from Orange River, dated Monday, November 27, and describing the battle of Enslin, says:

The Boers successfully retreated. The Lancers attempted to intercept and reached them; but a severe fire opened from a kopje hill forced the Lancers to retreat. General Cronje was with the Boers.

Among the Boer prisoners are Alderman Jeppe and Commandant Mossik, who led the Boer force.

BULLER'S REASSURING REPORTS.

INFERENCE DRAWN THAT THE NINTH LANCERS WERE NOT CAPTURED.

London, Nov. 28.—The War Office has received from General Buller a list of the casualties at the battle of Enslin, or Gras Pan, on November 25. It shows that among the wounded of the 2d Yorkshire Light Infantry were Captain C. A. Yates, Lieutenant H. C. Fernyhough and Lieutenant C. H. Ackroyd. The casualties among the non-commissioned officers and men of the various regiments engaged were as follows: Killed, ten; wounded, seventy-one; missing, nine.

The War Office has received the following dispatch from General Buller, dated Pietermaritzburg, Natal, November 28:

Our last news from Ladysmith, November 24, said all well. An old message, dated November 19, which announced firing on one (Red Cross) flag, previously reported. Have accepted explanation as satisfactory.

Lieutenant Lethbridge, Rifle Brigade, died of wounds. Officers wounded generally doing well. Health of troops good.

Six wounded Dublin Fusiliers, captured on armored train south of Colenso, sent here to-day.

The casualties in the reconnaissance of the

(Continued on Third Page.)

Southern Ry for Florida, Alton, Augusta, New Orleans, Memphis, commercial and resort centres South and Southwest. Schedule page 13—Advt.

FACED DEATH FOR DAYS.

TRANSPORT'S PERILOUS VOYAGE TO MANILA.

THE MANAUENSE, LADEN WITH TROOPS, NARROWLY ESCAPES FOUNDERING IN THE PACIFIC.

Manila, Nov. 28.—The transport Manauense, with Lieutenant Colonel Webb Hayes and three companies of the 31st Infantry on board, has arrived here. She narrowly escaped disaster. The officers and soldiers were for eleven days balling with buckets. The steamer was unseaworthy, undermanned and short of provisions. Her engines broke down and she rolled three days in a typhoon.

The Manauense is thirty-three days from San Francisco. When she anchored in the bay here to-day there were several feet of water in her hold, and four hundred grimy, greasy, hungry, exhausted soldiers and sailors had been passing buckets of water since November 17, night and day. First Assistant Engineer Dunleavy was under arrest, and, according to Colonel Hayes's official report, the chief engineer would also have been under arrest if there had been any one to replace him. The Colonel's report also declares that the captain of the vessel told him that the only thing which brought them through was the fact that the men were greenhorns and failed to realize their danger, while experienced seamen would have deserted the ship and taken to the boats in midocean.

SOLDIERS MAN THE VESSEL. The Manauense is a chartered ship, flying the British flag. She belongs to a firm of which Senator Perkins, of San Francisco, is alleged to be a junior member. The officers say the firm bought her for \$45,000, and they say efforts were made to sell her to the Government for \$150,000. She started from San Francisco accompanied by the transport Peking, which carried the remainder of the regiment, and encountered heavy seas to Honolulu, without accident. After starting, it developed that she was undermanned, and soldiers had to be detailed to act as firemen, coal passers and waiters, and to do other work. Before reaching Honolulu the crew concluded that the ship was not safe, and the majority agreed to desert. Though they were closely watched, many of the crew succeeded in getting away, and the Manauense left Honolulu with less than half her crew. The captain of the transport, on November 17, told Colonel Hayes that the vessel had sprung a leak, and an investigation resulted in finding several feet of water in her hold. The steam pumps were tried, but failed to work, and there were no hand pumps on board. However, forty-six buckets were found, others were improvised, and the soldiers not employed in working the ship were organized into five shifts, and, stripped and forming lines, they began balling the officers working with the men, passing the buckets, which were sent up to the deck by a windlass. The longest time a shift could stand was two hours, and often the balling continued until the ship anchored here.

The same day the leak was discovered the machinery collapsed and the electric lighting plant and evaporating, distilling and refrigerating apparatus failed to work. There were no lamps, and the few candles found were exhausted after a few days. During the last week of the passage the Manauense was in utter darkness at night.

ENCOUNTERED A TYPHOON.

She had been rolling in heavy seas all the way, but on November 22 she encountered a typhoon and pitched and tossed alarmingly. The Peking became separated from the Manauense in the storm. The water rose rapidly, and the balling force was doubled. But the buckets were gradually smashed, and barrels and boxes were substituted for them, the men working in darkness with planks and pieces of iron shafting, or being violently washed among them. The firemen could only feed the fires by being lifted on the shoulders of other men, though water waist deep.

The typhoon lasted two days and a half, and in the midst of it the engines stopped. The officers then held a council and found that there were 420 persons on board, with lifeboat accommodations for 213.

The heat was intense until the typhoon passed, and then the Peking, which had retraced her course about seventy miles, ran alongside the Manauense, which was rolling so heavily that the soldiers in the hold could at each roll see the Peking through the hatches overhead.

Colonel James S. Pettit, the commander of the 31st Volunteer Regiment, ordered the Manauense to proceed to Guam and await relief, but the captain of the Manauense demurred, the officers say, because the Government was renting the ship for \$500 a day.

LIVED ON WHISKEY, BEER AND HARD-TACK.

Throughout the remainder of the voyage the engines of the Manauense failed frequently, and the ship would roll for a few hours while the engines were being repaired. Then the steamer would proceed again for a few hours.

The meat and vegetables rotted because of the failure of the refrigerators, and were thrown overboard.

After the storm the water supplied to the ship at Honolulu had to be used for the boilers, and there was little or none for drinking. In fact, it is asserted that during the last week of the voyage the men lived almost entirely on whiskey, beer and hardtack.

The officers and soldiers were utterly exhausted when they reached Manila. They declare the engineers were grossly incompetent. The officers also say that the behavior of the troops was beyond praise. For days they worked in the dark, suffocating hold, with water sometimes up to their shoulders and planks washing about in a manner dangerous to life and limb. The officers took the lead in balling and encouraged the men. The captain of the ship promised the men 25 cents an hour for balling, but he now proposes to pay them \$150 a day. The soldiers talk of attacking the ship.

The regiment will proceed to Zamboanga on the Peking to garrison several ports on the island of Mindanao.

SAY THE MANAUENSE WAS ALL RIGHT.

TRANSPORT OFFICIALS CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE STATEMENTS FROM MANILA.

San Francisco, Nov. 28.—Transport officials at this port are at a loss to explain the alleged unseaworthy condition of the transport Manauense, whose arrival at Manila was reported to-day. A representative of The Associated Press talked with a number of officials to-day, and in every instance it was stated that she left this port on October 25, and that she was in the best condition. It is held that enough supplies were taken for a six months' trip. Her hold, it is said, was full of supplies for the soldiers. That she was undermanned is denied, and it is urged that had she been cleared

(Continued on seventh page.)

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD'S WEST TWENTY-THIRD STREET STATION. Connecting the centre of New-York's shopping, hotel and theatre district with the great cities South and West reached by the Pennsylvania Railroad's comprehensive system. Station easily accessible by Pennsylvania Railroad Cabs or street-cars. Handsomest ferryboats ever built—Advt.

HARPER & BROS. ASSIGN.

STATE TRUST COMPANY IN POSSESSION OF THE PUBLISHING HOUSE.

BUSINESS TO GO ON UNDER COLONEL HARVEY, WHO IS APPOINTED AGENT FOR THE ASSIGNEE, AND AT WHOSE INSTANCES THE ACTION IS TAKEN—J. P. MORGAN & CO. THE PRINCIPAL CREDITOR.

The business and assets of the publishing firm of Harper & Bros. were yesterday taken possession of, as a preliminary to the appointment of a receiver, by the State Trust Company, acting in behalf of the first mortgagees of the property. Although the proceeding was in the nature of a mortgage foreclosure, the step was taken upon the suggestion of the directors of the firm and with the friendly concurrence of J. Pierpont Morgan, the largest creditor. It has been known for some time that Harper & Bros. were in financial difficulties. The first public knowledge of this fact came to light some months ago, when it was reported that a consolidation of the firm with Doubleday & McClure had practically been completed.

For reasons which were not stated at the time, but seem clear now, the negotiations were not carried into effect. But on November 17 the house was reorganized, with Colonel G. B. M. Harvey as its president. At the same time Colonel Harvey purchased a large block of shares in the company, the exact amount of which could not be ascertained at the time, but was said to be in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000 par value, the price paid by Colonel Harvey being \$150 a share. That this transaction did not in fact put the company on a sound financial footing was admitted yesterday by the directors, who announced that the firm was not in a position to meet its maturing obligations.

AT COLONEL HARVEY'S INSTANCE.

From statements made public last night it appears that the action of the State Trust Company was taken at the instance of Colonel Harvey himself, who, as a result of a personal investigation of the affairs of the firm, frankly admitted that, to attempt to put the corporation's finances upon a sound and durable basis while staggering under so heavy a load of indebtedness, without beginning to build up the business again from the bottom, would be "little short of insane." In taking the course he did Colonel Harvey acted with the consent and approval of the members of the Harper family and of the principal creditors. Although J. Pierpont Morgan was willing to advance more money to the firm, Colonel Harvey in a statement given out last night made it plain that he was unwilling to assume any responsibility for the payment of interest upon the \$3,500,000 mortgage which rests upon the property, and the settlement of unsecured claims amounting approximately to \$2,000,000, without effecting first a thorough readjustment of the company's finances. For any one to take upon himself such an undertaking would, he stated, be an impossible task. Consequently, justice to himself, the company and its creditors, he decided after consultation with each member of the Harper family that the only possible solution of the difficulty was to resort to the course which has been followed.

This course, he believes, will place the company in a position which will assure ultimate payment in full to its creditors. A special clause in the mortgage held upon the property enabled the State Trust Company, as trustee under the mortgage, to take possession of the assets and operate the business at any time. It was under this clause that it stepped in yesterday and appointed Colonel Harvey to manage and control the firm. Formal proceedings will now be instituted for the appointment of the trust company as receiver of the corporation, with Colonel Harvey as agent for the receiver. With the financial problems of the concern taken off his hands, Colonel Harvey and those associated with him will now devote their entire energies to rebuilding the business and strengthening the affairs of the famous old publishing house.

REFORMS ALREADY CARRIED OUT.

Reforms have already been carried out which will result in a saving of more than \$100,000 a year, and with the effecting of a reorganization those interested in the company have confidence that it will enter upon a fresh career of prosperity.

The first public intimation that was forthcoming of yesterday's developments was the pasting of the following notice upon the doors of the premises in Franklin Square:

All persons will please take notice that the State Trust Company, as trustee under the mortgage of Harper & Bros. to the State Trust Company as trustee, in pursuance of the provisions of the mortgage, has entered into and upon all and every part of the property and premises, lands, tenements, interests and franchises, present and future, of the corporation, and each and every part thereof, including the publication of the periodicals known as "Harper's Magazine," "Harper's Weekly," "Harper's Bazar" and "Harper's Round Table," and that from this date and until further notice, and the great majority of the rights, powers, duties and obligations of the corporation, and each and every part thereof, shall be exercised, managed and controlled by the said property, premises and business, and until further notice he will be respected accordingly. My order.

THE STATE TRUST COMPANY.

By WALTER S. JOHNSTON, President.

Attest: H. M. FRANKS, Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH MORGAN & CO.

In order that it might be known that the action taken by the Trust Company was by request of the members of the corporation, the following correspondence was given out for publication last night:

New-York, November 27, 1899. Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co., New-York. Dear Sirs: It is due to you, as the principal creditors of Harper & Brothers, to know that, owing to the financial stringency and the fact that the bulk of the assets of the corporation are in the hands of collateral purposes, the company may, and probably will, be unable to meet its maturing obligations. Nevertheless, our new president, Mr. Harvey, has just advised me that the company has been reorganized in such a way as to enable him to give me the interest not only upon your prior loan, but also upon the unsecured claims, amounting to approximately \$2,000,000. It is an anxious desire to place them in a position which will assure ultimate payment in full to all creditors, and to place them in a position which will assure ultimate payment in full to all creditors, and to place them in a position which will assure ultimate payment in full to all creditors.

I feel emboldened to make this request, not because of business necessity on your part, but because of the personal friendship and sympathy you have always shown for me, and the great pecuniary service you have rendered to Harper & Brothers in the past. It is due to you, as the principal creditors of Harper & Brothers, to know that, owing to the financial stringency and the fact that the bulk of the assets of the corporation are in the hands of collateral purposes, the company may, and probably will, be unable to meet its maturing obligations. Nevertheless, our new president, Mr. Harvey, has just advised me that the company has been reorganized in such a way as to enable him to give me the interest not only upon your prior loan, but also upon the unsecured claims, amounting to approximately \$2,000,000. It is an anxious desire to place them in a position which will assure ultimate payment in full to all creditors, and to place them in a position which will assure ultimate payment in full to all creditors.

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I feel emboldened to make this request, not because of business necessity on your part, but because of the personal friendship and sympathy you have always shown for me, and the great pecuniary service you have rendered to Harper & Brothers in the past. It is due to you, as the principal creditors of Harper & Brothers, to know that, owing to the financial stringency and the fact that the bulk of the assets of the corporation are in the hands of collateral purposes, the company may, and probably will, be unable to meet its maturing obligations. Nevertheless, our new president, Mr. Harvey, has just advised me that the company has been reorganized in such a way as to enable him to give me the interest not only upon your prior loan, but also upon the unsecured claims, amounting to approximately \$2,000,000. It is an anxious desire to place them in a position which will assure ultimate payment in full to all creditors, and to place them in a position which will assure ultimate payment in full to all creditors.

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I feel emboldened to make this request, not because of business necessity on your part, but because of the personal