

METHUEN STILL SILENT.

Continued from first page.

to his troops on November 27 after the battle of Gras Pan, reports of which have just arrived here. After reading a telegram from Governor Miller congratulating the troops and sympathizing with the wounded, General Methuen personally congratulated the troops on the work done and expressed appreciation of the manner in which they had endured the hardships. The work, he said, was the most severe encountered by the British army for many a long day. They had in front of them, he added, an enemy to whom they could not afford to give a single point. Their tactics had been excellent, and he recognized and admired their courage.

Continuing, General Methuen said that when called upon to fight for his country he preferred to fight a foe worthy of his steel than savages whose sole recommendation was bravery. He then expressed the hope that he and his men had gained each other's confidence and would all do their duty to their country, as Englishmen should.

General Methuen also described as "dastardly" the conduct of the Boers in firing on ambulance wagons, the shooting of a British officer by a wounded Boer and the Boers' use of Dumdum bullets. But he refused to believe that these acts were characteristic of the Boers. He gave them credit, until convinced to the contrary, that they, like the British, wished to fight fair and square.

Little attention was paid here to the flimsy fabrication announcing the fall of Ladysmith. The dispatch caused frenzied joy in Paris. The War Office officials to-day reiterate that they have received absolutely nothing to indicate the slightest likelihood of Ladysmith surrendering, while, on the other hand, they expect the place will be relieved shortly.

It is asserted that if General Joubert is traveling in an omnibus, he must be sick or wounded. Lord Wolseley, speaking in London this evening, eulogized the conduct of the British troops in South Africa, and confirmed the semi-official announcement that another division of the Second Army Corps would be called out. This division, he said, would soon be on the way to the Cape. He expressed himself as confident that the reserves would respond to the call with the same obedience and pride that had marked the responses to previous calls.

SCRAPS OF NEWS FROM NATAL.

TWELFTH LANCERS REPORTED TO HAVE INFLICTED LOSS ON THE BOERS.

Estcourt, Nov. 27.—The 12th Lancers are reported to have attacked the Piet River force at Weenen and to have inflicted great loss on the Boers.

General Hildyard's troops bivouacked last night at Frere.

Two Boers have been captured. One of them, a doctor, entered the British camp under the belief that this was a Boer bivouac.

General Joubert is reported to have retreated to Colenso yesterday, by way of Chieveley. He travelled in an omnibus drawn by six horses. It is rumored that he is hurrying back to oppose Colonel Baden-Powell.

Two Estcourt trains arrived at Frere yesterday evening. There is great rejoicing at the reopening of the line.

Boer prisoners report that General Hildyard's night attack with cold steel paralyzed the burghers, whose loss was thirty killed and over a hundred wounded.

London, Nov. 30.—The authorities here are unable to explain the reference to Colonel Baden-Powell contained in the Estcourt dispatch.

BOER LOSSES AT BELMONT AND GRAS PAN PRISONERS AT ORANGE RIVER SAY THE DUTCH SUFFERED SEVERELY.

Orange River, Nov. 27.—Boer prisoners here report that the number of Boers killed at Belmont is believed to be 140 and at Gras Pan 400. Among the prisoners are several with enormous red crosses on their sleeves. It is reported that they fought with the artillery.

BOERS BEATEN BACK FROM LADYSMITH. STORY OF A TELEGRAPHER WHO LEFT THE BESIEGED TOWN ON NOVEMBER 25.

London, Nov. 30.—The War Office has received the following dispatch from General Buller, dated Pietermaritzburg, Wednesday, November 29: Mitchell, a telegrapher, has just made his way out of Ladysmith to Weenen, whence he sends the following message: "On November 9 we beat back the Boers with great loss to the enemy. Our total casualties were remarkably small. There were only eight men killed during the siege by shells, and in all the battles, etc., only a hundred men have been killed or wounded."

"I left Ladysmith the night of November 25. Since November 9 no attempt has been made to attack Ladysmith in force."

London, Dec. 1.—"The Times" publishes the following dispatch from Frere, Natal, dated November 27: "Ladysmith was heavily bombarded to-day."

WITHDRAWING FROM CAPE COLONY. London, Nov. 30.—A dispatch from Cape Town, dated November 27, gives reports of the ner-

vousness of the Boers of the Orange Free State border. Some of the Boer forces, it is added, have been hurriedly withdrawn from Ladysmith and Barkly East.

A NEW TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN SPEAKS AGAIN.

THE SECRETARY DISCUSSES GREAT BRITAIN'S FOREIGN RELATIONS AND THREATENS FRANCE.

London, Nov. 30.—Joseph Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in a speech at a luncheon at Leicester to-day, said that ever since the great split in the Liberal party he had found himself a mark for the elanders and misrepresentations of the "baser sort of politicians." But, he added, he had found compensation in the generous appreciation of the majority of his countrymen.

Continuing, Mr. Chamberlain said he was deeply gratified that the foreign relations of Great Britain were so satisfactory, and he asserted that the country owed a debt of gratitude to Lord Salisbury for the great improvement of Great Britain's position. It was especially gratifying, he pointed out, to note the friendly relations existing between the Anglo-Saxon branches, saying that the understanding between the United States and Great Britain was indeed a guarantee of the peace of the world.

This statement was greeted with cheers. Referring to the attacks of the foreign press, Mr. Chamberlain said these newspapers had not even spared the "almost sacred person of the Queen." This, continued the speaker, provoked natural indignation "which may have serious consequences if our neighbors do not mend their ways."

An outburst of cheering greeted this threat of the Colonial Secretary. It was a matter for congratulation, Mr. Chamberlain afterward asserted, that the worst of these "disgraceful attacks" did not appear in the German papers.

A new triple alliance between the Teutonic race and the two great branches of the Anglo-Saxons would, said the Secretary for the Colonies, be a potent influence in the future of the world. The speaker explained that he used the word "alliance," but, he added, it mattered little whether they had an alliance committed to paper or an "understanding" which existed in the minds of the statesmen of the respective countries. A determination in every case to look for favorable motives upon the part of those with whom friendship was desired would be an enormous advantage to both the nations concerned and there.

Dealing with the attitude of foreign nations, Mr. Chamberlain said: "I rejoice, and it is, perhaps, natural, for I have taken a personal interest in the matter, in the friendly feeling which I hope is now predominant between the two great branches of the Anglo-Saxon race. I have so many friends in the United States, almost as many as I have here, and I can conceive of no greater disaster to the two countries than to find themselves hostile to each other. Yet I remember when I first visited America my surprise and astonishment at the evidence given me by statesmen and politicians and in articles in the press of constant suspicion of the objects of Great Britain, constant doubts as to her integrity and a generally unfavorable estimate of our prospects and character. Once, addressing a great meeting in Philadelphia, I ventured to say that due to a feeling that the sympathy of Great Britain was not with them in the Civil War, and to the general belief that the people of Great Britain would see with satisfaction any harm that might befall them."

It appeared to me almost useless to contradict these mistaken opinions. But what the asseverations of statesmen could not do was done by the sympathy we were able to give when the United States found itself the object of the suspicion which has so often accompanied our own transactions when engaged in a war of justice against oppression, a war in favor of civilization and good government. Our action proved to the Americans that we were indeed one people, of the same thoughts and guided by the same principles. The assurance that was given them in the course of the Spanish war, I believe, never to be forgotten, and has placed our relations in an admirable position. The union, the alliance, if you please, the understanding between these two great nations is indeed a guarantee of the peace of the world. But there is something more which I think any far-seeing English statesman must have long desired, that we should not remain permanently isolated from the Continent of Europe, and I think it must have appeared evident to everybody that the natural alliance is between ourselves and the great German Empire. We have had our differences, quarrels and contentions, but these have all been about petty matters. These difficulties have been gradually removed, until now I cannot conceive that any point can arise in the immediate future which can bring ourselves and Germany into antagonism of interests. On the contrary, I can foresee many things in the future which must cause anxiety to the statesmen of Europe, but in which our interests are clearly the same as Germany's, and in which the understanding of which I have spoken in the case of America might, if extended to Ger-

many, do more perhaps than any combination of arms to preserve the peace of the world.

THE SPEECH CAUSES COMMENT.

BRITISH NEWSPAPERS NOT OF ONE MIND OVER MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S UTTERANCES.

London, Dec. 1.—It has been long since a public speech has been delivered that has excited so much comment as Mr. Chamberlain's yesterday. Every provincial paper, important or unimportant, has a leading editorial this morning discussing the Colonial Secretary's deliverance. The Liberal and Radical papers naturally are little pleased. They think that England ought to continue the policy of withholding herself from entangling alliances, and they attack Mr. Chamberlain hotly for the irritating tone he adopted toward France. They remind the public that this is only a repetition of the "splash" he made in his speech of May 13 last year, when, in the same way, he incensed Russia. One Journal ironically asks whether the Foreign Secretary still exists or whether the Foreign Office has been merged into the Colonial Office.

On the other hand, most of the Conservative and Moderate Liberal organs comment upon the speech with great approval, alleging that there never was a time when such an understanding was more essential between nations who are natural allies for peace and civilization. "The Daily Mail" says:

Once more Mr. Chamberlain has acted as interpreter for the nation. The new alliance of England, the United States and Germany, with Poland thrown in, and Austria and Italy in the background is something to make those four-mouthed Parisians shiver. If they cannot cease their insults, their colonies will be taken from them and given to Germany and Italy. England has entered with the present French government, but how long will it stand against the machinations of Dr. Leyds and the General Staff, who are deliberately seeking to make an Anglo-French quarrel?

"The Times," which rejoices in the "disappearance" of all former misunderstandings between Great Britain and America," says:

We have no objection to urge against Mr. Chamberlain's real meaning. At the same time the proposition as stated by him may lead to a possible misapprehension. America, like ourselves, is able, by virtue of her geographical position, to keep free not only from entangling alliances, but from embarrassing neighbors. Germany has powerful neighbors all around, neighbors with whom she has been in conflict and may be again. This alone differentiates her from us. We are not a democracy and the second, we are not representative. And the mood of the country should be that there appears to be no need to traverse matters so far from home in order to find disquieting evidences of an enemy's weakness. It is our duty to fulfill our obligations to our own State. We call ourselves a representative democracy, which is not an honor to be boasted of, but a duty to be performed. It is not a democracy and the second, we are not representative. 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