



BADEN-POWELL'S FIGHT. DETAILS OF THE ACTION AT MAFEKING.

BRITISH FORCE'S VAIN STRUGGLE—NEXT BATTLE LOOKED FOR AT THE TUGELA RIVER.

[Copyright, 1900. By The New-York Tribune.] [BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.] London, Jan. 6, 6 a. m.—The official dispatch from Colonel Baden-Powell, announcing the unsuccessful sortie from Mafeking on December 26, proves that the Boer account was fairly correct. The British casualties are officially stated to be three officers and forty-eight men killed, and one officer and twenty-four men wounded, and three men taken prisoners. No mention is made of either Lord Edward Cecil or Lord Charles Cavendish Bentinck, both of whom were wounded according to the Boer report of the affair. Colonel Baden-Powell, however, mentions six officers hit, and only includes four in the list of casualties.

"The Post's" correspondent states that the Boers had been treacherously forewarned, and had blown up the railway line so that the armored train is unable to act efficiently. "The Times's" correspondent alleges that the Boers used explosive bullets and plundered the British dead and wounded.

Sir Redvers Buller continues to shell the Boer intrenchments at Colenso, but no important news is yet to hand.

Webster Davis, the United States Assistant Secretary of the Interior, has arrived at Cape Town. "The Chronicle's" correspondent says that Mr. Davis stated that his visit to the Cape is entirely for the sake of health, but he expressed his intention of paying a visit to Pretoria, no matter at what personal inconvenience.

A Brussels paper publishes a number of documents purporting to establish Mr. Chamberlain's complicity in the Jameson raid.

A GREAT BATTLE IMMINENT.

ENGLAND ANXIOUSLY WAITING FOR NEWS FROM THE TUGELA.

[Copyright, 1900. By The New-York Tribune.] [BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.] London, Jan. 6, 1 a. m.—While General French's adroit manoeuvres and gallant repulse of the enemy's determined attack are of superior interest as incidents of actual warfare, public attention cannot be diverted from the impending battle at the Tugela. Heavy fighting had been expected from hour to hour by military men, who could not be convinced that Sir Redvers Buller would wait for the single battery and the small force of hussars which had been dispatched from Cape Town to Durban, but when the official bulletin dated yesterday from Frere Camp, and containing his thanks in the name of the army for the holiday remembrances from home, was posted, the impression prevailed at the clubs that a decisive battle would be deferred until Monday, when he could command every available man, gun and horse.

This opinion was unchanged at midnight. The censorship was screwed down to the tightest notch, so that only trivial camp incidents were related by the news agencies.

TWO PLANS OF ACTION.

The military writers for the press were divided in their forecasts of the plan of attack. One group held that Inhluwe Mountain would be the first objective point, and that the southern bank would be cleared before any attempt was made to force the passage of the river. The second group, undismayed by the failure of previous forecasts, assumed that there would be a turning movement a long distance away, with a feint attack at the other end of the line and a vigorous artillery fire at the centre, and they cited as proofs of their theory the reports of systematic scouting on the upper Tugela near Springfield, the massing of Warren's division at Estcourt, whence it could be sent toward Weenen, and the organization of the mule transport system on a large scale.

The last detail was certainly significant, since no turning movement on the lower Tugela could be made without mule transport, but an experienced veteran who managed the transport system in the previous campaign in South Africa told me late last night that this was not conclusive evidence, since the mule train would be required at once between Colenso and Ladysmith after the passage of the river, as the railway had probably been torn up by the Boers.

General Buller must have received yesterday strong cavalry reinforcements, consisting of the South African Light Horse and the 18th Hussars, and when the last battery arrived with a small force of Hussars arrives, he will be as strong as he can be expected to be, and with nothing to gain by delay.

BULLER'S FORCE UNDERESTIMATED.

The strength of his army is underestimated by the London press, since the military authorities have not wished the enemy to know the full extent of the concentration of the force upon the Tugela River.

The last word before midnight was that the ambulance corps had been ordered to the front from Durban and Maritzburg. General French's position was officially reported as unchanged on Thursday, but Reuters, the Central News and various correspondents brought news of a spirited fight and of the defeat of the Dutch forces yesterday. He had chosen his position so well that they considered it necessary to take a leaf from his book of British tactics and to attack his left flank at daybreak after a short night march. His infantry were not taken by surprise, but held their ground resolutely. Four guns were showed up, and the enemy when menaced with a flank attack was forced to retire upon a kopje. A heavy rifle and shell fire was maintained until the mounted infantry left their horses and charged the position. There had been an earlier charge by the Inniskilling dragoons, who cut their way through the enemy's line. The 10th Hussars harassed the retreating enemy, but Major Harvey was killed while leading them, and Major Alexander was wounded. Otherwise the British casualties were light, while the Boers lost heavily in proportion to their number, and left fifty killed and fifty prisoners behind them.

ANOTHER TRIUMPH FOR FRENCH.

While only eight hundred Boers were engaged in this fight, General French's tactics were admirable, and his victory complete and achieved at a small cost. The situation is not entirely clear, but the Boers apparently are still in force on the hills surrounding Colenso, and are blocking General French's advance on the railway bridge over the Orange River. French has been reinforced by a battalion of infantry and a battery, and the Household Cavalry and Essex Battalion and Field Artillery have been sent to him.

The campaign in that quarter is full of promise. General French is evidently holding the Boers at Colenso until an increased cavalry force he can cut off their retreat to the river, or possibly occupy both bridges behind them.

Neither General Gatacre's official report nor the press dispatches throw fresh light upon the repulse of the Boers at Mafeking. The attack seems to have been a surprise, for Gatacre, after his manner, was having a field day and drilling his men. He acted promptly, and by the prudent conduct of the Cape Police, drove the enemy back without being drawn into a trap himself. He could not cut off the retreat of the Boers, owing to the lack of cavalry.

GALLANT SORTIE FROM MAFEKING. Official reports do not change the aspects of Colonel Picher's raid. There is no important news from Modder River, and the Cape Town rumor of a successful sortie from Mafeking is unconfirmed. The British account of the unsuccessful attack on the Boer fort was received at midnight. Happily, Lord Edward Cecil has not been wounded seriously. The Boer account of the defeat is confirmed, but the losses were not serious. The story of the sortie is a most spirited one.

The rumor has not been officially confirmed that the German Emperor has sent a member of his staff to Windsor with a private letter to the Queen, which is assumed to relate to the seizure of the vessels at Delagoa Bay, but there is evidence in the German press that a strong feeling of resentment has been excited by these unpleasant episodes. The cargo of the Bundesrath will probably be discharged for the purpose of critical examination by a prize court.

The American Embassy is discreetly silent respecting the seizure of American breadstuffs, but it is an open secret that the Foreign Office is carefully considering the question raised by Mr. Choate's presentation of the case are premature. The truth is that the seizure has been rendered a complex question by the flag under which the cargoes of foodstuffs were carried. American flour, presumably for the Transvaal, was shipped on British vessels for a neutral port, and the Queen's subjects had been warned against trading with the enemy. The question of contraband trading and neutral rights is complicated by this and other facts. The controversies with Germany and the United States tend to convince many informed men that England will be driven into the seizure of Delagoa Bay as the easiest way out of the difficulty.

I. N. F.

THE SORTIE FROM MAFEKING. GALLANT ATTACK OF THE TROOPS UNDER BADEN-POWELL. London, Jan. 5.—The War Office has received, through General Forestier-Walker, at Cape Town, the following dispatch from Colonel Baden-Powell, dated Mafeking, December 26:

We attacked one of the enemies' works this morning, endeavoring to push back the cordon northward. Our force consisted of three guns, two squadrons of the Protectorate regiment, one of the Beuchuanaland Rifles, an armored train, etc. The enemy had strengthened their works during the night, and doubled the garrison since yesterday's reconnaissance.

Nevertheless, our attack was carried out and pressed home with the greatest possible gallantry and steadiness under a very hot fire. But all efforts to gain the interior by escalade failed, the fort being practically impregnable.

Our attack only withdrew after six of our officers had been hit and a large number of men. Nothing could have exceeded the courage and dash displayed.

The general situation remains unchanged, and the health and spirits of the garrison are very satisfactory.

I regret to report the following casualties:

KILLED. Captain R. J. YERSON. Captain H. C. SANFORD. Lieutenant H. C. PAXTON. Eighteen non-commissioned officers and troops.

WOUNDED. Captain CHARLES FITZPATRICK. Twenty-three non-commissioned officers and troops.

PRISONERS. Three troops.

General Forestier-Walker points out that while the dispatch gives all the names, it fails to show that six officers were hit.

LORD EDWARD NOT WOUNDED. Cape Town Jan. 5.—With reference to the Boer reports that Lord Edward Cecil and Lord Charles Bentinck were recently wounded at Mafeking, inquiries have been made at Pretoria, with the result that it has been ascertained that neither took part in the sortie and Lord Bentinck's troops were not engaged.

THRILLING STORY OF HEROISM. REMARKABLE BRAVERY OF BRITISH OFFICERS IN THE FIGHT. London, Jan. 6, 4:45 a. m.—"The Times" publishes the following dispatch from Mafeking, dated December 26:

At dawn to-day Colonel Baden-Powell organized an unsuccessful attack upon a strong position of the enemy at Gametree, two miles from Mafeking, from which the Boers have been firing a desultory but annoying shell and rifle fire for several weeks. The railway has recently been reconstructed between the town and Gametree, where the Boers had destroyed it, the final repairs being made in preparation for the sortie.

During the night the armored train, with Maxim and Hotchkiss guns, under Captain Williams and troops, took up positions for attack from two sides. Captain Lord Charles Bentinck rode in reserve upon the left, and a squadron were left wing was occupied by while the enemy under Major Panzera and a Maxim of artillery under Major Panzera and a Maxim of the Cape Police, the whole being under Colonel Hore.

Emplacements were thrown up during the night, the orders being to attack at dawn and the artillery fire to desist upon prolonged tooting from the armored train. At daybreak the guns were fired.

Continued on third page.

EVENING HERE, THEN YOUR TRIP. After January 6 host for Lackawanna might light train to Scranton, Binghamton, Syracuse, etc. Buffalo, Chicago leaves daily 11:30 p. m. Christopher Street 11:30 p. m. Sleepers open 9 p. m. Advt.

POLAND! POLAND! POLAND! POLAND! The purest natural spring water in the world. Advt.

POLAND! POLAND! POLAND! POLAND! Try HI Poland Water Depot, 2 Park Place, N. Y. Advt.

POLAND! POLAND! POLAND! POLAND! Pure, Sparkling, Delicious. Tel. 318 Cortlandt. Advt.

POLAND! POLAND! POLAND! POLAND! Three generations recommend the Cough Cure—ZAYNES EXPECTORANT—Advt.

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