

ATTACK ON LADYSMITH.

Continued from First Page.

seven other battalions under fire, exclusive of the remnants of the unlucky Gloucesters and the Dublin Fusiliers, seven batteries of the naval brigade and a considerable force of Lancers. The Hussars, the Natal Horse, the Devons, the Manchester, the Gordon Highlanders, the Liverpool, Leicester and Royal Rifles battalions bore the brunt of the fighting.

VICTORY A NEEDED TONIC.

The story of this heroic defence of beleaguered and feverstricken Ladysmith cannot fail to have a strong tonic effect upon the British army and the English people. General White's

was not available at the front, and consequently was massed for operations in some other quarter, either on the enemy's right or left flank.

GENERAL BULLER'S TACTICS.

Military men were confident last night that General Buller's advance would have been ordered in the course of the day if it had not been previously in progress in direction toward Springfield or Weenen and the lower Tugela.

The censorship until a late hour prevented the slightest glimpse behind the scenes at Frere Camp, but General White's gallant defence has rendered the relief of Ladysmith an imperative duty, which must be performed without flinching. The nation did not forgive those responsible for the failure to rescue Gordon; it will be equally stern in resentment if General White's garrison is not relieved speedily.

The campaign is dragging in other quarters.

SEIZURES AT DELAGOA.

ENGLAND'S REPLY TO UNITED STATES NOT YET READY.

London, Jan. 8.—The United States Ambassador, Joseph H. Choate, did not receive an answer to-day from the British Government regarding the seizure of American flour by British cruisers in South African waters. Lord Salisbury has a note in preparation, but a few days may elapse before it is delivered.

There is good reason to believe that the flour will be released, and possibly a ruling will be made differentiating between foodstuffs for field and domestic purposes.

THE SEIZURE OF THE HERZOG.

Hamburg, Jan. 8.—Adolph Woermann, one of the owners of the German vessels seized by the British, in an interview to-day said:

The last one taken is the Herzog. She has on board the Dutch, Belgian and German ambulance corps. All these were travelling bona fide under the Red Cross. It is certainly the first time such a corps has been detained by a hostile government. Their services were offered to the British, but were refused. We cannot help considering the action of the British as chiefly intended to prevent the German East African line from continuing its service on account of the competition we have made against the English line. We consider the seizures entirely illegal, and against everything that until now has been considered the law of nations.

Regarding the passengers, many of them are known to us as regular passengers of the line. We know that others intended to go to the Transvaal, and while there might be some adventurers anxious to profit by the prospects there, there was no one of the directors or crew of a steamer to be taken to the Transvaal to serve in its army.

Herr Woermann is not only a large ship owner, but is also one of the largest German investors in the East African possessions. He is a personal friend of Emperor William, and is generally understood to be carrying out imperial wishes in regard to African colonization and commerce.

GERMAN EMPEROR'S VIEWS. ADDRESS ON DETENTION OF GERMAN SHIPS EXPECTED TO-DAY—STATEMENT FROM FOREIGN OFFICE.

Berlin, Jan. 8.—It is not expected that the speech from the throne at the opening of the Prussian Diet will contain matter of special interest, and the Reichstag will reconvene without ceremony. From an absolutely reliable source, however, it is learned that Emperor William will make an important and sensational speech to-morrow night at the century festival of the Berlin Technical High School. His Majesty's remarks will be political, dealing especially with the naval question, and will touch upon the sensation of the hour, namely, the seizures of German vessels by British warships in South African waters.

In confirmation of the statement sent out the other day that the Emperor has become thoroughly aroused over the continuance of British action in this respect, it is said that the Emperor yesterday told Geheimrath Meissner, in tones of deepest indignation, what he had just heard on the subject from Count von Bülow, adding, "Welche Schmach!"

Court circles here relate a number of details showing His Majesty's change of mind as to Great Britain's policy, and the reports that England has sent out new and more stringent instructions in reference to searching vessels going to South Africa are received everywhere with intense dissatisfaction.

The Foreign Office this evening authorized the following statement: Germany recognizes the right of search within certain specific limits. Among the points enumerated in the protest filed in London is one contending that England has exceeded those limits. No answer has yet been received to this protest.

On being asked whether it was correct that joint action on the part of the Powers in the matters of the seizures was under way, a high official of the Foreign Office replied that such action might have to be taken if the seizures did not cease. He admitted that Russia was asking such joint action in regard to interruption of telegraph communication with South Africa, but he denied formally the report that Germany had sounded Washington about the feasibility of such joint action.

This denial was subsequently corroborated upon inquiry at the United States Embassy.

The Foreign Office official ended the interview with this significant assertion: Germany will not be content with the mere liberation of the steamer General and the other vessels seized by British warships, but will demand indemnity in these and all similar cases.

The question of the seizures will come up in the Reichstag as soon as Count von Bülow has expressed a willingness to answer an interpellation, which the Conservatives will plan possibly for the opening day of the session. At any rate, before the end of the week an extended reply will be elicited from the Foreign Secretary, who will review events from the outset to those of most recent occurrence. It is also expected that he will dilute the terms of the secret treaty with Great Britain.

The "Deutsche Tageszeitung" expects that a turn in Germany's foreign policy will date from the interpellation and reply.

The excitement about the seizures is intense throughout Germany. The Colonials, the Pan-Germans and the Anti-Semites are pushing a vigorous campaign. Their representatives are stamping the country and preaching a war against England.

The Berlin "Neueste Nachrichten" publishes a communication advocating the seizure of all British vessels in German ports as an act of revenge. Other papers talk about the "unbearable humiliation of the Foreign Office."

At the same time the official organs and a large section of the more influential papers mildly continue to preach moderation. The "Berliner Post" says: "It behooves us to keep our sentiments in check."

A new canal bill will be introduced in the Reichstag next month, simultaneously with the Secondary Railways bill. The Emperor hopes that the Naval bill will have passed the Reichstag by that time.

ANOTHER COALITION POSSIBLE.

London, Jan. 9.—The Berlin correspondent of "The Daily News," in a dispatch dealing at some length with the question of the seizures of German vessels by British warships, says:

It cannot be denied that the idea of an anti-British coalition is very popular here. Hopes are now placed in Russia. Without being pessimistic, I must say that the present future is extremely critical. As matters stand, only the fact that no power wishes to take the initiative prevents such a coalition from being brought about.

TRANSPORTS FOR CANADIAN TROOPS.

Halifax, N. S., Jan. 8.—It has been decided that two transports for the conveyance of the second Canadian military contingent to South Africa will leave Halifax on January 18, and one on January 25. A Canadian Government steamer with Cabinet ministers and others on board will accompany the ships outside the harbor. The mobilization at Halifax of five thousand more militia immediately afterward to do garrison duty and relieve the Imperial troops in garrison is stated to be under consideration. General Hutton, the commander of the Canadian

forces, will arrive here from Ottawa next week.

Dr. Montaubert, Dominion Chief Quarantine Officer, arrived here to-night to investigate the fever outbreak on the steamer Montezuma and decide whether the steamer may safely be used for the transportation of troops.

THE FIGHT AT MAGERSFONTEIN.

London, Jan. 8.—Lord De La Warr, in a graphic description of the battle of Magersfontein, says:

It is useless to disguise that a large percentage of the troops are losing heart for a campaign comprised of a succession of frontal attacks on an inviolable foe, securely entrenched and unshakable. They fought admirably, but they were ordered to perform the impossible. I blame them and do not blame the gallant general, who was the first victim of the terrible disaster which overcame the Highland Brigade. They marched on with the same determination as General Wauphoop's last words, "For God's sake, men, do not blame me for this." Will gladden the hearts of his numberless friends. There was no accord between General Methuen and General Wauphoop in regard to the best method of attack. General Methuen's plan prevailed, and the mistake cost seven hundred men.

The Stock Exchange was greatly depressed at the opening, owing to the situation at Ladysmith. Consols fell almost a half.

A Dublin correspondent says Major John McBride, the organizer of the Transvaal Irish Brigade, will be a candidate for the seat in the House of Commons—South Mayo—vacated by Mr. Davitt, and probably he will not be opposed.

DEATH OF GATAORE'S GUIDE.

London, Jan. 8.—A private of the Irish Rifles who fought at Stormberg, in a letter to his home, says that when General Gataore saw the position the guide had led the troops into he shot the guide dead with his own revolver.

GUNS ORDERED FROM ITALY.

London, Jan. 9.—The Rome correspondent of "The Daily Mail" says:

It is reported here on good authority that Great Britain has ordered a number of guns at the Terni foundry and that Senator Broda, manager of the foundry, has promised to deliver them with the utmost expedition.

MR. BALFOUR'S OPINION.

AN OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF THE CONDITIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

London, Jan. 8.—Arthur J. Balfour, First Lord of the Treasury, delivered his annual address to his Manchester constituents this evening. A large audience gave to him an enthusiastic reception.

Mr. Balfour contrasted the conditions of last year, when the Fashoda incident had been honorably closed and the Peace Conference had begun at The Hague, with those of to-day, when, as he said, England had become involved in the "greatest war of the generation." He added:

It is true that the Government knew the situation contained elements of peril, but it is not true that they regarded the war as anything like inevitable. If it be asked why the Government, knowing the Transvaal was increasing its armaments, did not protest, the answer is that the Transvaal was not in a position which gave the Transvaal a chance to say it was arming not for aggression, but for self-protection. Thus we are criticised for doing too little by those who a year ago attacked us for doing too much.

The speaker said he believed the events which prevented mobilization last August had done more good in uniting parties and all parts of the empire than if Great Britain, and not the Transvaal, had issued the ultimatum. Continuing, he said:

Even the tactical misfortune at Ladysmith or the extent of the Boer invasion of British territory is not such as need by itself frighten even the most timid. In defending the artillery equipment, he observed:

Do not believe that your soldiers are sent to the field with a worse gun than France or Germany would use in similar circumstances. The guns supplied to Sir George White were intended for mobile force, not for the defence of a beleaguered fortress. The course of war has revealed the necessity for guns less mobile, but of greater range, and these are being sent out abundantly.

NEEDED REFORMS AT SOLDIERS' HOME.

GENERAL SICKLES SAYS THE INSTITUTION IS RUN BY JOHN F. PARKHURST AND FRANK CAMPBELL.

General Daniel E. Sickles returned last night from Bath, N. Y., where he attended the investigation of the Soldiers' Home by the commission appointed by the Governor.

"From what I have observed during the last few days, and from what I have gathered from independent sources, I would not be surprised if Governor Roosevelt made sweeping changes in the makeup of the Board of Trustees of the Soldiers' Home next April," said General Sickles to a Tribune reporter last night at his home, No. 23 Fifth-ave. "In the main the Home is in first class shape, but there are a number of things there that are absolutely free hands, that the war was 'one in defence of our African empire,' and that, through good and evil fortune, they would pursue it unswervingly to the end, so that no such war should ever be waged in South Africa again.

In conclusion Mr. Balfour ridiculed the foreign prophecies that the dissolution of the British Empire was about to begin.

Regarding the future civil government of the island, General Davis said he had given much thought to the subject, without being able to formulate a satisfactory scheme. It would be a difficult undertaking, but he considered it essential that the people of Puerto Rico should have an opportunity to demonstrate their capacity to enlarge their responsibilities. He thought they might have representation in a legislative body, but that body, he said, should have a majority of persons appointed by the President in order to be sure that control should not pass into hands which would use it improperly.

Unless a loan could be made, he said, the present industrial paralysis must continue. Reverting to the question of mortgage foreclosures, he said that there were mortgages to the amount of 30,000,000 pesos on real estate. The interest rates ran as high as 24 per cent. He would not commit himself as to the advisability of extending the period for foreclosing mortgages, but expressed the opinion that something must be done. The revenues of the island were inadequate to meet its wants. For instance, 300,000 pesos had been allowed in the budget for education. That sum provided a very limited education for 300,000 children. There were 250,000 other children who had not the slightest chance of receiving an education. In his opinion 1,000,000 pesos a year should be expended on the roads for twenty years.

General Davis said he thought less than 1 per cent of the inhabitants understood the responsibilities of government. In answer to a direct question from Representative Henry of Texas, General Davis said that he did not think a territorial form of government, such as was proposed for Hawaii, would be for the best interests of the island. But he distinctly thought that the people of Puerto Rico were as much entitled to trade privileges as the people of Hawaii. If trade privileges were granted, he thought they would go far toward industrial regeneration, but in addition some responsible body in Puerto Rico must have the power of borrowing money until the taxes become adequate. He thought 5,000,000 pesos should be raised by taxation for municipal, insular and school purposes.

FREE TRADE FAVORED.

Mr. Cannon asked him if with free trade the people of Puerto Rico, considering the climate and resources of the island, would be able to work out their salvation.

"Quite able to support themselves," replied General Davis, "and besides contribute much wealth to the United States whenever the island is put upon a sound basis."

General Davis expressed the opinion that a body vested with the powers of government could borrow money for the island without the guarantee of the United States. He thought, however, power to borrow money should be limited to 10 per cent of the assessed value of the realty of the island, which was about \$100,000,000. In answer to a question he said Spain collected about 50,000,000 pesos a year. The secured and floating debt of the island, he

PUERTO RICO'S TROUBLES.

GENERAL DAVIS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON INSULAR AFFAIRS.

A DISASTER TO THE AVERAGE PUERTO RICAN, HE SAYS—THE OLD ORDER SWEEP AWAY AND NOTHING PUT IN ITS PLACE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Jan. 8.—The condition of affairs in Puerto Rico and the capacity of the people of the island for self-government were the topics which Governor General Davis discussed in a most interesting and instructive manner to-day before the Committee on Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives. Chairman Cooper and nearly every other member of the committee were present, and they all manifested keen and intelligent interest in the statements of General Davis, as was shown by the nature and scope of the questions they asked him. The form of government to be established, the character of the population, illiteracy, debts of the people and rates of interest, together with assessed and actual valuations of real property, rates of taxation, public education, whether the island should be placed on the same footing as other portions of the United States as regards the internal revenues, tariff and navigation laws, and the laws relating to merchant seamen, the judiciary system now in vogue, public improvements, agricultural resources and possibilities, the currency, probable revenue and probable necessary expenditures, and a variety of other subjects were reviewed, and the committee was not only placed in possession of General Davis's views respecting proposed and necessary legislation by Congress for the island, but supplied with a mass of pertinent and useful information.

GENERAL DAVIS'S STATEMENT.

The people of Puerto Rico, General Davis said, were accustomed to arbitrary control through Ministers or secretaries in charge of departments. He had believed when he took up the administration of affairs in the island that things could be improved by eliminating these intermediaries and getting closer to the people. He had made a step in that direction by substituting mixed Boards for these secretaries, and the result had been satisfactory.

The civil administration was now entirely in the hands of boards of health, charities, education, public works, etc., in all of which the natives had representation. The customs were collected by Army officers, assisted by natives. Natives were everywhere the principal employees. One of the great problems which had confronted him was that of making the receipts and expenditures balance. This had been accomplished by readjustment of salaries and other economies.

The industrial situation in the island, General Davis said, was not satisfactory. He sketched the discouragement which had resulted from the trade and tariff discriminations against the products of the island, both in the United States and Cuba, before the great hurricane devastated the island last August, when coffee plantations had been ruined and every banana plant on the island had been destroyed. For the five years preceding 1898 the average exports had reached about 18,000,000 pesos. In 1898 they were cut in two, and this year General Davis figured that they would hardly exceed 3,500,000 pesos. The people were discouraged. They lacked the Anglo-Saxon energy to face a gloomy outlook.

General Davis justified the arbitrary action of General Henry in extending for one year from January 19, 1899, the time in which mortgages overdue could be foreclosed, but that year, he said, would expire shortly, and thousands of properties would change hands. This added another discouraging feature to the situation. General Davis did not believe he had authority further to extend the time under the treaty with Spain, but that property rights of individuals and corporations must remain in the situation which existed when the treaty was ratified.

NATIVES SETTLED OLD SCORES.

Regarding the political situation General Davis described the fury with which the natives plundered and murdered the Spaniards after the war closed. They sought to even up old scores. This had been stopped by the military, and civil disorders had ceased. The elections in the towns shortly after the United States assumed military control, he said, were farces. No election was ordered until the result had been previously ascertained. General Davis said that under his discretion suffrage had been limited to those who could read or write or who had paid \$150 in taxes in two years. Then new elections of alcaldes and town councils had been held. In half the towns elections had been held, and only thirty thousand voted out of about half a million people. The elections had been held under military supervision, and had given eminent satisfaction so far as their fairness was concerned. General Davis said he regarded the elections as an education of the people.

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said, was about 3,000,000 pesos. The local currency, consisting of about 5,000,000 pesos, he thought should be retired and replaced, American money to take its place. The local Legislature could make the adjustments necessary.

THE OLD ORDER NOT REPLACED.

"American sovereignty," said General Davis, in answer to a question from Mr. Maddox, "has been a disaster to the average Puerto Rican."

"That is," suggested Mr. Cannon, "the old order has disappeared and the new has come in?"

"That is it," replied General Davis. Continuing, he said that about 70 per cent of the population of the island were Caucasians in the sense that the Spaniards were. There were 70,000 negroes and 250,000 mulattoes. The native Spaniards were in the best condition. They were faithful, industrious, temperate and thrifty. Every Puerto Rican was either actively or passively a Catholic. The Puerto Ricans were not a dying race. They had doubled in thirty years. A large portion of the population was of illegitimate birth. But illegitimacy did not involve crime. In many cases there were obstacles. "The natives," said he, "are married, but not parsoned." He thought any railroad built in Puerto Rico to pay would have to be subsidized by the State.

General Davis believed all that the coffee that can be produced can be disposed of in New York City alone at prices equal to that paid for the best Java and Mocha.

The Senate Committee on Pacific Islands and Puerto Rico held a meeting to-day and discussed informally bills relating to Puerto Rico. It was decided to hold a meeting on Thursday and hear General Davis. Chairman Foraker has already had a number of conferences with General Davis and has prepared amendments to his bill for Puerto Rico, based on the suggestions the Governor General has made.

CONDEMNATION LAWS ATTACKED.

CONTROLLER COLER SAYS A NEW SYSTEM OF ACQUIRING PRIVATE PROPERTY IS NEEDED.

The Phi Delta Phi Club had its regular monthly dinner last night at the Marlborough Hotel. About forty were present. Professor Charles Theodore Terry, of Columbia University, presided. Controller Bird S. Coler was the guest of the evening. The Controller spoke of the present system of condemning private property needed by the city, and advocated a change in the laws. As an illustration of the evils that attended it, he said the award in certain condemnation proceedings connected with the Croton watershed was \$2,000,000, while the costs and fees amounted to nearly \$500,000 more.

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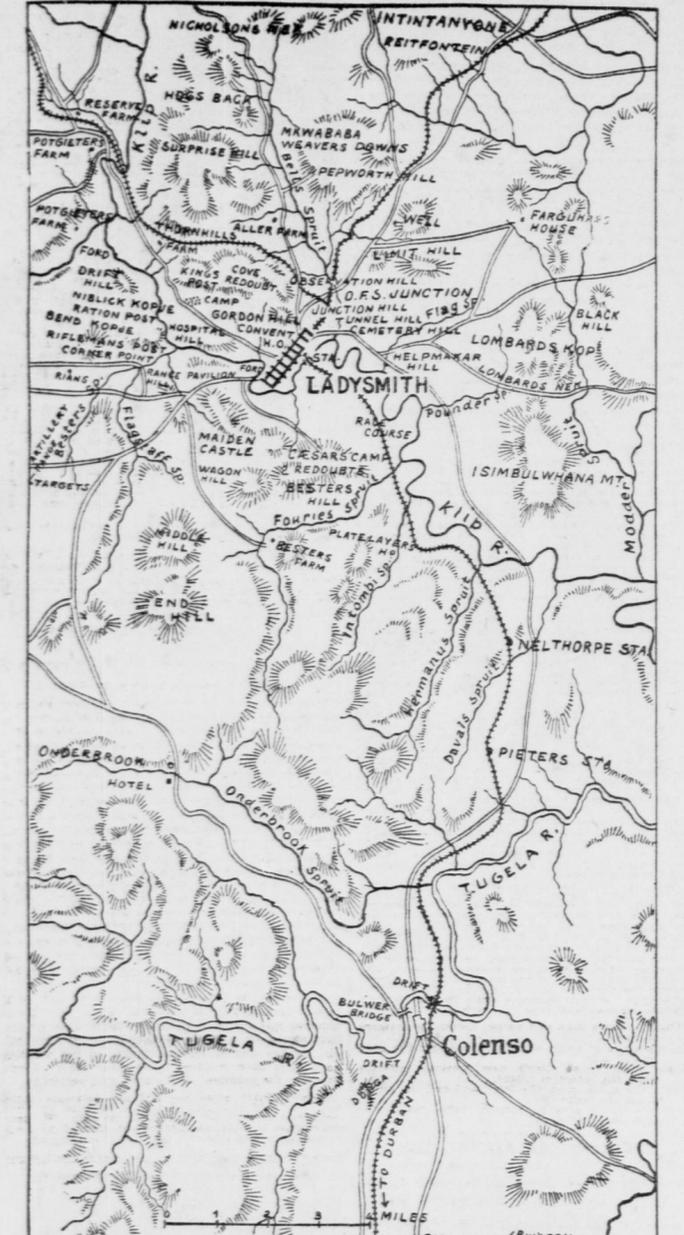
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MAP OF LADYSMITH, COLENSO AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY. Showing the scene of the Boer attack upon Ladysmith, and of the counter attack by General Buller upon the Boers along the Tugela River.

blundering tactics at Nicholson's Nek have already been minimized by the defeats sustained by other generals, and he is destined for the peerage in consequence of this splendid exploit, following, as it does, many gallant sorties and the prudent conduct of the defence of Ladysmith. He is to-night the hero of the nation, and Lady White is the happiest among English women.

Sir Redvers Buller's explanation on Sunday that in response to the ominous news from Ladysmith he had sent all his available troops for a demonstration against Colenso on Saturday afternoon has directed attention to the details of the reconnaissance which had been received from Reuter and the Central News. Nothing was accomplished, since there was no reply from the enemy's guns to the shrapnel of the field artillery or the lyddite shells of the naval brigade, and the troops returned to camp after a futile demonstration which was of no apparent service to the defenders of Ladysmith. The list of the brigades, battalions and batteries mentioned tends, however, to prove that a large portion of General Buller's army

Lord Methuen's force is holding guard on the Modder River until Lord Roberts can arrive and decide what to do with the Sixth Division.

French is still manoeuvring around Colenso. The details of the Suffolk's reverse furnished by correspondents do not alter the essential character of the episode. The attack was planned by Colonel Watson, and General French allowed him to carry it out. The enemy opened fire as Watson was ordering the final advance at day-break. The confusion caused by his wounds and the mysterious signal for retirement may account for the reverse.

Lord Salisbury has been in consultation with