

FIGHTING AT LADYSMITH.

GEN. WHITE REPORTS A LOSS OF EIGHT KILLED AND FIFTEEN WOUNDED.

Sends Word That No Anxiety Need Be Felt for the Town—Provisionally Accepted—Some Encouraging News Regarding the Action of the Dutch of Cape Colony.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LADYSMITH, Dec. 27.—There is no change in the main situation in South Africa, but both forces are busily strengthening their positions and collecting their resources.

The greater part of the British Fifth Army Division has reached Cape Town. The best opinion continues to be expressed in reference to the Saturday despatches to THE SUN that everything will halt until Gen. Lord Roberts arrives, though the Cape Town correspondents are beginning to hint that some large movement will be accomplished very shortly.

The British force has advanced a further list of casualties at Ladysmith, indicating that there was fighting there on Dec. 22. The list places the killed at eight and the wounded at fifteen, the latter including Lieut.-Col. J. F. M. Fawcett and four other officers of the Fifth Tropic Irish Brigade.

General Buller's Cavalry Camp says that on Dec. 21 the Boers surprised a picket of horse to the eastward of the camp. Two of the British and seven of their horses were killed.

Hispanic messages are soon passing frequently between Ladysmith and Pietermaritzburg, but no news is forthcoming from either. A newspaper correspondent at Pietermaritzburg, in a despatch dated Dec. 20, reports that a helicopter message from Ladysmith said: "Anxiety on our account is needless. Provisions are ample. The health of the troops are excellent. The task before us does not exceed our resources."

The Daily News's correspondent at Ladysmith sent a helicopter message on Dec. 15, reporting "another" sortie by Gen. Hunter, the result of which was the destruction of a Boer laager and a Cronje. This seems to be a related report of the sortie that occurred on Dec. 8.

The occupation of Dordrecht by Major Dalgety's force of mounted police, who are cooperating with Gen. Garcora, is treated by some of the newspapers as being of considerable importance, but nothing is known beyond the last official announcement of the fact.

There is nothing later than Dec. 20 regarding the disaffection in Cape Colony. The absence of anything very alarming encourages a hopeful view here.

The spread of various forms of horse disease in the Transvaal is reported as serious. It is true, as is reported, that Commandant Cronje's horses are suffering severely, it can be presumed that Gen. Methuen's animals have not escaped, while those of General Garcora and Buller are known to be affected, while the male mounts at Stellenbosch have been infected by Gen. Buller.

The Telegram's correspondent at Ladysmith, in a despatch dated Dec. 20, says that the Boers have constructed a temporary bridge across the Tugela River near Pieter's Station, and from that place have sent a commando, which is now building outposts on the banks of the Tugela and the hills further east. The correspondent supports the previous British statements of heavy Boer losses on Dec. 15. He says that certainly more than 300 were killed.

The movement to the eastward of Christchurch indicates a diligent effort to prevent Gen. Buller from carrying out a flanking movement in that direction.

Many of the men who were wounded at Colenso have already left Durban and Pietermaritzburg to rejoin their commands with Gen. Buller. This is being done as a precaution against the wounds inflicted by Mauser bullets and dog hospital treatment.

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The following despatch to THE SUN, bearing date of Dec. 19, declares that, though the British fortunes have encouraged many warriors to join the Boers, their numbers have not been exaggerated. The despatch adds:

"It is not loyalty, but fear, that prevents a general rising. The great numbers of the African population are disinclined to the Boer population as so with rare exceptions. The Free State and Transvaal are nevertheless disappointed by the number of volunteers who have actually taken up arms."

"The districts northward of the Orange River are being disloyal. Barry East, Lady Grey, Alwal North, Ventersdorp, Colesterg, Burchardsdorp, Heynsdorp, Molteno, Sterkstroom and most of Wodehouse."

"Southward the disloyal districts are Great Beinet, Middleburg, Crafook and the neighborhood of Boshuis, Tarkastad, Victoria West and Stekenfontein are very doubtful, and (at least) on the lines. From Queenstown to the coast, with the exception of the foregoing districts, the country is enthusiastically loyal, owing to the immense preponderance of the British army."

"The main-spring of colonial Boer loyalty is illustrated by the following example: A Dutchman who sent two of his sons to the Transvaal at the time of the Jameson raid, when asked what would in 1886, said, 'nothing,' which remark is reminiscent of the words 'I do not want to risk my farm.'"

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OMAHA, Dec. 21.—A number of secret service agents of Great Britain are here in communication with the police concerning the proposed meeting of prominent Irishmen in Omaha next Sunday. It is not yet clear whether an invasion of Canada or something else is to be discussed. There is no disputing the fact that many of the daring spirits who fought in the invasion of '98 live in Nebraska, and are very active over something just at present. Speaking on this subject last night an Irishman, who has been in touch with all movements of this kind for many years, said: "Where the rumor of an invasion of Canada started, I don't know. Probably some Irishman who saw a chance of adding another hour to Joe Chamberlain's sleepless nights suggested it. If the notion is taken seriously it may have the effect of putting a quietus on the sending of troops from Canada to assist the British in their unhealthy 'parade to Pretoria.' In that way it may do some good. If Irishmen had that it is having this effect they will no doubt keep up the good work."

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GOV. ROOSEVELT CRITICIZES CORPORATION COUNSEL WHALEN.

He Refers in a Letter to the Land Board to "The Extraordinary Course" Taken by Mr. Whalen in the Matter and to the Opposition of a Rival Corporation to the Grant.

ALBANY, Dec. 23.—The suit begun by Corporation Counsel Whalen of New York City to restrain Gov. Roosevelt from approving the action of the State Land Board in making the Astoria Gas Company's land grant was discontinued before the action started. The Corporation Counsel alleged that the State had no right to grant lands under water in New York City to anyone, and that the New York City charter gave such right exclusively to the city authorities. Mr. Whalen came to the conclusion that it could not bring the question before the court for decision in connection with the Astoria grant, as the Constitution forbids the government from the exercise of the performance of his official duties. He has therefore accepted the Hyde land grant at Long Beach, and the suit is now pending in the courts.

The Hyde grant was made some weeks before the Astoria grant, and the suit was intended to apply to all grants of land under water in New York City which had been made by the State Land Board since the passage of the New York City charter of 1897.

Gov. Roosevelt approved the Astoria grant as made by the State Land Board. The grant was made under the provisions