

BULLER TO ATTACK AGAIN.

BE HIS 8,000 MORE MEN AND EIGHTEEN NEW GUNS.

Signs of a Second British Attempt to Force a Passage Across the Tugela River—Sunderland that the Boers Are Getting Guns and Ammunition From the French—British Prisoners at Pretoria Well Treated.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. LONDON, Dec. 29.—A great event is impending in the concluding words of a despatch dated Dec. 27, in which Winston Churchill, correspondent of the Morning Post, describes the positions of the Boers and the British at and near the Tugela River in Natal. The same idea is read between the lines of other telegrams, and the expectation is growing that Gen. Buller shortly will make a second attempt to cross the river.

The latest news regarding the transports indicates that he has been reinforced by 8,000 men and eighteen guns since the failure of his first attempt, but as the Atlantic is so stormy it is believed that the reinforcements will be made until these additional troops have reached the front. By then, Gen. Buller's strength will be sufficient to enable him to employ two divisions for the attack, while holding the camp with the necessary garrisons. The criticism here is in no way over-sanguine as to the results, but fearing that the attack will be a forlorn hope.

The Boers, according to the latest telegrams, are carefully preserving the secret of their artillery emplacements. They therefore do not reply to the British. According to the Telegraph's Chiefly correspondent all the Boers were south of the Tugela have retreated, fearing that their retreat would be traced by the swollen river. Their laagers seem to have been removed nearer to Ladysmith, with the object of further pressing the question there.

From other sources nothing of great importance is recorded. The papers make much of the Boer "nervousness" at Modder River, which, they say, is evidenced by two false alarms which resulted in an useless expenditure of ammunition. There are also occasional scares of a more serious nature, but in no case do the assumptions that the Boers' position is becoming untenable through the want of water and horse sickness may be considered as being exaggerated. The Boer retreat to the Tugela has been reported in the Times, dated Dec. 28, which says: "We have had no certain information concerning the Boers' doings for several days."

A despatch from Lorenzo Marques, dated Dec. 27, refers to the rumors that guns and ammunition are being smuggled into the Transvaal and says that suspicion attaches to a French liner steamer which is now in the harbor there. This vessel brought two large guns from Madagascar. The despatch adds: "It is significant that Major Erasmus of the Transvaal arrived coincidentally with the arrival of the liner, and that he immediately commenced a search for the guns."

It is noteworthy that the Consul of the Transvaal and the Free State here continues to act as Consul for the Netherlands. The chief of the Portuguese customs assures me that the suspicious circumstances connected with the Boer retreat depend on the subordinate officers. There is reason to believe that Pretoria is well informed of the British military movements. This is confirmed by the fact that Lord Roberts' appointment was known in Pretoria on Dec. 27, though it was only telegraphed from Cape Town on Dec. 28. There is a report that the Transvaal Government is in contact with a foreign consulate at Pretoria, whose consul is notorious for his pro-Boer sympathies.

Winston Churchill, the correspondent of the Morning Post, in a despatch, describing the position of the Boers, says that there is no cause for any anxiety concerning them. He adds that the Boers are certainly not a bloodthirsty people, and that they are most desirous of desisting from the contest by correct observation of the progress of war. The only mischievous element being smuggled into the Transvaal and Free State is the discontent of the real Boers.

The British officers at Pretoria are strongly disliked by the Boers, and are frequently visited. They are regarded as a daily game of rounders. They are also the cause of much anxiety to the Boers. The Government is treating the Boers as a conquered people, and is expressing the hope that his letter will elicit an authoritative statement of the subject.

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HALF A BLOCK IN ASHES.

CAMPBELL PAPER FACTORY BURNS IMPERILING MANY LIVES.

Five Firemen Caught by a Backdraft on the Stairs—Rescued From a Seventh Floor Window Amid the Cheers of a Big Crowd—Damage More Than Half a Million.

The William Campbell Wall Paper Company's factory, which covered half the block between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth streets, on the East River, was burned last night. The fire was the most serious and most dangerous with which the Fire Department has had to cope for many months. The great factory furnished endless opportunities for the dangerous back drafts which are the terror of fire fighters, and when they caught several of the firemen and burned them. The fire was almost as much of a spectacle as was the fire in the same company's factory at Forty-second street and Tenth avenue seven years ago. After it gathered its full strength it threw a column of red and yellow flames hundreds of feet into the air, lighting up the sides of buildings away to the East River as well as Brooklyn shore of the East River as bright as though it had been covered by a tremendous searchlight.

At a little after 10 o'clock, according to the police, the watchman at the factory ran out and sounded a fire alarm. He told the policemen who assisted him that he had seen two members of the company that owned the factory out of the front door of the building and was returning upstairs when he saw flames on the fourth floor in the middle of the building. When the firemen arrived one alarm after another was turned in until five had been sounded, and twenty-five engines, six hook and ladder trucks and two water towers had been summoned. The fire worked its way out of the fourth-story windows on the Twenty-fourth street side, and by the time the first fire engine was quitting a strong wind blew the entire first row of windows was blowing out roaring tongues of flame that reached half-way across the street.

The big building is two halves, each half running from street to street. The blaze started in the western half, but in a very few minutes the flames had jumped across the intervening space, and were eating into the third, fourth and fifth floors of the eastern half. A number of men belonging to Truck 11 were in the eastern half of the building on the seventh floor when a puff of flame upon their shoulder started them to the stairs. They were there before they realized it. Fireman Shaughnessy was caught in the middle of it and his hands, face and hair were terribly burned. He fell all in a heap, but the fall was his salvation, for the flames rolled up the stairway over him. The rest of the crew was not so lucky.

Shaughnessy, writing in a letter, rolled down to the sixth floor, rose and staggered to the stairway to the next floor and fell down that and half falling, half running made his way to the ground floor and staggered out into the street, where he was caught in the arms of his foreman and carried to the Dock Hospital, where he probably will recover. Fireman Shaughnessy was caught in the middle of it and his hands, face and hair were terribly burned. He fell all in a heap, but the fall was his salvation, for the flames rolled up the stairway over him. The rest of the crew was not so lucky.

Another man in the same group on the stairs was Foreman Leach and Fireman Leach. They were a little farther from the head of the stairs than Shaughnessy had been, and was not so badly burned. Fireman Leach was caught in the middle of it and his hands, face and hair were terribly burned. He fell all in a heap, but the fall was his salvation, for the flames rolled up the stairway over him. The rest of the crew was not so lucky.

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STATEN ISLAND HOTEL BURNED.

Fire at Pleasant Plains and Little Water on Fire.

Fire started about 7 o'clock last night in the new hotel building on the Amboy road, Pleasant Plains, Staten Island, owned and occupied as a hotel by Stephen Slover. The fire was discovered on the second floor, and spread rapidly. The building and all the furniture were consumed. The loss is placed at \$20,000. The hotel was a large one, and was a fine building. The fire was caused by a gas stove in the kitchen. The fire was discovered by a woman who was in the hotel. She called the fire department. The firemen arrived and tried to put out the fire, but it was too late. The building was completely destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$20,000. The hotel was a fine building, and was a very popular one. The fire was a great loss to the community. The fire was caused by a gas stove in the kitchen. The fire was discovered by a woman who was in the hotel. She called the fire department. The firemen arrived and tried to put out the fire, but it was too late. The building was completely destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$20,000.

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MRS. BOOTH ALARMS THEM.

FLUSHING FOLKS DON'T WANT HER HOME FOR EX-CONVICTS.

They Fear That She Would Not Have Enough Influence to Keep Former Burglars and Other Criminals From Their Old Tricks—May Try to Buy Her Out.

A stiff protest is to be made by residents of Flushing against the plan of Mrs. Maudie Hallington Booth to establish a home for ex-convicts in the village. Last week Mrs. Booth bought from Robert Tibbets for \$12,000 a beautiful place on Broadway in the section known as Murray Hill. The property consists of a fine house and ten acres of land. Surrounding it are the estates of Thomas Willets, Jr., William Frame, Jordan Wright and Samuel Murlin. The holdings are among the most valuable in Queens Borough.

The Booths after buying the property announced that they were going to bring sixty or one hundred ex-convicts there. Some kind of employment was to be provided for them. A large laundry for the women to work in and shops for the men were to be erected. The idea of an establishment of this character in that part of Flushing caused consternation among the property owners. They at once began to consider what could be done to prevent the carrying out of the scheme. The first step was to get the village restrictions in the transfer of the property to Mr. Tibbets which would prevent the use contemplated. The matter has been referred to several lawyers who are making an investigation. In the meantime a petition is being circulated and signed by the residents of the village, requesting the Booths to change their plans.

One of the men interested in the movement to prevent the establishment of the home said last night: "We consider Mrs. Booth's a most sensible and well-meaning woman, but she is engaged in a laudable work in attempting to help these unfortunate, former prisoners. The home will be a good thing for the community, and the men who will room there will be well instructed in the most desirable manner. The plan is a very good one. No trace of the scheme, which probably consisted of a large number of men, was to be seen. The only forty-three miles of shore and had the crew made land from a schooner. The schooner is believed by marine men to have been lost in the storm prevailing about Dec. 22. The vessel probably went down in the night or during the prevalence of a heavy fog. The schooner is believed to have been observed by those aboard Diamond Shoals Lightship.

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NEW WAR IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Large Purchases of Arms and Ammunition Here by Venezuela and Colombia.

It is said that an order for 20,000 Mauser rifles and 12,000,000 cartridges has been placed for the Government of Venezuela with G. Amisack & Co. of this city. The payment for the munitions is guaranteed, it is said, by Señor Manuel M. Matos, ex-Minister of the Treasury. There has been a general rumor about the city of a probable war between Venezuela and Colombia, and the shipment of few weeks ago from this port to the Colombian Government of 24,000 rifles and 12,000,000 cartridges gave the rumor the color of truth. A statement made recently by an official was to the effect that there were 20,000 Colombian troops on the frontier of Venezuela.

By Provost Harrison to the University of Pennsylvania. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 29.—Provost C. C. Harrison of the University of Pennsylvania will give the university \$250,000 as a New Year's gift. The money will be placed in the hands of the trustees to use as they think best. When seen this morning, Provost Harrison refused to say anything about his gift except that the cash would be paid to the trustees on Monday.

It Came Down Upon the Head of One at Play in Camden. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 29.—Eight-year-old Morgan Wright, the son of Justice of the Peace Wright of Camden, N. J., killed with a hammer a large eagle which was perched on a tree in the yard of his home. The eagle was a very large one, and was a very beautiful one. The boy was playing with his friends in the front of the house when he saw the eagle perched on a tree. He went to the tree and threw a hammer at the eagle, which fell against the iron railing and was stunned. The boys captured it and carried it to the office of Justice Wright.

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