

AT LADYSMITH.

Boers and English Fight an Undecisive Battle.

British Lost 100 Men and Claim that the Transvaal Troops' Casualties Were Even Larger—Boers Display Great Military Skill and Courage.

London, Oct. 30.—The Mail publishes the following dispatch from Pietermaritzburg, dated Sunday: "Patrols from Ladysmith report that there are four large Boer camps within a radius of ten miles, extending in a semi-circle northeast of the town. Evidently the enemy is concentrating all its forces. Commandant Joubert is in supreme command.

"At Colenso a couple of Basutos were detected putting boulders on the railway. They confessed that they had done this by order of the Transvaal authorities. A war balloon, very small and light that two men can hold and haul it down with a wire strand, is now in use and the full position of the Boers has been ascertained. The heavy and incessant rain has flooded Fugela river, which will prove an effective barrier to any Boers proceeding southward. The remaining bridges are strongly guarded."

"The position at Ladysmith, without being alarming, is sufficiently dangerous to excite anxiety. Evidently the Boers are trying to repeat their Dundee tactics. Roughly estimated they have 17,000 men, as against 12,000 British. Gen. White has the better artillery, but his is of lesser range.

Cape Town, Oct. 30.—A dispatch from Mafeking, dated October 29, says: "A bombardment of the city was commenced by the Boers at 7:40 this morning from a range of 2½ miles, by a battery of three Krupp guns throwing explosive shells. At the beginning the marksmanship was erratic, but ultimately the gunners got the range and sent a number of shells into the town. Comparatively little damage was done.

London, Oct. 31.—The war office here has received a dispatch which says Gen. White has fought an engagement, presumably with Gen. Joubert's force, which was pushed back after several hours' fighting. The British lost about 100 men and the Boer losses were much greater. The Boers were in larger numbers and had better artillery. Gen. White's dispatch, which was dated 4:30 p. m. Monday, read:

"I employed all the troops here except the obligatory garrison before the works. I sent a mountain battery, the Irish fusiliers and the Gloucesters to take up a position on the hills, to clear my left flank. The force moved at 11 yesterday evening, and during some night firing the battery mules stamped with some of the guns, which, however, I hope to recover. These two battalions have not yet returned, but are expected this evening.

"I detailed two brigade divisions of field artillery and five battalions of infantry, aided by cavalry, under Gen. French, to attack a position upon which the enemy had mounted guns.

We found this position evacuated, but our force was attacked with considerable vigor by what I believe were Gen. Joubert's troops. They had many guns and showed in great numbers. Our troops were all in action and we pushed the enemy back several miles, but did not succeed in reaching his laager. Our losses are estimated at between 80 and 100, but those of the enemy must have been much greater, the fire of our guns appearing very effective. After being in action several hours I withdrew the troops and they returned unmolested to their cantonments. The enemy is in great numbers and his guns range further than our field guns. I now have some naval guns which have temporarily silenced and I hope will permanently dominate the enemy's best guns, with which he has been bombarding the town at a range of over 5,000 yards."

Yesterday's engagement at Ladysmith, which despite the rather heavy losses, must be regarded rather as an extended reconnaissance or skirmish than a battle, seems to make little change in the actual position. It is disappointing to the British public, as again revealing tactical skill of an unexpectedly high order on the side of the Boers. In addition to the possession of a number of heavy guns, the transport of which causes wonderment here, they have available marvellous ability. Unless commanded by skillful European officers it is hardly considered probable that Boer farmers would have assumed a feigned position, as they evidently did, in front of the right column, with the intention of retreating from it to their real line of defense and of inducing the British to attack over a fire-swept zone. The special dispatches describing the engagement again fail to confirm Gen. White's official account that the Boers were pushed back several miles. When it is considered that the engagement is very severe, the only conclusion that can be arrived at is that the action was very inconclusive.

The Cape Town correspondent of the Mail says he learns that Col. Powell, British commander at Mafeking, has had a railway in a complete circle around Mafeking and is running armored trains around the town, ready to meet the Boers at any point.

A dispatch from Cape Town announces the arrival in Table Bay of the Dunottar Castle late last evening with Gen. Buller and staff, who are expected to land this morning.

They Expect 4,000 Visitors. Topeka, Kan., Oct. 30.—Elaborate preparations are being made for the reception of the Twentieth Kansas regiment, which is due to arrive here Thursday from San Francisco. Excursion trains are to be run into Topeka from all points and over 40,000 visitors are expected. Chief Justice Loster will be master of ceremonies Thursday, when Col. Metcalf will return the regimental colors to Gov. Stanley and Gen. Joseph K. Hudson will present the \$1,000 sword purchased by the citizens of Kansas to Brig. Gen. Funston.

ATTACKED BY MUSKRATS.

A Hunter Has a Narrow Escape from Death—His Dog Killed by the Rodents.

Chicago, Oct. 31.—Bleeding from a score of wounds, J. J. Geraghty, a police operator in South Chicago, reached his home Monday and told a strange story of an attack on himself and dog by a horde of muskrats in the swamp along the Calumet river.

Geraghty entered the swamp early yesterday morning to hunt for reed birds. His dog, a magnificent Gordon setter, accompanied him. Shortly after noon he started homeward. Suddenly the furious barking of his dog startled him and he ran forward to find the animal literally covered with muskrats, who were fighting desperately, biting and squealing like mad. They nipped at the dog's eyes and caught his tongue in their sharp teeth. He was almost helpless and Geraghty fired his shotgun at the little army of rats which came scampering to the scene, hoping to scare the ones which were fast killing his dog. He mowed down a dozen rats without apparently increasing their number. The dog, at last succumbed and the reinforcements, numbering a hundred Geraghty says, turned their attention to him. "They climbed through my clothes in so time and bit me savagely, and the only thing that saved my life was the arrival of a couple of other hunters, who ran in with clubs and beat the fellows off."

Geraghty's story is corroborated by the hunters who rescued him.

A CRASH ON THE RIVER.

A Steamship Collides with and Sinks a Ferry Boat—Several Lives Believed to Have Been Lost.

New York, Oct. 31.—The Pennsylvania ferry boat Chicago, plying between Jersey City and New York, was out in two by the steamer City of Augusta at 12:35 this morning on the New York side of North river. She went down in seven or eight minutes. There were between 30 and 40 people aboard, four being women. It is supposed that several persons were drowned. In spite of the severity of the accident there was no panic. Most of the people were on the upper deck and only half a dozen persons were on the lower deck. Most of the persons managed to obtain life preservers. Some others who could not obtain them swam ashore.

The City of Augusta stopped after the accident, but apparently no boats were launched and in the brief space of time which elapsed nothing was done to assist the persons in the water. Estimates made by those who escaped vary widely, some thinking it possible that no loss of life resulted, while others believe that at least a score of persons were drowned.

The steamboat squad, a few minutes before 2 o'clock, found a body which it is supposed is that of one of the passengers on the ferry boat, drowned as the result of the collision. H. W. Dibble, of this city, jumped overboard with a life preserver. He saw four women struggling in the water near him, but was unable to help them. He was picked up by a life boat and taken ashore.

SUFFERED A RELAPSE.

Vice President Hobart's Illness Takes a Sudden and Alarming Change for the Worse.

New York, Oct. 31.—Vice President Hobart, who has been ill for weeks at his home in Paterson, N. J., suffered a relapse Monday morning. He had a succession of choking spells resulting from an imperfect action of the heart, an old affliction, complicated with inflammation of the stomach.

Washington, Oct. 31.—The news that Vice President Hobart had suffered a severe relapse and might not be able to survive the latest attack shocked Washington, and where he is decidedly popular, and highly respected. It had been known for some time that a sudden attack might completely prostrate him at any moment and it was realized that his days of activity were over, but nevertheless his friends here were not prepared for Monday's advices. The vice president's case was alarming a large part of last winter and at Thomaston, Ga., his condition became so grave during a visit with the president to the home of Senator Hanna that it could no longer be concealed from Mrs. Hobart, though kept from the sick man himself.

Senator Frye, of Maine, is now president pro tem. of the senate, and as such presides during the absence of the vice president. In the event of the death of Mr. Hobart, Senator Frye as president pro tem. will call the senate to order when it meets in December next. The relations between the families of the president and vice president were of an unusually cordial character.

A Fierce Battle with Cannibals.

London, Oct. 31.—Mail advices from the Congo announce that Capt. Mohun, formerly United States consul at Zanzibar, who is commanding the Belgian Tanganyika-Congo telegraph expedition, has reached the Congo Free State and was engaged, at the end of July, in a fierce battle at Sanguli, where the force consisted of ten Europeans, with Capt. Mohun commanding. Shortly after the attack commenced Baron Dhamis, the Belgian commander, sent three companies of soldiers to assist Mohun, and the enemy, consisting of cannibals, were finally repulsed. The enemy numbered 1,500 men and lost 300 killed and 600 wounded. The Belgian force lost nine men killed and 67 wounded.

A Fireproof Combine.

Pittsburg, Oct. 31.—The Dispatch says: Pittsburg men and Pittsburg capital will soon control the fireproofing business of the entire country; that is in the manufacture of fireproof building material. The Pittsburg Terra Cotta Lumber Co. is about to effect the purchase of three plants now in operation at Boston, Chicago and Cleveland. The Pittsburg Terra Cotta Lumber Co. already has a plant in Pittsburg, one at New York and another at East Palestine, O. This company will now control the entire business in the United States.

FIGHTS IN LUZON.

Col. Bell's Regiment Suffers the Heaviest After Two Encounters—Fighting from the American Prisoners at Tarlac.

Manila, Oct. 31.—Three companies of Col. Bell's regiment have had two encounters with the insurgents near Labam and scattered them. The insurgents left four officers and eight men dead on the field and the Americans captured three prisoners and several guns. On the American side one man was killed and two officers and six men were wounded.

Capt. French took a reconnoitering party beyond Labam after he had met the enemy and was reinforced by Maj. Bishop with two companies. The insurgents brought up cavalry reinforcements and there was a second fight during which their leader, Maj. Salfador, was killed and many were wounded and carried away.

Col. Bell has been given a free hand around Bacolor. He has 60 mounted men scouring the country daily and they are killing many Filipinos in skirmishes. The Spanish commission which entered the insurgent lines a month ago with money to relieve the wants of several thousand military and civil Spanish prisoners, returned to Angeles yesterday. The commissioners report that they spent most of the time in Tarlac and vicinity, where there are some 290 sick Spaniards in the hospital. The Filipinos ill treat and ill feed them, refusing to surrender them, as well as the other Spanish prisoners in the hope of compelling Spain to recognize the independence of the islands. From Tarlac to Bamban, about two-thirds of the way, the commissioners traveled by train on the Manila-Dagupan railway. The remainder of the journey, from Bamban to Angeles, they made on foot, escorted by handsomely mounted Filipino cavalry.

They were received between the outposts by a member of Gen. MacArthur's staff and were brought by train to Manila. There are 14 American prisoners, they say, at Tarlac, all of whom are well treated. Lieut. J. C. Gilmore, of the gunboat Yorktown, who fell into the hands of the insurgents at Baler, on the east coast of Luzon, last April, where the Yorktown had gone on a special mission to relieve the Spanish garrison, is at Binangui.

The commissioners have brought a letter to Gen. Otis from a relative of the murdered Filipino, Luna, who wants to avenge the assassination by Aguinaldo's officers and who asks a personal interview with the military authorities. According to the commissioners, Aguinaldo, who is still at Tarlac with 3,000 troops, wishes to continue the war, although he has a high opinion of the American officers and soldiers. Gen. Lawton he calls "el general de la noche" (the night general), because that commander has attacked him so often in the darkness that he never knows when to look for him. Aguinaldo is said to be well supplied with arms and ammunition, and he is able to get plenty of rice from the northern provinces.

With the Spanish commissioners came a large number of women, the families of eight prominent officers of the Filipino army, who recently applied to Gen. Otis for permission to send their families to Manila. Upon the receipt of the military governor's reply, the nature of which has not been disclosed, the women and children started under escort from Tarlac for the American lines. When they arrived Gen. MacArthur compelled them to halt about a mile beyond the outposts, where they will remain while their credentials are being examined.

A BOLD CRIME.

Two Men Robbed a St. Louis Man of \$1,043 Cash and \$48,750 in Checks.

St. Louis, Oct. 31.—Robert B. Jennings, secretary and treasurer of the Broadway cable line, was robbed of \$1,043 in cash and \$48,750 in checks while standing on the rear platform of a Broadway car at Broadway and Washington avenue at noon Monday. The police attempted to suppress the facts and as a consequence the news was not known generally until three or four hours later in the day. The robbery, committed in broad daylight, on one of the busiest corners of St. Louis, is regarded as one of the most daring crimes committed in the history of local police annals. Mr. Jennings had just drawn the money from the bank, intending to take it to the railroad company's office on North Broadway to pay off the hands. The robbers evidently knew he had drawn the money from the bank.

Just as Mr. Jennings was getting on the car two men approached and one of them jostled up against him. This was done to attract his attention away from while the street railroad official turned to see who jostled him. Mr. Jennings discovered he had been robbed shortly after it occurred, but the men had made their escape. When he learned of his loss he reported it to the police and five detectives were sent to the scene to work on the case. The robbers, however, had secured a good lead and the police could find no trace of them.

Mr. Jennings was robbed of a large amount several years ago, under somewhat similar circumstances. Two men boarded a Broadway car and snatched up a satchel he had at his feet containing \$4,000. The robbers were captured and sent to the penitentiary.

Dewey Will Wed.

Washington, Oct. 31.—Admiral Dewey is announced to some of his more intimate friends last night the fact of his engagement to Mrs. W. B. Hazen, of this city. Mrs. Hazen is the widow of Gen. Hazen, formerly chief signal officer of the army, who died about ten years ago, and is a sister of John R. McLean, democratic candidate for governor of Ohio. Mrs. Hazen has no children and since her husband's death has made her home with her mother. She is a widow of large means, about 50 years old, and popular in the social circles of Washington.

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