

LOSS WAS GREAT

Boers and British Fight Another Bloody Battle at Modder River.

Methuen Reports a Serious British Reverse and Heavy Loss.

At Last Accounts He Was Holding His Position and Entrenching.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—Gen. Methuen's report from Modder river shows that he met with a serious check Monday and suffered great losses.

Our artillery shelled a very strong position held by the enemy on a long, high kopje, from 4 p. m. until dusk Sunday. It rained hard last night. The Highland brigade attacked at day-break on Monday the south end of the kopje. The attack was properly timed but failed. The guards were ordered to protect the Highlanders' right and rear. The cavalry and mounted infantry, with a howitzer artillery battery, attacked the enemy on the left and the guards on the right, supported by field artillery and howitzer artillery. They shelled the position from day-break, and at 1:15 I sent the Gordons to support the Highlanders' brigade. The troops held their own in front of the enemy's entrenchments until dusk, the position extending, including the kopje, for a distance of six miles towards the Modder river. Today I am holding my position and entrenching myself. I had to face at least 12,000 men. Our loss was great.

ORANGE RIVER, Cape Colony, Dec. 14.—Three hundred and twenty wounded men have arrived here from Modder river.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—The war office has received the following dispatch from General Forester-Walker:

"Cape Town, Tuesday, Dec. 12.—Methuen wires that General Wauchope was killed in action yesterday."

Major General Wauchope was a veteran of Ashantee, 1878, Egyptian war 1882, Sudan expedition 1884, Nile expedition 1884-5, and in command of a brigade of the Egyptian expeditionary force in 1898. He had been wounded four times.

NO COMPENSATING GAIN.

Defeat of Methuen Appears to Be Without Mitigating Circumstances.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—General Methuen, as expected, followed up his artillery attack with a general assault on the Boer positions Monday and his report shows that the anxiety of the public regarding the result occasioned by the ominous silence of the war office was amply justified.

The engagement was evidently of considerable magnitude, and the list of the killed and wounded will be proportionate, without the compensation which a victory would have brought, if, indeed, the affair does not turn out to be a more serious defeat than General Methuen admits. The Highlanders, it is believed, must have stormed the Boer position more than once, while the report of the Gordons being placed on the Highlanders' rear, looks as though the Boers may have outflanked their attackers. One report says that General Cronje attacked the British.

The only compensation that the British have been able to discover in the disheartening story, is in General Methuen's statement that he maintains his position close to the Boers, arousing hope that he will retrieve the situation. It is apparent that the bombardment of Saturday and Sunday did not shake the Boers' grip on their position, and it seems certain that they merely withdrew their guns and riflemen under cover, while General Methuen indulged in the usual artillery preliminaries Monday, and that when the British guns were obliged to cease firing, owing to the danger of hitting the advancing troops, the Boers speedily reoccupied their trenches and

Overwhelmed the Highlanders with a terrible fire, probably accompanying this by an attack on the British right flank and rear.

Alarm is beginning to be expressed in many quarters as to the situation of General Methuen. As the Westminster Gazette says:

"If England ever needed a victory it is now, and it is to Buller, the soldier, strong, cool headed and reticent, that the country looks for this victory."

The other papers are abusing the government for its "complacent optimism," and inability to grasp the strength of the opposition it has to overcome in South Africa.

Considerable significance attaches to General Methuen's statement that he is entrenching himself, indicating fear that the Boers may follow up their advantage, adopt the offensive and attack him. Indeed, the gravity of the situation from a British point of view can hardly be overestimated. General Methuen's long lines of communication to De Aar are most vulnerable. Should they be cut, General Methuen will find himself in a very tight place, if only from lack of supplies."

Extreme Gravity of Methuen's Position. As the day progressed and dribbles of information leaked out, the extreme gravity of General Methuen's position was more fully recognized and the possibility of his isolation created no small alarm in military circles. It was thought in some quarters that he ought to retrace his steps to Orange River before his lines of communication were severed.

General Wauchope's death was much

deplored. He rendered notable services at the battle of Omdurman, for which he was thanked by both houses of parliament.

There was little excitement noticeable at the war office, but at the clubs and hotels there was considerable gloom and foreboding that the brief announcement that over 300 wounded had arrived at Orange River indicated that General Methuen's losses were the most severe yet reported.

Butler Advancing. General Buller's advance in the direction of Colenso seems to have actually commenced. The military attaches have left Cape Town to join General Buller, via Durban. General White reports, under date of Tuesday, Dec. 12, that there are 32 cases of enteric fever at Ladysmith.

There are renewed reports of a cabinet crisis at Cape Town, where, it is said, that Governor Milner is about to act, in consequence of the disclosures involving the ministry's loyalty.

The White Star line steamer Majestic has sailed from Liverpool for South Africa with 2,000 troops on board. The White Star line steamer Cymric has been chartered for use as a transport.

EXPECT A LONG SIEGE.

Officials at Mafeking Compelled to Diminish Rations.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—With the exception of Sunday's sortie at Ladysmith, which the morning papers are unanimous in regarding as a brilliant piece of work, there are no further advices from the seat of war. A war office dispatch reports that Mafeking was safe up to Dec. 4, but that the Boers had been shelling the town since Nov. 27 with increased effect. Rations had been considerably diminished, meat by half a pound and bread by quarter of a pound, in view of a probable long siege. Water, however, was still plentiful.

The immediate need of the war office is horses as the loss in this respect has been exceedingly heavy. Among the officers scores of their horses have been shot under them, the Boer tactics being first to shoot at the officer's mount and then at the officer when dismounted.

General Gatacre's disaster at Stormberg has been blamed to a lack of knowledge of the country, but, according to The Daily Telegraph, when the war began there were no official maps available at Cape Town and therefore it is probable that General Gatacre is still without them.

The Times, while praising Colonel Metcalfe's brilliant feat near Ladysmith, expresses the opinion that relief being so near, such a sortie was rather perilous and it would be better for General White to avoid them.

MIGHT MEAN VERY MUCH.

London Daily Mail Calls Attention to Russian Activity at Various Points.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—A dispatch to The Tribune from London says: The Mail publishes evidence of Russian activity at Cenia and Tangier, and in Central Asia and Abyssinia, and urges its readers to watch the movements of Russia, France and probably another power, in event of any further reverse to British troops in South Africa.

Colonel Hood Joins Boers.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—A special to The Herald from Poughkeepsie says: Proof that at least one American soldier is fighting in the Boer army comes in the story of Duncan Hood, a graduate of West Point, who has cast his fortunes with the South African republic. Direct information of his presence in the field has been received here. Young Hood is a son of the famous General Hood of the Confederate army, and was colonel of an immune regiment raised in the South to go to Cuba.

HELD UP THE BANK.

Iowa Farmer's Way of Getting Even for Foreclosing a Mortgage.

DES MOINES, Dec. 14.—At Sac City, W. D. Sanson, an eccentric young farmer, entered the First National bank and, holding a revolver in the face of the assistant cashier, demanded and received the pile of paper money lying near the cashier's window, amounting to nearly \$400, ran across the street, passed through several stores and made his way to the country. Sheriff Batty and others followed him closely and in less than an hour he was found in a barn east of town. The money was recovered. The bank recently foreclosed a mortgage on Sanson's farm and it is thought he took that way to get even.

STIRS UP THE RUSSIANS.

Von Buelow's Speech in the Reichstag Criticized.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 14.—The speech of the German minister of foreign affairs, Count Von Buelow, in the reichstag, is keenly criticized here, both by the press and public, on account of what are regarded as pronounced declarations in favor of German hegemony and their generally warlike and threatening tone.

Fire at Sheldon, Ia.

SHELDON, Ia., Dec. 14.—Fire which started in Barron Bros.' store, destroyed it with two other buildings. The loss is estimated at \$50,000, covered by insurance. It is believed the fire was incendiary. Last week a blaze was started in the basement of Barron Bros.' store, but was soon extinguished.

Much Track Washed Out.

HOUGHTON, Mich., Dec. 14.—A heavy northeast wind washed out 1,000 feet of the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic track near Mission, on Keweenaw bay. The early passenger train passed over it in safety, but the freight following, consisting of an engine and 10 loaded cars, went into the lake.

Must Quit Smoking Cigarettes.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 14.—A general order has been issued by the Southern railway, applicable to the Southern division, that all employees must stop using cigarettes or resign their positions, and that in the future not one will be employed who smokes cigarettes.

TWO FROM OTIS

Philippine Commander Details Events of Interest in His Bailiwick.

Fifty of Tino's Men Killed and Many Wounded, Including Tino Himself.

Concepcion and Staff Surrender. Aguinaldo Hiding in Disguise.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—General Otis had some stirring news to report from Manila, his advices going to show that the insurgents are, as he predicted a few days ago, at the end of their resources from a military point of view, and are melting away before the rapid advance of the American troops at all points. His cablegrams were as follows:

"Fifty men of the navy and 50 men of the army, transported by the navy, took Laoag on the 10th inst. General Young, with staff, followed next day. He reports Howse, with battalion of the Thirty-fourth, followed by a portion of Thirty-third infantry, passed north to Pidding, east of Laoag. Marsh's battalion of the Thirty-fourth was as Cayan, province of Lepanto, on 7th inst. The Third cavalry was along the coast and in the mountains pursuing the enemy. Young states his extreme northern force passed over the mountains, driving the insurgents under General Tino, who was badly wounded, killing 50 and wounding many. He made large captures of rifles and property with all insurgent transportation and released all the Spanish prisoners in that section to the number of about 2,000. Our casualties were two wounded. Our troops are still pursuing the remnant of Tino's command. March's battalion of the Thirty-third reports from Cayan, Lepanto province on the Seventh inst., that he has destroyed Aguinaldo's body guard, killing General Gregoria Pilar; received the surrender of General Concepcion and staff; killed and wounded 52 insurgents; released 570 Spanish prisoners, including 150 friars, and captured considerable property. His loss was two killed and nine wounded. My information is that Aguinaldo has disguised his individuality; abandoned his troops and is hiding in the province of Benguet."

General Otis' second dispatch follows: "Admiral Watson informs me that the province of Cagayan surrendered unconditionally to Captain McCalla of the Newark on 11th inst., all arms being surrendered. Major Batchelder is 90 miles south of Aparri, command in good condition.

"Navy will take supplies to Batchelder in launch at once. This surrender doubtless includes the province of Isabella.

"General Bates at Zamboanga, reports as satisfactory affairs there. Nearly all rifles surrendered; MacArthur, at Bayambang, reports that he holds as prisoner of war Mabini, the ablest of insurgents, and founder of the late government."

WORSE THAN INDIANS.

Problem of Suppressing Filipino Bandits Not Easy of Solution.

MANILA, Dec. 14.—Colonel Smith, with a detachment of the Seventeenth infantry, surrounded and captured in a village near Malasqui a party of guerrillas who had made their headquarters there. The party included the band which assassinated seven officials at Malasqui for friendliness to the Americans.

All are insurgents who became bandits when disintegration of the Filipino army began. They kept the country around Malolos quite in a state of terror for several weeks and committed 28 murders in less than that number of days. When they were caught they were promptly sent to General MacArthur's headquarters at Bayambang by train. It is expected that they will be speedily tried and shot or hanged as an example, if convicted.

The whole country north of San Fernando and between San Fernando and Manila, except within the permanent line of troops around the city and the closely patrolled stretches of railroad, swarm with such bands.

Probably they will be increased by General Pilar's army, many of whom are making their way south to Cavite province. These people, for the most part, succeeded in dodging General Grant, Colonel Bell and Colonel Hood's troops, who are scouring the country for them. They devote their energies to ambushing commissary wagons and to picking up soldiers who leave their commands. Every day some wagon train is fired upon or some soldier disappears. The policy of these ruffians is to make the country uninhabitable for Americans and to frighten natives into refraining from giving assistance to the Americans, as well as to compel the inhabitants to support the insurrection. Only a small proportion of the insurgent arms have been surrendered and the problem of suppressing this guerrilla warfare is anything but easy of solution. Some of the American officers think it worse than fighting Indians.

Both Sides Make Concessions.

RACINE, Wis., Dec. 14.—Representatives of the International Molders' union and the National Foundrymen's association held an all day session here for the purpose of settling the molders' strike. A settlement was made in some manner not made public, but it is understood that both sides made many concessions.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

BRITISH-BOER WAR.

General Joubert, the Boer commander, is under a physician's care.

A Cape Town special says the Boers have been defeated at Kimberley.

In the fighting at Modder river Sunday evening the Boers maintained their position and say they captured 50 of General Methuen's men.

The Boers say they captured 673 prisoners at Stormberg. That battle is expected to delay the British invasion of the Orange Free State several weeks.

Duped by treacherous guides, the British under General Gatacre, suffered a severe reverse in a three-hour battle at Stormberg. Six hundred Britons, including numerous officers, are missing.

The Standard says that Wednesday last Cecil Rhodes' dispatches, intercepted near Kimberley, said that the De Beers mines were filling with water and that Mr. Rhodes estimated the damage \$50,000 per day.

A dispatch from Ladysmith dated Dec. 7 says: The total British loss here since Nov. 1 is 5 officers and 90 men killed, and 12 officers and 180 men wounded, with 3 missing. The Boer force is still around in large numbers, but all within the town are well and cheerful.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Senator Morgan has introduced an anti-trust resolution.

The senate finance measure has been introduced in the senate.

The financial debate began in the house Monday. Same bill all the week. Mr. Tawney of Minnesota, has been chosen party whip by Republican caucus.

Brigadier General Wood has been nominated as major general of volunteers.

Six Democrats, it is understood, will vote for the Republican financial bill in the house.

By a strict party vote the house decided to take final action on the financial bill Dec. 15.

Gold coinage the past year was unprecedentedly large, according to the mint director's report.

The torpedo boat destroyer Bailey was launched from the yard of Charles S. Seabury & Co. at Morris Heights, N. Y., Tuesday.

House Republicans in caucus unanimously approved the house finance bill and urge its passage after reasonable deliberation.

It has been practically decided that the holiday recess of congress will be from Thursday, Dec. 21, to Wednesday, Jan. 3. Thus far, however, there has been no formal action.

The rush of bills in the house of representatives on the second day of the session was the greatest in the memory of house officials, the total being 661 bills, public and private, and 80 resolutions.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The German foreign minister spoke in the reichstag in commendation of President McKinley's message.

Mr. Sidney Oliver of the British colonial office has been appointed colonial secretary for Jamaica.

Conservatives won in the recent Manitoba elections, overthrowing the Greenway government, which has been long in power.

The Prussian law forbidding the affiliation and coalition of political clubs and societies has been repealed, with the consent of Emperor William.

It is reported that Hon. C. S. Johnson has resigned the United States judgeship for the district of Alaska. Judge Johnson has held office about two years.

The news of the German annexation of the Samoan islands as a result of the Samoan agreement is stated to have been received by the natives with apparent indifference.

Passengers from the west coast of South Africa report an ominous outlook in connection with the spread of the bubonic plague. There seems little doubt that the epidemic is slowly but surely working westward.

The Berlin correspondent of the London Standard says all the powers concerned have favorably received proposals of the United States regarding the maintenance of the open door in China, each offering to sign the desired assurance if the others will do so.

It is announced that the Bull hotel, at Rochester, England, so much associated with the late Charles Dickens, is to be sold at auction during the present month. It contains a quantity of Dickens' furniture. One little sitting room is entirely furnished with things formerly used by the novelist.

POLITICAL NEWS.

John M. Palmer denies the published story that he would support Bryan in 1900.

The New Jersey state grange has declared in favor of electing United States senators by direct vote.

The Union Reform party will put up a presidential ticket, with the initiative and referendum the sole plank.

Utah Gentiles, in reply to Roberts' address, maintain he is ineligible to congress, and is under indictment.

The Kentucky election board has awarded the gubernatorial certificate of election to Taylor. Goebel, the Democratic candidate, may appeal to the legislature.

It is announced that Willis J. Abbot, well known in newspaper circles throughout the United States, has been selected to take charge of the press bureau of the Democratic national committee.

Dr. Shiloh's Cough and Consumption Cure. This is beyond question the most successful Cough Medicine ever known to mankind. A few doses invariably cure the worst cases of Cough, Croup and Bronchitis, while its wonderful success in the cure of Consumption is without a parallel in the history of medicine. Since its first discovery it has been sold on a guarantee, it is felt which no other medicine can stand. If you have a Cough, we earnestly ask you to try it. In United States and Canada 25c, 50c, and \$1.00, and in England 1s. 3d., 2s. 3d. and 4s. 6d.

SOLE PROPRIETORS S.C. WELLS & CO. LEROY, N.Y. HAMILTON, CAN. Sold by Chapple Drug Co.

MARKET QUOTATIONS. Price of Wheat at Duluth. WHEAT—Cash, No. hard, 65c; No. 1 Northern, 64c; No. 2 Northern, 63c; No. 3, 62c. To Arrive—No. 1 hard, 66c; No. 1 Northern, 65c; December, 64c; May, 68c; July, 69c. FLAX—To arrive, \$1.42; December, \$1.32; May, \$1.45.

Grain Prices at Minneapolis. WHEAT—In Store—No. 1 Northern, December, 62c; May, 65c; July, 67c; 67c. On Track—No. 1 hard, 66c; No. 1 Northern, 64c; No. 2, 63c. HOGS—Market steady. Range of prices, \$3.80 to \$4.00. Receipts: Hogs, 3,500; cattle, 200. Live Stock Prices at St. Paul. HOGS—Market weak to 5 cents lower. Range of prices, \$3.65 to \$3.80. CATTLE—Good demand for fat cattle; very few on the market. Range of prices, stockers, \$3.00 to \$3.75; cows, \$2.00 to \$3.75; heifers, \$2.00 to \$3.25; bulls, \$1.85. SHEEP—Steady; lambs stronger. Range of prices \$3.50 to \$4.00 for sheep; \$4.00 to \$5.00 for lambs. Receipts: Cattle, 300; calves, 100; hogs, 100; sheep, 600.

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JOHN RAMSEY. Range Yellowstone P. O. Billings. MURPHY CATTLE COMPANY. Address—J. R. HAYNIE, Foreman. Murphy Cattle Company, Billings, Montana.

CUSTER CATTLE COMPANY. EMMETT McCORMICK, Foreman. Brand as in on out either side. Range—Yellowstone, Crow Reservation, East Pryor Creek. Horses 7-7 on left; shod on right. Vent—Brand reversed. P. O.—Junction, Montana.

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