

HIT HARD BY THE BOERS

The British Garrison at Helvetia Surprised and Captured.

Kitchener Reports the Losses at Fifty Killed, Forty-Six Wounded, and Two Hundred Taken Prisoners. The Burglars Leave After Securing Supplies and Ammunition—The Town in a Strong Position and Defended by the Liverpool—Not Known Who Led the Boers—Little Change in the Cape Colony Situation—Trying to Keep General De Wet From Breaking Southward.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—It is little more than a fortnight since Delany and Beyer successfully attacked General Clements' position at Magaliesburg, and General Kitchener has again to transmit news of a disaster, which the first reports suggest is likely to prove scarcely less serious than the Nootkade affair.

This time it is the garrison at Helvetia, in the hill country south of Lydenburg, which has apparently been surprised by the Boers. At any rate, the British force there has been captured after sustaining heavy casualties. The troops there included Gen. N. G. Lyttleton's command.

The Boers, as usual, evacuated the town after achieving their purpose. They doubtless seized stock, arms, and ammunition, which they much needed. Nothing is said about any loss of guns, but the wording of the official despatch prepares the public here to expect an announcement to this effect later. The leader of the successful coup is unknown. Commandant General Botha was lately reported in that neighborhood.

General Kitchener's despatch follows: "Pretoria, Dec. 30.—Lyttleton reports: 'Our post at Helvetia was captured yesterday morning by Boers. About fifty were killed, forty-six were wounded and 200 were taken prisoners.'"

"Colonel Kitchener reports that he is following with a force in the track of the enemy. Helvetia is being recaptured by Reeves, who has been reinforced from Bellfast. Helvetia was a very strong position, being held by a detachment of the Liverpool Regiment. I am asking for further information." KITCHENER.

General Kitchener also telegraphed yesterday:

"There is not much change in the situation in the Cape Colony. The eastern force of the enemy appear to have broken into small parties at Tlokoet, and are moving about rapidly in the same district, evidently waiting for support from the north. The last report states that the western force are moving to Carnarvon, Helvetia and Theresfontein, and are in the neighborhood of the Cape Colony. Clements is opposed on the road to Rustenburg.

"The eastern line was blown up near Pan, and a train was held up this morning on the Standerton line, near Vaal Station. G. Knox's column and Beyer's Kaffirs are holding De Wet from breaking south.

"KITCHENER."

KEPT BUSY BY THE BOERS.

The British Doing Little More Than Holding Their Own.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The papers this morning devote more than two columns to belated telegrams from South Africa, covering the period from December 22 to December 30. They give the impression that the British, with the exception of those in the large centers, are doing little more than holding their own. There has apparently been no considerable accession of Colonials to the ranks of the invaders of the Cape Colony, but the Boers are continually active and are continuing giving their pursuers the slip.

There is constant skirmishing, and although the despatches speak almost systematically of Boer defeats, the burghers seem to be shortly able to put up a fight elsewhere almost everywhere. A Boer prisoner at Burdersburg says the burghers are in constant communication with General De Wet, and they intend to roam about the country until he joins them. A majority of them are apparently using captured British arms, and are making use of the same in the Cape Colony.

It is stated that famine prices are again prevailing in Kimberley, and that the military authorities have again assumed control of the food supplies.

CHARGED WITH SEDITION.

A Warrant Issued for the Arrest of Ex-Minister Tewanter.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—A despatch to the "Telegraph" from Cape Town says that a warrant has been issued for the arrest of ex-Minister Tewanter for making a seditious speech at Graaff Reinet, in which he incited his hearers to rebellion in connection with the Boer invasion of the Cape Colony. This is only the first of a series of articles in which a wide extension of martial law to the remaining districts of the colony.

BATTERED BY THE HURRICANE.

The Steamer Lake Megantie Puts Back to Queenstown.

QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 30.—The British steamer Lake Megantie, which sailed on December 25 with 600 passengers for Halifax, returned to this port this morning with her steering gear disabled and otherwise damaged. She reports having had a awful experience in the recent gale. A huge wave boarded the vessel, striking and killing a seaman on deck. Three of her lifeboats were smashed. The British steamer Rockhill, from Barry, via Queenstown, for Philadelphia, has also returned with the losses of four boats. Her cabins and stokehold were flooded and her wheel and everything movable about deck were washed overboard.

A Norwegian Consul Arrested.

BERLIN, Dec. 30.—Edward Schmitt, the Norwegian Consul here, and owner of the banking firm of Ashalt & Wagener, was arrested Saturday in connection with the affairs of the Prussian Mortgage Bank. Herr Schmitt's firm acted as bankers for the German Empire.

Best Boards are down again to \$1.25 for 100 sq. ft. These are the best boards, dry, light, and 8 inches wide, just the kind in town, at 23 and N. Y. ave.

GRANT CHASING ALEJANDRINO.

The Filipino Leader Believed to Be in a Trap.

MANILA, Dec. 30.—Gen. Fred Grant reports an exciting chase after General Alejandrino, a rebel leader, and three other insurgent officers and thirty men. The Americans captured the general's personal baggage and records at Mount Arayat, upon which the insurgents are believed to be hidden. The Forty-first Volunteer Infantry is chasing the mountain, thoroughly scouring it as they ascend, while the base is surrounded by mounted patrols to prevent the escape of General Alejandrino and his party.

The Philippine Commission is now finishing the municipal code and the school bill. The tariff bill prepared by the commission has been forwarded to Washington. The transport Warren sails today, carrying 500 sick soldiers and thirty-seven other passengers.

DIFFERER NOT CHAIRMAN.

Says He Had Resigned the Presidency of Wright's Companies.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—Lord Dufferin, who, according to the generally accepted press statements, was chairman of the London and Globe Finance Corporation, which suspended payment Friday, authorizes the statement that he resigned the chairmanship of the Whitaker Wright group of companies on receiving news recently that his son had been dangerously wounded in South Africa. He adds that he and his wife are now preparing to go to South Africa.

The "Standard" tabulates roughly the situation in the stock market owing to the slump, which is placed at \$5,492,000. The loss is obviously more apparent than real, prices having been in many instances forced to absurd heights by speculation. The situation is not regarded as justifying alarm, the losses being confined to a single group.

CARRARA QUARRIES SOLD.

Senator Proctor Now Controls the World's Marble Output.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—It is stated that Senator Proctor of Vermont has bought the famous Carrara quarries, of Italy, thus securing with his Vermont holdings, control of the bulk of the world's output of statuary and building marble. It is stated that an architect named Korta recently came to London on behalf of a number of Carrara proprietors to sell most of the quarries there. He had been treating with London capitalists for some time when Senator Proctor called an offer and sent a representative, who upon arriving here closed the deal in a few days. The sum paid was about \$10,000,000.

A VERDICT FOR THE WIDOW.

Damages for Fatal Injuries at Lodge Initiation Ceremonies.

CARDONDALE, Ill., Dec. 30.—R. O. Desnon, a salaried man, living at De Soto, a small mining town six miles north of this city, died several months ago of injuries received while being initiated into the Knights of the Royal Arch. This order is composed exclusively of liquor dealers and has grown to large proportions. In the ceremonies of initiation a paddle was used, having on one side a blank cartridge. The victim, who had actually turned the side of the paddle with the cartridge attached and the side was imbedded in Desnon's thigh. Two days after the ceremony Desnon died of blood poisoning.

TO WASTE NO MORE BEER.

Seized Liquor to Go to South Carolina Dispensaries.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 30.—In this city, where the dispensary law has been operating nearly all of the beer consumed is bought from "blind" stores. One day last week constables seized 1,400 bottles of Christmas beer, and, according to the provisions of the law, this was emptied into the sewers. The lot was worth \$4,500.

ALGER'S ATTACK ON MILES.

The Lieutenant General Not Ready to Reply at Present.

Lieutenant General Miles returned to Washington last night from his hunting trip in North Carolina. He declined to make any statement in regard to the criticism of himself in Russia. Alger's article in the "North American Review" is a synopsis of what was printed in newspapers Saturday morning. He said he had not decided whether he would notice the criticism, but he said he would have to do so if the article in full in the "North American Review," the January edition of which has not appeared.

THE END OF A DESPERADO.

Pays an Old Grudge Before Being Shot to Death.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 30.—A party of guests of the Miller Hotel, in Abbeville, were playing whist last night, when John Denisy came into the reading room. Denisy was a noted gambler. He had killed several men, and only a short time ago was acquitted of the murder of a negro. He had for years been a United States deputy marshal. Denisy had a grudge against William Kyle, from Ludlow, Mass., who had been in Abbeville while Denisy was superintendent of the building of a large cotton mill. Kyle's work was completed and he was going to Massachusetts today. Denisy immediately went to pick a quarrel with Kyle. Kyle remonstrated, attempting to pacify the desperado. Denisy drew a pistol, but some one caught his arm. Kyle quickly changed his gun to his left hand and shot Kyle through the body. Kyle died at noon today.

The Album for Margherita.

ROME, Dec. 30.—The album which is to be presented to ex-Queen Margherita on behalf of the Italian residents of New York, has arrived here.

Ocean Steamship Movements.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—Arrived: La Garconne, Havre; Minneapolis, London; Matello, Hull. Arrived out: Umbria, from New York; Liverpool; Georgia, from New York; at Liverpool.

Flynn's Business College, 5th and K. Business, Shortland, Typing—\$24 a year.

CHINA COMES TO TERMS

Agrees to the Demands Set Forth in the Preliminary Note.

LI Hung Chang and Prince Ching Notify Senor De Coloman, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, of the Acceptance of the Conditions—A Request by the Emperor That the Peace Negotiations Begin at Once—The Court Expected to Return to Peking by the End of February—No Official News Received by the Government Concerning the Action of the Imperial Authorities.

PEKIN, Dec. 30.—Li Hung Chang and Prince Ching, the Chinese peace commissioners, today notified Senor De Coloman, the Spanish Minister, and dean of the Diplomatic Corps, that the Government had agreed to the demands of the Powers as set forth in the preliminary note. They asked that a meeting of the foreign representatives be immediately convened, and said that they would sign the note in their character as representatives of the throne.

SHANGHAI, Dec. 30.—Chinese papers here announce that the throne has accepted the demands of the Powers, contained in the preliminary note presented a few days ago to the Chinese envoys. It is stated that the Emperor has ordered that Yu Hsien, formerly Governor of Shanai, who personally took part in the murder of missionaries, shall be immediately beheaded. It is reported that ninety carts have been sent to Taiyuen to meet the court returning to Peking from Singan.

PARIS, Dec. 30.—A despatch received here from Peking states that the acceptance of the preliminary note of the Powers is contained in an edict issued by the Emperor, which Li Hung Chang has communicated to the Ministers. The edict authorizes the Chinese commissioners to negotiate on the basis of the note, and asks for a suspension of hostilities. The commissioners say that the Emperor has declared his wish to hasten the negotiations and the signature of a treaty of peace. He desires to return to Peking by the end of February.

TO WELCOME A NEW CENTURY.

Watch Night Services to Be Held in Many Churches.

Hundreds of Washington's citizens will be awake tonight at midnight to watch the passing of the year 1900 and welcome the birth of the twentieth century. Watch night services will be held in a majority of the churches and in many special programmes of music will be rendered. The members of the Cabinet will be with the president at the White House, and there will be social gatherings at the British Embassy and some of the legations. At the moment of the birth of the new century a message of congratulation will be despatched to Queen Victoria by her representative at this Capital.

HIS QUOTATIONS FICTITIOUS.

A Chattanooga Stock Broker Leaves Town Under a Cloud.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Dec. 30.—F. D. Seairight, who for three months past has been operating what is known as the Chattanooga Stock and Petroleum Exchange, and who claimed to be a correspondent of Ware & Leland, brokers, of New York, is under a cloud. Warrants were issued against him for the same reason. Atwater, a leading citizen, on the charge of obtaining money under false pretences.

A GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION.

Dallas County Sheriff to Probe the Drugging of a Woman.

DALLAS, Tex., Dec. 30.—Sheriff Johnson said tonight: "The Dallas county grand jury will meet tomorrow to investigate among other things the mysterious visit at midnight of two masked men to Mrs. Louis Jacoby, in her Oak Cliff home, compelling her to drink drugged liquor and to sign documents, the contents of which she is ignorant. I shall have a number of witnesses before the grand jury, and expect to be able to develop evidence sufficient to procure indictments. If bills are returned I shall not be long in making arrests. I have not abandoned investigation of this unusual matter, but feel sure of ultimately clearing it up."

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The Street Car Company and Employees Come to Terms.

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THREATS BY KIDNAPERS.

Cudaby Ordered to Withdraw His Offer of a Reward.

OMAHA, Dec. 30.—Edward Cudaby has received a note threatening his family with vengeance if he does not instantly withdraw the reward offered for the apprehension of the kidnapers of his son. At the same time the mysterious Eloise, who has been writing letters to the police and Mr. Cudaby, has turned loose a clew in the case which promises to prove of the utmost importance in convicting Patrick Crowe or the Barker-Karpis letter head. This hotel is located in Omaha and the woman signed her name, "Eloise V."

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It was this care for his parent that led Mr. Cohen to take especial notice of him, and to advance him rapidly until he was assistant foreman in the packing department with good salary. His earnings were invariably sent in his own name until a year or so ago he met a Miss Davis. He became attentive to her. He told Mr. and Mrs. Cohen of his love for whom he boarded at 167 East Eighty-eighth Street, of his engagement to the young woman, and only a day or so ago said that the wedding was near. His employer and his fellow-workers in the factory knew that he was soon to be married, within a month, they believed.

Mr. Cohen became convinced three months ago that he had promoted Beckerman too rapidly. He was not sufficiently experienced in his position of assistant foreman. He was finally forced to discharge the young man and this is what led to the shooting. The shooting took place in the dark and the young man after making his escape and believing he had killed Mr. Cohen blew his brains out. Mr. Cohen was attended by Dr. William K. Edwards, who found that neither wound was serious.

It is believed here that Kwang Hsu had used the reservations made by the United States to these terms as an entering wedge to bring about modifications. With his acceptance of the conditions, the next step is the beginning of formal negotiations between China and the Powers. The police have been informed of Mr. Atwater's disappearance, and he is still at liberty.

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