

GEN. WHITE'S FORCES ARE CLOSELY PRESSED.

Disaster Before Ladysmith Emboldens the Boers to Renew Attack Upon the British Stronghold.

GREAT BRITAIN AGHAST AT BOER SUCCESS

Determined to Meet the Reverse Calmly, and Make Greater Exertions to Retaliate—Gen. White Is Mildly Censured for the Mistake He Frankly Acknowledges Having Made—Gen. Buller's Army Corps Will Soon Arrive at Cape Town—Actual Campaign Will Then Be Inaugurated.

NEW YORK, Oct. 31.—A special from Cape Town says: "Latest advices from Ladysmith are that the forces of Gen. White are being closely pressed by the enemy. Flushed with partial success, the forces of the Transvaal and Free State are boldly attacking, and brisk fighting is in progress a few miles from Ladysmith. The Boers have dropped several shells into the town.

"Reports have been received here that the Boers are preparing to shell Kimberley from temporary forts, which they are constructing. The garrison at Kimberley is confident of its ability to resist any attack made."

LONDON, Oct. 31.—The war office has received a dispatch from Gen. White, commanding the British force at Ladysmith, reporting that the Royal Irish fusiliers, No. 10 mountain battery and the Gloucestershire regiment were surrounded in the hills by the Boers, and after losing heavily obliged to capitulate. Gen. White adds that the casualties have not yet been ascertained.

The following is the text of Gen. White's dispatch to the war office: "Ladysmith, Oct. 30.—I have to report a disaster to the column sent by me to take position on a hill to guard the left flank of the troops. In these operations today the Royal Irish fusiliers, No. 10 mountain battery and the Gloucestershire regiment were surrounded in the hills, and after losing heavily, had to capitulate. The casualties have not yet been ascertained.

"A man of the fusiliers, employed as a hospital orderly, came in under a flag of truce, with a letter from the survivors of the column, who asked for assistance to bury the dead. I fear there is no doubt of the truth of the report.

"The following is a list of the officers taken prisoners today: "Staff—Major J. G. White, Captains Rice and Silvester, Lieutenants Burrows, Rice, Silver, Lieutenants Heard, Southey, Phillips, McGregor, Holmes, Kelly, Doonick, Kinahan, Jondwin, Chaplain Matthews.

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obvious traps further disasters must be looked for. An interview is published with a British officer, whose name is withheld, but who is described as a well known general with a distinguished record during the Indian mutiny. In the course of which he passes severe criticism upon the conduct of the campaign.

"Yesterday's disaster," said the official, "is only another proof of serious blundering. Although Sir George White is a good regimental commander, he does not seem to excel in strategy or in the management of a big division, regard the Glencoe business as another example of blundering."

Proceeding to discuss the engagement at Glencoe the officer observed: "Some of the enemy's officers were allowed to occupy and plant guns on Talana hill. Nothing was done to stop this until the Boers began to shell Glencoe on the following morning.

"As for yesterday's casualty, it seems inexcusable that the two regiments should have been allowed to separate themselves from the main body, especially with a considerable swarm of enemy against them. I know I am expressing the opinion of a military official, but I think we are disgusted with the war office for having prematurely allowed the issuance of glowing reports of victory without equal facts to justify them.

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MAY BE SUPPRESSED. Sir George White's honest admission of full responsibility for the tactical disaster are regarded in some circles as virtually placing his case in the hands of the home authorities, and it is even rumored that the war office has already decided to suppress him. The report, however, is discredited in well informed quarters.

About 1000 fresh troops will arrive at Cape Town on Sunday next, from England, and will be available to reinforce Sir George White. Transports will arrive there daily after Sunday, and will have been landed in South Africa. These men are intended for Gen. Buller's army, but the Boers are expected to reach Natal in the next few days, and should become perilous. The British army will eventually reach the huge total of 8,631, of which 20,000 are regulars and the other 20,000 miscellaneous, but excellent colonial troops.

While announcement today of the arrival of Gen. Buller at Cape Town was received by the British with unforgotten satisfaction, it is pointed out the general cannot end the war without an army corps, and some of the troops are expected to be sent to Natal.

Dispatches from Cape Town show that Gen. Buller's reception there was most enthusiastic. He was welcomed by Gen. Buller, who met him at the station, and drove to Government house, escorted by mounted police and mounted volunteers of people lining the road. There were cries of "Avenge Majuba" and wild cheers for the general. Gen. Buller's face was impassive as he returned military salutes for the cheers.

Other advices from Cape Town show that the Boers are gathering in considerable force at Dewetsdorp, southeast of Ladysmith, while large forces are advancing over the Helpmakaar road. A big camp of Boers is to be formed between Harrismith bridge and the sea, and the Boers are expected to march into the area.

Public anxiety was increased by a special dispatch from Ladysmith, published in the late editions of the London afternoon papers, to the effect that before the Boers recaptured the old position held by their heavy artillery, which Gen. White had reported abandoned by the guns of the naval brigade from the Powerful, and had opened fire again.

The dispatch further says: "The enemy are again closing in, and the situation is one of grave anxiety. Beyond doubt the Boer retirement yesterday (Monday) was a ruse to draw Gen. White into the hilly country, and away from the British camp."

This last sentence is significant, and confirms the opinion of military experts here, that the Boers are endeavoring to be outgeneraled by Commandant General Joubert. From the scanty advices received up to 11 o'clock p. m., it seems that the Boers are again closing in, and the situation is one of grave anxiety.

An Englishman who has arrived at Alwalwa, near Pretoria, whence he was expelled, by way of Bloemfontein, says that when he left Pretoria all the stores were carrying on business as usual. President Kruger was still in the city, and he did not see any wounded at Johannesburg. Some of the Transvaal papers are still publishing and contain glowing accounts of the success of the Boer army, which was reported to have taken the town of Kimberley and Mafeking are expected to fall at any moment, while Bechuanaland is conquered and annexed; that the republican arms are successful, and that the Boers are continuing their victorious march south, capturing British prisoners and stores. The papers admit that the battle of Elandsburg was a reverse for the Boers, who lost thirty killed, had many wounded and that eighty-five Boers were made prisoners. Ladysmith, according to the Boer papers, was captured by the Boers, and the Englishman added that the Boers are absolutely confident of their ultimate triumph and believe the whole of Natal is already practically in their hands.

A dispatch from Vryburg, dated Oct. 25, gives a report of a speech of Commandant Delany, when holding the Boer flag over Orange river Oct. 23, and report that all the wounded are progressing favorably. It also appears that as they are unable to blow up the piers of the Modder river bridge the Boers are demolishing them stone by stone. They have blown up practically every culvert from the Modder to the Orange river.

An armed train, strongly supported, made a reconnaissance Oct. 27 and found the Boers still at Spuitfontein. There was an extraordinary military parade at Aldershot yesterday, when fifteen traction engines and forty trucks were inspected previous to their departure for South Africa. A stretch of country, rocky road was selected for the tests and gave an excellent chance to observe the points of the engines. A steep ditch and banks two and three feet high were safely traversed, and though at times the wheels sank into deep other engines pulled out the hapless ones. The Duke of Connaught and Princess Louise and Victor Napoleon attended the trials and were much pleased with the results. Twenty-four of these engines will be dispatched to South Africa.

PRINCE OF WALES ANXIOUS. Late this evening the Prince of Wales and Marquis of Salisbury sent their respective secretaries to the war office to make inquiries, but the reply given was that no further news had been received. Large crowds were still waiting in the vicinity shortly before midnight.

The tidings of disaster will have the effect of giving a strong impulse to the popular movement to raise funds for the benefit of the wives and children of the men at the front. The war office under the signatures of the Marquis of Lansdowne, secretary of state for war, and Lord Wolesley, commander-in-chief, has issued a statement showing the best distribution of the money thus secured.

COL YULE PROMOTED. The Gazette announces the promotion of Substantive Lieutenant Colonel W. I. Yule to the rank of major general on the staff, to command the Eighth brigade in the field of the South African field force, with the substantive rank of colonel in the army.

IRISH PAPERS GLEEFUL. The Irish Nationalist papers are quite gleeful. The Dublin Freeman says: "A big bully triumphant is not a lovely spectacle, but a big bully beaten is the very acme of disgrace."

The Dublin Evening Herald ridicules the idea of Great Britain menacing Russia, after Sir George White's message. "CABINET COUNCIL CALLED. A cabinet council has been summoned for today (Wednesday). The secretary

of state for the colonies, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, arrived in London last evening.

SECOND ARMY CORPS. It is learned by the Associated Press that the second army corps is in readiness to be called out.

The military officials have not yet decided whether the consumption of the plan would be necessary, but they are determined to have everything in readiness, either for a demonstration in Europe or for sending a greater force to the scene of activity. Before news of the Ladysmith disaster, the latter course was considered out of the question. But now there is no knowing what steps will be decided upon.

BERLIN PRESS COMMENT. BERLIN, Oct. 31.—The Berlin papers have had very little to say so far regarding the British disaster at Ladysmith, but they show a disposition to magnify the Boer victory. The editor of the Post severely upon what one paper calls his endeavor to deceive the public. There is little doubt, however, that in view of the Boer army's continuing visit to England, the opinions held in high quarters will influence the newspaper comments.

DR. LEYDS SURPRISED. BRUSSELS, Oct. 31.—Dr. Leyds, the special envoy of the Transvaal republic in Europe, today, in an interview regarding the situation at Ladysmith, said he was greatly surprised at the news of the British disaster. While paying a warm tribute to the candor of Sir George White, he pointed out that Sir George White's tactics in dividing his forces and underrating the strength of the Boers. He declined to give an opinion regarding the future development of the war, but he said he had been received by him from all parts of Europe, and from all classes of society. In reply to a question as to the Boer critics, he said the nobility of the Transvaal and Free State aggregated only 20,000, including old men and boys.

AUSTRIANS ARE PLEASED. VIENNA, Nov. 1.—The non-official public of Austria, so far as can be judged from the tone of the press, seems delighted that the British have met with a reverse.

ITALIANS SYMPATHIZE. ROME, Nov. 1.—With the exception of the organs of the Vatican, the Italian newspapers sympathize with England in her misfortune.

LESSON OF DISASTER. Britons Grimly Determined to Profit by It and Retaliate. LONDON, Nov. 1.—An ominous curtain has again descended upon affairs in Natal. No dispatches except the official telegrams of Gen. Sir Stewart White have thus far been permitted to mention the disaster, and no telegram from Ladysmith has been received in London since the advices from the British commander. This gives rise to a belief that communication has already been cut, in which event some time must elapse before details regarding British loss are received.

If the war office officials have received information on this point they have refrained from publishing it. Gen. White's estimate of British losses of about ninety is quite separate from the losses from the probable killed and wounded among the captured regiments. On this point there is great suspense among the relatives of

the prisoners. It is supposed the stampede of the mules meant the carrying away of the supplies of ammunition, and the troops capitulated, after firing the rounds which each man carried.

In the absence of news the morning papers are reduced to speculation as to how the disaster occurred. The general opinion is that the misuse of the cavalry was the cause of the troops falling into the Boers' hands, for apparently there was no cavalry to watch over the missing column. The Daily Telegraph, speaking of the "disaster," says: "In capturing the column the Boers had the Devonshire regiment practically at their mercy, and a little more daring would have made a bad business much worse, and, seeing that the morning papers are reduced to speculation as to how the disaster occurred. The general opinion is that the misuse of the cavalry was the cause of the troops falling into the Boers' hands, for apparently there was no cavalry to watch over the missing column. 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