

ACTIVITY OF THE BOERS.

AN UNSUCCESSFUL NIGHT ASSAULT ON LADYSMITH.

CITY SHELLLED DAY AND NIGHT.

Firing From Every Point of the Compass—Gallant Conduct of British Soldiers During the Armored Train Battle—New Entrenchments About Kimberley—The British Prisoners at Pretoria—The Boers Nearing Estcourt—British Forces at Hand.

Estcourt, Natal, Thursday, November 16.—The Red Cross train has again returned, but without bringing in the dead and wounded. The Boers declined to give any information as to the names of either killed or injured, referring the inquirers to the Pretoria Press for all information. All that they would disclose was the fact that three of the British were dead and nine wounded.

A correspondent who has just visited the sanatorium hospital says all the armored train wounded are doing well.

Captain Wylie, in an interview, said Sergeant Tod deserves special mention for having surrounded him with boulders to protect him from the rifle fire, when lying helpless and wounded. Tod even lay down beside the officer to cheer him up. A shell landed among the protecting boulders, splashing them with earth, but Captain Wylie sustained no further injury. But for Tod, he would have been killed.

Several men escaped marvelously. When Winston Churchill requested Captain Wylie to call for volunteers to remove the upset truck, bullets, it is said, were dropping on the train "like rain." The men, throughout, stuck to their work, responding to the noble example set by Churchill and Lieutenant Franklin, until the line was cleared. Churchill actually left with the engine, but he got out at the next station, Frere, took a rifle from a soldier, and he and the next instant the wounded, and walked away in the direction of the Boers.

Sergeant Hasset, of the Dublin fusiliers, behaved with the greatest gallantry. He took charge of the firing party, and stood up unflinchingly during the Boers' hot fire. His example electrified the fusiliers, who kept the Boers at bay by volleying.

Captain Haldane fell early in the engagement, shot through the shoulder.

Lieutenant Franklin's conduct is highly praised. He exhibited great coolness during the critical period. He is reported missing.

Copeland, of the Durban volunteers, was crushed to death by the derailed truck, and Godfrey, a plate layer, was shot through the head, but is doing well.

Lieutenant Alexander had an exciting experience. A fusilier who had been wounded in the arm by a shell which shattered the limb, swung round and hit Alexander in the neck, almost smothering him with blood. The shell burst in front of the lieutenant on a level with his face and blinded him for a moment. The next instant he saw his comrade lying dead at his feet, while he himself was unharmed.

Private Kavanagh, of the Dublins, performed splendid work. When the British firing line fell back he, time after time, rallied the men, volleyed and prevented the Boers from coming on. He was completely surrounded.

Pretoria, November 9.—The following dispatch has been received from the Boer camp at Elandsburg, under today's date:

"Ladysmith has been completely encircled by the Boer forces. Our second big gun was successfully placed in position on Bulwer hill, in front of Ladysmith. The firing of heavy guns commenced early this morning, with no casualties to the burghers up to the present.

"Botha has heliographed from the south of Ladysmith that the British batteries opened a heavy fire with guns and continued dropping shells into the works around Ladysmith. The Pretoria force was in a tight place, having taken up a position commanded by the British fire, which was so hot that the position became untenable. The big gun, however, saved the situation."

BRITISH ACCOUNT OF ARMORED TRAIN FIGHT.

London, November 17.—The war office has received the following dispatch from General Buller:

"Cape Town, November 16. "I have received from Hildyard, Pietermaritzburg, a telegram, dated November 15th, of which the following is the substance:

"The officer commanding the troops at Estcourt reports, at midday, that an armored train left Estcourt this morning with a company of the Durban Fusiliers and a company of the Natal Volunteers. A party of Boers they encountered a party of Boers and began to withdraw. While retreating, some of the trucks were derailed. The Durban turned out and advanced toward the engine, while the rest of the train appears to have returned without them."

"The officer commanding the troops reports that he was sending mounted troops in order to cover their withdrawal, but that about one hundred are missing."

NEW ENTRENCHMENTS AROUND KIMBERLEY.

Kimberley, November 9, via Hope-town, November 12.—The Boers were busy yesterday in throwing up fresh earthworks. There has been no further bombardment. The deBeers mines are practically closed. Thousands of the employees are now doing the work of the town and are being provisioned by the mayor's relief fund. The military authorities have ordered all civilians to give up their arms and ammunition, with the view of preventing irresponsible firing at the Boers, in contravention of the laws of civilized warfare. Natives report that the Boers cheered each shell as it was fired yesterday, believing it meant the destruction of Kimberley.

The Boers are now wearing khaki uniforms and blue puttees, making it difficult to distinguish them from the British. Locusts are appearing.

A NIGHT BOMBARDMENT.

London, November 17.—The following dispatch from Pretoria gives details of the engagement referred to in the Associated Press dispatch from Pretoria of Wednesday, November 15th:

"The Free Staters had taken up a position on a small hill when an English battery advanced and attacked them, sending a hail of shells on the hill for an hour, when the Transvaal cannon put some shells right in the midst of the battery, sending the English to cover behind the hill. Two burghers were killed and six wounded. When the British fell back on Ladysmith several shells exploded among them, but the execution done could not be seen.

At midnight all the Afrikaner cannon on the hills surrounding the town opened fire simultaneously on Ladysmith, turning the quiet and darkness of night into a lurid inferno of whistling, shrieking shells, speeding from all points of the compass to the doomed city. Several buildings on fire were seen from Bulwer hill. During the day the troops left the city deserted and sought shelter on the edge of the hill to escape our death-dealing shells."

THE PRISONERS AT PRETORIA. The dispatch from Pretoria also says that the prisoners at that place include: The Eighteenth hussars, 4 officers and 91 non-commissioned officers and men; the Dublin fusiliers, 4 officers and 12 non-commissioned officers and men; the Irish fusiliers, 10 officers and 533 non-commissioned officers and men; the Gloucesters, 14 officers and 205 non-commissioned officers and men; the artillery, 5 officers and 60 non-commissioned officers and men; the rifles, 10 officers and 89 non-commissioned officers and men; the Leicesters, no officers and 6 non-commissioned officers and men; the dragons, 1 man; the Natal police, 1 man; political, 62 men; sick, 38 men.

The dispatch adds: "Trains are working excellently from Pretoria to Ladysmith. The Boers have ample food, but are short of clothes, boots and mackintoshes."

Pretoria, November 15.—In an engagement yesterday morning General Buller's British advanced with thirteen guns, attacking 380 burghers of the Transvaal. A big gun was fired on the troops, who retired at 3 o'clock to a kloof, near Ladysmith. The British loss is unknown. The Boers had only one man killed and three wounded. In addition, they had thirteen horses killed and seven wounded.

BOERS NEAR ESTCOURT. The Estcourt, November 17.—The Emelo Boer force has taken a position near Ennerdale, a few miles north of here. They have eight 7-pounders and two French guns. Their strength is 200 men. They have looted Hendon's store. All is quiet here and ready for the enemy if he attacks. There is no anxiety.

BRITISH FORCES IN SOUTH AFRICA. The admiral announced this evening the arrival at Cape Town today of the troopship Arcana, with a battalion of the Argyll and Southern Highlanders (the Princess Louise's), and a company of the Buffs, bringing the reinforcements up to 23,500, of which 7,290 have already disembarked at Durban, with eighteen field guns, a number of machine guns, engineers and hospital troops, as well as 700 mules.

This force, with that already between Estcourt and Durban, is considered sufficient to enable General Buller to advance and to take aggressive action against the Boers south of Ladysmith. According to the latest advices, Ladysmith is holding out sufficiently, everything having been well up to Wednesday.

THE WILMINGTON MESSENGER, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1899.

DEMOCRATS PROTEST AGAINST THE COUNTING OF THE VOTE OF LOUISVILLE.

At the Polls on Election Day Ground of the Protest—Rejection of This Vote Would Elect Goebel—Bradley to Stand by Taylor—Precedent for State Board Refusing to Go Behind the Returns—Democratic Election Officers Indicted.

Louisville, Ky., November 17.—Attorneys for William Goebel today filed notice with the local election board asking that the vote of the city of Louisville be thrown out. They claim that the election officers and voters were intimidated by the militia, ordered out by Governor Bradley on November 7th. If the election board throws out the vote of Louisville Goebel will have a safe plurality.

The notice served on the commissioners follows:

"For the democratic candidates we now give notice that, at the close of the count and before any certificates are issued, we will move the board and all other authorities that may consider this election, to declare null and void, the election held in the city of Louisville on the Seventh day of November 1899.

"1st, Because of the usurpation of William Bradley in calling out and illegally using the militia and overawing and intimidating the voters and officers and the unlawful usurpation of power by the militia, and the interference with the progress of said election and with the duties of the officers of said election.

"2nd, Because S. B. Toney unlawfully usurped power in requesting said William Bradley to call out the militia for said purpose, when said call was entirely unnecessary and the civil authorities were able and willing to execute any order made by said court.

"3rd, Because said militia was used for the purpose of intimidating the voters and officers of said election.

"4th, Because said election was not a civil election, but a military election.

"5th, Because the said use of the said militia was unlawful in every respect and a criminal usurpation of power by said Bradley and the militia, and the civil power was subordinated to the military power, and an overt act of a treasonable nature against the constitution of the state of Kentucky was committed."

This action had been expected ever since the official count began. It was freely reported on election day that if the militia was called out it would result in some such step.

This dispute will prolong and aggravate the fight, for the republicans will make every effort in their power to retain Taylor's plurality.

Burford S. Williams, Coleman Carr and Wingate Thompson, democratic election officers of Franklin county, were today indicted by the Federal grand jury on charges of conspiracy and intimidation against colored voters.

Frankfort, Ky., November 17.—The proposition today from Goebel's lawyers to throw out the entire vote of Jefferson county, which includes Louisville, was not wholly unlooked for by the republican leaders. It is now said Senator Deboe's visit here last night was for the purpose of ascertaining definitely to what extent Governor Bradley will support Taylor in the event that Goebel is given the certificate of election, based on this proceeding.

Senator Deboe and Governor Bradley are not on speaking terms and a third party acted as a "go between."

Deboe says he is satisfied Bradley will stand by Taylor and will vigorously resist Goebel's action.

Deboe is asked to act as one of the attorneys for the anti-Goebel side before the state election commission.

The republicans have found a precedent established by the state election commission last year, in which the board by a unanimous vote, decided it was election, based on the count, and had no power to pass on contests. This was the case of McCreel Williams, democrat, who filed a contest for the certificate of election as congressman in the Ninth district on the ground that the election was illegal.

For Congressman Pugh, in several counties. The board declined to hear the contest, on the ground of lack of jurisdiction and awarded the certificate of election to Pugh on the face of the returns.

The lawyers now claim that under this decision the vote of Johnson and Knox counties, at least must be counted as certified. They have not given an opinion as to the bearing of this ruling on the Jefferson county case.

If Jefferson county is thrown out the political complexion of the legislature will be affected, as one senator and seven representatives will have to be elected under a special election called by the governor.

Louisville, Ky., November 17.—The official count was received today from Floyd and Knott counties. Floyd gives Goebel 156 and Knott gives him 459 plurality.

In the last tabulated returns, printed Wednesday morning, the plurality in sources, Goebel's plurality in the state was figured at one vote. In this battle Floyd (unofficial) gave Goebel 400 plurality and Knott 439 plurality. The official returns from these two counties show a net loss of 224 from the unofficial count.

HOBART RALLIES. Paterson, N. J., November 17.—Vice President Hobart retired tonight feeling much better than yesterday, and Dr. Newton said there is every prospect that the patient will pass a favorable night. His condition this morning is unfavorable, but the marked improvement tonight has again raised the hopes of the members of the family. Dr. Newton said tonight that notwithstanding the cheerfulness of the patient and the increased hopes of the family, the attending physicians felt the same anxiety for the patient that they did three weeks ago.

A BRYAN AND SCHLEY BOOM. LaPorte, Ind., November 17.—Hon. James Murdock, of LaFayette, one of the best known democrats in the state, says in an interview that the sentiment of the Indiana democrats is favorable to the nomination of Admiral Schley as vice president on a ticket with Bryan.

Mr. Murdock is credited with being a candidate for the democratic state central committee chairmanship, and is also spoken of for national committee membership from Indiana, and his utterance is accepted as a significant movement to start a Bryan and Schley boom in the state.

EVANGELIST MOODY ILL. Stricken With Heart Affection and Taken to His Home.

Kansas City, Mo., November 17.—Dwight L. Moody, the evangelist, who has been preaching here to thousands nightly in Convention hall, was stricken with heart trouble today. His engagement was cut short and tonight he is en route or his home at Northfield, Mass., in the care of Dr. Schaffner, of this city, and Mr. G. M. Vining, the teller of the Union national bank. They are traveling in a special car provided by the committee of churches who brought Mr. Moody to Kansas City.

It is admitted that Mr. Moody's condition is serious, though when the evangelist was seen at his hotel shortly before he left, he expressed the belief that his condition was not serious. He stated that he was feeling very weak and added: "I have had trouble with my heart for a good many years, but I never felt so weak as I do now. There is nothing alarming about my condition, I believe."

The reports as to the seriousness of Mr. Moody's condition are conflicting. Several of his intimate friends stated tonight that, while his condition was serious, it was not critical. These friends, however, reluctantly admitted that they believe his career as a great public speaker, was nearing the end.

Dr. Schaffner said in his opinion the evangelist's condition was not essentially worse than for some time past, and that he was simply exhausted by his recent exertions before the big crowds that have been gathering to hear him. Dr. Schaffner added, however, that Mr. Moody must have quiet and rest.

THE GEORGIA FRANCHISE BILL. Macon, Ga., November 17.—Bishop H. M. Turner, of the African M. E. church, delivered a sensational address this morning to the Georgia conference of the African Methodist church.

He urged every possible opposition by Georgia negroes to the Howard bill to limit the suffrage now before the legislature. He said he proposed taking the stump himself and implored every minister to do likewise. He said the law would reduce every negro to the ignominious status of a first class convict.

He said the conditions would be worse than before the war. It would outlaw every black man and woman. He said the author was merely seeking notoriety and was backed by the "poor white" element.

Not one negro in thirty ever thinks of voting," the bishop declared. "They do not sell their votes. Three votes are sold for every negro ballot purchased."

The bishop denounced the supreme court of the United States for taking away the negroes' civil rights, and excepted Justice Harlan, who was the negroes' friend. He said the negroes had no army, but that the God of nations was on their side.

He urged that every minister assist in getting signatures to the petition for an appropriation of \$105,000,000 to be used in sending 7,000,000 of the race to Africa, so that there would be an end of race conflicts in this country. He said the legislature would have to fight the negro of Georgia on his knees, as a supplicant, to get the right of suffrage.

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LETTER FROM MR. HYDE

REGARDING THE LEAKAGE AS TO THE COTTON CROP REPORT.

THE DEPARTMENT NOT AT FAULT

The Report Given to Eight Telegraph Companies—Western Union Admits Its Culpability in Delay in Transmission to New York Exchange—The Postal Office at Washington Gives It to Other Persons When Not Called For By Exchange Operator After Notice.

New York, November 17.—The board of managers of the New York cotton exchange is investigating the reports that persons interested in the cotton exchanges have received advance information from the government's latest estimate of the cotton crop. Superintendent King, of the exchange, today made public a letter from John Hyde, statistician of the department of agriculture at Washington dated November 16th, in which he says:

"I replied at once to your telegram of the 14th instant, to the effect that the supplementary statement issued that day with regard to the cotton crop was given to the two telegraph companies at 11:55 o'clock a. m. I might have added that they were informed of its coming at least an hour in advance. If, therefore, it did not reach the cotton exchange until 2:45 o'clock p. m., nearly three hours had elapsed between its being given to the telegraph companies and its reaching your office, and nearly four hours between the telegraph companies being informed that the statement was to be made and such delivery."

"The reason for making the statement as found, as stated in the circular itself, in the fact that the department's preliminary estimates have frequently been shown to be in error, and it was desired that it should be properly understood that the department fully recognizes this fact, and was taking every precaution against its recurrence. Had the department contented itself with letting the statement appear in the course of a few days, in its printed report it might either have failed to attract attention or have given some persons an advantage over others, by reason of the fact that the printed report is issued in so large an edition that its distribution extends over several days. By handing it, therefore, to the Western Union and Postal Telegraph Companies, it was expected that the most prompt and general publicity would be given to it through cotton exchanges."

"The two companies were notified not later than 11 o'clock that a statement would be given to them, and at 11:55 o'clock their representatives were in possession of it."

The local manager of the Western Union informs the department that the transmission of the statement was delayed by an oversight which seems to have been in the nature of a misunderstanding between two operators, while the Postal Telegraph Company states that they asked their operator at the New York cotton exchange if he wanted it and receiving no answer they gave it out elsewhere.

"The department does not take 9,000,000 bales as the possible maximum, as some of its critics have charged. It merely states that while present indications do not exceed those figures, yet in view of the experience of the past the crop may turn out to be as large as 9,500,000 bales."

"In view of the failure of the statement of Tuesday to reach you promptly, I certainly will advise you in future when any statement is to be issued aside from the regular statement on the 10th of the month and the printed statement which follows it, but in handling Tuesday's statement, I am sure that the two rival companies whose service on the 10th of the month is usually so satisfactory it was certainly felt that everything was done to insure prompt and general publication of the statement to every one interested."

The cotton exchange has received a report from the Washington branch of the Western Union Company, which practically assumes responsibility for the delay in sending out the statement. The cotton exchange manager of the Postal Telegraph Company, denies that their representative at Washington inquired whether the report was wanted at this end. The telegraph companies, it is believed, are conducting examinations on their own account.

THE VACCINATION CASES.

Americus, Ga., November 17.—The cases of the Christian Scientists who refused to be vaccinated, were settled today, so far as the mayor's court can settle them, by the sentencing of E. J. McMath to imprisonment at the city hall for thirty days and a fine of \$15.

Five ladies of the congregation were sentenced to fifteen days' confinement at some place to be designated by the chief of police and to pay a fine of \$3 each. The same sentences of fine and imprisonment will be assessed against such other members of the congregation as may refuse to obey the vaccination ordinance.

Mr. McMath is a leading merchant of Americus and the ladies involved belong to the best families in the city. Counsel has been employed to represent the Christian Scientists and their cases will be carried to the superior court and will ultimately be carried to the supreme court of the state, if necessary. The cases have caused a great deal of talk throughout this immediate section, and there has been no small amount of feeling aroused by the vigorous enforcement of the law.

VIRGINIA BAPTISTS.

Richmond, Va., November 17.—The Baptist general association of Virginia convened here tonight. Dr. A. S. Owen, of Berkeley, as president, called the body to order, and 450 delegates answered the roll call. At least fifty more are expected. There will be two sessions a day, the convention extending through to Monday.

TWENTY BUILDINGS BURNED.

Magnolia, Ark., November 17.—After a hard fight by the citizens the cotton compress and warehouse, in which were stored 8,000 bales of cotton, and which was seriously threatened by fire last night, was saved. Twenty stores and buildings were destroyed, entailing a loss of \$75,000. The amount of insurance and the cause of the fire is not known.

INSURGENTS MASSING.

Preparing for Making Raids—MacArthur Starts After Aguinaldo—Letter From a Prisoner.

Manila, November 17.—Generals MacArthur's and Lawton's commands are now near each other. General MacArthur is getting supplies in Talarac over the railroad from Bamban with an engine which was raised from the river by the Ninth Infantry. Colonel Howes, who occupied Victoria with six troops of the Third cavalry, has advanced to Rosales.