

The News and Observer.

LEADS ALL NORTH CAROLINA DAILIES IN NEWS AND CIRCULATION.

ROAR AS OF BATTLE NEAR STORMBERG

Gatacre Supposed to be Engaging the Boers.

A BRUSH AT KIMBERLY

THE DAILY BOMBARDMENT OF LADYSMITH CONTINUES.

BOERS CAPTURE 2 FORTS, THEY REPORT

Baden-Powell tells Boers That Our Government Has Warned Others That She Will Side With England if They Interfere.

Cape Town, Dec. 28.—(Thursday)—A dispatch from Cradock reports heavy firing in the direction of Stormberg. It is supposed this is connected with General Gatacre's attempt to reopen communication with the Indwe colliers.

THE LINE WORKING.
London, Dec. 29.—The War Office has received the following dispatch:

Cape Town, Dec. 28.—(Thursday)—The Indwe Collier line is now working again.

London, Dec. 29.—A War Office dispatch from Colonel Baden-Powell dated December 12th, after announcing that the text of Colonel Baden-Powell's and well at Mafeking, adds that the bombardment and musketry fire continued daily on all sides and that the health and spirits of the garrison are very satisfactory.

The text of Colonel Baden-Powell's proclamation to the burghers besieging Mafeking, the gist of which has already been called, comes from Lourenzo Marques, today. After asserting that the Republics cannot hope for foreign intervention and pretending to relate the exact attitude of all the European powers, including Emperor William who the Colonel said, "fully sympathizes with England," Baden-Powell's makes the extraordinary statement that "the American Government has warned the others of her intention to side with England should any of them interfere."

TRAINS RUNNING TO COLENSO.

Pretoria, Dec. 25.—(Monday).—General Schalk-Burger reports under date of December 23rd, that trains are now running to Colenso, indicating that the Boers have built a connection around Ladysmith.

General Cronje reports from the Modder River, December 24th, that the Boers captured two British forts at Kuruman December 17th.

The Transvaal Government has promulgated a new gold tax law, by which individuals and companies working their own mines are taxed thirty per cent of the output while mines worked by the Government will pay fifty per cent. Suspended mines will pay 30 per cent on their probable output, calculated on three months' workings. Reducing works will pay thirty per cent of their net profits. The law is retroactive to October 11th.

ASTOR'S CONTRIBUTION.

London, Dec. 29.—William Waldorf Astor has subscribed 1,000 pounds sterling to the Buckinghamshire fund to equip the county's contingent of Yeomanry.

BRITISH REPULSE REPORTED.

Pretoria, Dec. 26.—(Tuesday).—By way of Lourenzo Marques, Dec. 28.—(Thursday).—Commandant Synnau reports as follows from Molopo:

"On Monday morning the enemy from Mafeking attacked one of our forts in force, with cannon, Maxim and an armored train, and so persistently that there was fighting right on the walls of the fort. But we have retained our fort. The British loss is reported as 55."

"The other commandos report: 'All quiet,' with the exception of the usual bombardment of Ladysmith.

BOERS DEFEAT THE KAFFIRS.

Pretoria, Dec. 26.—(Tuesday).—Via Lourenzo Marques, Thursday, Dec. 28.—(Thursday).—Commandant Swart reports from the laager at Alowyn's Kop near Zorust, that he had an engagement on Friday, December 22nd, with Kaffirs in the neighborhood of Dedeepoort. The Kaffirs occupied a strongly fortified ridge and were well prepared for emergencies. After heavy fighting the burghers captured the Kaffir position, losing three killed and five wounded.

STILL SHELLING LADYSMITH.

Pietermaritzburg, Dec. 27.—(Wednesday).—A dispatch from Ladysmith, dated December 22nd, says:

"The Boers have mounted another Howitzer on Surprise Hill, replacing the gun captured in the sortie of the Rifle brigade. While they watch us nightly with a searchlight and bombard the place daily, they show no signs of assaulting the town. They probably think they can starve us out, but we have plenty of provisions. The total casualties since the siege began are 70 men killed and 235 wounded."

BRITISH RECONNOITRE.

Kimberley, Dec. 22.—(Friday).—via Modder River, Dec. 27.—(Wednesday).—Before dawn today a detachment of the mounted forces with artillery and light infantry, moved out in a westerly direction. The Boer artillery from Kamperdam opened fire at Otto's Kopje, Kimberley fort replying with twenty shells.

The British force reconnoitered outposts along Lazaretto Ridge, the Boer patrols retreating.

Having accomplished this and having discovered the Boer reinforcements approaching from Wimbledon Ridge, Colonel Chamier, with the Royal artillery, exchanged a dozen shells as soon as the guns could be limbered up. Some 500 Boers poured in a heavy fire from their earthworks, the British finally retiring with the loss of one horse.

The movement showed that the Boers were still keeping their guns in the vicinity of Kimberley, and are able to summon reinforcements rapidly. It also showed their proneness to vacate a position immediately when weaker than the opposing force.

THE BOERS KEPT INFORMED.

London, Dec. 30.—(Saturday).—The Times has a dispatch from Lourenzo Marques, dated December 28, which says:

"The suspicion that the Boer Intelligence department is in close touch with a foreign consulate in Pretoria, is confirmed by the fact that the news of the appointment of Lord Roberts as commander-in-chief in South Africa was generally known in Pretoria on December 20th, indirectly reaching Delagoa Bay from the Transvaal two days later. Suspicion rests upon a consul who is notorious for his Boer sympathies. There is reason to believe that Pretoria is kept well informed with regard to British military movements.

"With reference to the rumors of smuggling contraband, it is significant that Major Trasmus, of the Free State artillery is here, his arrival being coincident with that of the French liner. Considering the freedom with which the Transvaal secret service fund is spent considerable mischief may be done unless cargoes are inspected by British searchers, who understand foreign bills of lading."

THE BOER'S NERVOUSNESS.

London, Dec. 30.—(Saturday).—The Modder River correspondent of the Times referring to the scare-firing of the Boers, says:

"Their nervousness causes much amusement among the British. It is quite certain that half the Boer force is employed watching by day and the other half by night. Probably the consequent weariness, with the scarcity of water and the presence of typhoid, will render the Boer position intolerable. Their present action is due rather to a scare or to a wish to cover a retirement of Spytfontein."

COLONIALS WITH THE BOERS.

London, Dec. 30.—(Saturday).—The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily News says:

"A large resident of Vryburg who was released by the Boers, saw 2,000 colonials from Griqualand West. He says colonial faces are to be seen everywhere in the Boer ranks."

SCARCITY OF WATER.

London, Dec. 30.—(Saturday).—The Times publishes the following dispatch from Chieveley Camp, dated December 24th:

"Parties of Boers approached today within three miles of Chieveley Camp, threatening our watering parties, who are compelled to go some two miles, owing to the scarcity of water.

"It is reported that the Ladysmith garrison made a sortie on Thursday and captured a hill."

SHELLS DOING DEADLY WORK.

Ladysmith, Dec. 24.—(Sunday).—Via Pietermaritzburg.—General White has had a slight attack of fever, but he is now convalescent.

The Boer shell fire has been very damaging recently. On Friday one shell killed six men and wounded one. The same missile killed 14 horses. Another just missed the Fifth Lancers' lines, slightly wounding six officers. Several shells have fallen close to General White's house, compelling the removal of headquarters to another point.

It is reported that General Joubert is again in command of the Boers here. The military authorities appear confident, but they are very reticent.

Boers have been observed moving northward and westward in large numbers.

IMPORTANT MOVE IMMINENT.

Will Buller Attempt Now to Retrieve His Defeat?

London, Dec. 30.—(Saturday).—5 A. M. —The latest special dispatches from Chieveley Camp hint hardly at some important movement as imminent. This is interpreted, with some misgivings, to mean that General Buller contemplates a renewal of his attempt to relieve Ladysmith. It is reported by the same dispatches that the Boers have now retired to the north bank of the Tugela, being afraid that the swollen river may bar their retreat. They are also moving their laagers nearer Ladysmith, probably with the intention of putting further pressure on the garrison which now seems to be suffering pretty heavily from the bombardment. It is difficult however, to conceive that General Buller would make another frontal attack, especially now that the river is rising, and an additional indication that this is not his purpose is the fact that he has removed his headquarters back to Frere.

The Boer movement northward from the Tugela is quite in keeping with the enemy's usual plan of securing a safe line of retreat. It is known that artillery is due to arrive for General Buller, but the belief here is that his force even then would be too weak. He may however, be animated by a desire to accomplish something before the arrival of Lord Roberts and to satisfy the keenness of his men to retrieve their defeat.

The reported engagement with Kaffirs is very vague and cannot be explained pending the arrival of later dispatches.

IRISH AID FOR BOERS

Secret Meeting of Hibernians in Philadelphia.

\$100,000 to be Raised for a Hospital Ship. A Pro-Boer Mass Meeting to be Held Next Month.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 29.—Over four hundred delegates representing ninety divisions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Philadelphia, with a total membership of 20,000, held a secret meeting in Industrial Hall tonight for the purpose of taking some action with a view of helping the Boers in their war with Great Britain. Alexander McKernan, president of the Philadelphia Union presided. After the meeting had adjourned it was announced that the delegates of all divisions had pledged every member of their respective divisions to contribute \$2.50 toward a fund of \$100,000 to be raised for the purpose of sending a hospital ship to the Boers. It was also announced that strong resolutions of sympathy for the Boers had been adopted, and that the members of the order heartily endorse and will participate in the pro-Boer mass meeting to be held in this city on January 13th under the auspices of the Irish-American Club.

Patrick O'Neill, State President of the Hibernians stated after the meeting that he had received many letters from physicians of different parts of the United States, offering their services on the ship. Many offers of medicines and other supplies, he said, had also come to him. When some of the delegates were asked how they expected to get a ship to the Boers in view of the fact that the latter have no seaport, the delegates gave an evasive answer, and refused to talk about that part of the project.

THE CRUISER'S MISSION.

To Establish a Coaling Station in Liberia, it is Thought.

London, Dec. 29.—It has been learned by a representative of The Associated Press that the United States cruiser Montgomery's visit to Liberia is apparently the result of overtures made to Washington by that republic. Though the British Government is in complete ignorance of the purpose of the Montgomery's mission, the establishment of a coaling station in Liberia by the United States is regarded as scarcely probable, as it is asserted no Liberian port has any facilities for coaling, all of them being open and surf bound.

The Associated Press representative learns, however, that a far more important step is under consideration. It consists in a joint request of the United States and Great Britain upon France to define the boundary between the territory she claims and that claimed by Liberia. This step is not yet decided upon, but Great Britain only awaits the United States' assent to become a party to such a request.

It is alleged that France for many years has been encroaching on Liberia, and it was only by the strenuous protest of the United States that she was prevented from appropriating a large slice of Liberia in 1892.

THE NAVAL OFFICIALS MUM.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Although the naval officials will make no official statement respecting the cruise of the Montgomery to West Africa, it is admitted that the ship was there in the early fall, returning to her station at Buenos Ayres about the first of last November. These dates in themselves may be regarded as sufficient to dispel any impression that the cruise was in any manner connected with the war between the British and the Boers. As to the real objects of the cruise, it is believed that the Navy Department had its eye upon a possible coaling station on the West Coast as indicated in the foregoing dispatch. Before and during the Civil War the United States had no less than three coaling stations on that coast. They were practically abandoned when the West African station was dropped from the list, but the chief of the Equipment Bureau, Admiral Bradford, has strongly urged that they be re-established so as to ensure our naval vessels a source of supply of coal when passing from the Eastern Atlantic States around to the Philippines and China, in the event that the Suez Canal should be closed against them. The Liberian Government has always been willing and even anxious that the station on its coast should be kept up, if only as a manifestation of the interest of the United States in the colony it created, and to protect it by our moral influence against European aggression.

Hernandez Revolt Smashed.

Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 29.—(Via Haytien Cable).—The Hernandez revolution can be said to be ended. Hernandez is fleeing with 200 men to the Colombian boundary. The Government troops and the Minister of War, General Pildiro, are back at Caracas.

Lawton Fund Over \$30,000.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Adjutant General Corbin reports today that the contributions to the Lawton Relief Fund to date amount to \$30,525.10, being an increase of about \$4,000 since the last report.

Gold Shipment Today.

New York, Dec. 29.—Heidelberg, Eckelheimer and Company will ship \$1,600,000 gold by tomorrow's steamer. This makes a total for tomorrow so far engaged of \$2,850,000.

VICTIMS OF HATERAS

Wreck of a Schooner Seen Off the Cape.

Her Crew of Ten May be Added to the List of Those Who Perished in Saturday's Storm.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 29.—A special dispatch to the Tribune from Norfolk, Va., says:

"The loss of about ten other men can be added to the already long list sacrificed in Saturday's night's big hurricane, in which twenty-one met death at Hatteras and 15 on an unknown bark in mid-ocean, for they undoubtedly went down in the wreck that was discovered today off Hatteras, the most dangerous point on the Atlantic coast.

"The first news was brought by the British steamship Ashlands, Captain Lewis, which arrived several days overdue from Galveston to Marselles, via Norfolk, for coal. Captain Lewis stated yesterday, when about 25 miles north, one quarter east of Diamond Shoals lightship, off Cape Hatteras, he passed the wreck of a large three masted schooner, and the only things visible above the water were the topmasts. There were no signs of life about the vessel or wreckage floating and the sea was too rough to permit his ship to go near the wreck. The size of the masts indicate a large sailing vessel whose crew was not less than ten men.

"The schooner undoubtedly sunk in Saturday night's storm and being 25 miles from Diamond Shoals which are 18 miles from shore, no distress signals were seen if shown. No shipwrecked sailors could have been landed and the men must have gone down in their ship. "The Ashlands had a rough trip as did the Kaitos, which left Galveston four days ahead and which vessel arrived today."

GERMAN STEAMER AGROUND.

Life Boats Unable to Reach Her Through the Heavy Seas.

London, Dec. 30.—(Saturday).—A large German mail steamer whose name has not yet been ascertained, has gone aground during a terrific gale in East Bay, about a quarter of a mile off Lowestoft, the Southern extremity of Kent.

Heavy seas are breaking over the vessel and the lifeboats are unable to reach her.

It is believed that the grounded steamer is one of the Hamburg-American Liners. It is reported that the position of the liner is very serious. Tugs and lifeboats were urgently requisitioned from Dover and Folkestone, but they had the utmost difficulty in getting off, owing to the gale.

VESSEL UNKNOWN HERE.

New York, Dec. 29.—Examinations of the sailing schedules and the maritime register show no vessels of either the Hamburg-American nor North German Lloyd lines near Dungeness. It is almost impossible to conceive how a steamer of either line could have been near the spot indicated in the cables unless the departure of a vessel from Hamburg or Bremen was a variation from the advertised schedules.

Cable dispatches for four days back do not reveal that any liner of the two companies has sailed from Hamburg or Bremen outward bound.

DEATH OF A DESPERADO.

An Escaped Murderer Killed Fiercely Resisting Arrest.

Bronson, Fla., Dec. 29.—W. B. Williams, the condemned murderer, who escaped from jail last June was captured near his home in this vicinity early this morning.

Williams resisted desperately. He shot Deputy Sheriff Walker in the side, and John Dean, another deputy, was shot in the hand. Dean finally shot Williams in the abdomen, inflicting a mortal wound.

Sheriff Sutton left at once for the scene and brought Williams' body here tonight. It is not thought Walker's wound will prove fatal.

THE FILIPINOS OUTWIT HARE.

Prisoners He Sought to Rescue Have Doubtless Been Separated.

Manila, Dec. 29.—10:10 p. m.—The insurgents who evacuated the coast towns between Dagupan and Vigan, fleeing to the mountains before the advancing Americans are returning in small bands to the towns the Americans do not occupy, terrorizing the natives and Chinamen who showed friendship for the Americans. The natives and Chinese are seeking the protection of the American garrisons.

Colonel Wessell's cavalry, while scouting in the vicinity of Trinidad, found evidence of Filipino soldiers being in that vicinity but it was impossible to bring about an engagement.

The recent increase in the garrison of Nampacan, against a threatened rebel attack on Christmas Day, averted trouble.

Colonel Luther R. Hare, of the Thirty-third infantry who has been following a party of American prisoners, lost track for three days, about December 20th, of such signs and evidences of their passage that they customarily left behind them. It is thought the prisoners were separated and conveyed to remote parts

of the mountains thus increasing the difficulties of General Young's troops to effect a rescue.

General Wheeler, who was recently in Manila requesting an appointment South in the line of the expected campaign, is now at Panique.

MOUNTAIN STRONGHOLD WAR.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The Adjutant General received a cable message from General Otis this morning, telling of the capture of a mountain stronghold beyond Montalban, northeast of San Mateo, formerly supposed to be impregnable, and the capture of many prisoners and a large quantity of arms and ammunition. The dispatch is as follows: "Manila, December 29th.

"Adjutant General, War Department, Washington:

"Colonel Lockett with regiment; two battalions Forty-sixth (Colonel Schuyler); one Forty-fifth (Colonel Dorst); and Company Twenty-seventh infantry, two guns, Captain Van Dusen, attacked enemy six hundred strong on mountain stronghold beyond Montalban, northeast San Mateo. Large number killed and wounded, twenty-four taken prisoners. Lockett captured one cannon; forty rifles, 20,000 rounds ammunition; five hundred pounds powder; arsenal, fortifications; all food supplies and considerable other property. This captured point located on mountain trail and formerly supposed to be impregnable. Our casualties Lieutenant Enslow, Eleventh cavalry and five enlisted men wounded, mostly slight. Private Matson, Forty-fifth infantry drowned. "OTIS."

Question of Precedence Settled.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The program for the President's new year reception, issued today, is accepted as settling all questions of precedence at official receptions of the three branches of the military service, the army, the navy and the marine corps. According to the program the departments rank in the order named, thus adhering to the custom established many years ago of placing them in line according to seniority of organization. If Major General Miles, the head of the army and Admiral Dewey, the head of the navy, pay their respects to the President, as commanders-in-chief of the army and navy on New Year's day, they will take their places in line in the order named, one at the head of the military branch and the other at the head of the naval.

The Lee Memorial Ball.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The management of the Lee memorial reception, ball and banquet to be given in the National Rifles armory hall January 12th, 1900, to aid in the erection of a monument to General Robert E. Lee, called upon the Secretary of War today and requested the use of the national colors with which to decorate the hall on that evening.

Application was also made for the permission of General Fitzhugh Lee to attend this function, and the reply was made, that should the General desire to come; and in the opinion of himself and General Wood the public welfare would permit his absence at that time, the department would consider an application for his visit to the national capital on that occasion.

The Cabinet Discuss Alaska.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Much of the time of today's Cabinet meeting was occupied by Secretary Wilson in discussing the agricultural possibilities of Alaska.

It may be decided to increase the number of troops in Alaska on the ground that the constantly increasing population demand additional protection. Reports reaching the Departments indicate that the rush next year to Alaska, especially to Cape Nome, will be large, and more troops will probably be required. It is probable that one or more additional forts will be established, one doubtless at Cape Nome, but none of the details have yet been worked out.

May Coal in Heavy Seas.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The naval board which conducted the trial of the Miller Coaling System has submitted a favorable report to Admiral Bradford, chief of the Equipment Bureau. The board conducted these experiments with the battleship Massachusetts and the Government collier Marcellus, the battleship towing the collier which supplied the former with coal in 800 pound bags by means of the towing lines which made an aerial trolley. The tests were conducted under varying conditions of weather, and in the opinion of the board were eminently successful. In weather as heavy as it was practicable to coal ship under any conditions, the device transported about twenty tons an hour safely.

England's Right Questioned.

Berlin, Dec. 29.—The Neuste Nachrichten questions the right of Great Britain to confiscate gold ingots which are being transported from the Transvaal to Europe. It says it regards the discussion in the English press concerning Delagoa Bay as purely tentative, as Great Britain has given no signs that she will infringe on neutral territory.

A Coloneley For Wales.

London, Dec. 29.—The Prince of Wales has accepted the chief coloneley of the Imperial Yeomanry and has contributed 105 pounds sterling for the use of the organization.

Lord Salisbury Presides.

London, Dec. 29.—Lord Salisbury presided at a meeting of the National Defense committee today.

COUNTER CHARGES BY REPUBLICANS

Reply to the Address of the Goebel Leaders.

DENIED RIGHT TO VOTE

REPUBLICAN ELECTION OFFICERS EJECTED FROM BOOTHS

THE MAYOR OF LOUISVILLE ARRAIGNED

Bradley Defended in Calling Out Troops. Tissue Ballots Said to Have Been Used by Both Parties. Charges of Wholesale Fraud by Democrats.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 29.—The address of the Republican leaders, in reply to the recent address of the Goebel Leaders indorsing the contesting candidates on the Democratic State ticket, was given out tonight. It replies specifically to the Democratic charges of fraud and makes some sensational counter charges. It is signed by Governor Taylor, Chairman Barnett, Senator DeBoe, Congressman Pugh and others including all members of the State Central Committee. It says:

"Hundreds of ballots were thrown out without excuse; many legal voters were denied the right to vote and illegal votes taken. Challengers and inspectors were in many cases denied admission, while in many others they were forcibly ejected from the election booths. "The Mayor of Louisville arrogated to himself the power to issue a proclamation, prohibiting people from assembling at the polls in open defiance of the provisions of the constitution and 248 extra police were appointed and used to intimidate and browbeat the free men of that city. On the afternoon preceding the election 87 election officers, who had been appointed to represent the Republican party, were summarily dismissed and a like number appointed in their places, who could be relied upon to favor the Democratic conspirators. The firemen were turned loose, too, and did assist the police in the intimidation of voters, and in this way at least ten thousand persons who would have voted the Republican ticket were so alarmed that they did not attend the election. In addition, voters were intimidated and many similar frauds perpetrated in Covington, Lexington and other cities of the commonwealth, causing a loss of not less than 6,000 votes to the Republican ticket. In some of the counties actual force was employed and voters were driven from the polls and with a few exceptions frauds were committed in all of them. Every ballot that even bore a finger print, voted for the Republicans, was thrown out in the count. It cannot be doubted that at least forty thousand votes were lost to the Republican party by these unlawful and outrageous tactics. Large sums of money collected from Democratic officials, saloons, pool rooms, gambling houses, breweries and other sources, in and out of the State, were used to corrupt the voters of the State.

"Voters were hired to refrain from voting, to mutilate their ballots, or to vote the Goebel ticket. Whole precincts, that gave Republican majorities, were thrown out and the Goebel Democratic Committees and candidates inaugurated a saturnalia of crime, corruption and force. "But the attempt to fraudulently procure certificates was futile. Nevertheless, the conspirators were unwilling to stay their hands. A meeting of a few Democrats was called, who it was known, would be willing to go to any extremity to accomplish their ends, and these gentlemen advised a contest in order that an excuse might be afforded the candidates for making the same and an opportunity given to procure by fraud the offices which an outraged people had decreed should go to others. Ashamed of their conduct and knowing that some excuse must be made, even to many of their own party, a remarkable address has been promulgated, and for the first time in the one hundred and eight years of the State's existence, there is a contest over the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor."

"The Republican reply defends Governor Bradley in calling out troops, says the charge that tissue ballots were issued is flimsy as like ballots were used in Democratic counties, that the Democrats set the precedent in the use of the injunction and concludes by saying: "The charge of corruption at the hands of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad is only a repetition of a slander worn threabare in the late campaign, and even if true, which is denied, does not involve the Republican party, and was more than offset by the corruption fund collected by the complainants from the sources named in this address. These conspirators have deliberately invaded the liberty of the people, and every fraud had been committed which political ingenuity could devise."

Killed by the Train.

Washington, Dec. 29.—General Otis at Manila cabled the War Department today that First Lieutenant Edward R. Taylor, Twelfth infantry was run over by a train crossing the Agno River near Bautista on the 26th instant and died in a few hours.