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BULLER IN RETREAT.

British Troops Unable to Face Boers at Spion Kop. Fell Back in Good Order. Left 1,500 on the Field, Says a Report From Boer Head. Lame Excuses of the Commander. Catastrophe Likened by London Times to Yorktown Surrender. Fear of Intervention.

Boer Head Laager, Ladysmith, Jan. 25.—6 p. m.—The British dead left on the battlefield yesterday numbered 1,500.

London, Jan. 29.—The following dispatch has been received in London from Pretoria, dated Jan. 25, via Lourenzo Marquez, Jan. 28:

"The government is advised that, after heavy fighting near Spion Kop, some British, on the kop being stormed, hoisted a white flag. One hundred and fifty prisoners. God be thanked, although we also had to give brave and valuable lives."

Gen. Buller's Explanation.

"Spearman's Camp, Jan. 27.—8:10 p. m.—On Jan. 20, Warren drove back the enemy and obtained possession of the southern crest of the high tableland extending from the line of Acton Homes and Honger's Poort to the western Ladysmith hills. From then to Jan. 25 he remained in close contact with the enemy.

"The enemy held a strong position on a range of small kopjes stretching from northwest to southeast across the plateau from Acton Homes through Spion Kop, to the left bank of the Tugela.

"The actual position held was perfectly tenable, but did not lend itself to an advance, as the southern slopes were so steep that Warren could not get an effective artillery position, and water supply was a difficulty.

"On Jan. 23 I assented to his attacking Spion Kop, a large hill, indeed, a mountain, which was evidently the key of the position, but was far more accessible from the north than from the south.

"On the night of Jan. 23 he attacked Spion Kop, but found it very difficult to hold, as its perimeter was too large, and water which he had been led to believe existed in this extraordinary dry season, was found very deficient.

"The crests were held all that day against severe attacks and heavy shell fire. Our men fought with great gallantry. I would especially mention the conduct of the Second Cameronians and the Third King's Rifles, who supported the attack on the mountain from the steepest side, and in each case, fought their way to the top; and the Second Lancashire Fusiliers and Second Middlesex, who magnificently maintained the best traditions of the British army throughout the trying day of Jan. 24; and Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry, who fought throughout the day equally well alongside of them.

"Gen. Woodgate, who was in command at the summit, having been wounded, the officer who succeeded him decided on the night of Jan. 24 to abandon the position, and did so before dawn, Jan. 25.

"I reached Warren's camp at 5 a. m. on Jan. 25, and decided that a second attack upon Spion Kop was useless, and that the enemy's right was too strong to allow me to force it.

"Accordingly I decided to withdraw the force to the south of the Tugela. At 6 a. m., we commenced withdrawing the train, and by 8 a. m. Jan. 27 Warren's force was concentrated south of the Tugela without the loss of a man or a pound of stores.

"The fact that the force could withdraw from actual touch—in some cases the lines were less than a thousand yards apart—with the enemy in the manner it did, is, I think, sufficient evidence of the morale of the troops, and that we were permitted to withdraw our cumbersome ox and mule transports across the river, eighty-five yards broad, with twenty foot banks and a very swift current, unmolested, is, I think, proof that the enemy has been taught to respect our soldiers' fighting powers."

Excuses Regarded as Very Weak.

The Sunday papers issued extras immediately upon the giving out of this dispatch from Gen. Buller. At the service clubs the situation as revealed by Gen. Buller was considered very weak. The absence of water which Sir Charles Warren was "led to believe" existed, and the facts that Spion Kop was "indeed a mountain," and that its "perimeter was too large," are all matters which even Gen. Buller's warmest admirers hold should have been ascertained before he attacked.

One comforting feature of the situation, however, is the fact that Gen. Buller's retirement across the Tugela was accomplished without loss, which puts an end to the unpleasant rumors that were in circulation here and on the continent. The splendid gallantry of the men in capturing Spion Kop is read of with great pride and satisfaction. It is taken as an assurance of the ultimate success of British arms.

The war office does not give any idea of the casualties in taking and holding Spion Kop, but a report from the Boer headquarters near Ladysmith, via Lourenzo Marquez, says that 1,500 British dead were left on the battlefield. This number is thought to include the wounded.

LIKENED TO YORKTOWN.

London Times Says the Catastrophe Is Almost Without Precedent.

London, Jan. 29.—The Times says editorially this morning:

"The most carefully planned and executed movement of the whole campaign has entirely failed, and it can hardly be necessary to dwell upon the extreme probability that we shall learn a little sooner or a little later, of a catastrophe almost without precedent in our military history—a catastrophe, indeed without a parallel except in the surrender at Yorktown.

"We are checked at every point of the campaign. In fact, the campaign is still to begin. We wish we had clearer proofs that even now the government has any adequate comprehension of the situation. The utterances of responsible ministers have done nothing to reassure the country on this point.

"Heavy or light, the thing has to be done, and the government ought to prepare for the immediate dispatch of 50,000 men and to take steps to send yet another 50,000 if these should be needed. The hopeless attempts to carry on the campaign with four widely separated columns, each unequal to its task, must be abandoned for a concentration of force and of purpose."

All the editorials this morning breathe the spirit of calm determination. Not one will allow that any reverse could deter the country from the object it has set itself to attain, whatever the sacrifices which may be involved.

Very frank criticism of the government however, is beginning to be heard, even in quarters that have hitherto refrained. The Daily Mail boldly throws all the blame upon Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Lord Lansdowne, and Lord Wolseley. It points to President Lincoln's dismissal of Simon Cameron from the post of secretary of war as a precedent for "getting rid of incompetent ministers."

The Morning Post dwells upon the danger of further rebellion at the Cape and of possible European complications. It urges that the navy be prepared for "any emergency."

The Standard and other papers reflect the anxiety of the public to learn how much truth there is in the Boer accounts of the fighting at Spion Kop.

Indications that Lord Roberts is preparing plans for an advance across the Orange River come in a dispatch to the daily Chronicle from Sterkstroom, dated Jan. 25, which says that Thebits, an important position near Steynsburg, on the Stormberg-Rosmead line, is now occupied by the British, who are repairing the railway and bridges. The correspondent observes that this will facilitate communication between Gen. Gatacre and Gen. Kelly-Kenny.

FEAR OF INTERVENTION.

All England Is Alarmed Over Buller's Retreat.

London, Jan. 28.—Had London been

struck by a cyclone the people could not be more completely dazed than by Buller's announcement of another retreat. His explanation didn't explain, and in view of his cocksure admonition to his troops less than a week ago that there would be no turning back this time, it is received everywhere with disgust. In effect this is a confession of his inability to relieve the sorely distressed Ladysmith garrison, and the subsequent retreat is more far-reaching, both from a moral and physical standpoint, than all the other reverses combined.

The fall of Ladysmith is now inevitable. With Buller's forces again, and this time permanently disposed of, the Boers will be able to take the British stronghold at pleasure. There is every probability that the Boers will again make an assault. This time, the garrison in a weakened condition, will stand little show to beat off the enemy.

White is near the end of his tether both in the matter of food and ammunition. He may be driven to a last desperate sortie, blowing up his guns and abandoning his sick and wounded, as at Dundee. Another effect even more serious lies in the dangers of continental intervention.

Suggestions of this sort have heretofore been scoffed at in London, but today there are signs from Berlin, Paris, and St. Petersburg which indicate that the wind is surely blowing in that direction. In Berlin, Dr. Ledys, agent of the Boer republics, has become a popular lion, and is the recipient of honors extended only to most favored envoys.

MUST ABANDON LADYSMITH.

Greatest British Effort of the War Has Ended in Dismal Failure.

London, Jan. 29.—It is frankly acknowledged that the most serious effort of the present war has dismally failed.

There is no sign of a wish on the part of the leaders of public opinion to disguise the ugly facts, but, on the contrary, there is every disposition to face the full difficulties and discover the best way out. In short, the policy voiced everywhere is the gathering up of forces for more effective blows. All hopes of the speedy relief of Ladysmith have been abandoned, and the consensus of expert opinion urges the immediate shifting of the theatre of war from the rocky kopjes of Natal to the open veldt of the Free State.

One thing appears certain—another long pause is inevitable unless the Boers assume the offensive, because even in the event of Gen. Buller further attempting to reach Ladysmith the planning of a new move will necessarily occupy time.

Curiously enough there is visible, especially in military circles, an undercurrent of relief at the news that the British are safely south of the Tugela, for the rumors of Saturday had conjured up visions of an immense catastrophe.

22 Officers Killed.

London, Jan. 29.—Gen. Buller wires from Spearman's Camp, Jan. 29th, that the casualties among the officers of the fifth division and mounted brigade at Spion Kop, Jan. 24th, were: Killed, 22; wounded, 20; missing, 6.

To Abandon Ladysmith.

New York, Jan. 29.—A special cablegram from London to the Evening World says:

"It is learned from a reliable source that Field Marshal Lord Roberts has advised the abandonment of Ladysmith. At the war office, the dispatch adds, no confirmation could be obtained of the advice said to have been given by Lord Roberts."

BULLER IN BAD FIX.

Reported That His Retreat Is Out Off. Boer Arsenal Blown Up.

London, Jan. 30.—The Boer arsenal at Johannesburg has been blown up. Buller's column is cut off, if his line of retreat is cut at Chieveley, as reported.

AUGUST FLOWER.

"It is a surprising fact," says Prof. Houton, "that in my travels in all parts of the world, for the last ten years, I have met more people having used Green's August Flower than any other remedy, for dyspepsia, deranged liver and stomach, and for constipation. I find for tourists and salesmen, or for persons filling office positions, whether headaches and general bad feelings from irregular habits exist, that Green's August Flower is a grand remedy. It does not injure the system by frequent use, and is excellent for sour stomachs and indigestion." Sample bottles free at Temple Marston Drug Co.

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LaGRANGE ITEMS.

FREE PRESS BUREAU.
LaGRANGE, Jan. 29, 1900.

Mr. K. E. Sutton is home for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Taylor returned to Hookerton today after a visit to relatives here.

Mr. O. H. Taylor, of Hookerton, took the train for Murphy, N. C., today to engage in the hotel business.

Miss Alice Hines, of Kinsey Seminary, Wilson, returned today from a visit to Mrs. L. J. Joyner, near here.

Miss Bertha Sugg, of Snow Hill, and Miss Eula Rouse, of near here, have returned to the Normal and Industrial College, Greensboro.

Mess. Burch and Pearce are stopping at Hotel Fields and canvassing this community in the interest of the insurance companies represented by them.

President James A. Bryan, of the A. & N. C. R. R., was here last week and has arranged to have a waiting room built for the accommodation of the colored people.

Rev. Mr. McDuffie, of University Station, preached in the Baptist church Sunday morning and evening. This church has called him for this year and he has under consideration the call.

Mess. James A. Bryan and C. E. Foy, of Newbern; Mess. Weil and Pridgen, of Goldsboro, and Sam C. Sugg, of Greene county, met here Friday and went over to Snow Hill in the interest of the Snow Hill and LaGrange railroad. We have not heard the result of the conference.

INSTITUTE ITEMS.

January 29, 1900.

Mrs. J. J. Bryan left Sunday for Kinston.

Miss Alice Hodges, of Kinston, is visiting Miss Nancye Turnage.

Mrs. D. H. Dixon and Mr. Hugh Hollowell, of Hookerton, spent Sunday night at Mrs. M. E. Patrick's.

Miss Lera Bryan and Mr. J. R. Whitfield, of Seven Springs, spent Saturday and Sunday at Mr. J. J. Bryan's.

Mess. Leon Aldridge, of Hookerton, and Claude Aldridge, of Cadez, spent Saturday and Sunday at Mr. S. P. Hardy's.

Mess. Oettinger Bros., of Kinston, presented the M. E. church here with a very nice oak table, for which we return many thanks.

Runaways seem to be the order of the day around here. There were four last week. We are sure some one will have a job of repairing buggies soon.

FEW SMALLPOX FATALITIES.

Concerted Action Overcoming The Disease in North Carolina.

Charlotte, N. C., Jan. 28.—Smallpox is spreading apparently from one end of the State to the other, but the general alarm, which would be excusable under the circumstances, is greatly moderated by the fact that very few fatalities are reported. The disease is prevalent in a very mild form and the concerted action of the State, county and municipal authorities gives promise that it will soon be stamped out.

The worst outbreaks have occurred in Greensboro, Mt. Airy and Salisbury, but the cases are now well in hand. One or two sporadic cases have recently appeared at Wilmington and Charlotte. At one time there were 34 patients in the pest house at Salisbury, but there have been no new cases for two weeks. From 60 to 80 per cent. of all the inhabitants in the infected districts have been vaccinated and in many towns vaccination has been made compulsory.

At North Wilkesboro all public gatherings have been forbidden for 30 days, although not a case has yet developed in that town.

Several towns, including Durham, have quarantined against infected districts, and are rigidly enforcing the law.

The outbreak seems to be confined to the western and central parts of the State, although several cases have occurred in the east. There is much less alarm manifested than was the case during the outbreak of two years ago. About 85 per cent. of the patients so far are colored.

GOEBEL SHOT.

Shot From Ambush as He Entered the Capitol Grounds.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 30.—Senator Goebel was shot from ambush as he entered the capitol grounds this morning. He is seriously wounded, and it is thought he cannot recover.

To Cure a Cold in One Day

Take LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE TABLETS. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Groves' signature is on each box. 25c.

GENERAL NEWS.

Matters of Interest Condensed Into Brief Paragraphs.

Maj. Thos. A. Brander, one of the best-known ex-Confederate officers in Virginia, died at Richmond Sunday.

The police at Quincy, Ill., Saturday night killed two expert safe-blowers, supposed to be from Chicago, and seriously wounded another.

In a tenement house at Cincinnati, Sunday, Charles Bartruff, a tanner, murdered his wife, his son Carl, aged 5, and his daughter, aged 3, and then tried to set fire to the house by overturning the hot stove and piling furniture on it. The skulls of all the victims were crushed with a blunt instrument. Bartruff remained in the burning room until arrested by the police. He suffered from dementia. The boy Carl was an imbecile.

Beck Olsen, the champion wrestler of Europe, known as the "Great Dane," arrived in New York from Bremen Sunday. Olsen is a tremendously big fellow, over six feet high. His neck is so thick and round that it is hard to tell where the neck ends and the head begins. He has come over to wrestle with Ernest Roeder, the American champion, for the world's championship. The conditions are the best two in three falls, straight Greco-Roman style. No holds will be barred. In addition to the championship the match will be for a side bet of \$2,000.

The United States government means to wage a war of extermination against the men in the green goods industry. Instead of decreasing, the number of green goods men is growing larger. The campaign is to be managed by Fourth Assistant Postmaster General J. L. Bristow and W. E. Cochrane, chief of the postoffice inspectors in Washington. Anti-green goods circulars will be put out to counteract the influence of the green goods circulars, and posted up in the various country postoffices. Postmasters everywhere will be instructed to do educational missionary work in this direction. A rough draft of an anti-green goods poster has been prepared for wholesale circulation. The men fighting against the swindlers say that it will be difficult to do much until congress repeals the law under which the "come on" is made equally guilty with the swindler. It will be asked so to do.

STATE NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items In Condensed Form

Cholera is playing havoc with hogs in some portions of Wayne county.

The saw mill of Mr. Will Ellis, at Warrenton, was burned Monday. Loss \$1,200.

There will be one superior court judge elected this year—to fill the place made vacant in the tenth district by the death of Judge Green. No other election of judges will be held.

Mrs. Julian L. Burgess and Mrs. Harriet Sweeney have entered suit against the city of Asheville for the killing of their husbands by a dynamite explosion at the city's quarry last January.

Salisbury Truth-Index: When the western train came in last night there was a scared crew aboard. It had been whispered on the train that Mr. C. L. Shoaf, a flagman, had every symptom of smallpox. So when the train arrived the officers were informed of the condition of affairs and they in turn notified the health officer. Mr. Shoaf went to his home in East Salisbury and the car was quarantined by the health officer. It was ordered fumigated and will be withheld from service until it is released from the custody of the ever watchful health officer.

Uttered His Sentiments Anyhow.

Chicago Tribune.

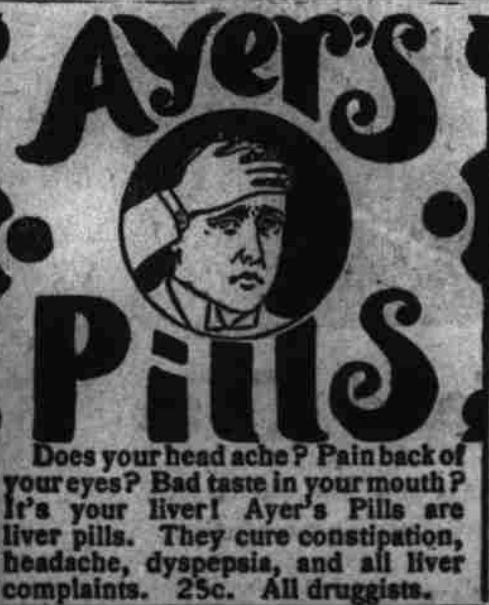
The leader of the brass band was a British sympathizer.

"Any member of this band," he said "who stands up for them barbarous Boers had better keep it to himself. The first man who raises his voice for old Kruger will get his walkin' papers. That's all I've got to say."

Five minutes later the band was playing, and the fierce-eyed old German with the bass horn was shouting defiantly into it: "Oom-Paul! Oom-Paul! Oom-Paul!"

The Best Prescription for Chills

and Fever is a bottle of Groves' Tonic. It is simply iron and quinine in a palatable form. No cure—no pay. Price, 50c.



Ayer's Pills

Does your head ache? Pain back of your eyes? Bad taste in your mouth? It's your liver! Ayer's Pills are liver pills. They cure constipation, headache, dyspepsia, and all liver complaints. 25c. All druggists.

Want your mustache or beard a beautiful brown or rich black? Then use **BUCKINGHAM'S DYE** for the hair, mustache, or beard. It is a perfect dye. It is sold by all druggists.