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ENGLAND IN GLOOM

Disasters in South Africa Produce Deep Depression

BRITISH LOSE PRESTIGE

The Public Begins to Doubt the Capacity of Commanding Generals—Success of the Boers the Military Marvel of the Age—Methuen Resting on His Oars and Buller Drawn into An Exceedingly Difficult Situation.

London, Jan. 27.—With the exception of the day when news of the fall of Ladysmith was hourly expected, the past week has been a period of greater anxiety than any other during the campaign. A momentary feeling of relief was caused by the capture of Spion Kop, but it has given way to anxiety and gloom. To all appearances, the British army, after more than three months of fighting, is in as precarious a position ever it was. Despite the constant pouring in of troops every general in South Africa still wants reinforcements, and it is beyond question that Boer tactics, strategy and mobility have everywhere proved too much for them. The English forces certainly outnumber the Boers at every point, but the successful manner in which the present Boer commanders have managed to conceal their numerical strength by taking advantage of the wonderful mobility of their troops is regarded by European military experts as one of the most extraordinary features of the war. Estimates of their strength range from 50,000 to 100,000, the War Office being understood to put the number at 75,000. Signor Ingani, who has just arrived home from Lorenzo Marquez, says the Boers have any amount of munitions of war, but fodder and foodstuffs are beginning to run low. General Buller's first batch of dispatches, covering operations only up to December 15, published in last evening's Gazette, has done nothing to restore confidence in the commanders. Methuen laments the want of cavalry and horse artillery that prevents him from reaping the fruits of hard-fought battles, and yet he acknowledges the omissions of most ordinary precautions, saying he had not expected any determined resistance at Modder River. Again he says: "All my information was to the effect that Modder and Riet rivers were fordable anywhere, information which proved incorrect."

Methuen apparently did not consider it his duty to discover the character of the country on his route, or the probable disposition of the enemy's forces.

Meanwhile Methuen, with a large force, is doing nothing. French and Gatacre are doing little more, and Buller has been skilfully drawn into a locality composed of a network of mountains no more fit for offensive operations than Switzerland.

Other Dangers to Be Faced.

London, Jan. 27.—Lord Roseberry said the other day at Chatham:

"I suppose the prestige of England was higher at the end of 1898 than at any time since Waterloo, but I am afraid that this war has dispersed a good deal of that sentiment. But if it was ill-founded it is infinitely better it should be dispelled now than, resting on a rotten foundation, it should venture into enterprises which might be still more disastrous."

Unless there is some improvement in South Africa, it is impossible to regard the likelihood that some of England's rivals will be lured into taking the initiative with the view of testing whether her prestige rests on a rotten foundation or not.

Boers Enticed Warren.

London, Jan. 27.—A Berlin dispatch to the Star states that dispatches to German papers from Pretoria say that the Boers enticed Warren at Spion Kop. According to these dispatches the Boers captured seventeen cannon, so that only a hasty retreat across the Tugela will save Buller.

The Westminster Gazette connects this story with Dr. Leyds' recent arrival in Berlin.

Mafeking Reported Relieved

Lorenzo Marquez, Jan. 26.—It is reported from Transvaal sources that Mafeking was relieved January 23.

Casualties at Rensburg.

London, Jan. 27.—The War Office this morning issued a list of casualties. This includes two killed, six severely wounded and four slightly wounded at Rensburg, January 25, and four deaths from disease.

This Was Hot Cannonading.

London, Jan. 27.—A Boer dispatch from Modder Spruit, dated January 23, says:

"Firing in Commandant Botha's position has been so tremendous that the grass has been shivelled up. A ball from a shell landed in Botha's pocket."

Proclamation by Sir Alfred Milner

Cape Town, Jan. 27.—Sir Alfred Milner has issued a proclamation to the effect that the British government will not recognize any forfeiture, fine or encumbrance placed on British property by the Transvaal republic or Orange Free State, subsequent to October 10.

All Cable Dispatches Delayed.

London, Sunday, Jan. 28.—No official or unofficial news in reference to Spion Kop is printed, though the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company announces that there is no delay on the eastern route. All unofficial messages take from one to three days in transmission. The cable company expects that repairs to the western cable will be completed today, and that the new Anglo-African cable will be completed by February 20. There is no confirmation of the reported relief of Mafeking. No one entertains any great hope of the truth of the story. The War Office has no information on the subject.

Turpin's Mission to the Transvaal.

Paris, Jan. 27.—It is stated that an American named Turpin is on his way to the Transvaal to assist the Boers in the manufacture of an explosive which he claims is more powerful than melinite. The explosive is Turpin's own invention.

England Buys Shells in Spain.

Madrid, Jan. 27.—The Imparcial (newspaper) stated today that a factory at Placencia has been supplying munitions to England, and that 60,000 shells have already been delivered. The question was brought up in the chamber today, and Premier Silvela, in reply, said that a contract was signed before the war and the government had not prevented exportation.

French Finds Intrenchments Strong

London, Jan. 27.—The War Office has received the following from General Roberts:

"General French reconnoitered the enemy's position January 25, and found it strongly intrenched at Pietfontein. The situation remains unchanged."

UNCLE RUFUS'S DREAM OF HEAVEN.

ON A TELEPHONE POLE.

Convict Who Murdered a Guard Strung Up in View of the Penitentiary

Canon City, Colo., Jan. 27.—Thomas Reynolds was lynched last night. Reynolds was captured near Florence and was immediately brought to this city. At the edge of town he was met by a large mob, taken from the officers and strung up to a telephone pole in full view of the penitentiary.

Reynolds and thre other convicts murdered Captain Rooney, a guard, and escaped from the penitentiary Monday night. Capital punishment has been abolished in Colorado, and this undoubtedly was one of the reasons that led to the lynching.

Denver, Jan. 27.—A rumor reached Denver this morning that Wagner, another convict implicated in killing Rooney, had been captured and lynched.

LOOKS BLUE FOR DADY

Virtually Out of Court by Judge Speer's Decision

Sworn Answer of Williams Leaves No Ground for His Contention—The Case Held Until Judge Waddill Decides Ryan Suit

Atlanta, Jan. 27.—In the case of Michael Dady of Brooklyn vs. The Seaboard Air Line consolidation with the Georgia & Alabama Railroad, Judge Speer today, in the United States Circuit Court at Macon, rendered a decision denying the right of the complainant to a temporary injunction. The decision is based partly on the fact that a bill is pending before Judge Waddill in the United States Circuit Court at Richmond, to enjoin the same consolidation. Judge Speer held that the Richmond case should be decided before he should proceed further. The case is retained, however, to be finally heard at a later date. Judge Speer, in his opinion, said:

"As to the contention of the complainant to the effect that the voting trust agreement did not authorize consolidation with the Georgia & Alabama Railway, it is sufficient to point out that the defendant Williams, in his sworn answer, states that it is not his purpose to use the powers of said voting trust to bring about such consolidation. Since there is no evidence on record to contradict this answer, which has the effect of evidence under oath, the court must take it as conclusive. Consolidation, then, if attempted, must be made in some other way, and no injunction is properly grantable on this ground.

Dady's attorneys declare that the case will be pressed for a final hearing, especially if there should be any attempted consolidation contrary to the statement in J. Skelton Williams' answer.

Alaskan Boundary Conference

Ottawa, Jan. 27.—Messrs. King and Pittman, the Canadian and United States commissioners to determine the provisional Alaskan boundary, have concluded their preliminary conference. They will proceed to Skagway early in May to mark the boundary on the ground.

FAR AWAY GUAM.

Governor Leary Makes a Report and Calls for a Library.

Washington, Jan. 27.—The Secretary of the Navy has received two reports from Captain Leary, governor of the island of Guam, under date of December 7 and December 9, 1899, respectively, in which he says:

"During the past week the epidemic of typhoid fever ashore seems to be waning, and I am pleased to report that nearly all of our men now in hospital are doing well, and that there have been no deaths in the command since those already reported; but, unfortunately, at this important period the Yosemite's ice machine is again out of commission and the sick are crying for ice.

"Thanksgiving Day service on shore at the Roman Catholic church was a great success and was attended by a larger congregation than has ever before been witnessed on this island.

Every other naval station has a suitable library, while this station has none, not even as much as a single law book, and not wanting this command to be deprived of ordinary facilities for plain, mental, intellectual sustenance while isloated from the world as though encased in an armor of coral and barnacles, I most respectfully renew my request for a suitable library to be sent to this station."

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

Senate Committee Working on the Bill Introduced by Foraker.

Washington, Jan. 27.—The Senate Committee on Puerto Rico today considered and amended the bill for the government of the island, introduced by Senator Foraker. The most important change made was by striking out of the bill the extension of the Constitution of the United States over the island. One of the specific objections was to applying the trial by jury system to the island, which the extension of the constitution would entail, it being the opinion of the committee that that system could not be successfully operated under present conditions there.

Paragraphs extending the customs and internal revenue laws of the United States over Puerto Rico, establishing Federal courts for the island, and providing for its representation in Congress by a delegate, were passed over until the next meeting. This is taken to mean that there is a change of sentiment as to the manner in which the island shall be governed. It is probable that a resolution will be adopted by Congress providing for treating the island as a colony.

Epidemic of Influenza in Italy.

Rome, Jan. 27.—Influenza is epidemic in Italy and Spain, and the Pope has ordered special prayers to be offered up for the cessation of the affliction. There are thirty thousand cases in Italy, but a majority of them are of a mild order. In Barcelona, Spain, there were one hundred and twenty-four deaths from influenza yesterday.

Short Session of the House.

Washington, Jan. 27.—The session of the House today was exceedingly brief and was mainly devoted to eulogies upon the late Congressman Baird of Louisiana. At the conclusion of the speeches, as a further mark of respect, the House adjourned.

Strike of Exposition Workmen

Paris, Jan. 27.—Carpenters employed on the exposition buildings have gone on strike.

ONLY A HIGH PRIVATE

Montague White Does Not Desire Official Recognition

WOULD HINDER HIS PLANS

As a Private Citizen Residing in the United States He Can Do More for the Boer Cause Than He Could as a Diplomatic or Consular Agent—The Extent of British Suzerainty Over the Transvaal Republic.

Washington, Jan. 27.—Montague White, the Transvaal's former agent in London, who is now in Washington, has not made any request to be received by the United States government in an official capacity. Should he ask to be received as a diplomatic agent to this country, the request would not be refused if White presented proper credentials.

A statement, authorized by White, that the suzerainty of Great Britain does not exceed beyond the asserted right to veto treaties made by the Transvaal with foreign countries, coincides with the views of the administration, and there is reason to believe that White understands it. The scope of British suzerainty does not include the appointment of diplomatic or consular officers to conduct the foreign affairs of the Boer republic, that right being claimed and exercised by the government at Pretoria.

According to the understanding of the administration, White does not desire recognition, believing that he can do more good for the Boer cause in America by residing here in a private capacity. The official recognition of White would prevent him, unless he were willing to take chances of giving offence to the United States, from raising money and consulting with Boer sympathizers in this country. He has informally notified the government that he does not desire official recognition, and this is presumed by the authorities concerned to relate to the future as well as the present.

The statement made on unquestionable authority that the visits made by White to President McKinley and Secretary Hay were purely unofficial, and he made no request looking to his recognition at some future date as the Transvaal's diplomatic agent.

The Case Different with Dr. Leyds

Washington, Jan. 27.—Montague White, former Transvaal agent in London, now in Washington unofficially, received a telegram from Dr. Leyds, Transvaal diplomatic agent in Europe, in answer to an inquiry from White as to Leyds' official status. The accuracy of White's statement that Leyds was accredited and fully recognized as minister plenipotentiary of the Transvaal to the continental powers was questioned, and White cabled Leyds for information on the subject. Leyds said that White's statement was correct.

White has made no move to secure official recognition. He is non-committal as to whether he is likely to ask for recognition. It is understood that in an interview with President McKinley yesterday White did not refer to the matter.

WAR VESSELS ASSIST.

Admiral Watson Reports the Part Taken by Navy in Recent Engagements

Washington, Jan. 27.—This dispatch from Admiral Watson was received by Secretary Long today:

"Kobbe's expedition in southeast Luzon, with the Nashville, Helena and Marivales convoying, was a complete success. Sorgosson, Donsol, Pulan, Virac and Legaspi were taken and garrisoned: Legaspi on Tuesday, after a sharp fight, the Nashville co-operating inside of 500 yards. Private Marine Franklin was wounded on board the Nashville. Captain Bradley and five others of the army were wounded, none seriously. Fifty-one dead Filipinos were found in the trenches. Rodgers commends Moore, commanding the Helena; Gilpin, commanding the Marivales; Moale, Cook, Kuenzli, Castleman and Cadet Evans for services rendered during the expedition."

A later dispatch from Admiral Watson was received reporting several deaths among the crews of the war ships.

AFFAIRS IN HAVANA

The Issue Between Ludlow and Nunez —Newspapers Discuss Flag Question

Havana, Jan. 27.—The issue between Civil Governor Nunez and Military Governor Ludlow over an order of Ludlow to the mayor of Havana to submit his budget to him instead of Nunez, has caused some discussion by the newspapers on the subject. La Lucha expresses the hope that General Wood will immediately definitely define the respective authorities of the military and civil governors.

The Patria (newspaper) is much exercised over the reported declaration of the negro leader Quentin Bandera, at Balamo, who is quoted as saying, when objection was made to young men wearing Spanish flags in their buttonholes, that their love and respect still clings to the Spanish flag, because, if serving under any other but their own they would use the African flag. The Patria says there should be no African flag, because it would stand for barbarism. Cubans must look to the Cuban flag because it is the only one that can ever float over the island. It urges all people—Spaniards, Cubans, blacks and whites—to unite under the Cuban flag. flag.

SCOTT OF WEST VIRGINIA

His Right to a Seat in the Senate Argued Before a Committee.

Washington, Jan. 27.—Argument in the protest of John W. McGraw and certain members of the legislature of West Virginia against the right of Senator Scott of West Virginia to a seat in the United States Senate was begun before the Committee on Privileges and Elections of the Senate today. Former Senator Faulkner appeared for Scott. Senator Chandler, a member of the committee, said the object of the committee today was to hear argument by counsel, and then, if the committee believed the taking of testimony to be essential to a just consideration, this would be ordered.

Judge Holt of West Virginia opened for the remonstrants and made a strong argument.

Mr. Faulkner presented the case for Scott. He took up the main point of the contention, whether or not Scott was an inhabitant of West Virginia at the time of his election. He was interrupted by two members of the committee, who said it was not necessary to argue that question. He defied the contestants to point out a single precedent where the United States Senate or any of its committees had unseated a member on the grounds set forth by the contestants.

MURDERED BY MEXICANS

Six Americans Butchered by Order of General Torres—Feeling Runs High Along the Border and Troubles is Threatened.

El Paso, Texas, Jan. 27.—Friends of George Lunt and Charles Burns, reported as having been butchered, with several other Americans, by Mexican General Torres at the recent round up of Yaqui Indians, today made formal application to the American consul at Juarez, Mexico, for a full investigation of the affair. The consul at Juarez notified the State Department and telegraphed the consular agent at Guaymas, Mexico, for a complete report of the affair. Reports received from Naco, Arizona, today confirm the killing of Lunt, Burns and four others. H. J. Corbun, now here from Bisbee, Arizona, says that cowboys and miners in Southern Arizona and New Mexico have organized and are preparing to invade Sonora and avenge the murder. He declares they will fight against Mexican troops for the independence of Sonora. The El Paso Times says that if the reports of the murders prove true, Sonora may say good-bye to the Mexican republic.

Death of Young Phil Armour.

Chicago, Jan. 27.—News was received in Chicago this morning that Philip D. Armour, Jr., died suddenly during the night at his winter home in Santa Barbara, Cal. The cause of his death was congestion of the lungs. The news came as a complete surprise, Mr. Armour having been believed to be in the best of health. He went to California several months ago to be near his father, head of Armour & Company. Mr. Armour was thirty-one years old.

The Jamestown Hard Fast.

Norfolk, Jan. 27.—All attempts to float the Jamestown have been futile. She was lightened considerably today and powerful tugs attempted to haul her off, but failed. She is evidently hard and fast. Extremely low tides have prevailed of late, and until a strong flow comes in it is believed the vessel cannot be floated.

Smallpox All Over Mississippi.

Jackson, Miss, Jan. 27.—The State Board of Health met today. The smallpox situation was declared serious all over the State, and the board recommended compulsory vaccination. The board has no money and cannot supply vaccine points until the legislature makes appropriation.

Illness of Mrs. Platt Is Serious.

Washington, Jan. 27.—The illness of Mrs. Thomas C. Platt has taken such a serious turn that grave fears for her recovery are entertained. Her ailment is chiefly of the heart. Senator Platt is constantly at her bedside, and her physicians admit that her life is in great danger.

Japan's New War Ship Sails for Home

London, Jan. 27.—The Japanese warship Shikessima completed her trials at Portsmouth and sailed for Japan today. She will divest herself of some of her armament and attempt to go through the Suez Canal. She is the biggest vessel that ever tried to do this.

There is some suggestion that the possibilities of complications arising out of the situation in China are responsble for this haste.

Work on Hawaii Bill Completed

Washington, Jan. 27.—The House Committee on Territories today concluded its hearings on the bill creating a territorial form of government for Hawaii, and the bill will be reported to the House next week with some slight amendments.