

BRITISH SUFFER SEVERE REVERSE

Boers Make an Attack on Benson's Rear Guard, British Losses Heavy.

London, Nov. 1.—The Rustenburg column, under Colonel G. Benson, has met with a serious reverse in the southeastern part of the Transvaal in the area of Commandant General Botha's operations. Colonel Benson and eight officers were killed and 13 officers were wounded, besides 38 non-commissioned officers and men killed and 156 wounded.

At an early hour this morning the War Office issued two dispatches from General Kitchener dated Pretoria, November 1, the first of which states that a severe attack was made on the rear guard of Benson's column about twenty miles northeast of Bethel, near Brakenlaagte, during a thick mist. The strength of the enemy is reported to have been 1,000. They rushed two guns with the rear guard, but it is uncertain whether they were able to remove them. I fear our casualties were heavy. Benson was wounded.

The second dispatch contains a report made by Colonel Barter who was sent from the constabulary line Thursday to relieve Colonel Benson when the disaster was first reported. He reached the column early Friday morning without meeting with opposition. He found Colonel Benson had died of his wounds and that Lieutenant Colonel Guinness, one major, three captains and three lieutenants had been killed and three captains and ten lieutenants wounded.

The other casualties were as stated above. Colonel Barter says that the

fighting with the rear guard was of very severe quarters and was maintained with great determination by both sides. The Boers suffered severely, but no reliable estimate of their losses has yet been received. The Boers retired to the east.

General Kitchener adds: "I assume that the two guns were recovered and that the enemy has withdrawn, but there are no further details. I deeply regret the loss of Colonel Benson and the officers and men. In Colonel Benson the service loses a most gallant and capable commander who invariably led his column with marked success and judgment."

General Kitchener's dispatches were issued so late that a majority of the papers had gone to press before they were received. Only two papers print them, and in these the serious announcement contrasts with the enthusiastic description of the home-coming of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, among which it was hastily impressed. Even the Times, which is the latest paper to go press, does not contain the dispatches. It contains an editorial referring to General Kitchener's day dispatch, which begins inopportunistly with the words "The latest report of General Kitchener proves that some of our columns are displaying praiseworthy activity."

The Telegraph is even more unfortunate. It prints a telegram from its Johannesburg correspondent saying: "The rounding up of the dispersed Boers in the southwestern Transvaal shows improved results."

As there is nothing further than General Kitchener's dispatches obtainable it is impossible to indicate whether beyond the killing and wounding of 236 of their enemies the Boers gained any considerable advantage.

The Standard and Daily News, which print the dispatches, evidently regard the heavy British loss as being synonymous with defeat.

College Boy Gets Enough of Circus

Charlotte, N. C., Nov. 1.—A glad prodigal started home from here today. He was Francis M. Rose, Jr., who left for Fairbault, Minn. He is a son of Dr. F. M. Rose, a well known physician of this city and a grandson of Bishop Whipple. A month ago Francis ran away from Amherst College and joined Sells Brothers circus. He remained with the circus as a common laborer until last week, when he left the show and lived the life of a tramp. He arrived in this city last Wednesday night.

Rose appeared at the police station in the early part of the night and begged to be allowed to lie down for a few hours rest. He was put in one of the cells and slept soundly until awakened by the turnkey at 10 p. m. When told that he must leave the sta-

tion he walked to the door, hesitated and then began weeping. "Man, can't you see that I am sick?" said he. "I have been living the life of a dog, haven't a cent, and if you turn me out of here I shall die."

The condition of the young man was so pitiable that the turnkey gave him a night's lodging and sent for the city physician. Rose then revealed his identity and asked that the turnkey telegraph to his father for money. His statement was not credited as he was dressed in cheap, dirty overalls and looked downcast and haggard. The turnkey finally sent a telegram, and he and the rest of the police force were surprised at the reply. Dr. Rose, through the detective agencies of Boston and New York, made a thorough search for his son, but had been unable to find him.

Cuban Press Comment on Maso's Manifesto

Havana, Nov. 1.—The newspapers all comment on the manifesto issued yesterday by General Maso, in which he offers himself as a candidate for the presidency and sets forth his platform.

The Diario de La Marina says it is not the radical, anti-Platt amendment document that it was prophesied it would be, but is prudent, measured and conservative. The only point that needs clearing up is the matter of the payment of the army. Referring to what the manifesto says regarding Cuba's ultimate independence, the paper declares that this is the former autonomist doctrine of evolution.

The Discussion criticizes the manifesto and asks who the autonomists are. It adds that in the matter of paying the army General Maso contradicts him-

self, as he shows that the country is not in a condition to meet these claims.

The Lucha says that with tact and prudence it would have been easy for those who nominated Senor Palma to have assured him of the unanimous support of the island, but these people have not shown tact; and now the passions of the people are excited. The matter, however, might yet be arranged according to the original plan and might perhaps be carried out; otherwise the fight will be hot and furious and may make peace in the islands impossible.

The Union Espanola says that General Maso does not offer the army any more than Senor Palma.

Registration boards were elected today to register voters for fifteen days. This is the first stage of the elections.

Why Koester Fired The First Bullet

Charleston, S. C., Nov. 1.—Friends of George P. Koester, whose appointment as collector of internal revenue is opposed because he took part in a lynching near Columbia, several years ago, made a statement today about the affair. According to this version, Koester, who was a newspaper editor at the time, went with the mob to report the lynching. The negro was chased through swamps and was finally captured and plans were immediately arranged to burn him alive. After being swung to a tree the mob was preparing to burn the captive, when Koester protested at the cruelty and torture. He declared that it should not be done. One of the leaders asked Koester how he could stop it. "Why, I'll shoot him dead first," he is said to have answered. Suiting the action to the word he fired at the dangling form. The mob was wildly excited and was in a bloodthirsty

mood. When he saw that he was powerless to save the negro Koester is said to have fired because he believed it a humane act and would save the black wretch from torture.

Several newspapers have printed stories charging Koester with having fired the first shot at the lynching and no denial was made. The facts as related above were given out today by one of his personal friends.

There has been much opposition to the appointment of the new collector. He was named by Senator McLaurin who is organizing the white Republican party in this state, and many of McLaurin's personal enemies are said to be implicated in the fight against his candidate. Last night a negro congregation held a meeting near Columbia and prepared resolutions urging President Roosevelt to refuse Koester a commission.

Judge Paul Dead
Harrisonburg, Va., Nov. 1.—Judge John Paul, of the United States Court for the Western District of Virginia, died at his home in this place at noon today. His illness covered a period of nearly three months.

Memorial Bridge
Washington, Nov. 1.—The president will recommend in his message that congress make appropriation for the construction of a national memorial bridge spanning the Potomac. The amount of the appropriation will be left to congress.

SISTER REPUBLIC SENDS CONDOLENCE

A Special Envoy Arrives with a Message from Guatemala

Washington, Nov. 1.—Senor Don Jorge Munoz, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, on special mission from Guatemala to the United States, was presented to President Roosevelt this morning. Senor Munoz was the bearer of a message of condolence from the Central American republic to this country in the sorrow and grief caused by the assassination of the late President McKinley.

Other countries have sent messages of sympathy, but Guatemala is the first to send a special envoy to deliver a personal and verbal appreciation of the character of President McKinley and an expression of the sorrow in the country which he represents.

Senor Munoz presented his credentials to President Roosevelt in a letter from Manuel Estrada Cabrera, constitutional president of the republic of Guatemala, to his excellency the President of the United States of America. The Guatemalan president begged for a kind reception of his envoy and in addition expressed his kind wishes for the prosperity and welfare of the nation.

After the reading of the letter the usual speeches incident to the reception of envoys were made.

DRASTIC LAW TO PUNISH TREASON

Manila, Nov. 1.—The Philippine Commission has published a blanket bill prescribing punishment for treason, insurrection, seditious utterances, the formation of political societies, and violations of oaths.

The bill is designed generally to reach all rebel sympathizers, whether active or passive. There are fifteen paragraphs, which cover all possible offenses. Some people criticize the measure as Russifying the Philippines, but unusual conditions here, it is claimed, demand extreme measures.

AROUND THE WORLD AND HOME AGAIN

London, Nov. 1.—The royal yacht Ophir with the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York aboard, arrived in Portsmouth harbor at 3.30 this afternoon. The Duke and Duchess immediately boarded the royal yacht Victoria and Albert. Their children met them at the gangway and were joyfully embraced by their parents. King Edward and Queen Alexandra welcomed the duke and duchess in the cabin of the yacht.

Naval Appointments
Washington, Nov. 1.—The president today nominated the following officers on the navy list: Henry Glass to be

a rear admiral, John Holcombe to be lieutenant commander, Lewis M. Nelson to be a lieutenant, Chester Wells to be a lieutenant, Stephen Graham to be a lieutenant.

Washington Notes

Washington, Nov. 1.—The following postmasters have been appointed: J. L. Hill, at Antic, Carteret county, vice Laney Morris, resigned; Bossie Wilson, at Dinsdale, Polk county, vice J. R. Blanton, resigned.

James W. Sewell, storekeeper and gauger in the Raleigh internal revenue district, has resigned.

The proposition of Dr. D. A. Stanton to lease premises in the Stanton building at High Point for the use of the post office at a rental of \$650 per annum has been accepted for a term of five years.

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