New Bern Daily Journal.

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HAVE ENOUGH.

Many Orange Free State Boers Say They Will Retire.

General Gatacre is Reported in a Fight.

Losses at Ladysmith Have Been Considerable. Churchill Says Kruger Expects to Win. Offers of Aid from India.

Special to Journal.

LONDON Dec. 29.—A dispatch from Lorenzo Marquez says that a curious story is current there which emanated from Boer sources. It is to the effect that Matt Steyn, brother of President Steyn of the Orange Free State and eight hundred Free Staters have definitely refused to continue the war.

Matt Steyn acted as spokesman and the report says that he told President Steyn that as President he was only authorized to intervene in the interest of peace and that the Burghers did not feel bound by his unwarrantable conduct, especially as they ran a risk of the confiscation of their property and that they simply desired to be permitted to farm in peace and that they proposed to immediately return to their farms.

The news comes from Ladysmith from General White that since the beginning of the seige the losses have been 70 killed and 235 wounded.

There was firing at Ladysmith at dusk yesterday. It is believed that the garrison was making a sortie toward Pieter's and had encountered the Boers. Some of the Boer shells from Mount Bulwan were thrown in that direction.

Word is sent from Cape Town today that heavy firing in the direction of Stormberg is reported supposed to be from an engagement between General Gatacre and the Boers. The war office has received a dispatch from General Gatacre that he had reopened communication with the Indine Collieries and it is believed that the heavy firing reported at Stormberg refers to this movement.

The Boers who are threatening General Methuen's position at Modder river opened a hot fire on his men the night of December 26, but, it is said, did no damage.

Dispatches from all parts of South Africa emphasize the great enthusiasm among the troops and the public over the appointment of Roberts of Kandahar and Kitchener of Khartoum. The announcement that the former is to have supreme command and the latter to be chief of staff has largely dispelled the depression in Cape Colony caused by the recent reverses. The soldiers seem to anticipate everything from "Bobs," from success in battle to cheaper beer in camp.

An investigation shows that the reported disaffection among the Dutch in the west districts has been overdrawn. The farmers are mostly land owners and will not risk the loss of farms by a rising against the government.

DURBAN, NATAL, Dec. 28.—Mr. Winston Churchill, on arriving here, after his escape from the Boers, received a tremendous ovation.

He says that from conversations with members of the Transvaal Executive Council at Pretoria he learned that the Boers began the war with trepidation but that President Kruger is now confident Great Britain will soon sue for peace.

In the highest Transvaal circles, Mr. Churchill says, there is serious talk of a compromise, by which Great Britain would cede the territory now occupied by the armies of the two republics, pay an indemnity of £20,000,000 (about $100,000,000) and acknowledge the complete independence of the Transvaal.

LONDON, December 28.—In view of the apparent supineness of the British commanders in preventing the daily strengthening and extending of the Boer positions along the Tugela and Modder rivers, which are now considered to be practically impregnable, many experts are coming to the conclusion that the British have given up the idea of carrying these positions by assault.

The British commanders, it is believed, will await the cavalry required to give their forces the necessary mobility, when they hope to be in a position to hamper the Boers, while General Roberts carries out the original plan of campaign, that of advancing straight north on Bloemfontein.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Officers of service are coming from India princes.

The Nizam of Hyderabad, replying to a toast proposed by Lord Cousins, the Viceroy, at a banquet in Calcutta last evening, said the proudest title he possessed was that of being the Queen's faithful ally, and that his purse, his army and his sword were ever at her disposal.

The Maharajah of Gwalior has placed his division to serve on General Roberts' staff, and has offered to send troops, bullocks and a transport to South Africa.

SLAVE PENSIONS.

Association Chartered With Headquarters in New Bern.

Insurance Companies Coming Back. New Masonic Lodge. Partridge Killing. School Meetings of Importance. A. & M.—Opens Jan. 3d.

Raleigh Dec. 29.—The State chartered the "National or Slave Mutual Reserve, Bounty and Pension Association of the United States in North Carolina." Its headquarters is at Newbern, and Elijah Dudley and others are the incorporators. Its objects are stated to be to care for ex-slaves and to unite in efforts to secure pensions for them.

The commissioner of insurance remarked to say that the indications are that nearly all the insurance companies which left the State when the Craig "domestication" law was enacted will return. He says letters from these companies show they are "softening" in their views.

A new lodge of Masons was organized here last night under a dispensation from Grand Master Noble. It is named Raleigh Lodge, and has 24 charter members, all formerly of W. G. Hill Lodge. Mr. Falson, of the State labor bureau, is master; W. T. Harding, senior warden, and H. C. Butler, junior warden.

Lawyers are here to see Treasurer Worth on behalf of ex-Sheriff Sturgill, of Ashe, who has never paid the taxes due in 1896. The Treasurer has sued him and his bondsmen. He got judgment against Sturgill. The lawyers say the latter will pay. There is also judgment against the sheriff of Harnett.

The slaughter of partridges continues. At Warrenton one man who kills for market brought in 240. Birds are shipped out of the State in all sorts of ways. A great many go to Baltimore. There are orders for birds at every small railroad station.

Raleigh is quite full of teachers, members of the Association of Academies, the Association of Graded School Superintendents and of the executive committee of the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly.

The fifteenth annual session of the City School Superintendents' Association is the best yet held. The Addresses and discussions are of a high order.

The association took supper Wednesday night in the Agricultural and Mechanical College, where addresses were delivered by Dr. Winston, Prof. Noble, Superintendent Graham and Superintendent Mangum. The association was the guest of President Winston.

The full executive committee of the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly met and reports of the year's work were submitted and were very satisfactory. The selection of the place of meeting of the next assembly will be made at the adjourned session.

Twenty seven academies and high schools were represented at the meeting of the State Association. President Horner's address was an excellent one. A speech was made by Prof. Sheppe, of Elizabeth City. There are now 46 institutions in the association, and 100 members.

The Agricultural and Mechanical College here will reopen January 3rd. Already 25 students have passed the entrance examinations at the various county seats and about 25 more have applied for examination at the college, of whom only 15 can be admitted, as there are in all only 40 vacancies in the college. The college was full by the 1st of last November, since when new students have not been received. But dismissals, resignations, withdrawals and other causes have created since then 40 vacancies.

Pauncefote Not Worried.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Lord Pauncefote, the British Ambassador, says that he does not regard the sensational publications concerning the alleged recruiting of men in the United States to invade Canada in the interest of the Boers seriously enough to discuss them. That this is also the view taken by Secretary Hay and other prominent officials. The stories are regarded as yellow journalism pure and simple, which means that nobody believes them.

Will be Against Roberts.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Although the Roberts committee has yet to listen to the legal arguments for and against Roberts—January 9 has been set aside for the purpose—there are good reasons for the belief that the committee has already virtually decided, on the evidence taken, that Roberts is a polygamist, and that Congress should express a rebuke against him, which will also be expressed by a large minority of the House of the country, and may not be in any sense a rebuke.

The Stranded Ariosto.

NORFOLK, VA., Dec. 28.—Three bodies of those who were drowned when the British steamer Ariosto went ashore at Ocracoke have washed ashore. They are those of Neumann, Nixon and an unknown. The bodies have been buried on the shore. The tug Rescue left the Ariosto today. She will go to New York and then to Santiago, where the Ward liner Saratoga, is ashore and in peril.

To Bring Lawton's Body.

MANILA, Dec. 28—The funeral of Gen. Henry W. Lawton will take place here Saturday.

The escort will consist of part of the Fourteenth Infantry, two troops of the Fourth Cavalry and Taylor's Battery. Generals MacArthur, Bates, Schwan and Kobbe and Rear Admiral Watson will be the honorary pallbearers. The custom is for sergeants to be the active pallbearers, but at this funeral General Lawton's staff will act as such.

Chaplain Pierce will conduct services at the wharf. He will also accompany the body on the transport Thomas to the United States. The Thomas will leave Saturday.

COTTON MARKET.

The following quotations were received by J. E. Latham, New Bern, N. C.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close
Jan. cotton	7.39	7.34	7.48	7.34
May. cotton	7.54	7.49	7.59	7.49

CHICAGO MARKETS.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close
WHEAT:—				
May	69¾	69¾	69¾	69¾
CORN:—				
May	32¾	32¾	32¾	32¾
COTTON:—				
March	6.10			6 20
So. Ry Pfd	53¾			54¼
B. R. T.	72¼			72¼
C. & O.	29¾			30¾
Reading				51¾
Cont. Tob. Pref.				85

Receipts at cotton ports were 24,000 bales.