

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June 1846

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The Watchman and Southron.

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THE WAR IN AFRICA.

Further Security Needed for Costs of British Isles.

London Jan. 31, 4 a. m.—It is now known that the cabinet devoted much of its discussions on Saturday to the mobilization of the fleet. Until further security to the home coast has been obtained by naval preparations, the Eight Division shall not be sent to South Africa.

The mobilization of reserve warships, if such a course shall be determined upon, would be of the utmost importance. There is nothing in the intelligence possessed by the public to cause the cabinet prolonged discussion of this matter and the inference is that the fleet may be mobilized as a general warning to other countries to keep their hands off the Transvaal question, or the ministry may have definite knowledge that the neutral powers purpose to take some advantages elsewhere while England is busy in South Africa.

One thing is certain. Ten thousand men, all ready to go to South Africa, are detained for reasons of which the public has no knowledge.

There is talk of 47 militia battalions being embodied. These are all of the militia not previously warned. A sharp lookout is being kept on volunteers for the various South African regiments.

The Daily Chronicle says: "Three suspicious characters were rejected by headquarters in one regiment Monday. Two were unmistakably of Boer origin. The third, whose English was faulty, had been a German officer."

The indications are that the relief of Ladysmith has been abandoned for the present and that a concentration of the British for an invasion of the Free State is in progress. In addition to Gen Kelly Kenny's movement, Gen Brabant, chief of the Cape Colonial, has arrived at Sterksboom.

The natives report that three Boer guns have been removed from Spytfontein to Kimberley. The Boers are apparently making a special effort to reduce the place quickly. The Kimberley garrison was safe last Sunday.

BELIEVE BRITISH ARE WHIPPED.

Berlin, Jan 30.—According to private reports received here the Cape Dutch are still joining the Boer forces.

The German press express the belief that Great Britain has about reached the end of her military resources and would do well to acknowledge defeat and to conclude peace.

The Kreuz Zeitung, which attributes her reverses largely to the absence of compulsory military service, says:

"Among the most interesting results of the South African campaign is the much denied truth that the worth of nations is weighed in war's balance, and England is already in the midst of catastrophe."

The Deutsche Tages Zeitung says it is evident that not only Gen Warren, but Gen Buller's whole force has been defeated on the Tugela. This it calls "the beginning of the end."

Loss Greater Than Any British Force Has Suffered Since 1811.

London, Feb 1 4 a. m.—The supplemental lists of casualties fill two columns in newspaper type in the morning papers, making 1,300 reported thus far in Gen Buller's operations north of the Tugela. The Daily Chronicle estimates that the total exceeds 2,000.

The 40 per cent loss at Spion Kop is greater than any British force ever suffered, except possibly at Albuera, Spain, in 1811.

The admiralty has washed all half pay naval officers to hold themselves in readiness for service. This, with the fact that able seamen, not thoroughly experienced, have been withdrawn from the channel squadron, is taken to indicate the early mobilization of the reserve fleet, especially "A" division.

At a meeting of the army and navy members of the house of commons yesterday a resolution expressing absolute confidence in whatever the government thought necessary commanded only two

votes. Instead of this, a resolution was adopted calling for the immediate formation of a home defense force.

Lord Salisbury has called another cabinet council, which will meet Friday or Saturday to consider the situation.

Public spirits are at very low ebb. When the nation had almost resigned itself to the fall of Ladysmith there comes from all quarters today an indication that Gen Buller will make another attempt to relieve the besieged place.

If the Daily Mail's report of Gen Buller's statement that he hoped to be in Ladysmith within a week could be implicitly relied on, news of further serious fighting would be expected shortly. But the papers are loath to believe what the St James Gazette characterizes as "unwarrantable boasting," if true. Moreover, the war office throws cold water on the dispatch this afternoon by issuing a statement that it has no news confirmatory of such a move as Gen Buller's reported speech indicates. Yet, today's dispatches from Ladysmith and Cape Town give a strong impression that there is something more than a rumor in all these reports. So, while all definite opinion must await further news, it does not seem at all unlikely that another desperate effort will be made to succor Gen White.

The possibility of Gen Buller making another dash appears to depend greatly on the exact position of Gen Lytton's brigade. Beyond the understanding it is on the north side of the Tugela river, everything is a matter of supposition. It will easily be seen that if Gen Lytton still holds the drifts on the north side Gen Buller retains the openings and might attempt another advance by way of Potgieters or some neighboring drift. But the vagueness regarding the position of Gen Lytton resolves all this into the purest surmise.

From the other columns there is not much news of any kind, and it would require something of overwhelming importance to detract from the absorbing interest in Ladysmith's dilemma.

However, there are interesting cable dispatches telling the story of Spion kop. Winston Churchill says that Capt Thornycroft, who replaced the wounded Gen Woodgate, is the hitherto unnamed officer who gave the order to retire, and fully justifies him in so doing. Churchill says the Boer losses were greater than those of the British.

A dispatch from the Associated Press representative at Spiesfontein, dated Thursday, Jan 25, describing the fight and retirement from Spion kop, says:

"We filed down sadly but in perfect order. The King's Royal Rifles' column was struck down at the moment a heliograph message ordering the retirement was handed him. The enemy is holding thanksgiving services tonight. The surgeons, who ascended the hill, were allowed to remove our wounded. The scene at the top was a fearful and terrible witness of the destructiveness of the artillery. All day our stretcher bearers were busy carrying down men."

FOOD FOR SHELLS.

London, Feb 1.—Accounts of the battle of Spion kop continue to filter in. All testify to the terrific Boer fire. Several estimates that the total losses of Gen Buller's turning movement will amount approximately to 1,500. When reinforcements arrived the troops were much cramped on the top of Spion kop. Preparations were made below to secure the position, guns were on the way and engineers had been ordered up to strengthen the entrenchments.

Col Thornycroft was not aware of this when he ordered the retirement, and he actually met the artillery coming up.

Gen Woodgate was wounded about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Even then he protested that he was all right and had to be held down on the stretcher.

It is reported that the Boer commander at first insisted on the release of some Boer prisoners before he would permit the English to collect their wounded.

A curious incident is related of the fighting on Jan 24. One of the Lancasters while firing from the prone position, had his head taken clean off by a shell. To the amazement of his comrades the headless trunk quietly rose, stood upright a few seconds and then fell.

London, Feb 2, 4 30 a. m.—Mr Wyndham's remarkable declaration in the house of commons today that Great Britain will have in a fortnight a total of 213,000 troops in South Africa, with 542 guns, is received with wonderment. All are now there, except about 18,000 that are about. Beyond comparison, this is the largest force Great Britain has ever put into the field. At the end of the Crimean war she had scraped together 80,000 men Wellington at Waterloo had 25,000.

Roughly speaking, only 80,000 men are at the front. Ten thousand others have been lost and 10,000 are shut up at Ladysmith.

Excluding these, there are 70,000

troops who have not yet been in action, in addition to those at sea. Why so many have not yet been engaged is explained by the lack of land transportation and the organization of supplies, to which Lord Roberts'is devoting experience and Lord Kitchener his genius for details. It seems as though the weight of these masses must destroy the equilibrium which now holds the British forces stationary wherever they are in contact with the Boer army.

Lack of transports and organization will not explain adequately, why when generals at the front request reinforcement, they got them in rather small numbers. Knowledge is slowly penetrating to London that large garrisons must be kept in Cape Colony to hold down the Cape Dutch, who, as everyone knows, outnumber the British residents 3 to 2.

The war office this evening completes the list of the British casualties at Spion kop by announcing the names of 215 missing men of various regiments, including 137 members of the Lancashire Fusiliers.

It is generally supposed Gen Buller is maturing another attempt to reach Ladysmith.

A letter appears today from a Hanoverian officer, formerly of the Twenty-second German infantry, but now among the military advisers of the Boers, which says that nearly 10,000 trained European soldiers, including quite 300 officers, are among the Boers. Referring to the military situation at Ladysmith, the officer says:

"Owing to the strength of our position, on a cycle of heights, like Sedan, we cannot be brushed aside except by a relief column outnumbering us two to one."

Owing to the discovery that cotton khaki is insufficient protection for troops sleeping on the South African plains, the government is starting to re-equip the forces in the field with woolen khaki and has already ordered 95,000 suits in Glasgow alone.

Canon Farmer, who was forced to leave Pretoria with other British clergy men, has arrived in London. With reference to Charles E. Maorum, the former United States consul at Pretoria, Canon Farmer said to a representative of the Associated Press:

"Mr Maorum was one of the last men I saw before leaving. I told him he was taking the wrong side and did not understand American feeling. His chief care seemed to be for his personal safety, and I think it was chiefly on that account that he left in the midst of the crisis. He is not a strong man and President Kruger may have taken advantage of this."

"In regard to Blake's so-called volunteers, they are like Mr Blake, mostly burghers who would have been obliged to fight any way. Mr Maorum told me there were 5,000 Americans in the Transvaal, most of whom the United States was glad to get rid of."

Pretoria, Canon Farmer added, was provisioned for two years.

In the absence of exciting war news the nation and the newspapers have had time to discover the utter lack of relation existing between the feeling of the people and the temper of the government, as demonstrated in parliament, where, instead of relieving the grave anxiety of the country by the declaration of measures it is proposed to take in behalf of the national safety, ministers continue to demonstrate their inability to grasp the situation by heating the air with recriminations, self accusatory defense and bickerings as to the degree of responsibility attachable to the respective departments of the government. The disgust, almost despair, noticeable on all sides, is voiced by the ultra ministerial organ, The Globe, which says:

"The heart of the empire seems paralyzed, while its extremities are in full vigor. Thus far only one statesman in the front rank has struck the right note and that is Lord Roseberry."

There will be a total eclipse of the sun May 28th, 1900. According to Prof Bgelow the path of the shadow will begin at sunrise over the Pacific ocean just west of Mexico, extend thence northeast over the Southern States from New Orleans to Norfolk, crossing the middle portions of the North Atlantic ocean to Portugal and terminating near the northern end of the Red Sea at sunset.

A fine new city hall is the latest gift of Charles Broadway Rouse, the blind millionaire of New York, to his native town, Winchester, Va. It will be one of the handsomest structures of its kind in the State. It will cost about \$50,000, of which Mr Rouse gave \$30,000.

The Atlantic Coast Lumber Company has purchased the Georgetown and Western Railroad from Georgetown to Lane, and have also purchased two steamers to ply between Georgetown and New York.

A man at Bridgeport, Conn, looking at the crowd at the station platform to meet Mr Bryan, said: "A man who can get them out like this in January is a dangerous proposition to fool with in November."

MOVEMENT OF BOERS AND OTHER SIGNS

Indicate Another Advance by Buller—Free State Invasion.

London, Feb 3, 4 10 a. m.—Heliograms flashed from Ladysmith three days ago say that the Boer investment lines then were thinning and that the besiegers were moving in force toward the Tugela, indicating that a collision was expected there. This intelligence bears out other signs that Gen Buller purposed a fresh attack.

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