

The Watchman and Southron.

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The British Garrison Captured by Dewet.

Clever Boer Commander Forces Capitulation of Dewetsdorp.

London, Nov 29.—Lord Roberts cables from Johannesburg under date of Wednesday, November 28: "The Dewetsdorp garrison of two guns of the Sixty eighth field battery were detachments of the Gloucestershire regiment, the Highland Light Infantry and Irish Rifles, 400 in all, surrendered at 5 20 p. m., November 23. Our losses were 15 men killed and 42 wounded including Major H. J. Anson and Capt Digby. The enemy is said to be 2,500 strong. Four hundred men were despatched from Edenburg to relieve Dewetsdorp, but they did not succeed in relieving there in time. Koox joined this force and found Dewetsdorp evacuated. Seventy five sick and wounded have been left there. Koox pursued and is reported to have successfully engaged Steyn and Dewet near Vanbank, November 27. They retired west and southwest. Koox's messenger failed to get through, so I have no details."

A THRILL OF ALARM.

London, Nov 30.—The disaster at Dewetsdorp has sent a thrill of alarm through Great Britain. The censorship continues so strict that there is no hope of arriving at a clear conception of the actual position of affairs in South Africa. For instance, independent accounts of the subsequent proceedings and the capture of Dewetsdorp give ample details, not omitting to announce the capture of two Boer wagons and a quantity of loot; but there is not the slightest mention of the surrender of 400 British troops and two guns which were not even disabled, inasmuch as the Boers were unable, to use them against the British relief forces.

The "ubiquitous Dewet" seems again to have gotten away, and so far there is no news that the captured British have been liberated.

Taking into consideration the enigmatical military situation north of the Orange river, the smouldering rebellion in Cape Colony, the rumors that France has promised Mr Kruger to press arbitration on England if he is able to obtain the support of Germany, and that Lord Kitchener after all is not to be given the chief command in South Africa, the British government will meet the new parliament next week at an exceedingly inopportune moment.

No attempt is made to conceal the extreme irritation felt at the adoption of a vote of sympathy with Mr Kruger by the French chamber of deputies. The morning papers are unanimous in declaring that no intervention of any kind will be allowed to change British policy.

HAD SKIRMISH WITH DEWET.

Cape Town, Nov 29.—Col Pilleher had a smart skirmish Tuesday, Nov 27th, with part of Gen Dewet's command, which was annoying, but captured at Dewetsdorp. The Boers retreated, abandoning a portion of the loot and a large number of horses. Former President Steyn and Gen Dewet were in close proximity to the scene of the fighting, but they eluded the British.

Some Apprehension is Felt in England.

London, Nov 28.—While the reports of the condition of Cape Colony are regarded as somewhat unnecessarily alarming there is little disposition to take a too rosy view of the general situation. The constant dispatch to South Africa to reinforce drafts and the daily fights at points wide apart show that the war is not over; and, while the statement that Lord Roberts demands 20,000 fresh troops is incorrect, it is a fact that he has asked for 8,000 men to replace the battalion whose wastage incapacitates them from duty at the front. These reliefs will be dispatched; but they will seriously attenuate the garrisons of the United Kingdom, inasmuch as Lord Roberts insists the troops shall be picked men and have seasoned officers.

MAY RAID THE COLONY.

Edenburg, Orange River Colony,

Saturday, Nov 24.—The Boers are most active between the railroad and Basutoland, south of Ladybrand, Thabanebu and Bloemfontein, Gen Dewet and former President Steyn are near Dewet's drift. It is believed they are preparing for a descent on Cape Colony for recruits and supplies. As a counter move, two battalions of Guards, Grenadiers and First Cold-streams hold all the fords of Orange river from Aliwalnorth to the Orange river station. But small parties of mounted Boers are able to cross the river almost anywhere. The British have great need of more mounted troops. Otherwise the capture of Dewet is hopeless.

To Assassinate Roberts.

London Nov 27.—According to a special edition of The Evening Standard today a plot to assassinate Lord Roberts in which twenty foreigners are concerned, has been discovered. It appears that the conspirators laid a mine which was designed to be blown up Sunday while Lord Roberts was in church at Johannesburg, but the police and Lord Roberts' body guard frustrated the conspiracy. Ten men, mostly Italians, have been arrested.

LORD ROBERTS CONFIRMS STORY.

London, Nov 27.—The war office publishes the following dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated Johannesburg, November 26: "As reports of a plot against my life will probably reach you, I think you should know the facts. It is believed that there was a plot in existence, and five Italians, four Greeks and one Frenchman were arrested November 10 and are now awaiting trial. Their intentions were to explode a mine under St Mary's church during the services held at 11 o'clock on November 18th."

Lord Roberts Returning to Succeed Lord Wolseley.

London, Dec 1, 4 30 a. m.—There is virtually no fresh news from South Africa this morning; but the retirement of Lord Wolseley, the return of Lord Roberts and the appointment of Lord Kitchener to the supreme command, occurring as they do simultaneously, are keenly discussed. Despite some misgivings hearty approval is generally expressed of Lord Kitchener's appointment. It is felt that if any one can clear up matters in South Africa, he is the man; and it is readily admitted that the task before him, though of a different kind, is almost as difficult as that which faced Lord Roberts ten months ago, and is calculated to give the fullest scope to all of Kitchener's talents as an organizer.

The Morning Post hints broadly that the recent demand of Lord Roberts for reinforcements has not been complied with and insists that Lord Kitchener's hands must not be tied by any lack of men or horses. It says: "If reinforcements are withheld or delayed, Lord Kitchener may be paralyzed, with what consequences to the empire no one can foresee. From 30,000 to 50,000 men are required."

All the editorials dwell with considerable emotion on the nation's debt of gratitude to Lord Roberts, who has "successfully piloted us through one of the darkest hours of our history."

From Cape Town comes indications of the uneasiness felt. All military posts throughout Cape Colony are being strengthened. Bloemfontein is now prepared for any possible attack. Extra scouts are out and guards watch the streets in the night time. Mines have been laid along the railway. The garrisons on the Orange river are being increased.

At the same time measures are being taken to assist in the restoration of order and prosperity. The Pretoria correspondent of The Daily Mail announces that "the British are distributing oats and seed potatoes among the surrendered Boer farmers at nominal prices, without which the farms would go to the dogs for another year."

New York, Nov 29.—A smallpox scare which first came to the public notice yesterday when two cases of that disease were reported by the board of health, had spread until at a late hour tonight there were twenty four known cases. The officials refused to say much, but it was learned that the disease is supposed to have started in this city from a negro actor, who belongs to a southern theatrical troupe. He came North a short time ago and boarded in the houses where the cases were found.

Washington, Nov 29.—The National Afro-American council has appointed a committee to see that the validity of the Louisiana constitution of 1898 is tested before the federal supreme court. The opinion of a number of leading lawyers north and south has been obtained respecting the Louisiana and North Carolina laws restricting suffrage, and the supreme court will secure an expression of its opinion respecting these suffrage laws.

England Wants Peace.

Civil Authorities Urged to Open Communication With Boer Commanders.

London, Nov 30.—Tomorrow the Statist will propose that the government should begin negotiations with Commandant General Botha and Gen Dewet to bring the war to a close. As the Boer leaders might misunderstand the motive of an overture from the military authorities it will suggest that the highest civil authority in South Africa should begin negotiations, if not Sir Alfred Milner then the chief justice of Cape Colony, or even Mr Hofmeyr. This great financial journal will lead up to its proposal by an analysis of the situation in South Africa and will say: "We are losing in every way; losing in prestige and losing trade. We are seeing our South African possessions plunged into greater and greater distress and the opinion is gaining ground abroad that we are incapable of bringing the struggle to a satisfactory termination."

Military incompetence will be alleged and the Statist will aver that military hardships should be avoided and the Boers be conciliated.

"If men like Botha and Dewet voluntarily surrender and bind themselves not to act against us in the future," the Statist will say, "is there any good reason why a promise should not be given not to send them out of the country? Mr Robinson suggested that Botha and Dewet should be invited to take seats in the legislative council that will be established. The suggestion is worthy of approval. The Boers should not be excluded, even from the beginning, from anything which can safely be given them."

Will Emperor Receive Kruger?

Berlin, Nov 30.—The semi-official statement that Mr Kruger is coming here is discussed cautiously. It is regarded as premature to predict that Emperor William will receive him. There is no appreciable sign of a public demonstration and some of the papers warn the house to beware of a policy of sentiment, pointing out that Germany is not in a position to change the fate of the Transvaal and deprecating manifestations which likely to clash with the government's policy.

Surplus Gold in Treasury.

Washington, Nov 30.—The largest stock of gold coin and bullion ever held in the United States is now accumulated in the treasury and its branches. The total has been rising steadily during the whole of the present year and the amount is now \$474,108,336, or about \$76,000,000 greater than at the close of 1899. The increase up to June 30, was about \$23,000,000, but since that time has been about \$1,000,000 for July, \$6,000,000 for August, \$10,000,000 for September, \$18,000,000 for October and \$17,000,000 thus far in November.

The gold is not all direct property of the United States, but is held against outstanding gold certificates. The amount of these, less the amount in the treasury and its branches, was \$239,755,809 Wednesday. All the remaining gold, amounting to about \$243,000,000 belongs to the treasury as a part of the reserve fund of \$150,000,000, or the free fund of \$93,000,000 in the general cash. The influx of gold into the treasury comes partly from the new gold from the Klondike and other mines, but its retention is due to the pressure for currency, which leads to the acceptance of gold certificates and other paper money in preference to coin. The treasury has recently been shipping small notes in large quantities to New Orleans and other points upon deposits of gold in the New York sub treasury by the New York reserve agents of the southern banks.

The gold supply of the country on the last day of 1896 was estimated at \$692,937,212. The estimated amount Nov 1, 1900, was \$1,080,027,407, and it is probable that the report for Dec 1 will show at least \$1,100,000,000.

The 50,000 votes cast in the recent general election in this State cost the State of South Carolina in round numbers \$21,000, a little over 40 cents apiece. The expenses of the election—the payment of the commissioners and managers and the advertising bills—exceeded the appropriation by about \$2,000. Comptroller General Derham, in order to meet all these expenses, borrowed the money needed, and all the bills have been paid. Of course the legislature will make the proper appropriation to meet this deficiency. The comptroller was fortunate in securing the loan.

Methodists Meet in Annual Session.

Bishop Hargrove Presiding and Rushing the Work.

Chester, S. C., Nov 28.—The one hundred and fifteenth session of the South Carolina annual conference, Methodist Episcopal church, South, was opened this morning at 9:30 by Bishop R. K. Hargrove, who read the scripture lesson from the twenty fourth psalm, and announced the 733d hymn, which was sung with the vigor for which a Methodist conference is usually noted. The Communion of the Lord's Supper was then celebrated, the bishop being assisted by the Rev Messrs. John O. Wilson, J. B. Wilcox, O. A. Darby and J. B. Campbell.

Rev. E. O. Watson, the secretary of the last session, called the roll and 170 clerical and 22 lay members answered to their names.

E. O. Watson was elected secretary, with W. L. Wait and A. E. Holler as assistants. S. H. Zimmerman was elected statistical secretary, with A. J. Cauthen, Jr., M. B. Kelly, W. C. Kirkland and G. E. Stokes as assistants.

Rev. H. B. Browne presented the nominations for the regular committee, and these were confirmed by the conference.

The bishop called the twentieth question, "Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration?" The names of the supernumerary preachers were called, and those who are present were given an opportunity to say whatever they desired concerning themselves and their work during the past year.

Rev. S. H. Browne and E. B. Loyless having died during the year, their names were referred to the committee on memoirs.

The names of Revs. A. J. Stafford, W. W. Williams and J. E. Carlisle, hitherto effective, were referred, asking for the supernumerary relation.

The names of the supernumerary preachers were called. J. M. Rogers was left effective. R. M. Attaway has died and his name was referred to the committee on memoirs.

R. C. Bouliware, A. W. Attaway, hitherto effective, were referred to the committee, asking for their supernumerary relation.

The presiding elders of the Charleston, Cokesburg, Columbia, Florence, Greenville, Marion, Orangeburg, Rock Hill, Spartanburg and Sumter districts rendered report from their respective districts. These reports are clearly optimistic, and the foundation for this view is manifestly good.

Rev. T. J. Clyde, P. E. of the Sumter district, is the only one whose term expires at this session, and the preachers of his district, through Dr. Clifton, presented him with a handsome gold pen as a memento of their brotherly affection and friendly esteem.

Dr. Clifton was at his best in the delivery of his eulogium in presentation of this pen. The retiring elder was greatly affected by this testimonial from his brethren.

It has been seven years since Bishop Hargrove presided over our conference at the session held in Sumter. He is warmly welcomed to this State upon his second visit to this conference. He is a fine looking gentleman, with such suave manner that he quickly wins the hearts of those over whom he presides.

AMERICAN CRUISER

SUNK AT GUAM.

Ship Had 285 Officers and Men—Many Were Probably on Shore Duty.

New York, Nov 28.—A cable dispatch from Manila received here today reports the sinking of the United States auxiliary cruiser Yosemite in a typhoon at Guam, November 15. Five of the crew were lost.

Washington, Nov 28.—The Yosemite was first commissioned April 13, 1893, she has been stationed at the island of Guam since the days of the Spanish war. She is a 16 knot converted cruiser, of 6,179 tons displacement, and is provided with a main battery of ten 5 inch rapid firing guns and a secondary battery of six 6 pounders and two Colt rifles. She has a compliment of 18 officers and 267 men. Her measurements are 391 feet in length by 48 feet, extreme breadth. She has a mean draft of 20 feet, 1 inch.

Just before the outbreak of the Spanish-American war the vessel was purchased by the navy department, fitted as an auxiliary cruiser, and rendered effective service as one of the patrol fleet, being manned in part by the Michigan naval militia. It is said that her anchorage at Guam was off the harbor of San Luis d'Apra, and that owing to her drift she was obliged to lie six miles off shore. The harbor is a particularly dangerous one, owing to the existence of a rocky shoal in the middle and a particularly crooked channel.

According to the naval register, the Yosemite was manned by 18 officers and 267 men, but in her capacity as station ship not all of these were required, and undoubtedly a part of them were ashore engaged in duties at the naval station. This probably would be true of her commander, Seaton Schroder, who also is governor of Guam, and who probably left the active command of the ship to the ranking lieutenant, Augustus N. Mayer. The other officers accredited to the ship by the register are Lieuts. W. E. Safford, Albert Moritz, B. B. Bierer, Ensigns A. W. Presley, H. L. Collins, A. N. Mitchell and E. T. Evans, Assistant Surgeon F. M. Furlong, Assistant Paymaster P. W. Delano, Captain L. P. Rennolds, and eight warrant officers.

THE TURKS ARE MAD.

New York, Nov 28.—Cable advices say that the Vienna Tageblatt publishes a dispatch from Constantinople to the effect that Turkish council of ministers have held a conference to determine whether or not the sending of the United States battleship Kentucky to Smyrna should be regarded as an act of hostility. According to The Tageblatt's dispatch the home minister urged the severance of diplomatic relations with the United States and even went so far as to threaten war unless the Kentucky should be withdrawn from Turkish waters. The ministers express the belief that the European powers would not permit the United States to attack Turkey and that country, therefore, would be safe in taking a defiant attitude.

TURKISH MINISTER CALLS.

Washington, Nov 28.—Ali Ferrouh Bey, the Turkish minister, here, called on Secretary Hay today relative to the visit of the big battleship Kentucky to Turkish waters. The Kentucky sailed from Naples last Saturday and arrived at the important Turkish port of Smyrna this morning, only a few hours before the minister's visit.

It is understood that the negotiations between Mr. Griscom, our charge at Constantinople, and the Porte, for the settlement of the missionary claims and the question as to Dr. Norton's exequatur as consul at Harpoot are progressing, with indications that a compromise will be arranged.

PORTE SAID TO HAVE SETTLED.

London, Nov 29.—"An imperial trade orders the immediate signature of a contract for the construction of a fast cruiser with the Cramps of Philadelphia," says the Constantinople correspondent of the Daily Chronicle.

"The price agreed upon will give a sufficient surplus to pay the American indemnities. Thus the United States gain an important commercial and diplomatic success."

Emden, Ill., Nov 28.—Four masked men wrecked the Farmers bank of Emden early today. It is stated they secured all the funds of the bank, between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

FLOOD IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Heavy Rains Send Destructive Torrents Down the Rivers.

Pittsburg, Nov 27.—After three days of incessant rain, a flood unprecedented for this season of the year, and quite unexpected in its fury swept down the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers last night. In their mad rush the waters rained hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property, caused the loss of at least three lives, temporarily threw out of employment thousands of workmen by the forced suspension of many industrial establishments lining the banks of both streams and rendered hundreds of families homeless.

The low lands in Pittsburg, Allegheny, South Pittsburg, Sharpsburg and McKeesport are inundated and nearly every plant fronting the two rivers has been forced to shut down. Hundreds of families in these districts have either been driven from their homes or are living in the upper floors and using skiffs. There were many narrow escapes from drowning during the night and several men are reported to the police as missing, besides those known to have been drowned.

TRAIN GOES INTO RIVER.

Bulletin: Beaver, Pa., Nov 27.—Late tonight a Cleveland and Pittsburg flyer went into the Ohio river at this place. Three Cleveland men, Engineer Coubeus, Fireman Allen and express Messenger Casey were killed. Nineteen others are reported dead and the entire train is said to be in the river.

Family Fight in Florida.

Tampa, Fla., Nov 27.—W. J. Bailey, railroad agent at Mango, Fla., shot and killed Paul Huet, a Frenchman, in a duel at that place. Huet was employed by Bailey to do some work on his farm. He was ordered to stop the work on account of its not being satisfactory. Huet became enraged at this and it is alleged threatened to do Bailey violence. Bailey returned to his home for a gun. Huet ran to his home on a similar mission. Mrs. Bailey followed her husband, armed with a pistol. Mrs. Huet followed her husband similarly armed. When the party met both men raised guns. It is alleged, and Bailey shot first, killing Huet instantly. Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Huet were in the meantime fighting with revolvers, Mrs. Huet severely beating Mrs. Bailey over the head and painfully wounding her. After the homicide, Bailey coolly carried his wife home, gave her medical attention, and then telegraphed to the officers to come for him.

Fighting in Luzon.

Manila, Nov. 28.—A detachment of the Third United States infantry was ambushed Saturday near Malolos. The ladrones fired a volley at the Americans, killing two privates of Co. F, and wounding three. The insurgents escaped into a swamp. Numerous insurgent bands have been dispersed and considerable quantities of stores destroyed in the province of Bulacan by Gen Grant's mounted scouts.

General Bates reports the capture of 33 insurgents, six of whom murdered seven persons last spring.

While returning by steamer a detachment of Americans landed at San Vicente and attacked a body of rebels, killing seven. A branch party attacked a band beyond Palestine, killing five and capturing 19. The Americans had no casualties. There has been considerable wire cutting in that district.

The Spanish and Filipino newspapers are urging the commutation of death sentences passed by the military courts.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

London, Nov 28.—The Daily Mail publishes this morning the following alarmist dispatch from Capetown:

"The anti British feeling in Cape Colony is assuming dangerous proportions, owing to the false stories spread of British barbarity in Orange river colony and the Transvaal. Leading men fear that the Dutch congress next week will be the signal for a rising and they demand that martial law be proclaimed throughout the colony."

"The situation is declared to be graver than at any previous period during the war."

Referring editorially to its Cape Town advices, the Daily Mail adopts a most serious tone, asserting that the anti British government accentuated by the withdrawal of troops from Cape Colony and calling for vigorous action by the British government.