

THE WAR.

Up to Saturday last there was nothing special in the war news, beyond the comforting assurance that Ladysmith is safe and able to hold out for some time, and that General Methuen's communications were not cut.

It is plain that the magnificent outburst of patriotism in the united kingdom and throughout the empire, as a result of the recent reverses has had a salutary effect on the continental critics.

An exchange says:—By the New York Tribune the summoning of Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener to lead in the South African campaign is likened to that incident in Persian history wherein the Shah, repulsed in various quarters, sent for Rustem, his Pehliva, to come forth from his retirement and to lead the armies to victory.

Rustem responded to the call, the armies took new heart and victory was accomplished.

The Tribune says:

"The march to Candahar was to save a garrison from capture and massacre. The march to Khartoum was to redeem from barbarous bondage a province that had been fatuously thrown away. The march to Ladysmith, to Kimberly, and to Pretoria itself will be to save the British Empire from dissolution, and to save Great Britain itself from degradation to the rank of a third-rate power.

"That is the mission whereunto the British Pehliva is called. The task and the man are alike worthy of each other; nor can we doubt that the fulfilment of the task will also be worthy of them both.

"The man who could lead a mere handful of troops triumphantly through a million foes three hundred miles along the rugged flanks of the Hindoo Koosh in three weeks' time, can surely lead the British army across the Drakensberg, the Orange, and the Vaal.

"The Empire which, above all others in the world, has stood for progress, for freedom, and for the rights of man, must not be shattered at the very hour when the world has most need of its beneficence."

The Buffalo Commercial says editorially:—The young journalists in continental newspaper offices who are chortling over the "decadence of Britain," and declaring that no power in Europe save the principality of Monaco need henceforth fear England, will not get a rise out of Mr. Bull by idle taunts at this juncture. He is pulling himself together for serious work, which he no longer estimates. But, meanwhile, no European power, from Monaco to Russia, will take any step whatever, based on the assumption that the British navy is a negligible quantity in international complications. The display of British pluck and patriotism is magnificent. The people are one with voice and arm for their Government."

In the defeats (sic) at Glencoe and Ladysmith have not had any unpleasant consequences for England, this is owing to the tranquility which at present prevails throughout the vast British Empire. There can be no doubt that England is not up to the level of a military power of the continent, but its naval superiority has once more been exemplified by the facility with which she transports to South Africa an army of nearly 50,000 men, while holding strong fleets in readiness in all parts of the world. It is to this superiority that the English trust and go on with their business, while a small army protects the mother country and its colonies, or is employed on new conquests.—Fremdenblatt, Vienna.

The manner in which the English nation receives the news from the front should serve as a lesson of the utmost importance to us. A great nation, a mighty empire, which has spread the folds of its royal purple over the four cardinal points of the globe, over all the seas, and in all the continents, suffers defeat from a mere handful of peasants, who are obstructing the civilization work which old Albion is pursuing in Africa. And yet the English nation, whose prestige has never been affected to such an extent from the times of the great Napoleon, has not risen against the Government, has not lost confidence in those at its head, nor has it, by following the advice of demagogues, created difficulties for its statesmen.—Neologos, Athens.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—Lady Randolph Churchill has received a cable despatch from her son, Winston Churchill, who was captured by the Boers in Natal and taken to Pretoria and whose escape from there was announced Dec. 14. He says he has arrived safe at Delagoa Bay.

The Colonial Secretary, Mr. Chamberlain, has cabled Lord Minto the following in regard to the composition of the second Canadian War Contingent:

"LONDON, Dec. 20, '99. With reference to expression, "trained men," the Secretary of State for War, explains that volunteers must be good shots and competent riders, but need not be members of any regular drill force.

Sgd. CHAMBERLAIN."

This Contingent will be 1044 strong. There will be three squadrons of mounted rifles 531 strong, half of which will be taken from the North West Mounted Police, the balance from the best shots and horsemen in Canada. They will have 136 horses.

There will be three battalions of artillery, 513 strong, with 393 horses. The whole force will sail early in January.

The Sun has received the following communication from Woodstock, dated Thursday: "If there is any chance to get in a company leaving St. John for South Africa let me know at once. I am ready and willing to go." Signed Harry D. Baird.

Lieut. John Sutton of St. Mary's, who was formerly a member of the Brighton Engineers, and has had a course at the Royal Military college at Kingston as well as a special course in equitation and a course at the infantry school, Fredericton is likely to go with the contingent.

Latest reports are that Woodstock Field Battery No. 10 will be given an opportunity of contributing from 12 to 20 men. Among those who have signified their intention of going are Sergt. Maj. Vanwart, Sergts. Toms, Dysart, Gray, Bombardier Hughes, Millmore, and many others.

General Review.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—Except for a few official reports giving casualties and movements of troops, nothing has been received from South Africa of latter date than Dec. 20.—The situation in its main feature, so far as known, continues unchanged. The British naval artillery are reported to have destroyed two spans of the road bridge across the Tugela river at Colenso, thus preventing the Boers from moving southward except by the fords, which the rise in the rivers threatens to make impassable.

The Durban version of the destruction of the bridge represents that part of the Boer force is south of the river and is unable to join the main body of the enemy. The reported extension of the Boers' works eastward probably explains the recently announced withdrawal of part of the British force to Frere.

A lieutenant of the Natal Carbineers, who was wounded Dec. 15, asserts that a thousand of the disaffected Cape Dutch joined the Boers after Gen. Buller's defeat.

Reports reached Chieveley on Dec. 19, apparently from native source, that the fire of the British naval contingent had completely destroyed one of the Boer six inch guns at Groblers Kloof and that a British cavalry patrol had captured a Hotchkiss automatic gun which the Boers used so effectively on Dec. 15. Neither report is confirmed.

The artillery will be taken from the field batteries all over the Dominion. There will be no infantry. The recruiting will be done at the headquarters of the batteries in case of artillery at Kingston, Gananoque, Winnipeg, Hamilton, St. Catharines, Toronto, Ottawa, Guelph, London Port Hope, Quebec, Montreal, Granby, Woodstock, N. B., Newcastle, N. B., and Sydney, N. S. Recruiting for the mounted rifles will be Toronto, St. Catharines, Peterboro, Ottawa, Kingston, London, Montreal, Sussex, St. John, Quebec, Canning, Winning, Portage, La Prairie, Virden, Brandon, Yorktown, Regina, Moosejaw, Prince Albert, Moosomin, Qu'Appelle, Lethbridge, Fort MacLeod, Medicine Hat, Maple Creek, Calgary and Edmonton.

Invaluable For Lawyers.

Snow's Legal Compendium for 1900 is being circulated among the lawyers. Its first issue, last year gave general satisfaction, and there will no doubt be a large call for the issue this year. This book is published by John Lovel and son of Montreal, and is sold to subscribers at \$3.00, and to non-subscribers at \$4.00. Not only of lawyers, but to law students and to Justice of the peace should this excellent work be of great value. The coming edition will contain:—Index to all Statutes, public and private, passed by the Dominion Parliament and Provincial Legislatures since Confederation with the principal private acts passed before Confederation (improved and enlarged.) Annual Index-Digest of all Canadian Decisions. Exchequer Court Act and Rules as amended to date. Practice of Privy Council (much extended.) Patent, Copyright and Trade Marks' Acts (extended.) Annual Digest, Canadian and English Practice Cases. Law of Inheritance Taxes in all the Provinces. Procedure for Incorporation of Companies under the Dominion and Provincial Act. Bank Act annotated, with extended annotations. Bills of Exchange Act as amended to date, annotated, with extended annotations. Commercial Law of the Dominion (extended.) Insurance Laws of Canada and the provinces, by Chs. M. Holt, Esq. Advocate, of the Montreal Bar. A special Treatise on the Law of Partnership in all the Provinces of Canada. (300 Octavo pages), By R. B. Henderson, Esq., of the Ontario Bar, and Peers Davidson, Esq., of the Quebec Bar. British North America Act (annotated to date. A Summary of the Laws of all the Provinces (extended). Accurate list of all the Lawyers in each Province of Canada. Accurate list of all Notaries in each Province of Canada. Index-Digest to Supreme Court and Privy Council Decisions. List of Banks in Canada and their Branches. Court Calendar for each Province and the Supreme and Exchequer Courts. Registrars of Deeds in each Province; Fees, etc. Resignations Divisions in each Province. Judges and Officers of all Courts in the Dominion. Commissioners for taking Affidavits to be used in the various provinces. Chartered Accountants.

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