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BOERS ARE NOW NEAR TO ESTCOURT

British Advance Will Begin on Monday

Road to Kimberley Now Open—Lord Methuen at Orange River—Boers Well Fortified at Ladysmith.

[SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER.] LONDON, Nov. 17.—This afternoon's war news is brief and is about as follows: The information as to the casualties among the British troops comprising the crew of the armored train that was de- railed by the Boers near Colenso, on the 15th, is not yet to hand, and it is impos- sible to tell how many were killed, wound- ed, or taken prisoners, or if any escaped from the hands of the Boers. As nearly as can be judged from the despatches al- ready received it appears as if the small British force was completely over- whelmed.

As regards the reported death of Gen- eral Joubert, it is believed from the fact that the War Office has received despat- ches showing that Joubert is well, that the rumor of his death is without found- ation.

The arrival of three more transports at Capetown has been reported to the War Office.

The following despatch has been re- ceived at Pretoria coming from the Boer camp at Elandslaagte: Ladysmith has been completely encircled by the Boer forces. Our second big gun was success- fully placed in position at Bullwan Hill in front of Ladysmith.

The firing of the heavy guns by the British garrison commenced early this morning, but there have been no casual- ties to the Burghers' troops up to the present time. Commandant Botha has heliographed from the south of Ladysmith that the British batteries opened a heavy fire with their big guns and are continu- ally dropping shells into the works around Ladysmith. The Pretoria force was in a tight place having taken up a position which was commanded by the big British guns, the fire from which was so hot that their position soon become untenable. The burgher guns, however, saved the situation for them.

LONDON, Nov. 13.—An undated despatch from De Aar Junction says that a strong British force left that place on Friday last, Nov. 10, bound for Kimberley. When the troops comprising the relief column had arrived within fifty miles of the be- leagured town they encountered a con- siderable body of the enemy. After a smart engagement the Boers were routed, the result of the fight leaving the road clear to Kimberley which may now be re- lieved at any moment.

PRETORIA, Nov. 17.—In an engage- ment yesterday morning south of Lad- smith, the British advanced with thirteen guns and attacked 380 Burghers of the Transvaal. A big gun was fired on the troops, who retired at three o'clock to a kloof near Ladysmith. The British loss is unknown. The Boers had one man killed and three wounded, and thirteen horses killed.

LONDON, Nov. 18.—The Admiralty has announced the arrival at Capetown of the troopship Arcana with a battalion of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders bring- ing the reinforcements already arrived at the Cape up to 23,500, of which 7,290 have already disembarked at Durban, with eighteen field guns, a number of machine guns, engineers and hospital troops, as well as 700 mules.

This force, with that already between Estcourt and Durban, is considered suf- ficient to enable General Hildyard to advance and take the aggressive against the Boers south of Ladysmith.

CAPE TOWN, Nov. 18.—Lord Methuen and his staff arrived at Orange River yester- day.

LORENZO MARQUES, Nov. 18.—It is stated

that no news has been received at Pretoria from General Joubert for three days. It is rumored that he is a prisoner.

ESTCOURT, Nov. 18.—The Boers have taken up a position with a strong force near Ennersdale, five miles nor-west of this place.

LONDON, Nov. 18.—A despatch to the Times from Lorenzo Marques says that despatches received from Ladysmith on Nov. 16 state that the town was being shelled day and night, and was hard pressed.

One of the bridges over the Tugela River has been destroyed.

The correspondent of The Standard at Brussels attributes to Dr. Leyds the statement that the Boer positions north of Ladysmith are so well fortified that the burghers will be able to defeat any attack by Generals Buller and White, even with the heavy British reinforcements.

The Boers now besieging Ladysmith ex- ceed twenty-five thousand.

An official despatch confirms the state- ment that Captain J. A. Haldane, one of the Gordon Highlanders, attached to the Dublin Fusiliers, and Lieut. T. H. C. Frankland are missing. Captain Haldane distinguished himself by his services in India, for which he received the D.S.O., Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, and was wounded at Elandslaagte. There are said to be 1,338 British prisoners of all ranks at Pretoria.

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A Traveller Suicides.

[SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER.]

HALIFAX, Nov. 18.—William B. Hamil- ton, of Yarmouth, committed suicide at the Victoria Hotel last evening, by shoot- ing himself. He formerly travelled for W. H. Thorne & Co. and latterly repre- sented Squires & Co. of Boston.

Derby Won by Proclamation.

[SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER.]

LONDON, Nov. 18.—The Derby Cup was won by Lord Eldon's Proclamation, Sir J. Miller's Invincible II second, Mr. Getschak's Lexion, third

Fire at Quebec.

[SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER.]

QUEBEC, Nov. 18.—A fire in the citadel yesterday, supposed to have started from a cigar butt, did \$1500 damage.

Railway Rates Up.

MONTREAL, Nov. 16.—The Canadian General Freight Agents' Association, which includes the representatives of the Grand Trunk, Canadian Pacific, and other big Canadian railway companies, con- cluded a two day's session here this evening. The principal object of the meeting was to revise the existing freight tariffs and schedule, and as a result of the railway representatives deliberations it was decided to make a general advance in all com- modity rates of from 20 to 25 per cent. It was explained by the railway representa- tives that the price of all railway supplies had greatly increased during the year, and it was believed that it was only fair that the shippers, now that times were excep- tionally good, should be willing to pay a somewhat higher rate for transportation. The new tariffs will be issued at once, and shippers will have to go on the new basis.

Opinion in Orange Free State.

LONDON, Nov. 17.—The Cape Town correspondent of the Standard says he has heard from an old resident, who has just left the Orange Free State, that the war is very unpopular there; that apart from the government officials the attitude of the people, who consider themselves bound to England, is very half-hearted; that dis- affection and disobedience are spreading in the ranks of the Free State troops, and that the Burghers would welcome any pretext to return to their homes.

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