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VICTORIA B. C. ISLAND WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 27, 1899 NO 301

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ANOTHER SORTIE AT LADYSMITH

Three Boer Guns Said to Have Been Destroyed

CANADIAN PICKET REPORTED

Cut Off by Boers Near Belmont

Methuen will remain at Modder River—Vessel with Boer Supplies Captured by British Cruiser—Sixteenth Lancers will be sent from India, at Lord Roberts' Request.

SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE EXAMINER.

[SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER.]
LONDON, Dec. 27. — A belated Christmas message from Ladysmith was posted at the War Office yesterday afternoon. It was three days on the way.

The casualty list, with four deaths from fever and dysentery, comprises three men wounded, apparently from the shell fire, and a separate entry of ten killed and sixteen wounded in what looked like a sortie and reconnaissance, last Friday, in which were engaged 53 Lancers, who fought so well at Elandslaagte, and the remnants of the Gloucester regiment and 10th Mountain Battery which were entrapped at Nicholson's Nek. No details.

It is possible that the British gun had burst, or that the enemy's gun fire had been sufficiently accurate that day to account for so large a casualty list. But the optimists here chose to infer that General White's men had been again showing their mettle by venturing outside their lines especially as Lieut.-Colonel Fawcett, of the 5th Lancers, the officer apparently in command, was severely wounded.

This regiment was stationed at Pietermaritzburg before the opening of the war, and had lost heavily in officers during the campaign in Natal.

Whether the Ladysmith garrison is fighting gallantly outside or is exposed to closer or more destructive fire from the enemy's guns, these casualty lists, with their total cases of typhoid fever, are eloquent appeals to the British army beyond the Tugela to rescue it as speedily as possible from a prolongation of the siege.

The relief of Ladysmith has become General Buller's first objective point, and everything else has been sacrificed to attain that object.

Censorship has operated to confuse the military writers here who are unable to tell where Sir Charles Warren is and what has been done with the five battalions of the 5th division since their arrival at Cape Town.

The bulk of that force, with the batteries, will turn up in due time on the Tugela, with Warren in command.

LONDON, Dec. 27. — A despatch from Modder River, dated Thursday, Dec 21st,

reports that intermittent firing was continuing on both sides.

A number of Free State Burghers have surrendered.

An unconfirmed report is afloat that a Canadian picket was cut off near Belmont.

It is also asserted that fever is raging among the Boers.

LONDON, Dec. 27. — The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily News says:

"Lord Methuen, I understand, intends to remain at Modder River about three weeks longer."

LONDON, Dec. 27. — A despatch from Chieveley Camp, Dec. 21st, says: Lyddite shells are daily thrown into the Boer camp to prevent them working at the trenches. The firing of big guns is heard daily from the direction of Ladysmith.

LONDON, Dec. 27. — A despatch to the Daily News, dated Ladysmith, Dec. 15th, says: Another sortie was made last night. General Hunter, with 500 volunteers, destroyed one six inch creusot gun, one howitzer, one maxim. Only one British soldier was killed. The Boer gunners fled.

Despatches from various points indicate the steady growth of the Dutch disaffection. The Times advises stern treatment of the disaffected Dutch colonists and the enforcement of penalties of treason against persons and property.

The 16th Lancers will go to South Africa from India at the special request of Lord Roberts.

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 27. — A British cruiser has seized another ship laden with stores destined for the Transvaal. The seized vessel has been taken to Port Elizabeth.

The Queen's Christmas.

LONDON, Dec. 26. — For the first time in thirteen years, Queen Victoria and the Royal family spent Christmas day at Windsor. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and the children of the Princess Henry of Battenberg were of the party. Not only was there a baron of beef arranged, but there was also a magnificent Christmas tree, with many colored candles for children, in which the Queen evinced the greatest interest.

It was, in fact, her express desire that the grandchildren who assembled about her today should not have their Christmas marred by the events which have saddened her own heart; and the festivities at Windsor Castle, although tinged with sadness, such as fills all English hearts, carried no suggestion of sorrow to the children.

The keynote of the festivities at Windsor today was the Queen's unalterable devotion to and faith in that empire which she believes will ultimately achieve the highest aims and ambition of her unselfish reign.

\$50,000 For the Lawton Fund

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25. — The total subscription to the Lawton fund up to noon of Christmas day was \$14,329.55. The committee have determined to continue the work at least until the 2nd of January. It is not at all improbable that the fund will eventually reach the proportion of \$50,000. Secretary Root and Adjutant General Corbin sent personal appeals to about 150 bankers and business men in New York, with the result of a large increase to the fund.

BATTLE OF COLENZO.

The Boer General's Report.

General Schalkberger's report of the battle, despatched from the head laager on Dec. 16, says:

"Friday at dawn the day long expected arrived. The Pretoria detachment of artillery gave the alarm. Gen. Buller's Ladysmith column was in battle array, advancing on the Boer positions close to the Tugela and Colenso. The centre consisted of an immense crowd of infantry, flanked on each side by two batteries, with strong bodies of cavalry supporting.

The Boer artillery preserved absolute silence not disclosing its position. Two batteries came within rifle distance of our foremost position, and the Boers then opened fire with deadly effect. Our artillery also commenced, and absolutely confused the enemy, who were allowed to think the bridge was open for them to cross.

LIKE A SPENT WAVE.

Their right flank in the meantime attacked the Boers' southernmost position, but the Mauser rifle fire was so tremendous that they were rolled back like a spent wave, leaving ridges and ridges of dead and dying humanity behind. Again the British advanced to the attack, but again fell back, swelling the heaps of dead. Their cavalry charged to the river, where the Ermelo commando delivered such murderous fire that two batteries of cannon had to be abandoned, which the Boers are going to bring here. Twice the British essayed to bring horses to remove them. The first time they succeeded in hitching on to one cannon and the second trial the horses and men fell in a heap.

IN FULL RETREAT.

"Then the British were in full retreat to their camp, whence they sent a heavy shrapnel fire on Bulwer Ridge, across the Tugela, to prevent the Burghers from recovering the cannon.

"The French atache, Villebois, and the German atache, Braun, say the fight could not have been improved upon by the armies of Europe. Generals Buller and Trichart were always at the most dangerous points of the fighting.

"Eleven ambulances removed the English dead and wounded.

"Such a tremendous cannonade has seldom been heard. The field for miles was covered with dead and wounded. It was a most crushing British defeat. Nine of the cannon have since been brought across the river.

"The British asked for and were granted a 24 hour's armistice."

DECLARATION DAY.

McLean Elected in Belfast and Prowse in Murray Harbor.

Yesterday was Declaration Day for the Belfast and Murray Harbor Districts. The vote will be found below:—

BELFAST DISTRICT.	
McLean.	61
Pisquid Road	61
Belle Creek	72
Pownal	64
Vernon River	66
Point Prim	70
Cherry Valley	45
Orwell Cove	52
Caledonia	51
Eldon	102
Grand View	111
Wood Islands	61
Totals	755

Majority for McLean 58.

MURRAY HARBOR DISTRICT.	
McKinnon.	80
Prowse.	121
Whim Road Cross	121
Montague Bridge	140
St. Mary's Road	65
High Bank	79
Murray Harbor South	79
Totals	485

Majority for Prowse 31.

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