

WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Interesting Particulars of the Struggle Between Great Britain and the Boers.

FIGHTING FOR THE BOERS,

A YANKEE VOLUNTEER'S IMPRESSIONS.

A letter from James F. Dunn, of Lowell, Massachusetts, who is fighting in the Boer army, has been received by a Lowell friend. Dunn's narrative is interesting and noteworthy for its claims concerning the Americans in the Boer ranks, and the total strength of the Boer army, which was about 100,000 men. With its strong anti-English bias discounted, the letter still contains valuable material, since very few detailed accounts of events are received from the Boer side:

"My Dear Dillon.—When the war broke out brigades of foreigners were organized at once. The Germans have a brigade of 2,000 men or more, nearly all men trained in the army in Germany and commanded by men of their own country—trained officers. There is a mixed brigade of French, Scotch and English, who have their own officers, and they are doing good. We have an Irish brigade of over 2,500, the majority of whom are men from California and the West, with quite a sprinkling from the Old Country and the Cape. Our commander is Colonel Blake, a West Pointer, who used to be in the regular cavalry at home, and a jim dandy, a fighter and a tactician that West Point may be proud of.

"We are getting new men every day; they come in from Lorenzo Marques, and are from every country in Europe and the States. The Americans are mostly husky fellows from the Middle West, who have served in the Spanish war and in the regular army, and we have quite a few from around Boston, New York and Philadelphia. All these fellows, Irish, German and Yankee, get into our brigade, for they feel more at home with us, under officers and men who have followed the old flag, and they are giving the 'Red Necks,' as the Boers call them, plenty of fun.

"It was our brigade—we had about 1,200 on the firing line that day—that scooped in the Irish Fusiliers at Dundee, and had the Boer contingent more experience in military matters, we could have got the whole of Yule's bunch, horse, foot and waggons.

"General Joubert is a foxy old chap, and refuses to let us take any chances that are uncertain, and he is dead against any military grand-stand tactics. He won't allow any charges or attacks on fortified places; he makes the British do that business, and then he soaks them. The consequence is that the English lose five men killed and wounded where we lose only one. The English artillery is fairly good, though their guns are not up to ours, but their infantry and cavalry can't hit a flock of barns. We are now entrenched around Ladysmith, with a strong force down at the fords of the Tugela, entrenching and waiting for that advance of the British we are promised; and we have lots of commandos chasing down through Natal to keep the flies off the enemy.

"We have White and about 10,000 men cooped up in Ladysmith, and we will get the whole bunch as sure as shooting. We have the hills overlooking the town, which is down in a hole, fortified, and we shell the place occasionally to keep them guessing; but we place reliance strongly on dirt, disease, and hunger to capture them. The town doesn't amount to anything but the Johnnies have about 5,000,000 dollars worth of arms, munitions and supplies that will come in handy. White is in a tight place, and his camp is tough; heat, dust, rain, mud and anxiety are our allies, and they are badly demoralized.

"They used to make sorties and rush hills but we had orders to drop back and let them rush: and when they got tired we occupied our old positions and soaked them as they limped back to camp. They were wearing themselves out.

"I suppose the English are rushing in all the men they can get hold of, but as we have our backs to the mountains and they have to come to us over our own fortified positions, they will need a quarter of a million men to do the work. Counting those we have in the field, those at Pretoria and around, and the men who have come from Europe in two months, we can count up almost a hundred thousand men; and we have supplies to last two years. The only thing we are short of is doctors and medicines; we ought to have a better staff of physicians and an ambulance corps, and I suppose they

will be organized soon, as those things are to arrive from Europe.

Questioned as to the probabilities of the Boers taking Mafeking, Mr. Tillard, who has recently come down, said "Never!" in a most emphatic manner. "Baden-Powell had 1,200 men at the outside, and now there cannot be many more than 1,000, but they are all picked men. They have six months' provisions, which they only started using on the 1st of December, and he has sufficient ammunition to fight half-a-dozen Transvaals."

Recently a Graaff-Reinet Dutchman of the vitriolic type, who claims an intimate acquaintance and knowledge of all matters, met an English friend, and with his eye in a fine frenzy rolling, declaimed against the action of England in sending black men to shoot down "onze mense." The friend asked for an explanation, and the reply came at once: "Why! have you not seen that the Black Watch is being sent out?"

Private William Lyons, of the Highland Light Infantry, who was wounded in the Highland Brigade's engagement at Magersfontein, writing to an old schoolmate from Wynberg Hospital on January 15th, says:

"Dear Tom, I write these lines left-handed to let you know that I am getting on all right. I was severely wounded on December 11th, at 10.30 in the morning. We were only 40 yards from the enemy. I was rising to join in the

charge, when a shot hit me in the right cheek, and came out below the jaw, then entered the neck, and went crashing through my shoulder and right lung, and came out at my ribs. I have lost the use of my right arm through it, but I'm lucky not to be dead. I am now recovering, but only slowly. I shall be sent home to Netley when I am fit to travel. It is midsummer here, and, like India, blazing hot. We are being well cared for. In fact it's a toff's life—plenty to eat, and two bottles of Bass's beer for dinner. The doctors are having a busy time of it. This is a rare place for practice for young hands among them. Wishing you a bright new year.—Your old chum.—W.L."

NAVAL RESERVE OF CANADIANS.

Introducing the naval estimates in the British House of Commons Mr. Goschen, the first lord of the admiralty, said the total, with the expected additions, would be £30,000,000. Nothing, he continued, has been put down for the mobilization of the fleet. If mobilization should be necessary the government would not hesitate to mobilize and come to parliament for money, but he thought the time had not arrived for taking that course, and he hoped that it would not arrive.

Continuing, Mr. Goschen said that Great Britain was not menaced by any naval power. Europe knew her strength and the number of ships she possessed. There were times when a demonstration was advisable, but the government did not think it advisable upon this occasion. Regarding the export of coal Mr. Goschen announced

that the government could not prohibit it unless at war with a foreign power or in an emergency very different from the present. The admiralty, he further asserted, was considering how it would organize a naval reserve in conjunction with the colonies. He explained that with an adequate organization the government should get a very valuable contingent from Canada and Australia. The negotiations with Canada were very well advanced. Canada asked that the period of training be reduced, but a final decision on the subject had not been reached. Dealing with the construction of fresh iron-clads, Mr. Goschen remarked that the Hague convention already seemed a thing of the dim past. When the peace conference was called he suggested that possibly the beginning of further building of war ships might be suspended. With a view of ascertaining the sentiments of the conference, Great Britain alone, he added, suggested a reduction of armaments, but nothing was done, and in the six months since the conference more gigantic programmes, stretching forward eight, sixteen, and eighteen years had been put forward than ever before had entered the minds of the powers. Great Britain proposed to spend in 1900-91 £8,460,000, Russia £4,300,000, and France £4,154,000. The report of the French naval committee has asserted that material was 40 per cent and labor 10 per cent higher in France than in England, and Goschen, therefore, judged that the cost of ship building in France and Russia averaged 20 per cent dearer than in Great Britain.

CECIL RHODES SPEAKS.

Cecil Rhodes presided at a meeting of the De Beers Company a few days ago, and announced that the year's profits were £2,000,000. Speaking of the war he considered it a puzzle why it had arisen. The Transvaal and the Free State were not republics, he declared, but oligarchies, and had been long conspiring to seize British South Africa. Each government was simply a small political gang, who humbugged the poor Dutchmen, appealing to their

patriotism and dividing the spoils among their coteries. The Afrikaander had been working twenty years for independent Africa. He said that former President Reitz, of the Orange Free State, had years ago made a vow that his only ambition in life was to drive England out of Africa. After showing how Kimberley had been defended by citizens, of whom 120 had been killed or wounded, and thanking General French for his gallant ride, Mr. Rhodes closed, brilliantly asserting, "We have done our duty in preserving and protecting the greatest commercial asset in the world—Her Majesty's Flag."

REPLY TO MACRUM.

The answer of the State Department to the House resolution calling for information regarding certain charges made by late Consul Macrum was transmitted to the House on the 21st inst., by the President. It is signed by Secretary Hay and after reciting the resolution says:—"The Department of State has been in regular communication by mail and telegraph with Charles E. Macrum, late Consul of the United States at Pretoria, South African Republic, since his entrance upon the duties of the office. Communications made to him have been answered and the execution of instructions sent has been reported by him. His despatches to the department, forwarded through the Consulate at Lorenzo Marques, have been regularly received. The only instance of complaint in respect to the transit of the mails for Lorenzo Marques and Pretoria was in November last, when a temporary stoppage of the mails occurred at Cape Town, against which Mr. Macrum and the Consuls at Lorenzo Marques protested. Arrangements were made for the prompt delivery of the consular mails to the United States Consul General at Cape Town by whom the mail for Mr. Hollis and Mr. Macrum was forwarded to Lorenzo Marques. The delay lasted but a few days and has not recurred so far as the department is advised. After that time the department's mail for Lorenzo Marques and Pretoria was sent by a neutral route which, it appears, was known and open to Mr. Macrum and Mr. Hollis as early as November 16th last. No obstacle, therefore is here known to have existed since then to Mr. Macrum's unhampered correspondence with the Department of State. At no time while at his post did Mr. Macrum report to the department any instance of violation by opening or otherwise of his official mail by the British censor at Durban or by any person or persons whatsoever, there or elsewhere. Neither has he so reported since he left Pretoria, although having the amplest opportunity to do so by mail while on the way home and in person when he reported to the department upon his return. Answering the second part of the aforesaid resolution the undersigned Secretary of State, has the honor to say that there is no truth in the charge that a secret alliance exists between the Republic of the United States and the Empire of Great Britain; that no form of secret alliance is possible under the constitution of the United States, inasmuch as treaties require the advice and consent of the senate; and, finally that no secret alliance, convention, arrangement or understanding exists between the United States and any other nation. (Signed).

JOHN HAY,
Department of State, Feb. 20, 1900.

EFFECTIVENESS OF BIG GUNS.

With regard to the effectiveness of modern guns, the following extract from a letter written by Major Albrecht, commander of the Boer artillery, is of interest. Writing just after the battle of Colenso, he said: "To about 1,000 English shells about twelve men were killed, and thirty or forty wounded, for the rest was done by rifles. Our Boer artillery was by no means as successful as I had anticipated before the war. Certainly our people shout splendidly; but there is a great difference between a gun and a rifle. The English must have suffered heavy losses, but I know that I, with my artillery, had only a

Dear Sir,—I was for seven years a sufferer from Bronchial Trouble, and would be so hoarse at times that I could scarcely speak above a whisper. I got no relief from anything until I tried your ATONAL'S HONEY BALSAM. Two bottles gave relief and six bottles made a complete cure. I would heartily recommend it to anyone suffering from throat or lung trouble.

J. F. VANBUSKIRK,
Fredericton.

slight share in it, although we had fired about four hundred shells. I leave it open whether our artillery disabled in all a hundred men. The riflemen disabled in ten minutes ten times more than our artillery did sometimes in ten hours. Artillery in defence does not seem to be destined to play a brilliant part, and as regards the attack, its use consists chiefly in intimidating the enemy, so that the attacking body can advance under its protection. The real decision lies in close fighting. The battles of Magersfontein and Colenso were decided within ten minutes.

The following shows two sides of the Boer character: In one of the reconnaissances during December from Naauwpoort, Corporal Thomas, of the M. I. Regiment, while scouting, approached a kopje and observed two men without arms, who beckoned him to join them, and shouted in English, "There they go," &c. &c. Nearing the spot a volley rang out, and the corporal dropped with mauser bullets through him. His captors' first question, was "Are you an officer?" and on his replying in the negative they gave him water from a bottle and had him removed to Albertyn's farm near by, where they looked after his wounds which were in the chest, side, thighs, and hand. A number of Dutch gathered around him and spoke of his sins and approaching death, and exhorted the "rooinek" to repentance. To their astonishment, Thomas said faintly that "he did not fear death, as he was assured of God's protection having done his duty in a righteous cause." His hearers expressed much surprise that there should be godly men amongst the "rooineks," and hearing more of the wounded man's words, left debating amongst themselves whether there was not justice in the British cause after all.

The absurd conduct of Mr. Macrum may really have a good influence, because it will make it necessary for the United States to exercise more care in giving out appointments of that character. Even in the smallest diplomatic post, a man may at any time be called upon to use common sense.

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Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the above Company will be held at their office corner of Great George and Lower Water Streets, Charlottetown, on Wednesday the seventh day of March next at the hour of eleven o'clock a.m.

By order, F. W. HALES, Secretary.