

BRITISH HIRING GERMAN SOLDIERS

German Firm Also Furnishes Brit-
ain With Shells.

WORRYING OVER METHUEN.

His Position is Regarded as Danger-
ous—Huller is Taking All Re-
inforcements to Natal.

Berlin, Dec. 20.—Despite repeated British denials, it seems to be a fact that British agents are busy in many of the rural districts in Germany, hiring veterans for service in South Africa. Several well-authenticated cases have been reported this week, but the following incident seems conclusive: The district court of Hamburg has just issued an order for the arrest of a British agent named York for hiring a number of German peasants in the neighborhood for military service, under the imperial laws in a criminal offense.

There is nothing, however, to interfere with Herr Krupp in the manufacture of steel shells for the British army. A local paper announces that 25,000 such shells are being made on a "rush" order, and that the men are working night and day.

London, Dec. 21.—The gravity of the military situation is again becoming accentuated in the public mind, owing to the complete absence of news. Nothing has been heard from Lord Methuen since Sunday, and it is feared that his communications have been cut. If this be so, his position is a dangerous one.

A correspondent of the Daily News, writing from Modder River last Saturday, says: "The Boer position, already formidable on December 11th, has since been greatly strengthened, and is now an area of twelve miles, extending from the river to the sea. It is entrenched according to the most modern methods throughout its entire length; wire fences have been placed before all the trenches at every point, and have been not only positioned, and guns have been put into position, and only a powerful attacking force can hope to make a successful attack."

The latest dispatches received seem to show that the British forces are standing on the defensive at all points. Gen. Buller is ordering the troops now arriving at Capetown to proceed to Durban to reinforce the Natal column.

Absence of news from him has led to a surmise that he is trying to join Gen. White by a flank movement.

The appeals for yeomanry and volunteers are being responded to with the greatest enthusiasm in all parts of the country. Lord Wolseley proposes that the force being raised by the lord mayor of London be called the "City of London Imperial Volunteers." The government expects the total of yeomanry and volunteers to reach 8,000. Baron Chesham will command, with Lord Lonsdale as adjutant-general.

The papers are now generally joining in free criticism of the government and the war office, as day by day fresh proofs of unpreparedness come to light. Special stress is laid upon the failure to provide proper transport, which compels the columns to stick tight to railways, and upon the inferiority of the British artillery.

The Australian colonies are responding eagerly to the imperial government's appeals for second contingents. It is reported that they are willing to abandon their proposed visit to Italy, in consequence of the war.

One of the results of the coal famine in the Sheffield district, indirectly arising out of the war, is that several independent steel firms are not able to get coal even from their collieries a few miles distant. They will use the railway companies for non-delivery of coal. One of the big armor-plate works has partially shut down.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—"The greatest problem that England will have to face in South Africa," said Dr. J. C. Hammett, who today returned from Mashonaland, in Rhodesia, northward from the Transvaal, "will in all probability be that of the natives and not of the Boers. Even if the Boers are suppressed and English supremacy established in a very short time the natives will still be left to deal with. They are not causing any trouble just yet, but there are many signs that they will put England in a very difficult position at no distant day. Traders who come in from the north think that now after the difficulties between the whites have been settled, the conquerors will find a big native problem on their hands, and that the blacks will have to be conquered all over again."

Tues. Monday, Dec. 11, via Lourenzo Marques, Saturday, Dec. 16.—Col. Plummer, with strong reconnoitering party of horsemen has arrived here after a week's expedition into Transvaal territory. He reached a point fifty miles from Pietersburg, in the South African Republic, but found no Boers, the country being seemingly empty of men.

New York, Dec. 21.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says: "There is practically no fresh news from the seat of war. Further details of the battle of Colenso continue to dribble in, but on the whole they do not add much information."

The Post's correspondent affirms positively that the Boers captured ten British field guns. Col. Buller, commanding the Devon regiment, with three officers and forty men, was surrounded, and all were taken prisoners by the Boers while looking for wounded men under a flag of truce.

According to the Chronicle's correspondent, the British mounted infantry and irregular corps, with two batteries of artillery, managed to take the Colenso road bridge and eventually cross the river, but the Boer rifle fire prevented them from pushing on, and the battery was abandoned. Seemingly the guns

were lost on the north side of the Tugela, and if so there is little doubt that they were captured.

The Times says that people who know the country consider the Boer position the strongest in Natal.

Mr. Burleigh, in the Telegraph, says the Boers are digging more trenches nearer the river and employing a Creusot gun to shell the British camp.

There is still no news of Lord Methuen. His communications have been cut, or else the censors are determined to allow no information as to his doings to reach the outer world.

Some sensation has been caused in diplomatic circles in St. Petersburg by a statement that the British ambassador there had a private audience with the czar in connection with events in South Africa.

The chief cause of the uneasiness which brings back the shadow to the English faces is a suspicion that the Ladysmith garrison is short of ammunition and incapable of a prolonged defense. The war office does not admit that Ladysmith is in serious danger of short of ammunition, but the censorship somehow has allowed those alarming reports to reach England. This censor, it is apparent, sometimes falls asleep or is drugged by too candid and too insensitive journalists.

Dispatches from Colenso are still coming in, but every one bears evidence of rough treatment from the censorship. It is impracticable either to reconcile, or to explain the discrepancies between them and Gen. Buller's report. One journal after another is forced to describe their own correspondent's dispatches as unintelligible, and there are strong expressions of disapproval of the manner in which the censor mutilates the carefully written reports after the battles are fought. There are at least a dozen questions of fact which remain unsettled six days after the battle occurred. The most important of these are: (1) How many Boers were killed? (2) How many Boers were captured? (3) How many Boers were wounded? (4) How many Boers were taken prisoner? (5) How many Boers were killed? (6) How many Boers were captured? (7) How many Boers were wounded? (8) How many Boers were taken prisoner? (9) How many Boers were killed? (10) How many Boers were captured? (11) How many Boers were wounded? (12) How many Boers were taken prisoner?

Gen. Lawton's death has caused universal sorrow in Manila. No American officer had greater popularity among all ranks, and in his dealings with the natives he commanded their respect and confidence to a remarkable degree. The mayors whom he installed in the neighboring towns are arranging to attend the funeral in a body.

To his executive ability and personal leadership is chiefly due the brilliant execution of the plan of campaign in north Luzon which has scattered the insurgents from San Isidro to the Gulf of Lingayen. That section of the island, which had to be traversed during the very worst season of the year, presented difficulties considered by all who were acquainted with it to be almost insurmountable, but Gen. Lawton thoroughly covered the program assigned him.

When he reached Tayug and found that the other division had not arrived, he went through to Dagupan on his own responsibility, and although he imposed great hardships upon his men, he has invariably shared their lot cheerfully.

Thirteen Americans, including three officers, were wounded in the engagement at San Mateo, where Gen. Lawton was killed. Capt. Breckinridge's wound is not considered dangerous, although the bullet penetrated his arm and side.

It is estimated that the insurgents numbered 500 and that half of them were armed with rifles. The Americans numbered 1,300, but the command had been much depleted by sickness. The wagon train found the roads impassable and was obliged to return. The insurgents retreated to the northwest, leaving six dead. They have other forces near Tayug. This region, although close to Manila, has proved the most difficult from which to dis-

YOU'LL GIVE

More solid comfort and happiness with a pair of our SLIPPERS than anything else you can select for Christmas Presents. We've a specially nice line to choose from, 50c to \$3.00—with these extra good values in Dongola kid, hand turned ones for \$2.00.

ROBINSON BROS. CO.,
SHOE BUILDERS, 124 Main St.

It was found necessary to bridge the river.

The funeral will take place from his late residence here, a mansion formerly occupied by a Spanish general. The body has been placed temporarily in a vault in El Pazo cemetery, where many of the American soldiers have been interred and a guard of honor will be maintained.

When Mrs. Lawton and her four children shall have completed their arrangements for returning to the United States, the remains will be taken on a transport with an escort of officers for final interment, as is thought probable here, in Arlington cemetery.

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lodge the enemy. It is now reported that the insurgents intend to concentrate at Santa Cruz in Laguna province, and in the district east of Laguna de Bay.

The American secret service reports that Aguinaldo has joined the Marquina force.

No Can't this Congress.

New York, Dec. 21.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: Legislation providing for the construction of a trans-Isthmian canal is not probable during the present session of Congress.

Both the Nicaraguan canal committee in the Senate, presided over by Senator Morgan, and the House committee on inter-state and foreign commerce, presided over by Mr. Hepburn, of Iowa, propose to take the matter up without waiting for the report of the Walker commission. It is extremely improbable, however, that they will be able to get a bill through either house of Congress before that report is available.

The Walker commission will leave New York on January 6, going direct to Greytown, Nicaragua, by the regular mail steamer. They will go over the route of the Nicaraguan canal to the Pacific side and will then go by steamer to the Pacific end of the Panama route.

The commission has now in the field ten surveying parties. The commission estimate that it will take about a year for them to complete all their work and make their report.

Senator Morgan has never given his approval to the sending of the additional commissions to the Isthmus, being satisfied with the information already available as to the practicability of the canal. He will endeavor to have his bill reported from his committee. Representative Hepburn also believes the provision of a letter received from a highly educated English gentleman with the sentiment of his class, "which deplores the war as unjustified, as the ruin of harmony among the races, and as implanting in the breast of the Boer an inextinguishable hatred of the British, the only redeeming feature of the war being that it sounds the death knell of imperial federation, as no colony would be found to unite in a political scheme which would put it at the mercy of every gust of ill-formed passion that might for a moment agitate the central power." Dr. Smith says: "My correspondence might have remarked that it is not even by a gust of popular passion that we have been

SITUATION IS EASIER.
Iron Prices Keep Up—Western Road Takes 20,000 Tons of Rails.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 21.—The Iron Trade Review says: Dr. Good, of the Western Road, has been very active, yet with a general quiet that is in marked contrast with conditions a few months ago, the Iron Trade comes to the end of this remarkable year. Production of pig iron is now at the rate of 15,000,000 tons a year; apparent consumption is substantially on the same level, or still higher according to the figures for December 1. We find nowhere any tangible signs of diminished consumption due to the present level of prices, but with every month consumers who have used up the material on their low level contracts are coming to what seems a prodigious advance in their cost. The decisions that will be made in the next two or three months in such cases will have much to do in determining the rate at which iron and steel will be absorbed in the second half of 1900.

It appears that ore buyers for the most part have contracted for supplies for twelve months ahead and not to the opening of navigation in 1901. The pig iron situation has not changed that at the moment a definite statement is difficult. In the East sales are made at prices recently prevalent, so that the seller assumes the freight advances effective January 1.

Sentimentally, the situation is easier; what this will come to will be tested by the January buying that is generally looked for.

In the central west the latest trans-

actions in Bessemer iron have been at the highest price, and on some lots the equivalent of 25¢, Pittsburgh, has been paid. The gap between Bessemer pig iron and steel is still less than in the more active fall months, the former being higher, and the latter slightly lower. Billet contracts for the first half could be made no doubt at \$35 to \$36 to \$37, Central Western mill. In finished material the readjustments of prices are almost entirely in plates and sheets. On the former 2.55 cents Pittsburgh has been shaded on bids on a 1,000-ton lot of ship plates for delivery at a Lake Erie yard; but in general 2.40 cents for tank and 2.50 to 2.60 cents for boiler steel is the Pittsburgh basis. A firmer stand of sheets is in evidence in some markets, but this is not general. Structural material is quite active, and in the matter of deliveries this is the lowest line on the list. That high prices would conspicuously check demand here is a prophecy entirely discredited by the condition of the mills. We note a 5,000-ton contract in the Cleveland district; 10,000 tons closed in the Chicago district, and an equal tonnage pending there.

Rail buying continues with good prospect of further purchases both on domestic and foreign account. A 20,000-ton contract has just been made by a western road.

HOW THE WAR CAME ON.
Was Brought About by Two Men, for Their Personal Objects.

New York, Dec. 20.—A special to the World from Toronto says: Dr. Good, of the Western Road, has been very active, yet with a general quiet that is in marked contrast with conditions a few months ago, the Iron Trade comes to the end of this remarkable year. Production of pig iron is now at the rate of 15,000,000 tons a year; apparent consumption is substantially on the same level, or still higher according to the figures for December 1. We find nowhere any tangible signs of diminished consumption due to the present level of prices, but with every month consumers who have used up the material on their low level contracts are coming to what seems a prodigious advance in their cost. The decisions that will be made in the next two or three months in such cases will have much to do in determining the rate at which iron and steel will be absorbed in the second half of 1900.

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swept into war, but by the machinations of two men for their own personal objects, one of the two being no less known for his unscrupulous ambition than he is for his ability, and the other being Cecil Rhodes.

"The staking horses of 'enfranchisement' for the outlander, having served its purpose, has been laid aside and replaced by 'British supremacy in South Africa,' under which the clerical abettors of the war shelter themselves, has been laid aside, the watchword now being 'equality for all white men,' while the brown men, vastly outnumbering the whites, are philanthropically consigned to indefinite bondage."

"As it is, the end is certain, and by this time may practically have come. Yet this stand which this little farmer commonwealth has made for its independence against the banded forces of a world-wide empire, backed by the diplomatic encouragement of the great powers, including the American republic, has hardly a parallel in history."

ELECTRIC FLASHES.
John L. Sullivan, prizefighter, has become a bankrupt.

The government has decided on the spelling Puerto Rico.

A number of New Yorkers have left for South Africa to join the Boer forces.

Louisiana Democrats have nominated W. W. Heard, present State auditor, for governor.

The Republican call for a national convention, to be held in Philadelphia on June 13, was issued last evening. The appointment of representatives gives Utah eight delegates, two at large for each senator and representative and two from the congressional district.

The London Daily News has the following dispatch from Capetown, dated Saturday, Dec. 16: "The Boers intend to make a big stand at Stormberg and are making a great force at the abandoned British camp. One commando of 2,000 consists chiefly of rebel Dutch."

In biliousness, HERBINE, by expelling from the body the excess of bile and acids, improves the assimilative processes, purifies the blood, and tones up and strengthens the entire system. Price 20 cts. Z. C. M. L. Drug Dept.

One-Half Saved.

Gold Dust cleans everything about the house better, with half the effort, in half the time and at half the cost of soap or any other cleanser.

Send for free booklet—"Golden Rules for Housework."
THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY
Chicago St. Louis New York Boston



RUG GIFTS—A LAST CHANCE

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

During these last two days all the Oriental rugs will have their price considerably clipped, so if a rug gift is being considered, let us figure on it. Price or Quality will not disappoint. Others:

Wilton Rugs, 36x63 inches, \$2.00 regular—**\$2.15**

Wilton Rugs, 27x54 inches, \$1.75 kind for—**\$1.15**

Maquette Rugs, 27x60 inches, \$3.00 kind—**\$2.15**

All Fur Rugs—One Fourth Off

Japanese Teak wood Taborettes, Umbrella stands, fire etched Taborettes, Umbrella Stands, Music Racks and Stools, mahogany corner Cabinets, smokers' pipe racks, all for two days—**One Fourth Less than Regular**

FOUND IN CARPET STORE.

KNIT UNDERWEAR

UNDERPRICED.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

Only two days more of the "Portage Knit to Fit" clearance sale of women's small sizes. No better knit underwear is made; comes in every style garment. Other lines added for Friday and Saturday are:

Women's Cream Silk Vests, Zimmerli weave, \$1.75 regular—**\$1.25**

Women's fancy Silk Vests, "V" shaped or square necks, colors blue, pink, black, cream, reduced from 75c to—**50c**

Women's fancy Silk Vests, in colors, of the 125c grade, two days—**\$1.75**

Women's black wool Union Suits, \$3.00 value—**\$2.50**

Women's gray wool Vests and Drawers, glove fitting kind, 75c per garment regular, for—**50c**

FLANNELETTE GOWNS.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

Some White Flannelette Gowns for women, embroidery trimmed, formerly priced \$1.75 to \$2.25 each, for clearance—**\$1.39**

Children's Flannelette Gowns, Hub-bard style, ages 2 years to 12, did sell for 40c to 60c each, for clearance—**29c**

WALKER'S STORE.

Presents for You—and Others! FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

The last hours have come and the great store is fairly bristling over with the good and worthy presents for everybody—and you. As you know Friday and Saturday are ever the Walker's Store Special Bargain days, so—even though the wisacre merchantman emphatically declares for his profit of the holiday time—we make no exception to these usual days of underpricing. Find in this then a list of

PRICES—HALF, THIRD AND FOURTH LESS THAN REGULAR.

UP TO
\$1.65 SILKS—75c
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

A clear up, this, of Fancy Silks, and a veritable grab bag of good kinds, for a great many sold at \$1.65 a yard, none under the dollar mark. There's enough in the shortest lengths for a waist—four yards usually. Pretty nice present, isn't it, for any one?

HOSIERY! HOSIERY!!

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

Silk Stockings are acceptable gifts. Some lines here for clearance marked

Just Half Price.

Women's Cashmere Hose, outsize, \$1 value—**84c**

Women's fleece lined Hose, 40c kind—**29c**

Children's fine black Cashmere Stockings, in the flat weave, two days—**One Third Off**

Children's heavy black Cashmere Hose in the 25c value—**19c**

Children's fleeced Cotton Hose, 35c grade—**25c**

Boy's heavy bicycle stockings—**15c**

HEMSTITCHED TABLE LINENS REDUCED.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

We have taken the entire stock of hem-stitched sets, table cloths and napkins—rich damasks, beautiful in pattern design and snowy white bleached for a two days' price reduction. There are different sizes enclosed in pretty boxes and marked.

All the \$15.00 sets—**\$12.75**

All the \$20.00 sets—**\$17.00**

All the \$5.00 sets—**\$4.25**

And so on throughout entire stock.



BOYS' SUITS AND WAISTS

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

Boy's Knee Trousers Suits, made of chevots, worsteds, cassimeres, in good styles, all, cheapest or highest priced neatly tailored and well put together. Every suit is worth its regular price of \$6 to \$7.50, but moving brought them to light as broken lines, all sizes though for 4 years to 15, in something, and colors are all dark. Come two more days for them at 40c to \$2.75.

Half Prices

Mother's Friend Shirt Waists—percales of good quality in all colors and white, for boys of 4 years to 15, and sold for 60c up to \$1.50, two more days of clearance at—**39c**

ALL BASKETS HALF PRICES

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

There is a pretty collection of Christmas Baskets here—work baskets, waste baskets, glove baskets, handkerchief baskets, and no end of tiny wee baskets in cute shapes for all purposes, useful and ornamental—priced for two days—**All \$1.75 kinds—88c**

All \$1.00 kinds—**50c**

All \$1.35 kinds—**68c**

All 90c kinds—**45c**

All 35c kinds—**18c**

And so through whole stock half price rules.



A SLIPPER GIFT.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

Small sample lot of women's slippers, patent leather or vic kid, French or leather heels, which if lines were rounded out and full would sell for \$1.75 up to \$3.50 the pair, while they last—**\$1.00**

SILK PETTICOATS.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

Taffeta silk Petticoats, good quality, ruffle stiffened and corded, reduced from \$5.00 to **\$3.75**

Colored silk Empress Petticoats that were \$3.25 and \$5.50, grouped at one price—**\$2.50**

SILK BLANKETS

Or couch throws, as they are sometimes called, make very desirable gifts. A large collection here in bright and pretty color combinations, which sell at regular for \$4.00, now—**\$2.69**



SILK WAISTS.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

Sunday's announcement of these brought many purchasers, but selection is still good both as to colors and sizes. Silks are of good quality, styles are pretty, many in the tucked and corded kinds, all are well put together, and nicely lined. Were \$6.75 each up to \$10.00, two days, one price on all—**\$5.00**

HANDKERCHIEFS AND TIES.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

Women's pure linen Handkerchiefs, sheer, with dainty hemstitched borders, sell regularly for 25c each, two days—**16 2-3c**

White Lawn Ties, yard and a half long, hemstitched edge—**13c**

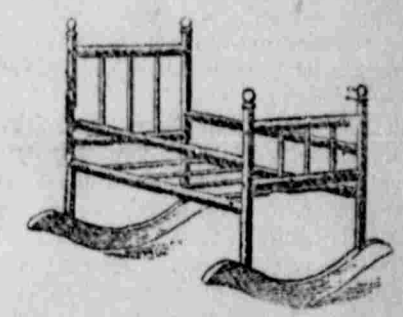
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TOY STORE NEWS.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

All Wagons, of every