

BRITISH ARMY

BADLY WHIPPED

Gen. Buller Says He Has Met
with a Serious Reverse.

DRIVEN BACK AT TUGELA

Whole Army Tried to Cross the River, but
is Beaten and Loses 11 Guns.

OVER FIGHT FOR LIBERTY.

Farmer Troops Too Much for British
Soldiers—A Parallel of the Amer-
ican Revolution.

London, Dec. 16.—At 12:47 o'clock this (Saturday) morning the war office received a dispatch announcing that Gen. Buller had met with a serious reverse, losing eleven guns. Gen. Buller was attempting to cross the Tugela river. Finding it impossible to effect his object, he ordered a retirement in order to avoid greater losses. The following is the text of Gen. Buller's dispatch announcing his reverse:

"Chieveley Camp, Dec. 15, 6:20 p. m.—I regret to report a serious reverse. I moved in full strength from our camp near Chieveley at 4 o'clock this morning. There are two fordable places in the Tugela river and it was my intention to force a passage through at one of them. They are about two miles apart.

"My intention was to force one or either with one brigade, supported by a central brigade. Gen. Hart was to attack the left drift, Gen. Hildyard the right road, and Gen. Littleton was to take the center and to support either. Early in the day I saw that Gen. Hart would not be able to force a passage, and I directed him to withdraw. He had, however, attacked with great gallantry and his leading battalion, the Chesham rangers, I fear, suffered a great deal. Col. I. G. Brooke was seriously wounded.

"I then ordered Gen. Hildyard to ad-

vance, which he did, and his leading regiment, the East Surrey, occupied Colenso station and the houses near the bridge.

"At that moment I heard that the whole artillery I had sent to support the attack—the fourteenth and sixteenth field batteries and six naval twelve-pounder quickfiring, under Col. Long, had advanced close to the river in Lord's desire to be within effective range.

"It proved to be full of the enemy, who suddenly opened a galling fire at close range, killing all their horses, and the gunners were compelled to stand to their guns. Some of the wagon teams got shelter for troops in a donga and desperate efforts were being made to bring out the field guns.

"The fire, however, was too severe and only two were saved by Capt. Schofield and some drivers whose names I will furnish.

"Another most gallant attempt with three teams was made by an officer whose name I will obtain. Of the eighteen horses thirteen were killed, and as several drivers were wounded, I would not allow another attempt, as it seemed that they would be a shell mark, sacrificing life to a gallant attempt to force the passage. Unassisted by artillery, I directed the troops to withdraw, which they did in good order.

"Throughout the day a considerable force of the enemy was pressing on my right flank, but was kept back by mounted men under Lord Dunderdand and part of Gen. Barton's brigade. The day was intensely hot and most trying on the troops, whose conduct was excellent.

"We have abandoned ten guns and lost by shell fire one. The losses in Gen. Hart's brigade are, I fear, very heavy, although the proportion of severely wounded, I hope, is not large. The fourteenth and sixteenth field batteries also suffered severe losses. We have retired to our camp at Chieveley."

The news of Gen. Buller's reverse was received so late that newspaper comment this morning is confined to perfunctory expressions of extreme regret and disappointment, and of the necessity of calmness and redoubled efforts to retrieve the position. This latest check is regarded as the most serious event in Great Britain's military history since the Indian mutiny.

The Standard says: "Gen. Buller's dispatch is a deplorable reading. It is the new familiar story of concealed Boers and of British troops marching up blindly almost to the very muzzles of the enemy's rifles. It cannot be doubted that the moral effect will be to aggravate our difficulties over the whole field of operations. The country has discovered with annoyance and surprise that subduing Boer farmers is about the hardest work we have entered upon since the Indian mutiny. Their commands have shown themselves able to give our generals useful, but expensive lessons in modern tactics."

The Times says: "Since the day of the Indian mutiny the nation has not been confronted with so painful and anxious a situation. Plainly Gen. Buller's advance is paralyzed for the moment, as completely as Lord Methuen's and Gen. Gatacre's."

The depression over the defeat of Great Britain's trusted and idealized commander is all the greater as, during the last forty-eight hours, there had been reports of the relief of Ladysmith. Yesterday the war office al-

lowed it to be understood that the position of affairs in Natal was entirely satisfactory. The reaction is all the more pronounced on this account.

The gloomy information came too late to reach the service clubs and only a few journalists and stragglers were waiting at the war office. It had hardly been realized until now, even after the experience of the week, that Gen. Buller could fail. Virtually nothing had been allowed to leak through regarding his preparations, but the public waited patiently, in the confident belief that he was taking such time and precautions as would insure success.

No independent reports of the engagement have yet been allowed to come through, but Gen. Buller's own dispatch tells the sad tale in sufficient outline to show that the British have been entrapped again by the astute Boers. It was not anticipated that Gen. Buller would make a frontal attack. No criticisms of his movements are made, however, since apparently he suffered a repulse rather than a defeat, and did not push the attack home, but broke it off in the middle, so as to save a useless sacrifice of life. It is expected that he will renew the attack shortly.

Immediately on receiving the news, the war office decided to mobilize still another division and to replace the losses of artillery. The necessary reinforcements will be hurried off as speedily as possible.

Fifteen transports are due to arrive at Capetown between December 17th and January 8th, with about 15,000 troops of all arms, but unless Gen. Buller is able to renew the attack, which is exceedingly doubtful, the British generals will be compelled for another fortnight or more to remain on the defensive.

The latest dispatches indicate the continued bombardment of Ladysmith, whose position is now perilous. Maj.-Gen. Sir Herbert Charles Chornside has been appointed to command of the fourteenth brigade in the seventh division.

The list of casualties among the non-commissioned officers and men in the fight at Magersfontein, just issued shows fifty-five killed, 253 wounded (twenty-one severely) and seventy-six missing. This, however, is apparently not a complete list.

MURDERED HIS FAMILY.

Terrible Deed of a Tacoma Man—Com-
mits Suicide.

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 15.—Adam Crist deliberately shot his wife, fatally wounding his eight-year-old son, seriously wounding a second son, aged 5 years, and then ended the tragedy by putting a bullet through his own brain. Jealousy was the only motive assigned for the crime.

Crist was the proprietor of the Chicago lodging-house and returned this morning from a six months' business trip to Spokane. He was at the hotel during the morning and apparently in the best of health and spirits.

About 3 o'clock in the afternoon he went to a Pacific avenue pawnbroker and purchased two revolvers. He stopped a few doors away at a drug store and bought 25 cents' worth of vitriol. He must have proceeded directly home, for the shooting occurred only a few moments later. Crist was in the kitchen of the hotel

on the second floor, when his wife was called to the head of the stairs to talk to a peddler. After the interval of a few moments, he sent the younger child to ask her to come to the kitchen. Immediately after four shots were fired, all of which were found to have taken effect in her body.

He then turned the revolver on the little boy and wounded him in the leg, but the child managed to crawl downstairs and escaped.

The woman staggered to the sidewalk and Crist went into the hall, where he caught the eight-year-old boy.

There are no witnesses to this part of the tragedy, but from the position of the bodies he must have held the lad close to him while he put a bullet through his heart. A 41-caliber bullet through his own head followed, and both bodies fell to the floor, clasped in each other's arms.

STOCKMEN TO MEET.

Preparations for Convention of National
Live Stock Association.

Fort Worth, Tex., Dec. 15.—Arrangements for the meeting of the National Live Stock association are being rapidly completed. The attendance from the North and Northwest promises to be very large. One of the most important subjects to be considered is that of leasing the public lands to stockmen.

At the convention the proposition was to have the arid lands ceded to the States, but this was so strongly opposed by the ranchmen, led by Senator Carey of Wyoming, that the resolution failed to pass.

This time it will come up in the form of a resolution favoring the leasing of the grazing lands by the government to stockmen who are citizens, at long leases and low rental, but under such government control and supervision as will protect actual settlers and prevent the monopoly of unusually large tracts by corporations.

Another subject that will cause much discussion is the question of permitting sheep to graze on forest reservations. Railroad matters will also be discussed on the question of the exportation of live stock through Texas ports and the Gulf of Mexico, and will attract attention, as Western stockmen are interested in the development of the live-stock movement through the western tide-water ports.

Production Never Greater.

New York, Dec. 15.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade will say tomorrow: "Unusual depression in stocks this week has displayed the great divergence between the trading and the productive industries of the country and its speculation. Never has production been greater, the number of hands employed larger, the wages distributed higher, or the purchasing power, based upon earnings, greater, than at this time, and never have conditions of trade or returns of earnings and traffic given certainty of greater business for transporters. Yet, as the earnings of the railways and manufacturing companies mount upward, their stocks decline, as if it was disastrous for a road to double its earnings and ruinous for a mill to realize unprecedented prospects."

MORE TROOPS ARE
GETTING THERE

British Army is Increasing to Over-
whelm the Boers.

ABOUT BULLER'S DEFEAT.

Was Surprised, as Gatacre and Meth-
uen Had Been Before Him—Brit-
ish Will Go On.

New York, Dec. 16.—A dispatch to the Herald from London says England went to sleep last night without knowing the worst news that has come from the seat of war since hostilities began. What time the war office received the news of Gen. Buller's reverse, which was practically a defeat, is not known, but it was after midnight when it made public Buller's report.

While the report is fairly clear, it needs elucidation in certain parts, but there can be no mistaking the result of the battle. Eleven British guns lost, attempts by two columns to cross the river repulsed with heavy losses, and a retreat to camp—that is the outcome of Buller's first attempt to relieve Ladysmith.

Two points in his report stand out with tremendous significance when the circumstances of the reverses experienced by Methuen and Gatacre are recalled. When he moved out in full force from Chieveley early yesterday morning it was his intention to force a passage at one of the two fordable places on the Tugela river, but he discovered that this was not feasible, owing to the fact that the number of the Boers had been underestimated.

At Stormberg and Magersfontein the same fact was discovered, but not until the British advance had been surrounded by the mobile foe.

Again, as in these other two engagements, the British on the Tugela were caught in an ambush. The river bed at the point selected for Gen. Hildyard's column to cross turned out to be full of Boers, who overwhelmed the British artillery.

It seems almost incredible that the artillery should have approached so near the river without cavalry or even infantry skirmishers having first developed the enemy's position. Colonel Long, who was in command of the batteries, seems to have only discovered that the river was full of Boers when he got quite close to it with his guns. He was subjected to a galling fire at close range which killed his men and

horses before he could extricate himself.

No mention is made of any support from the infantry, though it is hardly possible that the batteries would be sent so far forward without some support being provided. The scouting appears once more to have been very inadequate. Both the number and exact positions of the Boers seem to have been unknown to the British.

It is difficult to measure the probable consequence of these reverses. Southern Natal is secure, but it does not appear that General Buller can advance again until reinforced.

Meanwhile the situation of Ladysmith is most perilous. It is not possible that the news of the reverse will shade in any way the grim determination which now animates the British nation to fight the contest to a finish. Already the war office is taking energetic steps.

In the course of the next few days a large body of troops is due to arrive at Capetown. The seventh division is to be mobilized and an eighth may also receive orders. This is so far as the United Kingdom is concerned, the utmost that can be done with the exception of calling out the last reserves that can be drawn from the garrison and regular troops.

The moral fibre of the British empire is now being tested as it has not been since the Indian mutiny and the Crimea.

The London correspondent of the Tribune cables:

The war in South Africa is a popular one and successive defeats will not dampen the spirits of Englishmen who are all ready to make any sacrifice in men and money that may be needed to bring the campaign to a successful issue.

No war correspondent with the British forces in Natal has managed as yet to get an independent account of the battle through, but a detailed description cannot be long delayed.

The government is certainly acting with promptitude, as it has been announced officially that arrangements will be made for the early dispatch of the seventh as well as the sixth division, and for making good the losses sustained by the artillery. It is feared, however, that the moral effect on the Dutch inhabitants of the Cape Colony of this latest and greatest defeat sustained by the British since hostilities began will be extremely serious, and it is scarcely to be doubted that it will aggravate the difficulties facing the British army over the whole field of operations in South Africa.

The censorship is screwed up to its tightest turn, which is of itself proof that the crisis of the war has come.

Modder river and then superseded Methuen in command. This is certainly premature, even if rumors of the renewal of the attack by Methuen are unfounded. It is safe to assume that Methuen's army is incapacitated for participating in the attempt to relieve Kimberley. The British army have not been in the habit of getting within twenty-five miles of a beleaguered garrison and then abandoning it because a single repulse has followed three victories.

MEXICANS RUN AMUCK.

Result is Four Men Shot, Three of Them
Fatally.

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 16.—Information has been received of a serious shooting affray at the Ray mining camp, near Florence, Ariz. Two brothers named Oroscio, after dilling up with whiskey, went on the war path. A Mexican who refused a drink with them was the first victim. They shot him dead in cold blood and then started up the street, seeing a Mexican sitting in front of a tent, they emptied their guns into his body and left him dead in front of his door.

By this time the little camp was thoroughly aroused and everyone who could get a gun started out to round up the bloodthirsty Mexicans. When the smoke cleared away one of the Oroscio boys was dead with 19 wounds in his body and the other was shot through the body three or four places, and was at the point of death. Deputy Sheriff White, whose rifle had done good service during the excitement, took the wounded man to Florence and placed him in jail.

Yaquis Get More Guns.

Chicago, Dec. 16.—A special to the Record from Austin, Texas, says:

A dispatch from Hermosillo, state of Sonora, Mexico, says that a party of five Yaqui Indian ranchmen, with their families, have arrived there from the valley of the Batopilero river, where they had good homes. They refused to join the other members of the tribe in the present war against the Mexican government and were ordered out of the country and their property confiscated by the chiefs who incited the rebellion. One of these refugees says that the Indians recently received a big shipment of guns and ammunition from San Francisco. It came consigned to an American mining company which has extensive interests in the Yaqui country and was billed as mining machinery.

Senator Allen All Right.

New York, Dec. 16.—A special dispatch to the Herald from Washington says:

Republican leaders in the Senate say there will be no difficulty about the seating of Senator Allen. They say the Nebraska legislature discharged its duty in electing Mr. Hayward and the fact that he did not qualify before he died does not affect the situation.

Lawyer Falls Dead.

Chicago, Dec. 16.—A special to the Chronicle from Perry, O. T., says:

Matt Williams, a former well known politician and lawyer of Iowa, fell dead while making a speech to a jury in a criminal case in the district court here last night. Mr. Williams was prosecuting attorney of Pawnee county, Oklahoma.

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