

BLACKS FIGHT IN SOUTH AFRICA

Boers and Kaffirs Have a Battle in
Which the Whites Win.

THE WAR WITH ENGLAND.

Boers Kept Informed as to British
Army Movements—Desultory
Fighting in Progress.

Pretoria, Tuesday, December 26th, via
Lorenzo Marques, Thursday, Decem-
ber 28.—Commandant Swart reports
from the laager at Alwyn's kop, near
Zeerust, that he had an engagement on
Friday, December 22nd, with kaffirs in
the neighborhood of Dordorpoort. The
kaffirs occupied a strongly fortified
ridge, and were well prepared for emer-
gencies. After heavy firing the
burghers captured the kaffir position,
losing three killed and five wounded.

London, Dec. 26.—The latest special
dispatches from Chieveley camp hint
darkly at some important movement as
imminent. This is interpreted, with
some misgivings, to mean that Gen.
Buller contemplates a renewal of his
attempt to relieve Ladysmith.

It is reported by the same dispatches
that the Boers have now retired to the
north bank of the Tugela, being driven
from the swollen river may bar their re-
treat. They are also moving their laagers
near Ladysmith, probably with the
intention of putting further pressure
on the garrison which now seems to
be suffering pretty heavily from
bombardment.

It is difficult, however, to conceive
that Gen. Buller would make another
frontal attack, especially now that the
river is rising, and an additional in-
dication that this is not his purpose is
the fact that he has removed his head-
quarters back to Frere.

The Boer movement northward from
the Tugela is quite in keeping with the
enemy's plan of securing a safe line of
retreat.

It is known that further artillery is
due to arrive for Gen. Buller, but the
belief here is that his forces even then
will be too weak. He may, however,
be animated by a desire to accomplish
something before the arrival of Lord
Roberts, and to satisfy the keenness of
his men to retrieve their defeat.

The reported engagement with kaffirs
is very vague, and cannot be explained
pending the arrival of later dispatches.
The Times has the following, dated
December 27th, from Lorenzo Mar-
ques: "Cargoes for the Transvaal have
divided to one-fifth of the average,
but large shipments are expected from
Europe. In the meantime there are
persistent rumors here and in Durban
that guns and ammunition are smuggled
through for the Boers. A French
liner, now in the harbor, is said to
have brought two large guns from
Madagascar."

The head of the customs assures me
that there is absolutely no ground,
however, for such rumors. The goods,
he says, are discharged, examined and
dispatched by daylight. So great is the
stringency, according to this official,
that even saddles and horse-shoes are
not delivered to local importers, except
in small lots and under written guaran-
tees. The same precautions are taken
with reference to all contraband arti-
cles. Of course, much depends upon the
competence and incorruptibility of sub-
ordinates.

The Times has a later dispatch from
Lorenzo Marques, dated December
28th, which says: "The suspicion that
the Boer intelligence department is in-
directly reaching Ladysmith by means
of a Transvaal fund is confirmed by the
fact that the news of the appointment of Lord
Roberts as commander-in-chief in
South Africa was generally known in
Pretoria, December 20th, indirectly
reaching Ladysmith by means of a Trans-
vaal fund. Suspicion rests upon a
consul who is notorious for his Boer
sympathy. There is reason to be-
lieve that Pretoria is kept well in-
formed with regard to British military
movements."

Reference to the rumors of
smuggling contraband, it is significant
that Maj. Erasmus of the Free State
artillery is here, his arrival being coin-
cident with that of the French liner.
Considering the freedom with which
the Transvaal fund is being spent,
considerable mischief may be done
unless cargoes are inspected by
British searchers who understand for-
eign bills of lading.

The Madder river correspondent of
the Times, referring to the sore-firing
of the Boers, says: "Their nervousness
causes much amusement among the
British. It is quite certain that half
the Boer force is employed watching
by day and the other half by night.
Probably the consequent weakness
with the scarcity of water and the
presence of typhoid, will render the
Boer position intolerable. Their pres-
ent action is due either to a scare or
to a wish to cover a retirement to
Seyfontein."

The Times publishes the following
dispatch from Chieveley Camp, dated
December 24th: "Parties of Boers ap-
proached today within three miles of
Chieveley Camp, threatening our
watering parties, who are compelled
to go some two miles, owing to the
scarcity of water. It is reported that
the Ladysmith garrison made a sortie
on Thursday and captured a hill."

The Cape town correspondent of the
Daily News says: "A leading resident
of Pretoria, who was released by the
Boers, saw 2,000 colonial faces as he
was seen everywhere in the Boer
ranks."

Commandant Snyman reports as fol-
lows from Molopo: "On Monday morn-
ing the enemy from Marfeling attacked
one of our forts in force with cannon
and an armored train and so persistent
ly that there was fighting right on the
walls of the fort. But we have re-
tained our fort. The British loss is
reported as 55."

have been offered the command of a
Boer army corps. In my own mind I
am absolutely confident of the success
of the Boers. You may take my word
for it that thousands of Russians are
now drifting under Gen. Joubert."

Lord Rosebery writes as follows this
morning to the Times: "There are dis-
quieting intimations which appear to
point to our government having treated
foodstuffs as contraband of war. As
this is a matter of supreme importance
I venture to address this line to you,
in the hope that it may elicit an au-
thoritative statement on the subject."

The Times, commenting editorially
upon Lord Rosebery's letter, says:
"Too little is known of the seizures for
any valid inference safely to be
drawn. An emergency might arise
when a certain foodstuff would be re-
garded as contraband, while others
would not, especially if the latter were
intended for non-combatants. There
might, for instance, be reasonable
grounds for treating canned goods as
contraband and flour as legitimate."

After admitting that it "would be
unavoidable to create a precedent which
might some day be invoked against us,"
the article concludes as follows: "While
we fully share the view that no serious
change of policy should occur without
clear reasons and ample considera-
tion, we cannot but ask ourselves
whether, in the event of Great Britain
being engaged in a war, the action
either of the enemy or even of neutral
powers, in a manner upon which such
great divergence of opinion still exists,
is likely to be governed by any pre-
cedent we or any one else may have
in the past rather than by the im-
mediate interests of the moment."

Suicided Because He Was Robbed.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—While the lifeless
body of James W. Pelelier lies at the
county morgue awaiting the arrival of
some one who will give it a Christian
burial, a disappointed woman sits in
her home at Norfolk, Va., and waits
for the coming of her betrothed. It
developed today that Pelelier, who
committed suicide Tuesday in a cheap
lodging house, was on his way to the
town in Virginia to be married to a
woman who has waited for him for seven
years. Pelelier came to Chicago from
Marysville, Mo., with a good supply
of money and a trunk full of gifts.
But before he had been in Chicago
long, his money, railroad ticket and
baggage checks were stolen. He made
his way to a hotel in Dearborn street
and told his story to the proprietor. He
declared that he had written to his
relatives in Missouri and expected that
they would send him money to go on
with his journey in a few days. Upon
these conditions he was taken into the
hotel. The expected money did not ar-
rive, and becoming despondent he took
leudamum and died at the county hos-
pital. The name of his betrothed is
not known neither is that of a uncle
whom he claimed to have in Marys-
ville, and who, he said, was a leading
man of the town. Efforts are being
made to find somebody who is connected
with the deceased, in order that he
may be given a burial conforming to his
previous station in life.

BUSINESS RECORD OF 1899

Year Has Been Most Prosperous Known for a
Long Time.

Failures Fewer than Since 1853—
Advance in All Lines but
Foodstuffs.

New York, Dec. 29.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s
Weekly Review of Trade will say in to-
morrow's issue: "No correct report of
failures in 1899 can be made until the
year is closed. A collapse of specula-
tion in copper stocks has swelled the ag-
gregate at Boston alone over \$13,000,000
within a few days, and might yet add to
the record. The failures thus far report-
ed are fewer in number than in any
year since 1853, and smaller in amount
of commercial liabilities than in any
year since 1881. The aggregate of de-
faulted liabilities is \$120,160,000, but
nearly two-thirds of the banking liab-
ilities were added within a few days,
the aggregate reaching about \$35,269,-
000, though exact returns for a few re-
cent failures are not yet obtainable."

"In no other years except 1881, with
defaulted liabilities of \$31,155,922, and
1880, with \$65,752,000, have failures been
as small since the agency commenced
quarterly returns in 1871. The aver-
age of liabilities per failure is less than
\$9,500, the smallest in any year of the
twenty-five, a gratifying evidence that
commercial liabilities are further re-
moved than usual from the point of
danger."

"The week has been exciting only at
Boston, where the failures growing out
of speculation and the efforts to re-
establish banks and firms suspended
have not given the week a holiday
character. Yet general business is
thoroughly safe and prosperous, and
no important firms have failed, save
some which were individually connect-
ed with concerns involved in specula-
tion."

"The speculative troubles come be-
cause the volume of legitimate business
and the unprecedented distribution of
profits, interest and dividends made
it no longer possible to carry some
stocks on borrowed money. Prosperity
itself placed a check on speculative
ventures."

"Broadest review of 'the year in
business' tomorrow will say: 'Rarely
have sanguine commercial and financial
hopes or predictions found such ade-
quate realization as they did during
1899. Certainly nothing like the wide-
spread and general upward movement
of values, alike of staples and of se-
curities, such as occurred during the
year, could have been foreseen. Linked
with an immense business and a record-
breaking production in nearly all lines
of business and industry, except, per-
haps, the unproductive of the agricul-
tural interests, there was with it an
advance of staple values either of
which alone would have made the year
notable and combined to have served
to establish the year as a record-
breaker and set a new standard."

"The volume of domestic and of foreign
trade alike was the largest ever re-
corded, and the bank clearings, re-
flecting immense business expansion, ac-
tive speculation in stocks and immense
new industrial footings, far surpassed
all previous records."

"Prices, as a result, primarily of the
stimulation proceeding from supply
and demand conditions scored probably
the greatest advance in any single
year and brought the general level of
staple values to the highest point
reached for more than eight years past.
Failures statistics point to the small-
est number reported for seventeen
years past. These results have come
to pass in the face of a considerably
loosened falling off in the yield of cot-
ton."

"That the advance in the price of
staples has not been a fictitious one or
based upon arbitrary actions of com-
binations is evidenced by the fact
that a similar price movement has
been witnessed abroad, the general
level of prices in England, for in-
stance, being higher on December 15th,
this year, than for more than eight
years past. The course of values, too,
has been in accordance with expecta-
tions of economists. In that the great-
est relative rise has been in manufac-
tured goods or in products of industry
not exclusively agricultural."

"Broadest alone of all the classes
of staples, are actually lower now than
they were a year ago, the decline be-
ing about 6 per cent."

ATTACKED BY 200 INSURGENTS

Four Out of Six Signal Corps Men
Killed or Captured.

REBEL STRENGTH SURPRISE

Gen. Otis's Marriage Order Contains
No Provisions for Divorce—
Who May Marry.

New York, Dec. 30.—A dispatch to the
Herald from Manila says:

Six men of the signal corps were at-
tacked Thursday at Talevera, east of
Tarlac, by a force of 200 insurgents, and
four of them were either killed or cap-
tured.

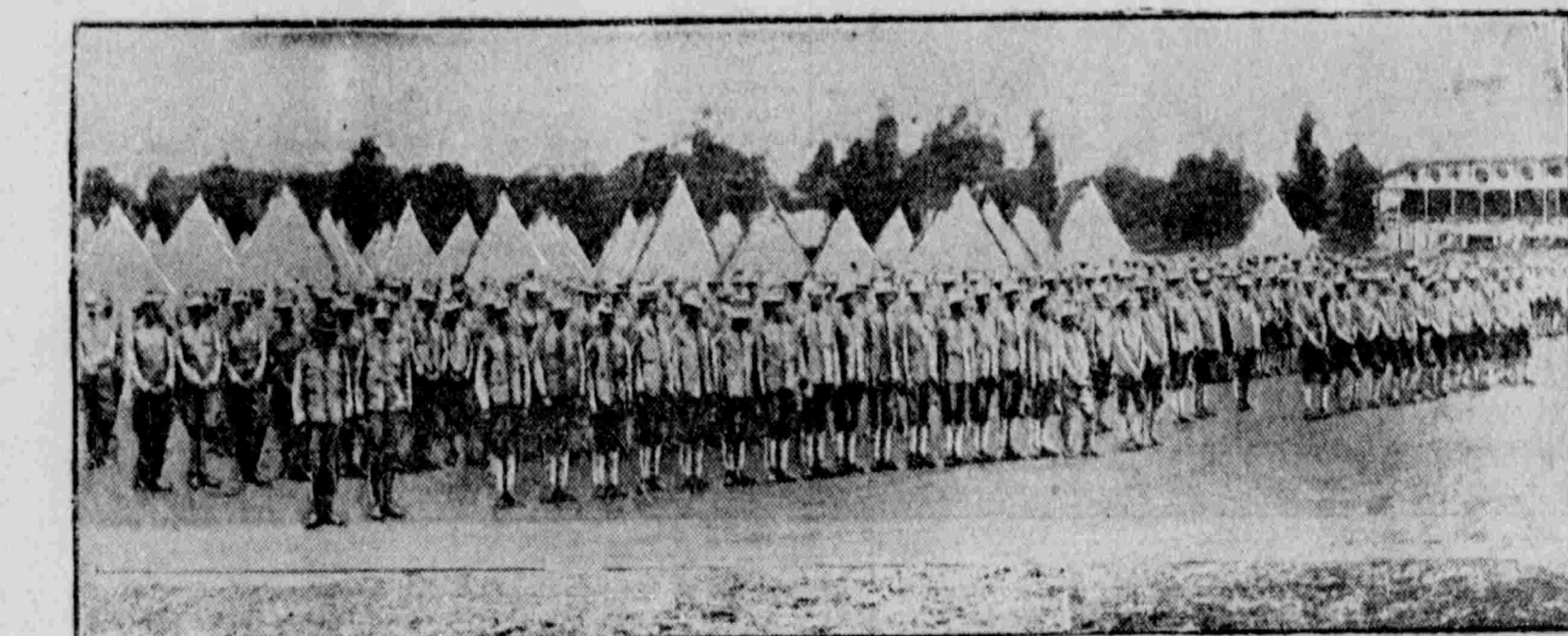
A dispatch stating that the Filipinos
were harassing the entire Lingayan
coast from Vigan to San Jacinto, in
small bands and the members of the cruiser
Yorkton's crew who are prisoners of the
rebels had been separated and were with
insurgent bands in the northern
mountains was censored by Gen. Otis
on the ground that he had contrary in-
formation.

The strength of the insurgents at
Matalaban caused surprise to the Amer-
icans.

Merchants here are anxious to have
the campaign in Cavite province begun,
so that it may be the sooner finished
and the ports be opened to trade.

Gen. Otis's recent decree authorizing

REGULARS HAVING FAILED, BRITAIN PINS HER FAITH ON THESE MEN.



The photograph shows a regiment of the Colonials attached to Buller's army at Chieveley Camp. Now that the Boers have undeceived the British commanders as to the superiority of the regular British soldier over the Boers, the men who are of the Boers' calibre have been of necessity brought to the front. These are the Colonial crack shots and rough riders, of which a regiment is seen above. They are the kind of men that Baden-Powell has made such good use of. Their tactics are the same as those of the Boers and with the kind of fighting that is practised in South Africa they are thoroughly fami-

civil marriages makes no provision for
divorce. Only the Catholic reasons for
separation are recognized in the or-
der.

In order to remove any doubt of the
status of Protestant marriages per-
formed during the last year by army
chaplains, where one of the contracting
parties was a Catholic, Gen. Otis's or-
der was made retroactive. Native wo-
men who have married soldiers without
Catholic rites have been ostracized by
their relatives.

Justice Arcellano requested the omis-
sion of a divorce clause from the de-
cree because of the belief of the Fili-
pinos that the marriage tie cannot be
broken.

SHUFELDT TO BE COURT-MARTIALED

Refused to Obey an Order to Submit to a
Civil Court.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The war de-
partment has accepted the challenge of
Capt. R. W. Shufeldt, United States
army, retired, and has transmitted all
the papers referring to the case of the
officer to Maj. Gen. Merritt, command-
ing the department of the East at New
York, for court martial proceedings.

Several days ago the adjutant gen-
eral, by direction of the secretary of
war, ordered Capt. Shufeldt to place
himself within jurisdiction of the civil
courts of Maryland, before which that
officer was the defendant in divorce
proceedings.

This order was based on representa-
tions of the attorneys of the wife of the
officer that he had failed to comply
with the orders of the court for the
payment to his wife of a stated amount
of alimony, and that he remained out-
side the jurisdiction of the State court
in order to evade process.

Subsequently the officer's counsel in-
formed the war department that, acting
on his advice, Capt. Shufeldt would
decline to comply with the order to
place himself in the jurisdiction of the
court. The attorney said he based his
advice on the fact that his client had
recently been declared bankrupt by the
courts of the District of Columbia, and
consequently was relieved from the pay-
ment of the alimony decreed by the
Maryland court, amounting to date to
about \$600. A compliance with the or-
ders of the war department, the attor-
ney stated, undoubtedly would lead to
Capt. Shufeldt's imprisonment without
proper cause.

The attorney furthermore declared
the proceeding was a scheme on the part
of the prosecution to put his client
in prison, and said that Capt. Shufeldt
would stand the consequences of court
martial proceedings rather than obey
the order, which virtually meant his
incarceration without legal support.

Capt. Shufeldt also wrote a letter to
the secretary of war protesting
against the action of the military au-
thorities and notifying him that he
must decline to obey the order to place
himself within the jurisdiction of the
Maryland court. He told the secretary
that he had been under military arrest
for more than a year, and that he con-
sidered the order issued in his case as
unreasonable, as would be one which
would require him to commit murder or
some other crime.

All the correspondence in the case has
been referred to Gen. Merritt with in-
structions to order a court martial for
the trial of Capt. Shufeldt on charges
of scandalous conduct and of conduct
unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

A MARVELOUS SPEED INVENTION IN TELEGRAPHY.

The transmission of intelligence is a
subject of such enormous importance
that it has attracted much attention,
and has called forth the best efforts
of inventors and capitalists ever since
the day when it was first discovered
that it was possible to make use of
electricity in sending messages from
one place to another. Little by little
the methods of telegraphy have been
improved upon, but no invention of
modern times has attracted more at-
tention than the new automatic tele-
graph machine that has just been in-
troduced by Anton Pollak and Joseph
Virag, the Hungarian inventors. It is
their claim that they have succeeded
in mastering the problem of quick tel-
egraphy by the discovery of a method
by which they will be able to send mes-
sages at the rate of 145,000 words an
hour.

Impossible as such a feat may seem
to those who have no practical knowl-
edge of the science of telegraphy, many
men of the widest experience have ad-
mitted that the invention is an un-
qualified success. Among the experi-
ments who have examined the new inven-
tion and who have watched its operations
is Charles M. Baker, the superintend-
ent of construction of the Postal Tel-
egraph company. He has just returned
from Buda-Pesth, where he witnessed a
series of tests of the new device, and it
is his opinion that it is one of the
great inventions of the century.

Five years many inventors have been
giving their best thought to efforts to
increase the speed of telegraphy. Ac-
cording to the old Morse system it was
possible to send out, approximately,
250 words an hour, although this is a
system that depends chiefly upon the
endurance and accuracy of the opera-
tor. With the Morse Duplex system
the number of words were increased to
400. With the Hughes system from
1,000 to 1,200 words an hour could be
sent, and the Hughes Duplex increases
the number to about 1,800 words an
hour. A few years after the introduc-
tion of the Hughes system, Inventor
Baudiot succeeded in increasing its ca-
pacity to 4,000 words an hour by the

exclusion of all other despatches, or in
instances where small villages are vis-
ited by sudden calamities requiring
long news stories to be sent to all parts
of the world. In fact, it was largely
to improve the telegraphic service for
the benefit of newspapers that the
Hungarian inventors devised their new
machine. The development of journal-
ism in every country has long taxed the
wires beyond their ability, and it was
to relieve this ever-increasing
mass of words that they have worked.
How well they have succeeded the re-
cent cable despatches have told.

The official tests which were made
on the telegraph lines from Buda-Pesth
to Berlin were witnessed by representa-
tives from both governments, as well
as by distinguished scientists and tele-
graphic engineers from all parts of the
world. At Buda-Pesth the messages
were prepared by Hungarian govern-
ment officials, assisted by Mr. Baker
and the representatives of several gov-
ernments.

In Berlin the members of the German
ministry and a delegate from the
French government received the mes-
sages when they arrived. During the
day several telegrams were sent be-
tween Buda-Pesth and Berlin. By a
tension of 20 volts 10,000 words were
telegraphed in an hour, and by gradu-
ally increasing the number of volts
supplied the speed was increased to the
extreme limit that has yet been
reached, 145,000 words an hour.

A SUCCESS.

While some difficulties attended the
last experiment, they were of a nature
to be quickly overcome, and the offi-
cials conceded that the new invention
was a success, as the sending of 100,-
000 words an hour had been accom-
plished without a hitch of any kind.
While the conservatism of the officials
prevented any further approval of the
machine, the telegraphic experts were
satisfied that even the extreme limit
would yet be exceeded. They were sat-
isfied that even the extreme limit
word limit, which means that messages
were sent at the rate of about forty
words each second.

To make the advantage of the new
device over the old methods more clear

one may cite the following example:
According to the tests recently made
between Berlin and Buda-Pesth, it
would take but a trifle over sixteen
minutes to transmit the contents of a
newspaper containing 40,000 words. An
expert telegrapher, using the Hughes
system, would require no less than
thirty hours for the transmission of
such a message, while it would be im-
possible for a Morse operator to do the
work in less than five days and nights.
As the result it is not difficult to see
that the successful test of such an in-
vention means that the entire tele-
graphic system of the world is soon to be
revolutionized. Not only will the cost
of telegraphing be reduced, but the ex-
isting lines can be put to much better
use, as the employment of a sufficient
number of performing machines would
enable the companies to meet any de-
mand that could possibly be made upon
the service. For these reasons, as well
as for many others that need not
be mentioned, the names of the two
Hungarian inventors, Messrs. Pollak and Virag, will certainly
occupy a prominent place upon the
pages of the history of the progress of
the nineteenth century.—Cleveland
Plain Dealer.

SIMPLE SYSTEM.

The Morse system, which is in use
principally in this country, is the per-
sonification of simplicity when com-
pared to the other systems. The Hughes
printing telegraph that followed was
in some respects, an improvement over
the old system, but its great disadvan-
tage was found in the fact that its 1,000
words an hour could not be improved
upon without the employment of many
sets of apparatus, in which case the
many moving parts introduced friction
and therefore consumed a great deal
of power. The great disadvantage of
the Wheatstone system, which is in use
in England, is that the apparatus em-
ployed is so delicate that it easily gets
out of order. This system may also
be called a machine telegraph, as the
message is prepared for transmission
on a strip of paper by a performing
machine.

In addition to those systems there
have been scores of inventions that
have been introduced, but in nearly
every instance the delicacy of the ap-
paratus or the complications of the sys-
tem have made them impracticable for
commercial use, and this is one of the
chief arguments that have been ad-
vanced in favor of the new Hungarian
system. Not only will the new ma-
chine transmit 145,000 words an hour,
but it is reliable and not at all subject
to disorders.

According to Mr. Baker, the new de-
vice is a combination of the telephone,
the camera and the Morse code. The
messages must first be prepared by the
operator in a type, which is inserted
in the sending instrument. Through
this, by means of electricity, a tele-
phone sounder is caused to vibrate in
the receiving instrument. Vibrating
with this diaphragm is a small mirror,
and the rays of light which it throws
are received upon a piece of photo-
graphically sensitized paper, which
shows an uneven line. The loops above
the line show dashes, and those below
dots, according to the regulation Morse
code.

Complicated as this system may seem
to the uninitiated, it is actually just
the opposite, and while it takes nearly
as much time to prepare this message as
it does to send under the present sys-
tem, the new device has countless ad-
vantages. In the first place, the work
of preparing the perforated strips of
paper is not necessarily done by one
man.

NEW MACHINES.

A hundred men can sit down at as
many machines, the machines being
built somewhat on the style of the
typewriter, and, by a regular system
of dividing the messages, can turn out
the 145,000 words in short order. In
this way thousands of messages can
be prepared at once, and the number
of wires required for the transaction
of business. The importance of this
feature of the system would be appar-
ent in many ways, especially when
events happen in places where there
are few lines, as at the seat of war,
where government messages have heretofore
occupied the wires to the

exclusion of all other despatches, or in
instances where small villages are vis-
ited by sudden calamities requiring
long news stories to be sent to all parts
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Plain Dealer.

The Khalifa was destroyed as a se-
rious power in the battle of Omdurman;
but that is not the same thing as es-
tablishing an acting dominion over a
stretch of roadless and generally wa-
terless country some 700 miles from
west to east and 600 from north to
south. Of the provinces west of the
Nile no soldier of the Egyptian govern-
ment has reset foot in the western-
most, Dafor, Kordofan, between it and
the White Nile, still harbors the Khal-
ifa. Attempts have been made to push
into the Bah-el-Ghazal and up the
White Nile to the equatorial lakes, but
they have not been successful. The
sudd, or floating vegetation, has ef-
fectually impeded the gunboats, and
becomes more and more difficult as the
river falls. A down-river expedition
from Wadai, which has so far been baffled
by the same difficulty.

On the other hand, the country east
of the Nile has been fairly covered up
to the frontier of Abyssinia. The River
Sobat and its tributaries have been
explored for a distance of nearly 300
miles and fortified port, the southern-
most in the Sudan, established at Nas-
sar, over 250 miles by water beyond
Fashoda. The Blue Nile and its tribu-
taries are commanded to the head of
navigation. The "island," or country
between the White and Blue Niles—the
best cotton land in the Sudan—is
pacified. Gedarf is being connected
with Kassala and the Red Sea coast
by telegraph. As soon as possible a
railway will probably be constructed
from Khartum along the Blue Nile,
by Abu Haraz, Gedarf and Kassala to
Suakin. Gedarf is the granary of the
Sudan; grain there can be bought
doubly as cheap as at Omdurman.
Better communication between the
Nile and its bread supply is the first
necessity of the situation.

The remaining section of the Sudan—the
Nile banks from Wady Halfa to
Khartum—is the one where most progress
may naturally be looked for. It
is the most contested and the easiest
to communicate with. But what a
country! South of Khartum rain falls
freely in summer—here, hardly ever.
Red-hot rocks and white-hot sand, eye-
searing glare, coarse, sapsless grass,
mimosas, the wooden-framed domes
of palms, empty bladders of Dead Sea
fruit, white ants and scorpions.

BATTLE NEWS AT WYNBERG CAMP HOSPITAL.



The wounded at Wynberg are reported as recovering with remarkable rapidity. Many soldiers, within a few weeks after their reception at the hospital with severe bullet wounds, were pleading to be allowed to return to their regiments. The greatest tonic to the wounded is to give them news from the front. A hospital orderly is seen in the photograph reading to one of the wounded from Elandsdagh the report of the dashing episode of his comrades destroying, in a night attack, big guns that had bombarded Ladysmith.

river. Dongola went far to supply the
Khartum army with grain. But even
if the country fills up more quickly
than there is any right to expect, it
must still remain for years half people
half desert.

Within a matter of weeks after the
lines are read the railway should have
reached Khartum, and the Sudan should
be open to trade. But where there is lit-
tle to bring out, a country there will
be little to be taken in. There is ebony
and other good timber in the Blue
Nile; there are also gum, ivory and
rich feathers to