

A THIRD YEAR OF THE BOER WAR.

Two years ago on October 11, the Boers invaded British territory and began the war.

The British troops upon the spot, weak in number, were hard put to it to hold their own. In the west the towns of Mafeking and Kimberley were at once invested by the enemy in overwhelming strength. In Natal Sir P. Symons was attacked by a large Boer force at Talama on October 20. The enemy were defeated and heavy loss was inflicted upon them, but the British general was killed. The victory was quite fruitless, as the troops had forthwith to retreat, abandoning their baggage and wounded.

A day later at Elands Laagte, the Boers were again defeated and severely handled, while on October 24, at Rietfontein, yet a third action was fought. Next day the British army in Natal effected its concentration, but was compelled to offer battle at Ladysmith on October 30, against overwhelming strength. The issue of this fight was disastrous. The enemy cut off and captured 1,000 men at Nicholson's Nek, and on November 2 isolated Ladysmith.

On November 12 the first troops of the army corps landed in Natal, in which quarter Gen. Buller had decided to take personal charge. He divided his force and took with him only 15,000 men for the relief of Ladysmith. As the magnitude of the struggle was now becoming apparent to all, a fifth division had been mobilized in England on November 11, and Sir C. Warren placed in command of it.

THE CAPE IN DANGER.

Meantime in Cape Colony the position was one of great danger. The colony was garrisoned by only a mere handful of troops, and was known to be profoundly disaffected. A bold advance would undoubtedly have carried the Boer flag in triumph to the very gates of Cape Town. But for some unexplained reason, the Boers did not press forward. They crossed the Orange, occupied Colesberg and Stormberg, but then remained inactive for some most critical days.

With the arrival of the first reinforcements at Cape Town, two columns were formed to drive back the invaders. The first was placed under Lord Methuen, and was ordered to make its way to Kimberley. It crossed the Orange at De Aar, and on November 21 began the northward advance from the Orange. It was equipped with mounted men, it could do nothing but assault the successive Boer positions which barred its route. On November 23 it stormed the strong position of Belmont, with a loss of 233 men, and two days later repeated its achievement at Graspan, with a loss of 184.

MAGERSPOONTEIN.

The Boers brought Gen. Cronje down from the siege of Mafeking to oppose it, and on the 28th a severe encounter took place at Modder river, in which, with a loss of 450 men, the British succeeded in dislodging the enemy. But the Boers only retired a few miles to Magersfontein, and there waited in an even stronger position. Lord Methuen was reinforced by the Highland Brigade, and on the night of December 10 sent in this brigade to assault the Boer lines. The Highlanders were within an ace of success. They got close to the enemy undiscovered, but then they were received with a terrible fire and lost their general, Wauchoppe, finally retreating in great disorder. The total casualties numbered 970.

Nor was this the only disaster of a melancholy month. Gen. Gatacre had advanced from Queenstown in December against Stormberg with a small force. On the 10th he attacked the enemy, and was completely repulsed with the loss of 722 men and two guns. Thus the failure of the British in the West could not be disguised. And now from Natal also came disheartening intelligence.

DEFEAT AT COLENSO.

On November 15 the Boers wrecked an armored train near Chieveley, and in the next few days pushed well to the south of the Tugela, raiding and looting. On November 23 they were attacked by the British under General Hildyard at Willow Grange, and an indecisive action was fought, as the result of which the enemy retired north to Colenso. The British under General Buller followed and bombarded the Boer positions at Colenso. On December 15 General Buller attacked without fully reconnoitering the terrain and met with a disastrous repulse, abandoning ten guns and losing 1,125 men. He

CHANG'S DEATH MAY CHANGE CHINA



LI HUNG CHANG.

Important changes in the Manchurian situation are expected now that Li Hung Chang is no more. The Chinese Emperor has recently proclaimed that it is believed that his death and the consequent coming into power of another prince less friendly to Russia will force the czar to relax his hold in Manchuria and allow the country to be opened to the world's commerce.

A Retrospect of the Stirring Events Which Have Transpired In the Land of the Africander Since Oct. 11, 1899, When the Action Of the Hardy Boers Startled the World. Compiled by a Special Writer to the London Daily Mail.

doing the fight. Finally the British retired with the loss of 1,738 men. On February 5 General Buller attacked the Boer positions at Vaal Krantz, but was again repulsed. It was now that he asked Lord Roberts whether he thought the relief of Ladysmith worth the sacrifice of "from 2,000

Mafeking and immediately after entering Mafeking, to the great joy of the empire. Lord Roberts resumed his advance from Kroonstad to Pretoria and crossed the Vaal on May 24, the Boers abandoning position after position before him, almost without resistance. On May 31

In the Free State, however, a distinct success was won when General Hunter captured Prinsloo and 4,000 Boers at the opening of August. The advance was once more resumed in the Transvaal, General Buller pushing up from the south and Lord Roberts advancing from the west. On Aug-

to reform the army and to carry out the settlement in South Africa with firmness.

Nor was this all. The troops were speedily to return home, and the necessary sums for their transport had already been voted. Indeed, so sanguine were ministers and generals, that the return of the army actually began. C. I. V., the Household Cavalry, and A Battery came home. And then a strange thing happened. The war blazed up afresh. In the Orange colony Paurensburg, Jagersfontein, and Jacobabad were attacked towards the end of October. At Bothaville on November 6 a fierce action was fought with De Wet, and six guns were taken from him. Still generals, one after another, came home. At the end of November Lord Roberts handed over his command to Lord Kitchener and returned to England, stating on his journey, at Cape Town on December 10, that "the war was virtually closed."

DE WET THREATENS CAPE COLONY.

But he reckoned without De Wet. From Bothaville the bold guerrilla passed rapidly south, and on November 23 captured a British detachment at Dewetsdorp. From that point he headed towards the Orange to invade Cape Colony. In this he was foiled, but he succeeded in inflicting a sharp check on his pursuers at Lindley on January 3, 1901.

While attention was centered upon him, on December 16th a Boer command under Kitchener had entered Cape Colony. This force was speedily followed by others, and great alarm was caused in the colony. Town guards and local defense forces were hastily enrolled. In the Transvaal also there was a recurrence of Boer activity, and General Clements was severely defeated by De la Rey at Nootgedacht on December 12th.

The idea that the war was over had, however, so strongly possessed the war office that though it was now plain that reinforcements were urgently needed there were none to send. Mr. Brodrick, who had succeeded Lord Lansdowne as minister of war, at the end of 1900 ordered out a cavalry brigade, a handful of mounted infantry, drafts and remounts, and then as matters went from bad to worse, finally decided in January, 1901 to recruit a fresh force of Yeomanry at the high price of 5s a day. But this force, raised in haste and dispatched without drill or training to South Africa, proved quite unable to take the field at once, and as Lord Kitchener had to send home the earlier batch of Yeomen, his force was actually weakened for the time being.

The enemy still continued active in all directions. The posts on the railways were repeatedly attacked, and in Cape Colony the invasion gained ground from day to day. British detachments were captured at Helvetia and Modderfontein. In February De Wet made another attempt to invade Cape Colony, but was closely pursued by Gen. Plumer and driven over the Orange with considerable loss. As it was known that Botha intended to invade Natal, a sweeping movement in the southeastern Transvaal was carried out in the early months of the year, yet the Boers managed to elude capture.

"EASY TERMS" AGAIN REJECTED. At the same time an attempt was made to induce the enemy to submit by the offer of terms which seemed to the country to be excessively generous. Reports were again current that the war might be considered at an end. However, the enemy rejected the British offer, and the struggle still went on. Plumer moved on to Pietersburg, and Sir B. Blood swept the central Transvaal, yet resistance did not collapse. In Cape Colony, where the enemy were spreading all over the country and capturing numerous small places, the British troops could do little, though Gen.

French was placed in charge of the operations.

On May 29 a determined attack was made by the Boers upon Gen. Dixon, at Vlakfontein, in which the British suffered terribly, many of their wounded being killed by the Boers. A fortnight later a British force, 300 strong, was cut up at Wilmansrust, and two guns captured. Against this only could be set the capture of Mr. Steyn's baggage, and some very minor successes.

PROCLAMATION AND ITS SEQUEL.

On August 6 a proclamation was issued stating that unless the Boer leaders submitted by September 15 they should be permanently banished and the property of the burghers charged with the cost of maintaining the families of those still in the field.

On September 5 Col. Scobell scored a small success in Cape Colony, accounting for Commandant Lotter and 133 men. As the period appointed by the proclamation drew to an end and surrenders did not increase. In fact, the Boers had determined to signalize its expiration by dealing a succession of blows. On September 17 Major Gough was surrounded and captured on the Natal frontier, three guns being lost, and a day later two more guns and a small force of mounted infantry were captured in the Orange Colony. On September 20 Forts Italia and Prospect, both on the Natal frontier, were attacked, and a desperate fight followed, in which, seemingly, neither side could claim a victory. On September 20 De la Rey attacked Col. Kock with 300 men and inflicted heavy losses upon him.

Thus the third year of the war opens with the enemy active in all directions, though in greatly reduced numbers, while the official view is still that the war is "in its last flutter."

HOLE IN HIS LUNG.

Allie, with a bullet hole through his left lung, and in a fair way to recovery, George Loeman, 35 years old, lies in St. Catherine's Hospital, after trying to take his life at his home, No. 12 Diamond street, Greenpoint, last Monday. Dr. Hayt, house surgeon at the hospital, considers Loeman's case one of the most remarkable on record.

Loeman, who is a clerk, had been out of work for some time, and, in a fit of despondency, he shot himself. The bullet entered the left breast and passed entirely through his left lung, lodging, the doctors believe, in the muscles of the back. When he was taken to the hospital it was thought that he had only a few hours to live. He was conscious at the time, but his pulse was good and apparently there was no internal hemorrhage.

In the operating-room he revived somewhat, and remarked that he felt but little pain from the shot. "A close examination of the wound showed that the course of the bullet had been very near the heart," Loeman responded readily to treatment and his condition, though regarded as serious by the physicians, continued to improve and yesterday it was announced that he would recover.

Loeman's is one of the most peculiar cases that has ever come under my notice," said the surgeon. "I cannot understand how the man lives with such a hole in his lung as the bullet made. None of his internal organs is diseased and none has been affected, apparently, by the bullet. I am almost sure he will recover."

Loeman has a wife and three small children.—New York Herald.



The above cut gives a comprehensive idea of the strategic importance of the islands in the Aegean Sea which the French fleet now controls as a security for the settlements of the claim of France by Turkey. The halftone shows Admiral Caillaud in command of the French naval demonstration, the Sultan Abdul M. Delcassee, French minister of foreign affairs, and the Gaulois, Admiral Caillaud's flagship.

ry), to augment the artillery in South Africa, to send out a number of militia battalions, to form a special service force of volunteers, and to replace General Buller in the supreme command by Lord Roberts, who was given Lord Kitchener as his chief of the staff. And the commander-in-chief was empowered to raise as many mounted men as he could in South Africa.

UNDER LORD ROBERTS.

The second stage of the war now begins. In the first the British had been inferior in numbers to the enemy and badly handled. The reinforcements in process of preparation or on the way would change all this and give Lord Roberts a distinct advantage. But owing to the plight of Ladysmith it was impossible to mark time till the fresh forces arrived, and General Buller had to make another attempt to relieve that hardpressed place. The Fifth division had joined him, but before he was ready to move the Boers delivered a fierce assault on Ladysmith on January 6, 1900, and were only repulsed after the most desperate fighting, in which the British losses reached a figure of exactly 500.

On January 9 General Buller began his famous flank movement, which was to end in such sorrow at Spion Kop. The extraordinary lethargy of the move aroused misgivings from the very first. BULLER'S STRANGE MESSAGES.

The Tugela was passed at Potgieter's Drift, and Sir C. Warren, on the night of January 23, captured Spion Kop, but the mountain could not be held in face of the Boer artillery fire and the vigorous attacks of the burgher skirmishers, though there was a moment when the enemy were on the point of aban-

to 2,000 men." Lord Roberts replied that Ladysmith must be relieved at all cost.

In England the news of these repeated reverses had increased the general disquietude, and further reinforcements had been ordered out. In the house of lords on February 15 Lord Rosebery besought the government to face the possibility that further troops might be needed, but Lord Lansdowne professed that all that was necessary was being done. The opinion of the press was strongly expressed to the effect that the crisis demanded greater energy.

LORD ROBERTS' SPLENDID STRATEGY.

In Cape Colony Lord Roberts had been busy all January preparing for an advance into the Free State and reorganizing the transport. He was compelled by the sad news from Natal to move before he was quite ready, General French, who had been continuously harrying the Boers in the Colesberg district, with great success, broken only by a disaster to the Suffolk, was quietly withdrawn and placed in command of a large cavalry force at Modder River.

After a feint against General Cronje's right, Lord Roberts began a turning movement against the Boer left. On February 12 General French pushed rapidly forward to Kimberley, and was relieved on the 15th. The British infantry followed the mounted column. Cronje, menaced with the risk of being enveloped, hesitated till escape was almost out of the question, but then, swiftly hurrying east to Paardeburg, was brought to a standstill by the relentless determination of Lord Kitchener, who attacked him on February 18. Though the Boer position was not stormed, in spite of a British loss of 1,334, time was secured for the rest of Lord Roberts's men to arrive and envelop the Boer force. After a protracted bombardment, on February 21, Cronje surrendered with 4,900 men.

LADYSMITH RELIEVED.

Meanwhile, in Natal, at Lord Roberts' order, General Buller had once more gone forward. From February 14 for a fortnight onwards he was continuously marching and fighting, and the fighting was the severest of the whole war. The final effort and the greatest victory was achieved on February 27, when Pieter Hill was captured by a splendid assault. The British loss in this series of battles was heavy, reaching 1,895 men, but the blood was not poured uselessly away, as the end was achieved, and Ladysmith was at last relieved. The retreating enemy were not pursued by General Buller, and this was the great blot upon his success.

In the Free State Lord Roberts pushed forward rapidly to Bloemfontein, fighting on the way the actions of Poplar Grove and Driefontein, the latter a fiercely contested battle. On March 13 the capital of the Free State was entered. Then followed a long halt, in which what was called "retreatable incidents" were numerous. At Sanna's Post seven guns were taken by De Wet on March 31, and a few days later, at Reddersburg, the same Boer general captured a detachment of British troops, numbering 452. A small success at Karree did not atone for these reverses, which marked the first beginning of that peculiar Boer warfare against detachments, with which we have since become so painfully familiar.

PEACE OVERTURES FAIL.

The Boers continued active and actually laid siege to Wepener, but were beaten off. During the halt at Bloemfontein peace overtures were made, but as it appeared that the Boers would be content with nothing short of independence, these had no result.

On May 3 Lord Roberts resumed the advance towards Pretoria, reaching Kroonstad on May 12 without any serious fighting. A few days earlier Colonel Mahon had moved out from Kimberley to the relief of Mafeking, where Colonel Baden-Powell had been holding his own against the Boers since the beginning of the war. On May 16 the relief column defeated the enemy near

Johannesburg was entered, and on June 5, after a sharp action with Botha, Pretoria was occupied.

"THE WAR IS OVER."

The general impression in England now was that the war was over. Unhappily, however, De Wet had been able to score several successes in the Free State against the British troops on the line of communications, capturing a battalion of Yeomanry at Lindley, a convoy at Heilbron, and a battalion of Militia at Rooiberg. He also repeatedly cut the railway.

These events gave the Boers fresh courage, and on June 11-12, Lord Roberts had to fight another action with Botha at Diamond Hill, without decisive result. Natal had been cleared in the meantime by General Buller and a strong Boer position at Allemans Nek kept the field. More regrettable incidents occurred at Ulvals Nek and elsewhere.

Just 27 General Buller captured the Boer position at Bergendal, and shortly afterwards occupied Lydenburg. At the same time Lord Roberts's troops advanced to Komati Poort. Mr. Kruger had already fled to Delagoa Bay. Again it was said that the war was over; again his assertion proved to be wrong. De Wet had escaped from Lord Kitchener and Methuen, who were operating against him, and with Botha still remained in the field potent to strike.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

So much over was the war supposed to be that the British ministry dissolved Parliament and held a general election to obtain a mandate for the settlement of the supposed conquered territories. In September Mr. Chamberlain, in his address to his constituents, said, "The war is now practically at an end." The ministry secured a great majority on the solemn pledge



Jane Toppan, the accused. The chief accuser, Paul Gibbs.



Jane Toppan on way to jail.



THE CORRIDOR OF THE JAIL.

The attention of the whole country is now turned to what promises to be one of the most sensational murder cases in the annals of crime. If the suspicions of the Massachusetts police are well founded, Miss Jane Toppan, of Lowell, Massachusetts, is the most remarkable woman criminal of the age and responsible for probably two dozen deaths. The accused woman is a nurse by profession, and numbers among her friends some of the most influential people of Massachusetts. She is now in the Lowell jail, accused of the murder of Mrs. Mary E. Gibbs, of Cataumet, and, the police charge, of a score of other murders besides. The government may require some months to build up its case against her, but some of the cleverest detectives in the country are working on the case and striving to build up a chain of evidence on the startling fact that many of the persons attended by Miss Toppan in her capacity as professional nurse have died sudden and mysterious deaths. Meanwhile, Miss Toppan's friends have engaged the services of the most eminent counsel of the State of Massachusetts to look after her interests.