

All Quiet in The Transvaal

ONLY SOME PRIVATES KILLED.

Boers Make a Determined Attack on Ladysmith

GEN. GATACRE WANTS OUT.

Transvaal Government Applies the Gun to Mine Owners. Tugela River Rising Rapidly. Boers Put it Between Themselves and British.

CAMP CHIEVELY, Dec. 28.—After a night of storm and rain the weather became fine but the Tugela has risen considerably.

Patrols report no Boers south of the river or west of Colenso for 48 hours. The enemy retired northward fearing the swollen river would bar their retreat.

The Boer garrison is being reinforced near Ladysmith and the trenches are being pressed closer to the town. A determined effort is to be made to force the surrender of White.

At daybreak heavy cannonading was heard in that direction. Our naval guns treated the Boers at Colenso to several rounds of Lyddite shells.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Dispatches from all parts of South Africa emphasize the great enthusiasm among the troops and public over the prospective arrival of Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Advices from Capetown say the reported disaffection of Dutch farmers in Victoria West is greatly exaggerated. The farmers are only landowners and will not risk the confiscation of their lands by rising and making a fight against the British.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—A dispatch from Lorenzo Marques says there is a curious story current there emanating from Boer sources to the effect that Matt Steyn, brother of the president of the Orange Free State, and 800 Burgers definitely refused to continue the war Matt Steyn acting as spokesman of the party, is reported to have said to the president that he was only authorized to intervene in the interests of peace and the Burgers did not feel they were bound by his unwarranted conduct, especially as they ran the risk of the confiscation of their property. They simply desired to live in peace and proposed to return at once to their farms.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The text of Col. Baden Powell's proclamation to the Burgers who are besieging him at Mafeking comes here from Lorenzo Marques. His remarkably bombastic utterances and unfounded assertions are calculated to surprise others besides the Boer generals.

After asserting that the republic cannot hope for foreign intervention, and pretending to relate the exact attitude of all the powers, including the German kaiser, whom he asserts is colonel of a British regiment and in full sympathy with the cause Powell makes the extraordinary statement that the United States has warned Europe of her intention to fight with England should any of the powers interfere.

CAPETOWN, Dec. 29.—A dispatch from Craddock reports heavy firing in the direction of Stormberg. It is supposed that this is in connection with Gatacre's attempt to reopen his line of communication. There is no change in the situation so far as Gatacre and French are concerned.

PRETORIA, Dec. 29.—Gen. Schalk Burger reports that trains are now running to Colenso, indicating that the Boers have built a connection around Ladysmith.

Gen. Cronje reports from Modder river, Dec. 24, that the Boers captured two British forts at Kuruman Dec. 17.

It is rumored that Gen. Methuen's big naval gun exploded, killing several men.

The Transvaal government has promulgated a new gold tax whereby individuals and companies working their own mines were taxed 30 per cent of the output, while mines worked by the government will pay 50 per cent. Suspended mines will pay 30 per cent on their probable output, calculating on three months previous work. The law is retroactive to October 1.

London, Dec. 29.—The correspondent of the Standard at Lorenzo Marques says that if Delagoa Bay is closed to the Boers they will be retaliated by raiding Portuguese territory.

Delagoa bay is the residence of the consul general of the Transvaal who is at the same time consul for the Netherlands. Through this official the government at Pretoria communicates principally with Dr. Leyds in Europe. The same gentleman controls the Netherlands railway, which runs through the Transvaal, and is the head of the Transvaal customs while he is also the manager of the Dutch East India Company. He has the ear of the Portuguese governor as well as of the chief at each depot, and it is openly asserted that he has a private wire to the frontier and knows what is happening twenty-four hours before any of the other consuls. Portuguese officials and German forwarding agents, and has fuller details.

Fifth Anniversary of the Illfated Jameson Raid.

Yesterday marked the fifth anniversary of the famous "Jameson Raid in the Transvaal, which had a bearing more or less important upon the present life and death struggle in progress there. It was a precursor of an armed conflict that was bound to come sooner or later. Had it succeeded there might have been a different story. London might not have been shrouded in gloom when the majority of the world is joyously celebrating Christmas. But it failed, and the intrepid men who engineered and took part in it are scattered to the four quarters of the globe. Cecil Rhodes, the brains of the movement, is cooped up in Kimberley, with the Boers hammering at the walls and threatening to hang him when they enter. John Hays Hammond, an American who figured largely in the enterprise, escaped sentence of death and is now in this city. Dr. Jameson is nursing fever patients in Ladysmith and incidentally casting an anxious glance over the walls of the besieged city at the hordes of Afrikaners who would enjoy evening up accounts with him. Others of the party are fighting in British columns or have returned to London. Dec. 29, 1894, Dr. Jameson and a force of armed troops rode out of Pitsani on the way to Johannesburg. The reform committee of that city declared a provisional government on the night of Dec. 31. It was announced that there were 10,000 armed men to enforce it. But the Boers were not sleeping. Apprised of what was going on, they announced that the city would be surrounded and reduced if necessary. Cannon were speedily brought out and wheeled into position. The city was picketed and every precaution taken to avoid surprise. Meanwhile, having learned the destination of the Jameson band, a force was sent to meet it. The raiders were intercepted at Burgersdorp and a crushing defeat administered to them, the Boers capturing all who were not killed. The members of the Johannesburg reform committee were speedily arrested and tried for treason. The four leaders of the movement were sentenced to death, but through strenuous efforts Great Britain secured their release and they were sent back to London.

He Minds His Own Business

MR. MC KINLEY STANDS FAST.

Will Not Tender Mediation in The Transvaal Racket.

ENGLAND MUST SUGGEST IT.

Not the Policy of the United States to Interject Itself in Family Rows. And Not in This Case the Wish.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Notwithstanding all pressure for action by this government President McKinley has definitely decided he will not attempt mediation between Great Britain and the South African republic. Only one condition is attached to this decision, and this is that Great Britain should voluntarily indicate a willingness to have such action. So far there are no signs of England's desire for mediation and no such desire on her part is expressed.

If for any reason at any time Great Britain should change her attitude and indicate a willingness to accept mediation the president will be only too glad to take the necessary steps. It is known that this matter has been fully discussed by the president with certain members of his cabinet.

No official intimation of a desire for mediation has come from either combatant, and thus the question has not been raised in a practical form. But a good deal of unofficial pressure has been brought to bear upon the administration, and the president has deemed it wise to give the suggestion careful consideration. It is anticipated that Mr. Macrum, our late consul to Pretoria, will shortly arrive here with some sort of a message from the Boer government. If that proves to be a request for mediation it will not change the attitude of this government.

There arises in this connection the query why the president declines to mediate unless Great Britain indicates acquiescence, even though the Boers directly ask for it. The question is asked, "Is the United States, then, really on the English side? Are we bound to Great Britain that we cannot move toward securing a peace without asking British permission?"

The answer is that with only one of the powers engaged in this unfortunate war has the United States any diplomatic relations. In fact, the South African republic is not a member of the family of nations and is not so recognized by any government. No ministers are accredited to the Boers, and the Boers have no official representatives in the chief capitals of the world. The South African republic not being a nation in the international sense, no proclamations of neutrality have been issued by other governments.

If the republic were a sovereign power in the international sense the United States would not attempt mediation without the consent of both the British and the Pretoria governments. Under the circumstances the president can consult only the wishes of Great Britain and he is in accordance with the strict letter of precedent.

It is only fair to say that there is a higher reason than this why the United States should be guided wholly by the desires of Great Britain. Less than two years ago the United States was in trouble with a foreign power, and a plan was formed on the continent to do more than mediate between the United States and Spain. That was a plot to "remonstrate" with the United States and to follow the remonstrance with intervention. It is known that this plot might have succeeded but for the attitude assumed by Great Britain. It is true that the accuracy of this statement of Great Britain's friendly service to the United States in that crisis has been questioned. There are plenty of people who do not believe there was a serious intention on the part of the continental powers to thwart the purposes of the United States in Cuba, and that if there was such an intention it fell to pieces of its own might and not on account of British opposition. But I am able, with the utmost positiveness, to assert that the generally accepted theory of Great Britain's help to the United States in that affair is not an exaggeration.

The facts as to that most important episode in our history are well known to a few officials in Washington, and to one or two newspaper men. I am not authorized at this time to bring them out in detail, but may do so in future.

COST OF WAR.

Some American Statistics That Are Interesting.

Some Interesting Surprises Created by the Publication of Official Statistics by the American War Department.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The cost of war is shown in figures that almost stem the imagination in the deficiency reports that have been prepared for the information of congress by the secretaries of war and the navy. The total estimated deficiency for the fiscal year which closes June 30, 1900, for all the departments of the government is \$50,301,000. Of this vast sum the deficiency in the appropriations for the war department alone amounts to \$45,157,871.

The fifty-fifth congress appropriated \$75,242,811 to defray the expenses of the army, but that has been exhausted and the additional sum officially known as deficiency is demanded to enable the department to continue military operations in the Philippines, maintain expensive garrisons in Cuba and Porto Rico and keep an armed force in Hawaii. If congress makes up this deficiency as requested the cost of military operations alone will reach \$10,000,000 a month. (This does not take into consideration the cost of the navy and the operations of that department in the Philippines and other island possessions nor its reported deficiency of \$3,000,000.)

DEFICIT IN EVERY BRANCH.

The figures show that every arm of the military establishment has run behind. The subsistence department shows a deficit of \$3,000,000; the quartermaster's department \$1,500,000; incidental expenditures, \$600,000; horses for cavalry and artillery \$250,000; barracks and quarters, \$1,000,000; transportation of army and supplies, \$20,000,000; salaries of officers and men, \$15,000,000. The treasury deficiency, amounting to nearly \$2,000,000, is also traceable to the war department's operations.

Trouble is likely to occur in the house and senate when these deficiency reports are brought to the attention of the committee on appropriations. The democratic members of both committees propose to institute a searching investigation to find out why the war department has exceeded its original appropriation by \$45,000,000 and whether the administration contemplates maintaining an expenditure of \$10,000,000 a month for the army during the next two years. As viewed by congressmen who have taken the pains to study the deficiency reports they constitute a complete bar to any attempt on the part of the fifty-sixth congress in the direction of reducing the government's war tax income.

DESPAIR OF RELIEF.

There are committees in Washington representing interests, notably brewers, that propose to make demands for the repeal of those sections of the war tax act relating to their products, but since they have learned of the sums of money that will have to be appropriated by congress to maintain the army on a war basis they have despaired of receiving even courteous recognition.

Perhaps the most melancholy item of the deficiency bill relates to the appropriation for the transportation of the bodies of officers and soldiers who die abroad. This designation comprehends all United States soldiers who are killed in battle, who die of hardships and exposure or from natural causes. The original appropriation for this purpose was \$100,000. That sum has been exhausted already and it is a well known fact that not one-twentieth of the bodies of soldiers who have fallen in the Philippines have been brought back to this country for interment. Two hundred thousand dollars is the additional sum that is asked to defray the expenses of funerals that may occur from now until June 30, 1900. The daily reports from Manila containing the names of killed and wounded will doubtless be brought forward as a reason why the \$200,000 should be allowed.

FIRE IN KRUPPS.

BERLIN, Dec. 28.—A fire broke out today in Krupp's works at Essen. The damage was about \$75,000. Many valuable models and designs were destroyed.

PEERS AND THEIR RIGHTS.

Five Grades of English Nobility

From Duke to Baron. Only one May Wear His Hat in the Presence of His Sovereign.

The duke of Manchester, who is at present on the staff of the New York Journal, contributes the following article to that paper:

It has been suggested to me that a short article on the British peerage might prove interesting to some. I do not intend to make this a very serious article or to deal with it in any way at all in a scientific light, but merely to give a few facts which I hope may prove of interest.

There are five grades of the peerage now in Great Britain, which I will name according to rank.

First, the duke, or, from the Latin, dux, or leader.

Second, the marquis, or guardian of the marchers or frontiers.

Third, the earl, from the old Saxon, eardelorman, or chief of thunes.

Fourth, the viscount, or vicecomes, which formerly meant sheriff of a county and was first used as a title of nobility in the reign of Henry VI.

And, lastly, the baron. This is the oldest form of peer.

The first three grades have the right to bestow on their eldest sons their second title, but this does not make them peers, as the title is only held by courtesy. In each case the eldest sons of all peers rank with the grade next below their fathers in dignity. There have been a few isolated cases of sons becoming peers during the lifetime of their fathers, as witness in this century creation of the title Baron Dover during the lifetime of the father, Viscount Clifton, but these are extremely rare.

SOME OBSOLETE PRIVILEGES.

A peer has a certain number of privileges, some of which, however, he scarcely ever makes use of. He is free from arrest in all civil actions, and in such cannot be outlawed; he is exempt from serving on juries; from taking his turn as sheriff, and in case of riot, the peace comitatus, or sheriff's posse, as called in America. He is tried in case of treason and felony by other peers. And suppose he should be condemned to capital punishment, he can be beheaded instead of being hanged.

A peer gives his judgment on oath "but on honor." Libel against a peer is a far, theoretically, more serious offense than against other people, and anyone committing this offense can be tried for what is called scandalum magnatum. But this is practically obsolete.

Peers have the privilege of sitting covered in courts of justice, and one peer, Baron Kingsdale, may remain covered in the presence of royalty. Peers have the privilege in parliament of wearing parliamentary robes of scarlet cloth, with bars of ermine on the shoulders, the different number of bars marking the different grades. These, however, are worn on very few occasions. For instance, when on being created a peer, he and his two sponsors, or introducers, both wear them; also when serving as lord commissioner of the queen, in the house of lords and on other great occasions, such as coronations and royal funerals.

HEREDITARY AND NEW PEERS.

The eldest son of a peer immediately on the death of his father becomes a peer and as such is eligible, whatever his age, to sit in the house of lords but the custom is that he should not take his seat until he has attained the age of 21 years. The procedure in the case of a peer taking his seat on inheriting a title is entirely different from the case of a peer taking his seat on the creation of his title. On inheriting all he has to do is to establish his right of succession by producing his father's and mother's marriage certificate and his own birth certificate, together with a letter from one of his male of kin testifying that he is the person designated in these documents, and on their being passed he simply subscribes to the roll, which is at the door of the house, whenever it is sitting and walks in.

In the case of creation the proceedings are very elaborate. He obtains two sponsors, peers of the rank of his new creation, and the three, dressed in their different parliamentary robes, present themselves before the bar of the house with great ceremony and then marquis, the same order of pro-

ceeding bowing. Five lords commissioner, also dressed in parliamentary robes and usually among them the lord chancellor, preside over the house. The patent of the peers new creation is read aloud and also the oath of allegiance to the queen in justice is read aloud and signed before the whole house, and then he is formally conducted to his seat.

PRECEDENCE FOR ARCHBISHOP.

As to the precedence in England, it is roughly this: First, the archbishop of Canterbury, next the lord high chancellor, next the archbishop of York, lord high treasurer; the lord privy seal then dukes of England, dukes of Scotland, created before the union; then dukes of Great Britain, those created since the union with Scotland; dukes of the United Kingdom and dukes of Ireland, created since the act of union between England and Ireland; then eldest sons of dukes of the blood royal, cedence as dukes; then dukes' eldest sons, and so on through the different grades, youngest sons of the dukes of the blood royal ranking after earls and bishops ranking before barons.

COUSINS TO THE SOVEREIGN.

All peers above the rank of baron are designated by the sovereign officially as "cousins." This arose from the fact that Henry IV being really related to every earl and nobleman of high rank in the kingdom, through his wife, mother of his sisters.

Viscounts are called "right trusty and well-beloved cousin."

Earls are called "right trusty and well-beloved cousin."

Marquises are called "right trusty and entirely beloved cousin."

Dukes are called "right trusty and right entirely beloved cousin."

TOBACCO.

Some Defenders of the Obnoxious Weed.

But Nevertheless its Solacing Influence Has Made for it Many Friends. Early Explorers Condemned it.

But nevertheless its solacing influence has made for it many friends. Early Explorers condemned it.

By the report just prepared by Mr. Flody, tobacco expert of the division of agriculture, on the Florida tobacco industry it is shown that "precious sinker," as his vindictive majesty King James called tobacco, has not deteriorated in importance since the days when the Spaniards landed in Paraguay in 1503.

All its present popular uses, however, were known to the natives of North and South America probably ages before Columbus was born or Sir Walter smoked his silverpipe as he sat to see his friend Essex put to death. At the time of the Spanish landing just mentioned the natives came forth to oppose them, "beating drums, throwing water and chewing tobacco and spitting the juice from their mouths upon the invaders." This last means of defense and offense must have surprised painfully the Spaniards, if the Indians had at all acquired the skill of aim which is said to have been attained by some of our western friends today.

Columbus on his second voyage noticed that the natives of Tobago reduced their leaf to a powder, which they take through a cane half a cubit long, one end of which they place in the nose and the other upon the powder, and so draw it up, which purges them very much." And Oviedo speaks of smoking tobacco as one of the "evil customs" of the Hispaniolans of his day, "very pernicious, and used to produce insensibility." They set fire to the dry leaves placed upon the ground and inhaled the smoke through a hollow forked stick, of which the forks were placed in the nostrils and the other end held over the burning mass. Thus the smoke was drawn into the lungs, and it is not surprising that, as Oviedo says, "they presently became stupefied."

THE PIPE OF WAR.

But Salvation Yeo gives another account, according to which the Indians, "when they will deliberate upon war or policy, sit round in the hut of the chief, where, being placed, enter to them a small boy with a cigarro of the likeness of a rolling-pin and puffs the smoke thereof into the face of each warrior, while they, putting their hands funnelwise round their mouths, draw into the sinuosities of the brain that more than Delphic vapor of prophecy.

"Which boy," goes on Salvation Yeo, "presently falls down in a swoon, and, being dragged out by the heels and laid by to sober, enter another to puff at the sacred cigarro until he is dragged out likewise, and so on until the tobacco is finished and the seed of wisdom has been sprouted in every soul into the tree of meditation, bearing the fruits of eloquence, and in due time the fruit of valiant action."

Valentign's tobacco box, preserved in the Leeds museum, is thirteen inches high and seven across and will hold a pound of tobacco. But before pipes and tobacco boxes were invented in England cigars were smoked by those few who indulged in the fragrant weed. They talked in those days of "drinking" tobacco—a term which was used for nearly a century, probably because smoking took place usually in public houses.

Not only was it long the fashion to swallow the smoke and then expel it through the nose—a pitch of enjoyment now, for the most part, attained by old soldiers and sailors and the Portuguese nation generally—but there were various delicate ways of puffing, and the hangers-on of society and captains of the Bohemian sort made a profession of the art of smoking and publicly inducted country gentlemen into the mysteries of the "Cuban ebullition, Euripus, the whiff," etc. etc.

THE CUSTOM IN OLDEN DAYS.

"I warrant you make chimneys of your faces!" exclaims an irate lady in one of Beaumont and Fletcher's plays. The bucks of those days sallied out to court their sweethearts, attended by a pipe and a boy to trim it, and said their fine speeches between the whiffs. Like coffee and tea, tobacco no sooner was introduced than the faculty seized upon it as a valuable addition to their pharmacopoeia. Spenser speaks of the curative powers of divine tobacco; Henry Butler, in a curious little volume called Dyet's Dry Dinner, treats of its great virtues as a digestive power, and Edmund Gardiner, in his "Trial of Tobacco" (1610) asks: "What is a more noble medicine or more readier at hand?"

But the herbe sacree, panacee antartique, by which and sundry other names tobacco was known in its early and medicinal days, soon gave way to less eulogistic epithets, applied by those who thought its influence pernicious. The battle which began over two centuries ago boasts many distinguished names on each side of the controversy.

William Penn strongly disliked tobacco. Stopping at Burlington once to see some old friends, they chanced to be smoking, when he was announced, and hastily concealed their pipes. Perceiving the smoke as he entered the room, and also that the pipes had been hid, he said pleasantly: "Well, friends, I am glad that you are at last ashamed of your bad practice." King James I believed that glowing tobacco in England was "thereby to misuse and misemploy the soil of the kingdom," and Cromwell sent his troopers to trample down the growing crops wherever they could be found.

CRITICS DECRY THE HABIT.

Stowe speaks of the "weed so much abused to God's dishonor," and Bishop Earle said sarcastically: "The tobacco seller is the only man who finds good in it. His meat, drink and clothes to him. But his shop is the rendezvous of spitting, where men dialogue with their noses and their communication is smoke." In Russia smoking was long ago punished by amputation of the nose; in the Swiss canton of Berne the offense ranked next to adultery and even so late as the middle of the last century a special court tried delinquent puffers.

It is among literary men that the greatest advocates of tobacco have been found. While it is true that Goethe, Heine and Balzac abominated smoke, and while Dumas, who did almost everything else, did not use tobacco, many famous names are cited on its side. Pope and Swift took snuff; Addison, Congreve, Prior and Steele smoked. Hobbes of Malmesbury kept his pipe alight to the age of 92; Dr. Parr smoked immoderately, often twenty pipes in the course of an evening, so that he might have reckoned time by the pipeful, as the Indians were accustomed to do, saying: "I was one pipe about it." Sir Isaac Newton was a desperate lover of his pipe and lost his sweethearts through absentmindedly using his finger as a tobacco stopper, which is scarcely to be wondered at.

The early tobacco sellers set to off their wares with many quaint conceits and riddles, which doubtless, amused the tranquil mind of their customers. For instance, on one side of a wrapper of tobacco parcel was printed:

What though I have a nauseous breath,
Yet many a one will me commend;
I am beloved after death

And serviceable unto my friend.
Which inerutable riddle was explained on the reverse side of the wrapper:

"This is tobacco, after being coult and dry'd, being dead, becometh serviceable."

FRENCH STRIKERS.

PARIS, Dec. 28.—A combined demonstration of 6,000 striking miners and lace workers occurred at St. Etienne today. The strikers paraded the principal streets singing defiant songs. Elaborate preparations have been taken to prevent disorders and heavy reinforcements of military have been sent to the scene of the troubles. It is estimated that the strikers now number 30,000.

STORMS IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—Severe gales, snow and rain storms are reported in the mountain districts of Ireland and in the north of England. Near Menagh river there was a landslide followed by a rush of water which swept away two farmhouses with the occupants. Much damage was done to other property.

business simply because they did not possess sufficient equipment to handle it."

Mr. and Mrs. Ailon will leave on Tuesday evening next for the States, remaining until about February 1, at which time they will return to Mexico to spend the disagreeable winter months.

WESTMINSTER'S FUNERAL.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—Impressive Memorial services were held today in Westminster Abbey in honor of the late duke of Westminster. Representatives of Emperor Wilhelm and chief members of the British royal family were present.