ALL PRELIMINARY.

the director of transport was adver-tising for ox wagons and drivers. Without those it would be hopeless to think of carrying and the control of the contro

NATIVES IN THE FIGHT.

A despatch to the London Times from spearman's Camp says that when the Durhams reached the top of Vaalkrantz over fifty of the enemy who were still defending the position fled, and more than half of these were armed natives.

Active Force Will be 194,000 Men.

News From Ladysmith.

Desperation of the Boers to Recover Possession of Vaalkranz.

## THE CENSOR KEEPING BACK NEWS.

## Must Clear Dornkop, Hold One Half the Enemy, Crush the Other.

A London cable: While the suspense regarding General Buller's movements and the operations affecting the fate of Ladysmith continues unrelieved even by the vaguest despatch, there comes from other quarters interesting news in the announcement . that Field Marshal 'Lord Roberts, the commander-in-chief of the British forces in South Africa, and his chief of staff, Major-General Lord Kitchener, have left for the front. As this information was held for several hours by the censor it seems to indi-cate that an important movement is

GATACRE ATTACKED.

despatch from Sterkstroom dat-A despatch from Sterkstroom dated this morning announces that the Boers are attacking General Gatacre from two directions. Firing was proceeding between the outposts and a delayed Sterkstroom despatch dated Monday, Feb. 5th, announces that a body of troops left the camp on Feb. 3rd, and that important developments were expected. It is quite probable that this explains Lord Roberts' departure, and that the Commander-inchief wishes either to be present at or supervise the long-intended movement by General Gatacres.

TO JOIN FORCES TO JOIN FORCES

with Gen. Kelly-Kenny and thence strongly reinforce Gen. French, completing the latter's work at Colesberg and establishing without fear of serious opposition an advanced position for the main movement. This, of course, is greatly supposition, but it can be confidently said that the departure of Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener for the front does not indicate that the main advance has begun. The the front does not made. The main advance has begun. The back the main advance has begun. The commanders will probably be back in Cape Town within a short time. It is pointed out that the term going to the front must not be interpreted into the idea that a great movement upon Pretoria by way of Bloemfontein has seriously commenced. It will be a month or perhaps much longer before this can be brought about.

In the meantime the preliminary steps are likely to enliven the campalgn with sharp fighting and news from Sterkstroom. Thebus and Colesberg is eagerly awalted.

Supposition regarding Gen. Buller, owing to the lack of all definite information, is as futile as it was yesterday.

To be "Agin the Government." London cable: Mr. John Redmond. Chairman of the United Irish party, was loudly cheered by all sections of the Irish members when he rose in the House of Commons to-day to move an amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne, reprean amendment to the address in reply to the speach from the throne, representing that the time had arrived to bring the war to a conclusion on the basis of recognizing the independence of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. He said the Irish party abhorred this war, and intended, so far as possible, to maintain the independence of the Republics, defended with such heroism. Mr. Redmond admitted that when the Empire was involved in that when the Empire was involved in complications a feeling of hope and satisfaction stirred the majority of Irish at home and abroad. But the



MARQUIS OF DUFFERIN AND AVA Father of Lord Ava, Fatally Wounded at Ladysmith

sympathies of the Irish would still have been pro-Boer, even if Britain had not been concerned, and another power had attempted to "act the bully and oppressor in South Africa." England to-day, added Mr. Redmond, "stood not in splendid, but in disgraceful isolation, Turkey alone lending her countenance."

While admitting that official expression of hestility had not been heard.

While admitting that official expression of hostility had not been heard in the United States "chiefly because America, being engaged in the Philippine war, had not felt herself in a position to rebuke England as she would otherwise have done," Mr. Reduddeclared that the overwhelming of leading American states. , "the unanimous dis-world demonstrated

the side of justice and liberty.

Mr. Patrick Joseph Power, member for the east division of Waterford county, seconded Mr. Redmond's am-

endment.
Mr. Redmond's amendment ected by a vote of 368 to 66.
The House then adjourned.

On Monday the British made a on Monday the British made a successful frontal demonstration while a real attack on the right was made by the Durham Light Infantry, who stormed two hills, and then biyou-acked. The casualties were not heavy. The fighting continues as this despatch is sent.

Drove in the British Line. Tuesday morning was spent in bom harding the Boer guns. The British naval 4.7-inch guns struck a Boer am-munition wagon at 11,800 yards,

The hill taken yesterday by the British is still lield. About 50 of the

British is still held. About 50 of the enemy who remained on the hill were driven out by the Durham Light infantry, which behaved well.

Kaffirs are fighting with the Boers. An officer was wounded by a Kaffir. At 3.45 o'clock the Boers made a sudden rush, supported by their artillery and Maxim guns. They drove in the British firing line. The whole of General Lyttleton's brigade myshod. General Lyttleton's brigade rushed, cheering, to the support of their comrades, with fixed bayonets, and drove the enemy back.
The firing continues.
There was no advance to-day.

British Loss About 250.

Gen. Buller commenced the advance for the relief of Ladysmith on Monfor the relief of Ladysmith on Monday. The naval guns opened at seven in the morning, and a feint attack was made in front of our position. Three battal ons advanced toward the Brakfontein, with six batteries. At 11 c clock the Boers opened with artillery fire, and sent several shells among the British infantry, who retired an hour later.

hour later.

Meanwhile a vigorous attack was made on the extreme right, where the engineers expeditiously constructed a Several pieces of cannon hidden

among the trees on Zwart's kop bomamong the trees on Zwart's kop bom-barded heavily.

The British infantry advanced, and the Boers were entirely surprised.

The operations were excellently

The operations were excellently planned.

The bombardment of the Boer positive planned in the bombardment of the Boer positive provinces. The bombardment of the Boer posi-tion was resumed yesterday morning. The Boers worked a disappearing cannon from the high Doorm kloof range, on the right of the captured hill; but the British shells exploded its magazine, and the gun was put out of action until late in the day. Musketry fire was intermittent un-til the afternoon, when the Boers made a determined effort to take the hill.

made a determined enors to take the hill.
Reinforcements rushed up cheering; the Boers were repulsed and the British advanced along the ridge. Our further advance is at the mo-ment prevented, as the Boers enfilade us from their positions on Spion kop and Doorn Kloof.

Our casualties, although estimated at 250, are trifling, considering the great importance of the movement just concluded. At the Boyonet's Point.

At the Boyonet's Point.

London cable: The Standard's war correspondent thus describes Gen. Buller's latest advance:

"The movement began early Monday by Potgleter's drift. The Eleventh Brigade, forming part of Gen. Warren's division, made a feint to attack the kopjes immediately in front. The assault was delivered at the outset under cover of the naval guns on Mount Alice, and subsequently under Mount Alice, and subsequently under that of the field batteries

"The infantry advanced steadily to-wards the Boer entrenched position at Brakfontein, and kept the enemy bussly employed.
"While this diversion was being

"While this diversion was being made the remainder of the infantry were told off for attack.
"Those who had bevouacked Sunday night under Mount Alice moved along the foot of Swartz kop in the direction of our right.
"A pontoon had been thrown across the Tugela by the engineers under the enemy's fine. The first battalion across in the forenoon was the Durham Light Infantry of General Lyttelton's brigade. They advanced against Vasikrantz, which lies on the most direct road to Ladysmith, and after two hours' splendid work got within charging distance of the Boers.
"The first of the kopjes was carried at the point of the bayonet with the utmost gallantry.
"Almost simultaneously the

ried at the point of the bayonet with the utmost gallantry.

"Almost simultaneously the first battation of the Rifle Brigade cleared the second kopje. After moving across a long ridge they bivouacked on the

spot.
"The feint attack at Potgeiter's drift having served its purpose of preventing the concentration of the enemy at a critical point, the Eleventh emy at a critical point, the Eleventh Brigade fell back to the river. "In the course of the operation both infantry and artillery had been subjected to a severe shell fire. "At 4 p. m. Tuesday the enemy endeavored to recapture the position at Vaalkrantz. They were, however, beaten back, with loss.
"The work accomplished so far was magnificently done.
"The shell and Maxim fire poured by the Boers has been extremely

by the Boers has been extremely severe but our losses, comparatively speaking, have been small.

"The Durham Light Infantry took

w prisoners in the cou been made good.

"The enemy, as usual, fought with the utmost stubbornness.

"The manoeuvring and the accuracy of the aim of the artillery during the fighting Monday were beyond praise."

Additional details from other sources represent the Boers as hav-

Additional details from other sources represent the Boers as having been thoroughly hoodwinked by the feint, they not suspecting the movement by which the British right crossed the river further east. The hills seized form a continuation of the Brakfontein range, Vaalkrantz being the key of the lower ridges, Kranz kloof soaring above. The Boers on Tuesday worked a disappearing caunon from Doorn kloof. British shells, however, exploded its magazine, and the run exploded its magazine, and the gun was put out of action until late in the day.

The British balloon was of the The British balloon was of the greatest assistance in locating the Boer position. Their constant efforts to destroy it did not succeed.

The Boer position which General Buller attacked consists of a line of kopjes strongly entrenched extending from Spion Kop three miles to the eastward extremity, curving sharply southward opposite Zwart's Kop, and overhanging Schiet's Drift, where a third pontoon was constructed.

Shelled by 72 Guns.

Shelled by 72 Guns.

A London cable: Bennet Burleigh, the Daily Telegraph's correspondent at Spearman's Camp, in a despatch dated Monday night, says: "Under the personal direction of General Buller, the attack of the Boer position was begun this morning by nearly the whole of our batteries—72 guns—shelling the ridges where the enemy have their trenches and redolubts on the Brakfontein and the low crest facing Potgieter's Drift.

"The enemy suffered severely. Severely."

"The enemy suffered severely. Several hills were smoking like volcanoes from the effects of the bombard."

The usual daily shelling here continues.

"There is not the slightest likelihood of the Boers dislodging the British from the position they have gained."
He adds that the prospects for the relief of Ladysmith are decidedly hopeful.

Another correspondent writes that the British position is improving, and still another, that they are gaining ground.

On the other hand, another correspondent cables that the further advance of the British is prevented at the moment, as the Boers enfillade them from their positions on Spion kop and at Donn kloof, but the telegram does not make it clear whether the advance was checked on Monday or Tuesday, or at what hour.

Canadians to the Front.

A special despatch from Mr. W. Riehmond Smith, the war correspondent of the Montreal Star, with the Royal Canadian Regiment, says

Canadians to the Front.

A special despatch from Mr. W. Richmond Smith, the war correspondent of the Montreal Star, with the Royal Canadian Regiment, says that the regiment has been ordered to the front, presumably to Modder River. The regiment is to go first to Gras Pan, half way between Belmont and Modder. A and G Companies, representing British Columbia, Manitoba and New Brunswick, remain behind for the present.

MacDonald Holds His Own.

Modder River cable: Gen. Macdon-

MacDonald Holds His Own.

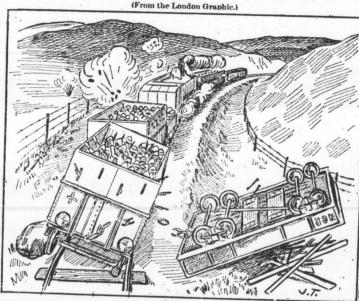
Modder River cable: Gen. Macdonald maintains his position at Koodoosberg drift. His movement has evidently disconcerted the Boers and at the same time safeguards the operations of a portion of the Belmont garrico: in the direction of Douglas, where there are still a few Boers.

The British casualties are two men. The 9th Lancers made several attempts to draw out the Boers, but were unsuccessful. The British held the highest portion of the kople, the Boers' position being lower. Owing to the steepness of the southern slope of the kople it is impossible to mount lattillery. Without those it would be hopeless to think of carrying on the invasion, and it must be a month more before they are ready. Another preliminary is that Gen. Roberts-las only just sanctioned the formation of the new Colonial Yeomanry, consisting of a troop of one hundred men for each district of the colony, to protect the loyal for-

oil one hundred men for each district of the colony, to protect the loyal farmers. This force will be officered from among the local yeomen. Opinion is divided as to whether Roberts and Kitchener have goue to the Modder River or Sterkstroom. Sir John Gordon Sprigg, the former Premier of Cape Colony, has cabled to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary, in behalf of the Imperialists of Cape Colony, congratulating him on the Government's overwhelming majority in the House of Commons, and declaring the Government's policy, if steadfastly pursued, would secure South Africa under British supremacy.

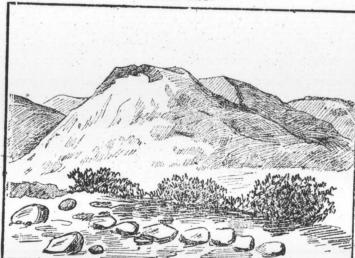
NATIVES IN THE FIGHT.

THE ARMORED TRAIN DERAILED NEAR ESTCOURT.



From a Sketch by an Artist With the Train and Forwarded by Winston

## SPION KOP.



ment, which set fire to their stores and the grass.
"While the third pontoon bridge was being constructed, under fire, near chit (Skiet) Drift, the Eleventh Brigade, now under the command of Col

Wynne, made a demonstration against the Brakfontein Ridge, marching across the meadows with the support of seven batteries of artillery. "At 11 o'clock the enemy opened a heavy cannonade of shrapnel, common shell and pompon shell, chiefly from Soon kop. This was accompanied by a rattling musketry fire. Our gunners behaved admirably, and were as cool

if upon parade. demonstration having gained The Gemonstration having gained to effect, the real attack upon the Boer left was delivered at 4 o'clock. The Durham Light Infantry carried Vanlkranz, the key of the lower ridges, while Gen. Hildyard's brigade assailed the higher ridges. The general and his troops are bivouacking upon the field of battle. In the language of boudoir bulletins, mother and child are doing well. Our losses are trifling." are do'ng well. Our losses are trifling."

It is believed that the Boers suffered

lmost lost Once. London cable: According to the Times' correspondent with Gen. Buller, the Boer attack on Tuesday afternoon was at first successful, but, reinforcewas at first successful, but, reinforcements arriving, the polition was recarried at the point of the bayonet. The Times' correspondent confirms the statement that the heavy shelling from the Boer guns at Doorn kloof prevented a further advance of the British on Monday, and the troop-bivouacked where they stood at night. Describing Tue-day's movements the correspondent says that no further orrespondent says that no further dvance was made. The Boers maintained a long-range shell fire. The positions of their guns could not easily

be discovered.

The Standard's correspondent claim may be fairly said that the step along the road to Ladysmith has

The outposts report that the Boer open plain in front of Magersfontein drift, presumably to prevent the Brit-ish horse and field artillery from ap-proaching within markets. proaching within range of their post

Lower Ridges.

the key to the lower ridges, while a praiseworthy and gallant achieve

AN IMPORTANT GAIN.

Buller Holds Vaalkrantz, Key to the

Lower Ridges.

A London cable says: Presumably Gen. Buller is fighting again to-day in his third attempt to relieve Ladysmith, and news of the greatest import may arrive at any moment. Yet there is more doubt here than exultation, for even if the recollection of Gen. Buller's two disastrous fallures after suspicious starts were not keen in the minds of the public, the lists of casualties published to-day would be a sufficient reminder of the tremendous difficulties of his task. The fact that

HE OCCUPIES VAALKRANTZ, the key to the lower ridges, while a

the key to the lower ridges, while a praiseworthy and gallant achievement, by no means signifies that he and General White will inevitably join hands. Before Gen. Buller there are several days' hard fighting. The British forces are smarting under defeat and will undoubtedly be nerved to more desperate efforts than ever before, and if furious gallantry can carry General Buller over the kopjes that face him, Ladysmith will be relieved within a week. It is likely that Gen. Barton at Chieveley is strong enough to advance on the Tugela and render valuable assistance from the southeast, while the beleaguered garrison itself, according to the latest despatches, should be able to create a potential diversion when General Buller shall have overcome the initial difficulties in the kopjes immediately north of the Tugela.

GREAT ACTIVITY.

Turning from the transcendental interest in Lordon Figure 1.

Turning from the transcendental interest in Ladysmith, the whole war area presents a scene of important activity. The Boer attack con Gen. Getagra's former arrested in such as the second of the seco war area presents a scene of in-portant activity. The Boer attack Mountains, on Gen. Gatacre's forces reported in such a on Feb. 7th, fizzled out. The artil-cease for a ery of the burghers, after shelling be a force

The Boer guns at Blaawbank have seen often firing at the British cavalry horse; when out grazing. Yesterday a party of Boers cut out about forty

owing to the British taking advantage of it, "sniping" has increased. The Poors captured two grass-cutters on Thursday.

The Bulwana h'll gun Chieveley was

shelling the Helpmakaar hill post yes-terday, when a British private of the 60th Battery was completely buried in the torn-up earth. He managed to extricate himself in a few-seconds, and found he was not even scratched. The weather is warmer and brighter than it has been recently, but it till The weather is warmer and brighter than it has been recently, but it still is cold for a South African summer.

The spirits of the troops and civilians are good, in spite of the fact that everybody is consummately bored by the monotony of life here. There is universal complaint of the lack of news of both the war and general happenings.

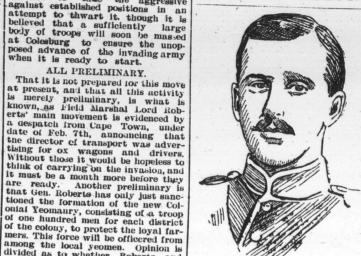
norses, losing two men in the opera-

grass is excellent now, and,

appenings.
The local situation is threadbare.

leat which Gen. Buller must perform if large strategical results are to follow his efforts. He has not merely to penetrate the lines held by eight-een to twenty thousand Boers, but to

Ladysmith can hardly be accomplished with safety. The relief o the town in the real sense must mean the re-establishment of free and safe communication between it and the sea, which is our true base. This cannot be effected except by the destruction or rout of the Boer commandos in Natal. Gen. Buller, with the magnificent troops at his disposal, may accomplish this fost the town in the disposal, may accomplish this feat, but when the many adverse condi-tions with which he has to contend are fully realized, we cannot await



CAPT. R. F. CARNEGIE, econd Battalion Gordon Highland

without considerable anxiety the issue of this, his third effort to break through the Boer defences, and of the operations which must follow if it is to lead to a genuine strategic success.

To Attack the Flank.

London cable: There is still nothing ing to indicate the whereabouts of Gen. Lord Roberts. As regards the latter, however, a military correspondent whom the Daily Mail describes as being in touch with official circles, and possessing information described and possessing information deserving close attention, writes to that paper saying: "With a force which does not saying far short of 30,000, Gen. Lord number far short of 30,000, Gen. Lord Roberts has commenced to march on Eloemfontein. The next 10 days must seal the fate of the Boer invasion, en-abling us to meet the enemy in his country."

Meanwhile General Gatacre, having a strong force to reconnect to the country.

Meanwhite General Gatacre, having a strong force to reconnoitre the country westward, which has for a long time been dominated by the Boers, has been himself attacked in the neighborhood of Sterkstroom, but the details

are unknown.

Nothing has been heard from Gen. Nothing has been neard from Gen. Kelly-Kenny for a day or two, but as he was last reported to be advancing to jim Gen. Gatacre, it is hoped here that he will be able to take the latter's assailants on the flank or in latter's assailants on the flank or in

Active Force Will be 194,000 Men.

A London cable: In the House of Commons to-day, Mr. George Wyndham, Tarliamentary Secretary of the War Office, answering a question, said that 2,285 officers and men of the Brittle army were missing, but it was uncertain how many of them were at Pretoria. As to their protection in case the British besieged Pretoria, Mr. Wyndham said the Government left that to the discretion of Lord Roberts. Answering another question, Mr. Wyndham said that in addition to the 180,000 troops in South Africa recently mentioned in his speech, the Government had decided to send 17 more battallons and 3,000 yeomany, making a total for the militia of over 20,000 men and for the yeomany 8,000. The grand total in South Africa, he added, would then be 194,000 effectives, exclusive of sick and wounded.

British Losses to Date.

London cable: The casualties latter's assailants on the many the rear,
As Colesberg and vicinity is very likely to be the scene of some fighting a brief description of the polition will be useful. Colesberg itself is an open town, four miles west of Colesberg Junction, on the railway from Naauwpoort to Bloemiontein. A range of hills to the westward commands the London cable: The casualties re-ported from the Upper Tugela bring the total British losses to 10,244 kill-ed, wounded and captured. Nauwpoort to Bloemiontein. A range of hills to the westward commands the town and is held by the British. Rensburg, Gen. French's headquarters, is south of Colesberg. Achtertang is eight miles to the northeast of Colesburg Junct on, the railway between the two places running through a gap about midway in a range of hills stretching north and south. From Achtertang to Norval's pont station is ten miles, and about a mile further on the railway crosses the Orange. River by a bridge still in the hands of the Boers. The ferry known as Norval's pont is about two and a quarter miles higher up the river on a bend to the southeast. B tween Achtertang and Norval's pont stat on was a bridge called the Vanzyl bridge, which was destroyed early in the way. News From Ladysmith.

A Ladysmith cable says: By native runner to Estcourt, Feb. 7.—A night attack by the Boers on the town has been deemed possible the last three nights, especially on Wednesday or Thursday, because of the intense darkness. The British artillery fired several star shells.

But nothing happened.

The Boer artillery surrounding us, which has been quite active by spells, which has been quite to-day. I fancy that the new Creusot gun has supplanted the gun which has been firling on us from Telegraph Hill. The shells from the new gun travel with a cleaner sound than these forms. tertang and Norval's pont state on was a bridge called the Vanzyl bridge, which was destroyed early in the war. Away to the northward there runs a road following the course of the Vanderwaits River to the Orange River at Botha's drift. The Colesberg road bridge across the Orange River was also destroyed sobn after the outbreak of hostilities. Some miles down the river from the railway bridge is a drift, called Alleman's drift, where the road to Bethulle from the south crosses. It is to secure these different crossings that Gen. French has during the past six weeks been manoeuvring, while the Boer force in front of him has been considerably reinforced quite recently, and the Free State general commanding. Grobler, is said to have been jointly Col. Villebois Mareuil from Natul' A Pretoria despatch. dated Monday, says that the British were then seven m'les from Achtertang, the direction not indicated. The country in which the expected fighting may take place is hilly, with scattered koples offering good means of defence, but it seems more probable that the Boers will exentually retire across the river to the defences on which they have now for some time been at work and there dispute the passage of the river by the British.

Boers Lost Very Heavily. elis from the new gun travel with old one, and do not wobble during A sight artillery fire was heard this morning.

Large bodies of Boers have been believed by the Bulling Blooms and Blooms and Bulling Blooms and Bulling Blooms and Bulling Blooms and Bulling Blooms and Blooms and Bulling Blooms and Bulling B Large bodies of Boers have been noticed lately behind Blaawoank, Bulwana and Telegraph hills. It is impossible for anybody here to explain what their intentions are.

Boers have also been seen returning to the vicinity of Colenso, after having visited their base of supplies at Elands Langte.

Boers Lost Very Heavily. A London cable: Since General Buller's attack began Ladysmith has been prevented from following the details of the movement owing to a

haze.
The Morning Post's correspondent despatched a runner on Tuesday, re-porting that Boers were massed south-of Munger's Hill, from which direc-tion many ambulances were travel-ling to the main hospital by Table hill.

was added that there was another large Boer camp east of Spion kop, and that most of the Boers' heavy baggage was sent towards the mountains Monday

Describing the position at Lady-mith, the correspondent says:

"A large force of Boers remains smith, the here.
"The bombardment now is very

"The bombardment now is very slight, though the gun on Bulwana hill is occasionally active, as well as a nine-pounder on the Colenso plateau, which had been silent since Jan. 6th, until yesterday.

"It is believed that the Creusot gun on Telegraph hill, the Howitzers on Surprise hill, and the gun on Middle at have been withdrawn south."

e has been issued announcthe bubonic plague has dis-from Oporto, and that the ne of that port has been re