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## Burghers' Forces

### Reported to Be Active Both East and West of Free State Capital.

### Main Body Near Ladybrand-Brabant and Dalgety Moving Northward.

London, May 1.—Boer activity is reported west of Bloemfontein. They are in force between Fourteen Streams and Kimberley. On Sunday they occupied Windsor, west of the railway and now threaten to interrupt communications of the British force at Warrenton to the north.

East of Bloemfontein the Boers on Sunday night were still holding the hills near Thaba Nchu, while behind them the Boer army in the north are moving through Ladybrand.

One convoy was captured by the British on Saturday, but its size is not mentioned in the dispatches, which barely announce the fact.

Wepener, lately the scene of incessant fighting is deserted. Gen. Brabant and Col. Dalgety having moved northward.

Information from Magera is to the effect that the

### Main Body of the Boers

reached Leeuw river, due west of Ladybrand, at intervals of ten miles to protect the rear and whip up the herds. Slight outpost actions take place daily beyond Karee Siding where the head of the British invasion is centred.

African horse sickness has broken out in General Buller's army, especially among freshly arrived animals. The Bloemfontein correspondents point out that the deficiencies in the veterinary department cause thousands of losses.

General Lucas Meyer, replying to General Buller's complaint that some of the British prisoners at Pretoria are lodged in gaol, says that only those are so treated who tried or are suspected of trying to escape. He reports, however, that Boer prisoners are confined in the town gaol at Pietermaritzburg.

The morning papers give special prominence to the statement of a news agency that Sir Redvers Buller

### Sent His Resignation

to Lord Roberts after the Spion Kop cesses were published and that Lord Roberts declined to accept it.

War specialists to-day consist chiefly of detached scraps of speculation, the favorite introduction of the military commentators and editorial writers being, that as only scant news has been wired, something big is probably about to happen. The Daily Chronicle expert says if a solid victory is to be attained the British must have a different leadership from what has been displayed in the Dewet's Dorp operations.

### Mounted Rifles Engaged.

Montreal, April 30.—The Herald correspondent in South Africa cables under date of April 28th that B Squadron Mounted Rifles under Major Williams were engaged at Leeuw Kop on Sunday. They retired after having fought splendidly. Capt. Straubenzie's horse was shot down under him, and four others had similar escapes.

### Resolution Thrown Out.

Washington, April 30.—By a vote of 20 to 29, the Senate to-day refused to consider Senator Pettigrew's resolution of sympathy with the Boers.

### Leaving Natal.

Ladysmith, April 30.—The country north of Smalpoort River seems comparatively clear of Boers.

Louis Botha is resuming the supreme command of the Transvaal forces.

### CANADIANS IN ACTION.

Details of the Fight at Israelpoort—Col. Otter Wounded Twice.

London, April 30.—A special from Thaba Nchu, dated Thursday, describing the fight at Israelpoort, which is about seven miles west of Thaba Nchu, says:

Three hundred Boers were strongly entrenched on two kopjes. The place of honor was given to the Canadians, who advanced very cleverly under their dashing commander, Colonel Otter. The Boers reserved their fire until the Canadians had reached the wire entanglements. Then they opened with a terrific hail of bullets.

The Canadians, however, had taken good cover and were not greatly damaged. They were ably supported in the assault by the Grahamstown Horse. Successive rushes brought them right up to the kopjes, when Colonel Otter was wounded twice, one bullet inflicting a nasty but not dangerous wound in the neck and the other tearing the bandages from his shoulder. But he still

### Cheered the Men On

until the kopjes were carried. The Boers bolted. The British losses were twenty killed and wounded.

A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Thaba Nchu, describing the same engagement, says:

The British artillery shelled the kopjes all day from three positions. The Boer positions were extremely well chosen, consisting of a long range of very precipitous hills, with narrow paths

(passes) between, commanding a vast extent of country.

"The mounted infantry made a wide turning movement, while the foot infantry advanced within 200 yards under good shelter.

"During the afternoon the battle became general, and extended over a frontage of ten miles. The rifle, Maxim and artillery firing was deafening.

"At 3 o'clock the

### Canadians Advanced

in open order, but meeting with a terrific fire, they took shelter in a donga. When they finally captured the kopjes the Boers were seen retiring north and east with wagons and subsequently when the infantry made a dash the rest of the enemy fired a few shots and cleared off.

"On occupying Thaba Nchu we found the stores and hotels looted by the Boers. The natives complained of having their horses and cattle stolen and of cruel treatment. The English residents were subjected to taunts and insults.

"I learn that yesterday

### Boer Reinforcements

from Brandfort arrived too late to assist their comrades. We found a heliographic message from President Steyn to General Botha saying it was undesirable to send more troops to Fourteen Streams as the federals were already too weak between Bloemfontein and Kromstad, and because there were 50,000 British at Bloemfontein. The farmers around here have all been forced to rejoin the enemy. Most of them have taken their sheep and cattle along."

Ottawa, May 1.—In a report from Lt.-Col. Otter, commanding the first Canadian contingent in South Africa, received at the militia department this morning, under date of March 18th, that officer says:

"During the march, which began on February 13th and ended March 18th, I cannot speak too highly of the conduct generally of the officers and men of the Royal Canadian Regiment. The march was a very trying one, the men being without tents and change of clothing.

"Referring to the incident which resulted in a Canadian being court-martialled and sentenced to 50 days' imprisonment for stealing a chicken, Col. Otter says the punishment was necessary because it was a direct violation of the stringent orders given by the commander-in-chief that there was to be no looting. He says this fact must have been known to all the troops. He, however, adds that the temptation to steal the chicken was great, owing to the men being put on half rations during the march."

### Canadian Losses.

Ottawa, May 1.—The first Canadian contingent, which left Canada 1,000 strong, was, on the 23rd of March last, reduced to the strength of 751. There were sick in hospital and wounded 206, and one officer and 53 men were killed.

### CANADIAN MOUNTED RIFLES.

Toronto, May 1.—The Globe correspondent with the second contingent, in a letter from Van Wyck's Vlei, Cape Colony, dated April 4th, says:

"Private Bradley, of Ottawa, died from pneumonia as a result of being thrown into the water by the horse which he was riding.

"Fearful rains, almost impassable roads and a threatened shortage of provisions and stores, are characterizing the march. These hardships are beginning to tell.

"We left nineteen men in the hospital at Carnarvon, and another hospital has been established here.

"Private Hopkin, 'D' Battery, accidentally discharged his revolver, the bullet taking effect in his knee. The wound is not dangerous.

"Lieut.-Col. Herchmer has taken a staff appointment at Capetown, and Major Howe is now commanding the Canadian Rifles."

### THE WOUNDED.

Toronto, May 1.—The Evening Telegram's correspondent cables that all the invalided Canadians at Netley are doing well, except Private Werb, of the Queen's Own Rifles. They complain of the doctors at the hospital, declaring that all of them are students owing to the best doctors being at the front.

They also complain of the tardiness of the Dominion government in not either removing them to Africa or to their homes.

### Recruits for Strathcona's Horse.

Montreal, May 1.—The fifty recruits for Strathcona's Horse, now in South Africa, sailed by the Dominion liner Vancouver, Capt. McDonald, from this port this morning. They go to Liverpool, whence they go to Southampton, and from there by steamer to Capetown.

London, May 1.—The following dispatch has been sent by Lord Roberts to the war office:

"Bloemfontein, April 30.—The Boers made very persistent attacks around Thaba Nchu on Saturday and Sunday, but the position which the eighth (Bundie's) division held is very strong, and it had the assistance of the Gordon's and Dickinson's brigades, the cavalry under French, and Smith-Dorrien's infantry brigade, and a body of mounted infantry under Ian Hamilton. The Boer's division returned from Dewet's Dorp yesterday."

Lord Roberts also reports additional casualties sustained during the fighting of April 27th about Thaba Nchu, consisting of Lieut. Geary and two enlisted men killed, and one officer and three enlisted men wounded.

Neither the commander-in-chief's nor

the correspondent's dispatches throw any light on the plans being made

### To Oust the Boers

from the neighborhood of Thaba Nchu, and how long before a determined effort will be made to reassert British superiority is only matter of surmise. In the meantime the Boers are remarkably aggressive, especially in view of the large forces opposing them.

A special from Thaba Nchu, dated yesterday, says they made a daring attempt to cut off a British convoy which got into broken ground between Thaba Nchu and Dewet's Dorp, opening fire from the adjacent hills. In the nick of time General Brabant, with a strong force of yeomanry, returning from Wepener, arrived on the scene and wiped out the convoy.

The same special correspondent describes the

### Dispositions of the Forces

at Thaba Nchu as follows: "General Buller is covering the advanced camp facing the Boers' position to the east, where they are strongly entrenched; General Ian Hamilton and General Smith-Dorrien occupy positions on the road to the north."

Another says a column under General Hamilton located the Boers to the north-west and an artillery duel ensued with-out result.

All accounts tell of much artillery firing with scarcely any casualties.

It is hardly likely that such forces can much longer patiently face one another without stirring occurrences.

General Brabant's column is expected soon to join General French.

A number of Boers are reported to have been

### Seen Retiring North.

but this is scarcely authoritative.

Stringent measures are being adopted to prevent the Boer camps from securing supplies from other centres.

The little news from Thaba Nchu is absorbing all interest.

The Cape parliament has been summoned for June 22nd.

At the conclusion of General Sir George White's visit to Windsor to-day, Queen Victoria decorated the defender of Ladysmith with the cross and star of the Royal Victorian order. Her Majesty and the soldier had a lengthy conference.

It is learned that the Queen was more angry than for years over the publication of the Spion Kop dispatches.

Winston Churchill, telegraphing to the Morning Post from Thaba Nchu, April 29th, and describing the operations there, says:

"Yesterday upon withdrawal of the British Demonstrations

on both flanks of the enemy, the Boers pressed to close quarters and Kitchener's Horse were unable to evacuate their position until midnight. The suspense caused great anxiety.

To-day's operations were intended to drive out or to intercept the Boers. They occupied a wide horseshoe of mountains with the convex face to us. The Boers succeeded in cutting the Boers on the right and opening a road for Gen. Dickinson's cavalry brigade, which dashed through and hunted the enemy from ridge to ridge, shelling them with horse artillery.

"At last we arrived at the rear of the horseshoe, and the Boers in parties of 200 could be seen within the enclosed space, running about

### Like Rats in a Trap.

"Dickinson hoped to make a bag, and he signalled to Hamilton regarding the situation. Hamilton came at once, bringing up every soldier he could find.

"Suddenly, about half-past four, the Boer army, nearly four thousand strong, moved out of the horseshoe, and began marching northeast. I had never before seen such an array of Boers. The order was so regular, that at first it was believed they were General Gordon's brigade, but they quickly opened with artillery on Dickinson.

"At the same time, the Boers who had escaped earlier in the day from our trap, turned in force on Dickinson's left and rear with two guns. In the circumstances Dickinson resolved to retire, and he only just withdrew in time."

### BATTLE EXPECTED

Near Thaba Nchu, Where General French Faces the Boers.

London, May 2.—Heavier fighting than any since Ladysmith seems to be imminent near Thaba Nchu. The dispatches of Lord Roberts dated Monday and Tuesday show that the Boer rear guard stubbornly resist his advance, forcing the British on Saturday and Sunday to act chiefly on the defensive.

Gen. French, who is directing the operations, has at least 15,000 men. Some estimates give him 30,000. The Boers are estimated to number at least 6,000 and possibly 10,000. According to a dispatch from Pretoria, dated April 28th, they were

### Expecting to Give Battle.

and have numerous artillery.

So long as the Boers engage the attention of half of Lord Roberts's force at Thaba Nchu, his advance towards Pretoria will be delayed. No one here, however, considers that Gen. Botha will be able to stand longer than a few days. The feeling is that he must be beaten off by the masses of Lord Roberts.

The Boers attacked the British outposts at Boshof, the headquarters of Lord Methuen, on April 28th, but without result.

British guns at Warrenton shelled the Boers out of their half-constructed trenches on Sunday.

A native runner got through from Mafeking to Ootmi, 61 miles north, on April 22nd, with dispatches for nearly

all the London dailies. That to the Morning Post says: "We can stick it out for

### Two Months or More.

Nobody minds."

Col. Plummer, who appears to have been reinforced lately by more Rhodesians, seems to be advancing again.

Lord Lansdowne, replying in the House of Lords yesterday to a question regarding warm clothing for the troops, read this dispatch from Lord Roberts: "There is no necessity to appeal for warm clothing. Some corps have received more than they require, and all will be amply provided for as soon as the numerous cases of clothing and comforts of various descriptions can be brought here from the base."

Referring to a dispatch from Lorenzo Marquez, there are 1,000 British residents yet remaining in the Transvaal, but they are to be expelled immediately.

In the House of Commons, the parliamentary secretary of the war office, Mr. George Wyndham, announced that under the

### Exceptional Circumstances

of the case, he proposed to lay on the table of the House of Commons a correspondence between the secretary of state for war, the Marquis of Lansdowne, and the commander of the British troops in South Africa, Lord Roberts, with reference to the publication of the Spion Kop dispatches.

Replying to a question on the subject, the financial secretary to the treasury said the cost of the war up to March 31st was \$116,250,000.

### MAFEEKING BOMBARDED.

But Shells Do Little Damage—Boers Repulsed by Defenders.

London, May 2.—Telegraphing from Mafeking, Lady Sarah Wilson says, "The investment is so close that no runners have entered or issued forth for ten days. There was a terrific bombardment on April 11th, but with the exception of destroying some houses it was harmless. The Boers then made a determined attack on the southwestern forts, which was successfully repulsed. The Boers have formed a new laager on the south. Many horses are dying of horse sickness. Trees are being cut down for fuel. The garrison is now eating the ambulance oxen, reserving the mules until the last. The daily ration now is six ounces of gritty oat bread, a pound of bully beef and a quart of skilly rapeseed oil."

A dispatch to the Times from Mafeking, dated April 20th, says: "A side-light is thrown upon the hungry condition of the garrison by the fact that the united efforts of the whites and natives have recently been devoted to catching a swarm of locusts which passed over the town."

### THE VICTORIA CROSS.

How It Was Won by Artillery Men at Sanna's Post.

Bloemfontein, April 30.—A general order just published awards the Victoria Cross to an officer, a non-commissioned officer and a gunner of A Battery of the Royal Horse Artillery for gallantry displayed during the recent fighting at Sanna's Post.

London, May 1.—The names of the recipients of the Victoria Cross, under the order cabled from Bloemfontein, are supposed to be Major Hornby, Sergt. Parker and Gunner Lodge.

A letter from Sergt. Parker describing the Sanna's Post disaster, is published to-day. He says: "In galloping from the spruit my gun was overturned and every horse was shot. I got up with No. 4 gun and we remained about two hours under the most terrible fire. In five minutes I had lost two complete detachments, and only Gunner Lodge and myself were left to work two guns, he at one and I at the other. We remained at the two guns, loading, laying and firing both ourselves, and brought both guns out of action by ourselves. We have been recommended for the Victoria Cross."

### Activity in Natal.

Ladysmith, May 1.—There is renewed activity among the Boers on this side of the Drakensberg mountains. Preparations here to check an advance are complete.

### OUTRAN THE CANADIANS.

Boers Won a Race for a Farm Near Leeuw Kop.

London, April 25.—The Times has the following special to-day:

Bloemfontein, April 23.—Col. Alderson's mounted infantry corps, with a battery of galloping Maxims and two 1-inch Maxims, left Springfield on Sunday with the intention of attempting to turn the enemy's position at Leeuw Kop, a march of about fifteen miles from here. It was hoped that Col. Alderson from the west and the 4th Cavalry Brigade from the east might throw a complete cordon round the enemy's position, which was formed on two spurs, each about two miles in length, and standing at right angles to each other, with an altitude varying from 1,000 feet to 4,000 feet. At 10 o'clock Col. Alderson occupied detached pieces of rising ground, five miles north of Leeuw Kop, which that day had been

Held by a Boer Picket.

The intervening plain showed no sign of the enemy, but their artillery opened fire upon the force operating on the opposite flank, and it seemed as if the whole left of Gen. Stephenson's advance was checked and changed in direction. Confident in his expectation of support from the Guards Brigade and Col. Fildes's artillery, Col. Alderson determined to turn the western frontier of Leeuw Kop, and pushed scouts up to its foot. At mid-day rifle shots were fired at

them, and a halt was made for a reconnaissance east of the position. The enemy was seen bringing up two guns at the foot, and at 1 o'clock Col. Alderson attempted, in order that the scouts might advance, to clear the western corner of the position with 1-inch Maxims.

### The Canadian Companies

of mounted infantry were detached, and making a detour with the western force attempted to seize a farm half a mile from the hillside. But the Boers, perceiving the object of the movement, raced them for the building, and though enfladed by the fire of our machine guns they arrived first and ensconced themselves under the cover of the walls of a sheep corral. The enemy then opened fire with shell from the main position, and as the supporting artillery had miscalculated the time and distance and the cavalry on the hill was unable to cooperate on account of the strength of the enemy on its flank, Col. Alderson was compelled to withdraw and await the arrival of infantry. At nightfall the column was reinforced by the 3rd Cavalry Brigade, and bivouacked within striking distance of Leeuw Kop.

### MILITIA TO MOBILIZE.

Authorities Say Infantry is Being Called Out For Tactical Exercise.

Toronto, April 30.—Orders have been issued by Lieut.-Col. Holmes, D.O.C., at London for the mobilization of five battalions of infantry in Western Ontario at some point on the international frontier. The regulations in question are the 21st Essex, 27th Lambton, 7th London Fusiliers, 26th Middlesex and the 25th Battalion.

The military authorities scout the idea of any fear of Fenian invasion and claim that the force is being called out for tactical exercise.

In pursuance of this intention the following "special order" has been issued from the Chief Staff Officer, Ottawa, to the District Officer Commanding, London:

"Information has reached the General Officer Commanding of the possibility of an attempt on the part of a raiding party to cross either the St. Clair river or Detroit river and endeavor to destroy some portion of the railway system connecting Sarnia and London, or the Windsor, Chatham & London railway. You will hold the following force at your disposal, making whatever arrangements may seem best to thwart such an attempt."

Then follow the details already given as to the regiments to be called out.

### Statement by Col. Hughes.

London, April 30.—Col. Holmes, D.O.C., says in regard to the report that several regiments are to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to St. Clair flats, that the orders are simply for the purpose of drilling. Col. Holmes is not in receipt of any orders from Ottawa regarding the matter, but the order has been given by him for the object named.

### Alleged Dynamiters.

Welland, April 30.—The trial of Walsh, Nolan and Dulman, charged with dynamiting look 24 of Welland canal, opened here to-day before Police Magistrate Logan. A large number of spectators were present.

### IN THE HOUSE.

Sentence on a Canadian Soldier—The Death From Smallpox.

Ottawa, May 2.—Col. McLellan, Glenagarry, presented strongly in the House to-day the sentence of 56 days' imprisonment passed on a Canadian soldier in South Africa for taking a hen from his constituents against it.

Dr. Borden said that the matter was one of discipline in the British army.

Clarke Wallace took the view set forth by Col. McLellan, and Sir Adolphe Caron, and Col. Tisdale laid stress on the question of discipline.

Col. Prior wanted to know how it was that a man affected with smallpox passed the quarantine at Victoria and turned up at Winnipeg, when it was discovered there. He read from the Winnipeg Free Press report on the subject.

Hon. S. Fisher said that a man not only spent 14 days on the vessel, but also three days in Vancouver, and was taken from the train at Winnipeg to the general hospital. It was only after his death that it was known that smallpox was the cause. No blame could be attached to the quarantine officer at Victoria, as there was no sign of disease when the man was there.

### FOREST FIRES.

One Village Wiped Out—Several Others Are Threatened.

Marinette, Wis., May 1.—Forest fires in northern Michigan and Wisconsin have destroyed one village and several others are threatened. The dry timber is proving an easy prey to the flames, which the high wind has spread over a wide area. Ames, which was entirely wiped out, had a population of 200.

A passenger train on the Wisconsin & Michigan road, which left Fisher, Mich., on Sunday, has not been heard from since, and is somewhere in the burned district. The wires are all down north of Fisher.

The property and timber destroyed already will mean a loss of over \$100,000.

### ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Toronto, April 30.—The Ontario Legislature was prorogued at three this afternoon by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

## Affairs in the Far East

### Raising the Customs Duty—Porte Maintains a Provisional Measure is Necessary.

### Two Mysterious Disappearances—Flight of the Vail of Tripoli.

(Associated Press.)

Constantinople, April 30.—The circular issued by the Porte relative to increasing the customs duties, says the raising of the duties to eleven per cent. is more in the nature of a project than of a decision, and invokes the embassies to acquiesce. The circular maintains that a provisional measure is rendered necessary by the exigencies of the financial situation and requests the embassies to appoint delegates to conclude new treaties.

An irade has been issued prohibiting the importation of all electrical apparatus including bells.

Ismail Kemal Bey, well-known for his friendliness for Great Britain, who was recently appointed vail of Tripoli and mysteriously disappeared. It is believed that he had been planning to escape with his three sons. The affair has produced a great sensation at Yildiz Kiosk, because the flight of Ismail is hardly less important than that of Masnad Pasha, the Sultan's brother-in-law, who disappeared from Constantinople on December 14th last, and it is considered another symptom of the state of affairs in Turkey.

### WORKMEN'S WAGES.

Warm Discussion at Meeting of Vancouver City Council.

(Special to the Times.)

Vancouver, May 1.—The city council have executed a peculiar series of decisions on the labor conditions clause in the new sewer contracts. At the regular meeting last week, it was decided, without discussion, that contractors for sewers should pay twenty-four cents per hour to workmen, instead of twenty, and various other conditions were inserted. Next day it was found that this would cost the city \$20,000 extra. At a hastily called special meeting the resolution was rescinded.

Last night the mayor declared he would change his ruling, that it was not rescinded, as a two-thirds vote was required. There was a stormy discussion and on being put over again the motion was lost on the two-thirds majority. Several aldermen then hotly declared they would oppose all sewer building this year.

### DANISH WEST INDIES.

Envoy Says Failure of Negotiations Was Caused by Director of Standard Oil Company.

(Associated Press.)

New York, May 1.—The Times to-day prints a long article of a startling character, in which it professes to have found the motive which urged Secretary of War Root at the Grand dinner of last week to refer to the possibility of the United States being forced to go to war to maintain the Monroe doctrine. It is said that the facts which led up to Mr. Root's remarks are contained in an official report, just submitted to the Danish government by Capt. W. Von Christman Birkbeck Holmfield.

The captain was the special envoy of his government to negotiate the sale of the islands to the United States, and his report, which has been put in the hands of Mr. Hoerring, the prime minister and minister of finance, states that the failure of the negotiations is due to the interference of Henry H. Rogers, one of the directors of the Standard Oil Co.

### A COLONIAL BANQUET.

London, April 30.—A banquet was given at the Hotel Cecil this evening by the British Empire League in honor of the colonial troops in South Africa and of the Australian Federates. The Duke of Devonshire, lord president of the council of ministers, presided, flanked by the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Fife, the Marquis of Salisbury, Joseph Chamberlain, Lord Wolseley, Lord Strathcona, Lord Mount Royal, Col. Denison, president of the Canadian League, and Lord Lansdowne. The company included some 250 others.

The Duke of Devonshire, in proposing the health of the Queen, remarked that Her Majesty's recent visits to London and Dublin had made clear to everyone and British loyalists felt for her in all parts of her dominions. He was confident that if Her Majesty could visit the colonies she would receive there a welcome even more enthusiastic.

The Prince of Wales, responding to the toast to himself, the Princess and the other members of the Royal family, made the following brief reference to the Brussels incident: "I will say no more than this: all of us are in the hands of God, and whether we lose our life through sickness, accident or the hands of the assassin, we must bow to His inscrutable will. I am glad to have this opportunity not only of thanking you of England, but of thanking you from far distant parts, not only of the Empire, but of the civilized world."