

READY TO ADVANCE.

Bloemfontein Correspondents Cable That Arrangements Are Complete for a Forward Movement.

Boer Peace Commissioners Hope to Prevent the War Being Fought to a Finish.

Heavy Rains Have Removed All Danger of a Water Famine—Force at Wepener May Have Been Relieved—Kipling's Latest.

CAPTURE OF CRONJE.

N. B., N. S. and P. E. I. Boys Bore Brunt of the Final Fight.

Mr. Hamilton, special correspondent of the Toronto Globe with the first contingent, gives a thrilling story of the heroic work of the N. B., P. E. I. men in the final night attack that led to Cronje's surrender. It appears that as soon as the Boers discovered the Canadian advance they opened a deadly fire and in the confusion that ensued, Companies C, D, E and F retired from their trenches, leaving the maritime men alone on the field. How the boys fought and held their positions till daylight, is thus told by Mr. Hamilton:

The Brave Easterners.

On the extreme right G. Co. had met with the shortest range fire, had suffered most, and had held their ground. To their right H. Co., sheltered by the bank had suffered no loss, and had kept up a steady fire. G. Co. advanced in the same thin formation as had the rest of the line, and were within thirty yards of the trench when the first fire struck them. It told with special severity; a corporal and three privates were killed, and ten men were felled with serious wounds. The usual turmoil occurred, and part of the company split and eddied about as the others did. But the unfortunate order to retire did not come as far as Lieut. Macdonell, and he and the nucleus of his company carried out orders—lay down and return the fire. Captain Stairs, with the greater part of H. Co., prolonged the line on the right, keeping up a constant fire from the bank. Behind the firing line the pick and shovel men dug, and the engineers, who had come up from their place to the extreme right, piled their tools with wonderful dexterity and rapidity. When the first fatal ten or fifteen minutes was at an end, Lieut. Macdonell could take stock of the situation. He had perhaps half his company left in various parts of the trench. On the extreme left Lieut. Kaye and some of his half company had heard the order to retire and had obeyed it; Lieut. Kaye, having aided a badly wounded man on the way, and in the confusion fetched up on the extreme left of our original advanced trench. Lieut. Jones was with his half company and managed to bring in two of the wounded. When the lull in the firing occurred a number of G. company men edged by degrees to the right and found shelter in the Boer trenches keeping up the fire. Lieut. Jones was with his men had, of course, participated in the ebb and flow of men which took place in the darkness. From this position a steady fire was kept up, some 30 or 40 yards in the rear. This kept up about half an hour. Then Lieut. Macdonell gradually retired to the new trench, which now was in a remarkably forward state. Soon after Lieut. Jones, with a good number of G. company, who had been nearer the Boer trenches keeping up the fire, joined him. H. company maintained its position on the right flank for some time and then came into the

trench in turn. From that time the trench went on, G. company digging, H. company firing to cover the work. Daybreak found the trench well advanced.

The work had been bloody enough. G had left four dead men in a row just in front of the Boer trenches. H. company, as already noted, had come off scot-free.

WAR SUMMARY.

LONDON, April 18, 4 a. m.—The government has chosen this as the moment to publish a despatch from Lord Roberts pronouncing censure upon Sir Redvers Buller and Sir Charles Warren, two of his most important subordinate commanders. This despatch, written Feb. 13, has been in the hands of the war department for five weeks. Just why it is published now, in the middle of the campaign, is not understood, unless it is expected that Gen. Buller and Gen. Warren will ask to be relieved of their commands.

The revelation of their incapacity must tend to undermine the confidence of the troops in their leadership. Lord Roberts's despatch, with the enclosures, is the great feature of the London press this morning. In a long editorial the Daily News speaks of the "somewhat appalling language" of the despatch, and then goes on to say: "Upon the whole, these despatches are disquieting and disheartening in no ordinary degree. . . . Following immediately upon the recall of Gen. Buller, they will create widespread feeling of uneasiness and anxiety."

The Standard, which is supposed to be in the confidence of the government, says: "It is scarcely likely that the publication of Lord Roberts's despatch is without purpose. It irresistibly suggests whether it is not to be followed by further important changes in South African commands. Painful as such measures may be, there must be no hesitation in carrying them out if they are required in the public interest."

The Times says: "Lord Roberts's severe condemnation is justified only too clearly by the official narratives of what took place. The story is painful, but it is well for the nation and for the army that it should be told clearly and simply, without concealment or exaggeration. It is not the least of the great services Lord Roberts is now rendering the country that he exposes with judicial impartiality and wise, wholesome severity, errors and omissions in high quarters which have cost us so very much."

The Daily Telegraph compliments Lord Roberts upon "not hesitating, where great national interests are at stake, to wound private susceptibilities."

The Daily Chronicle confesses to "a feeling something like consternation when reading the extraordinary passages" of the despatch.

Whether the government has any special purpose or not in publishing the despatch the way in which it has been received will make it most difficult to retain the censured commanders in active service.

Lord Roberts's long wait and the

after consultation of his officers, that the banking movement ordered by Gen. Buller was impracticable and, therefore, no longer the plan of advance as to necessitate the capture and retention of Spion Kop. . . . As Warren considered it impossible to make the wide banking movement which was recommended, if not actually proposed, he should have acquainted Buller with the course he proposed to adopt. . . . It is not to be regretted that Warren did not do so or not. But it is only fair to Warren to point out that Buller appears throughout to have been aware of what was happening. . . . It is regrettable that Warren did not do so or not. But it is only fair to Warren to point out that Buller appears throughout to have been aware of what was happening. . . . It is regrettable that Warren did not do so or not. But it is only fair to Warren to point out that Buller appears throughout to have been aware of what was happening.

Boer activity have seriously disturbed public equanimity. He is still three hundred miles from Pretoria. No one doubts the ultimate success of British arms, but behind the British army that crushes the Boer armies, an army of occupation will have to be installed. From various sources come hints that more men than already provided for will have to be sent out.

Lord Roberts indicates that at least ten thousand men are advancing to cut off the Boers who are investing Wepener. As there are reports from the Basuto border that firing has been heard in the direction of the hills towards Dewet's Dorp, it is possible Gen. Chermiside's advanced troops are already in contact with the Boers. Lord Roberts wires that he expects to clear the southeastern section of the Free State, east of the railway, and then swing round to the north, and to turn one after another the positions held by the Boers north of Bloemfontein. Gen. Buller's abolition of all press telegrams in Natal until further notice is taken to indicate that a movement is about to begin there.

CAPT. CREWE DEAD.

FLUMER'S CAMP, Friday, April 14 (via Lourenzo Marquez, April 17).—A letter has been received from Commandant Symman with reference to the British wounded and prisoners at the Boer laager after the engagement of March 31, from which it is learned that Capt. Crewe died of his wounds. Lieut. Milligan is not a prisoner and is believed to have been among those who were buried. The British casualties were two officers and six men killed, three officers and 36 men wounded and one officer and eleven men made prisoners.

"ILL ADVISED."

LONDON, April 17.—The publication of Lord Roberts's despatches describing the Spion Kop and other operations from Jan. 17 to Jan. 24, is severely criticised by Spencer Wilkinson in the Morning Post today. He characterises it as "ill advised."

"The effect of it on the army in Natal," he says, "must be positively demoralising, unless great changes will be made in the commands, changes which, if necessary, should have been made without any preliminary public ventilation of mistakes and cross-currents."

"By the publication of Lord Roberts's despatch, the position of Sir Redvers Buller is rendered untenable and his resignation or recall is a matter of course. But the government cannot be credited with arranging the matter with consideration or generosity. There was no need to trumpet these things to the world. The despatches might have slept in the hands of the military and naval authorities, and Gen. Buller's recall might have been arranged with diplomatic delicacy."

"Gen. Buller was appointed by the government and by the government he should have been recalled without exception. Gen. Buller is a man of high ability and has shrunk from taking the responsibility and seeks to shelter itself behind Lord Roberts and behind the expression of public opinion which the despatches are sure to occasion? If that be the case, the government is certainly not to be commended for its general conduct in the field."

"The government is in supreme command and ought to assert its authority without first appealing indirectly to the man in the street."

APPEAL TO THE AFRIKANDERS.

CAPE TOWN, April 18.—The Boer governments are circulating the following manifesto to the Afrikaners throughout Cape Colony:

"We feel that our fate and the fate of the whole of Afrikanerdom is at stake, and we appeal to you to stand up for the rights of our people in the hour of our supreme struggle. With you on our side the issue cannot be doubtful."

FINDING FAULT WITH AMERICAN HAY.

NEW YORK, April 17.—It was learned today on excellent authority that the British government is finding considerable fault with some of the hay that has been shipped from here. Between 2,500 and 3,000 bales were thrown overboard from the Cape Town port, not having been accepted by the army officers there. It appears that great quantities of supplies are being shipped from Argentina to the South African ports, the distance from the River Plate to Cape Town not being much more than half that from New York to Cape Town.

It is said that the man who took up this work for the British government in England is accumulating a fortune. His profits on this transport business are said to have already reached about \$1,750,000. It is said also that men on the other side were cautious about embarking in the work and hesitated so long that it finally fell to a young man with but little experience and he is reaping the benefits of his venture.

CANADIAN HORSES FOR THE FRONT.

TORONTO, April 17.—Major Dent of the British war office remount department announces that he has sent out to the Canadian one thousand cavalry horses and five hundred ponies. The animals are to be shipped direct from Montreal to Cape Town as soon as gathered together. Major Dent says that Gen. Buller's severe criticism of the plan of operations is not clearly described in the despatches. After discussing Gen. Buller's intentions, as communicated to Sir Charles Warren, who commanded the whole force, Lord Roberts points out that Gen. Warren seems to have concluded

who was removed from the active list last July last by the Marquis de Galt as a disciplinary measure during the excellent arking from the Dreyfus court martial.

PROTEST AGAINST ST. HELENA.

PRETORIA, April 18.—As soon as the Berne award in the Delagoa Bay railroad arbitration was published, the Transvaal government offered to lend Portugal the amount she was condemned to pay (\$5,000,000) which, however, was courteously declined, the statement being made that the money was already provided.

The government is receiving many memorials from burghers on the subject of sending the Boer prisoners to St. Helena, and will formally protest to Great Britain on the subject. Secretary of State Retz says the Transvaal government is not taking any resolution regarding the destruction of the mines.

LEUT. COLDWELL AGAIN ON DUTY.

LONDON, April 18.—The war office today printed a list of thirty-six names of soldiers who have died in various hospitals since the last report. Two of these deaths were the result of wounds, the others were from fever. The war office also issued a list of forty officers who have returned to duty, including Lieut. Coldwell of the Canadian contingent.

FROM TODAY'S LONDON PAPERS.

LONDON, April 18.—According to a despatch to the Daily Mail from Lourenzo Marquez, nearly half the members of the Chicago ambulance corps, when offered Mausers on their arrival at Pretoria, tore off their Red Cross badges.

Admiral S. Hay, U. S. consul, notified the Transvaal government that he must report the circumstance to Washington. The Morning Post has the following from Bloemfontein, dated Tuesday: "In view of the advisability of a retreat through Swaziland, mistakes of the Boers are now endeavoring to purchase secret information concerning caverns in the Greystone country which are only known to the natives, with the object of accumulating provisions and ammunition."

The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Morning Post, telegraphing Tuesday, says: "The town has been deluged with rain during the last three days, which has caused the greatest discomfort."

Lourenzo Marquez, correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing Wednesday, says: "Two hundred and fifty Boers started from Watervaland, marching through the Zoutspanberg district, to intercept Gen. Carrington's force."

CANADIAN COURT-MARTIALED.

TORONTO, April 18.—The Globe's special cable says: A letter from Bennett Burleigh, dated at Bloemfontein and published in today's Telegraph, cites a case of real hardship. A Canadian soldier, he says, was court-martialed and sentenced to 56 days' hard labor for appropriating one Boer chicken, while thousands who had committed the same offence escaped scot free. There was considerable indignation in the Canadian camp over the affair.

PLACED ON HALF PAY.

LONDON, April 18.—Col. Crofton, who was in command at Spion Kop from the time Gen. Woodgate was wounded until Gen. Thorneycroft was appointed to the position, and whose telegraph messages to Gen. Warren caused Gen. Buller to appoint Thorneycroft to the command, was placed on half pay today.

Private information received from Swazisbury today is the effect that Gen. De laet is leaving South Africa this week to resume command of a local district. One hundred and ten invalids from South Africa, who arrived on board the American hospital ship Melne, reached Aldershot this evening.

WEPENER RELIEVED.

LONDON, April 19.—The Telegraph in a second edition publishes a despatch from Bloemfontein, dated April 18, evening, stating that all the Boers in the vicinity of Wepener have vanished. A majority of them went northward, but a party moved in the direction of Bethulle.

The Telegraph's correspondent among others, wrongly announced the relief of Wepener two or three days ago.

ADVANCED EAST OF REDDERSBURG.

LONDON, April 19.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Times, telegraphing Wednesday, says: "A correspondent with Gen. Chermiside reports that the Third division has advanced eight miles east of Reddersburg and gone into camp where the Irish Rifles surrendered. Four hundred Boers had just evacuated the position. Gen. Chermiside had no further contact with the Boers."

HAS MAKEPINK BEEN RELIEVED?

TORONTO, April 19.—The Telegraph's special cable from London says: "This afternoon rumors are very prevalent that Makepink has been relieved. There is every reason to believe the rumor true."

KIPLING'S LATEST.

BLOEMFONTEIN, April 18.—An

entertainment organized by the corps has been given here in behalf of the widows and orphans. It included the singing of Auld Lang Syne, with special verses by Rudyard Kipling, one of which is as follows: The shannock, the little leek and rose With heath and wattle twine, And mangle from Canadian snows, For Auld Lang Syne take hands From London to the line; Good luck to those that toiled with us Since the day of Auld Lang Syne.

WAR SUMMARY.

LONDON, April 20.—There is a continued absence of news of importance from South Africa following the recent movements of Generals Brabant, Rundle and Chermiside. These are assumed to justify the belief that operations to enclose the Boers in the southeastern part of the Free State are in full progress, and that nothing further will be announced until some achievement can be recorded. There is nothing to indicate that Gen. Thorneycroft's main advance has begun, but the correspondents assert that everything is practically ready and that the army is eager to start.

A train from Glen arrived at Bloemfontein last evening. The officer in charge reports that there was firing near Kamee siding, but no details are given. Nothing has been received concerning the situation at Wepener. The stagnation in Natal continues. Gen. Roberts's censures of Generals Buller and Warren have created a sensation in the colony. Opinion is divided between sympathy for the censured generals and approval of Gen. Roberts's fearless outspokenness. Nothing has been heard of any change in the commands.

LONDON, April 20, 4.15 a. m.—A deluge of rain, lasting ten days, has brought operations in the southeastern part of the Free State almost to a standstill. The creeks have become roaring rivers, and the roads are streams of mud.

A similar message, dated Bloemfontein, April 19, 10.55 a. m., and beginning:

"Via press censor, Bloemfontein, reports an exchange of shots in the direction of Dewet's Dorp, where the Boers are said to be concentrating after their withdrawal from Wepener."

There is nothing else to indicate that the investment of Wepener has been abandoned by the Boers. Notwithstanding the rain, however, the British have made some progress, as Dewet's Dorp has been occupied by them, probably by the advance of Gen. Rundle's division.

An obscure message from Allwal North, dated April 19, says that Gen. Brabant has arrived there; but whether he returned alone or with his troops is not clear.

Boer reports from Allwal North aver that from 8,000 to 10,000 Boers are at Wepener.

Extended reports of the Bloemfontein concert for the benefit of the widows and orphans have been called. No less than seven separate accounts are published in London today. The concert, the weather and the bare statement that Lord Roberts is ready to move, are about the only things that the censor has allowed to pass; and the correspondent who announces that Lord Roberts is ready to move does not specify the direction in which he is going.

Gen. Hunter, from Natal, commanding the newly formed division, arrived at Bloemfontein yesterday (Thursday) and left immediately after conferring with Lord Roberts. To what post he proceeded is not mentioned; it is understood that he will operate west of Bloemfontein.

TWO MORE CANADIANS DEAD.

TORONTO, April 19.—The Globe today publishes the following special from its correspondent with the first contingent: "Bloemfontein—Private J. Curphy, one of the stretcher-bearers attached to the Quebec company, and formerly of Grimsby, Ont., died today of enteric fever. Private W. G. Adams of London, Ont., died Monday of dysentery."

ROBERTS READY TO ADVANCE.

LONDON, April 20.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Morning Post, telegraphing Wednesday, says: "This city of canards has been brooding impossible peace rumors during the last few days. Everyone now awaits eagerly the announcement of a renewed advance."

"The latest arrival of remounts show an improvement on the earlier arrivals."

The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Chronicle, telegraphing Thursday, says: "The requisite remounts and equipments have arrived, and all the infantry divisions are now supplied with tents."

"The Boers in the immediate neighborhood are quiet; but both sides are steadily preparing for the coming struggle. Lord Roberts is now ready."

"Several lots of concealed arms and ammunition have been discovered here this week."

"The epidemic of enteric fever is abating."

(Continued on Page Eight)

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