

DE WET ROUTED, HE ESCAPED IN A BOAT.

Invasion of Cape Colony a Complete Failure.

GUNS AND PRISONERS CAPTURED

Outfitter Gun Howard Killed—French Sweeping the Country Before Him, He Makes a Big haul of Prisoners, Wagons, Mules, Cattle, Sheep, etc.—Methuen Clears the Country Ahead of Him and Captures Much Spoil—General Botha May Surrender—Report That Delarey is a Prisoner—Recruiting in the Northwest—Toronto Man Killed.

Cape Town, Feb. 22.—Gen. Methuen has captured a Boer laager near Brakpan. The capture included forty prisoners, many wagons, and much stock.

Detailed by Kitchener. Montreal, Feb. 22.—It is reported that Lieut.-Col. Gordon, formerly D. O. C. at Montreal, will remain in South Africa, having been given command of an Orange River Colony district by Lord Kitchener.

To Build New Forts. Montreal, Feb. 22.—Captain Bertie H. O. Armstrong, R. E., son of Mr. C. N. Armstrong, of this city, who has for a number of years been in charge of the fortifications at Sierra Leone, on the west coast of Africa, has just been ordered to South Africa, and placed in charge of the work of construction of four new forts, designed for the better protection of Cape Town.

Sued for \$25,000, Got One Farthing. Cape Town, Feb. 22.—Mr. Cartwright, editor of the South African News, who was recently arrested on the charge of printing a seditious and criminal libel, recently brought an action against the Cape Times for \$25,000 damages for libel, the article complained of having appeared in the Owl, which is printed by the Times. The case was tried to-day, and resulted in a verdict of one farthing damages for the plaintiff. Each side was ordered to pay its own costs.

Murdered a Native. London, Feb. 22.—In the House of Commons to-day Rt. Hon. William St. John Brodrick, Secretary of War, read a telegram from Sir Alfred Miller, Governor-General of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony, stating that there was absolutely no doubt that the Boers had murdered the colored man Esau at Calvinia, Cape Colony.

New Military Governor. Cape Town, Feb. 22.—Major-General Probyn, formerly military Governor of Bloemfontein, has taken up the command of the troops at Kimberley. He is succeeded by Major-General Gold-Alders, Lieutenant-Governor of Orange River Colony.

Looting the British Stores. Pietermaritzburg, Feb. 22.—Sensational developments are occurring in connection with a number of arrests of persons along the railway charged with theft of goods from the railway.

It was known for some months past that a leakage was occurring, and the police had reason for the suspicion that an organized gang was at work. The stolen goods were chiefly military stores consigned to the front.

In the course of their search the detectives found a quantity of stolen goods at the suburban residence of Mr. Dale, the Attorney-General at Hilton road, between here and Howick, and Mr. Dale's caretaker was arrested on suspicion.

The stationmaster there, seeing the police, sprang on to the train, and has not been seen since. A warrant is out for his arrest. Rumor implicates several well-known officials, farmers, and merchants.

There is no doubt that if the matter is probed to the bottom it will turn out to be one of the biggest sensations the colony has ever experienced. It is estimated that the Imperial Government has been robbed of thousands of pounds in this way.

It is likely that one of the accused will turn King's evidence.

Insulting the Queen's Memory. Kimberley, Feb. 22.—A local store-keeper has been convicted by the military court here of traitorous and disloyal language against the late Queen and the British Government, and of disgracing the Queen's picture. He was sentenced to twelve months' hard labor, and to pay a fine of £300 or undergo an additional six months' imprisonment.

Another man was sentenced to pay a fine of £150 or undergo three months' imprisonment for leaving Kimberley while on the suspect list.

Bid for Liberty. St. Helena, Feb. 22.—A determined attempt to escape was made by five Boer prisoners at Sandy Bay, on February 21.

The men seized a fishing boat, but the attempt was frustrated owing to the oars having been taken away. The men were ultimately taken into custody. A military court of enquiry has been held in the matter.

Questions in Parliament. London, Feb. 22.—In the House of Commons to-day Mr. Brodrick, Secretary of War, took occasion to offer an explanation regarding the retirement of Major-General Colville, for which he (Mr. Brodrick) had been so much criticized. Gen. Colville, said Mr. Brodrick, had been sent home by Lord Roberts for inefficiency in the field. Gen. Colville had never been tried, and though his case had been

charged, capturing artillery and many saddled horses, which the Boers were unable to reach. Their cooking pots, which were full, and their other belongings, were abandoned.

Another correspondent says that Gen. De Wet's 1,500 men have dwindled to 300. He and Mr. Steyn took 300 of the best horses with which to escape. He adds that Mr. Steyn, who was formerly President of the Orange Free State, addressed the followers, many of whom were dismounted and without shoes. He told them that they must shift for themselves as best they could and return to the Free State. Some of the Boers obtained boats from farmers with which to cross the river. Ex-President Steyn, Gen. De Wet and his party crossed the railroad at Kranskul, 60 miles north of the Anr, early Sunday morning. They were closely pressed by Thornycroft, and other commanders, with fresh horses. A report from Cape Town, however, states that General De Wet, with a handful of followers, crossed the Orange River in a boat.

Captured All Artillery. London, Feb. 23.—A correspondent of the Daily Mail with Henkieser's column, wiring Saturday, says: "Gen. De Wet was routed yesterday by Col. Plumer, with whom were Col. Kennikor, Craddock, Jeffreys, and Grabbe. This success was preceded by a series of desperate attempts on the part of the Boers to escape from the water belt of the Orange and the Brak rivers.

"Gen. De Wet, after unsuccessfully attempting to cross the Brak at a point where the Orange and Brak meet, and Marks' drift, moved along the bank of the Orange with one gun and one pom-pom, and lagged opposite to the Boer position. Plumer left Welgovenien, twenty-two miles west of the Boer camp, and moved northeast.

"At Zuurvat, the attacked the enemy, and captured the guns and the pom-pom. The pursuit was continued during the afternoon, the Boers moving toward Hopetown.

"Towards evening, the leading troops sighted the enemy, who had lagged beyond gun range. Col. Owen charged the spot where the Boer artillery was supposed to be, and captured the whole of the enemy's guns, leaving their horses ready saddled and their cooking pots full. According to the latest reports only four hundred Boers remained on the north side of the river. The Orange is greatly swollen."

Fleeing From French. London, Feb. 24.—The War Office has received the following despatch from Lord Kitchener: "Middleburg, Transvaal, Feb. 24.—French reports from Piet Retief, Feb. 22, that the result of the Boers sweeping the country east is that the Boers are retreating in scattered and disorganized parties to the number of 5,000 in front of him.

"Austonian and Betsiboe have been occupied, and troops are protecting the Swazi frontier. French will push on, but is much hampered by the continuous heavy rains. Summary of totals of Boers killed upon the enemy up to Feb. 18: 292 Boers known to have been killed and wounded in action, 86 taken prisoners, 183 surrendered. One 15-pounder gun, 482 rifles, 1000 rounds of small arm ammunition, 3,500 horses, 70 mules, 3,530 trek oxen, 18,700 cattle, 155,400 sheep and 1,070 wagons and carts captured.

"Our casualties: Five officers and 41 men killed and 4 officers and 108 men wounded. "I regret to say that Major Howard, a very gallant officer of the Canadian scouts, was killed Feb. 17."

A GALLANT SOLDIER. Details of the Life of "Gatling Gun" Howard. Ottawa, Feb. 23.—The news of the death of Major L. Howard, known to all military men in Canada as "Gat" Howard, came as a great shock to his many friends in Ottawa. As recently as last week he had received from Major Howard by his old friend, Lieut.-Col. Sherwood, commissioner of Dominion police, in which the writer said: "I have just to my battery a pom-pom, so we have quite a force, six Colt guns, a pom-pom and 100 scouts. We have had two brushes with the enemy since you left, and made them run every time. We were paraded by the general and given great credit. I may come back in July and recruit a regiment of half-breed scouts, and cutting up Hades around here, so you see the war is not over yet, or likely to be for a year. Give my best regards to all."

Major L. Howard—"Gatling" Howard—was a picturesque figure of the second Canadian contingent. In two campaigns in which Canadian troops fought, he served as expert in the use of machine guns. An employee of the famous Colt firm, and virtually a soldier of fortune, he first came to Canada in 1855. Gen. Middleton's column was strengthened by the acquisition of two Gatling guns, the rather primitive weapons, worked with a crank from which the Maxim of the present day has descended. With them came Capt. Howard, and the genial, companionable veteran, of a peculiarly fiery valor, soon became a general favorite and a conspicuous figure in the camp. As Batoche he distinguished himself. The terrifying rattle of his "devil-gun," as the half-breeds styled his weapon, had a great moral effect, although upon the subject of the actual loss caused them by it the usual differences of opinion manifested themselves. On one occasion he rendered unquestionable service by an angry rush upon the nine-pounders.

When the Mounted Rifles were sent to South Africa a galloping battery of four Colt automatic guns of different weapons from the old Gatlings—was purchased, and with them came Captain Howard, who for some years had been living in Canada. The rank of Lieutenant was given him at first, but he soon rose higher in rank, and saw all the fighting that the mounted men saw. The flight of years had not lessened his energy or his delight in the fight, and he displayed a peculiar faculty for getting into hot corners, which, combined with his utter disregard of formalities and his fearless directness of colloquial speech, brought him a good deal of fame.

Lieut. Morrison, in an excellent letter from the front, gave a most graphic account of Major Howard's knack of getting into grips with the Boers. Lieut.-Col. Lessard on frequent occasions, with his vivacious

humor, complained of the way in which Howard would get into trouble, and have to be brought off, even at the cost of an action which had not entered into the plans of the chiefs.

When the mounted men returned home Major Howard preferred to remain at Johannesburg, detailing 297 Boers as the Canadian Scouts, drawn from men of the Canadian mounted contingent who wished to stay on. Sergeants' pay was given the men of this corps, showing the high regard in which they were held. On several occasions they distinguished themselves. Poor Major Howard has evidently exposed himself once too often.

Methuen's Successful March. London, Feb. 24.—A correspondent at Johannesburg, detailing 297 Boers as the Canadian Scouts, drawn from men of the Canadian mounted contingent who wished to stay on. Sergeants' pay was given the men of this corps, showing the high regard in which they were held. On several occasions they distinguished themselves. Poor Major Howard has evidently exposed himself once too often.

General Botha to Surrender? London, Feb. 24.—The Weekly Dispatch says it is informed on good authority that a call for a Cabinet meeting was issued yesterday to consider important military matters. The Dispatch says it is learned that Gen. Kitchener has informed the Government that Gen. Botha, the Boer commander-in-chief, has sent an emissary to see him.

Gen. Botha admitted that he had been manoeuvred by the British, and asked for a meeting with the British commander-in-chief, with the view of arranging for a general surrender of the Boers. After writing home for instructions respecting the terms of surrender, Gen. Kitchener fixed on Feb. 27th as a date for a meeting with the Boer commander. The Dispatch also states that it learns that as a result of communication between the British and European Governments, the French, Russian, and German prisoners at St. Helena, who fought with the Boers, will be released, and conveyed home at the expense of their Governments.

Sympathy With Kruger. Antwerp, Feb. 24.—Three hundred and fifty-six Belgian towns, having an aggregate population of 2,691,000, have passed resolutions of sympathy with the late President Kruger, and favoring arbitration of the South African question.

Is Gen. Delarey a Prisoner? Cape Town, Feb. 24.—It is reported from a Boer source at Keersterdorp that Gen. Delarey has been captured.

British Deserters. London, Feb. 24.—In consequence of reports received in England from Ceylon, several non-commissioned officers belonging to one of the British regiments in Natal, before the war, have been sent out to Ceylon, to try to identify quite a number of men who are among the Boer prisoners, and are believed to be deserters from that particular regiment.

Canadians for the Army. London, Feb. 24.—Mr. Brodrick, the War Secretary, and Mr. Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary, are trying to arrange with the Canadian Government for the establishment of a Canada of permanent recruiting depot for the British army. In order to avoid the political feeling which such steps might engender in the Dominion, it has been suggested that a new Canadian regiment be established. The negotiations between the Earl of Minto, the Governor-General of Canada, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Canadian Premier, and the British Government, are in progress, without definite result.

Boers Were Repulsed. Pretoria, Feb. 24.—A party of Boers on Friday last attacked Virginia Siding, north of Bloemfontein, but were repulsed with the loss of a few killed and wounded. The British had no casualties.

Recruiting at Rossland. Rossland, B. C., Feb. 23.—Recruiting for Baden-Powell's South African Constabulary, which commenced here to-day, will be concluded on Monday. Of fifteen applicants twelve were provisionally accepted. There will be an riding and shooting test on Monday. Four of the applicants hail from Greenwood and Boundary points. The recruiting officer is Lieut. G. S. Beyer, of Nelson, and the medical examining officer is Dr. Kennedy, of Fort MacLeod. N. W. T. They will also receive applications at Nelson and Fort St. John.

131 PERSONS DROWNED. WRECK OF MAIL STEAMER.

The City of Rio de Janeiro Lost at the Golden Gate

WHILE ENTERING SAN FRANCISCO.

Seventy-Seven People Rescued—Steamer Sunk Almost Immediately After Striking a Rock—Wild Scramble for Life—U. S. Consul General Wildman and Family Drowned—What the Pilot Says—Thrilling Tales of Some of Those Who Were on Board—Captain Went Down With the Ship.

San Francisco, Feb. 22.—A pilot's attempt to bring in during a thick fog the big Pacific mail steamer City of Rio de Janeiro, early this morning, led to the wreck of the vessel on Fort Point Lodge, outside the Golden Gate, and the loss of 131 persons out of a total of 208 on board.

The explanation of the terrible loss of life is that the vessel sank in fifteen minutes after she struck, thus carrying down most of the small boats, which still hung on the davits.

The officers showed great coolness, and the passengers behaved well until the bow began to sink suddenly. Then when it was seen that the vessel was on the point of sinking there was a wild panic. Men and women were screaming to the boats only to find them not lowered. They were huddled together below, simply dazed with terror. Many jumped overboard, and were carried down by the thick darkness, which probably prevented many from escaping.

Up to this hour only ten bodies have been recovered, as the vessel struck, and it is feared that most of the victims will never be recovered.

The most prominent passenger on the steamer was Rounsaville Wildman, U. S. Consul at Hong-Kong, who was accompanied by his wife and two children. It is thought all are dead, but the widow is reported to have been rescued. Captain William Ward went down with his vessel. As nearly as can be ascertained, 208 people on board the Rio de Janeiro, as follows: Cabin passengers, 29; second cabin, 7; steerage (Chinese and Japanese) 58; officers and crew, 114. Total, 208. Rescued, 77; bodies at the morgue, 10; total, 87. Missing, 121.

The Pilot's Story. The reports of the disaster were very conflicting. Pilot Jordan declared that the steamer was coming slowly when a thick fog settled down on the water. They were going at about six miles an hour, and the tide was racing out. At four o'clock the vessel was struck, and went down in a few minutes. The vessel was struck on the starboard side, and was getting the bows out when the bow suddenly dropped down. Jordan rushed from the bridge down to the deck, realizing that the ship was sinking. He helped Mrs. Wildman and a boy, and then one of the Wildman children grasp him around the neck. Then the vessel sank. He thought he went down fully fifty feet. When he came up the ship was gone. He could see nothing of the steamer nor of any of the boats, so he struck out, and was soon able to climb on a part of the deck-house, in which one Chinese was floating. After three hours they were picked up.

A Graphic Story. Surgeon Arthur O'Neill was picked up with one Japanese and seven Chinese passengers by the Russian Bradler. Londoner, James K. Cameron, Oakland, Cal., Mrs. Ripley, Miss Lehren, Russell Harper, E. C. Howell, R. H. Long, G. Hentz, Capt. Hecht, R. Holtz, William Carper, Toledo, Ohio, Steerage—Philip Nussabalt, Oakland; Frederick Castrini; D. Wade, Honolulu; Second Officer G. Coghlan, Third Officer Ho'land, Chief Engineer Herlihy, Ship Carpenter F. Cramp, Freight Clerks G. J. Chiefhart and R. H. Leary, Quartermaster R. Mathieson, Quartermaster F. Lindstrom, Storekeeper E. Boggs, Steerage Steward H. Donohue, Spearman Howard, 25 Chinese at the malt dock, 10 Chinese and four Japanese at Meigg's wharf.

A New Pork Factory. Goderich, Ont., Feb. 24.—A representative meeting of farmers was held at Carlow for the purpose of organizing a company to build and operate a pork packing factory. The meeting adjourned to March 15th in order to get fuller information respecting the construction. Goderich representatives laid the claims of that town before the meeting as a place for such factory, and it is altogether probable that will be the location.

Fatal Accident at Windsor. Windsor, Feb. 22.—James McCormick, employed at Ferris' livery stable, Windsor, was fatally injured this afternoon by a heavy cogwheel, which fell down the elevator shaft near which he was standing, and struck him on the top of the head. His skull was fractured and a deep cut made.

Burned His Money. Rome, Feb. 24.—A Jewish millionaire named Taguri, has committed suicide at Leghorn. Before killing himself he burned Turkish rentes to the value of two million francs.

Number of lives imperilled 208; number of lives lost: White, 59; Asiatic, 92; total 151; rescued 77. The following are rescued—William Bradler, Londoner; James K. Cameron, Oakland, Cal.; Mrs. Ripley, Miss Lehren, Russell Harper, E. C. Howell, R. H. Long, G. Hentz, Capt. Hecht, R. Holtz, William Carper, Toledo, Ohio. Steerage—Philip Nussabalt, Oakland; Frederick Castrini; D. Wade, Honolulu; Second Officer G. Coghlan, Third Officer Ho'land, Chief Engineer Herlihy, Ship Carpenter F. Cramp, Freight Clerks G. J. Chiefhart and R. H. Leary, Quartermaster R. Mathieson, Quartermaster F. Lindstrom, Storekeeper E. Boggs, Steerage Steward H. Donohue, Spearman Howard, 25 Chinese at the malt dock, 10 Chinese and four Japanese at Meigg's wharf.

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