ST. JOHN SEMI-WEEKLY SUN

VOL. 23. ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1900. NO. 31.

ABANDONED WEPENER.

The Boers Have Retired from Around Col. Dalgety's Little Force.

Reported from Bethany That the Enemy's Retreat North Has Been Cut Off.

Mafeking Hard Pressed Since Col. Plumer's Withdrawal North—Large Body of Boers Moving in the Direction of Bethulie.

SECOND CANADIANS AND STRATHCONA'S HORSE.

BLOEMFONTEIN, April 13.—A new division, consisting of two brigades, has been formed under Gen. Ian Hamilton.

Gen. Hutton's brigade is composed of Canadians, New Zealanders and all the Australians except the cavalry. His staff follows:

Col. Martyr, chief, Lord Rosmead, aide-de-camp; Cols. Hood of Victoria and Bridges of New South Wales, and Major Cartwright of Canada, assistant adjutant generals. The brigade consists of four corps of mounted infantry under Colonels Anderson, DeLisle, Pitcher and Henry.

The first corps consists of the first battalion, Canadians, under Col. Lessard, and the second battalion, Canadians, under Col. Herchmer.

Strathcona's Horse, under Lt. Col. Steel, and the Victorians, under Col. Price, are in the forth corps. The second and third corps are composed of Australians. Each corps has a battalion of imperial mounted infantry attached. The Canadian and New South Wales batteries and a number of Vickers-Maxims will also join the division.

Gen. Ridley's brigade, comprises all the South African troops.

BOERS REPULSED WITH GREAT LOSS.

BLOEMFONTEIN, April 13.—Accounts received here of the fighting of the troops under Col. Dalgetty at Wepener show the Boers attacked them vigorously, but were repulsed with great loss. The Boers subsequently relinquished the attack, and, it is said here, they are returning northward.

WAS NOT CAPT. CARL REICHMAN.

WASHINGTON, April 13.—The state department today received a cablegram from U. S. consul at Pretoria, Adelbert S. Hay, relative to a published statement that Capt. Carl Reichman, the U. S. military observer in the Transvaal, had been leading a Boer force:

"PRETORIA, April 12.—Rumor of Reichman's active participation is absolutely false."

SAYS THE BOERS WERE BADLY BEATEN.

LONDON, April 16.—The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, telegraphing Sunday, says:

"An unconfirmed report is in circulation here that Gen. Brabant has inflicted a crushing defeat upon the Boers at Wepener, capturing guns and taking prisoners."

LORD ROBERTS PROTESTS.

BLOEMFONTEIN, Saturday, April 14.—Lord Roberts, in his telegram of protest to President Kruger, regarding the treatment to which the colonial officers and troops who are now prisoners at Pretoria have been subjected, complains that the Boers have treated them like criminals confined in jail. He points out that there are 90 cases of enteric fever and dysentery in the prisoners at Waterval; that the Transvaal government failed to supply on demand of the doctor, the necessary medicines and medical comforts; that the prisoners were forced to bivouac on the open veldt; that the sick were placed in an open shed, with an iron roof, and that it was only when the new doctor threatened to resign that the medicines and mattresses were supplied. He invites President Kruger to remedy this state of things and contrasts it with the treatment the British give to Boer prisoners, sick and wounded who, as Lord Roberts says, "receive the same treatment as our own soldiers."

Four farmers who had taken the oath to abstain from further cooperation with the Queen's enemies, were found signalling to the Boers at Kegree riding and have been brought here.

CANADIAN ARTILLERY ORDERED TO RHODESIA.

MONTREAL, April 15.—A cablegram has been received from Capt. Norman Leslie, of C Battery, which went to South Africa on the Elder-Dempster steamship Milwaukee, saying that the battery has been ordered to Rhodesia. This is accepted as showing that the battery is intended to take part in operations in the vicinity of Kimberley.

WOUNDED CANADIANS COMING HOME.

TORONTO, April 14—The Telegram's special cable from London says: The following Canadians will leave Herbert hospital at Woolwich Thursday next, and will sail for Canada forthwith: Pte. J. S. Cairns, 2nd Field Battery, C. A., Quebec, member D Co., Ottawa; Pte. L. C. Walker, 16th Field Battery, C. A., Guelph, member D Co., Ottawa; Pte. John McLeod, 71st York Battalion, Fredericton, N. B., member G Co.; Pte. F. Cox, Royal Canadian Regiment Infantry, member E Co., Montreal; Pte. J. W. Hartnett, 93rd, Cumberland Battalion, member H Co., Nova Scotia.

MINE OWNER CAPTURED.

WARRENTON, April 15.— Frank Smith, the well known mine owner, fell into the hands of the Boers while driving from Barkly West toward the Frank Smith diamond mine.

TO DESERT THE FREE STATERS.

LONDON, April 16.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily News telegraphing Saturday, says:

"President Kruger attended a conference of the Boer commandants at Brandfort on Thursday. It is believed that a decision was reached to withdraw the Transvaal forces to the north of Vet River, preparatory to a general retirement across the Vaal River, if hard pressed, leaving the Free Staters to their own resources."

GUNS FOR PRETORIA DETAINED.

LONDON, April 16.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Lourenzo Marquez says that the British consul there has caused the detention of two Maxim guns and a quantity of ammunition consigned to Pretoria from Germany. The despatch adds that Michael Davitt, an ex-member of the British house of commons who, it was stated, had gone to South Africa to act as the correspondent of a newspaper, has booked passage for Europe on the German steamer Herzog, which will sail from Lourenzo Marquez early in May.

SITUATION AT WEPENER.

MASERU, Basutoland, Saturday, April 14.—Sir Godfrey Lagden, British resident commissioner, returned here yesterday (Friday) from the scene of operations near Wepener. He and the paramount chief have stationed 3,000 armed natives to resist possible Boer encroachments. The orders of the resident commissioner are that the Basutos are not to be allowed to cross the Free State frontier on any pretext whatever. Two natives who crossed and looted an abandoned Boer farm are now in custody.

Col. Dalgety's position is strong and well chosen, but he is completely surrounded.

The Boers have their backs against Basutoland, and if they stay much longer they will be hemmed in. The British operations are keenly watched from the neighboring heights. Shelling and sniping have been going on steadily during the last six days.

Col. Dalgety's guns are admirably served, and there is no waste of ammunition. The Boers, when they see the electric flash of the cordite, bolt into their holes or behind walls.

So near are the Boers and the Basuto guards that they converse. The ambulances are close to the border, but the killed and the wounded are not removed until nightfall, in order to conceal the number of casualties. The Boers are fatigued and their horses are tired and footsore.

The Boers attacked fiercely the British northern position on Monday, April 9, but they were beaten back at daybreak. Nothing is known here of the casualties on either side.

SEVEN THOUSAND BOERS AT WEPENER.

ALIWAL NORTH, Saturday, April 14—Col. Grenfell wires that the casualties at Wepener include Quartermaster Williams, Lieut. Halford and Lieut. Duncan and fifteen men wounded.

Sir Godfrey Lagden, resident commissioner at Maseru, telegraphs that no shelling has been heard from the direction of Wepener today.

A regiment of British infantry and a battery of artillery arrived Friday.

Gen. Brabant's headquarters and all the wounded troops have gone to Rouxville.

The Northern Post asserts that the Rouxville district furnished 1,000 recruits to the Boer forces as a result of the invasion last week.

Five hundred Boers under Commandant Swanepoel forced the Royal Irish Rifles to evacuate Rouxville. The former drost, who had been acting for the British, offered to go to the front to prove himself a true Free Stater, and almost to a man the Free Staters who had taken the oath rejoined the Boers, nearly every one produced a Mauser. Looting, however, was repressed. It is reported that there are 7,000 Boers at Wepener. Fourteen British sympathizers have been imprisoned. The Boers admit having shot Mr. Guiney, the hotel keeper, for taking forage to the British.

A paymaster with £1,400 ($7,000) was captured.

EIGHTEEN KILLED AND 132 WOUNDED.

ALIWAL NORTH, April 12.—It is officially reported that the British losses at Wepener in four days' fighting were 18 men killed and 132 wounded.

MESSAGE FROM COL DALGETY.

REDDERSBURG, April 15.—Colonel Dalgety wired yesterday: "All well. Enemy apparently slackening attack."

General Chermside's division is encamped 17 miles east of the railway.

PRISONERS TRIED TO ESCAPE.

ST. HELENA, April 15.—Col. Schiel and two other Boer prisoners were landed here today and sent to the citadel in consequence of an attempt to escape.

It appears that Col. Schiel bribed a boatman to take a letter to the Dutch cruiser, but the boatman by mistake took it to the British cruiser Niobe.

A large knife was found in possession of one of the three.

Col. Schiel walked to the citadel, declining a carriage that was placed at his disposal.

VISITORS NOT WANTED.

LONDON, April 15.—Joseph Chamberlain, secretary of state for the colonies, has received the following despatch from Sir Alfred Milner, British high commissioner in South Africa:

"The number of visitors to South Africa is constantly increasing and includes many, especially ladies, who seem to have no particular call of duty or business.

"I am sure this would not be the case if it were realized at home that visitors, who in ordinary times would be most welcome, may under existing conditions become a serious source of inconvenience, interfering with the work of the military and civil officers and putting a strain on our limited means of accommodation, which are urgently required for those who have a duty to perform here or who are invalided from the front.

"A considerable increase in the expense of living—at all times very high—is caused by the excessive influx of visitors, and this is a hardship on persons of the latter class."

After saying there is no place less suitable for recreation than South Africa at present, Sir Alfred Milner concludes as follows:

"Lord Roberts, to whom I have submitted this message, authorizes me to add that he fully concurs in the views expressed."

MAINE DUE IN A WEEK.

LONDON, April 15.—The executive committee of the American women's hospital ship fund has received a cablegram from Lady Randolph Churchill, announcing that the Maine arrived at Madeira this morning and will reach Southampton on April 23rd. All on board are well.

WITH OUR BOYS.

Letters were received last evening from a number of the St. John men in the Canadian contingent. Private Dorchue, writing from Winberg hospital on March 14th, said that though every effort was made to save his leg, in which he had been badly wounded it was found necessary to amputate the member. He expected as soon as he was able to be moved to go to England, where he would be fitted with an artificial limb.

Mrs. Unkauf of Brussels street received two letters from her son, Private Unkauf. He had gone through three engagements, the first two safely, but in the last he had received a slight wound in the back. It was not at all severe, and he was able after a short time in the hospital to rejoin his company, and was at the time of writing in the best of health.

WAR SUMMARY.

LONDON, April 17.— The campaign in South Africa is still at a halt so far as any important movement is concerned. The war office has issued nothing concerning the situation at Wepener, and the correspondents' reports of the fighting there conflict. A despatch from Bloemfontein saying it is reported there that the Boers, after the fight at Wepener, retired to Rouxville, clearly implies that it is believed in Bloemfontein that the attack on Major Dalgety's command has been abandoned. The correspondent of the Standard at Bloemfontein indeed repeats definitely the report that the siege has been raised, and adds that the Boers are in full retreat. The Telegraph's correspondent makes a similar statement, but the other correspondents do not concur. The representatives of the Standard and Telegraph declare that the Boers fear a British attack. In their anxiety to escape they are hugging the Basutoland border as closely as possible, and will probably pass east of Ladybrand. The Basutos are marching parallel to them along the frontier, watching eagerly for the slightest encroachment on Basutoland territory. It is feared that the Boers' line of march will not bring them within striking distance from Bloemfontein. The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph adds that Rouxville is clear of Boers. A majority of them have undoubtedly retired north except a body of about 6,000, who are still reported to be marching in the direction of Bethulie.

It does appear that Gen. Roberts has considered an effort to relieve Major Dalgety from headquarters necessary, and it seems that Gen. Chermsides' movement to Reddersburg is mainly aimed at guarding the railway from the strong Boer force that is moving to the southwest. It is stated that when Gen. Chermside arrived at Reddersburg he saw the Boers disappearing to the southeast, and Montmorency's scouts skirmished at long range with Boers in the neighborhood of the town Sunday. A report from Bethanie asserts that the retreating burghers, who, by the way, have a numberof British prisoners with them, are unable to get north, all the elevated country being strongly held by the British.

According to the Morning Post's correspondent at Bloemfontein, the Boer operations southeast are mainly dictated by food considerations. They marched south into the most fertile part of the Free State with empty wagons, in a bold and perhaps desperate attempt to re-victual their forces at Kroonstad and the Vaal River Boer force made an active demonstration Sunday along the front of Gen. Tucker's position near Karee. Outpost skirmishing ensued. It has been ascertained that this move was designed to cover the withdrawal of an immense convoy of provisions.

The Post's correspondent in a despatch dated Monday, alludes obscurely to various important movements at Bloemfontein, which he says it is not desirable to specify. He adds that small bodies of Boers are prowling within eight or ten miles of the town.

Three Johannesburg police actually entered Bloemfontein one evening and escaped before their identity was discovered.

The Daily Mail correspondent at Mafeking also sends a despatch dated April 5th, in which he says that "the pinch of hunger is beginning to be felt. There is no news of relief, which seems further off than ever." He adds that since Col. Plumer's demonstration on March 31st there was no shelling until April 5th, when General Snyman advanced from his operations against Col. Plumer and renewed the heavy bombardment. It transpires that young Commandant Cronje, who is with Gen. Snyman, meant to take the town on the allusion of the terrific bombardment on March 27th, but seeing that the British works were manned after six hours' artillery practice, he would not risk an assault. The correspondent makes no allusion to Col. Baden-Powell's rumored sickness or death.

Apparently nothing of consequence is doing in Natal against the native reports that the Boers in the Elandslaagte district have retired to the Biggersberg range. There is a despatch to the Telegraph from Ladysmith, dated Monday, to the effect that the burghers are again at Dewdrop, and the Times correspondent at Lorenzo Marquez says that Biggersberg range is still defended by 7,000 Boers, with a fair quota of artillery.

LONDON, April 17, 4.15 a. m.—Lord Roberts has spread his net far and wide to catch the adventurous commandoes that have been making mischief in the southeastern part of the state. The net has not yet been drawn in, but at the headquarters of Lord Roberts the impression exists that the power of the Boers is decreasing. A Daily News correspondent has them fleeing to the southeast; a Standard correspondent reports them fleeing northward; a Daily Telegraph correspondent says that some are going north and others south, while a Morning Post report says it is not known what the Boers are doing.

Evidently the feeling at Bloemfontein is that the dispositions of Lord Roberts are such as to enable him to concentrate a large force rapidly at any point. The Boers, being aware of this, are presumed to be thinking now chiefly of retreat.

The investment of Wepener, according to a special despatch from Bloemfontein, has absolutely been abandoned. According to a Bethany despatch the Boers are unable to retreat northward because the British strongly hold all roads.

Diverse reports from Natal, one assenting that the Boers have retired beyond the Biggarsburg range and another saying that some of them are close to Ladysmith.

London waits confidently for almost immediate announcement of news favorable to the British.

Distrust exists, however, as to any rapid, continuous advance toward Pretoria, chiefly on account of the lack of horses, many of which die in the case of long voyages. Letters from the Cape say that the three days' journey by rail is made in open trucks, that the arrangements for feeding and watering are inadequate and that the unfortunate animals break down rapidly in consequence of these hardships.

Despite the energy of its buyers abroad the war office foresees much difficulty in supplying the enormous number of horses required.

A despatch to the Times from Mafeking, dated April 6, confirming earlier reports, says:

"After Col. Plumer's repulse Commandant Snyman sent a message inviting Col. Baden-Powell to send out to collect the dead and wounded. When the ambulances appeared the Boer commander declined to allow them to be taken. It was discovered, however, that the Boer reports of the extent of the British casualties had been greatly exaggerated."

FROM THE LONDON PAPERS.

LONDON, April 17.—The Daily Mail has the following from Lady Sarah Wilson, dated Mafeking April 5:

"The pinch of hunger is beginning to be felt and relief seems to be more distant than ever.

"Since March 31 there has been no shelling until today, Commandant Snyman having taken his burghers to bar Col. Plumer's road. Yesterday, however, he returned, and the bombardment was resumed today with splendid high velocity guns, firing 14 pound shells, such as had not been used since the first days of the siege.

"The military authorities say the British artillery has nothing to compare with these guns."

The Lourenzo Marquez correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing Sunday, April 15, says:

"The tone of the Standard and Diggers News shows that the Transvaal government is relying strongly upon American intervention. Great results are expected from the campaign of Webster Davis and from the presidential contest.

"While the semi-blockade of Delagoa Bay has not done the slightest harm to the Transvaal it has enriched foreign firms at the expense of ruined Britishers."

The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Morning Post, telegraphing Monday, says:

"Small bodies of Boers are prowling around and are even coming within eight or ten miles of Bloemfontein. Three actually entered the town one night and escaped without being discovered.

"The Boer demonstration yesterday at Karee siding was designed to cover the withdrawal of an immense convoy of provisions. There is no doubt that the Boer incursion into the southeastern part of the Free State was largely due to the need of replenishing victuals in the most fertile part of the country. This explains why the enemy marched south with empty wagons.

"Various important inovements are occurring which naturally are not desirable to specify."

The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Standard, telegraphing Monday, says:

"The Boers are in full retreat from Wepener, hugging the Basutoland border. The Basutos are marching parallel with them along the frontier, watching eagerly for the slightest encroachment."

The Daily News has the following from Reddersburg, dated Friday:

"Gen. Chermside saw the rear guard of the Boers disappear southeast in full retreat.

"The enemy appears to be in strong force 14 miles east of Reddersburg. They are falling back before our advance guard."

The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, in a despatch dated yesterday, says:

"The Boers have raised the siege of Wepener and have left Rouxville. A majority of them has undoubtedly retired north, with the exception of a body of about 6,000 now reported to be going toward Bethulie."

A correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at Ladysmith, in a despatch dated April 16, says:

"The Boers are down again at Dewdrop, east of Ladysmith."

FROM THE BOER CAPITAL.

PRETORIA, April 14, via Lorenzo Marques, April 16.—Advices have been received here from Christiana on the northwestern border of the Free State, to the effect that the bombardment between the Boers and the British at Fourteen Streams, on the Vaal River, continues vigorously. The fighting is confined to an artillery duel. The British batteries have been silenced a number of times. The whole Vaal River is now effectually patrolled by the Boers. The commandos under Gen. Delarey are awaiting Gen. Methuen's army between Hoopstad and the Vaal River, some distance east of Fourteen Streams.

Information from the Natal front shows that matters have been quiet there since the Boers surprised the British at Elandslaagte. It is stated that the British casualties on this occasion were very heavy. Over 150 shells were thrown into the British camp in less than an hour. The British troops were drilling when the attack was unexpectedly made upon them.

BOERS AT ST. HELENA.

JAMESTOWN, St. Helena, April 16.—The remainder of the Boer prisoners were landed today and sent to Deadwood.

Col. Schiel and the two others who had been confined at the citadel, after their attempt to escape, have been released, and they also have gone to Deadwood.

ENTERED MAFEKING.

LOURENZO MARQUES, April 16.—Lieut. Smith-Eman, a Rhodesian scout, who entered Mafeking through the Boer lines, has returned to Col. Plumer's camp with despatches from Mafeking saying that all was well there April 8.

LEAVING WEPENER.

LONDON, April 17.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Times, telegraphing Monday, says: "The Boers who have been investing Wepener are reported to be moving in a southerly direction, but the object of the movement is uncertain."

BOIESTOWN NEWS.

BOIESTOWN, Northumberland Co., April 16.—On Wednesday evening William Kingborn, provincial organizer, addressed a large meeting in the hall on the principles of Forestry. Two candidates were initiated previous to the public address. The local court now has upwards of one hundred members.

Harry A. Kendall has gone to Fredericton for a few days. R. W. McLellan and William P. Taylor, barristers, of Fredericton, were here last week on legal business. Miss Bessie Taylor, teacher of the Ludlow school, spent Easter with friends in this place.

Stewart Dennison and Millan McConnell have been visiting in Blackville. Edward Dunphy has been here for a few days. Major George W. Mersereau, inspector of schools, paid the schools in this section an official visit last week.

The ice is becoming unsafe for crossing. It is expected that log driving will begin about the usual time this spring. Wages are high and men rather scarce at present.

AS WE INTEND RETIRING

from the Retail Clothing Trade the first day of August, we are compelled to dispose of our stock at less than wholesale prices in order to clear it out. All good, new, stylish, well made Clothing for Men and Boys must go at our sale, also Gent's Furnishings: Shirts, Neckwear, Gloves, Umbrellas, Trunks, Satchels, Valises.

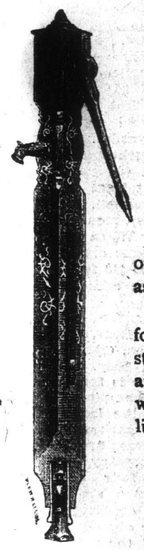
Fraser, Fraser & Co., - Foster's Corner,

40 and 42 King Street, St. John, N. B.

The "Furber"

CUCUMBER WOOD PUMP.

(ANTI-FREEZING).



It is claimed for wood pumps that, being non-conductors of heat and cold, the water is delivered at same temperature as at supply.

The "Furber" Wood Pumps are made of the best wood for deep and shallow wells. We keep standard lengths in stock, plain unlined and porcelain lined. Have iron cover and iron spout, threaded for iron pipe or hose; frost slide, which in winter can be raised to let the water below frost line, to be closed before pumping again.

WRITE FOR PRICES.

W. H. THORNE & CO. (Limited)

MARKET SQUARE, ST. JOHN.

In order to introduce our assorted STEEL PENS we are giving away your choice of Rings, Bracelets, Books, Chains, Brooches, Purses, Jack Knives, Skates, Guard Chains, and many other useful premiums for selling 13 packages at 10c. per package. For selling 25 packages we are giving away your choice of Boys' Watches and Chains, Cameras, Sleds, Chairs, Cloth Bound Books, Clocks, Games, Air Rifles and a variety of other premiums. Ladies, boys and girls, send in your full name and address. We will forward you the number of packages wanted to sell among your neighbors and friends. When sold remit us amount due and we will forward premium you have selected from our mammoth catalogue, which we mail with goods. Address today

STANDARD WATCH AND NOVELTY CO.

Dept. B., St. John, N. B.