

ANOTHER DELAY.

Roberts Will Not Make Any Big Movement Until the Troops Get Heavier Uniforms.

Latest Advices from Mafeking Say the People Are Cheerful, Although Very Short of Food.

The Fish Fusiliers Captured at Reddersburg Fought Nearly Thirty Hours, Not Having a Cartridge Left When They Surrendered.

LONDON, April 7, 4.30 a. m.—Not a word regarding the disaster at Reddersburg has been allowed to come through except the despatch of Lord Roberts. It is therefore impossible to form any notions as to what has happened. Meanwhile the British public is beginning to realize the immense difficulties to be overcome before Pretoria is reached, and is revising premature ideas with respect to the time when the war will be over. No one believes that it will end by the beginning of June.

This last disaster more particularly illustrates the heavy task involved in holding the railway. This body of some 500 British troops without guns, which disappeared so completely within 35 miles of the great British army, had for its business to guard a section of nearly ninety miles of railway between Bloemfontein and Springfontein. If it could thus be spirited away, how is Lord Roberts to ensure his continually extending communications?

Other pertinent questions are being asked as a result of the successive "unfortunate occurrences." The foremost is, why do not the British troops entrench? It is argued that if this had been done, even 500 men might have held out until reinforcements had arrived.

It cannot be concealed that the utmost alarm is beginning to be felt. It is said that the Boers who captured the British at Reddersburg belonged to Olivier's commando, and, if so, he has not retired north and hopes he expressed that he may still be cut off. It is asserted that 4,000 rebels surrendered during Gen. Clements' march northward. The Boers will do their utmost to hold Ladybrand and Thaba N'chu, both being rich grain producing districts.

A correspondent of the Morning Post at Springfontein, telegraphing Thursday, says he is glad to be able to report that increased precautions are being taken in patrolling the railway. It is stated that most of the prisoners captured at Boshof are foreigners. The report that Mr. Steyn has been appointed to the command of the Free State, and the further report that the Free State has arranged a loan from the Transvaal for war purposes, are both confirmed.

Ten thousand remounts from South America are due to arrive during the coming week at ports of Natal and Cape Colony. Another Boer version of the fighting with Col. Humer's forces, says that four officers and thirty men were taken prisoners at Ramathabana. It appears that the names Cecil and Granville, which were originally supposed to indicate two of the officers captured at that time, should have been read together as the name of one officer. As numerous prisoners are now on both sides, and the numbers are about equal, the question of exchange was mooted in the house of commons last evening. This elicited a reply that the government had no intention of proposing an exchange.

through a number of campaigns in the French army. Lord Roberts reports that five companies of British troops have been captured by the Boers near Bethanie, south of Bloemfontein, in the Orange Free State.

LONDON, April 6, 4.05 p. m.—The following is the text of Lord Roberts' despatch to the war office announcing the capture of five companies of his troops: "BLOEMFONTEIN, Thursday, April 5.—Another unfortunate occurrence has occurred, resulting, I fear, in the capture of a party of infantry consisting of three companies of the Royal Irish Fusiliers and two companies of the Ninth regiment of mounted infantry, near Reddersburg, a little eastward of Bethanie railway station, within a few miles of this place. They were surrounded by a stronger force of the enemy in the afternoon of April 4, and the detachment held out from before noon, April 3, until 9 a. m. April 4, and then apparently surrendered, for it is reported that the firing ceased at that time. Immediately after I heard the news, the afternoon of April 5, I ordered Gen. Gatacre to proceed from Springfontein, his present headquarters, to Reddersburg with all possible speed, and I despatched the Cameron Highlanders hence to Bethanie. Gatacre arrived at Reddersburg at 10.30 yesterday morning, without opposition, but could get no news of the missing detachments. There can be no doubt the whole party has been made prisoners."

OUR WOUNDED. OTTAWA, April 6.—Colonel Otter's reports, coming down to the 27th of February, gives the following account of the nature of the wounds and the present condition of the wounded in companies G and H: Company "G"—Corporal Fred W. Coombs, left shoulder, not serious. Private H. Bruce, Charlottetown, discharged from hospital. W. W. Donohue, 7rd R. C. A., left leg amputated. Private U. S. Durant, 74th, left hip, not serious. H. Frandsham, R. C. R. I., thigh, not serious. J. A. Harris, 82nd Battalion, left arm, not serious. J. Johnson, 82nd Battalion, leg, not serious. H. Leavitt, 71st, hip and back, serious. Pte. McCreary, 74th Battalion, head, since dead. A. Pelky, 82nd, left elbow, serious. M. J. Quinn, R. C. R. I., chest and abdomen, serious. A. Simpson, 3rd R. C. A., neck, serious. F. W. Sprague, 3rd R. C. A., left arm, since dead. C. Unkaut, 62nd, discharged from hospital. J. F. Wayne, 82nd, foot and leg, slight. W. F. Adams, 63rd, shoulder, slight. G. D. McCullum, 93rd, head, serious. A. Parker, 85th, discharged from hospital. W. J. Regan, 65th, arm and leg, not serious. W. Downing, 62nd, chest, serious. W. Hunter, 62nd, shoulder, slight. G. A. Scott, 93rd, hip, slight. J. Selvert, 93rd, abdomen, since dead. Parade state to March 3rd shows: Effective, 748; killed in action, 25; died of wounds, 8; transferred, 4; dead, 5; wounded in sick hospital, 14; on command, 33; total, 1039.

A GREAT STRATEGIST. In the death of Gen. Villebois Mareuil the Boers lost their best instructed soldier in command of a corps of the war. As the late General Joubert's chief of staff, his brain devised the Boer defence against Gen. Buller's advance to the relief of Ladysmith. He was the most notable of all the holders of fortune serving with the Boers.

HUTTON AT THE FRONT. BLOEMFONTEIN, April 4.—There has been a reorganization of the mounted infantry corps of the army under Lord Roberts at this point, the new division as thus constituted being placed under command of General Hutton.

The division is composed of two brigades, one being formed of Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders and other colonial units here. This brigade has been placed under the command of Col. Hutton, late commanding general of the militia in Canada, who just arrived from the front. The second brigade, made up of regular and volunteer imperial troops, will be under the command of Major Ridley. This organization of mounted infantry corps of Lord Roberts' army probably indicates an early advance movement of the entire British army northward, in which movement the Canadians and other mounted infantry divisions will act as an advance guard of scouts, patrolling and clearing the country in front of the main army during the march.

It is likely to have some very lively work to do, as the country is fairly swarming with small bodies of Boers, entrenched at favorable points and artfully concealed in sprouts. The capacity of the Boers for this kind of fighting was illustrated at Bushman's Kop, where Longman's division was so completely entrapped.

It is reported today that the Boers are working south in considerable force from Thaba N'chu, and that they have formed the audacious plan of surrounding the British army in Bloemfontein. To this end they are probably hastily constructing trenches to the north and east and mounting some of their big guns. Our first work will probably be to scurry about the country in the neighborhood of Bloemfontein and uncover the Boer designs.

MUST QUIT PRETORIA. LOURENZO MARQUEZ, Thursday, April 6.—According to advices from Pretoria all British subjects have been ordered to quit Pretoria and Johannesburg immediately except some 400 who are permitted, under a recent law, to remain in the Rand. Those who are expelled number about 900.

The prisoners and guns taken at Gatacre's Post have arrived at Pretoria.

CAUSED A PAINFUL IMPRESSION. PARIS, April 7.—The news of the death of Gen. De Villebois Mareuil was posted in the chamber of deputies and senate yesterday and caused a painful impression. The deceased officer had many friends in the parliamentary world and his graphic letters, communicated from time to time to the Paris papers by the members of his family, had been eagerly read. The public, therefore, had followed his movements in the Transvaal with great interest.

CECIL RHODES IN LONDON. LONDON, April 6.—Cecil Rhodes arrived in this city today. He is well and cheerful, but is much more exclusive than he was on his previous trip home. This is doubtless owing to the fact that Dr. Rutherford Harris, the former secretary of the British South Africa company, and Alfred Beit, the South African millionaire, met Mr. Rhodes at Funchal, Island of Madeira, and advised him to observe reticence on South African affairs, especially as to his alleged differences with Colonel Kekewich at Kimberley. Mr. Rhodes' reception was in marked contrast to his former ovations.

The public did not show the slightest interest in him. From the time of his arrival he was surrounded by a body guard composed of Messrs. Beit, Harris, Hawkesley and Rochford, Maguire and other henchmen, who hurried him from the boat to the train and from

the train to a cab, without permitting him to speak to any one.

ANOTHER DELAY. LONDON, April 9.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Morning Post telegraphing Friday, says: "No anxiety may be felt as to the security of Bloemfontein, although the Boers may succeed in destroying telegraphic communication, and even in cutting the railway for a brief period. A number of civilians, including Lady Beaulieu and Lady Edward Cecil, who arrived here recently from Cape Town, left today in compliance with a general order issued by the authorities." The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily News telegraphing Friday, says: "Owing to a lack of horses and to the suffering of the men from pneumonia, due to lack of clothing, Lord Roberts has decided not to make a big movement until the troops are provided with thicker uniforms."

SITUATION AT MAFEKING. MASERU, April 1.—The town is cheerful, believing that the end of the long siege is approaching. The rationing is so strict that they can be made and yet sustain life. The town is becoming blacker daily. The enemy have again retired to a further distance from the town. Their musketry fire is now confined to the outposts. This morning the garrison fired 30 rounds from 3 1/2 16-pounders. The Boers replied with some 24-pounders, but their practice was worse than ever, and the British suffered no casualties. An ambulance was seen busily employed within the enemy's lines.

Yesterday there was an exhibition of musketry, including sketches, etc., all the work having been done during the siege. Col. Baden-Powell exhibited a smart collection of sketches. The town council has decided to appoint a joint committee to formulate a request that the imperial government should provide the people with their losses. If this is not done, the position of many residents who formerly possessed substantial means, will be serious. It is estimated that the damage to houses amounts to £100,000, and the other losses of the inhabitants to a similar amount. The municipality was asked to contribute to the extent of £50,000.

HOLD A SPLENDID POSITION. MASERU, Basutoland, April 6.—The Boers at Ladybrand, across the Free State border, and in the adjoining districts have assumed a demonstrative attitude. There is a British force at Wepener, where they hold a splendid position. It is rumored that there is a very strong force of Boers there, but they are afraid to make a frontal attack. It is believed they will endeavor to turn the British position.

BOERS IN FORCE AT WALSE KOP. ALWILWORTH, Saturday, April 7.—The Royal Irish Rifles, which have been falling back from Rouville, arrived here safely last night. Their retirement was covered by a detachment sent by Gen. Brabant, frustrating the Boers and interrupting the movement of the enemy from Rouville.

Gen. Boney and two men of Brabant's detachment of the Border Horse are missing. Two Boers were killed in the rear guard action. A strong Boer commando is reported to be at Walse Kop, fourteen miles west of Rouville.

THE LATE GEN. DE VILLEBOIS MAREUIL. LONDON, April 8.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Mail telegraphing Friday, and referring to the death at Boshof of General De Villebois Mareuil, commander of the French legion in the Boer army, says: "He was a fine type of the French Boer Sabreur, brave, dashing, highly intelligent, loving war, yet a polished gentleman at home and a scholarly and almost brilliant writer. He was of a far too high a type to be understood by the Boers, who showed open contempt for his advice and disobedience to his orders."

"He is who warned Gen. Cronje that he was being flanked by Lord Roberts. Cronje replied, angrily, 'The British will never leave the railway.'"

WILL HAVE A BAD EFFECT. MASERU, Basutoland, Thursday, April 6.—The re-occupation of Ladybrand, Thaba N'chu and the Bloemfontein waterworks by the Boers in the very sight of the Basutos, who were obliged to witness the expiration of the Boer by the British, is of the most important aspect of the situation here, in view of its probable effect upon the native mind.

Already the natives are arguing that the British have suffered reverses; and, should the British evacuate Wepener, the results, so far as the natives are concerned, are likely to prove disastrous.

All hope to see Gen. Brabant steadily advance and drive the enemy before him.

WHAT STEYN SAID. LOURENZO MARQUEZ, Friday, April 6.—President Steyn, in his address to the Free State volksraad at Kroonstad on Wednesday, April 4, said the burghers were in a better position than at the commencement of hostilities. He threatened those who had surrendered to the British and announced that the Free State had borrowed half a million from the Transvaal for the purpose of war. England, he declared, had broken every convention.

Referring to the correspondence with Lord Salisbury, he observed: "The destiny of the republics is in higher hands than those of the British government, namely, in the hands of the people of France, Russia and Germany, who are agitating for intervention."

"The war will soon end." It is believed that Boer prisoners have been

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sent to St. Helena, we would be justified in considering British prisoners to the lowest depths of the Johannesburg mines."

THE BOER POSITION. LONDON, April 9.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Times telegraphing Friday, says: "The Boers now stretch in a thin line from Sannas Post, on the south, to a point east of Jagersfontein. The railway stations are amply protected, but their defence necessitates heavy patrolling work."

BOERS THREATEN THE RAILWAY. BLOEMFONTEIN, Saturday, April 7.—The Boers are reported in force to the south, devastating the railway, which, however, is strongly protected. British pickets at Springfield, eight miles distant, were attacked today by Boer advance, from the waterworks. Remounts are rapidly arriving. The Boers are in high spirits and anxious to advance.

MADE A PLUCKY STAND. BETHANY, Orange Free State, Thursday, April 6.—The five companies of British infantry, which were surprised by the Reddersburg commando, while marching across the country via Dewet's Drap, made a plucky stand, but as the Boers had three field guns and the British none, the latter were compelled to surrender. Gen. Gatacre arrived too late. Reddersburg was already re-occupied then by the Boers and the enemy are now threatening the lines to the south.

NO TRACE OF THE ILL-FATED COLUMN. BETHANY, Saturday, April 7.—Gen. Gatacre's force returned here without having found any trace of the ill-fated British column captured by the Reddersburg commando. It is impossible to estimate the British losses, but as the men fought stubbornly, it is probable that these were large.

ANOTHER OF STEYN'S BROTHERS CAPTURED. BLOEMFONTEIN, Saturday, April 7.—Another of Mr. Steyn's brothers was captured near Kares Siding yesterday, and arrived here today.

AMERICAN SCOUT ESCAPED. BLOEMFONTEIN, April 6.—P. R. Burnham, the American scout, who is serving with the Boers, was captured by the Boers near the Bloemfontein waterworks, but he escaped from his captors when they were ten miles from Windburg, to which place the Boers were hastening, as they expected that attempt would be made to re-capture their prisoners. The Boers had 400 prisoners, including twenty officers, and the prisoners were well treated. They suffered, however, from the speed of the enemy's movements, they marching with remarkable rapidity. Teams of eight ponies each moved two big creosote guns across the veldt. The Boers were well managed and relieved. The Boers were making the trip, they were escorted by Hussars and the animals grazed on the veldt. They are in good condition. Gen. Roberts will inspect them tomorrow. Some Boers fired a few consecutive shots at the Hussars as they were moving north with the horses. Wednesday the ninth division (Gen. Colville) was sent southeast to Rietfontein, yesterday it having been reported that a conference of leaders would be held there. The Boers learned of the advance of the British and the meeting was abandoned. The British force saw the retreating Boers. The field artillery threw several shells into the enemy's

TROUBLE IN SWAZILAND. LOURENZO MARQUEZ, Friday, April 6.—A runner who has just arrived here from Sobobo's Kraal, Swaziland, says Sobobo has been killed and his women have been tied up with ropes. Unrest is increasing in the country, which is in a most unsettled state, bordering on a reign of terror, the presence of "white man's law." Many natives have been threatened, and in one district they have been completely killed off. A messenger from Bismersdorp, Swaziland, says that soldiers are making parties to the Queen and are seeking permission to pass through Swaziland armed.

It is believed that the famous old Swazi chief and two women of his household with their infants have all been assigned at M'Queen's kraal. The kraal was sacked and burned and the chief's son captured. Numerous bands are marching about and marauding in every direction. The independent found M'Queen's son in charge of two natives, who admitted the killing of the chief, but said they had followed the orders of the Swazi queen.

FIGHTING AT FOURTEEN STREAMS. WARRENTOWN, Cape Colony, April 6.—The Boer trenches at Fourteen Streams were shelled with 170th battery. The Boers took refuge in the bush. Their fire on the Post picket was temporarily silenced, but it was impossible to shell them.

FOUGHT FOR THIRTY HOURS. BLOEMFONTEIN, Thursday, April 6.—(Delayed in transmission.)—The Royal Irish Rifles had been marching in the eastern part of the Free State, collecting arms, and were returning to Bethany yesterday, when they were intercepted by a Boer commando, which had placed three guns in position. The Irish entrenchment while the mounted infantry scouted along both banks, only to find escape impossible. The Boers fought with gun and rifle fire. The British replied sparingly with rifle fire, but the Boers were firing with their rifles. The British position until Wednesday, when the Irishmen, who had fought tenaciously, were suffering severely from want of food and water. By this time also the rifles had expended their last cartridges. Finding that there was no sign of success, they surrendered, having fought for nearly 30 hours. They lost ten killed and many wounded. Among the captured is Captain Conant, Gen. Gatacre's chief intelligence officer.

MARINE MATTERS. Sch. Chas. L. Jeffrey, from Pensacola for Ponce, which put into Key West March 8, leaving, etc., has proceeded for destination. The following charters are reported: Sch. Mystery, New York to Guadaloupe and Basse Terre, general cargo, P. L. Keating, 1000 lbs. sugar to Halifax, molasses, \$2.00 and sugar, 15 cents; France A. Rice, Ponce to St. John, molasses, \$2.00, sugar, 15 cents; At. Windsor a few days ago Major Curry presented, Capt. S. M. Masters, of the barkentine Avola, with a handsome binocular glass, which was awarded by the government of Canada in recognition of humane services to the shipwrecked crew of the Hatfield May, of Halifax, Capt. Vance, of October. This glass came through the department of marine and fisheries and at the suggestion of Allen Haley, M. P., was sent to Major Curry for presentation.

A steamer has arrived at Swansea and re-ports March 7, lat. 1 S., lon. 31 W., spoke four-masted ship, supposed MWBO (British), Dunstaffnage, standing to the westward, under small canvas. Being too far off could not make out rest of the signals she hoisted. Bark Dunstaffnage (H.), from Philadelphia for Hogo, before reported damaged by collision, was previously reported spoken March 8, lat. 2 N., lon. 29, making for Barbadoes.

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