

FORTY-FIVE BOERS KILLED.

Boers Now on the War Path for Grub.

FOURIE HAS BROKEN AWAY.

But Left Behind Many Prisoners, Horses and Sheep—Positions of the Three Boer Generals—Why the Peace Negotiations Failed—Too Much Charity in It.

Cape Town, March 22.—The Prime Minister reports Col. Scoble engaged Commandants Fourie and Molin near Blaauwkrantz last Wednesday. The enemy broke and scattered to the northeast. The British casualties were three killed and four wounded. The Boers lost four killed and 28 captured. They also lost 148 horses, which were captured.

Commandant Kritzinger crossed the railway at Henning station yesterday, moving to the northeast. The British columns are in vigorous pursuit.

Clearing the Colony.

Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony, March 22.—Military operations in the southern part of the Orange River Colony are progressing. Major Julian Byng has brought in 300 refugees, 16,000 cattle, and 40,000 sheep from the Wepener and Smithfield districts. Col. Bethune has sent in seventeen prisoners from Thabaneu. Three hundred prisoners are now camped here.

Jingo Press Irritated.

London, March 23.—It is significant that the overtures Gen. Kitchener was disposed to offer to the Boers contained greater concessions than Sir Alfred Milner and Mr. Chamberlain would permit, and this has caused a pessimistic feeling as suggesting that the British military position is not really equal to ending the war and the English will have to buy peace. The jingo press is particularly irritated. The Daily Mail, under the headline of "War on East Terms," says it is painfully surprised that the British Government should capitulate on so many vital points. The Government, it adds, is willing to concede as much as any Little Englander Administration would dare grant.

Canadian Dies of His Wounds.

Ottawa, Ont., March 22.—The Military Department announces that No. 186, F. C. Douglas, a member of the Scouts, formerly of Strathcona's Horse, has died from wounds received in action on the 16th of February.

No Cohesion Among Boer Forces.

Cape Town, March 22.—An official Government bulletin says the Boers in the eastern and midland districts of Cape Colony are apparently making for the Orange River Colony. They are being steadily pushed by the British. The smaller parties remaining in the south, in the vicinity of Adelaide and Fort Beaufort, are being energetically dealt with. There are apparently no organized bodies of the invaders against which the troops can operate. A small commando appears to be still in the neighborhood of Kakamas. "Namaqualand" Boers are watching the town of Bell.

It is evident, in spite of constant rumors of the presence of commandos, that there is no coherence among the Boers in the Orange River Colony. None of the English who are strong enough to withstand any considerable British advance.

The result of the combined movements against General Fourie, near Thaba N'Chu, was the capture of 200 Boers, 140,000 sheep, 5,000 horses and a host of cattle. The Boers broke southward to the right and left.

Cape Town, March 24.—The fight between the British and Scheepers' commando of Boer invaders in the Jansenville district, about 125 miles north of Port Elizabeth, proved most disastrous to the burghers, according to reports received here.

Forty-five dead Boers were found on the field, in addition to some twenty wounded. The Boers were constantly under a hot rifle and gun fire.

Through British Lines.

London, March 24.—A despatch from Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony, says that Boer Commandant Fourie, who was last reported as surrounded near Thaba N'Chu, has broken through to the south. He left 200 prisoners, 5,000 horses and 140,000 sheep behind him.

A large number of remounts, horses and mules, arrived at Pretoria from Naamposort on Wednesday. The Boer Commandant Delarey is now operating against Col. Cunningham in the Western Transvaal. There is continual skirmishing. It is evident that Delarey is pressed for foodstuffs, as he is constantly attacking convoys with supplies for the British. Col. Plumer's men are now camped in Pretoria. They will take part in a series of operations to the northward.

Convoys Attacked.

Standerton, Transvaal, March 22.—Four hundred Boers under the Boer commander Buys, have wrecked a supply train on Wednesday. They overpowered the escort and carried off several wagon loads of provisions.

A convoy destined to join Gen. French's column has been attacked between Blood river and Scheepers' creek, Transvaal colony. The British

had one man killed, and three wounded. The bridge at Blood river was burned.

No Specific Objections.

London, March 24.—In the House of Commons yesterday afternoon Mr. Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, stated that the Boer commander-in-chief, Gen. Botha, gave no specific objections to the peace terms offered by Lord Kitchener.

The Three Boer Generals.

London, March 24.—The great mining companies seem to have grasped the situation. They are paying salaries to English social leaders to do their entertaining throughout the year at Pretoria and Johannesburg. The Consolidated Gold Fields Company has secured a former Ambassador and the Eksteens have secured a prominent member of cosmopolitan society to do this sort of work. Down through all ranks and all districts the Boers see this social project, which they identify with a continuance of military domination, and which they are not likely to accept while they have a cartridge left.

Each of their three generals has a strong position left in a great triangle whose base is above Pretoria, and the apex east of Bloemfontein. Each occupies a territory he knows best. Delarey's army is in the West Lichtenburg district on his own estate; Botha is in the Eastern Transvaal, and De Wet is still free to lead a column around Middelburg. It is impossible to contend that any of these can be reduced to a condition of despair where they must desert their Dutch comrades from Cape Colony or accept crushing conditions, which is all the farm restoration offer amounts to.

Fighting Near Clerksdorp.

Cape Town, March 24.—Severe fighting occurred Friday, March 22nd, between the British and Boers at Hartbeestfontein, east of Klerksdorp, Transvaal.

Did Not Tempt the Boers.

London, March 24.—The different positions of Colonial Secretary Chamberlain, Governor Sir Alfred Milner, and Lord Kitchener, revealed by the Botha correspondence, point to a likelihood of a renewal of the war for an indefinite period rather than an early settlement on any lines approaching the conditions just rejected.

It is the opinion of the present writer, who for eight months was with Lord Roberts' army, that the elements of the south African problem are still completely misjudged here. Another correspondent who returned last week, having left Pretoria after Kitchener took his troops to Botha's headquarters, told the writer that nobody wearing a British uniform there believed that Gen. Botha meant surrender. It is clear that Gen. Kitchener alone among the three English negotiators understands the ultimate necessities of the situation.

Two things will guide the Boers' leaders. They will not accept terms which will involve the abandonment of their kinsmen in Cape Colony, who have been fighting on their side, and they will not accept a scheme for the return of their arms, which in its present shape will mean that they must compete with each other for charity dispensed by Governor Sir Alfred Milner, acting on the official advice of anti-Boer residents of Johannesburg, who were active in provoking the war, and who now hold office under him. It is estimated that 300,000 cattle have been killed in the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal during the course of the war, and all the best of the breeding stock is gone. A million pounds sterling will not nearly suffice to rebuild and restock the farms, and the Boers will not compete against the British before some English official in order to secure their fractional shares of this amount. This, however, is a personal question.

HE DRANK POISON.

Bowmanville Druggist Mistook it for Stimulant.

Bowmanville, Ont., March 24.—Wm. C. Toole, a young druggist of this village, last night swallowed some hydro-cyanic acid in mistake for a stimulant, and died from the effects thereof before medical assistance could be summoned. About half-past six deceased left the store with his father, but went back for the purpose of getting some soap from the cellar. Mr. Toole, on finding that his son did not return, followed him to the cellar, and found him standing in a dazed condition. Before he could reach him the young man fell down, and expired in a few minutes.

Deceased had been in poor health for several days, and kept a bottle of stimulant in the store. It is supposed that while on his way to the cellar he picked up the bottle of poison by mistake and drank some of it. He started in business about a year ago, and was very successful.

WANT TOLSTOI IN ENGLAND

Urged to Leave Russia, But It is Not Probable That He Will Do So.

London, March 25.—Count Tolstois reported to be making preparations for quitting Russia forever in disgust and despair, and his English friends are urging him to settle in this country. It is said, the report is scarcely credible, but it comes from a quarter that justifies its mention. The latest direct advice from the great writer indicate that while he is justly indignant at the monstrous action of orthodox church bigots in procuring his excommunication, and not without apprehension that that action foreshadows political persecution, he believes that a consideration of personal dignity and devotion to duty require that he should remain at his post. He feels that excommunication would seriously diminish his opportunities and power for usefulness to his country.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

Terms Offered the Boers Were Liberal To Last Degree.

£1,000,000 FOR BOER LOSSES.

The Demand for Amnesty for Cape Colony Rebels Would Not be Considered—Botha's Refusal to Recommend Acceptance of Terms—His Letter to Gen. Kitchener—Independence Question Barred from the Discussion at the Outset—The Refusal Cancels the Offers Made by the British and None So Favorable May Again be Made.

London, March 22.—The Parliamentary papers giving details of the negotiations between Commander-in-Chief Gen. Botha and Lord Kitchener, commanding the British forces in South Africa, were issued this morning, beginning with the item from Sir Alfred Milner to Colonial Secretary Chamberlain. The despatch is dated Pretoria, Feb. 22nd, and states that Mrs. Botha had returned from a meeting with her husband, bringing a letter in reply to Sir Alfred Milner's verbal message offering to meet Gen. Botha as a means of ending the war on the express understanding that he would not discuss the question of the independence of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony. Mrs. Botha assured Sir Alfred Milner that the letter had been written with that point clearly understood, Gen. Botha referred the matter to his generals, and it was stated that the meeting would probably take place at Middleburg.

Chamberlain Replies.

Mr. Chamberlain replied that he was glad to hear of Gen. Botha's desire to treat, and hoped it was genuine. "He will find us," said the Colonial Secretary, "anxious to meet him on all points affecting his individual position."

Kitchener's Report.

A despatch from Lord Kitchener to the War Office, dated Pretoria, Feb. 28th, reports a long interview with Gen. Botha, who showed very good feeling and seemed to give the impression that he would submit to his general, the generals and the people. If they agreed he would visit the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal, there to agree should all then hand in their arms it would finish the war. He said they could go on for some time, and he was not sure he would be able to bring about peace without independence. "I declined to discuss such a point," said Lord Kitchener, "and said a modified form of independence would be most dangerous, and would lead to war in the future."

For Civil Government.

"Replying to Gen. Botha's inquiries I informed him that when hostilities ceased the military would be replaced by a civil government, consisting of a nominated executive and an elected Assembly to advise and control the military. The representative Government would be licensed to have rifles to protect themselves against the natives; the Dutch and the English languages were to have equal status; Kaffirs would not have the franchise until after representative Government had been granted; the Orange Free State laws for Kaffirs would be considered good; church and public trusts and orphan funds would not be touched; no war tax would be imposed on farmers; assistance would be given to farmers; and farms and to enable the farmers to start afresh, and colonists who had judged the republics should be disfranchised."

Questions Not Touched.

Among the questions to which Lord Kitchener apparently did not reply were: What the conditions would be returned, and regarding the taking over of debts of the republics, including those legally contracted since the beginning of the war. Gen. Botha succeeded in making a strong point of this. He referred to notes which had been issued, amounting to less than a million pounds. Lord Kitchener arranged to communicate Botha's views to his Government.

Milner's Cable.

On March 23 Sir Alfred Milner cabled Lord Kitchener, suggesting the following replies to Gen. Botha: "I beg to inform you that on the cessation of hostilities and the complete surrender of arms, ammunition, cannon and munition in the hands of the burghers in the field, at Government depots or elsewhere, His Majesty's Government is prepared at once to grant amnesty in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, and all bona fide acts of war during the hostilities, as well as to move the Government of Cape Colony and Natal to similar action, qualified by the disfranchisement of any British subjects implicated in the war. The military prisoners in St. Helena, Ceylon and elsewhere, shall be completely surrendered, shall be brought back to their country."

A Very Liberal Offer.

"Military law shall at once be replaced by a civil administration, that the desire of His Majesty's Government as soon as circumstances will permit to establish a representative government. On the cessation of hostilities a high court, independent of the Executive, shall be established to administer the laws. Land, church property, trusts, and orphan funds shall be respected. The English and the Dutch languages shall be taught in the Public Schools, and allowed in the law courts. The legal debts of the State to the amount of £1,000,000 shall be paid, even if contracted during hostilities, to the

extent a creditor proves he has given value. The Government does not intend to extend the franchise to Kaffirs in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony before a representative government is granted.

No Amnesty for Traitors.

The conditions regarding assistance to the farmers, fire arms, etc., were the same as those in Lord Kitchener's despatch. Sir Alfred Milner adds that he agrees to the above except as to the desires for modification regarding British subjects in Cape Colony, and Natal in the Boer army who, if they returned to those colonies, would be liable to be dealt with under the laws of those colonies, passed to meet circumstances arising in war.

He added: "While I am willing to concede much in order to strengthen Gen. Botha in inducing the people to submit to the terms of the war, it is not, in my opinion, a point which His Majesty's Government can afford to concede. I think it would be better to insist upon Cape Colony and Natal to obtain peace by such a concession."

Chamberlain's Suggestions.

Mr. Chamberlain, in a reply dated March 6, directs Lord Kitchener to modify the terms on a number of points. Eventually Lord Kitchener reported to the War Office the date of Pretoria, March 20, that he had written Gen. Botha the terms the Government was prepared to adopt.

Won't Pay Boer Debts.

These were the same as already given except in the following particulars: "The Government cannot undertake any liabilities regarding the debts of the late republics, but is prepared, as an act of grace, to assist a million pounds to repay the inhabitants for goods requisitioned by the republican governments, if the claim under adjustment exceed £100,000 they are liable to receive, and the balance of the sum, when given, shall be so limited as to secure a just predominance of the white races. The legal position of the colored inhabitants will be similar to that now held by them in Cape Colony."

Botha's Reply.

On March 16 Lord Kitchener received General Botha's acknowledgment of the receipt of the letter. "I had advised my Government," wrote Gen. Botha, "of your excellency's letter; but after the mutual exchange of views on the subject, at Middleburg, February 28, it will certainly not surprise Your Excellency to know that I do not feel disposed to re-consider the terms of said letter; but that I have the earnest consideration of my Government and my chief officers here entirely agree with my views."

ROUGH ON BACHELORS.

A Bill Intended to Extinguish the Species.

FOR TAXATION AFTER FORTY.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 23.—One of the most unique bills ever introduced into the Legislature of Pennsylvania was read in the House today by Representative Jeremiah Roth, of Allentown. He explained that he introduced it at the request of a tax upon bachelors, and provides, in the first section, that "any male citizen of the Commonwealth who is 21 years old and desires the office of husband, may procure a license as prescribed by existing laws, provided he is under 40 years old, but if the applicant is over 40 years he shall, before securing the license, pay into the office of the clerk of the court \$100 as a license fee, which this bill imposes on all bachelors over 40 years old."

To Protect Home Girls.

Any bachelor over 40 years old who shall go to another State and procure a wife and shall return to this State shall pay into the State Treasury the sum of \$100. Otherwise the marriage contract shall be declared null and void, or any such bachelor coming from another State who shall be married after the age of 40 years shall come under the same laws as a resident. The State must be divided into three districts. It is provided in the last section that the act is irrevocable and can never be repealed without the consent of a majority of the old women who have been regularly admitted to the home.

LOST CHARLIE ROSS AGAIN.

A Michigan Convict Says He Still Lives,

AND WAS IN THIS CITY

Within the past few days enquiries have been made in this city regarding a strange tale told by Edward Hart, a burglar, who is serving time in the Ionia (Mich.) House of Correction. This man claims to throw new light on the mystery of the disappearance of Charlie Ross from Gormantown, Pa., in 1874. If Hart's story is true Charlie Ross is still alive and has been in Hamilton, Ontario, within the last decade. The story was given exclusively to the Detroit News-Tribune, and reads like a novel. The details take up three ordinary newspaper columns. In part it is as follows:

So many false statements have been published concerning the long-lost Charlie Ross that even if to-day one told the gospel truth it is doubtful if he were believed. "If I happen to be in the secret, and have known it for the past 15 years, it is my hope that this article will be spread broadcast and that, in a short time, the last vestiges of mystery surrounding the long-lost child shall have disappeared forever."

"Ross is alive and well, and if need be I can communicate with him in a few hours. He is my dearest friend, and I have talked over the old days and have laughed when some unsophisticated fellow filled the newspapers with what he didn't know of Charlie Ross."

After telling of the kidnapping of Ross by Douglas and Moshier, the New York thugs, he referred to the fact when Douglas and Moshier were trying, as the result of wounds in a bad job, the police asked Douglas on his death bed, before the God whom he was about to meet, to tell what had become of Charlie Ross. The dying man replied:

"If you ask Moshier he'll be able to tell you just where he is." They turned to Moshier and repeated the query, but to the horror of the onlookers his spirit fled before he could frame his lips to reply.

So the great secret remained unspoken—until at this time I throw the light.

One day there was a wreck on the Vermont Central and among those on the train was a bright little boy, Jimmie Blanchard, who was to be polished off for the missing Charlie Ross. The press gave the story to the four winds, and queries sent to the boy's father seemed to make the identification complete.

"To guard the boy from possible harm the conductor had him placed in the St. Albans jail. I was locked up there at that time, and met Jimmie."

I knew Jimmie to be of "egg-dom," or highest class of thieves, in a pretence way, but the police did not drop to this important fact. When I looked Jimmie over, I must confess it was no surprise that he passed as the lost Charlie. He was almost identical in face and form, and it would have mystified a wizard to tell the difference between the boys. Blanchard was a fine criminal apprentice. I studied every line of the boy's face, and decided to seek the long-lost father for his double. Moshier's widow and mother were watched for years, but gave no clue to the police. I had to enter at the bottom of the mystery and develop the case as I went along.

The fraudulent character of Jimmie Blanchard was eventually discovered by the police, and he was dismissed in disgrace.

During the next 12 years, as I roamed the country with "yeggs," I always kept a weather eye open for the missing face, which had made such a vivid impression on my brain.

One night in March I was sitting in a hotel in Syracuse thinking of my last job. I was at peace with the world, had plenty by me, and had reason to be cozy and comfortable that night. Looking up, there before me I saw the long-lost face of my memory. There, in all the realism of life, was the face and form I had seen twelve years before in the St. Albans jail. I passed a remark about the weather, but his answer came in such a way I "dropped" at once that this boy was as smart as a steel trap and kept my own counsel. That boy, as wary as a wild fox, had to be lured to tell his own tale; and it was only with infinite tact, if I do say so myself, that I was finally able to learn the story of his mysterious past.

Before we parted that night he had entered into partnership with me to do criminal work. We withdrew to Hamilton, Ont., where we had an easy time for weeks. One night my chance came, and I touched him in a tender spot and gauged the story of his childhood.

The young man said he had had many names, and that when a boy he was in St. John's Home, in Brooklyn, and later was in a House of Detention on Randall's Island.

Hart claims to have found that the records of these places tallied with the young man's story, and his search came to a sudden end, he writes, by locating the mother of Moshier and Willie Moshier, son of the dead kidnapper. He and the young man visited the farmer's place, and his story ends as follows: "We three went to her house, and I heard young Moshier call the old lady 'grandmother.'"

The old lady looked inquiringly at Charlie, now grown to manhood. He was only a little boy when she had hidden him away, after the famous kidnapping, 20 years gone by.

"I had not long to wait," "Grandmother," said Willie Moshier, "coming close to the old lady, 'do you know this man here with us?' She advised her spectacles and gave a close look. "Why," said she, innocently, "he looks like Charlie."

The woman stopped short and refused to talk further. I considered the identification complete, and by a series of strange confessions that Charlie himself made to me immediately after seeing the old lady with whom he had been hidden

in the early days, I am satisfied that he, himself, supplied all the missing links, and that, in effect, he established his own identity."

The long-lost Charlie's father spent his fortune—over \$100,000, looking for his boy, and he died in an insane asylum. The large rewards offered for the capture of the kidnapers of the boy attracted detectives from all parts of the world, and Charlie Ross was the subject of long newspaper articles for years.

A picture of Hart, whose number in the rogues' gallery of the head office of the Bertillon system of identification of criminals, is 3,836, was shown Police Chief Smith, and the detectives, but none of them could recollect seeing him here.

SHOTS FIRED AT PROCURATOR

Attempts to Kill Russian Holy Synod Official.

HIS ASSAILANT IDENTIFIED.

Russia Checked for the Time by the Rejection of the Manchurian Treaty by China—Powers Watching the Play—Uncle Sam and Morocco's Sultan.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—Privy Councillor Pobidonetz, chief procurator of the Holy Synod, narrowly escaped assassination early Friday morning. While writing in his study shortly after midnight, two bullets shattered a window and passed close to the procurator and buried themselves in the ceiling. Two other shots were fired, but did not enter the room.

The would-be assassin was identified as one Lagowski, a provincial official. An investigation into the causes of the attack is proceeding.

Russia Checked.

New York, March 23.—The Russo-Chinese treaty has been rejected by China, according to a special from Washington. The powers opposed the Russian acquisition of Manchuria have won the first round, and there is every reason to believe that notes are now passing between the United States and Russia, with a view to preventing any further efforts on Russia's part to secure a convention with China.

The sudden face about in part is the result of work done by other powers. The way in which it was done is a secret that is being closely guarded, but it is certain that the Russian and European capitals was the cause of China's rejection of the treaty.

(This is, of course, only a temporary check to Russia. She can now insist that China accept the treaty, making, if necessary, some differences in it which give ground for re-opening the subject.)

It is to prevent this that, according to reliable information, negotiations are going on now between the powers.

Embassy to Fes.

London, March 23.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company, from Gibraltar, says the United States armored cruiser New York sailed for Tangier, March 26th, to convey the embassy to Mazagan. Thence the embassy will proceed to Fes under a strong escort of the Sultan's soldiers.

TO KILL THE CZAR.

Student Who Drew the Lot Told His Father.

London, March 23.—The Daily Mail publishes the following, dated March 24, from its St. Petersburg correspondent: "Yesterday (Saturday) five hundred workmen from the Obukhov metal works paraded on the Nevskoi Prospekt. On the way thither they demolished the State brandy booths. Eight hundred Cossacks, drawn swords, met the workmen, and a sanguinary encounter ensued. The number of killed and wounded is kept secret. The police discovered a plot against the life of the Czar. It appears that a group of students drew lots, and that the fatal choice fell to the son of a prominent General. The student told his father, and the latter informed the Czar, imploring him to leave St. Petersburg."

HOOLEY STILL ENJOYS LIFE.

Bankrupt Promoter Living at the Rate of \$15,000 a Year.

London, March 24.—An interview published in the Standard by the Chairman of Promoter Hooley's committee of creditors reveals an astonishing condition of affairs. The creditors hitherto have received two shillings in the pound with the prospect of two shillings more.

Meanwhile the chairman of the committee living like a millionaire. He still runs three country seats, paying £150 a week to his servants in wages, and keeping horses, carriages, gardeners, gamekeepers, etc. The former also has a palatial set of business chambers in London, which an unending stream of speculators still visit to consult the great promoter. Everything, however, done in the name of Hooley, the law is unable to touch him. The bankrupt continues to live at the rate of at least £15,000 annually.

Ex-Premier Suicides.

Berlin, March 24.—A despatch to the Lokal Anzeiger from Stuttgart, says that Baron Schott von Schottensheim, the Wurtemberg Premier, whose suicide withdrawal from the Cabinet, owing to his being implicated in a pending trial, caused a sensation, has committed suicide at Ulm.

Lord Salisbury Ill.

London, March 25.—The Chronicle says that Lord Salisbury is ill, and that a physician is attending him.