

METHUEN ADVANCING.

His Force Reported to be Within Eighty Miles of Kroonstad.

Major Dalgetty is Doing More Than Holding His Own at Wepener.

Boer Peace Commission Asked Italy to Intervene, and Have Been Politely Turned Down—Will Stand by Portugal Until the Last.

FIVE THOUSAND HORSES A MONTH.

BLOEMFONTEIN, Monday, April 9.—Remounts are continually arriving, but competent authorities estimate that the weight of horses monthly by the British forces in South Africa must be calculated at not less than 5,000.

THE MEN OF PAARDEBERG.

TORONTO, April 10.—The Telegram's special London cable says: "A Conan Doyle, in an article in the Free Press newspaper, established by war correspondents at Bloemfontein, describes the men of General Smith-Dickson's brigade, in which is the Royal Canadian regiment. These men, he says, are taller and sturdier than the infantry of the line. They are grim, solid men, straight as poplars, and wear the maple leaf upon their shoulder straps, and the British brigade is glad enough to have these men leave beside them, for the Canadians are the men of Paardeberg."

ST. JOHN MAN'S EXPERIENCE.

BIVOUAC, Paardeberg, March 3.—Probably John McDermott of St. John (G company), has enjoyed, if the term be appropriate, the most unique experience of any member of the contingent, having been captured by the Boers on Tuesday, February 27th. McDermott was on outpost duty and obtained leave to go down to the bivouac hospital to be treated for cramps. He missed his way and fetched up at the river, and then started to cross his way back to his command. Unfortunately he went in the wrong direction and walked right on towards the Boer laager, where he was only brought to realize the fact by a volley of shots being fired at him. McDermott immediately threw himself upon the ground and awaited developments. These shortly arrived in the shape of a dozen or more armed men, the first to arrive informing him, "If you move you are a dead man." They marched McDermott into their intrenchments and took him before Cronje's secretary, who, after interrogating him and ascertaining he was a Canadian, took him before Cronje. The secretary tried to intimate to Cronje that McDermott ought to be shot as a colonial, but Cronje, after putting a few questions to McDermott as to our forces, etc., which elicited no favorable reply, ordered him to be taken across the river to the Boer laager on the other side. On the way over, McDermott's guards told him they were going to shoot all English men. On arriving at the other side, McDermott was put with ten other prisoners, including three English officers from the Welsh, Essex and Norfolk regiments, and seven privates. They were allowed to pick up what food they could, and for water, they had to take their chances of being killed by the English artillery fire if they chose to run down to the river for water. They were compelled to keep almost entirely under cover the whole time, as the fire from the R. H. A. guns and the lyddite shells sent in by the naval men made moving about dangerous. McDermott saw three men killed by a shell from the R. H. A. gun. A lyddite shell burst close enough to them to almost suffocate them, but they managed to last through it all till February 27th, when they were given over to the Boers.

They were given over to the Boers, but they managed to last through it all till February 27th, when they were given over to the Boers. McDermott is none the wiser for his experience, and is very thankful for having escaped with his life.

I must correct a former statement, Johnson, of "H" company, died from the effect of his wounds. George Orman, who left Halifax with us (transferred to "F" company), was shot dead. Sievert, formerly of "H" company (now "F") was badly wounded in heroically trying to bring out Orman's body. Sievert also showed his great bravery in undergoing a severe operation without being put under the influence of chloroform. Adams, Regan and McCallum of "H" company, were wounded in the fight on February 15th, and have gone to the Cape. Parker, slightly wounded on February 20th, has quite recovered from his wound, and is doing duty. Of course we left some fever men from "H" company, who went to Orange River from Belmont, and up to the present moment have not heard how they fared. "H" company also dropped some on the forced march from Gras Pass.

Since yesterday we are resting at a fresh camp, two miles beyond the laager (for sanitary reasons). Our brigade lie together in the following order, beginning on the left flank: Canadians, Gordons, Shropshires and Cornwalls. We hear today we are to lose our old friends, the Gordons, as they are going to be brigaded with the Highlanders. The Canadians and Gordons have become great cronies, having fought shoulder to shoulder, and bivouacked and marched together for over a fortnight. The Gordons are a fine set of men. They are sober, chaste lot of fellows, who seldom defile their mouths with obscene language, and are staunch comrades under all circumstances. The regiment very much regrets that Major Pelletier, who commands the left half of the battalion, was wounded on the morning of February 27th. Major Pelletier is as brave as a lion, and is beloved by the men on account of his admirable politeness towards all ranks. His wound is, we are glad to know, not dangerous, and we hope to see him around again in a few days. Yesterday a careful muster roll of the regiment was called, and of the 1,048 hardy fellows who landed here, but fit poor chaps answered to their names.

CANADA'S SICK AND WOUNDED.

TORONTO, April 12.—In his second official report on his work as Red Cross commissioner, dated Orange River, Feb. 23, Dr. Ryerson says forty-six officers and men of the Royal Canadian force had been or were then in the hospital three chiefly with mild fever. Nine of the men were penniless, because they had been taken ill before pay day, and the doctor gave them ten shillings each. Most of them were ragged, but a re-issue of clothing was promised on rejoining the regiment. The money cabled from Canada, Dr. Ryerson says, will be expended directly for supplies, palatable food, surgical dressings and conveniences for the men. The condition of the sick and wounded would be deplorable but for

the Red Cross supplies and help given in the hospitals.

WANT THE WAR STOPPED.

CAPE TOWN, April 12, 11.30 a. m.—The peace party now signs of renewed activity, and petitions asking that the war be stopped are being extensively circulated. It is notable that no alternative to annexation of the two republics is suggested.

UNDER SEALED ORDERS.

COLOGNE, April 12.—The Rhenish Westphalian Gazette says letters from a source connected with the Boer peace commissioners now on their way to Milan are traveling under sealed orders, which contain the following basis for peace overtures: "First—That the neutralized territory should be guaranteed under a guarantee from the great powers of Europe and the United States of America. Sec'nd.—That the fortifications of the two republics shall be demolished, and the military and other armaments of both countries shall be abolished."

SUPPLIES FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

NEW YORK, April 12.—More than 5,000 tons of supplies for the English army in South Africa, and a large number of mules, started for Cape Town yesterday, under the escort of the British steamer Clan Robertson. In the consignment was 20,000 bales of hay to be landed at Cape Town. Considerable staple articles consigned to private firms, both at Delagoa Bay and Beira are known to be aboard the ship, but their names and destination cannot be ascertained. So far as can be ascertained, no powder or guns went into the vessel. One of the customs officials attached to the Atlantic docks said today that the Clan Robertson had been watched by men supposed to be private detectives, since she went on the berth to load.

COLONIALS HOLDING THEIR OWN.

ALIWAL, NORTH, April 12.—The colonial troops are still holding their own splendidly at Wepener. Cannonading recommenced this morning. The Boer attack yesterday was not very serious. The British are carefully husbanding their ammunition, and their guns are making excellent practice. The Boers are playing in the neighborhood of the camp, and the British made reports that small groups of Boers are visible.

WEEKLY HALF HOLIDAY.

BLOEMFONTEIN, April 12.—The observance of the weekly half holiday, which had fallen into desuetude, was re-established yesterday. Gen. Roberts had the bands of the twelfth regiment playing in the market square in the afternoon, and crowds were present to listen to the music. The residents were very cordial and mingled freely with the troops. Generals Roberts, Kelly-Kenny, Colville, French, McClelland and other officers of the British and other regiments looked on from the steps of the club house. The scene was a bright one, and for the nonce the grim actualities of war were pushed into the background. Lieut. Col. Irigo R. Jones of the South African force has been appointed to the command of the Guards Brigade with the rank of brigadier general. Gen. Pole-Carew, the former commander of the brigade, has been appointed to the command of the eleventh army division.

MERCHANDISE FOR BLOEMFONTEIN.

BLOEMFONTEIN, April 11, 4.20 p. m.—Lord Roberts has issued an order permitting a train of twenty trucks of merchandise to come into Bloemfontein. This will be the first train of this kind that has been allowed to enter the town since the occupation by the British. Hitherto only passenger trains with the personal belongings of the people on board were allowed to come in. The 14th Hussars have arrived by the road from Bethulle. OLIVIER'S COMMANDO MOVING. CAPE TOWN, April 12.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Cape Argus says: "Olivier's commando is moving in the direction of Smithfield. "Five different laagers are located between Bethany and the Kaffir River, lying parallel to the railway, twelve miles eastward."

BULLER PRAISES HIS MEN.

LONDON, April 13.—The Morning Post prints the following extract from a private letter written by Gen. Buller on March 3rd, paying a tribute to the operations of the troops under his command preceding the relief of Ladysmith: "We began fighting on Feb. 14th and literally fought every day and nearly every night until Feb. 27. I am filled with admiration for the British soldiers. The manner in which they fought and endured during the last fortnight has been something more than human. They were broiled more than human. They were broiled and drenched by rain at night. Lying but 300 yards from the enemy, who shoots you if you show as much as a finger, they could hardly eat or drink by day, and they were usually attacked at night, they got little sleep, but through

DUTCH MILITARY ATTACHE DEAD.

BLOEMFONTEIN, April 12, 6.55 p. m.—Lt. Hix, the Dutch military attaché with the Boer forces, who was wounded at the fighting at the water works, and who was brought here and placed in the hospital, died today. He was wounded in the spine, and after being brought here, an operation was performed and the shell removed. He failed to rally, however, and death resulted. His remains were buried this afternoon with military honors.

FROM THE LONDON PAPERS.

LONDON, April 12.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Lourenço Marques, dated Thursday, says: "It is reported from Pretoria that a Boer commando is moving through the Orange River valley in the direction of drawing the British army from Wepener. "About 2,000 foreigners constitute the new foreign legion in Pretoria, including some Cossacks in uniform. Several fresh recruits left here for Pretoria today, including a French captain, brother of the late Gen. De Villebois Mareuil."

THE LATEST NEWS IS THAT COL. DALGETTY'S FORCE OCCUPIES A POSITION OUTSIDE WEPENER, WHILE THE ROUXVILLE COMMANDO OCCUPIES THE TOWN ITSELF.

"The present there should be partially relieved within the next 24 hours. "Lieut. Nix, the Dutch military attaché, who was wounded at Kroonstad, died today under an operation. "The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, telegraphing Wednesday, says: "Lord Roberts wisely declines to estimate his men and horses in hunting the elusive Boers until his preparations are complete. He will leave to the enemy the barren comfort of the occupation of a few farms for a short time. "The Copenhagen correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says: "Lord Roberts, in a telegram to the Prince of Wales tendering congratulations on behalf of the troops in South Africa upon the escape of the prince at Brussels, spoke very hopefully of the situation at the front."

FOUR BOER GUNS DISABLED.

ALIWAL, NORTH, April 12.—News from a Boer source at Wepener, officially communicated, says that four Boer guns have been disabled and four commandos killed. On Tuesday night the British made a sortie, capturing a Boer gun and taking some prisoners.

WAR SUMMARY.

LONDON, April 13.—Although there is no official communication of the fact that the South African republic has notified Portugal that it will regard the latter's action in allowing British troops to be landed at Beira as a casus belli, there is apparently good reason for believing that such is the case. The fact, if it is a fact, obviously opens up possibilities that will have a most important bearing upon the present war. If, says one of the ministerial papers today, the Boers take action against Portugal, Great Britain will not leave its ally in the lurch, and will be bound to help defend Portuguese territory, if required to do so. Any such active support will clearly entail the landing of a British force at Lourenço Marques, and it cannot be imagined that this step will have any other result than granting the British the use of the railway to the Transvaal frontier. The situation is attracting much attention on the continent, where Portugal's attitude is very generally regarded as a breach of neutrality. No official dereliction of duty is suggested. However, by any direct evidence, that the troops now embarking at Durban under command of Gen. Hunter are destined for Delagoa Bay and not Cape Town, as has been reported. As regards the general position and operations in South Africa, there is little that is new. The Boers continue their active movement east of the railway from Bloemfontein, but with the exception of the assault on Ladysmith, they do not appear to have attacked at any point. The British still hold the railway securely, but though there are many signs of an impending advance, no move from Bloemfontein is as yet reported. A despatch from Aliwal North, dated April 12, says that Major Dalgetty is holding his own at Wepener, despite the fact that the Boers have placed two or three new guns in position. The British are husbanding their ammunition, and are not likely to exceed about 500 men. Gen. Erabant with the bulk of his force being at Aliwal North and Wepener. There is no direct news from Mafeking. The Daily Mail says it understands that private telegrams received in London, pointing out the seriousness of the situation of the besieged town, and gloomily emphasizing the need of the speediest relief. The Daily Mail's correspondent at Lourenço Marques reports the departure on Thursday of several fresh recruits for Pretoria, including a brother of Col. Villebois Mareuil, the French

officer on the Boer staff who was recently killed while leading a scouting party.

A despatch to the Times from Bloemfontein says that the latest news received from Wepener was to the effect that Major Dalgetty was holding a position outside the town, which itself is occupied by the Boers. The Times Bloemfontein correspondent confirms the despatch, reporting the death of the Dutch military attaché with the Boers from the effects of an operation performed in the hospital at Bloemfontein. A despatch from Pretoria states that heavy commandoing was heard Wednesday in the direction of Bloemfontein, 30 miles northwest of Brandfort. This seems to indicate that General Methuen's force was engaged, but no details have been received. The object of the Boers' activity in Natal is as yet not obvious. Recently a commando disclosed that their front extended for about 15 miles in a continuous range of hills. It is reported that on Wednesday night parties of Boers were moving in the direction of Dewdrop.

LONDON, April 13, 4.05 a. m.—In a roundabout way London hears that Lord Roberts, when writing to the Prince of Wales at Copenhagen, congratulations upon his escape from assassination, added two or three hopeful sentences portending an early advance with wide-reaching combinations.

Quiet assurances are passed around among military men that Lord Roberts is employing his great army effectively, and that the adventurous Boer commandos are likely to be smashed. Scraps of news—a detail here and another there—have reached England tonight over comparatively idle cables; but they do not illuminate the situation. The colonials at Wepener still hold off the Boers. Lord Methuen has worked eastward until he is within 80 miles of Kroonstad. Boer scouts have gone around Ladysmith and have appeared at Dewdrop and other places on Gen. Buller's flank and rear. The officers of Buller's irregular horse estimate the Boers in Natal as 18,000, but these figures are probably excessive, 10,000 being regarded here as the outside number. After Gen. Hart's brigade leaves camp, Gen. Buller will still have close upon 15,000 men. It is generally assumed that this brigade is going to join Roberts, but its destination is really unknown. The work of the Boer peace commissioners has begun. Mr. Fischer has asked Italy to intervene, and the Italian minister of foreign affairs, the Marquis Di Visconti-Venosta, has replied that, while he would receive the envoys, the best he could do would be to transmit their proposal to London, thus following the course of the United States.

Sir Alfred Milner, when replying to a deputation of clergymen in Cape Town yesterday (Thursday) said: "Never again must be the motto of all thinking and humane men; but not even the least consent or a desire to trample on the gallant, if misguided. There must be no compromise or patchwork in the settlement, and no opportunity for misunderstanding, intrigue, the revival of impossible ambitions or the accumulation of enormous commitments. "The British will no longer tolerate dissimilar and antagonistic political systems in a country which nature and history have declared to be one. "These absolute utterances of Sir Alfred Milner speak for the imperial government. It is calculated that Lord Roberts now has 214,000 effective troops, with 12,000 more on order. The war office has instructed officers not to take any more expanding bullets for Africa for new recruits. Helyard Steyn, brother of President Steyn, in the course of an interview at Bloemfontein, said: "The original war plan of the Boers was to overrun all Cape Colony, but on becoming involved in the sieges of Kimberley and Ladysmith, the burghers found the design spoiled. To this I attribute the Boer failure to conquer the British. I expect the war to last until Christmas."

The seventh month of the war is beginning with Easter tide, and the following paper editorials expatiate upon the need of sobriety. PHAISE FOR W. A. JACK. (A. G. Gilbert, in Canadian Poultry Review, Toronto.) It will be learned with satisfaction that the New Brunswick government has promised to give a grant to the Poultry Association of St. John, in recognition of the good work done in developing the poultry interests of the province. W. A. Jack, the well-known poultry breeder and writer of St. John, says in a report to the local government that the aforementioned poultry association is fast taking into its fold every important poultry breeder in the province. And so the good work progresses.

Speaking of W. A. Jack's report, which is to be embodied in the commissioner of agriculture for the province of New Brunswick, I can say that it is an admirable one—of a high order of intelligence. I am sure he will be only too happy to send advance sheets for publication by you. Your numerous readers cannot fail to be interested in it. By the way, the publication of a report on poultry in the commissioner's blue book marks a new and important phase of poultry development in the maritime provinces.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

ST. ANNE'S, N. B., April 5.—Monday afternoon, April 2nd, in response to Mrs. F. Andrews, Mrs. F. H. Grimmer, Mrs. C. H. Stokney and Mrs. W. D. Foster (a committee of ladies), a number of ladies and gentlemen met at the residence of Mrs. Henry Whitlock, on the occasion of the eighty-fourth anniversary of that lady's birth. Mrs. Charles M. Gove assisted Mrs. W. in the reception of the guests. Mrs. F. Andrews, on behalf of the company assembled, read the address and made the presentation of an elegant bouquet of cut flowers and a twenty-dollar gold piece. The address was beautifully engraved on leaves of white parchment paper, tied together with red, white and blue ribbon. On the cover was drawn a picture of the occasion. Mrs. Whitlock, 1315-1500.

Mrs. Whitlock briefly thanked her friends for the beautiful and valuable gifts. Miss Georgie Stevenson, to piano accompaniment played by herself, contributed to the pleasure of the occasion, by rendering very sweetly a number of songs. William Whitlock was the recipient of hearty good wishes, this being the anniversary of her birth as well as that of his mother. He, with Miss Whitlock, did much for the entertainment of the company. Postmaster F. A. Stevenson is receiving the congratulations of his friends on the presentation to him yesterday of a fine boy. Mother and babe are doing nicely. Richard McCaffrey, aged 60 years, died yesterday after a short illness from pneumonia. Previous to coming to St. Anne's he resided in Fredericton and St. John. He leaves a widow and three children.

MILLTOWN, April 5.—Wilberforce Division elected officers the last night of meeting for the ensuing quarter, as follows: W. P. Rev. W. J. Kirby; W. A., Ella Alexander; R. S., Harry S. Smith; A. R. S., May Anderson; Chaplain, Rev. D. M. McLean; Fin. Secy, W. W. Graham; Treas., Mrs. James Smith; Cond., A. J. Robertson; A. Cnd., Miss Maxwell; In. Snt., Alfred Davenport; Out. Snt., Gen. N. Coffey; S. T. P. W., Miss Coswell; P. W. P., W. S. Robinson; D. W. P., Harry McAllister. There have been initiations at every meeting of the division since organization.

Mrs. Daniel Ryan, whose illness was reported in the Sun, died on the 29th of March, aged 73 years. Mrs. Caroline Hanson of Milltown, 35, died on the same date, aged 70 years and 2 months. Mrs. Curran, widow of the late Patrick Curran, died on Sunday last. Rev. John Pinkerton of Miramichi is spending a few days with his mother and sister in Milltown. Salmon have been seen already in the notable pool at the Union. Geo. E. Eye, whose laundry was destroyed by fire on Saturday last, has contracted with Charles Stokney for the erection of a new building, to cost \$5,000.

James Murchie is recovering from a severe cold which confined him to the house for several days. At a monthly meeting of the council on Tuesday, a petition was presented by Harris Maxwell against the occupancy of a seat of the council board by Arthur Hill, on the ground that he was not qualified on account of unpaid taxes, and that he did not qualify by being sworn in within the time limited. The mayor's opinion, which declared the seat vacant pending investigation was overruled by the council, and on motion the petition was laid on the table. The following officers were appointed for the year: H. McAllister, town treasurer and receiver of taxes; police marshal, Frank Atwood, whose office was taken the position for \$450. Against \$400 offered by P. J. Manx, the present marshal, was accepted. H. Maxwell was appointed driver of the town team at \$1 per day. J. E. Osborne was re-appointed town clerk, and B. Murphy chief of the fire department. Ernest Chidlin, one of the contractors on the Caleda and St. Stephen street cars, has resigned to accept a position on the West End street railway in Boston.

HOPEWELL HILLS, April 6.—Rev. A. Lucas, field secretary of the N. B. International S. W. Association, lectured in the Methodist church here last night. Mr. Lucas will spend the coming week in St. John school work throughout the country. Albert county district lodge, I. O. G. T. met at this place today. A large attendance was present. A large number of public meetings were held in the evening, addresses being given by prominent members of the Good Templars and others. Goodwin's steam mill began sawing today on Alexander's lumber cut at Dry Brook. The cut will exceed half a million feet. The sch. Geo. L. Sillip is loading hard wood lumber at Riverside for St. John. Susie Prescott came in the river today with freight from St. John. FREDERICTON JUNCTION, April 5.—Grace Clarke, daughter of Chas. L. Clarke, died yesterday of heart disease after an illness of several days. Samuel McCrackin died this morning of pneumonia after an illness of a few days. Benedict Fridge, who purchased the Asa Nelson farm, will move to it after Easter. Mr. Mason, whose health is not the best, will live with his people in the States. Operations on the new Episcopal church will be resumed next week. John E. Segee, a homicidal lunatic, was taken to the insane asylum on Thursday last. Constable Wm. Kingston.

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