

The Chatham Daily Planet.

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CHATHAM, ONT. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1900

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AN INSULT TO GOD

So the Irish Leader Declares the Present War.

The Boers May Bring a Zulu War Upon Themselves Mr. Chamberlain Says.

London, Feb. 15.—In the house of commons to-day during the course of a reply to a question relative to the probable Boer invasion of Zululand, Joseph Chamberlain said that the government had decided that if the native territories were invaded by the Boers, the natives "will be encouraged and assisted in every way in defending themselves."

The house having gone into committee of supply on the supplementary war estimates, Mr. Chamberlain, Nationalist member for Essex, strongly objected to adding a single man to the British army which he said was now "engaged in a war which is an insult to God, a war waged by Christian England against a Christian people who only desired to retain their own land."

He declared his belief that the British reverses were due to the fact that the British cause was unjust. John Burns, Radical member for Battersea, scouted the idea that it was necessary to strengthen the British army in order to fight a country whose population was only equal to that of his own constituency.

Mr. Wyndham, parliamentary under-secretary for war, answering criticisms, said it was unnecessary to reply to Mr. Chamberlain's argument, because the Irishmen at the front were giving the answer with their lives. At midnight the closure was enforced and the division taken. The military scheme was adopted by a vote of 239 to 34, the minority consisting chiefly of Irish members.

HOUSE OF LORDS.
In the house of lords the Earl of Darnley raised a question on the government military proposals and ex-

pressed a doubt as to whether these were sufficient.

The Earl of Rosebery said he fully recognized the gravity of the situation and agreed with the previous speaker in thinking that the measures adopted were inadequate in the circumstances. He also doubted whether the "paper force" of 400,000 men in Great Britain, to which the secretary of state for war had referred, would stand analysis.

"The auspicious news of the morning from South Africa," said Lord Rosebery, "led to the hope that there might be better news to come, but when fighting on our own territory we have been unable before to advance an inch and if another 50,000 men should be wanted for South Africa, I do not know where they would be got. It may be said that it is unwise to rely on the weaknesses of the country, but depend upon it, other nations know our position as well as, if not better, than ourselves. I would tell Her Majesty's government now that it is for us a matter of life and death."

"If Great Britain were to lose South Africa, she would lose the most important base outside of the United Kingdom, and she would lose that colonial support which has been given, because the colonies believed that they were associating themselves with a powerful empire, and thus the empire would break away from us. If this be not a life and death crisis, I do not know what is."

The Earl of Kimberley, the Liberal leader, said he felt the danger of the situation equally with Lord Rosebery. Although he would not ascribe a direct hostile intention to Russia at the present moment, he said that he could not overlook the fact that there was a movement of troops in progress, which if not menacing showed that possibilities of the future were not absent from the Russian mind.

Ex-Consul McCrum explains his resignation from office at Pretoria that he was neglected by the Government at Washington and found it impossible to fulfill his duties in what he deemed a proper and dignified manner. He also claims the British at Cape Town censored his letters and often delayed or refused to transmit his despatches.

WERE TORTURED.

Three American Soldiers Disobeyed Orders

And Were Taken by the Filipinos—The Spanish Priest Abetted Their Cruel Deaths.

Boston, Feb. 16.—A despatch to the Globe from Manila says: Three Massachusetts soldiers of the 26th regiment, U. S. A., have been tortured to death by insurgents. The men were Dennis Hayes, Wm. Dugan and Michael Tracey, privates of Co. F, under Capt. Wm. M. Tuthery.

They remained behind the column at Baling last November to get a tube, and refused to accompany the corporal sent by Capt. Tuthery to bring them along. They were captured by the insurgents hanging on the rear of the column and were cruelly tortured and murdered by the rebels in the public plaza at Baling, the action being countenanced by the Spanish priest. The padre has since left his parish for the mountains.

When the men remained behind they had with them their full equipment of arms and ammunition, which was captured.

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KIMBERLEY RELIEVED.

Gen. French With his Cavalry Reaches the Beleaguered Town.

CRONJE, THE BOER COMMANDER, IN A VERY TIGHT PLACE.

HE IS CUT-OFF FROM BLOEMFONTEIN AND WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO RETREAT NORTH ALONG THE RAILWAY.

London, Friday, Feb. 16, 4.30 a. m.—

As the wires are closed to correspondents with Lord Roberts, and as nothing further from him has been communicated to the public, the military adepts spend their time in studying maps, topography and figuring out the possibilities of Lord Roberts' communications and what there is left for the Boers to do. Gen. Cronje's communications with Bloemfontein have already been cut. The best news England could hear would be that he elects to give battle among the low hills and ridges west of Kimberley. Should he determine not to do this, he must raise the siege of Kimberley and retreat to a point where he would prefer to fight. This retreat could be a long detour around the head of the British advance to Bloemfontein, or, as seems to military students more practicable, he could withdraw to the north, using the railroad for his guns and heavy baggage, moving to fourteen Streams Station, and thence into Transvaal territory. The Boers have made no preparations to defend Bloemfontein, and there is no particular reason why Gen. Cronje should

Molde River, and within Free State territory. With this huge British force threatening his left wing, on a position stretching from Stryfontein by Magerfontein to Jacobstad, Cronje is forced to decide whether he will remain or retire. If he elects to go, Kimberley will be relieved at once. If he chooses to stay he will have to entrench in his rear, or his works will be carried. If his rear is entrenched, he will probably be held in check in his present position while Kimberley is relieved.

SCIENTIFIC STRATEGY.

The London correspondent of the Tribune says of the operations—This entire movement, with its concentration of nearly all the British battalions outside Natal, and slender columns left under Gatacre and Clements has been brought about by scientific strategy under a rigorous operation of the censorship, the utility of which has been demonstrated at last. An army corps and strong auxiliary forces have been massed where the enemy are the weakest, and the previous balance of forces in the military problem has been suddenly upset. This column on the Riet has a promise of potency for the relief of Kimberley, and a subsequent advance upon Bloemfontein, and is so great a diversion of military resources that Ladysmith may yet be rescued.

LOSSES NEAR RENSBURG.
London, Feb. 16.—The official list

London, February, 16.—The Associated Press says General French Relieved Kimberley on Thursday evening.

THE NEWS CONFIRMED.

War Office announces despatch from Lord Roberts advising the relief of Kimberley Thursday evening under Gen. French.

risk a battle to protect the capital of the Free State.

OPERATIONS ELSEWHERE.

are apparently suspended. No word has been received of Gatacre's 12,000 men at Stormberg. Impression is that these forces are on their way to Lord Roberts.

Col. Baden-Powell, in a despatch from Mafeking, dated Jan. 29, after mentioning matters already sent out by correspondents, gives his total casualties up to Jan. 25, as follows:—Killed, five officers and 60 men; wounded, eight officers and 123 men; missing, 24.

The war office have issued orders for the formation of 21 new batteries and 300 battalions of infantry. The cabinet council was in session yesterday for two hours. It will meet again today. This is quite unusual.

CRONJE IN A TIGHT PLACE.

New York, Feb. 16.—The specials from London to the New York papers this morning all tend to the idea that the English military critics believe Lord Roberts to have General Cronje's Boer forces in a tight place, and they look for a decisive battle before the end of the week.

The exact situation as seen in London is put by the Herald correspondent in these words:—Lord Roberts has begun his operations against the Boer army between the Molde river and Kimberley by initiating a flank movement, which, up to the present time has proved successful. The drifts referred to in Lord Roberts' official messages are all to the east of Methuen's camp on the

of the British casualties at Rensburg from February 10 to February 12, shows:—Killed, four officers and seven men; wounded, six officers and fourteen men; missing, two officers and eight men. The officers killed were Col. Coningham, of the Worcester Regiment, and Major G. R. Eddy and Lieuts. J. Powell and J. C. Roberts, all Australians.

The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily Chronicle telegraphing Wednesday, says:—It is reported here that the British have evacuated Rensburg and retired to Arundel.

DAMMING THE RIVER.

London, Feb. 16.—The Daily Mail has the following despatch from Lourenzo Marques, dated Wednesday: "A prominent Pretoria citizen, just from Ladysmith, informs me that the Boers are rapidly damming Klip river. Two thousand Kaffirs are employed in the work, and they have deposited 10,000 sandbags already. They are only able to work at night, as they would be under British fire. This citizen, however, believes that the operation will be futile."

WAR NOTES.

The London papers hope that Mr. Chamberlain will not find it necessary to arm and let loose the blacks.

A correspondent, wiring from Chieveley, Feb. 13, says:—We are still hopeful of relieving Ladysmith.

The correspondent of the Times at Lourenzo Marques, telegraphing on Wednesday says: "The republics are now obtaining substantial supplies of sugar, coffee and flour through a Delagoa Bay firm, and further heavy consignments are expected within a fortnight. It is believed also that munitions of war are still passing."

A despatch from the Boer laager near Ladysmith, dated Tuesday, Feb. 13, says:—Yesterday General Botha, with a small force, crossed the Tugela to desert the British camp, where he encountered 500 Boers of whom 13 were killed, five wounded and nine taken prisoners. One prisoner was sent to tell the British to fetch their wounded.

Mr. Chamberlain's announcement in the house of commons of the intention of the government to encourage the Zulus to defend themselves from the Boers is a contingency the Boers seem to have anticipated, as they have been doing everything in their power to win the goodwill of the Zulus, who have thousands of good rifles. The Boers gave 2,000 Basutos a safe conduct. If the British let loose one tribe, the Boers will probably let loose another.

February 16th, 1900.

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