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ROBERTS WILL REPORT ONLY DEFINITE NEWS

Senate Rdg Room 1feb00

Position at Osfontein is Unchanged, But Gen. Brabant Has Had a Heavy Engagement Near Dordrecht.

Kruger Still in Fighting Mood—Canadians Showed Splendid Gallantry and Implicit Obedience Under Fire on Tuesday—War News.

London, March 4.—The War Office intimated at midnight that there was no prospect of news until something definite shall have been done. This is quite in keeping with the complete silence which Lord Roberts has hitherto observed while his plans were in progress of accomplishment; and until he is in actual grip with the Boers it is probable that the public will hear little or nothing of his doings.

Canadian Artillery Start.

Cape Town, Sunday, March 4.—The Canadian artillery has just started for the front. The loyalists gave them an ovation.

French Encounters the Enemy.

London, March 5.—The Morning Post has the following despatch from Osfontein, dated March 3:

"Gen. French made a reconnaissance today and encountered the enemy in force. They were occupying a table-shaped kopje. Shots were exchanged, a Boer gun replying."

A BULLETIN FROM ROBERTS.

Gen. Cronje Expresses His Thanks for the Field Marshal's Treatment of Him.

London, March 4.—(11.45 p.m.)—The War Office has received the following despatch from Lord Roberts dated Osfontein, Sunday, March 4:

Gen. Cronje's Thanks.

"Gen. Cronje, on behalf of his party, and Commandant Wolmarans, on behalf of 4900 other prisoners, who have all now left Modder River, asked the British officers to thank me for the consideration and kindness with which they have been treated.

Enemy at Norval's Pont Bridge.

"Gen. Clements reports that his advanced troops hold Achtertang and that railway communication would be opened to Joubert's Siding to-day. The enemy are still in force at Norval's Pont Bridge."

Boers Leaving Stormberg.

"Gen. Gatacre telegraphs that the number of Boers at Stormberg is daily diminishing.

Mafeking Well on Feb. 15.

"Col. Baden-Powell reports that all was well at Mafeking on Feb. 15, and that the enemy's activity was being met everywhere by equal activity on the part of the defenders.

Unchanged at Osfontein.

"The position is unchanged at Osfontein, except that frequent showers have materially improved grazing, to the benefit of the horses and transport animals."

RHODES GOING TO ENGLAND.

Is Now at Cape Town and Expects to Sail for England on Wednesday.

Cape Town, Sunday, March 4.—Mr. Cecil Rhodes is here and expects to sail for England Wednesday.

ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE!

Some of Cronje's Men Tried to Get Away from the Train, but They Failed.

Cape Town, Sunday, March 4.—It is reported that the Boer prisoners, while on the way from Paardeberg, unsuccessfully attempted to escape from the train. Eleven hundred of Cronje's men have been placed temporarily on board the British steamers Mongolian and Manila in Table Bay.

Gen. Buller to the Queen.

London, March 3.—The Queen to-day received the following despatch from Gen. Buller:

"The troops much appreciate Your Majesty's kind telegram. Your Majesty cannot know how much your sympathy has helped to inspire them."

MAGNIFICENT COOLNESS OF CANADIANS UNDER FIRE

They Were Advancing in Dead Silence When They Met a Terrible Fusilade—Not a Shot Was Fired Back.

Montreal, March 4.—A Star cable from London says:

London, March 3.—The Standard correspondent says that the Canadians at Paardeberg on Tuesday advanced in two long lines, the front rank with fixed bayonets and the rear rank with their rifles slung and carrying picks and spades to dig trenches, under cover of darkness.

Advanced in Dead Silence.

The Canadians advanced a quarter of a mile in dead silence; then halted, the order being sent along the ranks by each man pressing the hand of his neighbor. It is believed that trenches were actually being dug when the men were ordered to advance another five paces.

A Fearful Fusilade.

A fearful fusilade at once broke out from the Boer lines.

The Canadians threw themselves on their faces and made no attempt to return the fire.

Three minutes later, under orders, they returned to their original position, rapidly and silently, no shot being fired. The Boers were unable to place their enemy. But, for the greatlinessity of the enemy's fire, the Canadians would have entered the Boer trenches. As it was, they combined splendid gallantry with implicit obedience.

The Boers aimed too high to do much damage, but that does not lessen the credit due our men for their great self-control.

Canada Wiped Out Majuba.

The Times' correspondent says great credit is due the Canadians in that, despite the hottest fire, there was no answering rifle fire.

The whole camp rejoices that our oldest colony wiped out the stain of Majuba.

Lord Roberts expresses his pleasure in the strongest terms.

The Mail and Telegraph correspondents confirm the magnificent coolness of the Canadians' behavior.

GENERAL BRABANT'S COLONIALS PUSHING BACK THE BOERS

His Advance on Sunday Most Satisfactory—Camped on Captured Positions—Six British Killed and 18 Wounded.

Dordrecht, Cape Colony, Sunday, March 4.—(9 a.m.)—Brabant's colonial division, after a night's march, is now attacking the Boers in a strong position at La Buschagne's Nek, on the road from Dordrecht to Jamestown.

A Heavy Engagement.

Later.—The engagement is proceeding with great vigor, and the Boers are gradually retiring before the British shell fire from three positions.

A heavy rifle fire is being exchanged, where the British are engaging the Boers on the right flank. So far the Boers have no big guns in action.

Advance Satisfactory.

Evening.—Braban's advance to-day was most satisfactory. After marching and broucacking over night, the force reached strong entrenched positions, which they occupied and now hold, the Boers being on the opposite hill.

British in Captured Positions.

The British will remain to-night in the captured positions, altho the Boers brought two guns into action and made determined efforts to retake them.

The British Losses.

The British losses are 6 killed, 18 wounded.

AFFAIRS AT COLESBERG.

Australians Surprised the Boers and Galloped to Their Free State Lager.

Colesberg, Cape Colony, Sunday, March 4.—A reconnaissance with two troops of Australians and two guns found the wagon bridge over the Orange River intact. Fifty Boers on the other side were taken by surprise, and the British galloped to their lager, some miles on the Free State side. Price's command has moved seven miles north of Colesberg.

The Boers during their occupation denied themselves rather than see the British wounded suffer.

BOERS ABANDON RENSBERG.

Their Retreat Under Protection of Mounted Burghers—Kruger Wires an Address.

Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, Friday, March 2.—(Via Lorenzo Marquez, March 3.)—The Boer generals have resolved to abandon Rensburg and the Boers are retreating under the protection of mounted burghers.

Kruger's Surrender.

It is announced that on Feb. 27, 1900, from 2000 to 3000 men, surrendered, owing to the scarcity of food and ammunition.

Kruger Issues an Address.

President Kruger has issued a stirring address to the burghers in Natal, who are falling back on Biggarsberg.

Back in Pretoria.

The President will return to Pretoria Sunday.

PROMOTION FOR WHITE.

He Will Be Made a Full-Fledged General This Week—Buller's Promotion Later.

London, March 4.—Lloyd's Weekly states that Lieut.-Gen. White, the commander at Ladysmith, will be promoted to be a general and that the appointment will be gazetted next week. Lord Dundonald will obtain a junior step on the grade to Major-General.

The service regulations prevent the immediate promotion of Gen. Buller, but his work will be recognized at no distant date.

AUSTRALIA OFFERS MORE.

Premiers Have Sent Favorable Replies to the Colonial Secretary's Request.

Sydney, N.S.W., March 3.—The Premier, Mr. W. J. Lyne, communicated Colonial Secretary Chamberlain's request for additional troops to the other Australian colonies. He has received replies from all of the Prime Ministers, in which they offer heartily to co-operate with the Imperial Government.

It is Mr. Lyne's proposition that the colonies shall defray all the expenses of arming, equipping and transporting the extra troops.

TO INTERCEPT THE BOERS.

British Force Will March Thru Zululand to Head Them Off North of Rensberg.

Durban, Friday, March 2.—Yesterday a number of horses were sent into Zululand, with the object of marching a British force thru Zululand and intercepting the Boers north of Biggarsberg.

A complete system of heliograph communication is established between Weenen and Eshowe.

Wires to Mafeking Cut.

Mazru, Basutoland, Friday, March 2.—The telegraph lines between Mafeking and Mazru were cut Wednesday night, a whole section being removed. It is believed this

Continued on Page 2.

LET DONALD MACNISH GO INTO THE WITNESS BOX!

Premier Ross Also Knows About It, as He Saw the Draft of the Confession in Toronto Before It Was Signed.

Why Has the West Elgin Commission Not Examined Both of These Parties?—Let Them be Summoned Now and Have the Details Brought to Light.

Mr. Macdiarmid and other members of the Opposition, speaking in the Legislature, have called the West Elgin election investigation a farce and a humbug. They have pointed out that the enquiry is limited to the acts of the returning officer, deputy returning officers and poll clerks. In other words the commission touches only two of the eight black clauses of Donald McNish's confession.

But the people have not forgotten the paragraphs of the confession which Premier Ross would now thankfully consign to oblivion. They are:

"(1) That a large number of persons were specially sent into the constituency by men working on behalf of the Liberal party for the express purpose of taking part on Mr. McNish's behalf in the election held January 12th, 1899, and we believe that fraudulent and corrupt means were used by some of such persons to secure his election.

"(4) That there were large numbers of persons brought into the riding for the express purpose of personating legitimate voters, and, assisted by some of Mr. McNish's local supporters, such persons did personate qualified voters in voting for Mr. McNish.

"(5) That the declared number of votes for Mr. McNish largely exceeded the number of bona fide votes cast for him.

"(6) That a large number of ballots cast for Mr. Macdiarmid were in some nefarious and corrupt manner manipulated, whereby the result of the election was rendered doubtful, and that in the connection the voting at Shedden and Middlemarch, and 'in several' divisions in St. Thomas where said strangers so voted as deputy returning officers merits special mention.

"(7) That there are good reasons to believe that there are many specific and well-authenticated cases where agents of Mr. McNish concealed at their homes some of those strangers, who there paid large sums of money to electors to induce them to vote for him."

Signed by McNish.

These damning confessions stand over the signature of Mr. McNish. He signed his name in attestation of their truth, when sitting as a member of the Legislature. He must have the fullest and most positive knowledge of their truth or he would never have signed.

But Donald McNish has not been examined by the commission to tell all he knows. Why? His evidence alone would save gone direct to the heart of the infamous conspiracy. Mr. A. B. Aylesworth also signed as counsel for Mr. McNish. It was by his advice Mr. McNish signed; and it may be a matter of confidence between solicitor and client whether Mr. Aylesworth should go into the box as well as Mr. McNish. Let the judges and the lawyers settle it between them. Mr. R. A. Grant is in the same position as Mr. Aylesworth.

Both Must Go in the Box.

But there is no possible confidence that can protect Premier Ross. The confession was peddled back and forth between St. Thomas and Mr. Ross' office by Grant. Mr. Ross read and re-read the draft of the damning document. He did all in his power to induce Mr. McNish to sign. Why has Premier Ross not been examined?

Let the Premier be summoned now. The Opposition should insist in the clearest and most emphatic terms to-day that Mr. McNish and Mr. Ross both be put in the box, whatever protection may be claimed by Mr. Aylesworth and Mr. Grant.

SPION KOP WAS LOST BY A SERIOUS BLUNDER.

Order to One Regiment to Retire Was Construed as Applying to the Whole Force on the Hill—General Buller Was Astounded.

Writing from Potgieter's Drift, under date of Jan. 25, Mr. Bennet Burleigh, special war correspondent of The Daily Telegraph, tells the story of the taking of Spion Kop and subsequent retirement. He throws some light on the vexed question of the cause of the British retreat, which apparently was the misunderstanding of an order. He says:

"When I left the western base of Spion Kop, after 6 p.m., all was well. The gun and musketry fire was almost quite-cent. Only at rare intervals did the 'pom pom' break in, and, as for the rifles, only the relentless snipers were shooting. The wounded were being brought down in hundreds, and, as I have said, the mountain battery was, with the naval guns, on their way toward Thaba Emunyama.

"An hour and a half later a disastrous change set in. The green troops, who had never been under fire, must, I suspect, have been shaken by the subsequent whirlwind of Boer shells and bullets that descended upon the mountain. I dislike to name anybody in particular, regulars or colonials, for both for weary hours behaved magnificently, and means might have been more promptly adopted for helping them.

No Scare or Stampede.

"The stories of scare and stampede, whether of the raw Imperial Light Infantry levies or certain of the regular, may be brushed aside as unworthy of credence. That in the darkness a thawing and melting process set in I can believe, but it was induced and aggravated by another circumstance, which I dare to call a criminal blunder.

"Seeing that the 60th (King's Royal Rifles) were in an exposed situation, where they could afford little help in the task of clearing the Boers off the hills, and that they would come under the shell and rifle fire of both sides, an order was sent them to retire. Therein lies the mystery and crux of all that ensued. So far as I am able to glean, the order in question was simply addressed to the 'O.C. (officer commanding); but that it was meant the 60th should withdraw to the south, and join the Scottish Rifles, as some say, seems open to question."

What Happened.

What appears to have happened is this: In the death or absence of Colonel Riddell, Colonel Thorneycroft took the message, and read it to apply to the whole force upon the Spion Kop range. A retirement which may have been a retreat followed, and by 10 p.m., when the rifle fire dwindled into sniping again Thaba Emunyama was practically evacuated, only a handful of men remaining under the dip of the Mimosa trees. There were those, I learn, who refused to take the order, but whether Major-General Coke acted upon it or not we are all alike, officially and unofficially, in the dark. The Thirty-seventh Company of Royal Engineers had also been ordered up with the guns to further add to the defences of the mountain.

Whatever may have been the case in Warren's camps, around Potgieter's and Spearman's, we were in blissful or deplorable ignorance that the position had been evacuated, and was then occupied by the Boers.

Thursday morning, the 25th inst., told its own tale. As General Buller was setting out to ride over to Warren's force he for the first time heard of the disaster.

Yet, as I have pointed out, the distances separating us are not great. There is a military telegraph wire, and from Buller's headquarters, Thaba Emunyama, is well within lamp signalling range. Why, we had been here long enough to have laid and run a light tramway from Frere, which would have reduced the convoys, revolutionized transport and made it incompatably easy for the surgeons to have sent daily 100 or more of the sick and wounded by rail to hospitals in Maritzburg. Now they have to be jolted in ambulance and ox wagons.

I dare say General Buller was dreadfully shocked and mortified. He rode off with his staff, and has since spent the time with Warren's troops. Many of us imagined that even then victory would be wrested from defeat, and an attack made all along our lines upon the Boers, for more, rather than less, the fate of Ladysmith was trembling in the balance. But no—merely an occasional gun and rifle shot. Thru glasses I could see hundreds of Boers upon Thaba Emunyama, a few helmeted Tommies moved about among them.

The enemy could be seen picking up Lee-Metford rifles and cartridges, and assisting in bringing in wounded and dead to our dressing stations and ambulances, some of which were upon the mountain. Their own ambulances were also busy collecting their wounded. Our loss is probably over 200 killed and the total casualties quite 1600.

Several of the Boers had ridden on horse back up the mountain. General Louis Botha was there, showing we had been fighting the Free Staters. He was rather irate, and at first declared he would keep all the wounded in his own hands and our ambulance men until we surrendered 25 prisoners taken at Acton Homes. Major Wright of the Gordons, in charge of the ambulance corps, palavered for over an hour and a half, and ultimately Botha let them all go. He bade them within 24 hours remove themselves and all hospitals south of the Tugela or he would fire upon them without exception.

There was an armistice agreed upon, extending to-day from 10 o'clock a.m. to 4 o'clock p.m., but it was long after that hour ere the last of the dead were buried and the wounded brought down hill. Our men declared that they buried over 100 of our dead upon that part of Spion Kop, and saw at least 50 dead Boers.

Late in the dusk of evening the baggage and supplies columns were sent back over the Tugela, both in Warren's and Lyttelton's forces. This foreshadows a retreat all along the line. But two things remain—either we must stand and fight, warning Sir George to co-operate and cut his way out, or we must abandon him and Ladysmith to their fate. Which will it be?

MICHAEL O'HALLORAN DEAD.

The Well-Known Hotelkeeper Up Yonge-street Passed Away at Midnight.

Mr. Michael O'Halloran, the well-known hotelkeeper, died at his residence, corner Yonge-street and St. Clair-avenue, shortly before midnight last night. Mr. O'Halloran had been ailing for the past week, but nothing was feared until last Thursday, when he grew worse and rapidly sank. Deceased was popular in many circles, and his rather sudden demise will be regretted. In sports he took a great interest, his greatest hobby being trotting horses. He was the owner of Alcona, which ran last year on the Woodbine, Stratford and London tracks. Mr. O'Halloran was born in Scott-street, Toronto, 53 years ago, and had lived here all his life. When a young man he started in the hotel business, and for many years conducted the Deer Park Hotel on Yonge-street. He was a member of St. Basil's Church, and in politics was a staunch Liberal. Mr. James O'Halloran, hotelkeeper, at the corner of Wilton-avenue and Ontario-street, and Mr. Daniel O'Halloran of the Meteorological Department of the Observatory are brothers of deceased, and besides a widow he leaves two sisters, Mrs. Roberts and Miss O'Halloran.

PAPERMAKERS FIX PRICES,

But Will Not Give Figures Out Till All Have Signed—Word from Wounded.

Montreal, March 4.—(Special.)—The paper makers, who met here, have reached an agreement as to prices, but the figures will not be revealed until all the manufacturers have signed the agreement.

Only Slightly Wounded.

Sir A. P. Pelletier received a cable from Major Pelletier, saying that he was only slightly wounded in the arm, and Mr. Charles N. Armstrong also heard from his son to the effect that his wound was very slight.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO DOWN PREMIER MARTIN?

The Political Situation in British Columbia is Now in an Almost Hopeless Muddle.

What the Plans of the Different Factions Seem to Be—There May Be Five Distinct Parties in the Election—Will Gov. McInnes Go?

Vancouver, B.C., March 3.—(Special.)—The political situation in the Province of British Columbia to-day is a puzzler, and all the wisest heads can do towards a solution is to speculate. The Premiership of Joseph Martin is not taken seriously beyond the alarming fact that it gives him control of the general election and the public funds.

Martin Full of Confidence.

The attitude of the Government electorate, however, has not phased Martin, and he is going about the construction of his Cabinet and platform and arrangements for an appeal to the country with an astonishing air of confidence. His platform is admitted on all sides to be a good one, but the practicability of it as well as his sincerity is openly questioned.

Joe is Cunning.

James Stuart Yates of Victoria and Smith Curtis of Rossland are the only Ministers Martin has announced up to date, and it may be that he is not looking for any more just at present, his intention being to make economy on Ministerial salaries another plank in his platform.

He is After Straight Liberals.

This Cabinet is straight Liberal, and it is imputed to Martin that he is slyly offering the olive branch to the straight Liberals of the Province, with whom as well as those of the Dominion, he has been slightly "at outs" for some time past. The Liberals have not risen to the fly, but are working on plans of their own, which do not recognize Martin as a factor in provincial politics. They are closely watching every move of the Conservatives, who are expected to take advantage of the situation and put a straight party ticket in the field at an early date.

At a meeting of Conservatives held in Vancouver last night opinion was divided. Sir Hibbert Tupper advocated a coalition move to down Joe Martin, and Charles Wilson, the Provincial leader, urged the advisability of immediate introduction of Federal lines.

Liberals Against Party Politics.

At a meeting of the Executive of the Liberal Association, also held last night, the general sentiment was against party politics, but it was decided, if the Conservatives threw down the gauntlet to take it up immediately. This is what is most likely to happen, as a representative canvass of the situation shows that Sir Hibbert's proposition is disapproved of by Conservatives, while Wilson's meets with peculiar favor.

Five Parties in the Field.

If the Conservatives act on Wilson's suggestion there will be at least five distinct parties in the field at the general election. These will be straight Conservatives, straight Liberals, the Provincial party (composed chiefly of followers of the late Semlin Government, with Cotton as leader), the Turner party (composed of Liberals and Conservatives opposed to the late Government and to party politics) and the Joe Martin party.

There is also a strong probability of the labor people putting a ticket in the field, and then the temperance and moral reform element are bestirring themselves to secure a piece of whatever is going.

Lieut.-Governor in Contempt.

In the whole muddle the Lieutenant-Governor has been brought conspicuously into contempt, and his release from office would be about the most popular move the Government at Ottawa could make in connection with British Columbia at the present time.

WILL M'INNES BE DISMISSED?

Action of the B. C. Lieutenant-Governor Under the Consideration of the Ottawa Cabinet.

Ottawa, March 4.—(Special.)—The action of Lieut.-Governor McInnes of British Columbia in dismissing the Semlin Government and sending for Joe Martin is said to be under the consideration of the Ottawa administration, and already representations are being made to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, asking for his dismissal. As Governor Letellier was dismissed by Sir John Macdonald. But the thing to first find out is whether there is any secret understanding between Governor McInnes, the Liberal leaders at Ottawa, and Joe Martin, for the benefit of the Liberal party. As to this no one seems to know; most take it for granted that the Liberals and Martin are at war. If this latter is the case, Sir Wilfrid may see his way to declare that Governor McInnes' usefulness is gone. In that case Mr. Hewitt Bostock, M.P., will come in for the governorship. But to turn down the senior McInnes involves also his son, the M.P. Any way one looks at the British Columbia situation it appears to mean loss of supporters to Sir Wilfrid. But the only way to beat Joe Martin now seems to be to get a governor who will dismiss him as long as he has the confidence of the present governor it looks as if he will get an early dissolution, with a chance of carrying the province in a general election.

FIVE WERE BURNT TO DEATH.

Calamity in a Large Tenement House in New York City on Sunday Morning.

POLICE AND FIREMEN WERE BRAVE.

Rescued a Number of People—Most of the Victims Were Found on Fifth Floor.

New York, March 4.—Five persons were burned to death and three were injured early this morning in a fire which occurred in a seven-storey lodging house at 44 and 48 Bowery.

The dead are: Charles Buttle, 40 years old; John Clark, 50 years old; Edward Doyle, 37 years old; Henry Jackson (colored), 37 years old; one unidentified man about 50 years old.

Stephen Carney, 75 years old, was burned about the body, face and hands, and removed to the hospital in a serious condition.

Martin Gallagher, 53 years old, was burned about the face and hands, and also removed to a hospital.

Edward Walker, 47 years old, was burned, but, after having his wounds dressed, remained at the lodging house.

Discovery of the Fire.

The fire was first discovered shortly after 2 o'clock. Smoke was pouring from the windows of the fifth floor, and the flames were making rapid progress.

The lodging house was cut into 182 rooms, and 90 of these small places were occupied when the fire broke out. Policemen sent in an alarm and burst into the place to arouse the inmates. They notified the night clerk, who rang the alarms all over the house. The hall was instantly filled with a crowd of excited people. The policemen forced their way to the upper floors in an effort to rescue some of the helpless, or any who might be overcome with smoke. They carried out Thomas Harper, a one-legged man, and Edward Walker, who had been burned and partially overcome by the smoke.

Stephen Carney was found lying on the floor in his room. The flames had already burned the old man's hands, face and body, but a policeman picked him up and carried him out of the building.

All Found on Fifth Floor.

The firemen succeeded in putting out the flames without great loss to the building. After the fire was out, they began a search. The bodies of all five of the victims were found on the fifth floor, where the fire did most damage. Buttle was suffocated in his bed. John Clark was found on the floor of his room dead, as was also Edward Doyle. The colored man was found dead at a window, and the unidentified man had been overcome just as he was dragging himself from the window to the fire escape.

All the bodies were taken to the morgue. The origin of the fire is unknown, and an investigation is being made.

ALLEGED DISORDERLY HOUSES

Were Raided by the Police on Saturday Night and Several People Captured.

Inspector Hall and Constable Crowe visited two alleged disorderly houses on Saturday night and arrested the inmates.

At 181 West Richmond-street, Emily Nelson, Sarah Clark, Ida Smith and Jennie Bennett were found, and at 35 Lombard-street, George Calder, Agnes Calder and Nettie Davis were captured.

Constable Mackie of the Agnes-street division also visited 43 West Queen-street and took John Johnston and Hattie Richmond into custody. They are all charged with being keepers or frequenters of disorderly houses.

Cook's Turkish and Russian Baths, Bath and bed $1.00. 202 and 204 King w

Cure a Cold in a few hours. Dr. Evans' Laxative Grip Capsules do not gripe. Money refunded. 25 cents. Bingham's Pharmacy, 100 Yonge-street. ed

Cook's Turkish Baths—204 King W.

A VICTIM OF THE NIAGARA.

Ashton Smith, Son of Rev. Henry Ashton Smith of Fort Erie, Believed to be Lost.

STARTED FOR BUFFALO IN A BOAT.

Cries Were Heard from the River and Young Smith Has Not Since Been Seen.

Buffalo, March 3.—Two men were carried down the Niagara River on a cake of ice to-night and drowned by the tilting of the cake, which plunged them into the water.

The captain of the ferry boat Niagara, which plies between Buffalo and Fort Erie, Ont., heard cries for help coming from the darkness of the river, as he was moving off from the Canadian shore. Putting his boat about, he drifted down with the current until the international bridge stopped further progress. He heard the calls grow fainter and fainter. Policemen on the Buffalo shore also heard the calls for help, and distinctly heard two voices. Late to-night two boys reported to the police that they saw a cake of ice with two men upon it floating down stream beyond the northern boundary of the city. They say one man arose up, and, as he did so, the cake of ice tipped up, and both men slid off and fell into the river.

ANOTHER VERSION OF IT.

Only One Man Was Lost, and It Is Believed He Was a Canadian Clergyman's Son.

Buffalo, March 4.—Scarcely a doubt remains that one of the men whose calls for help were heard from the Niagara River last night, was Ashton Smith, 27 years old, son of Rev. Henry Ashton Smith, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Fort Erie, Ont. Young Smith left Fort Erie at 8 o'clock last evening in a rickety coat to row over to Buffalo on an important errand for a friend, and has not been seen since. There is almost a certainty that his boat became water-logged and sank after drifting about two miles down the river.

To-day's developments tend to discredit the story of boys, reported to the police last night, which was in effect that they had seen two men slide from a tilted ice cake into the river. The captain of the Fort Erie ferry and policeman on the Buffalo shore said they heard two voices coming from the river. It is now believed they were mistaken, and that young Smith perished alone.

Shannon Letter Files cost little, save much time. Office Specialty Mfg. Co., 17 Bay.

To-Day's Prices for Furs at Dineens'.

The furs of the future will be no better than the furs of to-day—but only the affluent will be able to own them. Alaska sealskins will be more precious than diamonds, and Persian Lamb skins will be worth more than their weight in gold, because the natural supply of choice furs will never equal the ever-increasing demand. Sable, mink, fox, raccoon and all other furs are growing dearer because they are getting scarcer—but Dineens' prices for the choice fur-wear offered as Dineens' March specials are no higher than they were last fall. A number of exceptionally attractive specials in ladies' jackets, collarets and capelines are shown at Dineens' to-day.

Edwards and Hart-Smith, Chartered Accountants, Bank of Commerce Building. George Edwards, F. C. A., A. Hart-Smith, C. A. 13d

This is Flower Time,

And you'll find a glorious collection of all the spring flowers at Dunlop's. Particularly charming are the violets and mignonette, and their delicious fragrance awaits you at 5 King west and 445 Yonge-street.

Pember's Turkish Baths. Excellent sleeping accommodation. 129 Yonge.

W. H. Stone, undertaker, 343 Yonge Street. Phone 932. 13d

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION MAY SOON LEAD TO WAR

Scheme to Get a Port on the Persian Gulf Taken as Part of Her Plan That Must Lead to War With England.

Is Herat Russia's Final Objective?—Afghanistan is Still With England—Had Chamberlain's Message to Australia Any Bearing on This?

London, March 4.—War with Russia in Central Asia is near, if not imminent, in the opinion of students of foreign politics. The aggressions of Russia in the far East are brought prominently to light once more by the news that she is to acquire a port on the Persian Gulf.

As far back as 1889 it was known in London that Russia was treating with Persia for greater commercial privileges. Little by little she has demanded and received more, until now the effete country that was the Empire of Xerxes is absolutely under the thumb of the great white Czar.

Bunder Abbas has been mentioned many times as the port that Russia was seeking. The stone in her path has been the control of this port and Bushire—the only two on the Persian Gulf—by England, to whom their customs receipts were mortgaged in return for a loan.

Concessions Granted.

Concessions to Russian capitalists for railroads in Persia have been granted within the last few years, and while none of these has had the Persian Gulf as a stated objective point there has been talk in diplomatic circles of extensions in the near future that would bring them out to the gulf. Tabreez is the initial point in all these plans. It is a city of about 175,000 inhabitants, and the centre of the trade that passes from Central Asia to the Caspian Sea.

It has been reported that a line was planned to Kushk, on the Afghan frontier, with the object of pushing it on to Herat as soon as England was in such a position as to be able to offer slight objection.

The Viedomosti, organ of the Russian Government in Central Asia, is authority for the statement that the Trans-Persian railway will be 1300 miles, running from Dshulfa, by way of Tabreez, Hamadan, Ispahan and Kerman, to Bunder Abbas, and that 150,000,000 roubles will be spent upon it.

Secret Army Mobilization.

Then there was the sudden and secret mobilization of a gigantic Russian army on the frontier of Persia.

There is no doubt that these things, taken together, are indications of Russia's intention to take advantage of England's preoccupation to gain for herself the ends she has sought so long. She has won Persia by money and diplomacy, and England's influence at the Court of the Shah is seemingly at an end. Persia owes England many millions, and until these are paid Russia cannot hope for a gulf port, for these are pledged to England as security for the debt.

But in the treaty made last month, by which Russia lent Persia 22,500,000 roubles in return for her customs receipts at all interior ports of entry was a stipulation that as soon as possible Persia should pay all other debts. Should Persia pay off England at once, that would leave her gulf ports free from encumbrance and she would be at liberty to mortgage or lease them to Russia.

Herat Russia's Objective.

Herat is Russia's final objective. Lord Beaconsfield said Herat was the key to India. And there is not a shadow of doubt that when Russia seizes Herat England will seize Kandahar and the rival races—Slav and Anglo-Saxon—will be face to face for the great struggle that is to decide which of the two is to be the controlling influence in the destinies of the world.

Afghanistan lies between them. England is still supreme at Cabul. The Ameer would join England in any counter attack to Russian aggression in the direction of the frontier of India.

The recent request by the Colonial Office for information as to the number of troops that Australia could furnish in the event of trouble elsewhere than in Africa is believed here to have its real bearing on the situation in Persia.

War may not come for months, for years; but all the world knows the battle of Armageddon between Saxon and Slav must come some day, and everything seems to be drawing events together to bring it on very soon.

A THOUSAND CANADIANS TO GARRISON HALIFAX

Members of the Permanent Corps Will Not Be Sent—The Acting D.O.C. Is Now Making the Arrangements.

Ottawa, March 3.—(Special.)—The Minister of Militia and Col. Aylmer, acting D. O. C., are busy arranging to have a regiment of Canadian militia sent to Halifax, to take the place of the British regulars sent to South Africa. About one thousand Canadian troops will be required to garrison the city. Members of the permanent corps will not be sent. It is possible that in the near future Canada will have a permanent regiment of Canadians at Halifax, as the Imperial authorities are accepting the proposition made to Britain to repatriate the 100th Regiment.

Off for Boston.

Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. J. A. Gillies, M. P., left Ottawa to-day for Boston, where Sir Charles will deliver a lecture on behalf of the British South Africa Patriotic Fund.

Yukon Men Want to Go.

Major Bliss, who has just arrived in Ottawa from the Yukon, states that the men of the Yukon Field Force are very anxious to get away to South Africa. An idea of how anxious the men are to get to the front is gathered from an incident in connection with the efforts of one of his sergeants. A private in the command had been selected, among other volunteers, to go to the front. The sergeant was disappointed in not being selected. He had saved $500, and his desire to go to the war overshadowed his love for the money, and even his rank. Going to the private who had been selected, he offered him the $500 for the privilege of going in his stead, and, furthermore, was willing to doff his stripes and go as a private.

MONTREAL IS NOW SERENE.

Both Sides Supposed to Be Ashamed of Themselves—The Premier Was Very Anxious.

Montreal, March 4.—(Special.)—It now looks as if the disturbances have come to an end, and both parties no doubt feel they made fools of themselves. There were crowds in the streets last evening, but there was no trouble, and to-night the old city has completely resumed its usual quiet.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was probably the most scared man in the Dominion, for the Premier wired right and left to his friends here, both English and French, to use every possible influence to bring the tumults to an end.

It is stated here to-night that the Prime Minister is against the Strathcona Horse coming to Montreal, fearing trouble.

GAS COULD BE SOLD AT $1.25,

And as $2.25 Is Charged, Winnipeggers Are Agitating for Public Ownership.

Winnipeg, March 4.—(Special.)—The Board of Trade Committee reports that gas could be supplied here at a profit at $1.25 per thousand. At present the price is $2.25. A strong agitation has begun for public ownership of commercial lighting.

Fetherstonhaugh & Co., Patent Solicitors and experts, Bank of Commerce Building, Toronto.

An Influx of Snow and Milliners.

Despite the greatest storm of the season, which has locked the railways in its winry embrace, those architects of headgear, the milliners, are as plentiful in town as young onions in springtime. While here these disciples of Madame Mantalini will undoubtedly enjoy among other attractions the poetic inspiration of Kipling's "Absent-Minded Beggar" at Shea's Theatre and a purchase at Quinn's, next door, of a few of those irresistible new Easter neckties.

Contains 90 per cent. more value than malt extracts. Law's Powdered English Malt for indigestion.

Monuments.

Finest work and best designs at lowest prices. The McIntosh Granite & Marble Company, 1119 and 1121 Yonge-street, Toronto (terminal Yonge-street car route). 'Phone 4249. 14d

The F. W. Matthews Co., Undertakers 355 Queen W. Phone 2671.

BIRTHS.

BROUSE—On March 2, 1900, at 95 St. George-street, Toronto, the wife of W. H. Brouse, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

MUNDEY—At Thornhill, on Saturday, March 3, Mary J. Mundey, beloved wife of Joseph Mundey, aged 61 years 11 months.

Funeral Tuesday, 2.30, to Thornhill Cemetery.

PHILLIPS—On Sunday, March 4th, at the residence of her son-in-law, Thomas J. Frame, 526 Queen-street east, Mary, widow of the late Samuel Phillips, in her 83rd year, formerly a resident of Kingston.

Funeral private.

LANCELEY—On Monday, March 5, at the parsonage, No. 5 Oak-street, the Rev. J. E. Lanceley, pastor of the Parliament-street Methodist Church.

Funeral notice later.

Chloroforming the Opposition.

A prominent Conservative said to The World on Saturday night: "Who is chloroforming the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature in the interest of the Ross Government? Somebody is trying it just as somebody has succeeded in past years in getting this member and that member in the Conservative ranks to aid the Liberals by going quiet, or only fighting in a half-hearted kind of way. Nay, more," said the same man, "why has The Hamilton Spectator quit all opposition to Hon. J. M. Gibson? Is there any common interest in corporations that has chloroformed that hitherto consistent Conservative journal? Why did Mr. Carscallen get such a milk and water editorial support as The Spectator gave him after his big speech of Thursday? Does Mr. Gibson, in fact, control the editorial columns of all these Hamilton papers?"

"Sweet Harbingers of Spring!"

The wholesale millinery houses anticipate a big rush next week.—Daily paper.

Ladysmith is no sooner relieved by cavalry, horse and artillery when, lo! and be bold! Toronto's besieged by a thousand sweet girls after millinery.

Kimberley's safe; Cronje's in line; but Toronto must surely surrender. What else can she do? With a town full of girls and her soldiers away, who is there to defend her?

Tom Swalwell.

Fair and Cold.

Meteorological Office, Toronto, March 4.—(8 p.m.)—The high area which has for some days past covered the Northwest Territories, has since Saturday become much more pronounced and spread eastward across Ontario and Quebec, accompanied by low temperature, while a shallow low area has passed quickly from the far western to the Middle States, causing local snow falls in Ontario. The general outlook is for a continuation of cold weather.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 28—44; Calgary, 6 below—2; Prince Albert, 34 below—zero; Qu'Appelle, 26 below—4; Winnipeg, 24 below—4; Port Arthur, 12 below—10; Parry Sound, 2—..; Toronto, 26—30; Ottawa, 8—14; Montreal, 12—14; Quebec, 8—14; Halifax, 14—20.

Probabilities.

Lower Lakes and Georgian Bay—Moderate to fresh northerly and northeasterly winds; fair and cold.

Ottawa Valley and Upper St. Lawrence—Northerly winds, fair and colder.

Lower St. Lawrence and Gulf—Northerly and westerly winds; fair and colder.

Maritime—Light local snowfalls; weather turning colder.

Lake Superior and Manitoba—Fair and cold.

The Oak Hall clothing gives the