

NEARING MAFAKING.

Col. Plumer's Force Only Six Miles Away When Last Heard From.

Expected That Reinforcements Will Soon Reach the Relieving Force from the North.

Engagement Reported at Bosman's Kop on Thursday, That Lasted Several Hours—Some Anxiety About the Water Supply at Bloemfontein.

THEIR GALLANT BEHAVIOR.

BUSHMAN'S KOP, Monday, April 3.—Hearing that the waterworks were destroyed the correspondent of the Reuter's Telegram Agency rode forward today. Arriving at the crest of a hill a volley was fired at him, and a moment later a man appeared at the top of the crest. Calling on him to stop...

It appears that the Boers never doubted their ability to capture the whole British force, and were dumbfounded at the courage displayed and the mastery way in which the force was able to escape from the death trap. The correspondent's informant refused to give any information regarding the Boer forces or their movements, but it appeared that the present force was detached from Kromstad, joined the Ladybrand force and again divided north of Thaba N'chu, one portion following the other and meeting Col. Broadwood's retreating force. The burghers engaged consisted of Schoeman's command, which was accompanied by many foreigners. Commandant John Y. Blake was present with the Irish brigade and other foreigners.

The fight was marked by many acts of individual courage. The first man to warn the British of the ambush was a sergeant of the army service corps, until he is certain of delivering a crushing blow. A Household Cavalryman who was summoned to surrender threw his rifle in his captor's face, knocking him over, and escaped. According to the testimony of eye witnesses the Boers shot some of the prisoners and killed some of their own men who advanced to demand the British surrender, but the confusion was so great—the fire proceeding from all directions and the Boers firing on the enemy in which their own men were mixed up—that it is impossible to say exactly what happened.

Explosive bullets have been found in the hands of some of the Boers who were captured. The enemy pursued the British for miles, killing, wounding and taking prisoners. One squadron of the Sixth Dragoons, which entered the action 100 yards in front of the end only ten mounted men. The Boers seemed to be in great strength throughout the district and are signalling on all sides. A large body is reported moving southwest of Bloemfontein in the direction of the railway. Duplicate machinery is available to replace that which the Boers destroyed at the waterworks. The British troops are in urgent need of reinforcements.

CRONJE EN ROUTE TO ST. HELENA. CAPE TOWN, Thursday, April 3.—Gen. Cronje, Col. Schiel and 1,000 Boer

volunteers sailed for St. Helena to-night.

NEW YORK, April 3.—The next issue of Harper's Weekly will contain a poem by Rudyard Kipling on General Joubert, which was sent by cable from South Africa. Two of the three verses follow:

AMID SCENES OF ENTHUSIASM. CAPE TOWN, April 3.—At a mass meeting held here today, at which 20,000 persons were present, a resolution was passed amid scenes of great enthusiasm, declaring the solemn conviction of those assembled that the incorporation of the South African republic and Orange Free State into the Queen's dominions alone would secure prosperity and public freedom in South Africa. The national anthem was then sung.

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With those that breed, with those that loosed, the strife He had no part, whose hands were clean of gain. But subtle, strong and stubborn, gave his life To a lost cause, and knew the gift was vain.

Later shall rise a people sane and great, Forged in strong fires, by equal war made one. Telling old battles over without hate, Noblest his name shall pass from sire to son.

LONDON, April 5, 5 a. m.—It looks today as though the Boers had conceived the audacious plan of attempting to invest Lord Roberts at Bloemfontein, or, at least, to endeavor to delay his westward advance by harassing the British lines of communication.

On his side Lord Roberts is concentrating his forces and preparing to take every advantage of the bold but risky tactics of the enemy. He is not likely to strike at any of their forces until he is certain of delivering a crushing blow.

The situation, in the absence of any official dispatches from Lord Roberts, is both mysterious and interesting. There is little doubt that Lord Roberts is hampered by the necessity for re-mounts and transportation, and the loss of the convoy guns and all of Col. Broadwood's baggage was a serious matter. The Boers are now trusting to what they believe to be their superior mobility. Special correspondents at the front are now denouncing Lord Roberts' policy of leniency toward the Free Staters, and are calling for an abandonment of that policy. A special despatch states that Mafeking was still besieged but safe on March 27.

ANOTHER CANADIAN DEAD. OTTAWA, April 4.—The following cable was received this morning at the militia department: BLOEMFONTEIN, April 2.—Forest, 7811, died at Bloemfontein of enteric fever April 1st.

The roll shows that Private H. Forest is a member of the 1st Battalion, Montserrat, and was with the first contingent. The cable was not signed.

ABOUT OUR BOYS. MONTREAL, April 4.—The Star's special correspondent with the Canadian contingent sends the following: BLOEMFONTEIN, April 2.—The Canadians returned to Bloemfontein today from Bushman's Kop, where, as part of Col. Smith-Dorrien's brigade

they had been ordered to the support of the column under Col. Broadwood. There were no casualties to the Canadian troops in the fighting at Bushman's Kop, although we were in the thick of the shooting, which was continued between the British and Boer batteries after the ambush.

The Canadians are now back in their old camp outside of Bloemfontein. The defenses of the town are being greatly strengthened, and the railway line to the south is strongly guarded. It is reported that a very large force of the enemy is advancing from the north. Whether this is true or not it is evident that the burghers have taken heart with their recent success and are once more trying to assume the offensive.

We expect some severe fighting within the next few days.

AFTER THE DISASTER.

BLOEMFONTEIN, April 3, 4 p. m.—Those who were at the firing on Sunday speak highly of the heroism displayed by the officers and non-commissioned officers of the artillery. The infantry, mounted on Burmese ponies, were active helpers. Roberts' horse was charged through the Boers, doing considerable damage. On Sunday, Gen. Smith-Dorrien's brigade rescued the wounded and moved them to the hospital under fire. They also buried the dead. Gen. Smith-Dorrien was foremost in assisting. In the afternoon the rifles attacked Bosman's Kop, the fighting extending over a wide range.

DEFEAT OF THE "LION OF SOUTH AFRICA."

LONDON, March 28.—By means of the latest mails from Cape Town the papers have been able to tell the story of the defeat of the "Lion of South Africa." The Times correspondent at Paardeburg is able to give some idea of what transpired in the Boer camp prior to the surrender.

"The red house," he writes, "a kind of dark bungalow which is found near every one of the farms, was used as Cronje's headquarters."

Tuesday, the 19th, was marked by the severest bombardment of the entire investment, and a Boer doctor described the position as awful. The losses inflicted upon the horses were the turning point of the siege. Decomposition set in, and the absolute necessity of clean earth caused a serious rebellion in the camp, most of 4,000 men demanding that surrender should be made at once.

From that moment the Boers scarcely obeyed orders. A sharp division between the Free Staters and the Orange Free State Boers ensued, and the only bond of sympathy that united them, besides their common adversity, was a long-hidden hatred of the Germans in their ranks. Until sunrise on the 27th, the state of affairs among the Boers was pitiful. Apart from the ever increasing hunger, despair of relief and unhealthiness of the position, mutual recriminations destroyed the last remnant of adversity, goodwill, and Cronje sat aloof, silent and uncommunicative.

The events of the early morning of the 27th can best be told from outside. "Brigadier General Macdonald sent from his bed a note to Lord Roberts, reminding him that Tuesday was the anniversary of that disaster, which, we all remember, he had by example, order and threat himself done his best to avert, even while the panic had been at its height; Sir Henry Colville submitted a suggested attack backed by the same unanswerable plea. For a moment Lord Roberts decided to try the plan, but the insistence of Cronje broke down his reluctance, and the men of the oldest colony were sent out in the small hours of Tuesday morning to redeem the blot on the name of the mother country."

"The existing trench, some 700 yards long, on the northern bank, held jointly by the Gordons and the Canadians, the latter were ordered to advance in two lines—each, of course, in extended order—30 yards apart, the first with bayonets fixed, the second reinforced by 50 Royal Engineers under Col. Kincaid and Captain Boleau.

"In dead silence, and covered by darkness, only faintly illuminated by the merest rim of the dying moon, the three companies of Canadians moved on over the bush-strewn ground. For over 40 yards the noiseless advance continued, but when within 30 yards of the Boer trench the tramping of the scrub betrayed the movement. Instantly the outer trench of the Boers burst into fire, which was kept up almost without intermission, from five minutes of three to ten minutes past the hour. The Canadians, flinging themselves on the ground, kept up an incessant fire on the trenches, guided only by the flashes of their enemy's rifles, and the Boers admit that they quickly reduced them to the necessity of lifting their rifles over their heads to the edge of the earthworks and pulling their triggers at random. Behind this line the engineers dug a trench from the inner edge of the bank to the crest, and then for fifty or sixty yards out through the scrub. The Canadians retired three yards to this protection and waited for dawn confident in their new position, which had entered the protected angle of the Boer position and commanded alike the rifle pits of the banks and the trefoil-shaped embasures on the north.

"Cronje saw that matters were desperate. Col. Otter and Col. Kincaid called a hasty consultation, which was disturbed by the sight of Sir Henry Colville, general of the Ninth division, quietly riding down within 500 yards of the northern Boer trenches to bring the news that even while the last few shots were being fired a horseman was hurrying in with a white flag and

Cronje's unconditional surrender, to take effect at sunrise."

HAS CAUSED A SENSATION.

PARIS, April 4.—The senate today covered the placarding throughout France of the speech made by M. Delcasse, the minister of foreign affairs, last night. This is an unusual honor for the senate to accord to a minister other than the premier.

The news about British troops being allowed to land at Beira, Portuguese East Africa, has caused a profound sensation here. M. Delcasse will certainly be questioned on the subject tomorrow. It is thought that his reply will be that it is undoubtedly true that Portugal has departed from the strict lines of neutrality, but that the matter affects only England, the Transvaal and Portugal. The feeling here is that the door has been thrown wide open to intervention, though it is doubtful which power will take the first step.

A diplomatist who has seen the Anglo-Portuguese treaty, and that the statement of the foreign minister at Lisbon in defence of Portugal's action was misleading. In his speech the Portuguese minister made no reference to the transportation of British troops or ammunition. He simply refused to admit the sending of merchandise through Portuguese territory.

FOR THE MAINE FUND.

LONDON, April 4.—A substantial sum was added to the American hospital ship fund at a meeting held at the Crystal Palace for the benefit of which an American, Mr. Campbell, is the principal. The pupils gave a remarkably varied programme surprisingly well. Madame Albani also rendered services, and sang several times. Queen Victoria and Princess Louise gave their names as patrons, and all the well known Americans in London attended the performance.

ALWAYS ON THE SIDE OF PEACE.

LONDON, April 4.—Speaking at Edinburgh, Lord Roberts, referring to the war and the desire of Great Britain's continental enemies to stamp out this peaceful country, said he thought her enemies had failed to grasp what a free trade empire meant to her merchants, or how important to her was the fact that whenever the balance lay between peace and war, Great Britain was always on the side of peace.

His lordship concluded with the significant remark that before long he would see the empire united, not merely in sentiment but in constitution and fact.

WAR SUMMARY.

LONDON, April 6.—With the exception of the double action on March 31 in the neighborhood of Mafeking, there is no news of importance from South Africa.

In the fight at Ramathlabama the Boers claim to have captured five officers and nine men belonging to Col. Plumer's column. Two of the officers are said to have died from wounds received in the fighting. One of the captured officers is described as a staff officer named Cecil. It is reported that he belongs to the Rhodesian force. If this is accurate, he is a colonial recruit, and the coincidence with the name of Lord Salisbury's son, Edward Cecil, who is now with Col. Baden-Powell, the commander at Mafeking, is somewhat remarkable, that name being uncommon as a surname and there being no army officer bearing such a cognomen with Col. Plumer.

The only news of the British movements from Bloemfontein is the arrival of Gen. Clements' division, computed at 6,000 men, after a march that occupied fifteen days. They seem to have been sent a few miles north of the town. There is as yet no sign of the Boers fulfilling their supposed intention to attack Bloemfontein.

From a long despatch from the Boer camp at Brandfont, dealing chiefly with the victory at Koon Spruit, some of the details of the incident are gathered. It is said that Commandant De Wet shouted to two officers on a wagon entering the Boer trap to throw up their hands. One of them complied, whereupon the other shot him dead. The survivor, refusing to surrender, was shot immediately. The number of British prisoners taken was 389. Commandant De Wet sent them with the captured guns to Wilmburg.

LONDON, April 6, 5 a. m.—The war office issued no news yesterday and little was allowed to come through from the correspondents at Bloemfontein. According to the Standard's representative, there is no sign that the Boers intend taking the offensive, and Gen. Clements is so disposing his forces as to guard against any surprise attack, which, although improbable, is evidently not regarded as impossible, judging from the preparations of Lord Roberts.

As usual whenever there is any check in the progress of the British campaign, the war office is being severely censured for failing to maintain the necessary supply of re-mounts for the army. It is possible Lord Roberts has difficulties other than re-mounts with which to contend.

Much anxiety is felt as to the water supply, despite the statements cabled home that there is no fear of a water famine. Whatever the reason may be, considerable dissatisfaction is beginning to be expressed here at the unaccountable delay both at Bloemfontein and in Natal, which enables the Boers to recover from the demoralization caused by Lord Roberts' former rapid movements. The enemy now evidently hopes to retard the advance by threatening the railway behind Lord Roberts. So far as the Natal railways are concerned, repairs are being made beyond Blandelslaagte and the idea, so often repeated, is that an advance is imminent.

A despatch to the Daily Telegraph from Ladysmith says that the Boer investing positions reveal immense strength, ingenuity of construction and immunity from the British fire. A despatch from Ladysmith to the Daily Chronicle gives serious news of the outbreak of deadly lung sickness among oxen, which, if it spreads, is likely to cripple Gen. Buller's operations. From Lourenzo Marques comes the report that Mr. Steyn has been ap-

pointed commandant of the Free State forces.

Although Col. Plumer is reported to have written within six miles of Mafeking, it is evident that the siege had not been raised on April 1. Toward the end of this month Col. Plumer will be reinforced by the troops now going by way of Beira, so that relief cannot be far distant.

BOERS WITHIN TEN MILES OF BLOEMFONTEIN.

BLOEMFONTEIN, April 2, 5 p. m.—The British cavalry encamped on Bosman's Kop today after having ridden from Waterval Drift without getting into action. Bosman's Kop is now the easternmost British position. The British horses are again in bad shape after their hard work in the neighborhood of Karee Siding. They were brought from the south in a hurry and sent eastward. Many of them are now useless. One company of the Carabineers has only five horses in fit condition.

GENERAL COLVILLE'S NINTH DIVISION HAS RETURNED AND GONE INTO CAMP NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN.

There is little doubt that many of the Orange Free State burghers who recently turned in their arms to Lord Roberts have been re-armed. The army now over 20,000 Boers within a radius of 20 miles of Bloemfontein. Commandants Lemmer and De Wet, who led the fighting on last Saturday, are still receiving reinforcements. The town of Bloemfontein is quiet. The fact that the Boers have occupied the reservoir has had no appreciable effect so far. The railway is still in working order. Boer patrols have been seen within ten miles to the west of Bloemfontein. The British troops are cheerful and anxious to get into action. The drought continues.

IRISH FOOT GUARDS.

LONDON, April 5, 7.15 p. m.—The army orders today contain the following: The Queen having deemed it desirable to commemorate the bravery shown by the Irish regiments in the recent operations in South Africa, has been graciously pleased to command that an Irish regiment of foot guards be formed under the designation of Irish Guards.

ORDERED TO BLOEMFONTEIN.

OTTAWA, March 30.—A private cablegram has been received in this city by Andrew Holland from his son, Eddie, who sailed on the Milwaukee on the 21st inst., with the second contingent of the Canadian Mounted Rifles, which is interpreted as indicating that the remainder of the second contingent have been ordered to join Lord Roberts' army at Bloemfontein.

CAPE TOWN, March 23.—Holland's, Ottawa, Bloemfontein.

This cipher cable interpreted by pre-arranged code. The Holland says: "We are ordered to join Roberts' forces at Bloemfontein immediately. Ottawa boys well." The first section of the contingent, which went out on the Laurentian, have been in the Priestley district of Northern Cape Colony for some time. Montreal Star.

A BATTLE YESTERDAY.

LONDON, April 6.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "General Clements' division, 6,000 strong, has arrived from the southward and has encamped five miles north of the city, after a continuous march for a fortnight." "There is no danger of a water famine here." "An unimportant engagement lasting several hours was fought yesterday afternoon at Bosman's Kop between the Boers and British outposts." "At a meeting of the Army Temperance association Monday Lord Roberts made a speech, urging the soldiers to join the association. He eulogized their splendid work, adding that the entire army had been members of the association while along the Modder river, as water was all they had to drink, and sometimes there was very little of that."

GILBERT PARKER ON CANADA'S MARTIAL SPIRIT.

LONDON, April 6.—The morning Post publishes a two-column interview with Gilbert Parker on Canada's martial spirit in reference to South Africa. Mr. Parker argues that the recent display of heroism in Canada was not an "outburst," as it is generally called, but the "inevitable result of Canada's growth into a nation."

"Canadians are asking if it has been practicable to force English and French Canadians under a French premier why it is not possible to amalgamate the British and Dutch in South Africa in the same way, the British and Dutch temperaments being closer and there being no religious bar." "I feel sure that something more in the direction of a federation of the empire will come out of the present situation than the mere holding of the Union Jack at Pretoria. I have a feeling that three years hence, the minister of war sitting at Pall Mall will be able to put his finger on Toronto, Vancouver, Halifax, Sydney,

Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide with as full knowledge of their military possibilities as he is able to do with Newcastle or Manchester."

DEPEND UPON RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

ISMAILIA, Egypt, April 5.—The steamer Kaiser has arrived here from Delagoa Bay. Among her passengers are the Boer delegates appointed to visit Europe on behalf of the republics. They are uncommunicative, but it is understood that they place the highest hopes on Russia and the United States.

MUCH PETTY TYRANNY.

LONDON, April 6.—The Times correspondent at Lourenzo Marques quotes the Rev. Mr. Watkinson, Wesleyan chorist of Harrismith, which place he left March 29, as denying accurately the old and discredited story that three Englishmen were shot in Harrismith for refusing to fight against the Boers. Mr. Watkinson says there is much petty tyranny shown towards Englishmen in the Free State, but he is not aware of any violence towards them.

DUNRAVEN TO THE FRONT.

LONDON, April 5.—Lord Dunraven, the well known yachtsman, will accompany the sharpshooters corps of the Imperial Yeomanry to South Africa. He will sail tomorrow.

TREATMENT OF REBEL DUTCH.

CAPE TOWN, April 5.—The Sun's correspondent has had a long interview with the Hon. J. Rose-Innes, the leader of the British in the Cape parliament, on the subject of the treatment of the rebel Dutch. Mr. Innes said that a special tribunal for the trial of the rebels was certainly necessary. Besides the technical difficulties arising from the number of cases, he said it is not desirable, under the present circumstances, to impose the task of deciding the cases upon colonial jurors. A tribunal presided over by an eminent English judge would be much more satisfactory to all concerned. It should have the same power in regard to imposing punishment as the supreme court of the Cape, and should also have the power of disfranchising the rebels, either with or without any penalty.

Mr. Rose-Innes continued: "Under the present law a conviction for treason disfranchises a person permanently, but does not distinguish the degree of culpability. The tribunal that I refer to should have the power of fixing the period of disfranchisement according to the degree of guilt. A special statute is necessary for the creation of this tribunal. It is not advisable at the present time to summon the Cape parliament to pass this necessary act. Therefore the imperial parliament is the only body that has the necessary power. The difficulty of legislating over the head of the Cape parliament would be partly removed if the Cape government were invited to initiate the legislation. Then, as is more likely, if the Dutch legislators should reply that it was inadvisable to summon parliament, the objection to the imperial parliament legislating for this colony would be greatly lessened. In all events immediate action is necessary."

JAMESON VERY ILL.

CAPE TOWN, April 5.—Dr. Jameson, the leader of the famous raid into Transvaal territory, has arrived here. He is very ill.

A GOOD BLUFF.

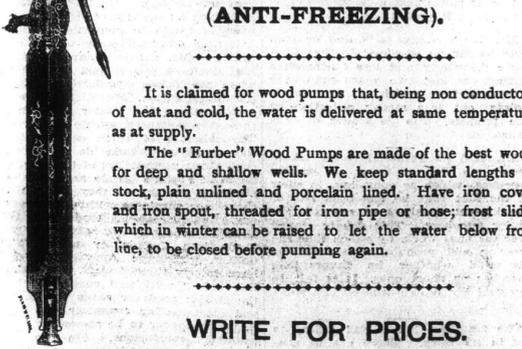
LONDON, April 6.—According to the Daily Mail, W. W. Adams, the well known editor of the Daily Mail's despatch riders in South Africa, was taken prisoner on Sunday by a Boer patrol, but he frightened the Boers into releasing him, by telling them that they were surrounded by the British.

OUTPOST FIGHTING.

LONDON, April 6.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Times telegraphing Wednesday says: "The Boers showed in some force yesterday with three guns, towards Bushman's Kop. Detached groups skirmished up to our outposts, but this morning shows that the enemy desired to sweep further round to the right of Bloemfontein." "Early today artillery fire in the south was audible." "The Times publishes the following from Wopener, dated Wednesday, April 4: 'The Boers are sniping our patrols. A party of blindfolded Boers was brought in with the following written message: "I am here with several thousand burghers, and in the cause of humanity and to save such a dreadful sacrifice of life as occurred in the last battle, I demand your immediate surrender." "This was signed 'Barks, General.' The party was sent back with the answer: 'No reply.'"

"Gen. Erabant's force is here and will give some trouble to any body of Boers likely to attack us."

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