

Operations in Free State

Boers Are Reported in Large Numbers Near the Capital.

Defensive Works at Bloemfontein -Waiting for Remounts and Clothing.

London, April 10.-At Bloemfontein preparations are being made to hold the town against surprise. Lord Kitchener has been given an important duty, being responsible for the protection of the railway while Lord Roberts is waiting for remounts and winter clothing for the troops, whose thin cotton khaki uniforms and boots are worn out.

General Brabant and General Gatacre are both at a standstill. Lord Roberts will probably for some time confine his operations to clearing the Free State behind raiders, and to relieving Mafeking, for which purpose apparently the Eighth Division now arriving at Capetown has been ordered to Kimberley.

Lady Sarah Wilson and other Matking correspondents send diaries of the doing there, showing that the Boers have tried by abandoning the trenches to lure the besieged out into a mined ambush. Fortunately the British engineers discovered the mine, cut the wire communication and unearthed the 250 pounds of dynamite and war gelatine.

What the chances are for an advance to Pretoria may be judged from the fact that only from six to ten thousand horses are on their way to the Cape and from the further fact that the military commissariat only within the last three weeks began making woollen khaki uniforms. It is said it will take at least two months to provide 200,000 uniforms. Mr. Steyn's address to the Free State read at Kroonstadt is confirmed.

The Fischer-Wolmarans deputations has full power to negotiate for peace subject to the ruler's sanction.

Mr. Spencer Wilkinson, reviewing the situation in the Morning Post, says: "In the event of a Boer violation of Basuto land, compelling the British agent to take the Basuto chiefs a free hand it is to be hoped that the Imperial government will lay before the governments of the great powers the true history of the delicate subject, so as to leave no doubt that the movement of the natives has been provoked by the Boers, in spite of the strenuous efforts of the British to confine the quarrel to the two white races."

Ready For Boers. The Daily Telegraph's Bloemfontein correspondent, telegraphing on Sunday, says: "The railway and telegraph are working well. Works and trenches have been prepared in suitable positions around Bloemfontein. The greatest vigilance is exercised. Some of the troops sleep in the trenches. Confirmation has been received of the report that the Boers are in larger numbers than they were with guns at Donkerspoort, in eighteen miles southeast. The British scouts report another body still closer. The Boer patrols have grown very bold, venturing much nearer our tents."

In the South. The Daily Mail correspondent, telegraphing from the same point, says: "The air is thick with rumors of large forces of Boers to the southward, but there is no positive official confirmation on the subject. On the other hand, the railway is said to be well guarded."

Movement of Troops. The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Morning Post, telegraphing on Sunday, says: "The movement of troops continues with bewildering frequency, brigades and divisions appearing and disappearing at brief intervals. No specific accounts of such movements are pertained. The Boers are also apparently feeling their way frequently to the west of the line. A party has been thrown forward and has recaptured the laager at Paardeberg, probably to search for buried arms and ammunition."

Colonials Isolated. London, April 9.-A dispatch from Wepener, dated Sunday, April 8th, published in the Times, says: "The Wepener garrison is completely isolated. However, the lines are enormously strong, and the force is fully provisioned. Desultory firing between outposts continues. A commando estimated at 2,000, with four guns, went into laager last night eight miles from here, in the direction of Dewetsdorp."

Canadian Rifles. Carnarvon, Cape Colony, April 9.-Khanahit was formerly "framed" to Cape Colony April 1st, amidst the cheers of the assembled troops. A large number of insurgent colonials, including many of their leaders, are now imprisoned here. Col. Drury's column, including the West Australian and Canadian Mounted Rifles and Artillery left yesterday for De Aar.

The Capture of Bloemfontein. London, April 10.-The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Times telegraphing says: "The captured Boers agree that only fifty men remained unrounded out of the whole British column captured at Reddarsburg. Gen. Gatacre and his staff were fired at from enclosures while they temporarily occupied Reddarsburg. Considerable movements of troops have occurred here with the object of preventing surprise."

Canadian Cadets. The following are extracts from the London Gazette: "The Corps-Capt. Joseph Andrew Benyon, Canadian Militia, to be lieutenant with the temporary rank of lieutenant in the army, 21st March. Army Service Corps-The following gentlemen cadets from the Royal Military College of Canada, to be second lieutenants, to complete establishment:

Vivian Dewson Denison, Hector Cowan Reid, Rupert Simpson and George Cyril Milson, 21st March. This is the first occasion that Kingston cadets have received direct commissions in the army service corps.

CRONJE'S SURRENDER. The Canadians Had Occupied the Boer Trenches When White Flag Was Sent.

London, March 26.-The Daily News correspondent, writing from Koodoorsrand, describes the surrender of Cronje at Paardeberg. He says the Royal Canadian Regiment, having been ordered to approach the Boer laager, got inadvertently in the darkness within fifty yards of the enemy's position. The Boers poured a tremendous fusillade into the advancing Canadians. Lieut.-Col. Otter, deciding that it was as dangerous to retire as advance, dashed forward with the men, who tumbled pell-mell into the trenches outside the mineous bushes lining the bank. The Boers promptly evacuated them, and unless they were able to recarry the trenches there was nothing to save them, and the misery of the ten days' privations had created a strong party in favor of surrender to the British. The situation brought about by the Canadians decided them, and at 6 o'clock a white flag was sent from the Boer laager to Lord Roberts.

Addressing the Canadians, the Field Marshal complimented them in the highest terms. London, April 11.-There would be little disposition to place any credence in the Boer reports of a British disaster except that the war office has issued no news from Lord Roberts for three days. The unexpected rallying of the Free States commandoes, however, leaves the public in a nervous condition.

Pretoria dispatches, as stated last Monday, did not mention any further Boer victories. On the contrary, they said all the commandoes were quiet, and as Lord Roberts has hitherto never said promptly to report mischances, as well as successes, or to allow the newspaper correspondents to report them, until some confirmation is received there is justification for regarding the Merrkatsfontein rumor as only an exaggerated account.

of the Reddersberg affair. At the same time, the extreme anxiety is felt. No further news has been received of fighting either at Wepener or in Natal.

Reports from Boers seem to indicate that Lord Methuen is advancing from Boshof towards Hoopstad. It is a bold and apparently a dangerous move, since, although it turns the right flank of the Boer position at Brandfort, it puts Lord Methuen's force between Wepener and the Transvaal, and the Brandfort force. Boer commissioners at Naples do not conceal the fact that they have no hopes of obtaining peace with independence, but they will endeavor to save their amour propre or to secure a truce for further negotiations. Mr. Fischer says the present Boer strength at the front is 38,000 men.

The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Times says "The enemy are making a general attempt to discover a strategic opening. Their numbers are unknown to us, but are anywhere between three thousand and six thousand. They are moving cautiously. Remounts are arriving, but the Argentine animals are little liked by the cavalry. Among the valuables discovered belonging to Messrs. Steyn and Fischer is some correspondence proving that the fall of Ladysmith was to be the signal for a general Dutch uprising."

FROM THE BOERS. Pretoria Dispatch Reports British Loss at 600 Killed and Wounded and 900 Prisoners. London, April 11.-The Daily News has the following from Pretoria, dated the following, dated Tuesday, April 10th, from Lorenzo Marquez, appears in the same paper: "The Netherlands Railway Company professes to have received a telegram reporting a Boer victory near Kroonstadt, the Boers capturing 900 British."

Commenting upon this the Daily Mail remarks: "There is a Merrkatsfontein, about eight and a half miles southeast of Kroonstadt, but if the report be true, this can hardly be the place." Losses at Dewetsdorp. Pretoria, Monday, April 9.-Via Lorenzo Marquez-The British casualties in the fight at Dewetsdorp were 100 killed and wounded and 45 captured. The Transvaal Volksraad has been summoned to meet in ordinary session on May 7th.

THE FIGHT NEAR MAFEKING. Half the British Officers Were Wounded-Trying to Avenge Paardeberg. Gaborones, April 3.-The fight on Saturday in the environs of Mafeking, dated the following, dated Tuesday, April 10th, from Lorenzo Marquez, appears in the same paper: "The Netherlands Railway Company professes to have received a telegram reporting a Boer victory near Kroonstadt, the Boers capturing 900 British."

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is missing. Serjt.-Major Manning of the Fifth Dragon Guards, who took up the duties of orderly, did excellent work. Captain Fred Crowe was shot dead while covering the retreat of others. Captain MacLaren was severely wounded and Lieut. Cronje, the famous Yorkie cricketer, fatally injured while holding an assigned position. Medical orderly Waneford, worked pluckily on the field, which afforded little cover. Near Mafeking. London, April 11.-The Daily Mail has the following from Lady Sarah Wilson, dated Mafeking, March 30th: "Col. Plumer's column is now within twenty miles of us, but its advent is undesirable unless accompanied by good supplies. The opinion prevails here that young Cronje has returned to the ranks of the investing Boers, and is trying to avenge Paardeberg."

Taken Prisoner. Bulawayo, Thursday, April 5.-Lieut. Milligan of Col. Plumer's column is a prisoner in the hands of the Boers. IN NATAL. Naval Guns Bombarding Boer Positions-Troops for Cape Colony. London, April 11.-The Durban correspondent of the Daily Telegraph telegraphing on Tuesday, says: "Large numbers of troops are coming down for shipment to Cape Colony. Two regiments have already sailed. Gen. Hare is also going to the Cape, probably in command of these troops."

Notes. Dr. Burritt, of Toronto, has received from the commanding officer of the 12th Lancers, now on active service, a cablegram announcing the death of his third son, Allan S. Burritt, at Kimberley on April 4th of enteric fever. The remainder of the Boer prisoners that were on board the transport off Simonstown, about 2,000, have been transferred to the mainland.

The Berlin correspondent of the London Daily Mail asserts the American who is credited with having led the Boers at Komspruit is certainly the military attaché, Capt. Carl Reibeman. Gen. Von Becher in the Lokal Anzeiger, Berlin, says: "Evidently the British will soon begin a concerted advance movement, rendering it probable for their forces within the inner lines. The principal danger for the British remains in their extremely long approximation lines. It will be, however, next to impossible for the Boers to continue movements in the open field when Lord Roberts moves, after putting his army in first-class condition."

London, April 12.-Lord Roberts appears to be preparing to move a strong force to clear the Boers from behind him. A Capetown dispatch says he will not move for another week owing to the necessity of gathering stores and supplies. The Times correspondent at Mafeking, under date of March 30th, comments upon the fluctuation of spirits in the garrison as to the chances of relief since Tuesday's terrible bombardment and upon the variety of rumors regarding the location of the relief forces.

The operations in Natal have not yet been fully explained. There appears to have been an attempt to outfit the British at Elandslaagte and to sever them from their base at Ladysmith. Col. Inigo Jones, it is announced from Bloemfontein, has been appointed to the command of the British Brigade, Col. Knox to command the Twenty-Third Brigade, and Major Brazier-Creigh, of the Indian Staff Corps, to command Roberts's Horse.

The war office has received no news of the death of Col. Baden-Powell, and widely credits the rumor. The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Times telegraphing on Wednesday, says: "It is announced in general orders that Gen. Sir Herbert Chermiside has been appointed to command of the Third Division, vice Gen. Sir William Gatacre, 'ordered home to England.'"

Dispatch From Roberts. The following dispatch from Lord Roberts has been issued at the war office: "Bloemfontein, April 11.-Methuen reports that the force of Boers he defeated April 5th made good resistance for four hours and only gave in when our troops with fixed bayonets were within fifteen yards of them. Seven of the enemy were killed, eleven were wounded and 51 made prisoners. Besides Lieuts. Boyle and Williams, who were struck Campbell was killed and ten of our men were wounded. Williams was killed deliberately after the white flag had been held up. The perpetrator of the crime was at once shot. Methuen speaks in high terms of the intelligent manner in which the Imperial Yeomanry and the Kimberley mounted corps behaved. "Buller reports that the enemy attacked his right flank yesterday while he was engaged in changing his position, but our artillery silenced their guns and they did not press the attack. Our losses were four men killed and eight men wounded."

"There is no further news yet from Wepener." In another dispatch Lord Roberts says that books, clothing and other luxuries are freely distributed to the Boer prisoners in his hands; that small sums of money are given direct; that larger amounts are given to the Boers for distribution, and that clothing is being issued to prisoners in need of it.

BOER MOVEMENTS. Many Are Moving Southwards, But Their Destination is Not Known. London, April 12.-The Morning Post has a dispatch from its correspondent at Bloemfontein in which he says: "The Boers to the southeast are exhibiting indecision of movement, possible in consequence of our occupation of the railway. Bodies of the enemy are still moving from Winburg southward, through Thaba Nchu. Their destination has not been ascertained. The Boers in the neighborhood of Paardeberg show no disposition to interrupt our communications with Kimberley, from which point civil convoys are still arriving."

THE ATTACK ON BABANT. There Was Heavy Cannonading at Wepener Yesterday-Messengers From Kitchener. London, April 12.-The Times Bloemfontein correspondent says: "Gen. Brabant's force is confident of being able to hold out. The Boers, after showing considerable dash, have wavered when it came to the scratch point, and have struck at the least vital point, where they are greatly handicapped by their proximity to the Basuto border. Owing to the strategical concentrations since the enemy's movements became defined, there need be little anxiety as to the safety of the Cape border."

The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, in a dispatch from the same town, says: "The permanent defences are nearing completion, so that the town is held by a relatively small garrison. A British scout who has visited Bloemfontein waterworks reports that the machinery and dams are intact. Only a few Boers remain in the neighborhood. The enemy have trekked six miles north and formed a laager near Water-vaal. News from Gen. Brabant at Wepener shows that all is going satisfactorily there. Troops are getting new khaki serge uniforms and boots."

Lord Kitchener. Allwal North, April 11.-Lord Kitchener arrived here to-day and left soon after. A Boer big gun was knocked over yesterday at Wepener. The garrison is holding its own. There has been heavy cannonading there again to-day. Lieut. Kitchener sent a sympathetic message to the Wepener garrison, hoping for an early change in the circumstances.

IN NATAL. Boer Position in Hills Extend for Fifteen Miles. Elandslaagte, April 11.-Last night the Boers set fire to the grass on two hills, almost on their extreme wings. The motive has not been ascertained as yet, but the incident disclosed the fact that their position extends over fully 15 miles in a continuous row of hills, from Jons Kop on the British left to a kopje commanding Sunday's river bridge, on the British right. During the night the Boers moved most of their cannon.

There has been some unimportant skirmishing to-day. The British still command Sunday's river bridge. No developments from yesterday's affair are expected. PORTUGAL AND BRITAIN. The Transport of British Troops to Rhodesia. Paris, April 11.-In the Chamber of Deputies to-day the question of the transport of British troops across Portuguese territory to Rhodesia, with the permission of Portugal, was brought up by two interpellations. M. Delessie, in refusing to discuss the matter, said that France had declared her neutrality on the opening of the war, but that she was not expected to guarantee the neutrality of other powers. France, he added, could not be expected to undertake alone such a guarantee while the other powers held back. There was no reason to suppose that French capital invested in Mozambique would be endangered, but if such an event occurred the government would not fail to furnish protection.

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BURNED TO DEATH. Woodstock, Ont., April 9.-Mrs. Frederick J. Young, aged fifty-four, was burned to death at her home here on Saturday night. Deceased has been in ill-health for some time and the family think she deliberately set her clothes on fire while they were absent.

EX-JUDGE DEAD. Halifax, N.S., April 9.-Ex-Judge Desbriax, died at Lunenburg, N.S., yesterday. He was succeeded in office by F. Forbes, M.P.

He Can't Believe It. He's blowing with all his might and can barely stir the recording hand from zero. There's many a big healthy looking man who is weak in the lungs. Probably half or two-thirds of his lung surface is barely knows the contact of oxygen. He's the kind of man, who, when a cough attacks him, goes galloping down the road toward consumption. Many such a man has found strength and healing for weak lungs and tissues lacerated by coughing and drained by hemorrhages. The use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. The healing power of this medicine in pulmonary diseases seems little short of marvellous at times, so extreme are the conditions which it cures. The "Discovery" contains no alcohol, and no narcotics.

"When I started to take your Golden Medical Discovery," writes Mr. A. F. Novotny, of New York, "I had a regular, but very bad, cough, which I was afraid, and everybody cautioned me against. I was very pale and had no appetite, whatever. Now my condition is entirely changed. I do not cough at all, have gained eight pounds in weight, and recovered my healthy color, and my appetite is enormous. I can recommend your medicine to everybody who may be in need of the same, as it is a sure cure."

Dr. Pierce's Pellets cure constipation.

FIGHTING AT ELANDSLAAGTE

Boers Advanced on British Positions, but Were Checked After an Engagement Lasting Two Hours.

THE ACTIVITY OF THE BURGHERS

They Refuse to Remain in the Field Unless Actively Employed-Entrenching Positions at Brandfort.

(Associated Press.) London, April 12.-Elandslaagte and Wepener still monopolize attention. At both places a series of indecisive actions are occurring. The Boer report of the fighting on April 10th at Elandslaagte avers that the advance on the British camp was made with the loss of only three mules and two horses, and that the British losses must have been heavy. Nothing has been learned regarding the rumor of Col. Baden-Powell's death nor anything tending to show how long the general advance towards Pretoria will be delayed.

In absence of exciting developments public interest centres more upon the personality of the new commanders and in suppositions as to who the next general to be sent home will be. The sailors of the Powerful are coming in for enthusiastic greetings, equaling those on their arrival at Portsmouth yesterday, when young and old women kissed officers and men indiscriminately as they came off the dock. The Boer announcement of the reoccupation of Smithsfield by the burghers, just received, is no news, as the small British force at that place withdrew after the Reddersberg affair.

It now appears that General Brabant is at Allwal North, and that only a portion of his column is at Wepener. ATTACK ON THE BRITISH. London, April 12.-A special dispatch from Elandslaagte, dated yesterday, says: "Fighting was renewed beyond Elandslaagte this afternoon. The Boers steadily advanced upon the British positions. There was a continuous rifle fire, and the Boers' big guns were in action. The British replied effectively, and after two hours' fighting, the Boers were checked."

BURGHERS IMPATIENT. Bloemfontein, April 11.-According to information received here, the Boer activity east of the railroad and in proximity to the border is largely due to the fact that Presidents Kruger and Steyn have found they are unable to keep their forces together inactive, the burghers declaring they are unwilling to remain with their commandoes unless actively employed, if they are convinced the British game is a waiting game. It is believed the Boer plan was originally designed to oblige Roberts to weaken his force at Bloemfontein in order to protect the railroad. Then the Boers would have attempted to recapture the capital. The burghers are evidently ignorant of the forces Lord Roberts has at his disposal.

Advices from De Aar siding say the Boers are busily entrenching their position east of Brandfort, running parallel with the railroad, while still strongly holding the Waterfall Drift waterworks. BOER VERSIONS. Pretoria, April 11.-The Free State Gazette publishes an order to the effect that no person who has been commanded for active service has the right to send a substitute without the consent of the landrost. In reference to the matter of leave of absence, the Gazette says squads of 10 per cent. of each command are relieved for periods of 12 days, their relief being chosen by ballot. This is intended to meet the wishes of the burghers desiring to plant crops.

A heavy cannonade was heard this morning in the direction of Bultfontein, situated between Winburg and Boshof, in the Orange Free State, and north of Brandfort. Advices from Wepener, where a British force is surrounded, say the battle continues. About 1,500 British troops are said to be there. Advices from the Boer headquarters in Natal say that after a heavy bombardment the British are retiring in the direction of Ladysmith, and the Federals are going to their old positions.

DURATION OF THE WAR. New York, April 12.-Under a Pretoria date comes to the Herald an interesting description of fighting and the state of feeling in the Transvaal capital, and conveying the news that the Federals have taken fresh courage and have no idea of laying down their arms. The dispatch is dated Monday, of this week, and reads: "The relief of Ladysmith and Kimberley, and Gen. Cronje's disaster coming together, caused the Boers to become panic-stricken and to temporarily abandon Bloemfontein. Had Lord Roberts been able to follow up his success, the war might have been ended now, but the British reached Bloemfontein utterly fagged out and recuperation was absolutely necessary. This afforded time for the Boers to recover, and now the military situation is not necessarily more

unfavorable than two months ago. The faint-hearted have been weeded from the reserves, and the fighting commandoes are now composed of resolute men. The decision to send the captured Boers to St. Helena makes it certain that the Boers will not surrender except in the last extremity. The average burgher prefers death to exile. "A military attaché, who is much respected, thinks six months the lowest probable duration of the war. The Boers will probably continue to fight, even if they lose Pretoria, which is unlikely to occur for a long time yet."

Colonials at Britstown. Britstown, Cape Colony, April 12.-A column of troops, commanded by Col. Drury of the Royal Canadian Artillery, consisting of Canadian artillery and mounted infantry, yeomanry and Australians, arrived here this morning. They found the district traversed orderly and well disposed. INJURED BY A CANNON. Two Men Hurt While Preparing to Take a War Picture. New York, April 12.-Jas. H. White, general manager of a kinetoscope company, and Wm. McCarthy, were yesterday engaged in taking a picture of "The battle of Spion Kop," which they had arranged on the rocky slope of the second Orange mountain at Orange, N.J., when they were seriously hurt by the explosion of a cannon. More than 200 men had been hired, half of the number in Boer costume being placed at the top of the rocky slope, while the others, in British uniforms, prepared to storm the kop. A cannon was added to increase the picturesque effect. Why it should have exploded before the kinetoscope and the storming started is not clear.

THE CANADIANS. Eighty Are in the Hospital at Bloemfontein Suffering from Fever. Toronto, April 12.-Dr. Ryerson, the Canadian Red Cross representative with the Canadian contingents in Africa, says that 80 Canadians are in the hospital at Bloemfontein suffering from a mild attack of enteric fever. Patriotic Fund. Ottawa, April 12.-The Canadian patriotic fund to date amounts to \$250,008. A Transvaal Mission. Naples, April 12.-A Transvaal mission, accompanied by Dr. Muller and Jonkhorr Van Booscheten, started this morning for Milan. Buying From Australia. New York, April 12.-According to local steamship agents Great Britain has to a large extent stopped buying food stuffs for her army in Africa from this country. Shipments to South Africa are now confined to hay, oats and mules, with an occasional large order for canned goods," said one of them today. The war department found that the could get corn and meats quicker and cheaper from Australia, and since then the shipments have been dropping off.

RESPIRED. Execution of Williams Postponed Until Saturday. Ottawa, April 12.-An order-in-council has been passed giving a respite for 24 hours to murderer Harry Williams, of Toronto. So as to put execution over Good Friday, Williams will be executed Saturday morning. This has been done in response to appeals from Mayor Macdonald and others, who objected to Williams being hanged on Good Friday. Justice Meredith, the trial judge, who had power under common law to grant a respite did not do so. TRAMPS ARRESTED. They Were Trying to Hold Up a Freight Train. Hebron, Pa., April 11.-After a lively fight, in which numerous shots were fired, six tramps, trying to hold up a freight train here, were arrested and lodged in jail. They shot at the conductor and terrorized the train crew, but were rounded up by a posse of citizens with rifles. One of the tramps, who almost lost his life, received a wound in the knee.

RUSSIAN DEMANDS ON KOREA. Yokohama, April 12.-Advices from Seoul announce that Russia has presented to the Korean government renewed demands referring to Masampo. MANY LIVES SAVED. In almost every neighborhood there is some one whose life has been saved by Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, or who has been cured of chronic diarrhoea by the use of that medicine. Such persons make a point of telling of it whenever opportunity offers, hoping that it may be the means of saving other lives. For sale by Henderson Bros., wholesale agents, Victoria and Vancouver.

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