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Victoria Times.

VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 1900. VOL. 19. NO. 93. Price 1.50 per annum. \$1.50

Klerksdorp Occupied

Young Cronje Determined to Surrender When He Learned of Fall of Pretoria.

Boers Attacked Construction Train, but Were Repulsed Before Doing Damage.

(Associated Press.)
London, June 18.—By the peaceful occupation of Klerksdorp, announced by Roberts, the British have gained a strategic position of importance as the town is not only the terminus of another railway to Johannesburg, but it is within easy reach of the Kroonstad-Vorsterfontein railway.

The Cronje who surrendered the place is a son of the famous Gen. Cronje, now a prisoner at St. Helena. The former was prominent during the siege of Mafeking. Apart from the fact that Roberts's dispatch comes direct from Pretoria, showing that the

Telegraph Line is Re-Opened, the only other point of interest is the fact that the Boers, whom Gen. Methuen was reported to have recently routed, have sufficiently recuperated to attack a railroad construction train. A dispatch from Kimberley reports the capture of the well-known pugilist, Jim Holloway, who was an adjutant in the Boer army, and who blew up the bridge at Fourteen Streams. Holloway was among a body of Federals captured in the western part of the Transvaal.

The Atrikander Bond congress opened at Paarl to-day with 70 delegates, including seven assemblies, present. It is feared at Capetown that the Parliamentary Deadlock will probably lead to a temporary suspension of the legislation and there is much anxiety as to the possible outcome of such a grave step. Sir John Gordon Spriggs is experiencing much difficulty in forming a cabinet, Mr. Schreiner persisting in his refusal to support a ministry dominated by Cecil Rhodes, owing to personal antipathies. A coalition seems a probability.

Innes and Schreiner positions in a provincial assembly composed of nominees of the South African League. If Mr. Schreiner should be dissatisfied with the personnel and pledges of the new ministry, the latter would be unable to pass imperial measures and a dangerous deadlock would ensue, which might lead to a grave constitutional crisis.

THE RETREAT OF BOERS.
London, June 15.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts: "Pretoria, June 15.—As I telegraphed you from one of our outposts during the night of June 12th, the Boers evacuated their position. They had paid so much attention to strengthening their flanks that their centre was weakly held, and as soon as this became evident on June 12th I directed Lt. Hamilton to attack. He moved against Diamond Hill with the Sussex, Derbyshire and City Imperial Volunteers, supported on the left by the Guards Brigade, under Auigo Jones. It was grand to see the way our men advanced over the difficult ground and under a heavy fire.

"The casualties, I am thankful to say, were less than 100, a very small number considering the natural strength of the position which had to be carried. "Our seizure of Diamond Hill caused the Boers to feel they were practically surrounded, and this resulted in their hasty retreat. They were being followed yesterday by some of our mounted corps. "Hamilton spoke in high terms of the troops engaged. Hamilton received a contusion from a shrapnel shot in the shoulder, but is not, I am happy to say, unable to perform his duties. "The rest of Lord Roberts's dispatch deals with the casualties and General Baden-Powell's movement in western Transvaal, where he, with 800 men, is systematically re-establishing order and collecting arms and supplies. "About 600 Boers have surrendered and Baden-Powell captured 230 prisoners.

THE CHINESE INSURRECTION

Hongkong Dispatch Reports That All the Legations in Peking Have Been Destroyed.

THE GERMAN MINISTER MURDERED

Boxers Massacre Native Converts and Servants of Foreigners—Rebels Control Tien Tsin and Have Burned City Officials—Churches in Ruins.

London, June 16, 4 p.m.—A special dispatch from Hongkong says all the Peking legations have been destroyed, and that the German minister, Baron Von Ketteler, has been killed.

London, June 15.—The news from China is distinctly confused, but the general trend indicates that the gravity of the situation has in no way diminished. Shanghai provides the usual crop of alarmist rumors as to the conditions at Peking and the preparations to oppose the international forces, but there is a disposition in London to regard the safety of the legations and the Europeans there as not seriously threatened at the present moment. As it is realized, however, that the slightest sign of a check to the international force would put an entire different face upon the matter and would probably lead to an outbreak of the scale which could not be easily controlled.

London, June 16.—The dispatches from Lord Roberts leave affairs east of Pretoria with the Boers withdrawing to new positions yesterday. News of fresh fighting is expected by the war office, but some came last night. Gen. Buller's patrol had a skirmish with the Boers' vedettes again on Wednesday. Some wonder is expressed here as to what he is doing with his three divisions. It is assumed by some that Gen. Buller will move into the Orange River Colony and co-operate with Lord Methuen and Gen. Rundle in harassing Steyn and his 7,000 or 8,000 followers. Part of Botha's force has halted at Paardekron, 18 miles west of Volksrust, and has a dispatch from the British pickets.

London, June 15.—The only news of importance this morning is a telegram from Capetown announcing that the ministerial deadlock has been relieved. Sir John Gordon Spriggs hopes to have a ministry formed by Monday, and it is believed that Mr. Rose-Innes will accept a portfolio. A dispatch from Laing's Nek, dated to-day, says Gen. Christian Botha's next stand will be at Paardekop, but with a reduced force. The German ambulance captured by Gen. Buller has been sent to Durban, whence it will be allowed to return to the Transvaal via Delagoa Bay.

EIGHT MINERS KILLED.
Cannore, N.W.T., June 14.—Eight men were killed and several injured by an explosion of gas in the Cannore mine yesterday afternoon. The names of the dead are: Prosper Dyer, Amad Regard, Tonye Bollini, Peter Caulfield and four other foreigners, whose names are not yet known. The first three leave large families.

PLEASURE SEEKERS KILLED.
(Associated Press.)
London, June 16.—A collision between an express train and a train filled with Windsor race-goers occurred to-day at Slough. Six persons were killed and forty injured.

DREYFUS AGAIN.
(Associated Press.)
New York, June 16.—A dispatch from Times from Paris says: "It appears from a declaration made in the Chamber by M. Waldeck-Rousseau, that the government cannot deprive ex-Capt. Dreyfus of the right of completely rehabilitating himself by any scheme of general amnesty. The amnesty must give Dreyfus the right of reinstatement with his previous grade. M. Waldeck-Rousseau therefore opposes the bill, as it is believed here that M. Dreyfus will make another attempt at complete rehabilitation at the exposition."

Premier Has No Letters

Relating to the Retirement of Lieut.-Governor Melnes From Office.

Charges Regarding Emergency Food for Soldiers Will Be Investigated.

(Special to the Times.)
Ottawa, June 15.—In the House to-day Sir Wilfrid Laurier was asked if he had looked over his correspondence as he had promised, to see if he had any letters looking to the retirement of Lieutenant-Governor Melnes, as was stated by his son, W. W. B. Melnes. Sir Wilfrid—I have no correspondence on the subject.

Mr. Tarte's Statements.
Hon. G. E. Foster drew the attention of the Premier to the statements made by some newspapers as to what Hon. J. J. Tarte had said in Paris. Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that he had a letter from Mr. Tarte stating that he was misrepresented.

Emergency Food.
The Premier, in taking up the charges regarding emergency food for soldiers in South Africa, said that the government would give a committee of investigation, but the concluding paragraph charging the Minister of Militia with gross negligence should be struck out, as it did not bear upon anything that preceded it. He moved that this paragraph be struck out, and that being done the committee would at once be granted. If an investigation showed that the minister was guilty of gross negligence, then it would be time for the House to deal with such a charge. There was no charge of fraud in the resolution, but yet he would give the investigation.

Trade Returns.
The trade figures issued to-day show the total trade for the eleven months ending June 30th last, to be \$323,300,000, or an increase of \$40,312,000 over the same time last year. The exports give an increase of \$19,777,000, and the import an increase of \$26,535,000. The duty collected was \$26,615,000, or \$3,515,000 over the same time last year.

COLOMBIAN REVOLUTION.
Over Fifteen Hundred Men Reported Killed and Wounded.
Washington, June 14.—Official bulletins giving details of the recent engagements between the government troops and revolutionists have been received by Dr. Cuervo Marquez, charge d'affaires of the Colombian legation, from Panama. In the bulletins, signed by the general in command of the government troops, is one that reads: "I consider the revolution an evil. The enemy's army after the fight numbered only 4,000 men, but they cannot secure reinforcements. They have exhausted all their supply of 1,200,000 cartridges. Their loss is 1,000 dead, including 10 chiefs and many subordinate officers. They have 500 wounded. These figures are furnished me by the prisoners, some of them persons of importance.

The fight occurred near Bucaramanga, in the district of Polonegro and Lebrin, and the general forwarded his report from Polonegro, showing that the government forces occupied the field after the fight. "The government losses are not stated.

Another official bulletin reports that the chief of the revolutionary forces, Gen. Santos, has been captured, and this is confirmed in an official dispatch from Gen. Sterrano to the government, stating that the steamship Aliea has arrived at one of the ports held by him, with a number of prisoners, including Gen. Vargas Santos. Although this seems conclusive, Dr. Cuervo Marquez expresses some doubt as to whether the revolutionary chief has actually been captured.

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