

Campaign in South Africa Which Has Just Terminated in the Surrender of the Boers.

THE cause of the South African war was, in brief, the determination of a corrupt, narrow-minded oligarchy, under Paul Kruger, to hold all the offices of power, and emolument in the Transvaal, and grow rich upon the taxes contributed by the Uitlanders, who formed the greater part of the population, and paid nine-tenths of the taxes. In spite of repeated constitutional attempts to secure some civil rights for English-speaking people in the Transvaal, they completely excluded from citizenship and held to carry on the work of developing the country oppressed by unjust taxes and the most galling monopolies in mining supplies, particularly in diamonds. This policy of forbearance pursued by Mr. Gladstone in 1881 had given the ignorant Boer leaders the impression that Britain was weak and in the eighteen years intervening President Kruger's ultimatum, the Boer republic had gathered supplies and arms, trained an army and had grown constantly more insolent and overbearing. This state of affairs was summed up by the Duke of Devonshire in a speech on October 1st, 1899, when he said of the anxiety of the Boers to provoke hostilities: "I can only hope that more moderate counsels may prevail in the Transvaal, and that some means will be found to disabuse the people there of the idea—absolutely unfounded—that we cherish any designs of interfering with their independence, or desire anything for our people but the barest rights and the barest measure of justice."

Moderate counsels, however, did not prevail, and President Kruger replied to the diplomatic representations of England by issuing his famous ultimatum, calling upon England to withdraw her troops from the borders of the Transvaal, and to also withdraw all reinforcements of the regular troops in Capetown. The Transvaal cabinet would consider a negative reply to this ultimatum as equivalent to a declaration of war.

Boers Begin the War.

In the meantime the Boers hurried on their war preparations, and when the British declined to submit to the ultimatum on October 11th, the day fixed for a reply by President Kruger, the Boer troops, which had been mobilized at Tlokoeng on the borders of the British colony of Natal, advanced into British territory. The first act of the war was the commandeering of a Natal train by the Boers on October 11th, followed by the capture of an armored train, by the Boers, at Kraaipan, near Mafeking, on October 12th. On this occasion an armored train, in charge of Captain Nesbitt and fifteen men, made the attempt to get into Mafeking. A mine was exploded beneath the engine, derailing it, and then the Boers shelled the train. Captain Nesbitt and several of the men were wounded. All were captured, except the driver and a native. On October 14th all communication with Mafeking was cut off, and the town was besieged till May 18th following, when it was relieved after a siege of over

THE HISTORY OF THE WAR

nine months, one of the most remarkable in history. On this same day the Boers also marched on Kimberley, while two days previously, Steyn sealed the fate of the Orange Free State by issuing a proclamation making common cause with the Transvaal against Great Britain and a detachment of Free State burghers crossed the frontier into Cape Colony, and occupied Philippstown in order to command the railway tracks at De Aar Junction. This movement forward into British territory by Transvaal soldiers and Free State burghers showed that these two republics were acting in concert in other words, that the Free State was determined to interfere in a matter which did not concern it at all. The object freely stated was an attempt to join all Boer descendants in South Africa to "drive the British into the sea," an attempt which it was expected would be seconded by the rising of the Dutch inhabitants of Cape Colony and Natal. No such rising took place, though doubtless numbers of disaffected persons individually went north and joined the Boer commands. The Boers in thus advancing into British territory became the aggressors, and lost forever the sympathy of neutral powers, but they calculated that the strategic advantage to be gained by securing the passes in Natal and Cape Colony would more than offset any loss. It was then that they had defeated the small British forces in the days of Majuba hill and they believed that they could do it again.

Glencoe and Elandsfontein.

The first serious engagement of the war was that at Glencoe, near Dundee, on October 20th, when a force of Boers advanced a hill near the British camp during the night, and next morning were driven from this position with great loss by the King's Royal Rifles and the Dublin Fusiliers, under General Symonds. General Symonds was mortally wounded, and the command was assumed by Major Yule. The efforts of the Boers were now concentrated on an effort to crush the force under Major Yule, before he could fall back upon Ladysmith, which was the headquarters of the British forces in Natal. Natal, and which is considerably further away from the Transvaal border, from which the Boer forces were advancing, than Glencoe. In order to accomplish this a large Boer force under General Kock tore up the railway tracks at Elandsfontein between Glencoe and Ladysmith, and strongly entrenched himself. On the next day, October 21st, General French attacked the Boers at Elandsfontein, and after one of the most sanguinary battles of the campaign, defeated them and drove them from their position. The charge up the hill to drive out the Boers at the point of the bayonet was described as one of the most stubborn and brilliant charges in British history. The Boer commander was wounded and captured, and in a few hours died of his wounds. These two victories enabled General Yule to reach Ladysmith, but that he was forced to fall back at all showed the people in England that the war was much more serious than they had first supposed, but they kept on expecting that some signal victory would settle the whole war.

Nicholson's Nek.

But these optimistic views were doomed to a terrible disappointment in the disaster which overtook the British

troops at Nicholson's Nek. The Boers under General Joubert, having driven in Yule from Glencoe, closed around Ladysmith, and General White, in order to prevent being besieged, made an attack on October 30th, on the enemy. In this the Irish Fusiliers, the 10th Mountain Battery, and the Gloucester Regiment, totalling 1,000 men, were left without guns or small ammunition by the stampeding of the battery, and being surrounded by 15,000 Boers, were cut to pieces, and at last forced to surrender. The disaster awoke England to



HIS MAJESTY THE KING, To Whose Dominions British Arms Has Added Two More Colonies.

the importance of the war, while General White saw the small garrison with which he was to hold Ladysmith deprived of two of its best regiments. Since Majuba hill nothing like it had occurred in South Africa.

General Buller Lands.

During the next fortnight heavy fighting continued about Ladysmith, the object of the exultant Boers being to crush General White before reinforcements could arrive from Cape Colony. During this time Mafeking and Kimberley were continually bombarded, and cable messages were almost daily flashed to England that one or both of the latter places had been forced to yield. General Buller, who had been ordered to Cape Town, and proceeded to Durban, Troops left 9th, the Roslyn Castle, the first of the transport ships, touched at Cape Town, and proceeded to Durban, Troops

were now being rapidly mobilized in England, but the Boers were making the most of their opportunities, and there were almost daily skirmishes outside Ladysmith, culminating in a heavy engagement on November 24th, when the Boers were driven off with heavy loss. Colenso, Naanpoort, and Stormberg were evacuated by the British, and Ladysmith, Kimberley, and Mafeking sat down to hold out until General Buller's forces should raise the sieges about all those places. Ladysmith, being the chief military centre, was hardest pressed. To

move out from his camp at Chieveley Camp in full force, with the object of forcing a passage across the Tugela river, which was at this point fordable in two places. The passage of the Tugela was one of the most serious checks received by the British in the whole campaign, and the one which caused the most humiliation in Britain. In the first day's engagement General Buller, commanding an army supposed to be sufficient to crush all Boer forces that could be concentrated, was forced to retreat with a loss of eleven guns, advanced to the river, and ran into a part where the Boers opened such a heavy fire that all the horses were killed, and in spite of gallant attempts to bring out the guns they had to be left behind in the enemy's hands. General Buller lost 82 killed, 667 wounded and 348 captured. The news of this terrific repulse stirred the whole Empire, and within forty-eight hours, Lord Roberts, as command-in-chief, and Lord Kitchener, as chief of staff, were ordered by the war office to go to the front, with large reinforcements of troops.

Canadians in Action.

On Christmas day word reached Canada from Col. Otter to the effect that the Canadian contingent had reached Belmont and was in camp there becoming acclimatized before being sent forward into actual warfare. On January 2nd the Toronto company of the Canadian contingent, 100 strong, under Captain Barker, had its first engagement at Sunnyside, 30 miles north of Belmont, where in company with the Queenslanders they captured a Boer laager, killing a number and taking forty Boers prisoners. None of the Toronto contingent fell on this occasion, though they were the first to enter the laager. The Boers were attempting to cut General Methuen's railway communication and the Canadians and Queenslanders were sent, under Col. Picher, to stop this movement, which they did most successfully.

The Campaign of 1900.

Meanwhile the garrison at Ladysmith and General French were constantly engaged with the Boers repulsing attack after attack, and sometimes driving the Boers from strong positions. On January 9th, however, General French sent four companies of the Suffolk Rangers to attack a low hill about a mile from his camp. Lieut.-Col. Watson was wounded early in the charge and some gave the order to retreat. Three quarters of the force did so, but the remainder stood their ground, and being completely surrounded and overpowered were taken prisoners. The total loss on this occasion, though they were a fierce attack on Ladysmith, but were beaten back at every point after seventeen hours' fighting.

Across the Tugela and Back Again.

On January 16th part of General Buller's army crossed the Tugela river, under Lord Dundonald and General Warren. This was after almost continuous fighting, some of it of a heavy character. General Warren and Lord Dundonald were in action on January 17th, 18th and 19th, fighting their way from hill to hill in that natural fortress, and on January 22nd General Buller reported that General Warren was making substantial progress on the road to Ladysmith. On the 23rd General Warren succeeded in surprising the garrison on Spion Kop, a hill which he and

General Buller regarded as the key to the enemy's position, north of the Tugela, it was believed the end of the Boer war was at hand, and the Empire rejoiced accordingly. The British suffered severely in taking the hill, but it was felt its importance justified the loss. What was the horror and dismay of the nation, therefore, to learn on January 28th, that on the night of January 24th, after the death of General Woodgate, who commanded the summit of the hill, the officer who succeeded to the command ordered a retreat and in a few minutes all that had been gained by days of hard fighting was lost. This terrible blunder disconcerted the whole army and caused the greatest indignation against the officers responsible for it. As a consequence the army north of the Tugela retreated and General Buller, after having 2,000 men killed, wounded and captured, found himself still on the wrong side of this river.

Lord Roberts Arrives.

Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener arrived at Capetown on January 10th, and immediately began the reorganization of the army, General Buller being assigned to the important task of keeping open the lines of transportation and of keeping the transport and commissariat forces up with the army. Early in February General Buller misled the Boers by a frontal attack at the Tugela river and succeeded in getting a force across in the direction of Vaal Krantz. The position then taken up on the north of the river was found to be subject to a cross fire from the Boer guns and in consequence on February 9th, the troops were again withdrawn across the Tugela. In the meantime General Methuen, in spite of General Hector Macdonald's victorious efforts at Koodoosberg, seemed to be losing men to purpose at the Modder river. Lord Roberts arrived there on February 9th, and thus took active charge of the army in the field.

Kimberley Relieved.

The first cheering sign after the arrival of Lord Roberts were the successes of General French on February 12th, 13th, and 14th, culminating on February 15th in the relief of Kimberley, which had been besieged for 122 days. On February 15th the first column under General French, following up the successes of the preceding days, dispersed the Boer forces on the south side of Kimberley and captured a large quantity of the retreating burghers. The whole series of movements by which the Boers were attracted to the Modder river to repel the attacks of General Macdonald, while General French made a rapid sweep into the Free State and then crossed the enemy's line of communication and relieved Kimberley, it is said, planned by Lord Roberts and marked the turning point in the campaign. This bold move was followed by the retreat of the Boer army under General Cronje from the trenches about Kimberley, Magersfontein and the Modder river towards Bloemfontein, the Free State capital.

The Victory of Paardeberg.

On Saturday, Feb. 17th, the Boers were in full retreat and in order not to hamper themselves, abandoned their heavy supplies. They were pursued by General French, General Kelly-Kenny, and Lord Kitchener, the object being to smash Cronje's army before he could reach Bloemfontein and join the other Boer and Free State commands. On Sunday Cronje made

a stand and his position was charged by the column under General Smith-Dorrien, of which the Canadians were a part. In this brilliant though expensive charge the British lost heavily, twenty Canadians were killed and sixty wounded. On February 23rd Lord Roberts's forces beat off an army from Natal which was endeavoring to join Cronje, who after failing to elude the British by a magnificent night march, was now strongly entrenched at what has since become known all over the world as Paardeberg. After a stubborn resistance lasting three days General Cronje finally surrendered on February 27th, the anniversary of Majuba hill, after a fierce night attack. In this the Canadian regiment took a prominent part. They were specially mentioned for bravery by Lord Roberts. On the night preceding the surrender the Canadians and Gendons were told off to rush the broken ground, and finally drove in the Boers from the first line of trenches. They were advancing into the next line when, just at daybreak, a white flag appeared over Cronje's laager, and the cheers of a company, posted on a hilltop announced that the "lion of the Transvaal" had surrendered. Lord Roberts sent an officer to convey General Cronje to the British camp, and received him with the words, "You made a gallant defence, sir." About three thousand prisoners of war were taken, including some of the best artillerymen on the Boer side, a number of guns, and large supplies of stores and ammunition. Lord Roberts, on visiting the Boer camp, praised the ingenuity which had made it well-nigh impregnable. In his reports to London, General Roberts was high in his praise of the work of the Canadians, and it was felt that on this anniversary of Majuba the work of the soldiers of Britain's senior colony had caused the opening of a new era in the nation's history.

Ladysmith Relieved.

On Feb. 21st, General Buller crossed the Tugela northward for the last time and fought his way from hilltop to hilltop toward Ladysmith, during the succeeding week. Every hill was fortified, and to gain one summit was to find the Boer guns looking across at it from the next. With bulldog tenacity General Buller stuck to his task, and on the night of Feb. 28th his efforts were crowned with success, and General Dundonald, at the head of a composite regiment, entered Ladysmith. The garrison was reduced to the lowest straits, and relief came in time. About nine thousand British were shut up in the town for four months, and the relief at their relief expressed itself in demonstrations all over the Empire.

Lord Roberts's Northward March.

After the victory at Paardeberg, and the relief of Ladysmith, General Roberts's forces pursued the enemy, winning many small engagements and capturing a quantity of supplies. The enemy retreated toward Bloemfontein, the Free State capital, and Lord Roberts was not loath to follow them into the heart of the enemy's country. After a splendid advance, over a very rough country and along bad roads, Lord Rob-

Its Origin in the Obstinacy of a Small and Corrupt Oligarchy--The Work of Canadians.

er entered Bloemfontein on March 13th, and fled northward, by and by the secretary of State government, the M. officials, met Lord Roberts, and presented him with the public buildings, and his capital with him, but word "late" by Lord Roberts that the government of a State over which he previously exercised no authority on March 28th, Gen. Joubert earlier part of the campaign the leading Boer general, on the 13th, and it was a disaster after disaster was not unalloyed, how March 31st seven guns were captured at Sannies Post, and about 450 British were captured, south of Bloemfontein ammunition gave out at Inbetsfontein were hurried to the help did not. During the halt at Inbetsfontein were made, but that the Boers would, short of independence the suit.

Mafeking Relieved.

All this time the fate of the smallest and most of three besieged towns, was not without constant worry through Pretoria that Col. and his small force had Accounts of this, more or less, were continually harrowed of the British public, but the plucky garrison, under heroes of the war, were holding off attacks and grimly doing them. At the same strenuous and brilliant effort put forth to relieve the town, May 15th a force under Col. Col. Plumer entered the long siege of 186 days was complete vindication of British and British valor.

Johnannesburg and Bloemfontein.

Meantime Lord Roberts was in progress. The operations were to hold long as possible, and the rapidly during the night, the hill further north. In the of the march Lord Roberts counter some stiff fighting the Canadian contingents, ed part of Lord Roberts' an active part. In the rail's port Col. Otter re- let wound in the neck, other places, the Canadian the thick of the fight. A progressed northward, and Boer resistance grew more weak, until at last the night, with Lord Roberts a Th Vaal river was crossed. The Transvaal entered on May 2, ed part of Lord Roberts' oneshub taken. The town really surrendered to Lord the following day, but the Boers had threatened all. The Boers had threatened blow up the mines and to costly mining machinery, but was so rapidly in time, practically intact. On Jun Roberts was battering at of Pretoria, and at that the enemy were beaten back. Next day the town in state British flag, which had been in ignominious retreat, yet the British staff in government offices. The "late" Kruger and General Botha northward, with the Boer the work of the war were rever- ed number of British pri- left at the capital. This e the greatest joy throughout and particularly in Canada. "Victory Day" was celebrated siasm never before equalled of Pretoria was not the end, taken as parking the record that had been lost hill, and as the beginning of

The Canadian Contingent.

During the advance on Bloemfontein the Canadian contingents had been engaged, and their endurance every was commended on in the front of the contingents. The Boer forces rapidly followed the contingent to the front, and on Dominion Day, received the news at Standerton, under Gen. Laey drove off a large force of who came within fifty yards two men in the engagement. After this, the Boers again became active in the on the line of communication a battalion of Yeomanry at convey at Hillbon, and a battalion at Koodoosberg, besides cutting the railway.

Nitral's Nek.

On July 11th occurred the Nitral's Nek, when two contingents of the Lincoln Regiment were either killed or taken. The Boers appeared in numbers and occupying positions. The British hoped to occupy their consequently drew off as a position on a low kopje, in the Boer position, and here in a weeks from three sides, they from dawn till dark, and only when they had fired their ammunition. The men about were killed or wounded, and out of fifteen men who attempted the Boers of the kopje at the bayonet were killed. On the fortunes of war were reversed, general Prinsloo, with several men, numbering 4,000 men, surrendered to the British.

Plots Against Lord Roberts.

The Boers retreated northward the surrender of Pretoria, and system of guerrilla warfare was started the war from this and. Early in August, however, a native plot was discovered at Boer prisoners at Pretoria, the to rise with Boer citizens, to borne arms, and take the Pretoria by surprise, killing the and abducting Lord Roberts, who held until Great Britain came



PAUL KRUGER, Whose Misrule Provoked the War and Whose Now Without a Country.



PEACE WINS.