

WERE OUTNUMBERED.

Only the Arrival of Reinforcements Prevented the Annihilation of Broadwood's Command.

Canadian Regiment Formed Part of the Force That Went to the Rescue.

Reported That Two of the Guns Were Recovered—Despatch from Pretoria Says There Was Heavy Fighting Around Mafeking on Saturday.

LONDON, April 2, 4.30 a. m.—Gen. Buller's anxious inquiry whether British officers will ever learn the value of scouting comes back with enforced emphasis to the British public today, in receipt of the tidings that a convoy with guns had walked deliberately into a Boer ambush within about 20 miles of Bloemfontein.

The loss of life was not great, since most of the British had walked into the trap before a shot was fired.

At early dawn the camp was shelled by the enemy from a near point. Col. Broadwood sent off a convoy with the batteries while the rest of the force remained to act as a rear guard.

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which embankment, which is protected by the partially constructed railway embankment, enabled the enemy to pour in a galling fire on three sides, as well as a double tier of fire in front.

When the convoy was first attacked a scene of frightful confusion followed. The mules stampeded and the wagons were overturned, while the concealed enemy poured in a deadly fire.

When the first battery appeared, the Boers seemed undecided as to continuing the slaughter and called upon the British to surrender. At the moment, however, "U" battery, which was escaping from the rear of the heavy under heavy fire, wheeled into action and began shooting the Boers with the four remaining guns.

The Boers confess that this battery accounted for five killed and nine wounded of their losses.

Early in the afternoon the Boers collected their arms, began moving the guns and wagons and permitted the collection of the British dead and wounded. Our actual casualties were less than had been expected.

Despite this regrettable incident, it is impossible not to admire the gallant manner in which the little force was able to extricate itself from an almost hopeless position.

SOME PARTICULARS OF THE DISASTER. LONDON, April 3.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Chronicle, telegraphing Sunday and describing the loss of the convoy, says: "The Boers opened with a murderous fire. It was simply slaughter. The Kaffir drivers of the convoy ran away, leaving their teams, and it was impossible for our men to hit the hidden enemy."

"Our gunners fought bravely, trying to save the guns, but our people were greatly hampered by the Kaffirs who ran hither and thither, looking over their shoulders the fearful fire that poured in all sides. Meanwhile the enemy were still pressing Col. Broadwood, whose mounted troops were completely surrounded."

"The British showed magnificent bravery, but they were quite out of hand and completely directed operations. The capture of the relief of reinforcements saved Col. Broadwood from annihilation."

"The water supply was cut and the pumping gear destroyed, as well as the field telegraph. One hundred wagons were kept through the cowardice of the Kaffir drivers."

"It is reported that two guns have been recaptured. The whole force is retreating on Bloemfontein."

The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Standard says that the Prince of Teck was in charge of the transport, but is safe.

"The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Times, telegraphing Sunday with reference to the capture of the convoy, says: "The whole affair was a flash intended to frighten Free Staters who were desirous of surrendering to Lord Roberts."

When Col. Colville arrived, although he was almost destitute of mounted men and had marched eighteen miles, he determined to turn the river, crossing at some point lower down than that occupied by the enemy. Accordingly Gen. Smith-Dorrien's brigade, including Canadians, attempted another drift, which earned the enemy's original position.

"For some reason Lieut. Col. Flint's artillery was detached at 2 o'clock to the right, where it remained for a considerable period, shelling at 5,000 yards range the enemy's guns, which were placed in the open in the vicinity of Col. Broadwood's encampment."

"Consequently a large force of Boers visible on the far side of the Modder river, escaped pursuit and retired slowly to the eastward. Finally our guns took up a position on rising ground between the two brigades, thus commanding both drifts, but by that time their support was not needed, as the only resistance to the advance of the British infantry came from guns which shrapnel at far too long a range. We could, however, see the enemy in force in a laager at the foot of some hills lying between the Modder and the Taba N'chu, and we could also see them moving off our convoy to the west. Col. Colville's division, bivouacked on the river bank Saturday night awaiting the arrival of Gen. French's cavalry."

CONGRATULATES CANADA. OTTAWA, April 2.—Sir Alfred Milner writes to his excellency the governor general as follows: "The Government House, Cape Town, February 27th, 1900: Dear Lord Minto—Thought, as you may imagine, I have little or no time for writing, I must send you one line on the Red Letter Day to congratulate you and Canada on the great share taken by your gallant contingent in the annihilation of General Cronje's force. It is the first great success we have had in the terrible struggle. The relief of Kimberley began the improvement and now, with the capture of Cronje and 1,000 of his men, we have really made a substantial advance. I fear your gallant fellows suffered heavily, but on this occasion, unlike others, one has at least the satisfaction of thinking that they did not lay down their lives in vain. It is not only the immediate victory, great as that is, but the drawing together of the different parts of the Empire, which is so important. That must result from Canadians, Australians and South Africans fighting side by side with Britons from the old country, and fighting such an uphill battle, with equal gallantry, to a victorious issue. I am sure the British people of South Africa will never forget the assistance given them by Canada in this struggle. With warm thanks and my congratulations to you and Canada, I am, Yours very truly, A. MILNER.

BOERS HOLDING THE BLOEMFONTEIN WATERWORKS. BUSHMAN'S KOP, Sunday, April 1.—The Boers were hidden in the spruit when the British guns were captured yesterday, were commanded by Reichmann, a German-American.

The Boers retired this morning when they discovered the British scouts, leaving two Dutch military attaches, one of them dangerously wounded, in the hands of the British.

All the wounded are doing well. Everyone agrees that but for Col. Broadwood's splendid handling of his troops not a member of the force would have escaped.

The Boers are still holding the waterworks and the line of hills behind them.

Following the scouts of General French's cavalry division to the scene of battle, this correspondent witnessed one of the most terrible spectacles of the war. Horses lay stiffened in the various attitudes of sudden death, and mingled among them were dead human bodies, with the wrecks of wagons and food and forage scattered wide. Everything told a terrible tale of surprise and carnage. It would be impossible to conceive anything more injurious than the Boer trap, and the only wonder is that a single man escaped.

On crossing the spruit, where the ground rises immediately toward a grassy knoll, with steep slopes, facing the drift, one came upon an enclosure from which it was possible to fire over the drift. At this point the spruit makes a circular bend, while the

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HEAVY FIGHTING AROUND MAFEKING.

PRETORIA, Sunday, April 1.—Commanding was again heard in the direction of Brandfort Saturday and it is reported that heavy fighting had occurred Saturday around Mafeking. It is added that Col. Plumer's relief column was compelled to retire with loss. No details have been received.

IN FAVOR OF ANNEXATION.

CAPE TOWN, April 2.—The speech at Claremont of the Hon. J. Ross-Innes, the leader of the British in the Cape parliament, in favor of the annexation of the Boer republics, has disconcerted the members of the Afrikaner bond. The Dutch papers, without exception, condemn the speech, arguing that annexation means permanent unrest. On the other hand, the English residents unanimously approve of the sentiments expressed by Mr. Ross-Innes.

A remarkable fact that is attracting attention, is that the majority of the affidavits made against the Dutch rebels in the subdued colonial districts, were made by Dutchmen, who are very bitter against the rebel Dutch.

HAS HIS BARNSTAPLE ATTENTION.

EAST LONDON, April 1.—The mayor of this city has telegraphed to Gen. Roberts appealing to him to hasten the relief of Mafeking, where the troops consist almost entirely of recruits of the colony, led by British officers. Gen. Roberts' reply that he was pleased to assure the citizens of East London that the relief of Mafeking was engaging the most earnest attention.

WAR SUMMARY.

LONDON, April 3.—The London correspondents with Gen. Roberts add little of importance to the commander-in-chief of the disaster to Col. Broadwood's column, and neither from Gen. Roberts nor them is anything learned of what has happened since the relief reached the waterworks, beyond Gen. Roberts' report that the Boers retired eastward, leaving a number of British wounded behind them. All the accounts of the fight from a British point, concur in stating that Col. Broadwood's force of about 1,000 men was outnumbered by the Boers eight or ten to one, and the arrival of the infantry division and Gen. French's cavalry alone prevented the annihilation of Col. Broadwood's command. As regards the details of the affair the stories differ considerably. According to some, Commandant Grobler commanded the Boers and not Commandant De Wet. One correspondent says that a German-American named Reichmann was in command. The affair seems rather to testify to the skill of the Boers in preparing ambushes than to neglect of the British to reconnoitre the route of the convoy. It seems that the scouts of the convoy must have passed close to the ambushers, who apparently were as invisible as partridges in cover.

Later accounts, however, may prove that the British did fail to reconnoitre properly. The correspondent of the Morning Post, in describing the working of the trap, says that the convoy had scarcely proceeded 500 yards, and the men were still eating breakfast, when the enemy opened fire from a gorge in front and eighty yards from the lead of the convoy. The fire was deadly, and the men of the leading troops, Roberts' horse, were swept from their saddles. A scene of confusion followed, mules and oxen squealing and kicking. The teams of four guns, their drivers having been shot, stampeded and carried the guns out of action. Three and one other gun were saved. The teams of the other guns were shot, and the guns, with the convoy, fell into the hands of the enemy. Meanwhile Gen. Alderson's brigade held back a force of the enemy, estimated to number 7,000, with great gallantry, losing heavily and falling back by degrees.

The enemy in a gorge in their rear pursued the flying guns until the approach of the fifth division from Bloemfontein checked the pursuit.

Many of the correspondents ascribe the salvation of the remainder of Col. Broadwood's force to his presence of mind and clever handling. Sergt. Major Martin had galloped back from "U" battery and warned Q battery, whereupon the order was given to right about and gallop, but several men and horses even then fell. Two guns and forty men had to be left behind under the terrible fire. Col.

REYNOLDS HELD FOR TRIAL.

CALAIS, Me, March 30.—Fred Reynolds, who killed three members of his family at Red Beach yesterday, was held for the grand jury after the preliminary hearing before Judge Fowler this afternoon. The prosecution by County Attorney Campbell of Cherryfield was to the extent of establishing reasonable belief of Reynolds' guilt, and at that point the state's case rested. Gen. B. B. Murray of Calais, who represented Reynolds, endeavored to set up the plea of insanity by examining witnesses as to Reynolds' mental state. From the defence outlined, which, however, was not carried far, the supposition is that Reynolds' defence at trial will be that of insanity. Judge Fowler committed the prisoner to Machias jail without bail for the grand jury, which will sit prior to the April term of court.

MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, April 1.—Sir W. C. McDonald, the millionaire tobacco manufacturer, who has already given gifts to McGill University aggregating close upon three million dollars, has just added another \$200,000 to the amount. The gift is to be used in extending the work of the physics and chemistry department of the applied science faculty.

Dennis Dineen is under arrest here, charged with the murder of David Frensdorff, Dineen and Frensdorff lived on adjoining farms, just outside the city limits. There has been a feud between the two families for years. Last Tuesday the two men met, a row ensued and Dineen kicked Frensdorff in the head. He died from the effects this afternoon.

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