

OLIVIER ESCAPED.

General French Has Returned to Bloemfontein Without Having Engaged the Enemy.

Strong Expedition Has Been Sent from Kimberley in the Direction of Griquatown.

Forward Movement on the Part of Lord Roberts Expected Soon—Boer Losses Estimated at Fifteen Thousand—Letter from a St. John Boy.

LONDON, March 26, 4.15 a. m.—Except for the "unfortunate occurrence," as Lord Roberts calls it, which resulted in the killing of Lieut. Lygon and the wounding and capture of Lieut. Col. Crabbe, Lieut. Col. Codrington and Capt. Trotter, the campaign presents no new features. The mishap to the Guards officers is a testimony to their bravery, but not their discretion. They met a party of five Boers, whom they tried to capture. The Boers took refuge on a kopje, where three of their comrades were hidden, and within five minutes every member of the British party was hit.

Apparently little progress is being made toward the relief of Mafeking. A private telegram from a Lieutenant at Kimberley, dated Wednesday, March 21, announces that he was on the point of starting for Mafeking, presumably with the relief column. Gen. Sir Frederick Walker and Prince Alexander of Teck have left Cape Town for Bloemfontein. It is reported from Ladysmith that Van Beenen's Boer brigades with guns. Mail accounts of the capture of Gen. Cronje, just received, bring out interesting points as to the rapidity with which Lord Roberts changed his plans when he found that Gen. Cronje had escaped from Mafeking. It was originally intended to attack or close in upon him. Lord Kitchener seems to have shown that he is better up an organizer than as a fighter, for it was at his order that the British infantry repeated the blunder of the other general in attacking entrenched Boers, who allowed the Britishers to get within a thousand yards before opening fire. As the British had absolutely no cover, they lost heavily and uselessly, and were compelled to fall back momentarily with some amount of confusion, and to withdraw their transport to a safe distance. This fact makes a significant commentary upon the rumors that have been in circulation of some coolness between Lord Kitchener and Lord Roberts, which is said to have accounted for the former being sent to Pretoria to suppress the rebellion.

PREPARING PRETORIA FOR A SIEGE.

LONDON, March 25.—A Durban correspondent telegraphing under date of March 24th, says that authentic information has reached that city that Pretoria is aware that the republican forces must finally be beaten, but the Boers in the Transvaal capital think they can hold out for from four to six months, when they firmly believe that intervention will force Great Britain to grant favorable terms, including independence. They look to Germany and the United States for intervention. Pretoria is being prepared for a siege. The guns are occasionally fired in order to take the Boers' minds have been laid and other preparations made. The prisoners there are now accorded better treatment. They have an ample supply of bread, and each man is allowed a pound of meat weekly. At Waterfall, where there are over 3,000 prisoners,

the situation of the camp is unhealthy. The shelter for the men is insufficient and there is therefore considerable sickness. The spirits of the prisoners have been raised by the news of the British successes brought by the most recent captives. They do not fear ill-treatment in view of the numerous Boers who are held prisoners by the British.

ARE BITTER FOES.

LONDON, March 26.—A Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, in a despatch dated Friday, March 23, says: "The late allies are now bitter foes. So strong is the popular feeling here that were it desirable, a large body of Free States would take the field and fight immediately against the Transvaalers."

ONE KILLED, FIVE WOUNDED.

BLOEMFONTEIN, March 25.—While Lieut. Col. A. E. Codrington of the first battalion of the Coldstream Guards, Lieut. Col. E. M. S. Crabbe of the third battalion of the Grenadier Guards, Capt. Lygon, regimental adjutant of the Grenadiers, Lieut. G. F. Trotter of the Grenadiers, an orderly and a guide from Grahamstown were riding north six miles beyond the guards' lines in the direction of a farm in Bishop's Glen they saw four Boers near a kopje. They rode towards the hill, and when they were three hundred yards from it they encountered a sharp fire from the kopje. Lieut. Col. Codrington was hit below the thigh and Lieut. Col. Crabbe in the wrist. Lieut. Trotter was wounded in the arm. The orderly and guide were also hit. The Boers, as it was subsequently learned, were from Johannesburg. They took the wounded British to a farm house, where they dressed their wounds and otherwise attended to them, after which they left them. Capt. Lygon was buried in the afternoon. Gen. French's division has been to Thaba N'chu. Heavy rains are falling here. (Note—Thaba N'chu is about half way between Bloemfontein and Ladysmith.)

BADEN-POWELL HEARD FROM.

LONDON, March 25.—The war office has received the following despatch from Lord Roberts: "A telegram from Nicholson at Bulawayo states that Baden-Powell reports: 'All well to March 13. During past few days enemy's cordon much relaxed.'"

(The Nicholson referred to in Lord Roberts' despatch is Major John Nicholson, commandant general of the British South African police stationed in Rhodesia.)

TOTAL CASUALTIES.

LONDON, March 25.—The total British losses, exclusive of the invalids sent home, are 14,418 in killed, wounded and missing.

DUKE OF NORFOLK GOING TO THE FRONT.

LONDON, March 25.—The Duke of

Norfolk, field marshal and chief butler of England, postmaster general, will sail for Africa next Saturday as an officer of the Sussex Yeomanry, which he has been instrumental in raising. The duke informed a correspondent of the Associated Press that he will not command the regiment. He is lieutenant-colonel of the second battalion of the Royal Sussex regiment, but has heretofore been unsuccessful in his efforts to go to the front.

THE STREAM OF TROOPS SHOULD CONTINUE.

LONDON, March 26.—Winston Churchill's despatch to the Morning Post says: "It is imperative to continue shipping troops to South Africa. The stream should never cease until the Boers surrender unconditionally. At the end of the war Great Britain will possess the finest army in her history. This, however, must insure the nation from the fertile fields of trade and commerce into the stony waste of militarism."

"EVEN TO THE DEATH."

LONDON, March 26.—A Bloemfontein correspondent of the Mail telegraphing Saturday, says that Broadway Kipling, who is hard at work assisting to edit the newspaper Friend, conducted by the war correspondents, has contributed to it the following lines on the death of the late representative of the Daily Mail: "Through war and pestilence, red siege and fire, silent and self-contained he drew his breath. True, as he saw it, even to the death."

GEN. CLEMENTS AT PHILIPPOLIS.

PHILIPPOLIS, Friday, March 23 (via Norway Post, Saturday, March 25). Gen. Clements, who is on duty at noon today. He assembled the burghers, addressed them, and read Lord Roberts' proclamation in Dutch and English.

The future of the Free State, he declared, would have to be decided by her majesty's advisers, but he was confident that the late government at Bloemfontein would never be restored. He advised all the inhabitants to accept the inevitable and to obey all the orders of the military and other authorities duly appointed, intimating that the landrost and sheriff had been reappointed under the Queen. The burghers began taking the oath of allegiance and surrendering their arms.

Several so-called Colesburg rebels have been arrested here. The Langkloof commando abandoned Philippolis on March 17, trekking northward toward Fauresmith.

GIVING UP OLD WEAPONS.

LONDON, March 26.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Philippolis says that a number of Boers, who are bringing in their arms. Only a few Mausers have been given up. The surrendered weapons are mostly old and broken guns. It is reported that most of the Mausers are buried in the desert. A telegram from India is said to have been received in knowing that for every Boer who had met death in the war ten Englishmen had been killed. The British possession of the Free State, he added, is a dangerous thing. There will always be rebellions.

BRITISH FORCES IN THE TRANSVAAL.

LONDON, March 26.—A despatch to the Daily Telegraph from Kimberley, dated Sunday, March 25, says: "Prisoners brought in here report that a force of British cavalry has entered the Transvaal and penetrated to a point eighteen miles north of Christiana. The British forces at Fourteen Streams are being strengthened. A movement northward is expected soon."

TO INQUIRE INTO THE NATIVE QUESTION.

LONDON, March 26.—A despatch to the Times from Mafeking, dated Wednesday, March 14, says: "Col. Baden-Powell has appointed a board of officers to inquire into the native question."

LOYALISTS IMPRISONED.

BARKLY WEST, Saturday, March 24.—Griquatown was reoccupied Thursday by 400 Boers. A column left Kimberley Friday to drive them out. It is reported that all the loyalists there, including the women, have been imprisoned.

LATEST FROM MAFEKING.

LONDON, March 26.—The Daily Mail publishes the following from Mafeking, dated Wednesday, March 24: "We are still being heavily shelled. There have been several casualties. Skirmishing continues in the trenches. The native food question is becoming a difficulty. The Boers have broken the arrangement to respect the 'shell belt' by not firing and have seized the opportunity to extend their trenches."

DESPATCH FROM LADY SARAH WILSON.

LONDON, March 26.—Lady Sarah Wilson, in a despatch from Mafeking, dated Wednesday, March 14, says: "We have received news of the relief of Ladysmith, but it serves to increase our disappointment, as there is no prospect of our relief. The town remains closely invested. The Boers are reported to be very numerous and

sternly entrenched between us and Gen. Buller's force. Some of the men are lying of starvation owing to their prejudice against horseflesh."

LOYAL DUTCH NOT PLEASED.

LONDON, March 25.—A news agency despatch from Ladysmith, dated March 24, says that Gen. Roberts' proclamation as to the unarmod dissatisfies the loyal Dutch because it is taken to mean that Gen. Roberts has morally pledged himself to protect on the termination of the war the life and property of rebels who lay down their arms and return to their homes.

A PRO-BOER MEETING.

BALTIMORE, March 25.—An enthusiastic mass meeting of Boer sympathizers, held here today, was addressed by Montagu White, representing the Transvaal, and Philip Lester, vicar of the Orange Free State.

Mr. White said in part: "The Dutch simply want to be let alone, to live by themselves and remain a free and independent nation, the same as America. The war is far from being ended. Events will follow shortly which will startle the world. Gen. Cronje's defeat was nothing for the English to be proud of. The Boer general was outnumbered ten to one, and had it not been for the terrible situation he was placed in by the intolerable stench of dead horses and manure, which was fast breeding disease, Cronje's gallant band would have been in the trenches today."

Among other things Mr. Wessel said: "I want to emphatically deny that there is anything like a religious proscription of the Catholics, Jews or any other denomination in the Transvaal or Free State. The Roman Catholic church is one of the most prosperous religious denominations in South Africa, and as for the Jew, the plum that he has picked out of that country does not appear that he has been persecuted. Mr. Baumann, a Jew, is our chief surveyor of the Orange Free State, and another Jew is master of transportation of the federal army. A fine Jewish synagogue was recently erected at Bloemfontein, and President Steyn provided at the exercises held here in respect of the late war, a school and other Catholic institutions, which receive state aid. Under the shadow of Kruger's church in Pretoria is a great convent of Catholic nuns, who have a college which is aided by the state."

"In Bloemfontein we have a home, which is run by Catholic sisters, a school and other Catholic institutions, which receive state aid. Under the shadow of Kruger's church in Pretoria is a great convent of Catholic nuns, who have a college which is aided by the state."

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losses from all causes must at a most modest estimate exceed 15,000, not including several thousand Free States who have returned to their farms.

LONDON, March 27.—A military observer here, and even those in close affiliation with the war office, are considerably confused as to what is being done for the succor of Mafeking. Some 5,000 or 6,000 men are engaged with Lord Methuen at Verulam and Fourteen Streams, and now another column is about leaving Kimberley, if it has not already started for Griquatown, 106 miles westward. Its ostensible purpose is to drive out the Boers. The force is described as a strong one, and the expedition is likely to attract attention.

Gen. French is reported from Bloemfontein Sunday as returning from Thaba N'chu without apparently having headed off Commandant Olivier, with his 15 guns and miles of baggage. Gen. Buller's patrols had a sharp skirmish Sunday at Waschbank.

Lord Roberts' infantry have now been quiet for fourteen days and news of an advance is hourly expected. Messrs. Wolmarans, Fischer and Wessels, the peace envoys from the federal forces, are due at Naples in a few days. After visiting two or three European capitals, they will go to New York by way of Antwerp. It is understood at the Hague they are invested with large powers and are prepared to agree to anything looking to intervention.

The Times prints a statement from Cape Town to the effect that the Boers, after deducting heavy losses, are probably unable now to put more than 30,000 men on the fighting line.

JOUBERT HOPEFUL. PRETORIA, Friday, March 23, via Lourenco Marques.—Gen. Joubert has returned from Kroonstad. He is full of hope, and may return to Natal shortly.

INTERESTING LETTER FROM A ST. JOHN BOY. Archibald Craig of Stanley street last evening received the following letter from his son, Edward, who is a member of G. Company, First Canadian contingent:

PAARDEBURG, Feb. 23, 1900. Dear Father:—You will be pleased to hear that I am in good health and came out of the battle untouched. We are practically engaged yet, as we do a little shuffling off and on. Tuesday it was a little interesting, but it would be more so if we had food and water, as we go out on the line with nothing to eat all day. For this past week we have eaten very little, although there is plenty of food walking around. At the present moment I am making some real stew in my canteen, as a couple of our company killed a calf. Our men fought like veterans yesterday, the bullets came in a perfect shower. One bullet went through my haversack cover. The Boers had a strong position, and we no cover whatever.

Pat McCreary, a brave stretcher-bearer, was killed while attending the wounded. He was well liked by all the men.

In our company there were two killed and three wounded. We are now on a kopje waiting for some Boers that are coming to relieve Cronje.

The dead Boers must run up into the hundreds, as the artillery have been keeping up a steady fire. I expect they will surrender.

I shall write a long letter as soon as I get paper, etc. Yours, NED.

INDEMNITY FOR THE LOYAL DUTCH. CAPE TOWN, March 26.—The appointment of a commission to arrange for the payment of indemnities to the loyal Dutch who have suffered property losses through the war is becoming daily more urgent. Many of the Dutch who have maintained their allegiance to Great Britain throughout the trouble have lost everything they possessed, and are now suffering privations. The cases of those who have resisted strong pressure to throw in their lot with the Boers are especially hard. Aside from this aspect of the matter, however, the delay in making some sort of arrangement creates opportunities for the presentation of bogus claims. The evidence to support the claims of those who have really lost property can now be conveniently taken, whereas if the delay continues it may be impossible to obtain competent testimony. It is possible that the trip northward of Governor Milner was taken with the object of inquiring into this matter, and also to arrange

for the trial of the Dutch colonists who are accused of being rebels. The disposition to be made of these latter cases is causing anxiety here and in Natal. It is thought that the imperial government should see that colonial government for suggestions on the matter, and that if these should prove satisfactory, the imperial parliament should appoint a judicial commission to hear and determine the cases.

FRIBENCH BACK AT BLOEMFONTEIN. BLOEMFONTEIN, Sunday, March 25.—Gen. French has returned from Thaba N'chu, having failed to engage the Boers, who are trekking northward.

AGAINST HIS OWN JUDGMENT. LONDON, March 27.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Morning Post, telegraphing Saturday, says: "I learn that Mr. Steyn has against his own judgment and on the persuasion of Mr. Fisher that duty to his country required that he should remain unaccepted as long as resistance was possible."

STRONG EXPEDITION TO LEAVE KIMBERLEY. LONDON, March 27.—The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing Monday, March 26, says: "A strong expedition will leave Kimberley today, primarily for Griquatown. Its movements are likely to attract considerable attention."

BOERS OCCUPY PAKKUIET. BARKLY WEST, March 26.—A commando of 400 Boers has re-occupied Pakkuiet, forcing the rebels in the Herbert district to rejoin the federal flag. Extensive looting is reported in that direction.

HOSPITAL SHIP MAINE. LONDON, March 26.—Major Julian M. Cabell, former chief surgeon of the American hospital ship Maine, is now in London on his way back to Columbia hospital, Washington, his leave of absence having expired. In an interview with a representative of the Associated Press today, he said: "Nothing could have exceeded the hospitality and warmth with which the American doctors and attendants were received in South Africa. The stories of internal dissensions on the Maine are quite unsubstantiated. Lady Rardolph Churchill antagonized no one. On the contrary, it was owing to her tact that several little threatened annoyances were avoided. She wished the Maine to stay at the seat of warfare and I agreed with her, but it had been arranged by the British army authorities that she was to leave after the relief of Ladysmith, and though Lady Rardolph believed this action would diminish the ship's sphere of usefulness, she was too good a disciplinarian and diplomat to question the decision of the commander-in-chief. Another reason prompting the sending of the Maine home is that the ironclads returning are not well equipped to take wounded soldiers. The British government is much behind our own in this respect, for while the hospital ships at Manila and in Cuba were able to transfer the wounded to transports and remain on the scene of action, these in South African waters must needs return themselves with their human cargoes. "We were very fortunate on the Maine with cases. Only one man died before I left, and I believe this number has not been increased since. "Perhaps our most remarkable case was that of an officer of the Gordon Highlanders, who was shot clean through the brain and who completely recovered on board the American hospital ship. "Mauser wounds in the intestines, which from the Springfield or Remington would surely have been fatal, healed up without operations. I had seen some similar cases in the Philippine Islands and avoided operations upon such wounds with complete success, the Mauser wound being so clean and small that it heals better left alone. "I saw no traces of explosive bullets, and I believe that the reports that the Boers are using such bullets are greatly exaggerated. From my experiences in Manila and South Africa, I believe it is almost impossible to distinguish between the explosive bullet and that of the ordinary Mauser when the latter is fired at point blank range. "Perhaps I should not say it, but the Maine was undoubtedly the best fitted hospital ship down there. Every-

(Continued on Page Eight.)

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