

GEN. METHUEN SCATTERS BOERS

Forces, Under the Command of Dewet, Routed in a Battle at Rhenoster River.

LORD ROBERTS FIGHTING GEN. BOTHA

Commanders-in-Chief of Opposing Armies Meet 14 Miles From Pretoria—Burghers Being Driven Back—Buller Has Occupied Volksrust.

London, June 13.—The forces moving northward and southward will soon have the broken communication to Lord Roberts repaired, they are driving off the Boer commandoes, and Sir Redvers Buller is at last master of Laing's Nek. Telegraphic communication with Lord Roberts is expected to be restored, as a dispatch from Bloemfontein says the railway is in British possession again and the work of repairing the line is going on rapidly.

It would appear that Gen. Hunter was in command of the troops referred to by Gen. Kelly-Kenny in his dispatch from Bloemfontein: "Bloemfontein, June 12.—Gen. Hunter is coming up rapidly from the northwest, having severely defeated a large commando of Boers, who had destroyed two miles of railway north of Kroonstad."

The Boer government is also issuing news cheering to its sympathizers. The following bulletin of the Boer version of disaster to the Derbyshires was posted by President Kruger on Sunday, at Mafeking: "On June 7th four divisions of burghers, commanded by Steenkamp, Freeman, Duaslooy, Fourie and Neil, attacked the British at Rooderol, killed 200, took 700 prisoners and captured a lot of stores, food and ammunition, a Maxim gun and lyddite shells. The English mail was taken. The burghers attacked upon the open veldt and gave evidence of unprecedented bravery."

Gen. Dewet was also fighting on June 6th, whether at Rooderol or elsewhere is not clear, but the Boer war office gives it out that he captured 4,000 suits of clothing, blankets and gloves, boots, etc. Being unable to carry them with him in his rapid march through the country, according to the Transvaal war office, he burned the whole mass. Gen. Dewet has also reported that he put 1,000 British out of action and destroyed property valued at £100,000. As Lord Methuen is officially described as fighting on June 11th, it is possible that he was engaging Gen. Dewet.

A Daily Express dispatch from Mafeking, June 10th, via Lorenzo Marquez, says: "Those around President Kruger say that Louis Botha and Delany have been offered, indirectly, £100,000 a year to lay down their arms, and President Kruger expects the same offer to be made to himself, President Steyn and Gen. Dewet. President Kruger believes that the British make these offers to close the war on the principle that it would cost less than to fight it out."

A Lorenzo Marquez telegram says that 35,000 Boers are reported to be retiring on Middleburg from various quarters, and that after weeding out the faint-hearted, 20,000 steadfast men are still left.

Gen. Buller was unable on Monday to follow up the Boers from lack of cavalry as well as water. The dispatches describe him as fighting a spirited advance over a rugged field under prolonged rifle fire. The Boers had two guns when they got away. In the field or wounded Boers were found. It seems probable that the major portion of the Boers had withdrawn before the advance was begun.

Lord Methuen, Gen. Rundle and Gen. Buller are reported to have 35,000 men and 50 guns engaged in enclosing the Boers in the eastern part of Orange River colony.

The war office casualties returns to June 9th aggregate 23,664, besides 702 of Boers and 12,355 men sent home as invalids, but not including the sick in South African hospitals.

Reopening of Mines.

London, June 12.—The colonial office has received a telegram from Sir Alfred Milner, dated June 8th, saying that the chamber of mines at Capetown has agreed upon 58 representatives of 141 leading mining and other companies, who will proceed to Johannesburg as soon as Lord Roberts decides that it is practicable to receive them.

Sir Alfred Milner asserts that he is doing all that is possible to re-open business, but is discouraging the return of the Uitlanders until the questions of transportation and food supply are more settled.

FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

How the Orange River Colony and Transvaal Will be Governed.

London, June 13.—The details which are expected to be announced, or some part of the work begun for a few months yet.

While the civil government will be drawn up so as to be equally independent of military enforcement, it is realized the initial step must be effected with the co-operation of troops.

Sir Alfred Milner appears to believe that civil reorganization and military pacification can proceed simultaneously, and that a possible scattered rising will seriously retard the progress of reorganization.

The colonial force is said to be of the opinion, however, that the maintenance of good sized garrisons at such centres as Bloemfontein, Kroonstad, Johannesburg and Pretoria will be necessary for a long time after the crown colony system gets in working order.

For this reason, and others put forward by Sir Alfred Milner, the idea of granting an autonomous form of government has been abandoned.

It is believed, though it cannot be verified, that a portion of the Transvaal will be partitioned off to Natal.

The whole arrangement may be roughly described as coinciding with the views advanced by the Progressives as opposed to those held by the Bondites. The final steps in this decision have been taken during the last few days.

Mr. Chamberlain sent for Mr. J. P. Fitzpatrick, author of "The Transvaal From Within," who is well known in connection with South African affairs, and spent a whole day in consultation with him.

Mr. Chamberlain will sail for Capetown June 16th, to join the advisory committee, which Sir Alfred Milner is forming.

CAPE CABINET.

Three Members of the Schreiner Ministry Have Resigned.

Capetown, June 14.—Premier Schreiner is engaged in reforming the cabinet, owing to the resignation of Messrs. J. Merriam, treasurer; J. W. Sauer, commissioner of public works; and Dr. Tewater, a minister without portfolio.

At the recent Bond caucus, the Premier's policy was generally condemned. The chief point of difference relates to the treatment of rebels. The Bond, led by Messrs. Hofmeyer and Tewater, desired a general amnesty. Mr. Schreiner urged a scheme, recommended by the Imperial government, under which a special tribunal will try rebels; convicted leaders will be imprisoned and perpetually disfranchised, and the rank and file will be disfranchised for a period.

apprehension about the security of the army in Africa, as it will not take long to remedy the reverses and repair the railroad.

A lengthy dispatch, forwarded to the war office by Major-General Knox, from Kroonstad, presumably sent by messenger, reads as follows: "Kroonstad, June 12.—We have been requested to forward you

From Lord Roberts the following dispatch from the Pretoria residency at 8.08 a.m. to-day: "Pretoria, June 12.—Pretoria and Johannesburg are quiet and several of the inhabitants have expressed gratitude for the peace and order which prevail.

"After surrendering the city, Botha retired to a place about 15 miles east of the Middleburg road. He had a small force at first, but during the last few days his numbers have increased, and his being so near the town kept up the excitement in the country, preventing the militia from laying down their arms and interfering with the collection of supplies. It therefore

became necessary to attack him. This I did yesterday.

"He held a very strong position, practically impregnable in the front, which enabled him to place the main portion of his troops in his flanks which he knew from former experience were his vulnerable parts.

"I sent French with Porter's and Dixon's cavalry brigades, and the mounted infantry from our left, and Ian Hamilton with Broadwood's, Gordon's, cavalry brigade, Ridley's mounted infantry and Bruce Hamilton's infantry brigade round by our right. Both columns met with opposition.

"On the afternoon I saw two of Hamilton's infantry battalions advancing to what appeared to be the key of the enemies defence on their left flank. This was

Almost Gained before dark, and I ordered the force to bivouac on the ground they had won.

"Pole-Carew, with his division, occupied our centre. As I have explained he could not attack, but he gradually advanced so as to support Ian Hamilton, and when I left the field he was on the line held by the enemy's outposts in the morning.

"I hurried back to get news of Methuen's movements. On hearing that the Free States had taken advantage of our crossing the Vaal to interrupt our line of communication, I sent Kitchener with such troops as I could spare to Ver (Vredfoid) with orders to push south and communicate with Methuen, who I knew had a very compact force in the vicinity of Heilbron. I also dispatched a special messenger to Methuen instructing him to

Push On at All Speed to the main line of the railway.

"These two officers met at Vredfoid road station in the evening of June 10th. They marched yesterday to Rhenoster River, where Methuen gained a complete victory over Dewet and took possession of his camp and scattered his troops in all directions. He and Kitchener marched to-day towards Kroonstad."

Lord Roberts's dispatch is regarded as eminently satisfactory. It ends a period of suspense caused by the cutting of his line of communications and indicates what a strong grip he has on the situation.

The result of the battle between Lord Roberts's forces and those of Gen. Botha is eagerly awaited here, but it is believed the Boer commander will only Complete His Retirement, which he seems already to have commenced.

The decisive victory scored by Generals Methuen and Kitchener is regarded as likely to have a more far reaching effect than any other recent action in the Orange River colony.

Gen. Kitchener's progress south, it is believed, must have almost equalled the records of all former marches. His detachment from headquarters was a merely routine procedure, as the chief-of-staff is responsible for the line of communication.

Gen. Buller is rapidly fulfilling Lord Roberts's hope that he will make his forces felt. A dispatch from Joubert's Farm, under to-day's date, announced the continuation of

two members to fill the vacant seats in the cabinet.

Militiamen's Returns. Ottawa, June 12.—F. D. Monk gave notice to-day in the House of his motion for a select committee to enquire into the quality of the emergency food supplied by the militia department to Canadian soldiers in South Africa by Dr. Devlin, Montreal, the charge being that it was of an inferior quality.

Another Canadian Dead. Toronto, June 13.—A special cable to the Evening Telegram announces the death of Trooper Mullins, of Edmonton, N.W.T., at Kroonstad, of enteric fever. He was a member of the Canadian contingent.

London, June 14.—Lord Roberts's dispatch clearing up the situation at Pretoria, and along the communications stands alone. Military observers, noting that no mention is made of prisoners, assume that Gen. Dewet got away with his forces practically intact.

Yesterday Gen. Buller entered Volksrust, passed through Charleston and engaged near Laing's Nek. The tunnel was not much damaged. Both ends were blown up, but the engineers think that repairs can be effected in about four days.

The advance troops of Gen. Buller saw the Boer rear-guard four miles distant yesterday. It was estimated that 8,000 Boers were withdrawn. The townspeople at Ermelo counted 15 guns. Three hundred Free Staters released from guarding Van Reenen Pass, have gone to join President Steyn's force in the eastern part of the Orange River Colony.

Gen. Rundle has sent notice to the Free Staters that unless they surrender by June 15th their farms and other possessions will be confiscated.

President Kruger, according to a dispatch from Lorenzo Marquez, keeps a locomotive, with steam up, attached to the set in which he concentrates the executive office of the government, and he intends to leave Machadodorp soon to establish the Transvaal capital at Nelspruit, in the mountains, a fine defensive region. The state printing press is operating at Machadodorp, producing

leaflets containing war news for distribution among the Boers.

It is again reported at Lorenzo Marquez that the Boers are advancing through Swaziland. Lord Roberts, it appears, however, countermanded the order given to the Strathcona Horse to land on the coast and to penetrate to the Transvaal through the Swazi country.

Mr. Schreiner, the Cape premier, and his colleagues resigned last evening. Sir Alfred Milner accepting their resignations.

Buller's casualties on June 10th have been issued by the war office. They were 26 killed, 125 wounded and missing.

A meeting of women who object to the war was held at Queen's Hall last evening. Mrs. Howard Courtney presided, and Mrs. James Bryce moved a resolution that the war resulted from the "bad policy of the government." This and other anti-war resolutions were adopted. The meeting lasted Mr. Chamberlain's name vigorously.

Mr. Donohue, the Daily Mail's correspondent, insists that President Kruger took £3,500,000 in gold in his flight.

A dispatch from Lisbon says: "The Portuguese government is again reported fearing the Boers will enter Delagoa Bay territory when forced to retreat from Lydenburg. The Portuguese have only 1,500 troops in East Africa and would be powerless to prevent an incursion."

The Surrender of Pretoria. Montreal, June 13.—A special cablegram from Richmond Smith, correspondent of the Star with the first Canadian contingent, is as follows: "Pretoria, June 8.—(By courier to Kroonstad, June 13.)—I was present when Roberts's troops made their triumphal march into Pretoria on Tuesday, June 6th. It fell to the lot of the Canadian contingent to be included in the march past the British Field Marshal and his staff, who were stationed in a squad in front of the parliament buildings at Pretoria.

"In the operations leading up to the capture of Pretoria, Gen. Hutton with the mounted Canadians marched on the extreme left of the British forces from Johannesburg to Pretoria.

was being made over the hills, to the left of the city. As he advanced the Gordons and Cornwallis held these hills under heavy rifle fire.

"The duty assigned to the Canadians was to guard the baggage left on these hills by the troops above named. From their position the Canadians in the hills had a fine view of the West Australian mounted infantry, Australian Lancers and Saxe's mounted infantry as they charged down behind the ridges lined with Boer defenders, who fled precipitately.

"This charge was one of the few grand spectacular sights of the war. It was followed shortly afterwards by the advance of Watson's Australians upon the city, with a demand of surrender, and by 6 o'clock on Monday night the Landerst brought the keys of the city to Field Marshal Roberts as a formal token of surrender. Then preparations were made for the entry of the army on the following day, when at 2 o'clock Lord Roberts took up his position in front of the parliament buildings and reviewed the British troops as they proudly marched past."

London, June 14.—Lord Roberts's engagement with Gen. Botha terminated, as was expected, by the Boer commander-in-chief retiring from his positions. Beyond diving Botha from the capital nothing much seems to have been done. Roberts does not mention the capture of prisoners or guns or the infliction of loss.

Perhaps the most important feature revealed by to-day's official dispatch is the announcement that the army of Natal is at last in touch with Roberts's troops. The accomplishment of this move, though long delayed, should considerably accelerate the pacification of the Transvaal.

That it is already bearing fruit is evidenced by the submission of the Wakkerstrom district to Gen. Lyttleton. A dispatch from Buller says Gen. Clery encountered no opposition in his march from Ingogo to Laing's Nek, which he now occupies. Gen. Dantell marched through Laing's Nek on the 13th, on his way to Charleston.

The press dispatches says Charleston was destroyed previous to its evacuation by the Boers, but that no damage was done at Volksrust.

In the Orange River colony affairs

ish high commissioner, and it is announced from Capetown that Milner has sent Premier, who is understood to be trying to form a cabinet.

A dispatch from Capetown says: "At the opening of parliament Mr. Schreiner will explain that he resigned because he was unwilling to remain in office supported by the opposition, believing his influence greater with the moderate Afrikaners when a private member than as Premier by the grace of the Progressives. Nevertheless the leaders of the Afrikaner extremists are said to consider Mr. Schreiner a traitor to the cause."

CANADIANS AGAIN. Toronto, June 14.—The Evening Telegram's London correspondent cables that the Standard correspondent at Pretoria says the Canadians figured prominently in the position, as reformers in the war office dispatches this morning.

FALLING BACK. London, June 14.—Lord Roberts reports to the war office under the date of Pretoria, June 13th, as follows: "Methuen advanced to Koningspruit yesterday and found all quiet. Methuen is strongly held. Methuen returned to-day to Rhenoster River, where the railway is being repaired.

"We were engaged all yesterday with Botha's army. The enemy fought with determination and held on bravely on both flanks; but Ian Hamilton, assisted by the Guards Brigade of Pole-Carew's division, pushing forward, took the hill in his front, which caused the enemy to fall back on their second position to the eastward. They are still holding. It is slightly higher than the one we captured. The great extent of country which has been covered under modern conditions of warfare renders progress very slow.

"Details of the casualties have not reached me, but I understand they are moderate in numbers. The only further casualties reported to-day are two officers wounded."

RETIRED DURING THE NIGHT. London, June 14.—The war office has issued the following report from Roberts, dated Pretoria, June 13th, afternoon: "The enemy evacuated their position during the night and retired eastward. "Buller's force and mine have afforded each other mutual assistance. Our occupation of Pretoria caused numbers of the Boers to withdraw from Laing's Nek and Buller's advance to Volksrust made them feel their rear would shortly be endangered."

WAKKERSTROM SURRENDERS. London, June 14.—Gen. Buller reports as follows: "The Boers at Laing's Nek, June 14th, having received a formal submission of the town and district of Wakkerstrom, the enemy is believed to have completely evacuated."

Clothing Destroyed. London, June 14.—The Daily Express correspondent, telegraphs from Mafeking, 140 miles east of Pretoria, under the date of June 10th, in connection with the capture and destruction by the Boer general, Dewet, of 3,000 suits of clothing from the British, that the soldiers complain much of cold. There is much suffering among them, and the hospitals are full of the sick and exhausted. The sickness among the horses, too, is increasing, thousands of animals having succumbed at Kroonstad, on the road from Bloemfontein to Pretoria.

MRS. GLADSTONE DEAD. (Associated Press.) London, June 14.—Mrs. Gladstone, widow of the late Wm. E. Gladstone, the English statesman, died at 5 p.m. to-day.

Mrs. Wm. Ewart Gladstone was 85 years of age, and had been slowly sinking for some time past at Hawarden Castle, the family seat.

She was the oldest daughter of the late Sir Richard Glyne, bart., of Hawarden Castle, and was married to Mr. Gladstone in 1830. He died on May 19th, 1898.

She was a woman loved and admired by the vast circle of those who came in connection with her in her busy and varied life, and had great influence over her husband's actions.

INDIAN FAMINE. Over Six Millions of People Are Receiving Relief. (Associated Press.) Simla, June 13.—Over 6,000,000 persons are now receiving relief. There was an increase in Bombay of 200,000 last week, owing to the return of destitute people who deserted the works on account of cholera scare. The prospects of a fair monsoon are somewhat improved.

HABOUBT WILL NOT RETIRE. (Associated Press.) London, June 14.—Sir Wm. Vernon Harcourt contradicts the report that he had intention to retire from political life at the time of the next general election.

A. O. U. W. OFFICERS. (Associated Press.) Sioux Falls, S. D., June 14.—At a meeting of the Supreme Lodge A. O. U. W. last night the following officers were elected: Supreme master workman, William A. Walker, of Wis.; supreme foreman, A. C. Hardwick, N. Y.; supreme overseer, Webb McAugh, Kansas; supreme recorder, M. W. Sackett, Penn.; supreme receiver, John A. Acker, N. Y.



COMMANDANT-GENERAL BOTHA.

THE DERBYSHIRE'S LOSSES

London, June 13.—The following dispatch has been received at the war office from Lord Roberts: "Kroonstad, June 12.—In yesterday's engagement Methuen had one killed and 38 wounded. Among the latter is Lieut. Cearle, of the 12th battalion of 'Yeomanry'.

"On June 7th the Derbyshire militia lost 38 killed and 104 wounded, all of whom were in the 'Yeomanry' hospital, which was captured by the Boers and taken by Methuen."

CAPE CABINET CRISIS.

London, June 13.—At the Cape the ministerial crisis continues. The Times correspondent cables that though the announcement of the resignation of Messrs. Tewater, Sauer, and Merriam was premature, it seems certain that they will do so and it is not likely the difficulty being possibly found by the Progressives leading Premier Schreiner

to form a cabinet.

A dispatch from Capetown says: "At the opening of parliament Mr. Schreiner will explain that he resigned because he was unwilling to remain in office supported by the opposition, believing his influence greater with the moderate Afrikaners when a private member than as Premier by the grace of the Progressives. Nevertheless the leaders of the Afrikaner extremists are said to consider Mr. Schreiner a traitor to the cause."

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