

SECOND CANADIANS.

Mounted Rifles and Artillery Form Part of the Force at Carnarvon.

Thirty-two Thousand Troops on the Way from England to South Africa.

Relief of Mafeking not yet Announced, Although in Some Quarters it is Believed to Have Been Effected.

SECOND CANADIANS.

CARNARVON, CAPE COLONY, March 19.—The Canadian Mounted Rifles under Col. Herchmer, and the Canadian Artillery, commanded by Col. Drury, have arrived here with a contingent of Yeomanry. The presence of this force here has had an excellent effect in the district.

It is reported that a large force of insurgents is in the vicinity of Van Wyksvlei.

METHUEN EXPLAINS.

LONDON, March 18.—The London Gazette this evening publishes Gen. Lord Methuen's report of the actions at Magerfontein, Dec. 10 and 11, dated from the Modder river Feb. 15. After explaining the difficulties of any attempt to outflank 16,000 Boers and arguing that a blow dealt at the Boer centre at Magerfontein would be more effective, he says his orders were to relieve Kimberley, and therefore the day's last reinforcements arrived he decided to attack Magerfontein kopje. The general then proceeds to describe the artillery bombardment of the position and how the Highland brigade was led to the point of assault after the late Major General Andrew G. Wauchope had previously explained all he intended to do and the particular part each battalion was expected to play. Lord Methuen then remarks:

"Two rifles accidentally went off and the flashes from a lantern gave the enemy timely notice of the march." The report then proceeds to show Gen. Wauchope deployed his men too late, and suddenly the Boers poured in a heavy fire. Col. Hughes-Hallett immediately ordered the Seaforth's to charge, and the other commanders followed suit. At this moment some one gave the word to retire and part of the Black Watch rushed back through the ranks of the Seaforth's. Col. Hughes-Hallett ordered the latter to lie down and not retire, and after a while the colonel again tried to reach the trenches, four hundred yards off, but the officers and half the men fell before the heavy fire which opened immediately after the man moved. Ten minutes later the Seaforth's tried another rush with the same result. Col. Hughes-Hallett then decided to await orders.

After describing sending the Gordons and Guards to support the Highland brigade, Lord Methuen continues: "At one in the afternoon the Seaforth's were exposed to a heavy cross-fire, the order to retire was given and the greater part of the casualties then occurred. This was an unfortunate reinforcement for Hallett. He received instructions to remain in his position until dusk, and the enemy were then quitting the trenches in tens and twenties."

Wauchope told me in the evening of Dec. 10 that he quite understood his

orders, and he made no further remark. He died at the head of his brigade, where his name will always remain honored and respected. His high military reputation and attainments disarm all criticism. Every soldier in his division deprecates his loss. He was a fine soldier and true commander.

"The attack failed. The Highlanders were ready enough to rally, but the paucity of officers and non-commissioned officers made it difficult. I attach no blame to this splendid brigade." The report then proceeds to pay a high tribute to the conduct of all the troops under conditions as hard as can be imagined, and mentions specially a number of officers and men for distinguished acts of courage already recorded in the newspaper despatches.

GERMANY DECLINES TO INTER- VENE.

PRETORIA, Wednesday, March 14 (via Lourenzo Marquez, Thursday, March 15).—The German consul has handed the following despatch to President Kruger: "The government of Germany and the emperor will be gladly ready to assist in friendly mediations as soon as the fundamental conditions to such are apparent, as soon as it is demonstrated that both opponents desire mediation. Whether the desire already exists on the British side can be found by the republic on direct inquiry at London or through the good offices of a third government, which has no important interests of its own to consider in South Africa. The latter assumption is qualified with a number of nations in and outside Europe, but not with Germany. Any such step on the part of the German government would awaken suspicions and have other than a humanitarian view. The increased mistrust thereby engendered would not promote a peaceable settlement. The request of the republics to transmit their appeal for mediation to the Austro-Hungarian and Swiss governments, whose interests are watched by the German consulate, has been immediately fulfilled."

THE STORMBERG DEFEAT. LONDON, March 16, 7.42 p. m.—Lord Roberts, in transmitting Gen. Gat-

acre's report of the Stormberg defeat, gives his opinion thus: "The failure was mainly due to reliance on inaccurate information regarding the ground to be traversed to the position held by the Boers, to the employment of too small a force and to the man being tired out by a long night march before they came in contact with the enemy. When it became evident shortly after midnight that the guides were leading the column in the wrong direction, I consider Gatacre should have halted and endeavored to find a proper road, or should have fallen back on Mofena rather than have risked the safety of the entire force by following a route which brought the troops into difficult ground commanded on both sides by Boers."

BURIED BOER GUNS.

To the Editor of the Sun: Sir—Frequent reference has been made during the course of the war to the wonderful skill and quickness displayed by the Boers in saving their guns after a defeat or during a retreat. The Times correspondent attached to Lord Roberts's army makes a remark which may throw some new light upon this matter. He says that in some cases at least when the Boers find it difficult or impossible to get their heavier guns out of the way of capture, they bury them. He is quite sure that this is what was done with the big guns at Magerfontein end at the siege of Kimberley. The Kimberley gun, he says, was fired until within a few hours of the time when Gen. French entered the town and raised the siege, and it could not possibly have been removed northwards by the railway.

TERTIUM QUAERITUR.

March 16th, 1900.

CAPE TOWN, March 18.—St. Patrick's day was celebrated with extraordinary enthusiasm throughout South Africa. In reply to a message from the Irishmen of Cape Town, the Queen sent the following: "I have always felt confident of the spirit, courage and allegiance which have distinguished the Irish soldiers in the face of the enemy would be shared by their brethren in the colony in support of the authority of my government."

MOVING AWAY FROM MAFEKING.

MAFEKING, March 11.—From March 7 to March 10 there was heavy firing every night. The Boers besieging the town appear to be restless. A few shells were fired today. One hundred of the enemy, with three guns, trekked northward today.



COL. BADEN-POWELL.

FREE STATERS TIRED OF WAR.

BLOEMFONTEIN, Saturday, March 17.—Gen. Pole-Carew's force has returned from Springfontein, where a junction was effected with Gen. Gatacre.

Gen. Pole-Carew also proceeded to Norval's Point, from which point he telegraphed to Gen. Clements that 500 Free Staters had submitted at Edinburg.

NATIVES ARMED AT MAFEKING. LOURENZO MARQUEZ, Sunday, March 18.—A despatch from Mafeking, dated Saturday, March 10, says: "The garrison is holding its own. We have heard numerous rumors that the siege will be raised, but so far that is not the case. We are pegging away patiently on quarter rations, supplemented by the occasional capture of cattle."

"Our home-made gun occasionally bombards the Boer trenches. Horrible stories are current that the Boers

are inflicting nameless tortures on captured native runners. These may not be true, but they are tending to inflame native passions to such an extent that if many soon be impossible to hold the natives in check. "Owing to the Boers having deliberately bombarded the native staff, which is full of women, Col. Baden-Powell has ordered the natives, but he has only allowed them to act on the defensive, although they have a demand to be allowed to go out and attack at the point of the assegai. "They will be prevented as long as possible from inflicting reprisals on the Boers."

RIFLES COMING IN PAST.

LONDON, March 19.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Bloemfontein, dated Friday, March 18, says:

"We are getting rifles surrendered faster than a factory could turn them out. It is quite certain that a British official can reach the northern laagers with Lord Roberts's proclamation, the whole Boer population will declare for peace."

WHAT OUR BOYS ARE DOING.

MONTREAL, March 18.—The Star has received the following cable from its special correspondent with the first Canadian contingent: BLOEMFONTEIN, Orange Free State, March 16.—The Canadian troops were this morning ordered to the outskirts of Bloemfontein to guard the northern section of the line of railway between this point and Springfontein. General Pole-Carew has arrived at Springfontein with a detachment of mounted infantry and will patrol the lower portion of the line between here and there. Bloemfontein and Springfontein is now in our hands, and there is practically an all-rail communication between the two Free State capitals and Cape Town. There are a number of repairs to be made to the railway line between Bloemfontein and Springfontein, and the Canadians will be engaged in this work for some days. The despatch with which our men did similar work on the line of communication between De Aar and Kimberley has evidently impressed the British commanders with the engineering skill as well as the fighting qualities of the Canadian troops.

A party of 100 Boers has surrendered to the British, giving up their equipment of arms and ammunition, and asking to be allowed to return to their farms. A full camp equipment and a supply of new clothing for 500 Canadian troops has been ordered to be sent here by railway, so it would seem probable that we shall be occupied for some time in this neighborhood. It is not unlikely that the Canadians will be given almost exclusively the task of keeping open the railroad communication between Bloemfontein and Cape Town, so that, apart from occasional skirmishes with small bands of Boers in northern Cape Colony, we are not likely to see severe fighting again for some days.

WANT TO SURRENDER.

LONDON, March 19.—A despatch to the Times from Bloemfontein says that Sir Geoffrey Lagden, resident commander at Beaufort, has been ordered to send Thursday from Masaru to General Roberts, stating that the residents of Wepener had decided to lay down their arms and were asking for copies of Gen. Roberts's proclamation. Five hundred Wepener Boers and 2000 British troops have returned from Alluv North to await news of the proclamation. They said President Steyn narrowly escaped from Bloemfontein. He summoned them to Kroonstad, but they refused to go. The correspondent adds that similar requests for Gen. Roberts's proclamation, with a view to surrender, will probably be received from Rouxville, Ladybrand, Ricksburg and Bethlehem.

BULLER'S ADVANCE CAMP.

LONDON, March 19.—A despatch to the Times from Ladysmith, dated Sunday, March 18, says: "Our advance camp is on Sunday's River, two miles north of Blands-laage. The Boers hold two positions on the Biggarsberg range about ten miles north. The strongest is on the Newcastle road, where several guns have already been mounted, and where they are digging extensive trenches. The second position, which is on the Dundee road, is not strong."

HOSPITALS EMPYING STEADILY.

LADYSMITH, March 16.—The hospitals here are being emptied steadily. There are still about 2,000 cases in the camp here and at Intombi. The army now occupies widely extended camps from Acton Homes and Dewdrop to Thabathaage and Sunday's River, with outposts pushed towards Van Reesburg's Pass and Hismakkar. There are occasional brushes with outposts of the enemy. The casualties have been few; otherwise everything is quiet in Natal.

AMERICAN REPLY SATISFACTORY.

LONDON, March 19.—The correspondent of the Times at Lourenzo Marquez, telegraphing under date of March 16, says: "State Secretary Reitz of the Transvaal, in the course of an interview, said that the Transvaal government considers the American reply highly satisfactory, and that he believes the United States will bring such pressure to bear as will result in a settlement agreeable to the people of the two republics. "While admitting the seriousness of the situation, Mr. Reitz says he is convinced that the burgurers of both republics will enthusiastically defend the independence of the Transvaal to the last."

CAPT. REICHMANN AT PRETORIA.

PRETORIA, Thursday, March 15.—Captain Carl Reichmann, the U. S. army officer detailed to observe the conduct of the war from the Boer side, returned here this morning from the Modder River.

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REGARD QUEEN'S VISIT TO IRELAND WITH SUSPICION.

HAVERHILL, Mass., March 18.—At a mass meeting of Irish-Americans the proposed visit of the Queen to Ireland and the show of friendship by the English royalty to the Irish people was the subject of discussion. There were a number of speakers. The following resolutions were passed: Resolved, that the Irish-American citizens of Haverhill, in mass meeting assembled, looking with suspicion upon the proposed visit of the Queen to Ireland, and the release of the Irish political prisoners, it was voted that resolutions to John Redmond and to other members of parliament.

THE POPE OFFERS CONGRATULATIONS.

(Special Despatch to the Sun.) ROME, March 18.—The Pope has telegraphed congratulations to the Queen on her decision to visit Ireland, and expressing the hope that discord may be forever removed. His holiness has telegraphed a similar message to Cardinal Vaughan, Archbishop of Westminster, and the Most Rev. William J. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland. INTERVIEW WITH WEBSTER DAVIS. LONDON, March 19.—The Naples correspondent of the Daily Mail telegraphs an interview he has had with Webster Davis, U. S. assistant secretary of the interior. According to this, Mr. Davis said: "When I left Pretoria the Boers were becoming desirous of peace. President Kruger and Gen. Joubert were the strongest opponents of the peace party. But they are becoming exceedingly unpopular. I do not believe the Boers will resist much longer." The correspondent says Mr. Davis declined to speak regarding his mission, but that the general belief in Naples is that he is bearing peace terms and a request for American mediation.

IT IS ALL RIGHT.

LONDON, March 20, 4 a. m.—The war office has had no news up to this hour confirming reports of the relief of Mafeking, but Geo. Wyndham, parliamentary under secretary for war, replying to a private inquiry in the lobby of the house of commons about midnight, smilingly said, "I think it is all right." The Free Staters seemingly have not quite collapsed. They are in considerable force around Smithfield, although much dispersed. A British spy from Rouxville reports that Commandant Olivier and a commando are going to Kroonstad. The agents he left behind are using desperate means to raise recruits. They are even contemplating British Boers under penalty of death. Kroonstad, where the Boers are concentrated, is a hundred and thirty-seven miles from Bloemfontein. It is surrounded by a country of hills and jungles. Gen. Gatacre is now resting at Springfontein, preliminary to joining Lord Roberts. Gen. Buller's hill work before Ladysmith has given him an experience which is about to be used in forcing the Biggarsberg range. It is believed that 25,000 of his 40,000 men are about to engage Gen. Botha's force, and the next news of fighting will probably come from Natal. (Continued on Page Eight.)

A GOOD TIME

to get a Suit or Overcoat is now, our prices have touched bottom, and Winter Weight Clothing is rapidly giving way to Spring Clothing. Boys' and Children's Spring Suits are opened up now.

Fraser, Fraser & Co., - Foster's Corner, 40 and 42 King Street, St. John, N. B.

THEIR SUFFERING, NOT A WORD OF A MURMUR OF COMPLAINT.

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The rolling stock captured by the British at Bloemfontein consists of 25 locomotives, 15 passenger, 3 passenger vans and 124 short wagons.

The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily News describes the indignation caused by a government circular prohibiting demonstrations without official sanction over the British successes which is regarded as a sop to the Afrikaner Bund. The correspondent adds that the Boers in Daramaland are raiding around Walfisch Bay, whether British and German forces have been despatched. The Daily News' military critic says that about the time Gen. Roberts departed for South Africa, Gen. Lord Wolseley, commander-in-chief of her majesty's forces, prophesied that he would enter Pretoria by May 15 if the enemy's resistance was maintained. Gen. Wolseley's exact prophecies regarding Ashanti, Commanche and Tel-el-Kebir are recalled.

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Lord Roberts probably ascertained from Mr. Fraser, the new mayor of Edinburg, before dispatching Gen. Pele-Carew southward, that in all likelihood, the railway was clear. The next move will be to collect at Bloemfontein by railway sufficient stores for the immense army Lord Roberts will have when the Orange River fords have fallen him. This will probably occupy from two to three weeks. Therefore, the next important operations may be expected in Natal.

The cavalry brigade which Lord Roberts has sent to Thaba Nchu, 35 miles east of Bloemfontein, is destined to cut off some 2,000 Boers who are escaping from the southward. The Boers are reported to have destroyed the railway in the neighborhood of Kroonstad.

Lord Kitchener is still quietly organizing in the northwest of Cape Colony. Predictions and betting are beginning here that the war will be ended by the middle of May.

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