

BRANDFORD CAPTURED BY THE BRITISH.

Position of the British Forces in the Field.

ROBERTS' ADVANCE NOW BEGUN.

Letters From Steyn Show the Boers are Hard Pressed.

Gordons Bayoneted a Lot of Boers—Some of the Work of the Canadians—A Gun Recaptured—Another Defeat May Finish the Boers—Successful Young Officers—Reign of Terror on the Rand—Lieut. Ecclestone's Report—Result of the Seven Days' Fighting—Pettier Says Highlanders Bayoneted a Few Canadians at Paardeberg.

London, May 3, 1 a.m.—The situation in the Free State presents a natural play of cross purposes, when both armies are well led by Generals of a high order of military genius. General Botha has displayed remarkable ability in directing the raids to the south of Bloemfontein and in recalling the Boer forces from Wepener and Ladysmith without loss when their lines of retreat were menaced, and he has persevered in thwarting and blocking Lord Roberts' plan of campaign. Lord Roberts' true line of advance stretches northward beyond the Vaal River to Pretoria, and Gen. Buller is making strenuous efforts to hold him back by hanging on the right flank, attacking the Boer convoys and threatening communications.

Lord Roberts' Desire.
Lord Roberts desires to push his way into the Transvaal beyond the Vaal River, and he is convinced that the Free State territory, which he has captured, is the only territory which he can hold. He has anticipated the training movement which Lord Roberts' had in view from Thaba Nchu northward, and he is holding fast to Gen. French's flank even while the British columns have begun to wheel, with Karre Sidling as the pivot.

To Prevent Raiding.
As a preparatory to a movement, which necessarily must extend over a long line of communications with the south, the command-in-chief has taken fresh steps for the protection of his rear. Lord Roberts has warned the burghers that in future treachery will be severely punished, and at the same time has taken measures to make treachery less easy and therefore less tempting. The most effective of these probably will be the confiscation of all the horses distributed in the various districts. As the burghers have used these animals in violation of their oath, to join the Boer ranks, to raid and pillage their more scrupulous fellows, and attack our troops, they cannot complain if we seize them for the Queen's service.

Evidence Against a Rebel.
Arnoldus Boers, a Natal Dutchman, whose farm is a few miles from Ladysmith, was arrested on the farm when the Boers retreated. He had removed his stock to the Free State, and was on the point of leaving when he was taken into custody on a charge of high treason and fighting with the Boers, and was lodged in jail.

His wife, who remains for the present on the farm, came into Ladysmith to register the death of a young daughter on the farm, and at the same time she registered the death of her son, a lad of eighteen, who, she said, went to fight with the Boers against the British, and was killed at Colenso.

The death was registered with the explanatory remark, "Killed in the Boer trenches while fighting with the Boers against the British."
To-day a court for the trial of offences under martial law met for the first time in Ladysmith Court-house. Major Mackenzie, Innschilling, Fust, Biers, de Vries, with Captain Jones, of the Manchester, and Mr. Giles, a resident magistrate, as his colleagues, and Mr. H. Anderson, M. L. A., an advocate, as prosecutor.

Wagha, a native from a kraal thirty miles east of Ladysmith, was charged with assisting the enemy. His chief gave information, and to-day was the principal witness. The evidence was to the effect that the accused showed the Boers where his chief's and other cattle were hidden near Sunday's River, and also showed the Boers convenient drifts.

The prisoner's plea was that he was forced to act as he did by the Boers, who were very threatening. Sentence will be declared to-morrow.

There has been a big faction fight among the natives near Amishlamy, 25 miles from Ladysmith. The conflict is supposed to have some political and anti-Boer object. Nine of the natives were injured and one killed.

Steyn's Complaints.
correspondent of the Morning Post, telegraphing Tuesday, says:
"We have found two interesting letters. The first, which is from Steyn to Botha, complains of the neglect of the defence of Kroonstad by commandos there, who are described as 'occupied in looting the grain districts, which causes an increase of suffering among the Free State Boers. Steyn says that he has been

With the Canadians.
Bloemfontein, May 3.—The Canadians participated in the capture of Thaba Nchu on Wednesday. Pte. J. Defoe, of the Halifax Company, was killed; Lieut. Col. Otter slightly wounded. Pte. R. Burns, Ottawa Company, and Pte. Culver, of the New Brunswick Company, were also wounded.

On Monday the Canadians advanced from Springfield, and on Tuesday crossed the Modder River in the face of the enemy's fire, helping to recover the waterworks. They rushed and occupied a kopje commanding the waterworks. On Wednesday they advanced to Thaba Nchu, coming into action early in the afternoon and fighting until dark. They captured several kopjes. The action was really a smart rearguard skirmish, and the Canadians fought in a most workmanlike manner, the Boers eventually retreating.

Col. Otter's wound was caused by a Mauser bullet, which injured his shoulder and chin slightly. He returned to Bloemfontein on Monday last, but hopes to rejoin the regiment shortly. Frederick Hamilton.

Globe: Mr. Hamilton's despatch has been anticipated in regard to the men wounded, but contains interesting details. It will be noticed that he makes no mention of Pte. C. E. Frye, of the Ottawa Company, who was reported by the correspondent of the Montreal Star as having been killed in the fight at Thaba Nchu. Lieut. Col. Otter has not made any mention of Frye, and it may be hoped that the report of his death was a mistake. The name of Pte. Culver does not appear on the official lists of the Canadian Regiment.

A Gun Recaptured.
Mafeking, Basutoland, April 30.—Three wagons, a pom-pom and big gun ammunition, also a wagon of food, were captured by the Boers at Thaba Nchu on the occasion of Col. Broadwood's retreat, were recaptured yesterday, having stuck in the Caledon River. The English inhabitants of Wepener who were all imprisoned on the arrival of the Boer commando, were released on the 25th. General Buller arrived there yesterday with mounted infantry and yomanry. Heavy gun fire was heard northwards yesterday morning.

Fought Seven Days.
London, May 4.—Operations involving the British in ten days' hard

Kipling in London.
Rudyard Kipling in to-day's London Daily Mail, referring to the desirability of colonials settling in South Africa, and the lack of inducements offered by the home Government, says: "Among the various hospitals lie three hundred Canadians of the very stamp and breed we require; young, sound, clean, intelligent, well-educated. Three hundred heads of sane and sound families. Shall we let all these beautiful men go back to their own place and never lift a finger to stay them?"

Definite Forward Move.
The Times' correspondent at Bloemfontein, referring to the fighting at Thaba Nchu, says that the whole front from the railway eastward is to be swept by mounted troops preparatory to a definite forward move, for which the force may now be termed organized.

The same correspondent says that a German engineer, who was in charge of the waterworks, was captured and taken to Kroonstad. He was subsequently released. He says when he was at Kroonstad there were only a few Boers there, but many mechanics and natives were heavily entrenched in the position. The Boers had moved to Brandford, where they expected to be attacked. The engineer says the burghers are confident that they can prolong the struggle until the British are absolutely weary of the contest.

Most of the Boers retreating from Wepener and Deventers are going to Winburg, as the large British force at Thaba Nchu renders a retreat to Brandford risky. Reports are current that Brandford may be abandoned without a fight.

A Week's Fighting.
Bloemfontein, April 30, 11.30 a.m.—Following is a summary of the work done by the British cavalry division since April 22nd:

The Fourth Cavalry Brigade received orders on that day to demonstrate towards Paardekraal and Leeuwkop, with the object of drawing the Boers westward to enable the infantry to seize the entrenched hill south of Kroonstad, which town they will probably abandon as soon as their stores are north of the Vet River. Another unknown factor of the situation is their strength in the Ladysmith district. There are rumors in Bloemfontein that they are evacuating the district entirely, and concentrating their strength in the north. Nothing authentic is known of the Boer losses in the recent operations.

A report from Kimberley states that there are considerable movements at Fourteen Streams and other points across the Vaal River. Little is known regarding them, but it is believed that the Boers are moving northwest. If this is so it is probably with the view of opposing General Hunter's advance in the direction of Mafeking.

There is no news of any movement in Natal. The British have not advanced. The Boers are reported to be quitting the passes in the Biggarsberg range on account of the cold and camping at the foot of the range, their principal laager being at Illatinku mountain, sixteen miles north of Elands Laagte.

Killed by Gordons.
London, May 3.—Capt. J. E. Pettier, of Montreal, and not Major Pelletier, as reported, is the French-Canadian officer invaded home, now residing as a private guest in a house in the west end, suffering from sunstroke and wounds. His left leg, neck, and right leg are temporarily paralyzed, yet he talks bravely of going back to the front. His doctor hopes he may be able to leave and recruit his health at Brighton in a week or two. Capt. Pettier confirms the statement that five or six Canadians were killed or wounded in the second action at Paardeberg by accidental bayoneting by the Gordons. As the Canadians fell back on the trenches the Gordons mistook them in the half-light for Boers. Capt. Pettier adds that the Gordons are not for a moment to be held blame-worthy. He expressed the heartiest appreciation of his kind treatment here.

Smith-Dorrien's command was praised by the Boers.

left Cape Town on April 27th on the Kildonan Castle, bound for England.

Defeat, Then the End.
Cape Town, May 3.—Johannesburg resident, named Scott, who has been expelled from the Transvaal, estimates the Boer fighting force now in the field at 30,000 men.

The Pretoria arsenal is short of smokeless powder, and is resorting to black powder. The supply of Mauser rifles is exhausted, and another big defeat will end the campaign summarily. It is now difficult to keep the burghers at the front.

Position of the Forces.
London, May 4.—Gen. Broadwood's cavalry brigade has reached Isabelfontein, 28 miles north of Thaba Nchu. Gen. Ian Hamilton is bivouacking at Jacobusburg, 15 miles north of Thaba Nchu. Gen. Tucker's division is moving eastward from Karre Sidling. The divisions of Generals French and Buller are at near Thaba Nchu. Thus Lord Roberts has 50,000 men operating clear of the railway along a front of forty miles. He is advancing slowly, with some successes, but is not proceeding with caution. They were from a rugged country makes turning movements offhand difficult.

Observers at headquarters in Bloemfontein seem to think that the Boers are preparing to evacuate Brandford and Ladysmith. The Boers still holding Thaba Nchu district are estimated at 40,000. They have among their guns a 40-pounder.

One correspondent, writing from Bloemfontein, Wednesday at 11.55 p.m., said that the British hoped to cut off the whole commando.

Circle Not Completed.
London, May 4.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Standard, telegraphing May 2nd, says:

"I have just ridden hither from Thaba Nchu along the line of our advance east of Bloemfontein. The distance is fully 40 miles, and yet almost every point of concentration is contested by the enemy."
Gen. Buller, with the Eighth Division is posted on our right flank, with orders to guard a strong and boldly outlined frontal position in a country of decidedly difficult nature. There are reports of a number of guns of superior weight and range to our own. However, they

show no disposition to do more than keep in touch with us to harass our advance.

Further to the west Gen. Ian Hamilton, with his division of mounted infantry, is pressing northward, encountering only a desultory fire. The Highland Brigade from Vaalkrantz has been engaged, while General Tucker, commanding the seventh division, has moved eastward from Karre Sidling, and has returned south, followed by the Boers.

Nevertheless, the cavalry, owing to the greater number of the enemy, have been prevented from completing the movement that was intended to encircle the Boers on the march to Brandford, and the enemy are now prepared to offer stubborn opposition on an entrenched hill to the southeast of Kroonstad.

They will probably abandon that position as soon as the stores have been moved north of Vet River.

Gen. Tucker's attempt to advance on Brandford showed the enemy to be in considerable strength. The colonial cavalry were engaged, and they lost twenty horses while under fire, from pom-poms. The Boers were, however, driven from their position."

CANADA'S POSTAL CORPS.
Lieut. Ecclestone Writes of Their Work in the Field.

Ottawa, May 3.—Writing on March 21st from Cape Town, where, as chief of the Canadian postal staff, he is stationed at headquarters, Lieut. Ecclestone says:
"I have to report that the members of the Canadian postal corps are well, and their work is giving satisfaction both to the army postmaster and the Canadian contingents."
"Messrs. Johnston and Murray are now in Bloemfontein performing work in connection with the Canadian contingent there. Mr. Johnston having been promoted to the rank of sergeant. The corps is now being paid the same rates as the Imperial corps. Mr. Ecclestone continues:
"The weekly mail here is of large proportions. This week I carried sacks of newspapers, overcoats, and a very large quantity of clothing. It is difficult by the fact and wounded are sent to hospitals, and besides this, the corps is carrying details for curacy, Government

Spain is apparently being visited by many Spanish soldiers. I am glad to see that the commando of Col. Viday on Saturday, 2nd inst., was successful. There were 22 prisoners, including a deserter in the guard-room when he spoke. The deserter is from Spain. There are 40 members of the regiment in hospital, chiefly suffering from colds and chest troubles. Fifteen men are to be sent home as unfit for service.

Bishop Engle Dead.
Baltimore, Pa., May 6.—Friends of the late Bishop Engle, of the River Church, have been notified that he died near Buluwayo, South Africa, on the 23rd of apoplexy.

The bishops of Canterbury and London rendered judgment on the reservation of the sacre- ment, and they were obliged that the Church of England allow reservation in any case believing that it is permitted, while justified in getting the law altered, and the law was changed.

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Abuse of White Flag.
Gen. French's general plan was to push forward in night, leaving the baggage train to follow with the infantry. Few casualties have been sustained during the march. Gen. Pole-Carew burned the farm house from which the Boers fired white flags, and he informed the owners that the farmers would no longer be allowed to play a double game without reprisals, as they must either up their arms or openly join the enemy.

In the afternoon the Boers evacuated their position. General French's advance cut their communications north of the town. The action was fought at Rooi kop. The Boers retreated to the northeast. They were commanded by Botha and De Wet, and were pursuing the Boers, creating a position here.

King Oscar's Visit.
The visit of King Oscar of Sweden and Norway to England, though undertaken incognito, has attracted surprisingly small amount of interest. The spectacle of the monarch, burly, despite his 71 years, and standing head and shoulders above his fellows, pushing his way past the station bar- rades to shake hands with the Swedish workmen who had cheered him as he entered the London depot, can, for impulsiveness, be scarcely exceeded in the actions of the most democratic ruler. King Oscar is no stranger to England. He has paid frequent visits to this country, and his abilities, as historian and writer upon abstract subjects, have gained for him honorary degrees from the English universities. Of all European potentates he is probably the most cultured and the most impulsive.

The War Scare Fieled.
The possibility of trouble between the United States and Turkey has attracted passing comment in England, though the average newspaper reader is much more interested in the Croton dam situation. In connection with the former subject, the Birmingham Post is responsible for the statement that Turkey has placed several important commissions with the Krupp works to be completed before the end of the year, which include better machine guns than are at present used by any European power, and 100,000 Mausers, which immediately upon their receipt will be delivered to the Turkish first army corps.

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land. This sentence, however, was subsequently commuted to six months' imprisonment.

Miss Clara Butt, the contralto singer, is soon to become the wife of J. Kennerly Rumford, a celebrated baritone.

War Notes.
The Magdeburg Zeitung, of Berlin, says it learns from sources connected with the Transvaal legation at Brussels that there will be sensational developments in the South African question immediately. The result will be a speedy conclusion of peace.

A Boer at Doshof made a claim for cattle requisitioned for the troops, and was paid by cheque. Before presentation, however, it was discovered that the cattle in question were the property of his son, who was in the field fighting against us. Payment was at once stopped at which the Boer was greatly enraged.

Absolutely trustworthy information is to hand to confirm the capture of Mr. Geo. Deuss, one of the leading men of the Barkly West district, on his farm at Bell's Bank. The Boers visited Bell's Bank on the 13th, and removed the unfortunate gentleman, while allowing him to procure clothes or blankets. He was sent on to Pretoria, via Christiana. His captors returned to his farm on the following day and looted his stock. The occurrence created consternation in the district.

MURDER COMES TO LIGHT.
Skeleton Found in Ireland May Lead to a Hanging.

WARRANT ISSUED FOR THE SON.
London, May 5.—Murder never spoke with a more miraculous organ than it has to-day, when, after eighteen years, a foul crime committed in Ireland has been unearthed. The police are on the track of the alleged murderer, who is now living at ease not far from New York.

Some eighteen years ago a man named Alexander Reid mysteriously disappeared at Cookstown, in the County of Tyrone, Ireland. There was no suspicion of foul play at the time, though, strange to say, the son of the missing man, Samuel Reid, disappeared at the same time. He was next heard of in America, where he now is.

The affair was a nine days' wonder, but talk ceased and the old man was forgotten, unless by some of the old friends of his, who now have been found. It came about in this way: The Cookstown Burial Board ordered a wall to be built round Meld graveyard to prevent rabbits burrowing. While digging the foundations, the workmen came upon a skeleton, doubled up as if the body had been tampered into a hole three feet long. The town was soon in commotion, and the coroner held an inquiry.

The skeleton showed unmistakable signs of murder. The skull was cracked, there was a hole through the neck, and the jaw was broken. The clothes round the skeleton, with brass buttons of a peculiar pattern, such as were worn by the peasantry of the time, were identified as those of Alexander Reid, the man who was mysteriously spirited away so long ago.

Now the jury have returned a verdict of wilful murder against the son, Samuel, and a warrant is out for his arrest.

CHOLERA AIDS THE FAMINE.
Pitiable Condition of the Affected Districts.

HEAPS OF DEAD AND DYING.
London, May 5.—The report that cholera is strengthening its deadly hold on famine-stricken India brings the pitiful condition of that country more than ever to public view. About 95,500,000 persons, for this is the population of the districts affected, are sweltering their squalid existence away amid pestilence and misery that show no signs of abating. Hundreds of thousands of pounds in British gold, German marks and American coin have been thrown into the country, but judging from the latest advices all this charity is merely a drop in the ocean. The famine and its attendant complications appear to exceed in violence any two previous visitations. The Viceroy, Lord Curzon of Kedleston, and the Government are making ceaseless exertions to meet the terrible emergency, but the stupendous difficulties confronting them prevent the present supplying of relief to more than five millions. In the meantime the native States are dotted with heaps of dead and dying, and the roads are crowded with ghastly bands seeking to escape from the stricken territories, but who for lack of food and water mostly succumb in the attempt.

A special despatch from Bombay says cholera is alarmingly virulent among the natives on the famine relief works at Virangam, where there are fifty deaths daily from disease.

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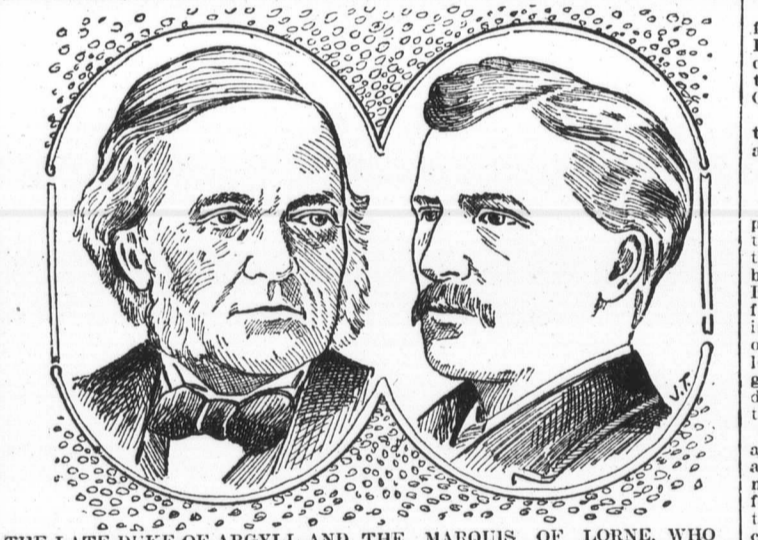
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THE LATE DUKE OF ARGYLL AND THE MARQUIS OF LORNE, WHO SUCCEEDS TO THE TITLE.

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