

GATACRE ADVANCING.

Moved Across the Orange River Yesterday, and Successfully Occupied Bethulie.

General Pole-Carew is Moving Rapidly South from Bloemfontein to Intercept the Enemy.

Most of the Convoy Lost at Riet River Recovered at Bloemfontein - Roberts to Have an Army of Eighty Thousand Men.

AN IMPORTANT MOVEMENT.

LONDON, March 15.—The War Office has received the following from Lord Roberts:

"Bloemfontein, Thursday, March 15., 7.55 p. m.—General Gatacre crossed the Orange River and occupied Bethulie this morning.

"General Reginald Pole-Carew, with 2,000 men of the Guards Brigade, two guns and a small body of mounted infantry, left here in three trains this morning to join hands with General Gatacre and General Clements. He had passed Bethulie by 4.40 p. m., without meeting opposition, having been able to supply from his troops engine drivers, firemen, fitters, moulders, smiths, carpenters, etc."

WAR SUMMARY.

LONDON, March 16.—At the opening of the new chapter of the war immediate interest centres in the fate of the Boer forces which are in retreat northward from Cape Colony, where they have been defending the line of the Orange River. The courageous exploits of Capt. Grant and Lt. Popham, which saved the Bethulie bridge, enabling Gen. Gatacre to cross the river, coincided, fortunately for the British, with an equally daring feat northward of Bloemfontein. There Major Weston of the Engineers, attached to the Boer lines on the evening of March 12 with ten men, and cut the telegraph and blew up the railway, thereby preventing the removal of the engines and cars in Bloemfontein. Gen. Roberts was thus enabled to promptly despatch a force to intercept the Boers whom Gen. Gatacre holds in front. This force reached Bethulie, 35 miles distant, in a day and is regarded here as smart work in view of the necessity for constant reconnaissance of the track and the positions from which it could become commanded.

It is hardly expected that Gen. Pole-Carew's advance will not be opposed. If the Burgers at Nerval's Post and Bethulie are relying on retreat by means of the railway, and are unaware of the occupation of Bloemfontein, a collision between them and the Guards column is inevitable.

Meanwhile, Commandant General Joubert is reported to have arrived at Brandfont, about forty miles north of Bloemfontein, to assume command of the Boers, whose headquarters are apparently on the Modder River. The correspondent of the Daily News at Bloemfontein represents Weston's track cutting as having intercepted Gen. Joubert's intended advance southward on Tuesday, but there is no other indication that the Boers at present are acting except on the de-

fective. The supposition in Bloemfontein is that they will defend Brandfont.

The British found in Bloemfontein most of their convoy which the Boers captured at the Riet River. They also secured the dynamite magazines, two wagon loads of Mauser ammunition, much railroad plant and bridging material, and many prisoners, numbers of Burgers surrendering their arms. Seven wounded British officers and sixty wounded men were found in the hospital. Included in the number were several members of the Suffolk regiment.

The correspondents eulogize the endurance and energy of the troops. The Guards brigade marched from 3 p. m., March 12, to 1 p. m., March 13, with only two and a half hours sleep, but, says the Times' correspondent, every man in the force is willing to work until he drops for Gen. Roberts. Every march, every movement, every victory increases his popularity and strengthens the army's confidence in him. The correspondent ascribes high credit to the commissariat, that department daily furnishing provisions and forage without a hitch for 40,000 men and 18,000 horses.

The Chronicle in a second edition prints a Bloemfontein despatch, saying that at Monday's meeting of the executive council in Bloemfontein, President Steyn was accused of selling the country. Burgers who had long been hostile to him carefully watched the presidency. Mr. Steyn sent his family away on Sunday, and subsequently left secretly and unattended. When his flight was discovered Messrs. Milner and Fraser assumed control of the district. The Burgers declared that Mr. Steyn was a traitor and decided to discontinue the war. President Kruger and President Steyn were evidently estranged when they were at Poplar Grove.

LONDON, March 16, 5 a. m.—Events

are moving in the South African campaign in a speedy and satisfactory manner, from both the military and political points of view. It could hardly be expected by the most sanguine Englishmen that they would take turn so favorable.

It appears that when Major Weston cut the railway south of Bloemfontein he thereby intercepted Gen. Joubert, who, far from having retired from the campaign, was then coming southward with 3,000 men, presumably to superintend the defence. Elaborate defence works, three miles long, had been prepared outside the town. No Boer wounded were left in Bloemfontein. When asked the reason by Lord Roberts, Mr. Fraser replied:

"The Burgers do not like fish, and wouldn't care to go to Cape Town." The evidence goes to show that, so far as the southern part of the Free State is concerned, there will be no further resistance. It is understood that Mr. Fraser, Mr. Wessels and other leaders are quite prepared to accept the position of a self-governing British colony.

The cheers which greeted the reading in parliament yesterday of the correspondence with the United States are re-echoed throughout the country. The speech of M. Deloase has increased this satisfaction, and, taken with the general belief that Emperor Nicholas is personally averse to any intervention, these incidents spread the idea that there will be no further serious attempt to interfere from any quarter.

Montagu White's threat in an American newspaper that the Boers will sacrifice Johannesburg and raise it to the ground, if necessary, is not taken very seriously. Mr. Chamberlain's statement that President Kruger has already been warned as to the consequences of such conduct is regarded as a warning of the most serious nature. The Times suggests that Burgers should be warned that their farms will be taxed as a guarantee against any damage to British property; but no serious apprehensions are entertained on this point. Mr. White is said to have forewarned J. B. Robinson, the millionaire mine owner, says he does not believe the Boers would be so foolish.

By the time Lord Roberts reaches the Vaal River he will command some 50,000 men, while Gen. Buller will have 40,000. From the military point of view the critics now think there is nothing to fear.

SPENSER WILKINSON'S REVIEW.

LONDON, March 16.—Spenser Wilkinson in the Morning Post, commenting upon the very satisfactory nature of the occupation of Bloemfontein, says:

"The anticipation that the Boer resistance along the Orange river would collapse on the British occupation of the Free State capital seems to have been realized. It will be interesting to know the military point of view of the fight between the British troops moving southward on the railway and the retreating Boers.

"Looking to the strength of Lord Roberts' army by the time he reaches the Vaal River, it is surprising that Sir Charles Warren's division is retained in Natal. An advance of the two armies on separate lines will be quite the best form of operations to crush the enemy's forces and to bring about his absolute submission. The Boers cannot be expected to divide their forces. Serious resistance in Natal would enable Lord Roberts to cross the Vaal and compromise the Boer force in Natal. Serious resistance at Brandfont or Ventersburg would enable Gen. Buller to pass the mountains and threaten the Boer communications."

MORE CONGRATULATIONS. OTTAWA, March 15.—The following cables were received by his excellency today:

"15 March, 1900.—Heartly congratulations to Canadian troops in active service." (Signed), Governor of British Honduras.

"ADELAIDE, 14th March, 1900.—Governor, military and people of South Australia beg to offer their congratulations to Canadian people on splendid conduct of their contingents in South Africa, and sympathy in sad losses." (Signed), "TENNYSON."

OUR LADS AGAIN DID GOOD WORK.

MONTREAL, March 15.—By cable from the special correspondent of the Star with the first Royal Canadian Regiment:

BLOEMFONTEIN, Orange Free State, March 15.—The Canadian troops, together with the other sections of the ninth division of Lord Roberts' army, are encamped today at Lawburgers, four miles south of the city of Bloemfontein. The remainder of the entire British army at this point are encamped about the town, while Lord Roberts himself, with a portion of his headquarters staff, occupies the house lately the residence of President Steyn in Bloemfontein. The British troops made their entry into Bloemfontein yesterday morning. The cavalry under Gen. French had first seized the railway station and a number of copies of the newspapers, the effectually surrounding the town. No serious resistance was offered by the Boers, and the land-drost and other officials came out to meet the British, bearing flags of truce and tendering to Lord Roberts the keys of the town. The Free Staters seemed quite resigned and even appeared to be relieved that it was all over as far as they were concerned. The British troops received an ovation as they marched in, the enthusiasm of the foreign residents being very great.

There have been no casualties to the Canadians, who are in good health and excellent spirits. Our men distinguished themselves in the advance yesterday by capturing two locomotives at Boshof. The capture was of considerable value, as the Boers were endeavoring to remove all their railway rolling stock and as large a quantity of supplies as possible. The capture of the two locomotives by the Canadians was therefore a considerable feat, and has received the appreciative recognition of the general commanding. Our next move is not yet known, but we expect to start northward on the march towards Pretoria without delay. The rapidly with which things have moved since Lord Roberts took command leads to the assurance that no time will be wasted here.

THE CAPTURE OF BLOEMFONTEIN.

BLOEMFONTEIN, Tuesday, March 14.—Lord Roberts practically unopposed. He lay at Venters' Vlei, it was away, last night with General Kelly-Kenny and General Colville's divisions the Guards brigade and the mounted infantry.

After leaving out the railway and telegraph, experienced a slight skirmish with some Boers holding a kopje southeast of the town. Early in the morning the cavalry brigade moved forward and occupied slowly several kopjes which commanded the town.

A few well placed shells from the Horse Artillery drove off the enemy. Gen. French then sent out scouts to feel their way toward the town, perceiving which, the correspondents of the Sydney Herald and the London Daily News with one another, galloped forward and entered the town, which was an every-day aspect.

The people were out shopping or for morning walks, and at first the three newspaper men were regarded as intruders. When later it became known that they were the forerunners of the British army, they were greeted cordially and conducted to a club, where they met Mr. Fraser of the executive council, the mayor and other officials. These they persuaded to take carriages and to go to meet Lord Roberts.

As the party drove out of the city, the British cavalry were closing around like a high net. The deputations, accordingly, opposite the kopje where Lord Roberts was stationed, and this correspondent rode forward and had the honor of announcing to the commander-in-chief that Bloemfontein would surrender.

A little later the deputation began to approach and Lord Roberts went forward to meet them. The scene was picturesque in the extreme. A few yards away the guns of a battery pointed their grim mouths toward the city position of the Boers, while the tin tops of Bloemfontein shone in the distance.

After salutes had been exchanged, a member of the deputation stepped forward and declared that the town, being without defences, wished to surrender, hoping that Lord Roberts would protect it and property. He replied that, provided there was no opposition, he would undertake to guarantee the security of the town.

The interview was very cordial, without a sign of scolding. It struck this correspondent that the deputation seemed relieved by the presence of the British troops. Lord Roberts notified the deputation of his intention of entering the town in state, and they withdrew to inform the townspeople.

Lord Roberts then made his military dispositions, ordering the first brigade to follow him and to take possession of the town. With his staff and the military attaches he descended the kopje and arrived on the plain, where he waited until the cavalry approached. He then entered the city, followed by his personal staff, the general staff, the military attaches and troops.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

BLOEMFONTEIN, March 15, 9.50 a. m.—When the British troops entered the city on Tuesday they found that it presented a regular Sunday appearance. The shops were all closed, and the streets were quiet, with many of the residents declared that they expected the place would be bombarded.

Councillor Day today, in conversation with your correspondent, described an inhibited meeting of the executive council that was held the day previous to the surrender. After the meeting, President Steyn inquired a train and proceeded to Kroonstad, where he has established his government. The Transvaal Boers sought to compel the Free Staters to assist the British at A'Outrance, but their efforts were of no avail. A messenger was sent to the Boer camp on the Modder river with the information that the Free State Boers would not attempt to hold Bloemfontein, which has no fortifications, against Gen. Roberts, they knowing that to attempt to make a defence would result in the practical destruction of the town. This message excited the indignation of the Free Staters, who threatened to blow Bloemfontein to pieces. The residents were therefore uncertain whether the English or their own allies of the Transvaal would bombard the town.

Therefore when the British entered there was considerable rejoicing, as their presence would prevent an attack upon the place by the Transvaalers.

The signs on the shops and all the externals here would lead anyone to believe that the place is an English town. The first troops to enter the city were the carabineers.

The deputation which rode out from the city Tuesday morning to formally tender the surrender of the capital to General Roberts, consisted of Landrost Pampoen, Dr. Kaler, the mayor, and Mr. Fraser, a member of the volksraad.

DECIDED ON MONDAY TO SURRENDER.

LONDON, March 16.—The Standard has the following despatch from Bloemfontein, dated Thursday, March 15:

"The civil authorities here definitely made up their minds to surrender on Monday. A stormy meeting was held, presided over by Mr. Steyn, whom Mr.

Fraser denounced as a coward, charging him with want of enough moral courage to accept the situation. The late president was, however, not to be persuaded, and when the meeting broke up he left for the north.

The occupation was extremely orderly and well managed. The spectacle was most impressive when the sixth division marched through in grand style, notwithstanding that, like the rest of the army, it had covered 40 miles in 27 hours.

Large numbers of the Burgers are surrendering their arms. Many have fled to their houses. Others are trekking to the east or to the north with their cattle and goods. During the last few days the inhabitants of Bloemfontein had gone in deadly fear of the violence of the Transvaalers, and consequently the city resembles rather a beleaguered than a captured town. Mr. Wessels, president of the Raad, has gone to England to solicit public sympathy and to plead for the independence of the Free State."

CAPTURED TWELVE LOCOMOTIVES.

CAPE TOWN, March 15, 11.50 a. m.—Lts. Grant, Thorold and Leigh, of the South African Horse, have made a successful reconnaissance of Van Renen's Pass, leading from Natal into the Orange Free State. They succeeded in getting behind the Boer laager, and learned that the Pass was occupied by two commandos with two guns. They discovered many embrasures for artillery.

Compton's Horse marched as escort to the Honorable Artillery Company of London upon the arrival of the latter here.

French has cut the railway north of Bloemfontein and captured 12 locomotives.

CRONJE A BRAVE MAN.

CAPE TOWN, March 15.—Lord Methuen, speaking at the town hall, Kimberley, today, said:

"Although some of the enemy's men were guilty of dastardly tricks, we must remember that their army is not organized with the same discipline as our own. I never wish to meet a braver general than Cronje, and never served in a war where there was less vindictive feeling between the two armies than in this one."

NO RESISTANCE SOUTH OF VAAL RIVER.

LONDON, March 16.—The Times publishes the following from Bloemfontein, dated Tuesday:

"Contempt for the flight of the Free Staters is universal, many people asserting that President Steyn would have been shot if his intention to flee had been known.

"More harm has been done the Dutch cause by the ignominious surrender than is conceivable, and despite the statement of the brother of Steyn, it is doubtful if there will be any more resistance south of the Vaal."

A despatch to the Daily Mail from Lourenso Marquez, dated Thursday, says that strong commandos are massing at Warrenton, where the Free Staters are going to make a stand.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO IRELAND.

CORK, March 15.—The nationalist members of the Cork corporation at a private meeting held today rejected a proposal to present an address to the Queen during her visit to Ireland. Five members voted in favor of the proposal and twenty against it.

DR. LEYDS IN HOLLAND.

LONDON, March 16.—A despatch to the Morning Post from Brussels says that Dr. Leyds, who is in the Netherlands, has gone to Holland. He kept his departure a secret. It is believed that the object of his visit is to confer with Dr. J. J. Hof, the Dutch minister of foreign affairs, who received last week a telegram from South Africa in which he had requested Dr. Leyds to represent him at the intervention of the United States.

DR. LEYDS IN HOLLAND. LONDON, March 15.—In the house of commons today, replying to Wm. Redmond, Irish nationalist, who asked whether the government intend to ask the president of the United States to help the government with the view of bringing about peace in South Africa, Mr. Balfour said: "The United States charge d'affaires on March 13 communicated to Lord Salisbury the following telegram from Mr. Hay, U.S. minister of foreign affairs, the 4th inst. received a telegram from the United States consul at Pretoria reporting that the government of the United States had requested the president of the United States to intervene with the view of a cessation of hostilities, and saying that a similar request has been made to the representatives of European powers. In communicating to you this telegram, I am directed by the president of the United States to express the earnest desire of the United States to bring about peace and to say that he would be glad in any friendly manner to aid in bringing about the desired result."

The reading of this despatch was greeted with cheers from the Irish members. Continuing Mr. Balfour said: "Lord Salisbury requested Mr. White to convey the sincere acknowledgments of her Majesty's government to the government of the United States for the friendly tone of their communications and to say that her Majesty's government did not propose to accept the intervention of any power in the settlement of the South African war."

LONDON, March 15.—Lord Salisbury's attitude towards the United States meets with the universal approval of the press. LONDON, March 15.—The executive committee of the League of Nations has decided to publish a resolution to the effect that the policy of the League is to support the president of the United States, who has been elected to the office of president of the League of Nations.

mask and reveals the truth so long denied, that the war is being waged for the destruction of the independence of the Dutch colonies, and declares a time will come when all who opposed to the war of extermination will unite in a solemn protest.

WAR LOAN PASSED IN COMMONS.

LONDON, March 15.—The war loan passed today in the house of commons its third reading by a vote of 172 to 23.

FRANCE'S POSITION.

PARIS, March 15.—The minister of foreign affairs, M. Delcasse, replying today in the senate to a question regarding the intentions of the government of France respecting events that South Africa, said that the president of the two republics had solicited the intervention of the powers. But the presence of the telegram exchanged between the British government and the two republics it appears that the intervention of powers had become almost impossible. The minister then denied that France had offered to join Russia in making a friendly suggestion in the direction of peace.

"The union between France and Russia," M. Delcasse declared, "draws closer every day and defies all malvolent assertions by the country." France, he added, has never ceased to be the generous nation the world has known and admired, and sometimes abandoned. But, after so many hard and sometimes cruel experiences, she can no longer admit that her duty to the world should stand before her obligations to herself.

SECRETARY REITZ'S STORY.

PRETORIA, S. A. R., March 13, noon, via Lourenso Marquez.—State Secretary Reitz says with reference to Lord Salisbury's reply regarding the peace negotiations with the republics, that the statement of the British prime minister that the ultimatum of the republics was the first step in the direction of war is untrue. The real truth, he declared, is that the war was brought about by the continuous threat on the part of the British government after the Bloemfontein capitulation, and the settlement of the internal government of the Transvaal, although this was totally against the wishes of the South African people, and public by existing conventions.

There were also threats in the abnormal number of British troops which were being concentrated in the vicinity of the borders of the two republics, and the intimidation of Sir Alfred Milner, governor of Cape Colony, to President Steyn of the Orange Free State that these troops were intended to be used only against the Transvaal. The negotiations were then suddenly broken off, with the threat that the British government would take its own steps to remove the grievances of its subjects. The republics waited two full weeks, while Colonial Secretary Chamberlain made continuous belittling speeches in the house of commons.

Sir Alfred Reitz refused to give President Steyn an explanation of the warlike preparations of the British. An armistice was shipped to South Africa, and the British reserves were called out, all of which showed belligerent intentions. The British people called an ultimatum, was addressed to her Majesty's government demanding the removal of the troops on the borders of the republics and the settlement of all differences by means of impartial arbitration. That message was intended to pressure the republics into accepting the armistice of the Jameson raid. These armistices were justified owing to the discovery of secret documents and military instructions showing that an attack upon the republics had been contemplated for years.

WILL NOT HONOR SALISBURY.

LONDON, March 16.—The Pretoria correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing Wednesday, says:

"Mr. Reitz's statement has been published throughout the republic, but will not be forwarded to Lord Salisbury. 'Conversations I have had with the highest state officials show that the republic was prepared to grant substantial reforms and concessions until the receipt of Lord Salisbury's telegram. As one of the highest statesmen remarked: Better half an egg than none, but better none than a rotten egg.'

PRESENTED WITH A FLAG.

Citizens of Moncton Present Strathcona's Horse With a Silk Ensign.

MONCTON, March 14.—Strathcona's Horse passed through here this afternoon and evening in three trains. The first which arrived at 2.30 with Col. Steels on board, was met at the depot by the citizens' band, and an immense concourse of citizens to witness the presentation of a silk flag bought by a popular ten cent subscription. Rev. E. B. Hooper, who has a brother in the regiment, read the following address to Col. Steels, and the flag was presented by Miss Annie, daughter of T. V. Cooke, formerly J. C. R. storekeeper, whose son was recently killed in Africa.

To Colonel Steels, Officers and Men of Strathcona's Horse: The citizens of the city of Moncton, province of New Brunswick, desirous of showing in some tangible and practical way their patriotic admiration of your magnificent patriotism and of the splendid body of mounted troops, who are known to us, and will be known to posterity as Strathcona's Horse, beg your acceptance of this handkerchief, which bears upon its folds the emblem of our every British and Canadian heart. It is the emblem of English greatness, and it tells the story of the empire's unity.

With hearts filled with loving patriotism, we give this flag to you. Be it remembered that its honor is safe in the keeping of Strathcona's Horse, and that let the call be made upon them to guard their rights without counting the cost, it will be answered as of old: 'Loyalty, not to make reply, but to do or die.'

To you this bit of silk will be a sacred thing, and we direct by the way, that you be an incentive to do duty in its highest and noblest sense, a reminder that Canadian hearts and Canadian prayers are on you on the path of duty.

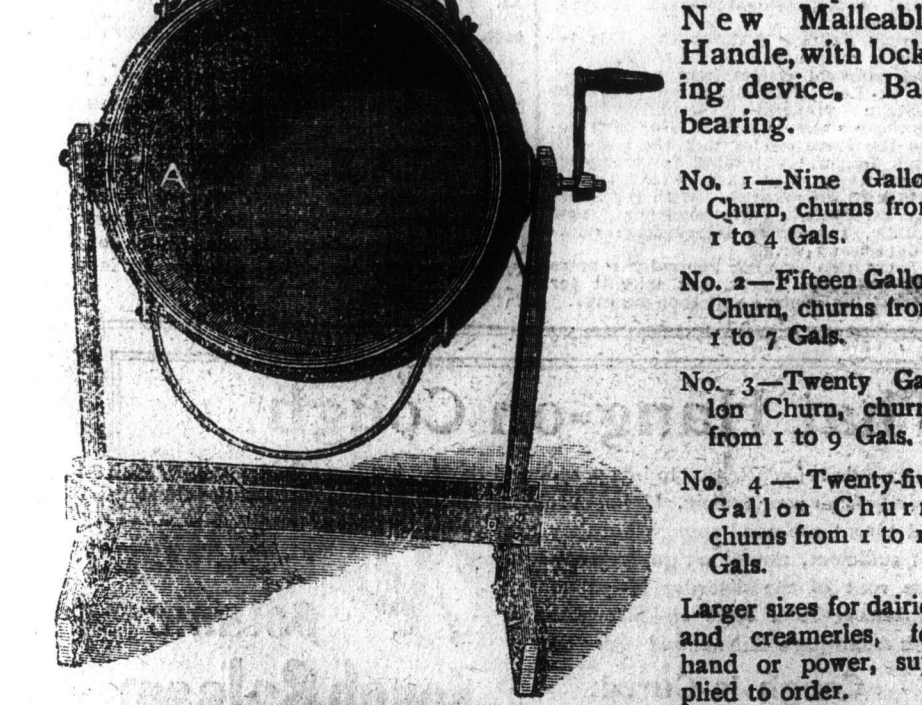
And when an African raid or people you serve beneath its flag, it will remind you of your loyalty and devotion to God, to Queen and empire, ever to be guarded with jealous care in moments of peril—never to be yielded save with life.

In offering you this flag today we assure you that from every heart amongst us there will rise the earnest prayer: "God bless and guide and guard Strathcona's Horse." Col. Steels replied in a brief speech, his sentiment that "when the flag is lost we will not be in existence, being greeted with loud applause. At the close the band played patriotic airs, the crowd cheered for Strathcona, Steels and the Queen, and Col. Steels and the men gave cheers for the citizens of Moncton.

Bendley's Lincture cures Whooping-Cough.

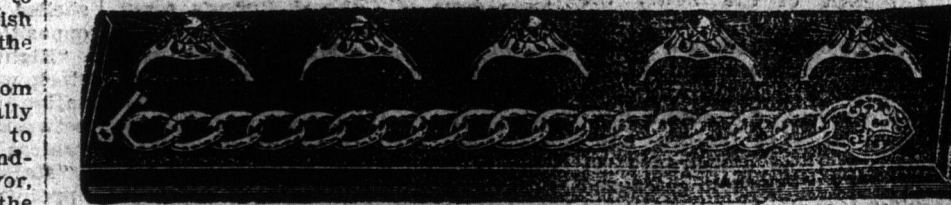
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