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Victoria Times.

Twice-a-Week.

VOL. 19.

VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1900.

NO. 78.

Fighting in Free State

Canadians Are Taking Part in the Advance to the Relief of Wepener.

Reinforcements Sent to Aid Gen. Rundle-Brabant Near Besieged Garrison.

Rundle is Waiting for Reinforcements Before Attempting to Engage Boers.

Burgers Fire on Canadians from a Farm Flying the Hospital Flag.

London, April 24.—The dispatch of a strong body of reinforcements to assist in the relief of Wepener and to endeavor to envelope and cut off the Boers from a retreat northward furnishes further evidence that the Boers are assembled in much larger force around Wepener than had hitherto been supposed. A Boer dispatch dated Thaba Nchu, April 20th, says that a fresh supply of cannon and ammunition has reached General Dewet at Jammersburg Drift. It also asserts that one of Col. Dalgety's guns has been smashed. Karriemfontein, mentioned in Lord Roberts's message to the war office, is 15 miles southeast of Bloemfontein. Leeuw Kop is two miles further south. Apparently the British captured Paarde Kraal Sunday night. The Boers evacuated Leeuw Kop during the night, removing the gun, and the British occupied the kop the next morning.

BURGERS WITHDRAWING.

Brabant is Bivouacked a Few Miles From Wepener.

Maseru, Monday, April 23.—Fighting began early this morning at Bushman's Kop.

The Colonial Division, under Gen. Brabant, advanced cautiously, followed and supported by Gen. Hart's infantry brigade. It was found that the Boers had evacuated their position on Bushman's Kop during the night.

A running fight has been proceeding throughout the day, the British gradually advancing and the Boers losing ground. General Brabant is moving in a northeasterly direction, keeping Basutoland close on his right flank. Thousands of Basutos are watching the operations. Our casualties so far are 25 wounded. The British are bivouacking to-night, according to the latest report, eight miles from Wepener, and the Boers, who are besieging Col. Dalgety, appear to be preparing to retire. A stubborn fight is believed to have occurred in the direction of Dewet's dorp, where the Boers are in strong force with a lot of guns and where also there is a Boer column, apparently Gen. Rundle's. Wepener, however, is already practically relieved by the withdrawal of a large portion of the besiegers.

STRATHOONA HORSE

Take Part in Fighting Southeast of Bloemfontein.

Bloemfontein, April 23.—Col. Anderson's corps of mounted infantry, consisting of the First and Second Battalions of the Canadian regiment and Strathoona Horse, was engaged in the recent operations of Pole-Carew and Gen. French. Anderson had undertaken to drive the Boers from their line of defence south of the water works. The Canadians sustained a heavy fire. The Boers shelled Anderson, who made a marching movement around Leeuw Kop, on the extreme left of the Boer position. When the British battery opened fire, the Boers removed the gun. Leeuw Kop was found evacuated this morning. Gen. Dixon's cavalry brigade, which made a wide detour to the left, found its further progress barred by the strong Boer position.

Boers Escaped.

London, April 24.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says: "The resistance of the Boers at Leeuw Kop was contemptible, considering the strength of their position. They escaped in an easterly direction, the Boers falling to get quite around them."

The Times Bloemfontein correspondent says: "The British cavalry were checked. Col. Anderson worked partially around the flank of Leeuw Kop but was not supported. The move checked the enemy, but the fear of a nightfall precluded the possibility of a mate."

London, April 23.—This evening the war office put the following dispatch from Roberts on the bulletin board: "Bloemfontein, Monday, April 23.—Yesterday I dispatched the 11th Division under Gen. Pole-Carew and two brigades of cavalry, under General French, from this point to assist Gen. Rundle. The force reached Karriemfontein without much opposition. "Casualties reported: Welsh Regiment—Private killed; Captain Prothero mortally wounded and seven men. Yorkshires—Eight wounded one killed. Fourth Hussars—One wounded. Royal Artillery—Two wounded. Seventh Dra-

goons—Lieut. Jenkins and 10 men missing. Capt. Rotton, Royal Artillery, broken arm by a fall.

Gen. Pole-Carew's mounted infantry seized Larwapp, a high hill a few miles north of their foremost position. The enemy evacuated hurriedly, leaving some rifles and ammunition.

Gen. Rundle reported that 25 men of the First Worcesters are missing. Fifty-three were sent with Wood to an outpost after dark. Only 18 returned. Their number and names will be reported later, as well as the wounded yesterday.

Warren's Appointment.

Durban, April 23.—General Sir Charles Warren has been appointed administrator of Bechuanaaland. He sailed yesterday for Capetown.

Returning to the Front.

Toronto, April 23.—A special cable says that a number of the members of the Canadian Regiment, who were invalided to Natal hospital, have returned to Africa and will rejoin the regiment at Bloemfontein. The Canadians confined in Woodville, who were reported as about to return to Canada, are not going. The authorities are awaiting instructions from Ottawa.

London, April 24.—All attention is centered on the interesting though complicated situation in the southeast portion of the Orange Free State, from which developments of much importance must ensue in the near future.

Gen. Rundle apparently has found the Boers confronting him at Dewet's Dorp stronger than he cares to engage, so he is marking time pending the arrival of support.

While Gen. Rundle is preparing to strike Dewet's Dorp, General Brabant and Hart are pushing along the frontier and frustate any attack on Gen. Rundle's right, and French and Pole-Carew are hastening from Bloemfontein to bar the Boer line of retreat northwards.

In the meanwhile the burgher forces occupying Thaba Nchu are in a position to fight a delayed action, giving the Boer forces at Dewet's Dorp and Wepener time to retire in case of defeat, and it seems as though Gen. French must dispose of this Thaba Nchu force before he can reach the rear of the Boer forces opposing Rundle and Brabant, otherwise his flank would be open to assault. The Boers driven out of Leeuw Kop will probably rally at Thaba Nchu, where a stiff fight may be expected.

Should the British fail in this attempt to bring about

Another Paardeberg,

it must immensely effect the larger issues of the war, as it would undoubtedly lead to a persistent repetition of the guerilla warfare, which has been largely responsible for the stay of Roberts's Bloemfontein for so many weeks.

During the course of Gen. Anderson's advance on Leeuw Kop the Canadians found themselves in a tight corner on Sunday near Donkerpoort. The Canadian mounted infantry sent to reconnoiter the Boer position approached within 300 yards of a farm flying the hospital flag, under cover of which the Boers opened such hot fire on

The Canadians

that they were unable to attempt to retire until another force of Canadians covered their retreat by threatening the rear of the Boer position.

FLED FROM LEEUW KOP.

Leeuw Kop, April 23.—The Boer retired from their positions here so hurriedly that they left a quantity of ammunition and rifles behind them.

When the Warwickshire Regiment took the farm house at the foot of the ridge, the Boers' "pom pom" inflicting no damage, the Welsh Regiment advanced along the Warwickshire's left and approached the ridge, experiencing a cross fire.

When the Boers fled they were obliged to move some distance along the sky line, and the artillery planted a shell with great accuracy. It burst just above the Boers, rolling over three horses.

It appears that Gen. Dickson met with opposition, the Boers firing rifles at long range. Their position was one of great strength.

Gen. Pole-Carew's admirable disposition of his force thoroughly puzzled the Boers, who were unable to see the direction of attack owing to a deep smit.

The British artillery was unable to join the fight in time to reply to the Boer gun, which was shelling the mounted infantry vigorously. The shells, however, burst 300 yards high and did no damage.

It is stated that Gen. Dewet holds the water works with a strong force. The Boers who held Leeuw Kop trekked to the eastward.

Gen. French sent a body of cavalry to the south and a few shots were heard, but apparently the Boers do not hold strong positions anywhere close to Leeuw Kop.

BOER REPORTS.

Pretoria, April 23.—An official bulletin issued here to-day says:

The federals continue their fighting at Wepener and captured a herd of Gen. Brabant's cattle and horses. General Dewet's losses at Dewet's Dorp were one man killed and six men wounded. Twenty British were captured. The British appear to be retiring beyond Dewet's Dorp.

Cronje reports that with a strong command he attacked the British to the northeast of Boshof. A heavy engagement followed, and the British were driven from kopje to kopje. The federals displayed courage and spiritedly engaged

the enemy. Only two burghers were wounded. The British lost 15 men killed and left 3 wounded and 8 prisoners in the hands of the burghers.

(Cronje referred to in the above dispatch is Commandant Cronje, the second son of the Boer general who is a prisoner on the island of St. Helena.)

BOERS NEAR WARRENTON.

Warrenton, April 23.—Shelling was renewed this morning, the fire being directed at the British river redoubts, which are steadily being pushed forward.

The Boers appear to be in stronger force down the river and the Yeomanry patrols are frequently sniped.

It is believed that important developments are not far off.

Boer Sympathizers.

Buffalo, April 24.—An afternoon paper says: "By descriptions furnished this morning of the three men charged with attempting to blow up lock No. 24, of the Welland canal, there is an indication that they are Boer sympathizers."

Speech by Dr. Borden.

Hamilton, April 24.—Hon. Dr. Borden, minister of militia, delivered an address at the banquet of the St. George society last night. He referred to the important part Canada was playing in the South African war, the result of which would tend to bring a closer relationship between the mother country and her colonies.

Patriotic Fund.

Ottawa, April 24.—The Canadian patriotic fund to date amounts to \$247,183.

London, April 25.—Reports circulated that the siege of Wepener has been practically raised were apparently premature. The Boer attack upon Col. Dalgety's northern position as described from Maseru was probably a final attempt to rush the garrison before securing a safe retreat and as Col. Dalgety successfully repulsed the attack little further anxiety is left on his account.

Lord Roberts has now spread a net with some 40,000 or more men and 150 guns, covering the whole western semicircle around Wepener, while Gen. Hamilton has occupied the water works, practically without opposition, and is waiting for the Seventh Division, under General Tucker, assisted by naval guns, has made a demonstration from Karree Siding, the Boers showing him opposition. At the same time a brigade moved out from Glen and took a position on a range of hills at Gemaadenale, north of the Modder.

The water works were found undamaged with the exception of the removal of the sliding valves on the pumping engines.

Spencer Wilkinson, discussing the military situation in the Morning Post, says: "Lord Roberts, with a commendable sentiment of his intention, has begun the second act in his campaign. He has suddenly deployed his army on the long front from Karree Siding to Wepener, a distance of about 70 miles. Without a doubt Mr. Winston Churchill's reference to Gen. Rundle means that this commander is endeavoring to hold the Boers off their retreat northward. The Boers have no army on the spot large enough to attack the British army so deployed."

Winston Churchill wires from Wekesterwood upon Monday's date as follows: "Combined operations on a large scale are now in progress, and General Rundle's force is still commanding the Boer position before Dewet's Dorp."

The Standard correspondent with Gen. Brabant at Zastron, telegraphing on Monday, says: "Before leaving Rouxville on the advance northward General Hart issued the following proclamation: "Take notice, inhabitants of Rouxville and all concerned: That you are allowed to remain in occupation of your homes in peace and quietness, subject to your proper behaviour always as non-combatants in this warfare, and to your obedience to such rules as the officer whom I appoint to command here may find it necessary to make. Such rules will not, however, be for oppression, but for precautions, and I hereby direct him and all troops under his command, and to treat you in my absence, you commit, abet or screen any act of hostility towards the troops of the Queen not consistent with the honorable customs of war with regard to the behaviour of inhabitants considered to be non-combatants. I will in due time certainly inflict on you and this town such a penalty as will force you to regret your transgressions."

"A Boer commando left Zastron last Monday, going in the direction of Wepener. Before leaving the commando compelled a number of unwilling burghers to join the fighting forces by threats of confiscation of their property."

Official Dispatch.

London, April 24.—The following from Lord Roberts has been issued by the war office:

"Bloemfontein, April 24.—Gen. Brabant and Gen. Hart yesterday turned the position occupied by the Boers, who tried to prevent their moving northward, and got into telegraphic communication with Col. Dalgety, commandant of the besieged garrison at Wepener, who reports all well."

"Gen. Brabant has three wounded, one missing. Three were wounded on the previous day. The Border Regiment had seven wounded."

"At 1 p.m. yesterday Brabant and Hart were eight miles south of Wepener. The Eleventh Division, Gen. Pole-Carew, and Gen. French's two brigades of cavalry reached Tweede Celuk yesterday afternoon without having met opposition."

"Heliographic communication has been established with Gen. Rundle."

"A patrol of the Seventh Dragoons, under Lieut. Jenkins, which was reported missing yesterday, has rejoined

General French's camp with the exception of Corporal Taylor and Private Cook, who are believed to be wounded and prisoners.

"Mounted infantry yesterday under General Ian Hamilton, occupied the water works at Sannas Post. As the enemy are holding the neighboring hills, in some strength, the Ninth Division, consisting of Gen. Smith Dorrien's and Gen. Macdonald's brigades, has been dispatched to support Hamilton.

General Maxwell's brigade, formerly Gen. Chermiside's, of the Seventh Division, yesterday moved eastward, and seized the hills covering the wagon bridge over the Modder River and Kranz Kraal an important communication much used by the Boers during the last three weeks. Our only casualties were Private Brum, New South Wales Rifles, taken prisoner."

Boers Repulsed.

Maseru Basutoland, April 24.—The Boers severely attacked Col. Dalgety's northern position facing Bokop ridge at 10 o'clock this morning, bringing four guns into action, under whose fire they made a determined advance.

The British returned a heavy fire, before which the Boers recoiled, afterward extending along the flats, maintaining a continuous long range fusillade for some hours.

Firing was heard in the direction of Dewet's Dorp, but there is no sign that the British relief column in that quarter has advanced further.

The natives report that another British force has been detached from Bloemfontein. If so, the position of the Boers around Wepener is precarious.

BOERS KILL NATIVES.

Dispatch From Mafeking Tells of Massacre of Friendlies.

London, April 25.—Lady Sarah Wilson in a dispatch to the Daily Mail from Mafeking, dated Sunday, April 23rd, says: "Our bread is now made entirely of oats, and is full of husks. This causes much illness. "There are many cases of nervous prostration and malarial typhoid among the garrison."

"The news of the check to the relieving column is a terrible disappointment. "Last Friday thirty-three natives issued forth to recover some cattle which had been looted by the Boers. They were betrayed by unfriendly natives to the Boers, who surrounded them while they were sleeping and shot them all but one, giving no quarter. One escaped to tell the tale. "The bombardment continues."

Losses at Wepener.

London, April 24.—An official list of the British losses at Wepener from April 9th to April 18th shows: Killed, 3 officers and 18 men; wounded, 14 officers and 83 men.

Welcome to Naval Brigade.

Portsmouth, April 24.—Capt. Lambton and the naval brigade of Her Majesty's first class cruiser Powerful, after a march through the city to-day, were banquetted at the town hall this evening. The mayor's guests included Gen. Sir George White, the defender of Ladysmith, and the Earls of Durham and Northbrook. The line of march was gaily decorated with flags and bunting, and the streets were filled with ladies and children. The choral societies participated in the welcome ceremonies.

London, April 25.—The decisive actions and slow progress of General Hart and Brabant are relatively unimportant when compared with the progress of Gen. French.

It is now evident that Roberts wishes not only to defeat the Boers, but to pen them in at Paardeberg.

For this end 40,000 British troops are concentrating in the southeastern part of the Orange Free State and operations according to devised plans in which the delay may be as much due to strategy as to necessity. The success of this important movement almost entirely depends on French. If he can

Sweep Down From the North

with the rapidity of execution which he displayed at Kimberley and Paardeberg, he will effect the same swift, sudden transformation which followed the cavalry evolutions two months ago. According to last accounts he was pushing on successfully.

Every day the Boers remain at Wepener improves French's scheme of success.

To put a girdle around the 25,000 Boers, estimated to be in the southeastern part of the Orange Free State, Roberts has evidently taken large chances.

The British critics differ regarding the result, some declaring it is already impossible for the Boers to escape from the net.

There is a general impression that the advance upon Pretoria will be taken up without any reconcentration at Bloemfontein. With more than half the British army stretched in echelon across the Orange Free State, such a change in directions would indefinitely delay the accomplishment of Roberts's main object.

The news received to-day has little bearing upon the question of the hour. A dispatch from Durban, dated April 24th, reports that Gen. Lucas Meyer is dead. He is known to have been well on the previous day.

A Boer version of the recent British attack at Fourteen Streams says that two Boers were killed and four wounded. Little damage was done to the camp, though it was severely bombarded.

The arrival of Mafeking dispatches has renewed the interest and anxiety in regard to

The Fate of Its Defenders.

Lady Sarah Wilson's account of the death of thirty-three natives, who went out from Mafeking last Friday to

recover some cattle which had been looted by the Boers and who, while sleeping, were surrounded by the burghers and shot without quarter, apparently harshly misrepresented the action of the Boers. A dispatch received by the Associated Press from Mafeking says the natives in question were unauthorized raiders and that instead of being ruthlessly slaughtered by the Boers while asleep, they beat back the burghers, who were obliged to get reinforcements of Maxims and Nordenfeldts. The dispatch adds:

"There was no question of surrender. The leader of the natives

Rallied His Men to the Last, and the fight progressed from the rising to the sinking of the sun, until their ammunition was finished the natives fought, and then the Boers killed all but one, who, hiding in the reeds, escaped."

The correspondent concludes: "Mafeking may be forgotten if it begins to prepare for some attempt at relief rather than empty congratulations for its gallant stand. Though there is only sufficient to keep body and soul together, it will never dream of surrender. But it is very, very weary of it all."

OCCUPATION OF DEWET'S DORP

London, April 25.—Lord Roberts has telegraphed the following message to the war office:

"Bloemfontein, April 25.—Dewet's Dorp was occupied by Chermiside without opposition at 9.30 this morning.

BURGHERS SUFFER HEAVILY

London, April 25.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

"Bloemfontein, April 25.—Pole-Carew's division reached Kooopkop yesterday without casualties. Its advance was covered by cavalry and horse artillery, which drove back the enemy with heavy loss, their dead being left on the ground."

"The mounted troops halted for the night at Grootfontein, and at 7.30 this morning were crossing the Modder River at Valsbank, in accordance with my instructions to French, to endeavor to place himself astride the enemy's lines of retreat."

"French's arrival near the Modder evidently, however, alarmed the Boers, for they evacuated their strong position near Dewet's Dorp during the night, and it was occupied by Chermiside's division this morning."

"The mounted infantry, under Ian Hamilton, drove the enemy off the kopjes in the neighborhood of the water works without casualties on our side."

"The Highland Brigade marched 22 miles yesterday to support Gen. Hamilton and halted for the night at Klipkraal, four miles short of Sannas post."

"Brabant and Hart are still a few miles short of Wepener, and the numbers of the enemy appear to have somewhat increased during the last few days, but it is not likely they will be much trouble in the neighborhood of Wepener, and Dewet's Dorp is occupied by our troops."

"I inspected the City Imperial Volunteer battalion on their arrival at Bloemfontein yesterday. They are in fine form, and look very workmanlike."

"I also inspected the first company of Imperial Yeomanry, which have arrived here. The men turned out smart and their horses are in admirable condition."

IN TOUCH WITH THE ENEMY.

Alival North, April 24.—It is reported that firing has been heard between Zastron and Wepener, and it is believed that Gen. Brabant and Hart are in contact with the enemy.

The Boers are so numerous that it took two days in crossing the Caledon River at Bastard's Drift.

BOERS NEW POSITION

Maseru, Basutoland, April 24.—On the breaking up of the bivouac this morning, Brabant and Hart discovered that the Boers, who fell back towards Wepener yesterday, had advanced during the night several miles nearer to Strauss Farm, which is a favorable position for resistance.

Col. Dalgety was severely attacked with six guns this morning, probably with a view of preventing him from assisting the relief columns.

It seemed yesterday that Dalgety had practically been relieved, but the offensive attitude assumed by the Boers this morning shows this idea to have been erroneous.

Gen. Hart is a few miles behind Brabant's division, which is waiting for the former to come up.

Thirteen British wounded were removed to Mafeking at midnight and placed in the English church.

Maseru, April 24 (evening).—Hart and Brabant covered only a short distance to-day, and finding a strong force opposed to them, bivouacked on the ground they had occupied. The firing has been desultory and casualties very slight.

Persistent rumors are in circulation that Commandant Olivier, with 1,500 men, is preparing to attack Hart's rear. There is no sign of the advance of Gen. Rundle from Dewet's Dorp.

RETREAT CUT OFF.

Herschel, Cape Colony, April 24.—It is reported that the British have occupied Wepener, after heavy fighting. It is also said that the Boers are unable to escape to the north, and that great developments are expected.

Dominion News Notes

Ice Jam on St. Lawrence Delays Inward Bound Dominion Liner.

Export of Logs—Decision in Case Against the Ontario Government.

(Associated Press.)

Montreal, April 24.—The party decomposed body of a man was discovered in the rear of No. 4, St. Dominique street, this morning. The body was identified as that of a man named Anseland, who lived alone. The coroner's jury have returned a verdict that death was due to natural causes. The body had been in the house for over a week.

The reform element in the city council last night has succeeded in having J. A. L. Laforest, superintendent of water works, and Wm. McGibbon, park ranger, dismissed for being derelict in their duties to the city.

The first ocean passenger liner to St. Lawrence this season, the Dominion liner Vancouver, passed inward at Father Point last evening. Owing, however, to a big jam of ice at Cape Rouge, a short distance above Quebec, the steamer will be unable to reach this city for some days, unless a fall of warm rain occurs.

Ottawa, April 24.—Five French-Canadian were this morning fined \$50 and costs or six months' imprisonment for assaulting Jews on Easter Sunday.

Toronto, April 24.—The Court of Appeals this morning gave judgment in the famous Michigan lumbermen's case against the Ontario government to have the law prohibiting the export of logs, unless sawn in Canada, declared as unconstitutional. The appellate court sustains the decision of the lower court, which gave judgment declaring the law constitutional. It is understood the case will be taken to the Privy Council.

Halifax, April 24.—It is announced here that Hon. J. I. Tarte will return to Canada by May 20th. The local Conservative paper couples with this announcement that the general elections are likely to follow shortly after the Minister of Public Works returns.

Advises from Channel, Newfoundland, are to the effect that the fisheries have been a complete failure, due to the continued rough weather, the heavy sea preventing boats from going out. Not a single skiff on the shore has landed over ten quintals since Christmas.

Listowel, Ont., April 24.—The thirty-sixth session of the Canadian Evangelical Association convened in annual session here yesterday. Resolutions denouncing desecration of the Sabbath day and urging legislation for its better observance were passed.

Resolutions were also passed urging the enactment of a prohibition bill by the Dominion government in provinces which gave a majority for the plebiscite, expressing loyalty to the Queen and justifying the South African war, also expressing the hope that the war would soon end.

KILLED BY A TRAIN.

Man Saved His Wife but Met Death Himself.

(Associated Press.)

New York, April 25.—After saving the life of his wife, Henry Saunt, of Jersey City, was killed by a train yesterday on the Rockaway Beach branch of Long Island railroad.

Mr. Saunt was 64 years old and his wife a few years younger. They had visited friends on Long Island and were returning over the Hawtree Creek railroad bridge. The couple were about half way across the structure when they were struck by a train approaching. Mr. Saunt