

RUMORS OF CRONJE SURRENDER

And Relief of Ladysmith Current in Durban, but No Confirmation Has Been Received in London

NEGOTIATING THE CAPE BOERS

Who Are Willing to Lay Down Their Arms—Will Be Offered Lenient Terms—Situation at Paardeberg.

(Associated Press.)
London, Feb. 24.—The dispatch from Paardeberg, dated Thursday, 22nd, made public this afternoon, shows that the position of Cronje, apparently, had not changed for the better or worse up to Thursday, and confirmation of the Durban report announcing Cronje's surrender is eagerly awaited.
At this hour the war office has no news, and it is regarded as a curious fact that the first news of surrender should have come from there.
The arrival of the British supply column at Paardeberg may have given Roberts the opportunity to resume his fierce attack on Cronje's laager, for doubtless he cannot keep up the vigorous cannonade with which he started.
May Starve Them Out.
The long wait may be due to a determination to starve out Gen. Cronje's gallant force.
Other Paardeberg dispatches says the Boer plight is still hopeless, and that Lord Roberts is ready to meet all the reinforcements.
The Cape Boers.
From Gen. Buller there is nothing new, but the retreat of Cronje seems to be having an effect on the Cape Boers, as a dispatch says they have opened negotiations for submission. Gen. Buller is treating with them and, in deference to the wishes of the governor of Cape Colony, is offering lenient terms, and in the meanwhile ceasing offensive operations.
Operations Near Arundel.
A special dispatch from Arundel, under the date of February 23rd, says: "The Boers have formed a strong force seven miles west of here. Gen. Clements has kept up a searching fire on their kopjes. We expect to take their position before sunset."
Boer Reports.
A war bulletin, published in Pretoria on February 22nd, said communication with Gen. Cronje was still open on February 21st, and that reports of heavy fighting occurred east of Gen. Cronje's laager had been received.
Burgers Lose Heavily.
A Sterksboom dispatch of February 23rd says a British refugee from Heidelberg asserts that the Boers have admitted losing 500 men in the assault on Ladysmith on January 6th, and that it was true that Gen. Joubert was no longer in command. He added that some Free Staters were flogged for cowardice after the battle of Belmont.
British Casualties.
The British casualties at Koodersberg Drift on February 7th, and Klip Kraai on February 16th, were 7 officers wounded, 4 men killed and 96 wounded.
BOER PRISONERS.
Ninety-Five Captured Near Paardeberg—No Change in the Situation.
Paardeberg, Feb. 22.—There is little change in the situation. There was intermittent shelling to-day and during the night a large supply column arrived. It is reported 2,000 Boers are operating northwards of this place.
Yesterday evening, after the last gun had been fired, the Shropshires rushed forward 200 yards further towards the

bering up and fleeing eastwards. The glad tidings spread with marvellous rapidity. From all directions mounted and unmounted men hastened to see the relief column. Those remaining hoisted flags, and there was a universal feeling of joy and thankfulness.

EXCITEMENT IN LONDON.

Rumors Current that Cronje Has Surrendered—Where Are the Big Guns?

New York, Feb. 24.—London cables describe the big city as being wrought up to a high state of excitement over the war news from Africa.
On top of the reports describing the tight fix in which Roberts had placed Cronje, came a brief story which added to the excitement. This was to the effect that when Gen. Cronje had found it impossible to longer endure the murderous fire of his opponents he had laid down his arms.
Up to an early hour this morning, however, there was no official confirmation of this news by the British war office. It served, however, to whet the excitement, and the streets of London were thronged with people who rushed to the war office and to the newspaper offices to see if it were true. The military clubs were filled with members all excitedly discussing the rumor.

One point which is not understood in the silence of Cronje's guns. The British batteries are firing at close range, whereas the big guns, which were at Mazerfontein, ought to enable Cronje to make a good defence. Apparently his guns are not with him.

BOER VERSION

Of the Fighting in the Orange Free State.
London, Feb. 23.—Pretoria bulletins give the Boer version of the fighting in the Orange Free State, and mention engagements between Paardeberg and Bloemfontein not hitherto reported. Petrusburg is some 30 miles east of Paardeberg. The bulletins say:
Pretoria, Feb. 21.—At Petrusburg cannon firing commenced at 9 in the morning. A big fight was expected to-day. Dewet telegraphed from Petrusburg that all was quiet excepting several cannon shots and small skirmishes. Yesterday evening the British stormed federal positions as far as Schauser, but were driven back. A message from Gen. Cronje is to the effect that his loss yesterday was 14 killed and wounded.

CRONJE'S POSITION.

Interview With a Bloemfontein Merchant Who Has Arrived in New York.
New York, Feb. 24.—Philip L. West, a merchant of Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, has arrived in New York to help the Boers' cause. He comes on the advice of his government, and is making his headquarters with George W. Vansicklen, president of the American Boer council. In an interview to-day West said:
"Commandant Cronje has about 10,000 men. As nearly as I can determine from dispatches, he is now a few miles west of the Koodersand. His position is not a very good one. The dispatches indicate that he is surrounded by the British and that he has taken a position on the Molder River. The bed to the Molder River at that point is about 300 feet wide. The banks rise abruptly to a height of from 20 to 300 feet, and they are covered with a thick growth of willows and mimosa trees. At this time of the year the river is almost dry. In its bed are great rocks, and the water of the river. The high banks prevent the British from using their artillery to the best advantage, while the rocks afford excellent protection to the Boer marksmen."

"If Cronje has reached the Koodersand his position is as strong as could be. It is from this hill that the farm of my father-in-law takes its name. I know every inch of it. It is stronger, in natural fortification, than in any other part of the country. It is four miles long and two to three miles wide. Its sides rise precipitously with here and there a deep ravine. Its centre is a crater with deep ravines. It offers thousands of hiding places. It offers plenty of water."

FROM DURBAN AND BERLIN.

Oae Ru nor Says Cronje Has Surrendered and Another That He is Through British Lines.
Durban, Feb. 23.—The rumor gains credence that Ladysmith has been relieved. It is also reported that Gen. Cronje has surrendered with 8,000 men, and that Kitchener has been slightly wounded in the left arm.
Crowds throng the streets singing and cheering because of the supposed victory.
One thousand seven hundred Boers have been killed or wounded. The latter, it is reported, including Gen. Cronje. Berlin, Feb. 24.—5:20 p.m.—Several newspapers here announce that they learn from private sources that Gen. Cronje has succeeded in forcing his way through the British lines.

FOLED EASTWARDS.

Boers Did Not Wait at Kimberley to Meet French's Column.
Capetown, Feb. 23.—Accounts from Reuters' correspondent at Kimberley gives an insight into the trials of the garrison. They are in brief as follows: January 11th—Scoury attacks the natives alarmingly. They are dying fast. The anti-Scourites are exhausted. Vine cuttings are being tried in lieu of green food.
January 12th—Typhoid is very prevalent. Neglect to boil the water is the probable cause.
January 13th—Fifty typhoid cases in the hospitals.
January 16th—The military authorities have commandeered all the food stuffs and other stores. Leave has been granted to the inhabitants to shoot small birds for food.
January 17th—The mules slaughtered are pronounced superior to horse flesh.
January 20th—Five hundred shells poured into the town at haphazard. The hospital, scurry grounds and residents receive proper attention due the defenders each morning.
January 25th—A family shell-proof shelter has been dug in nearly every garden.
February 11th—Twenty-five hundred women and children were lowered into the mines throughout the night. The men are also selecting places of safety.
Feb. 15.—All morning there was heavy cross-fire on the British occupying Alex-anderfontein. The hundred-pounder and shrapnel are hurrying over Kimberley. Everyone is lying low. The shops and banks were closed this afternoon. There was a kaleidoscopic change. Hello signals were observed announcing General French's approach towards Kimberley. Clouds of dust with the rapid advance of the cavalry were then seen, and almost instantaneously the enemy was observed im-

with the object of stemming the advance of Lord Roberts.
London, Feb. 24.—A Pretoria dispatch to the Daily Telegraph, dated Thursday, says: "Fighting is proceeding in the vicinity of Pieters this morning. Gen. Buller's advance being opposed by big guns and rifle fire."
Big Guns at Work.
London, Feb. 24.—A dispatch to the Daily Chronicle from Chevelay dated 22nd, says: "At dawn Tuesday we found that the Boers had vacated all positions south of the Tugela, and were in positions along the hills midway between Ladysmith and the river, and making a determined stand."
"The Creusote guns were in action. All the British naval and others heavy guns were brought to bear on the new positions, and we believe that this show of Boer strength was only intended to cover retreat."
"Yesterday (Wednesday) the Boers were retiring all day. Gen. Buller continues to harass them, compelling the Boers to give way."

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London is Relieved

News From Africa Disperses the Gloom Which Has Clouded the Metropolitan.

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the needs of the country, his feats on the battle fields of old, his tremendous personal magnetism, and his surprising kindness and simplicity are all brought into rapid review by means of conversation or the newspapers, before the average Englishman, until it is a small wonder that the hero of Kandahar has reached that pinnacle where his courage would deny him nothing.
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Almost Unequaled Extent, it is patent that the nation as a whole would rather than the opportunities fell to "Bobs" than to his iron-willed chief of staff.

A curious incident of the system that prevails in the war office occurred this week. Immediately after the Queen's proclamation appealing to the patriotism of her old soldiers and asking them to re-enlist under the government's new plan to strengthen the army, was published, there flocked to headquarters large numbers of men anxious to answer the Queen's request. They were all turned away because the war office has not yet issued any instructions regarding the acceptance of such offers.

Not Formulated Any Plan

for putting into action the general proposals adopted by parliament.
The death of Joseph Cowen, the coal mine owner, member of parliament, and proprietor of the Newcastle Chronicle, has removed one of the best known and most remarkable figures in English life, and one of the most extraordinary men in Europe. His whole life and personality teemed with vivid contrasts. He was a millionaire, yet dressed in slouchy clothes, and as brilliant an orator as ever held the House of Commons. In breathless attention, yet of small stature and awkward gait. Cowen was

Naturally a Home Ruler, yet none was more potent or more often quoted in arguments furnished in favor of the present war than the sentences penned by Cowen shortly before his death, when he declared that Great Britain was fighting to "prevent men of British blood from being treated as helots."

Many years ago he retired from politics, owing to his independent ideas, devoting his attention to his paper, the Newcastle Chronicle, which wielded almost as much political influence in the north country as Mr. Cowen did when men pointed to him in the House of Commons as the next Liberal Prime Minister.

CANADIAN BRIEFS.

(Associated Press.)
Windsor, Feb. 4.—Capt. Jas. Gourlay, well-known on the upper lakes, is dead, aged 65 years.

Blackwater, Feb. 24.—Wesley Hodgson, aged 19, of Cannington; Russell Lake, aged 18, of Greenbank, and Gertrude Lake, aged 10 years, of Pasco Lake, were all burned to death in the house of Mr. Lake, at Pasco Lake, on Thursday morning.

Toronto, Feb. 24.—The Massey-Harris Co. has been granted an injunction to restrain the strikers from intimidating, molesting, or using or threatening violence towards the employees who are willing to work for the company. The company have found it almost impossible to get men to replace the strikers.

E Company, 48th Highlanders, has volunteered for garrison duty as a unit, should either the Dominion or Imperial authorities require it.

Montreal, Feb. 24.—The court of appeal this morning rendered judgment sustaining the decision of the superior court, which declared the Standard Assurance Company was obliged to pay the insurance of Isidore Poirier, the victim of the St. Canute tragedy, for which his wife, Cordelia Viau, and Sam Parslow were hanged.

TOOK CARBOLIC ACID.

(Associated Press.)
New York, Feb. 24.—Accused by her husband of being faithless, Mrs. Martha Dittmeyer, a handsome woman of 29, took carbolic acid this morning with fatal results. Mr. Dittmeyer said she left her home yesterday and returned about midnight, and when she attempted to enter the home he locked the doors against her. Later, screams in the cellar aroused Dittmeyer, who found his wife on the cellar floor with a bottle labelled carbolic acid in her hands.

FOUND DEAD.

(Associated Press.)
Geneva, N. Y., Feb. 24.—The body of Mrs. Dennis J. McCarthy, of this place, was found this morning in Marsh creek. Just how she came to her death is at present unknown. She was on the way from her home to visit the grave of her daughter, who committed suicide by drinking carbolic acid nine days ago.

FASHIONABLE MARRIAGE.