

BLOEMFONTEIN OCCUPIED.

The British Flag Now Waves Over the Capital of the Orange Free State.

FORCE FORTY MILES FROM MAKEKING

Col. Plumer's Force is Advancing to Relief of Baden-Powell—Boer Commander Says the British Were Repulsed on Saturday.

(Associated Press.)

London, March 14, 9 p. m.—It is officially announced that Lord Roberts has occupied Bloemfontein, and that the British flag is flying from the top of the capital.

London, March 14.—A few hours should bring important dispatches from Lord Roberts. No word has come from Bloemfontein today, although sharp fighting is believed to have occurred since the commander-in-chief was last heard of.

London expects that the occupation of the Orange Free State capital will occur today.

Plumer Approaching Makekings.

In the meanwhile attention turns to Makekings, which can scarcely hold out much longer. The news of Plumer's approach has given substance to the rumors of its relief, but those best informed are inclined to think the relief is more likely to be accomplished by Col. Peckham's column from Kimberley.

Private advices have set forth that Col. Plumer had, almost given up the hope of accomplishing anything more than harassing the Boers, though since this was written it is possible that the investing forces may have rendered Plumer's task more feasible.

Salisbury's Reply.

Cecil Rhodes is suffering from catarrh of the stomach and is unable to sail for England.

All dispatches received by the greatest satisfaction is felt at Salisbury's reply to the Boer president's peace overtures.

A dispatch from Pietermaritzburg published in the second edition of the Times says: "The reply, especially that paragraph relating to independence, has been received in Natal with feelings of great relief and is dispelling all doubts."

Situation at Johannesburg.

A private dispatch from Johannesburg dated March 10th, has been received in London contradicting the reports that the mines there are flooded and machinery broken, and says all is well.

Dr. Jameson.

A private dispatch received here says Dr. Jameson, who was ill at Ladysmith, is better and likely to recover.

Dr. Jameson was anxious to have a military command in the campaign but as the leader of the raid he was excluded from the service for reasons, and not welcomed when he arrived at Ladysmith a few days before the investment of the town. His opportunity came when the garrison was fever stricken. He reverted to medical practice and did ten men's work in caring for the fever patients and wounded soldiers.

America's Offer.

Regarding the United States offer of mediation, the Globe says: "The incident is of interest only in the light it throws on American politics. Republicans and Democrats alike are always prepared to risk the friendship of England in the party game. We may preserve amicable relations with the United States as long as it is to be hoped we always shall do so, but an alliance is impossible. We were brought to the verge of war four years ago for the sake of Cleveland's reelection, and a pretext for a diplomatic quarrel will never be wanting when the anti-English elements of the Republic have to be conciliated."

DISPATCH FROM ROBERTS.

London, March 14.—The following is the text of Lord Roberts's dispatch to the war office announcing his occupation of Bloemfontein: "Bloemfontein, Tuesday, March 13, 8 p. m.—By the help of God and by the bravery of Her Majesty's soldiers, the troops under my command have taken possession of Bloemfontein.

"The British flag now flies over the presidency, evacuated last evening by Mr. Steyn, late president of the Orange Free State.

"Mr. Fraser, member of the late executive of the government, the mayor, the secretary of the late government, the landrost and other officers met me two miles from the town and presented me with the keys of the public offices.

"The enemy have withdrawn from the neighborhood and all seems quiet.

"The inhabitants of Bloemfontein gave the troops a cordial welcome.

"The above dispatch, though dated Tuesday, was not received at the war office until 7.30 p. m. on Wednesday. It was made a few minutes before nine o'clock.

"The delay is attributed to the field telegraphs not being connected with Bloemfontein on Tuesday evening.

Extra papers are already out on the streets, and the night crowds of London are singing patriotic songs and engaging in demonstrations.

BOER ACCOUNT OF FIGHTING

Pretoria, March 13.—Commandant Delarey's report of the fight at Abraham's Kraal on Saturday says:

"The British were estimated to number 40,000 men. Their first assault was repulsed. The second assault was made on the hills to the left of our position. These hills were of great strategic importance. Approaching this, I and three hundred men defended the position from nine in the morning until sundown.

"The burghers fought like heroes and three times repulsed masses of British who kept relieving their tired men. Every attempt to storm was defeated.

"At sundown there was not fifty yards between us.

"The British lost heavily. No accurate returns of our loss available."

PLUMER NEAR MAKEKING.

Lobatsi, March 8.—Col. Plumer's force reached here on Tuesday, 6th. It is believed that only a single bridge southward has been destroyed, and otherwise the railroad is intact within five miles of Makekings. Col. Plumer has already dispersed the Boer police posts in the neighborhood, and is actively pushing his advance southward.

Capetown, March 14.—Plumer is now within 40 miles of Makekings.

PLOT TO FREE PRISONERS.

Capetown, March 14.—It has just transpired that another plot has been discovered to free the Boer prisoners at Simonstown. The remarkable quantities of watermelons received by the prisoners aroused comment, and an investigation discovered that compromising letters were contained in the melons, the writers planning the escape of the captives.

Great satisfaction is felt here at the fact that the transports with the bulk of the prisoners sail for St. Helena tonight.

WILL MAKE ANOTHER EFFORT

Washington, March 14.—The answer of Lord Salisbury to the message from Presidents Kruger and Steyn, which was transmitted through the United States government, was received at a late hour last night by Secretary Hay through Mr. White, United States charge at London, and has been transmitted to Adelbert Hay, United States consul at Pretoria, who will submit it to the two presidents.

It is believed that another effort will soon be made by the Boers to attain peace, though recourse may be had to some other agency than the United States.

The president has decided that it is not proper to make public just yet, the text of the communications which have passed between Pretoria, London and Washington, relative to the peace negotiations. This particular correspondence was separate and apart from the note addressed by Presidents Kruger and Steyn to nearly all the continental powers, believed to be in sympathy with their cause.

French Press Comments.

Paris, March 14.—The majority of the French papers confine themselves to printing the text of the communication exchanged between Lord Salisbury and Presidents Kruger and Steyn without comment.

The Temps in a leading article deals with the subject and expresses the opinion that Lord Salisbury's reply means a war of conquest and annexation, but also a war to the death, for in President Kruger's message appears a resolution to resist a taute outrance.

The Temps concludes: "After the example given by the United States it would be vain to place any hopes of intervention in the foreign powers."

The War Loan.

London, March 13, 7.30 p. m.—The war office loan bill passed its second reading in the House of Commons to-day by a vote of 288 to 21.

London, March 14.—In the House of Commons to-day the war loan passed its third reading.

From Lord Roberts.

Toronto, March 14.—Lord Roberts has written Sergt.-Major Cox, of the Royal Grenadiers, thanking himself and the members of the regiment for kindly remembrances of him. The regiment sent "Lord Bob's" a Xmas card.

Gone to Africa.

Toronto, March 14.—Three regulars of the R. C. R. I. have disappeared from their barracks and are, it is thought, on their way to Africa.

Marquis of Lorne's Congratulations.

Belleville, Ont., March 14.—The Mar-

quis of Lorne, who is honorary colonel of the Argyle Light Infantry of this city, has written a letter congratulating the Canadians on their splendid work at Paardeberg, and inquiring if any members of the Argyle Light Infantry were among the fighters.

In Honor of Irish Soldiers.

Sydney, N.S.W., March 14.—The government has proclaimed St. Patrick's day as a public holiday, as a tribute to the bravery of the Irish soldiers in South Africa.

Sailing of the Monterey.

Halifax, March 14.—The Monterey, with Strathcona Horse and a hundred officers and men to take the places of the Canadians killed and wounded on the first contingent, sails on Friday.

ROBERTS AT BLOEMFONTEIN.

London, March 15.—At 1.20 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon a Union Jack, specially made for the purpose by Lady Roberts, was hoisted over the presidency at Bloemfontein, amidst the acclamations of the commander-in-chief's battalions, in which, curiously enough, the Orange Free State burghers appear to have joined with remarkable heartiness.

Boers Driven Off.

The opposition to the entry of the British troops into the capital was insignificant. The Boers occupied a few hills south of the place, but a few shells drove them off.

Taking Possession.

At 10 in the morning newspaper correspondents entered the town and found Mr. Fraser and other officials, and guided them to where Lord Roberts stood waiting for them.

As spokesman, Mr. Fraser asked protection for life and property, and surrendered the keys. Roberts accompanied by a mile long to the presidency, receiving an ovation throughout the route, culminating in a remarkable demonstration at the market square, reaching the government building, Lord Roberts took possession of the city in the name of the Queen, and then repaired to the presidency, where the ceremony of hoisting the Union Jack took place, ending forever, according to opinion here, the Boer government of the Free State.

Looking Stopped.

During his progress through the streets, Lord Roberts stopped and ordered the instant replacement of goods, which were being looted from the shops by the Boers, thus giving the populace an idea of the treatment they might expect from the victors.

Steyn Flees to Kroonstad.

President Steyn fled to Kroonstad without replying to Lord Roberts's demand for his surrender, and the commander-in-chief remarked afterwards, during the course of conversation while breakfasting at the farm of President Steyn's brother, that the "ex-president" had become a nonentity.

British Troops.

The British troops, with the exception of those necessary to police the town, remained outside.

Track Destroyed.

The dispatches giving most of the above interesting details also settle the point raised about the cutting of the railway and telegraph north of Bloemfontein, and show it was a plucky act. Major Hunter Weston, of the Royal Engineers, accompanied by ten men, traversed the Boer lines and succeeded in cutting the wires and blowing up the track.

The Half Way House.

Bloemfontein is now regarded as a sort of a half way house and base of operations for the advance of Pretoria.

Giving the Men a Rest.

The military authorities here expect a period of comparative quiet, while Lord Roberts is establishing a railroad connection with Norval's Pont and Bethulie, and giving the men and horses the rest necessary to fit them for the severe struggle which is believed to be still inevitable.

Warren to Rejoin Buller.

The next news of fighting will probably come from Natal. General Warren's division, which had reached Durban, has been ordered to rejoin Buller, indicating that the outlying movement through the Nek of Zululand, referred to in these dispatches March 10th, is about to commence.

It is reported at Bloemfontein that General Joubert is at Brandfont, but other reports locate him at Biggarsberg.

REFUSED TO FIGHT.

Capetown, March 15.—The Transvaalers at Bloemfontein threatened to turn their guns on the town if the peace advocates refused to fight, but the threat was unavailing. The war party fled.

The British are now working the Free State railroad.

CLEMENTS JOINS GATACRE.

Bethulie Bridge Camp, March 15.—Gen. Clements's brigade has effected a junction with Gatacre's troops at Burghersdorp.

A patrol left to-day for Alwal North to join hands with Gen. Brabant.

NO INTERVENTION.

London, March 15.—In the House of Commons to-day, replying to Mr. Wm. Redmond, Irish Nationalist, who asked whether the government of the United States had offered its good offices to Her Majesty's government, with the view of bringing about peace in Africa, the government leader, Mr. A. J. Balfour, said Her Majesty's government would not accept the intervention of any power in the settlement of South African affairs.

The following is the text of Mr. Balfour's reply to Mr. Redmond: "The United States charge d'affaires on March 13th communicated to Lord Salis-

bury the following telegram from Mr. Hay: "By a friendly and good office, inform the British minister of foreign affairs that I to-day received a telegram from the United States consul at Pretoria, reporting that the government of the South African Republic requests the President of the United States to intervene with the view of cessation of hostilities, and urging that a similar request has been made to the representatives of European powers. In communicating this request I am desirous by the President of the United States to express my earnest hope that a way will be found 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 dispatch 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 communication, and to say that Her Majesty's government did not propose to accept the intervention of any power in the settlement of South African affairs."

Loud and prolonged cheering followed this announcement.

At the conclusion of Mr. Balfour's speech Mr. Redmond asked whether intervention was not allowed in the case of Venezuela.

Statement by French Minister.

Paris, March 15.—The minister of foreign affairs, M. Delcasse, replying to-day in the Senate to a question regarding the intentions of the government of France respecting events in South Africa, said the presidents of the two Republics had solicited intervention of the powers. In the presence of the telegrams exchanged between the British and the Republics it appeared, however, that the intervention of the powers had become almost impossible. The minister then denied that France had refused 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 malevolent assertions to the contrary."

Dispatch From Pretoria.

Washington, March 15.—In response to a resolution of the President to-day sent the Senate the correspondence relating to the requests for mediation in South Africa. The first document is a dispatch from Pretoria, dated March 10th, which reads: "An official request by the government of the Republics to urge your excellency with a view to a cessation of hostilities. Similar requests have been made to representatives of European powers. Answer confirm receipt. (Signed) American Consul."

Mr. Hay responded. "Your telegram asking the offices of the United States to bring about cessation of hostilities has been made the subject of a friendly communication to the British government with an expression of the President's earnest hope for peace. Hay."

BOER ANNOUNCEMENT.

Pretoria, March 14.—State Secretary Reitz posted to-day the following announcement: "Yesterday Bloemfontein was occupied by the British after the burghers had retired in another direction.

The seat of the government of the Free State has been transferred to Kroonstad."

FRANCE ASKS FOR TROOPS.

New York, March 15.—The Journal and Advertiser has a special from London which says: "A private telegram from an unimpeachable source in Paris says that the minister for the colonies sent cipher cables yesterday to the governor of every French colony asking, almost in the words of Chamberlain to the British colonial governors, how many soldiers were available for immediate service."

JOUBERT PRAISES BRITISH.

Pretoria, March 13.—Before returning to the front to-day Joubert said to a press representative: "The courage of Reitz's army is beyond question. They rushed the kopjes and entrenchments in a fearless manner, but were not a match for the Mausers, which simply mowed them down."

OTTAWA REJOICES.

Over Relief of Makekings, Although Nothing Officially Has Been Received.

Ottawa, March 15.—The city is rejoicing to-day over the relief of Makekings, although nothing official has yet been received. Bells are ringing and flags are flying from all the principal buildings in the city.

Congratulates Canada.

Ottawa, March 15.—Lord Minto received cables to-day from the governor of British Honduras and governor of South Australia extending to Canada the congratulations of both these colonies for the splendid gallantry displayed by the troops in South Africa. They also express sympathy in the number of lives lost.

Canadian Wounded.

London, March 15.—Private A. E. Cole, writing home to his mother in this city from Netley hospital, England, says the reports that he was wounded at Belmont. He also says his age is 18, not 20 as reported in cables from London, Eng.

T. G. Duncan, of Nelson, B. C., is among the late arrivals at the Dominion. He says the coming summer will be a very busy one and will see the road in Nelson, notwithstanding the depression of this winter in the upper country. A great many buildings are in course of erection and the paving of streets will give work to a great many.

Sporting News.

THE COMING TOURNAMENT.

Arrangements are being rapidly perfected by the Victoria Golf Club for the approaching spring tournament to be held at Oak Bay links on March 23rd, 24th, and 25th. This will be the sixth spring meeting of the home club, and those in charge are determined that it shall eclipse its predecessors. The grounds are rapidly approaching perfection, and should the present beautiful weather continue the coming tournament will be held under the most favorable circumstances. Victorias of this popular pastime are now assiduously practicing for the different events, which should be closely contested. The officers of the club are: President, Mr. F. B. Pemberton; vice-president, Mr. A. P. Lutton; secretary-treasurer, Mr. C. B. Stalshmidt; committee, Messrs. H. Combe, G. S. Holt, F. H. Stirling, W. F. Burton, J. J. Friel, Arthur Pemberton, and Major A. W. Jones. The programme for the tournament is as follows:

Friday, March 23rd.

9.30 to 10.30 a. m.—Open championship of British Columbia; 18 holes; match play.

10.30 a. m. to 3 p. m.—Mixed foursomes; 14 holes.

Saturday, March 24th.

9.30 to 10.30 a. m.—Open championship continued.

10.30 to 11 a. m.—American Cousin's cup (presented by Mr. Robert Cassidy) competition, open only to lady members of the Victoria Golf Club course; 14 holes.

11 to 11.30 a. m.—Ladies' club handicap; 14 holes.

1.30 to 3 p. m.—Open handicap (gentlemen). Putting competition.

Monday, March 26th.

9.30 to 10 a. m.—Open championship continued.

10 to 10.30 a. m.—Ladies' open championship of British Columbia; medal play; 14 holes.

10.30 a. m. to 1 p. m.—"A" and "B" class club handicaps.

1.30 to 2.30 p. m.—Open championship, final.

2.30 to 3 p. m.—Ladies' open handicap; 14 holes.

TACOMA TOURNAMENT.

The tournament of the Tacoma Golf Club is set for the 29th, 30th and 31st of the month, the programme arranged being a long one as follows:

Thursday, March 29th.

9.30 to 10.30—Men's open competition; 18 holes; match play.

10.30 to 11.30—Women's open competition; 9 holes; match play.

1.30 to 2.30—Women's foursomes; 10 holes handicap; medal play.

1 to 3—Men's driving contest; 4 balls; course 40 yards wide; carry 100 yards; prize for longest single drive; prize for best average.

3 to 5—Women's approaching contest; 4 balls; 2 at 50 yards, 2 at 40 yards; bunkers 25 yards from hole; prize for nearest approach; prize for best average.

10 to 5—Putting contest; from 16 feet circle; down in one, counts 5; down in two, counts 3.

Friday, March 30th.

9.30 to 10.30—Continuation of men's open competition.

10.30 to 11.30—Continuation of women's open competition.

12.30 to 2.30—Mixed foursomes; 15 holes handicap; medal play.

10 to 5—Putting contest; same terms as on Thursday.

Saturday, March 31st.

9.30 to 10—Continuation of men's open competition.

10 to 10.30—Continuation of women's open competition.

12.30 to 1.30—Men's open handicap; 18 holes; medal play; prize for best scratch score; prize for first and second best score with handicap; no competitor to take two prizes.

1.30 to 2.30—Women's open handicap; 15 holes; medal play; prize for best scratch score; prize for first and second best score with handicap; no competitor to take two prizes.

3 to 5—Men's approaching contest; 4 balls; 2 at 75 yards, 2 at 50 yards; bunkers 25 yards from hole; prize for nearest approach; prize for best average.

4 to 5—Women's driving contest; 4 balls; course 40 yards wide; carry 40 yards; prize for longest drive; prize for best average.

10 to 5—Putting contest; same terms as on Thursday.

THE ROD.

OPEN SEASON AT HAND.

To-morrow the close fishing season expires, and on Friday the open season commences, and there can be little doubt but that there will be a decided dearth of sportsmen in this city on that day. Judging by the amount of fishing tackle that is being retailed in the various stores where sporting material can be secured, there will be no cessation of interest in a department of sport for which Victoria and vicinity have long been noted. Trout appear to be as plentiful in the numerous lakes and streams now as of yore, while new hauls are constantly being located.

Along the E. & N. are a large number of localities which have for years been the favorite fishing spots of disciples of Isaac Walton. Of these, pre-eminent are Shawanigan Lake, Cowichan river, at Duncan's Kokslah, Somenos lake, Chemamus river, Haslam creek, and Cowichan lake. The latter is rapidly rivaling Shawanigan in popularity, while it is safe to say all the above places will be well frequented. Salt Spring Island also offers unrivalled facilities for trout fishing. Cushman, Brown, Ford and Roberts lakes being famed for the number of trout abounding therein.

The E. & N. trains will leave Victoria on Saturday at 9 a. m. and 3.10 p. m.; Sunday at 7 a. m. and 9 a. m. Returning trains leave Wellington on Sunday at 2.50 p. m.; Dunceats at 4.30 p. m.; and Shawanigan on Monday at 9 a. m. Fishermen, if so desirous, may return to the city by the Monday morning train, the excursion tickets holding good.

THE KING.

FITZSIMMONS V. MAHER.

(Associated Press.)

New York, March 14.—Fitzsimmons and Maher have been matched to box six rounds at the First Regiment armory, Philadelphia, on March 27th.

THE BAR.

VANCOUVER CLUB MEETING.

There was an attendance of 38 members at the recent annual meeting of the Vancouver Rowing Club. The reports of the various committees showed the club to be in a most satisfactory condition, numerically and financially. The season's pro-

WEEKLY WEATHER SYNOPSIS.

Victoria Meteorological Office, 7th to 14th March, 1900.

The first four days of this week proved to be the mildest and wettest of this season west of the Cascades. These abnormal conditions were caused by an extensive ocean storm area developing off Vancouver Island until the barometer at its centre fell to 29 inches. It then slowly crossed by the province, accompanied by easterly to southerly gales and very rainy weather. During this period at New Westminster and Vancouver the downpour was so heavy that the drains were unable to prevent the flooding of some of the cellars in the lower grounds. The heaviest fall reported was 5.5 inches at New Westminster in 39 hours. During the 8th and 9th, the storm spread across the mountains, and owing to the accompanying warm wave it caused a pronounced thaw and destructive snowslides. On Sunday, the 11th, an area of high barometric pressure moved up the Coast from California. It has since covered this province and the Territories, and caused fine weather from the Pacific to the Great Lakes, mild west of the Cascades, and zero temperatures in Manitoba.

At Victoria 28 hours of bright sunshine were recorded, and 2.75 inches of rain, also several kinds of fruit trees are in bloom and white butterflies have appeared. New Westminster reported 3.16 inches in the first four days. At Barkerville, 4 inch of snow fell on the 8th, and .04 inch on the 10th.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Hon. president, R. Marpole; president, C. Sweeney; vice-presidents, R. G. Tatlow, C. L. Wilson, L. G. McPhillips, J. A. Russell; captain, J. W. Senkler; vice-captains, E. B. Lloyd, H. W. Kent; secretary-treasurer, T. W. Golding; committee, George Seymour, J. D. Bell, H. O. Alexander, K. P. Woodward, F. R. McD. Russell, J. D. Scott, L. J. Springer, C. G. Bennett, E. H. Grubbe, G. A. Bonit.

Nanaimo, March 13.—The Thistles yesterday defeated a team from H. M. S. Virago, now in the harbor, by a score of 4 to 1. The Thistles failed to score in the second half, in which the Virago team scored their only goal.

LACROSSE.

VICTORIANS ORGANIZE.

A very successful meeting was held in the parlors of Harry Morton last evening to reorganize the old Victoria Lacrosse Club. A large number were present, who manifested considerable enthusiasm in the subject, among whom were many veterans who remember the popular Canadian game in its infant stages in Victoria, and who cannot resist the temptation to take the field again and "show the young generation how to play." Mr. W. B. Ditchburn was appointed chairman, and Messrs. Morton, Belfrey and C. L. Oullette were nominated a committee to compile the preliminary arrangements. Letters of regret were received from Mr. H. D. Heintzen, M. P., and others who were unable to attend. The election of officers was postponed until the next meeting, when the committee appointed to draft rules, etc., will submit their report. Representatives will be also appointed to attend the meeting