

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph.

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NO. 48.

BRITAIN'S NAVY IS STILL INCREASING.

And Negotiations Are Going On for Recruiting a Naval Reserve in Canada--Britain Keeping Well Ahead of Others.

London, Feb. 26.--In the House of Commons today, Mr. Goschen said that Great Britain was not menaced by any naval power. Europe knew her strength and the number of ships she possessed. There were times when a demonstration was advisable, but the government did not think it advisable upon this occasion.

PRINCE OF WALES PRAISES CANADIANS.

Visits the Wounded at Southampton and Singles Out the Canadians for Special Attention.

London, Feb. 27.--The Prince of Wales, who yesterday (Monday) paid a visit to the wounded who had arrived at Southampton on the hospital ship Princess of Wales, singled out the Canadians and told them how proud the Empire was of them and their brave compatriots who had come forward so loyally and spontaneously to make common cause with the Mother country.

Lord Roberts has appointed to his staff Major Dennison, of the Royal Canadian Regiment.

CANADIAN ROUGH RIDERS ARRIVE AT CAPE TOWN.

Cape Town, Feb. 26.--The Canadian Transport, Pomeranian, from Halifax Jan. 27, with another contingent of Canadian troops on board, has arrived here.

RITCHIE ONLY SLIGHTLY WOUNDED.

Ottawa, Feb. 26.--[Special]--Lady Ritchie received a cable message this morning stating that her son, Private William Ritchie, was but slightly wounded in action at Paardeberg on Sunday, February 18th.

ARNOLD OF WINNIPEG DIED OF HIS WOUNDS.

Ottawa, Feb. 26.--[Special]--The militia department received a cable from Col. Otter today announcing the death of Capt. H. M. Arnold, of Winnipeg, and Private McCreary, of

the 74th, Susséx, N. B. Private McCreary, whose death was at first reported in the Toronto Globe's special and afterwards contradicted, died on the 19th, the day after the fight, and Major Arnold, who was reported wounded, died on Friday last. Major Arnold was captain of the Winnipeg company. Both died in the hospital.

MONTREAL EXCITED.

Receipt of the News that Ladysmith Was Relieved Received with Great Rejoicing.

Montreal, Feb. 26.--There was great excitement in Montreal tonight over report that Ladysmith had been relieved. Report was given out at the theatres and received with great enthusiasm, while chimes of several churches rung joyously.

Montreal Theatre Burned.

Montreal, Feb. 26.--The Theatre Francaise here was completely gutted by fire this morning which also burned out several stores in the vicinity. The theatre was an old building, brick and iron, and was used for theatrical purposes.

AT LAST LADYSMITH HAS BEEN RELIEVED.

Unofficial News Not Yet Confirmed But Looked Upon as Correct--Buller Attacked the Last Boer Stronghold on Saturday--Kruger's Grandson Killed--Dublin Fusiliers, With Ranks Sadly Thinned, Redeem the Regiment's Credit--Boers Gathering in Numbers for the Defence of Bloemfontein--Cronje Still Holds Out--Roberts Said to Be Sparing Him for Humanity's Sake.

It was reported last night that Ladysmith had at last been relieved. It was said the information had been intercepted on its way to the war office. There has been no confirmation of the report, but it is regarded as being probably true, inasmuch as Buller was attacking the last and strongest Boer position on Saturday and was easily occupying important and dominating eminences. General White had also begun to participate and to serve increased rations. It looks as though the siege were over.

London, Feb. 27--4.20 a. m.--The Boers are assembling an army near Bloemfontein with which to dispute the invasion of Lord Roberts. This intelligence comes from Pretoria by way of Lorenzo Marques. The commandos are described as "hastening from all quarters of the two republics."

The gathering of this army across the path of Lord Roberts gives significance to General Cronje's steadfast defence. He has engaged the Boers for ten days now and whether he is relieved or not, he has given time for the dispersed Boer factions to get together and to prepare positions to receive the British advance when Cronje is overcome and Lord Roberts moves forward. It is difficult to conceive that the Boers are strong enough to take the offensive and to rescue General Cronje from his precarious situation.

The war office had nothing after midnight to indicate his collapse, and he may still be fighting for a few days. The Boers are reported to have no exact information respecting his resources. Some say that he has plenty of food, but is short of ammunition. Others assert that he has done his food supplies, but kept abundant supplies of ammunition.

General Buller on Saturday faced the last and strongest position of the Boers who had for a few days. The strenuous fighting indicates a battle between armies rather than near guard actions protecting a retreat.

On Thursday and Friday he lost 43 officers killed and wounded, representing probably a total of from 400 to 500.

General White's guns worked on Saturday upon the Boers' positions, and a telegram from Ladysmith reported that the Boers were retreating, and that larger rations were being issued in view of the fact that relief seemed at hand.

Nothing has been heard from Mafeking since Feb. 12.

The movement on the veldt away from from the railway is becoming increasingly difficult for large bodies of troops, as the grass is burned up. General French has to wagon forage for his horses, and even the infantry finds it more difficult to march than before, as forage for the transport animals must be carried. This requires the formation of garrisons dependent on the ordinary campaigning season is over, and the sickly season for both men and animals has set in.

Technical military writers take these things into consideration in forecasting events.

The Daily Chronicle says it learns from private letters that British rifles and ammunition have been landed on the southern coast of Cape Colony, presumably for the Dutch colonists.

Lord Roberts has recently received 72 additional pieces of artillery. Whether all have been sent to Paardeberg is not known.

Probably the eighth division will leave England next Monday.

Kruger's Grandson Killed.

London, Feb. 27.--Mr. Winslow Churchill, in a despatch to the Morning Post from Free Camp, dated Sunday, says:--

"The idea that the Boers are raising the siege of Ladysmith is premature. The advance is being pursued in the face of the most stubborn opposition and of heavy loss. President Kruger's grandson is among the Boers killed."

Mr. Churchill then proceeded to describe heavy fighting last Friday in which the British advanced within 500 yards of the summit of a rocky Boer posi-

tion and then gallantly charged in the face of a hail of bullets. He says:--

"After repeated attempts, however, and having lost heavily, they recognized that they were unable to prevail. Nevertheless they refused to retreat, but lay down on the slope behind a shelter of walls. The Comaughts and the Dublin Fusiliers were sent to their support, but the light and the night closed in before the main attack had developed."

Mr. Spencer Wilkinson's article in the Morning Post today is almost wholly devoted to criticism of General Buller's apparently mistaken tactics in sending small forces to take positions and then reinforcing these by details. Mr. Wilkinson admits, however, that Mr. Churchill's advice are too incomplete to enable a correct idea to be formed. His despatch, however, is in the middle, leaving the battle unfinished.

Bund Getting Ready to Act.

London, Feb. 26.--The Brussels correspondent of the Daily Mail says:--

"As a result of special inquiries in Boer circles here it is corroborated fully the reported danger from the intrigues of the Afrikaner Bund and the coming congress. Unless the ends of the Bund are otherwise attained, he will fan the flame of rebellion throughout the colony."

Steyn is Growing Anxious.

A despatch to the Daily News from Lorenzo Marques dated Friday, February 23, says:--

"It is reported here that 5,000 burghers have left Ladysmith for the Free State. The Boers are concentrating their forces thirty miles outside of Bloemfontein, and the Free State government is moving to Winburg."

"Reinforcements from all parts are passing through Bloemfontein. President Kruger has a message to President Steyn saying that Lord Roberts is within a few hours of Bloemfontein and he urges that every man, irrespective of nationality, should be commanded."

"President Steyn is said to favor peace. The Boer general who is in command at Ladysmith has a message to President Kruger saying that he had been snatched up there and recommending overtures for peace. The burghers at Mafeking are affected by the closing of the Robinson Bank, President Kruger has allowed the institution to re-open."

Boers Are At Roberts' Mercy.

London, Feb. 27.--The Daily Mail has the following despatch from Paardeberg dated Sunday:--

"There about 4,000 men beleaguered in General Cronje's camp, exclusive of the losses he has hitherto sustained. His wife and children are with him, although there are women and children in the camp."

"The Boer position now is almost exclusively confined to the river bed. The enemy are entirely at our mercy, but Lord Roberts is treating them with great consideration from motives of humanity."

Natives Are Becoming Dangerous.

Lorenzo Marques, Monday, Feb. 26.--A despatch from Gaberones, dated Thursday, Feb. 22, says:--

"Chief Lincho has reported that he made reprisals from the Boers near Sequani, killing a few and capturing several wagons and oxen. There were some casualties on both sides."

"The Boers at Crocodile Pools notified Col. Plumer that, fearing the natives would attack the wounded, they had placed their hospital within the laager. Col. Plumer replied that the ambulance would, of course, be respected, but the Boers, he said, could not expect good behavior from the natives while they were invading the territory of the natives."

To Defend Bloemfontein.

Cape Town, Sunday, Feb. 25.--The Boers are concentrating to defend Bloemfontein. Lord Rosslyn has obtained a commission in Thorneycroft's Horse, and has gone to join Sir Buller's army.

Too Hot for Cronje.

London, Feb. 27.--A despatch to the Daily Chronicle from Paardeberg dated February 23, says:--

"General Cronje's attempt to mount guns was frustrated by our artillery."

Canadians Are Praised.

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Great Bargain Opportunities for Money-Saving People. LADIES' JACKETS

At Half Price, and many less than Half Price to Clear.

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10 MIXED TWEED JACKETS, satin lined, at \$3.00 each. Some in the lot were as high as \$9.00.
15 NAVY BEAVER CLOTH JACKETS, unlined, at \$3.50 each. Some in the lot were as high as \$9.00.
10 BLACK BEAVER CLOTH JACKETS, same price.
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2 BLACK BEAVER CLOTH JACKETS, last year's, very long size 32, \$2.00 each. One was \$12.00, the other \$16.00.
If parcel to be sent by mail add 50c. for each Jacket.

DOWLING BROS., 95 KING ST., ST. JOHN, N. B.

HOUSE OF COMMONS BACK TO YUKON DEBATE

Sir Charles Tupper Tackles Mr. Sifton Before He Goes England--Mr. Blair Scores Neatly on Mr. Foster.

Ottawa, Feb. 26.--[Special]--Sir Charles Tupper, on a motion to adjourn the house this afternoon, took occasion to discuss the Yukon. His reasons for doing this was to give Mr. Sifton a chance of hearing what he had to say before the minister of the interior left for the west, prior to his going to Europe. The principal complaint which Sir Charles had to make was the existence of the 10 per cent. royalty. Another grievance was the abolition of the system of re-location. He wound up his remarks by referring to the provincial campaign in Manitoba.

Mr. Sifton in reply pointed out that the doing away with re-location, a system which played into the hands of claim-jumpers, had also reduced the litigation by four-fifths, and therefore lawyers in the Yukon might fairly grumble, although all other classes approve of the change of policy in this regard.

As to the royalty the government recognized that it was a matter which required careful consideration and also might at an early date require readjustment and change.

What the Manitoba elections had to do with the Yukon it was difficult for the minister to see, but when the time came for his contesting Brandon, Sir Charles would find him there ready for the fray.

Mr. Foster spoke of the preferable character of the mining regulations in British Columbia to that of the Yukon, but when Mr. Blair asked him to point out the difference, the ex-minister of finance refused to do so. Mr. Foster also spoke of certain information he had about officials in the Klondike and Mr. Blair pointed out afterwards that this was done with a view to cast suspicion on the administration of the Yukon and not with the object of remedying any wrong, if wrong there were, otherwise there would be hesitation in giving particulars to aid the government in reaching the offender.

Sir Charles Opens the Ball.

Sir Charles Tupper in opening his remarks said he noticed from the press that the minister of the interior was leaving for Winnipeg tomorrow and was afterwards going to England, therefore he wished to draw the attention of the house to the matters in the Yukon before Mr. Sifton left with a view of following up on the matter. The question of the proper administration of the Yukon was one of national importance, and in the opinion of the leader of the opposition the whole Yukon policy should be changed. If he (Tupper) were a minister for party purposes he would have pursued the line which was adopted. He took exception to the took exception to the regulations in almost every particular.

Everything All Wrong.

The first fatal mistake was in reference to the royalty. A ten per cent. royalty on the gross output led to smuggling and anything of that kind had an injurious effect upon the mining camp. The law was ignored and the gold smuggled out of the country. In this way the Klondike did not get the credit of the output. A larger revenue would be got from 3 per cent. than from 10 per cent. He (Tupper) complained that the best men to be found were not sent to the Yukon to see to its proper administration. However, he went on to quote Major Walsh as being opposed to the royalty as was also Mr. Louis Coste. The result of the present management of affairs was that the population of the Yukon was reduced from 30,000 to 4,000 and more would be leaving in the spring. Sir Charles proceeded to read from a typewritten letter, which complained of the backward state of litigation and that the whole country had been withdrawn from prospecting.

Bad for the Lawyers.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier--Which like litigation unprofitable? Sir Charles Tupper said that when a town was prosperous litigation would be profitable.

Mr. Sutherland--Does the hon. gentleman propose to say who has given him the information, which he is using? Sir Charles Tupper--No I don't propose to say who has given me this information. He then went on to say that Judge Dugas had advised the government to appoint an additional judge for the Yukon, and he considered it a scandal that this was not done, the reason being that the place was kept open for the purpose of getting the position to a member of his house.

Mr. Richard Cartwright--Would the hon. gentleman say what he is quoting from? Won't Tell Who Told Him.

Sir Charles Tupper--I am quoting from a letter given to me by an honorable gentleman well known to myself and has a standing at the bar. Sir Richard Cartwright--You are quoting from an anonymous document.

Sir Charles Tupper then launched the provincial elections in Manitoba, declaring that the issue as presented by organ of the minister of the interior that every vote polled against Great was a vote polled for Sir Charles Tupper. The question was Greenway or Tupper. The Conservatives did not arrange issue, but they accepted it and the result was that Mr. Sifton was defeated in own constituency by one thousand.

One of the things which Sir Charles complained of was the abolition of relocations. Mr. Sifton Always Ready.

Mr. Sifton in reply regretted that he had to go away but was glad that opposition had brought up the matter that he had an opportunity of making his views known.

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