

# Mafeking Holds Out

### Siege Conducted With Greater Vigor But Plumer's Force Is Near.

### Boers Lately Occupied Foremost Trenches But Flew Before British Charge.

### Terrible Sufferings of Women and Children From Hunger and Disease.

London, March 14.—Lady Sarah Wilson wires the Daily Mail from Mafeking under date of March 6 (by native runner to Lobat, March 9), as follows: "On Saturday, March 3, the Boers furiously bombarded the brick fields and trenches about a mile from the town, for three hours, killing one and wounding two colonials.

"On Monday, March 5, they made a determined attack. Owing to a misunderstanding the colonials evacuated the foremost trenches. These the Boers occupied, but reserves were called upon and the trenches were re-occupied with a rush. We had no casualties.

"The Boers continue very active, and it takes Col. Baden-Powell and the garrison very heavily to prevent them from encroaching on our lines. Since Commandant Snyman has returned from the north the siege has been prosecuted with renewed vigor.

"Dynamic explosions were heard during the last two days of February. The Boers have been blowing up sections of the Northern railway, showing that they fear the approach of Col. Plumer's column.

"The new five-inch gun made here has proved very satisfactory and accurate.

"Col. Baden-Powell warned Commandant Snyman that unless he disbanded and disarmed the native levies filling the Boer forward trench by March 3 he (Baden-Powell) would no longer be responsible for restraining Chief Linchwe, in the Siquadi district. Commandant Snyman declines to disband them."

Capetown, March 13.—Col. Plumer occupied Lobat's without opposition on March 5. The Boers had retired the previous day. The railway is damaged, but it can be easily repaired. Lobatski is 57 miles from Mafeking.

London, March 13.—A number of cablegrams have been received from Mafeking to-day, including one to a Birmingham firm telling it to ship goods immediately, thus indicating the speedy relief of the place.

A despatch to the Times from Mafeking, dated Monday, 5th, says the garrison at that place is feeling acutely the stress of the siege. They are reduced to the use of horse flesh and bread made from horse forage, while the water is parasitically contaminated.

"Typhoid, dysentery and diphtheria are epidemic, but it is impossible to isolate the victims. The sufferings of the women and children are terrible, and there are deaths in the women's laager daily. The natives are starving.

"The military operations progress favorably. They have been extended to the brick fields, where the enemy has been completely expelled.

London, March 13.—Midnight.—In the lobbies of the House of Commons rumors that Mafeking had been relieved were in circulation this evening, but they still lack confirmation.

## SALISBURY'S TONE APPROVED.

English Press United in Declaring for British Sovereignty Over the Republics.

London, March 14.—Discussing Lord Salisbury's reply to the Boer Presidents most of the papers express sentiments similar to those of the Times. The Standard says: "It is hard to treat with any seriousness an appeal which ignores the palpable realities of the situation. So far as it is meant for diplomatic use abroad, the appeal is a sheer waste of labor. Knowing our views the diplomats of both hemispheres will respect them." The Daily News says: "Lord Salisbury puts his decision on the right grounds. No other answer could be expected. The duty of the Liberal party will be to use its influence in the direction of tempering future British sovereignty with the largest measure of local autonomy consistent with the securities for inter-state peace and equal laws and liberties.

## EXODUS OF LEADERS.

Pioneers of Fugitive Boer Rulers Set Sail For Europe.

London, March 14.—According to a despatch to the Times from Lorenzo Marques, dated March 13, Mr. Fischer, the Orange Free State secretary, Mr. Wessels, chairman of the Orange Free State raid, and Mr. Wolmarans, of the Transvaal executive council, were to leave for Europe that day by a German steamer.

## TRUE TO BOER NATURE.

Plying the Pick and Shovel Even Though Captive in British Hands.

London, March 13.—The Capetown correspondent of the Standard telegraphs: "It is reported that the Boer prisoners at Symonson were found huddled in a tunnel under the line of the camp. The work had made considerable progress before discovery."

## BRABANT IN FREE STATE.

Scene of His Fighting Shifted From Cape Colony—Barkley East in British Hands.

Allial North, Cape Colony (by courier to Barkley East, via Stormberg Junction), Tuesday, March 13.—Gen. Brabant's forces arrived here Sunday. The Boers had retired the previous night, taking up a position four miles beyond the Orange river, where Gen. Brabant attacked and drove them back, occupying the position after a sharp engagement.

Herschell, Cape Colony, March 13.—The Cape Mounted Police have occupied Barkley East.

## KRUGER DISGUSTED.

His Burglers Turn From Their Path to Become Cattle Raiders.

Durban, March 13.—A Free State whose house President Kruger occupied during the Boer flight from Osofontein, said he complained to the President about the depredations of the Transvaalers, whereupon the President said: "No wonder you are beaten. The burghers entered into the war to fight for a righteous cause, but now they have developed into horse and cattle stealers."

## Independence Forfeited.

### Salisbury So Intimates in His Answer to Boer Republics.

### New Hint That Johannesburg May Be Destroyed—Powers Stand Aloof.

London, March 13.—In the House of Lords to-day the Premier, Lord Salisbury, read the telegrams from Presidents Kruger and Steyn and the British government's reply, in which the concluding sentence is as follows: "Her Majesty's government can only answer your honors' telegram by saying it is not prepared to assent to the independence of either the South African Republic or the Orange Free State." The reading of this sentence elicited prolonged cheers.

Mr. Henry Labouchere, protested against Lord Salisbury's reply. It was, he said, not only a crime but a blunder. The terms of peace which were proposed were an injury and a disgrace to the British Empire. "Turkey," he declared, might just as well have insisted upon blotting out Greece as an independent country. Greece insulted Turkey and compelled her to go to war.

Mr. Thomas Gibson Bowles, Conservative, remarked that the last telegram from President Kruger was even more insulting than the one which began the war.

## TO WRECK JOHANNESBURG.

New York, March 13.—Montagu White, in a signed Washington telegram to the World, says: "I have already expressed the desirability of a friendly neutral, pre-emptive of the place, in order to bring this deplorable South African tragedy to a peaceful termination. It is absolutely indispensable that power should be a party to a settlement, in order to give a basis of permanency thereto. There is also the danger of the destruction of Johannesburg, which would involve the loss of \$150,000,000, or the entire amount of the British war loan."

Mr. White, in his telegram, also intimates that the Boers could not defend it, nor could they allow it to remain as a base for military operations against Pretoria.

## AN EOCEENTRIC DOCUMENT.

The London correspondent of the World says he learns on good authority that the paper sent last Saturday to England by Kruger was remarkable in both manner and matter. The language of the document fairly palliates with religious fervor, and the appeal for peace is made in solemn phrases, such as "in the name of the True God."

It is not improbable that the ministers are awaiting the occupation of Bloemfontein before stating the conditions under which proposals for peace will be considered, and their declaration of policy, when published, is more likely to describe the conditions under which peace cannot be made than it is to formulate a basis for a settlement of the South African complications.

## FRANCE HOLDS ALOOF.

Paris, March 13.—A representative of the Associated Press has secured a responsible mouthpiece of the French government the following exposition of France's attitude in the matter of intervention in the Anglo-Transvaal war, which is said to have been solicited by Kruger. The official in question said: "It is true that France is naturally a party to the intervention, though up to this morning she has not taken any part in it. As far as France is concerned, she certainly will not take the initiative in forcing England mediation, nor will Russia, for the dual alliance is naturally working together in this question. We feel that in the present excited state of public feeling in England, and especially as regards ourselves, any step taken by the French government would defeat its own object, and instead of opening a way to peace, would act as oil on the flames and create fresh complications. We consider that overtures for mediation can emanate from some power whose relations with England present such suggestion being construed as an unfriendly act. The Emperor of Germany, for instance, might take the initiative, or President McKinley, without fear of doing anything to injure the United States, might on our part, and after this is done full reliance can be placed on the unqualified support of France and Russia, whose only desire is to see the end of bloodshed and are eager to lead their good offices in bringing about this end."

Berlin, March 13.—It is semi-officially announced that when the Orange Free State is in the Transvaal, and a number of the larger and small states a request for friendly mediation, the German government will participate, provided the essential condition of such mediation were the mutual recognition of the principle that both belligerents desired it.

## CUSTOMS OFFICER'S DEATH.

Wheatley, Ont., March 13.—Oleab Coatsworth, a customs officer at Romney, and former warden of Kent County, died last night, aged 71.

# Outwitted The Boers

### Roberts Passed Round to Bloemfontein Without Calling at Their Trenches.

### His Force Camped an Easy Day's March from Free State Capital.

### Residents Along New Route Hastily Flew After Hoisting White Flags.

Venter Vleit, March 12.—(Evening.)—The British force, which since the fighting at Decfontein have been marching rapidly hither, have turned the Boer position. Our cavalry are ahead. The Boers were reported this morning about 12,000 strong with 15 guns in position on a range of kopjes commanding the road to Bloemfontein, which is 15 miles distant.

London, March 13.—The Daily News has the following despatch dated Monday evening, March 12, from Venter's Vleit: "We left Avosdel Kop this morning, preceded by cavalry and marched here, a distance of about 15 miles. The army has been following the Orange river, and we are now rather to the south of Bloemfontein and only 12 miles off."

All the divisions have not joined the main advance. Lord Roberts' headquarters are at Gregowak's Farm. You will remember that the "reform" prisoners were taken to the village of Gregowak's Farm. "By advancing along Kool Spruit, Lord Roberts has again outwitted the Boers, who had entrenched themselves on the Orange river, thinking that our route would be in that direction. We found most of the farms along our line of march deserted with white flags flying over the houses. All the belongings worth removal had been taken away and there were evident signs that occupants were in a hurry, things being littered about."

The commander-in-chief has given strict orders that no firing is to be touched. It is not expected that we shall meet with great opposition in entering Bloemfontein."

London, March 13.—The war office has received the following additional despatches from Lord Roberts: "Venter's Vleit, March 12.—Our march was again unopposed. We are now about 18 miles from Bloemfontein. "The cavalry division is astride the railway six miles south of Bloemfontein."

Venter's Vleit, March 13.—(5:30 a. m.)—directed Gen. French, if there was time before dark, to seize the railway station at Bloemfontein, and thus prevent the rolling stock. At midnight I received a report from him that after considerable opposition he had been able to occupy two hills close Bloemfontein. A brother of President Steyn has been made prisoner.

The telegraph line leading northward has been cut, and the railway broken up. I am now starting with the third cavalry brigade, which is called up from the Seventh division near Petersburg yesterday, and formed the infantry to reinforce the cavalry division. The rest of the force will follow as quickly as possible."

Capetown, March 13.—Gen. French has advised the War Office that he has received a report from him that after considerable opposition he had been able to occupy two hills close Bloemfontein. A brother of President Steyn has been made prisoner.

## Kruger Appeals To The Powers

### Germany Makes First Answer Declining to Be Involved in Conflict.

### United States Probably Presenting Forthwith Petition of Sorry Republics.

The Hague, March 12.—It is learned from a reliable source that President Kruger, through consuls at Pretoria, has appealed for the intervention of the great powers in the Transvaal war, and has also appealed to the governments of Belgium, Holland and Switzerland.

Durban, March 12.—The Transvaal having appealed to Germany for mediation, the British minister in that city, Mr. A. J. Balfour, in view of the recent disturbances at peaceable meetings called to discuss the South African affair, or directed against the person or property of individuals, has declined to interfere as he is in no way concerned in the conflict.

Washington, March 12.—There is reason to believe that the United States government is using its good offices to secure peace between Great Britain and the South African Republics. This has not taken the shape of proffered mediation. That it would be distinctly repugnant to Great Britain, and according to the rule of international law which has without exception governed the state and nations, could not be volunteered by the United States unless it was known to be acceptable to both parties to the dispute. The United States might very properly serve as an intermediary to transmit an appeal for peace and the terms upon which peace can be secured. The United States has successfully served in this capacity in the past, notably in the Japanese-Chinese war, and it is believed its good offices in this line are now being extended. The facts in the case will be fully developed in a day or two.

## THE CAPE LOYALISTS.

British Commissioner Praises Their Courage, Patience and Confidence.

Capetown, March 13.—Addressing a public meeting here to-day Sir Alfred Milner, after referring to "the dark days, which we now hope are drawing to a close," eulogized the marvellous courage, patience and confidence shown by the Cape Loyallists during a season of great trial. "He forehanded," he said, "better days that are surely coming, when the temporary bitterness of the struggle around us has subsided." Then the national anthem was sung and Sir Alfred Milner was enthusiastically cheered.

## ZULU CHIEFS QUARREL.

Natives Well Pleased at Prospect of Fighting—Boer Women's Lament.

Lebombo, March 9.—(Via Lorenzo Marques, March 13.)—Trouble is expected between Chief Opeletana and Chief Umboene, in British Zululand. The Boers are anxious that the chiefs should quarrel, and they are prepared to support the quarrel. Chief Opeletana and Chief Umboene, in British Zululand. The Boers are anxious that the chiefs should quarrel, and they are prepared to support the quarrel. Chief Opeletana and Chief Umboene, in British Zululand. The Boers are anxious that the chiefs should quarrel, and they are prepared to support the quarrel.

## LIFE TERM FOR KIDNAPPING.

Albany, N. Y., March 13.—Assemblyman Aggar's bill amending the penal code so as to provide that a person who is convicted of kidnapping a child under 16 years of age may be punished by a life term, will be reported favorably to-morrow.

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## French Surveys Bloemfontein

### After Considerable Opposition Seizes Two Hills Commanding Railway Station.

### Makes Prisoner of President Steyn's Brother—Roberts Closely Following.

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## The Overtures For Peace

### Text of Kruger's Request and the Emphatic Rejection Promised.

### Boers Wished a Breathing Spell Upon Receipt of Their Absurd Suggestion.

Paris, March 13.—(8:40 a. m.)—The Gaulois publishes the following from its London correspondent: "According to good authority, President Kruger and President Steyn have not made a formal proposition of peace, but have asked the British government, through the United States, the condition it would accept for the opening of negotiations on the basis of the independence of the republics."

London, March 12.—In the House of Commons to-day Mr. Balfour, the foreign secretary, in replying to a question as to whether, consistently with public interests, he could state the essential conditions on which alone the government would entertain peace proposals from the South African republics, pronounced that in this connection he would shortly be presented to the House of Commons. Being asked if there was any foundation for the report that President Kruger had addressed a communication to the government, Mr. Balfour reiterated his promise that he would be presenting this subject to the House on Friday next, that a reserve force of 10,000 men would be sent to the Cape, and that the British government would be prepared to receive the proposals of the Boers on the basis of the independence of the republics.

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## ROBERTS' STEADY PROGRESS.

Another Day's March Without Opposition—Casualties in Recent Skirmishing.

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## METHUEN'S MOVEMENTS.

Restoring Order and Communication in the District About Kimberley.

Washington, March 12.—Lord Pauncefoot, called in the state department late in the afternoon and spent half an hour with Secretary Hay. He was made acquainted with the tenor of any communication relative to peace that may have come from Pretoria, he gave no sign of the fact. The officials of the state department understood that it is impetuous the only thing that could be obtained from the Boers is that the department is restrained from discussing the subject by a regard for the diplomatic proprieties, and especially because of the requirement that persons to whom a note is addressed should be permitted to receive it before its substance is made public. In such a case the department would be obliged to deny the note only to-day, it is probable that he would not be able to inform the department that he delivered it to Lord Salisbury before to-morrow.

## PARIS EXPOSITION.

Paris, March 13.—Officials of the Paris exposition said to-night there was no foundation for the report circulated in the United States that the date of the opening had been changed a fortnight. The exposition will be opened April 15, as advertised.

# Referred to Roberts

### Hint That He Will Announce at Pretoria the Terms of Peace.

### Republics Should Have Counted the Cost Before Entering on the War.

### Whitelaw Reid's Timely Words—Col. Peakman Leading Mafeking Relief.

London, March 13.—(4:30 a. m.)—Lord Roberts is making a very rapid advance, and he is again misleading the Boers by continuing the advance southward instead of through the flat country due east of Avosdel Kop. He will probably seize the railway south of Bloemfontein, and although another battle is possible, it is more likely that the Boers are only endeavoring to delay his advance until all the rolling stock of the railway and the stores and troops from the Orange River district can be gotten away.

Such confidence is now felt in the military operations that interest rather centres in the political aspect of the war.

The Daily News quotes Whitelaw Reid as saying in a private letter: "I give you hearty congratulations on the changed aspect of the war. It is an immense relief to us all as well as to you." "This view," says the Daily News, "is welcome as expressing with an unusual measure of authority the enlightened public feeling in the United States."

Except in the case of Germany, the replies of the powers to the Boer appeals for intervention are not yet known publicly here, but it is quite certain that Austria-Hungary and Italy will decline to interfere, and there is no apprehension that anything will come of the overtures of the two republics.

A despatch from Lorenzo Marques announces the arrival there of Mr. Fischer, the Orange Free State secretary, and Mr. Wolmarans, a member of the Transvaal executive council. It is not known whether they are bound on a mission to foreign countries or to Sir Alfred Milner. Mr. Wolmarans is in President Kruger's confidence, and his forthcoming visit to England has solely to do with private business, and is in no way connected with the South African settlement.

All the morning papers take the line that the government will continue to open negotiations with the Boer republics except on the basis of complete surrender, and will also make it perfectly clear that nothing in the shape of intervention will be tolerated. The Standard says: "There is an idea in some quarters that on arriving at Bloemfontein Lord Roberts will issue a proclamation which will leave little doubt as to the nature of the republics' open negotiations with the Boer republics except on the basis of complete surrender, and will also make it perfectly clear that nothing in the shape of intervention will be tolerated. 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