

BOERS HOLD LAING'S NEK.

Butler Moved His Army Through Botha's Pass and is Trying to Get Behind the Enemy.

Fourth Battalion of the Derbyshire Regiment All Killed, Wounded or Made Prisoners, on Thursday Last.

Fifteen Hundred Boers Surrendered Yesterday to General Brabant in the Ficksburg District—Machodorp Officially Proclaimed the Transvaal Capital—Lord Roberts Has Released the Officers and Men Held by the Boers at Waterval.

LONDON, June 8.—The Saturday Review prints a twelve stanza poem by Agathon C. Swinburne, entitled "Astraea Victrix." The seventh stanza reads:

And now the quaking tide That brings back coast and pride To faith and love. Whose maiden is thy name, Bears down the recant lie That doomed thy name to die. Som of friends and foes, Behold thy star the same As when it stood in heaven, a sun And Europe saw no glory left In her sky save one.

THE NINTH STANZA CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING: We looked not on these knaves Their scourge tormented slaves; We held the hand that fair Had risen to amite The torturer faint.

THE TENTH STANZA READS: All murderous fraud that lurks In hearts where hell's craft works, Fought, crawled and slew in darkness— And yet we have not back What righteous doom would give.

THE ELEVENTH STANZA FOLLOWS: No false white flag that sways On faith till murder dawns, Blood-red from hell, Blot treason's heart of hate, Left ever shame's foul brand Seared on an English hand, And yet we have not back What righteous doom would give.

THE TWELFTH STANZA READS: For other pride to dream of scorn Strikes retribution silent as The stars of morn.

BULLER TO THE WAR OFFICE. LONDON, June 8, 11.25 p. m.—The war office has received the following despatch from Gen. Buller:

"YELLOW BOM FARM, June 8.—On June 6 Gen. Talbot Coke, with the Tenth Brigade and the South African Light Horse, seized Van Wyke Hill. The enemy made some resistance and a good deal of sniping occurred. Our casualties were about four killed and thirteen wounded.

"During that day and the following we got two 4.7 and two twelve pounder naval guns on to Van Wyke Hill, and two five inch guns on to the south-western spur of Inkwevo. Under cover of their fire Gen. Hilliard today assaulted all the spurs of the Bergs between Botha's pass and Inkwevo.

"The attack, which was well planned by Hilliard, and carried out with immense dash by the troops, for whom the mountains were too steep, outflanked the enemy, who were forced to retire from their very strong position. "I think we did not have any casualties, and I hope I have obtained a position from which I can render Laing's Nek untenable."

FOR OUR BOYS. LONDON, June 8.—A Cafe Chantant was held at the Carlton Hotel this afternoon, organized by Mrs. Norton to assist the Canadian contingent, which has suffered from the war.

LONDON, June 8.—Private M. A. Hull of "A" squadron, Canadian Mounted Rifles, died of enteric fever at Bloemfontein on Thursday. There is not much change in the condition of Captain Harrison.

LONDON, June 11.—£1,590 is the gross amount realized at Mrs. Norton's cafe chantant for Canadian war sufferers. The Canadian contingent stall at the National bazaar last week realized £324.

Private Edgar Carbonneau of the first contingent, writing from Bloemfontein April 23 last, to Soliel, Quebec, states that two days after the battle of Paardeberg the contingent was presented with Cronje's flag, which was that of the Orange Free State, in commemoration of their work at Paardeberg, and he adds that they will take it home to Canada on their return, which he puts down as August next.

LONDON, June 11.—Fifty thousand British troops are within half a hundred miles of the marauding Boers north of Kroonstad, and they are expected, of course, to make short work of them. Nevertheless outside of the slender war office telegrams, no one knows what is going on.

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give a list of the first contingent invalided to England. It includes 33 names, among which are: Private W. W. Donohue, 3rd Canadian Artillery; M. J. McCarthy, 4th Canadian Artillery; J. H. Haer, 52nd Queens County Regiment; A. Peiky, 62nd St. John Fusiliers; W. A. Fillmore, 63rd Cumberland, N. S.; E. McNab, 63rd.

THE TREATMENT GIVEN THE WOUNDED CANADIANS, says that Lord Strathcona has investigated the complaints of the men and that the matter has been settled satisfactorily, furloughs being granted.

BULLER TO THE WAR OFFICE. LONDON, June 10.—The war office has received the following despatch from Sir Redvers Buller:

"HEADQUARTERS IN NATAL, June 10.—With reference to my telegram of June 8: "We halted yesterday to get our trains up the pass which is very steep. I find the enemy were about 2,000 strong, in a very carefully prepared position, which they must have been disconcerted not to have held longer than they did. They Gen. Hamilton on the left seized a ridge of hills at Witwatersburg in the extreme right of the enemy's position. The Gordons and Cornwalls held a ridge at the west of the enemy's position. The Australians, Australian

LONDON, June 8.—By cable from W. Richmond Smith, the special correspondent of the Star with the British forces in South Africa: PRETORIA, June 5 (delayed in transmission).—Pretoria surrendered last night, after the forts had been bombarded all day with siege guns. Gen. Hamilton on the left seized a ridge of hills at Witwatersburg in the extreme right of the enemy's position. The Gordons and Cornwalls held a ridge at the west of the enemy's position. The Australians, Australian

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Harold G. Parsons, federation delegate from Western Australia, writes to the morning papers to protest against the treatment given the wounded Canadians. He says:

"The invalid Canadians at Shorn-cliff camp, returned from the front, complain that they are badly fed, unhealthily crowded and refused to retire from their very strong position. "I think we did not have any casualties, and I hope I have obtained a position from which I can render Laing's Nek untenable."

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northward, the assumption is that there is danger of a second raid. The loss of the Durban press is estimated from 600 to 700 men.

A Reuter despatch from Maseru, dated June 11, 3.25 p. m., says: "Fifteen hundred Boers surrendered to General Brabant today in the Ficksburg district.

Machodorp has been officially proclaimed the capital of the Transvaal. A Lourenso Marquez despatch says that the village has swollen into a small city, the majority of the inhabitants being in arms.

An official Boer telegram asserts that the British have been defeated with considerable loss at Donkers Poort, in the southern extremity of the Free State or Orange River Colony, ten miles from Norval's Poort. It was thought that this district had been cleared of Boers and rebels long ago.

The Boers still cling to Laing's Nek, but Gen. Buller's forces are still working far around in that direction.

Lord Roberts has wired Cape Town that prior to Wednesday, he liberated 15,000 and 3,000 of the rank and file. The Boers consequently took off only 900.

Mr. Schreiner, the Cape premier, had eight supporters out of forty at a caucus held to consider the ministerial programme. J. X. Merriman, treasurer, and J. W. Sauer, commissioner of public works, have resigned from the cabinet, and Mr. Schreiner's own resignation is believed to be imminent, although he may reconstruct the ministry with the aid of the opposition, the latter members. The cabinet situation is so interesting that Sir Alfred Milner will postpone his trip north.

Food is still scarce at Mafeking, but the railway is nearly repaired. Seventy-two rebels have been arrested in the Vryburg and Mafeking districts. Sixty-two were marched into Mafeking by two of their late prisoners at Mafeking.

All of Gen. Harrington's force had landed at Beira a week ago. The organization to invade the Transvaal from the north is already far advanced.

A Boer deserter who arrived at Maseru yesterday asserts that 7,000 Boers participated in the Rookerzang engagement, that Gen. Olivier was killed and Gen. De Villiers mortally wounded.

The American young women who are nursing in the hospital at Ladybrand have been slighted by the Boer women who are nursing the Boer sick in the same hospital and been made the subject of unpleasant remarks because the Americans are nursing the English.

Thirty thousand troops are engaged in the mimic field operations at Aldershot yesterday.

KOMATIPOORT OCCUPIED. LOURENZO MARQUES, Saturday, June 9.—It is reported that the British have occupied Komatiport after fighting.

President Kruger is said to have a large quantity of personal valuables with him.

IMPRISONED ON THE RACE COURSE. LONDON, June 11.—It is reported in London this morning that Lord Roberts has imprisoned on the race course all made residents of Pretoria.

DESTROYING THE RAILWAY. LONDON, June 10.—General Sir Forester-Walker writes to the war office from Cape Town under today's date, as follows: "Information received from natives early yesterday (Saturday), reports the enemy in three columns near Honing. The railway has been almost completely destroyed between America and Roovald."

THANK THE AMERICANS. CAPE TOWN, June 10.—The British high commissioner, Sir Alfred Milner, has telegraphed to U. S. Consul Hay at Pretoria, thanking him for his services in connection with the British prisoners at Waterval.

A widespread feeling of gratitude exists for the good work done by Mr. Hay, and also United States Consul General Stowe here.

ANOTHER DISASTER. LONDON, June 11.—Lt. Gen. Sir Frederick Forester-Walker, in command of the line of communication in South Africa, reports that in the disaster to the British troops on June 7, at Roovald, where the Boers cut Lord Roberts's line of communications, the fourth battalion of the Derbyshire Regiment were all killed, wounded or made prisoners except six enlisted men.

Two officers and fifteen men were killed and five officers and twenty-two men were wounded, many of them severely. The Boers returned the wounded to the British. The officers killed were Lt. Col. Baird Douglas and Lt. Hawley. The wounded include Col. Wilkinson and Lt. Blanchard of the Canadian Infantry.

CAPT. HARRISON'S CONDITION. LONDON, June 11.—Private M. A. Hull of "A" squadron, Canadian Mounted Rifles, died of enteric fever at Bloemfontein on Thursday. There is not much change in the condition of Captain Harrison.

CRONJE'S FLAG. LONDON, June 11.—£1,590 is the gross amount realized at Mrs. Norton's cafe chantant for Canadian war sufferers. The Canadian contingent stall at the National bazaar last week realized £324.

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THE GREATEST CHANGE

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important to Great Britain than either country. He held that all the parties to the agreement ought to stand together and no one of them should have departed from the understanding. He considered that the action of the imperial government in giving landing rights and other franchises to the Eastern Extension Company, as proposed, would be fatal to the inter-imperial cable programme. The only thing that could save it would be the reservation of the power of expropriation by the imperial government.

Mr. Mulock said nothing official had transpired to change the attitude of the dominion government with regard to the matter. Apart from that which appeared in the papers, the government had no information. He could not conceive that the imperial government had entered into negotiations with the Eastern Extension Company in the way indicated without consulting Canada. He agreed with Sir Charles that this was a matter of grave imperial interest. He hoped the country might still confidentially look for a time when the British empire would be girdled with a cable which did not touch foreign soil.

Col. Prior brought up the matter of Asiatic immigration. He protested against the influx of Chinese and Japanese, advocating the adoption of an act like the Natal act, which requires in all immigrants the knowledge of a European language.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that a bill would be brought in next week respecting the Chinese, but he could not promise action respecting Japanese. It was especially important, just now, to retain the friendship of Japan.

The house went into supply and passed a large part of the vote for the Interior department.

THE SENATE. On motion of the minister of justice, seconded by Sir Mackenzie-Bowell, the senate adopted the address to the Queen which passed the commons yesterday.

Hon. Mr. Mills went somewhat fully into the history of the Transvaal and Free State and of British colonies in Africa elsewhere. He rejoiced that the two capitals had been occupied and that the war was probably nearing its end.

Mackenzie-Bowell commented on Salisbury's statement that the Boer campaign would never again pass out of British hands. He thought it exceedingly gratifying that the Canadians had made the significant dash which led to the surrender of Cronje.

Senator Cowan also spoke.

NOTES. Senator Cowan today gave the minister of militia a magnificent silver cup for a trophy. This cup is to be the subject of competition in volley firing by soldiers of districts 1, 2, 3 and 4.

A fine portrait of Laurier by Forbes has been completed and is now on exhibition in the main corridor of the commons.

Sir Cavendish Boyle and J. H. De Jonge of Georgetown, British Guiana, have sent Hon. Mr. Fielding a draft of \$600, representing contributions to the Ottawa fair fund.

OTTAWA, June 11.—When the house met, Sir Wilfrid Laurier read a statement from the minister of justice rejecting all the suggestions made by Sir Charles Tupper respecting the scope of the commission to enquire into election frauds. These suggestions were designed to make the enquiry more thorough and effective. Sir Charles had asked that instructions be issued for the payment of witnesses and for their indemnification from punishment if their evidence criminated themselves. This provision, suggested by the opposition leader, is taken from Edward Blake's act and from the imperial statute. The minister also refused to provide that one of the two lawyers engaged should be chosen by the conservatives, or that electors should be allowed to testify how they voted, or that the evidence already taken by the committee might be used by the commission. The government takes the ground that the commission should have no further instructions than are contained in the instructions read. Hon. Mr. Mills also refused to order that the West Huron and Brockville cases should be taken up and pressed to a conclusion as the first business of the commission.

When Sir Wilfrid Laurier had read the statement, Sir Charles said he could not understand the refusal if the government did not intend to hamper the commission and make its work futile. It really seemed that the government was attempting to cripple this investigation. The premier and minister of justice seemed to forget that this commission had been brought into existence because of the Huron and Brockville scandals. These exposures had startled the country and frightened the government. It was found that the committee inquiry was dangerous, but it was also found that the enquiry could not be choked off without providing some substitute. These elections had been stolen by a gang of scoundrels and public opinion would not tolerate such things. Resort had been had to this commission, instead of appointing it under the broadest act, it had to be confined within the narrowest possible limits. Sir Charles said that he had no objection to the broadest possible inquiry. If any conservative had been guilty of such frauds he ought to be punished. But the government must

not get away from the fact that the Huron and Brockville frauds were the occasion of this investigation, and that these should be taken up first. Once before the government had refused a full inquiry. That was in the case of the Yukon charges. But at the first opportunity the minister was condemned in his own province.

Sir Charles Tupper warned the premier that the same fate awaited him if he should not make this enquiry effective.

Hon. Mr. Blair charged that the opposition leader was resorting to political manoeuvres and was bringing in suggestions in order that he might attack the government for rejecting them, or if accepted he might say that the government had been forced to adopt them. Mr. Blair explained that the government did not propose to allow the opposition to boast that they had forced the changes upon them.

Later on in his speech he said that in the privileges committee the majority had permitted witnesses to testify how they voted, though they knew it ought not to be allowed. The reason was that they did not want to be charged that the evidence was suppressed. In the case of this commission Mr. Blair objected to such testimony, and remarked that voters who thought they were casting a secret vote should not be asked how they voted after the ballots had been destroyed.

Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper observed that Mr. Blair had made two humiliating confessions when he said that last year he took a wrong course in order to escape ignorant condemnation, and that this year he refused what seemed to be right lest the acceptance would cause the opposition a triumph.

After further discussion Sir Wilfrid Laurier intimated that the judges should be left to decide for themselves what cases to take up first, what lawyers to employ and what the procedure should be. Sir Charles Hibbert had shown that the minister of justice had evidently overlooked the under statutes of Canada and the imperial act when he gave the narrower scope to the indemnity clause. Sir Wilfrid Laurier promised to bring this matter before Hon. Mr. Mills, who would perhaps make amendments to the case.

After discussion by De Spreul and Mr. McNeill the subject dropped. Sir Charles spoke of the rift which now under organization in Canada. He asked that free ammunition be given them. Sir Charles also proposed that the government should ask for an appropriation for the Indian famine fund.

No answer was made by the government to these suggestions. After dinner the weights and measures bill went back into committee for the fifth time, for the discussion of amendments respecting the marking of binder twine packages. This was reported, but the third reading was reserved at the request of Mr. Ellis, who asked for delay on the request of St. John merchants on account of the clauses about salt packages.

The bill to incorporate the Dominion Rifle Association was read a second and third time.

Hon. Mr. Fielding moved the house into supply, when Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper brought up as an amendment another Yukon charge. This is a charge against F. C. Wade, registrar of the Yukon, government solicitor, Yukon land agent, etc. etc. It is alleged that Wade on behalf of the government entered into negotiations with Morrison and Macdonald, to whom the government loaned the water front at Dawson. The grant was made without competition, at a price which enabled the lessees to sub-let at \$7,000 per month profit. Sir Hibbert charges that Wade was at the time this transaction took place, the paid counsel of Morrison and Macdonald, from whom he had a retainer of \$5,000. Having briefly discussed the case, Sir Hibbert moved an amendment setting forth the circumstances and asking for investigation by a judicial commission.

Hon. Mr. Sutherland, acting minister, said Sir Hibbert had not made out a case. The charges he offered had been made in the Yukon by men who had a bad character and had fled from the country to escape punishment for crime.

Sir Charles Hibbert—Does the hon. gentleman mean Dr. McDougall, who was principal accuser? He is at Dawson now.

Mr. Sutherland said he did not mean him, but the Nugget newspaper men.

Sir Charles Hibbert said this statement was not correct with respect to them.

The minister replied that Mr. Wade had denied that he was interested in the matter, or that there was anything corrupt in it. In view of these circumstances he did not think it necessary to hold a further investigation.

Mr. Sprule thought Mr. Sutherland had made about the lamest defence ever heard in the house.

The discussion was continued by Col. Forde, Col. Laurier and Mr. Clancy when the amendment was rejected by a vote of 61 to 26.

The house went into supply on supplementary estimates for the current year. On the item of quarantine, Hon. Mr. Fisher explained that extra expense had been incurred by danger of bubonic plague and smallpox.

On the Paris exposition, Mr. Fisher explained that Canada would pay \$115,000 for space and buildings. He

(Continued on Page Eight)

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