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\$1.50 Per Annum \$1.50

Victoria Times

Twice-a-Week.

VOL. 19.

VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1900.

NO. 69.

ENGAGING THE BURGHERS

Capetown Dispatch Says French Is Fighting a Force of Boers East of Bloemfontein.

PREPARING FOR ADVANCE ON PRETORIA

Plumer Has Retired to Crocodile Pool--Boers Supposed to Be Removing Siege Guns from Mafeking--Kruger Says Russians Have Occupied London.

(Associated Press.)
London, March 23.—Col. Plumer has apparently retired to Crocodile Pool and Mafeking seems further off than ever from relief.
This news was contained in a dispatch from Bulawayo dated Monday, March 20th, and published in the second edition of the Times.
These advices add that the base hospital has been brought back to Gaborone, though the correspondent further says it is thought the object of the Boers' demonstration of March 15th and 16th was to cover the removal of the siege guns from Mafeking.
French's Movements.
Gen. French's activity in the Orange Free State may well be a preliminary to a forward movement by Lord Roberts with the main army.
Kruger Fools the Boers.
A dispatch from Bloemfontein dated Thursday, March 22nd, says President Kruger is reported to have issued a proclamation declaring Great Britain to be in the straits, and that the Russians have occupied London.
Concealed Weapons.
A Springfield telegram published in the second edition of the Times says: "The apparent submissive attitude of the Free Staters should be accepted with caution. The large proportion of obsolete, inferior weapons being turned in by them to the British is giving the impression that large stores of modern Mausers are being concealed."
Treatment of Rebels.
The Outlook's special correspondent at Capetown says: "Feeling is running strong against the leniency with which rebels of Cape Colony and Natal are being treated by the British authorities."

FRENCH AT THABANCHU.

Bloemfontein, March 23.—General French, with a brigade of cavalry and mounted infantry, has arrived at Thabanchu, and opened a heliographic communication with Maseru. He reports all well.

FIGHTING REPORTED.

London, March 23, 8:55 p.m.—According to special dispatches from Capetown dated to-day, General French's cavalry brigade is fighting eastward of Bloemfontein.

THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

New York, March 23.—Philip D. Wessels, government envoy of the Transvaal government to America, now in the city, denied the statement sent from Capetown that there was a conspiracy between the Transvaal, the Free State and the Cape Dutch against England, and that the incriminating documents were removed from Pretoria when Messrs. Fischer, Wessels and Wolmarans left Delagoa Bay for Europe a short time ago.

METHUEN AND OFFICERS.

London, March 23.—In the House of Commons to-day Mr. John Gordon MacNeil, Irish Nationalist member for South Down, again showed an insatiable desire for information in regard to the battle of Magersfontein, and Lord Methuen's relations with his officers and affairs in Kimberley, but the parliamentary secretary of the war office, Mr. Geo. Wyndham, replied all questions. The only positive answer given by Mr. Wyndham was to the effect that neither dum-dum or anything in the nature of expanding or explosive bullets had been used by British troops in South Africa.
In regard to the trouble between Col. Bloemfield Gough and Lord Methuen, Mr. Wyndham said that an investigation would be held as soon as the witnesses returned from South Africa.

DELAGOA BAY AWARD.

New York, March 23.—According to a Washington dispatch the government has been notified that the Delagoa Bay award

tie at the reverse to the Boer arms, are entreated to be allowed to shoot the British officers imprisoned at Pretoria.

A dispatch to the Morning Post from Bloemfontein, dated Wednesday, says: "A deserter reports that the enemy, after repeated discussions has withdrawn from Brandfont northward. He thinks it unlikely that the Boers will make a stand anywhere south of the Vaal. I cannot personally share such opinion."
The Times correspondent at Bloemfontein telegraphing Thursday, says: "Yesterday Mr. Kruger issued a proclamation annexing the Free State to the Transvaal. Mr. Steyn immediately issued a counter proclamation declaring the Free State intact."
The Daily News has the following from Bloemfontein, dated Wednesday: "It is rumored that

Mr. Kruger and Mr. Steyn will meet at Kroonstadt, in the Orange Free State, on April 4th, to discuss the future programme. The feeling between the Transvaal and the Free State is very bitter."
A Times dispatch from Kimberley, dated Thursday, says: "The date of the departure of the Mafeking column from here has not been fixed."
Telegraphing from Spangfontein, Wednesday morning, the correspondent of the Daily News says: "Gen. Gatacre and his staff are still here. He is most strict regarding the private property of the Boers. Some officers who had looted Boer farms have been tried and punished, to the great astonishment and gratification of the Boers."
Winston Churchill in a telegram from Ladysmith pleads for mercy in dealing with rebels. He says: "We must not cry for our pound of flesh; no real conqueror ever lost by clemency either in this world or in the next."

ARTILLERY DUEL.

British Battery Silenced the Boers Near Kimberley.
Kimberley, March 22.—There was a smart artillery duel near Warrenton yesterday morning. A battery under Major Blowitt, supported by the Kimberley Light Horse, located the Boers, who employed four guns, two of which used cordite, but ineffectively.
The British battery replied with effect and silenced the Boer fire.
The Boers sent two shells near the railway station, which was not damaged.

AN INQUIRY ORDERED.

London, March 22.—Mr. George Wyndham, parliamentary secretary for the war office, replying in the House of Commons to-day to a series of questions on the subject of General Lord Methuen and his alleged disagreements with the officers of his column, which have caused considerable comment, declared that no charges had been brought against Gen. Methuen by Col. Gough, or any other officer. Col. Gough, he added, has been informed that an inquiry would be held into his case.
Col. Gough is alleged to have been ordered home by Gen. Methuen after de-

MOBILIZING COMMANDS.

London, March 24.—The main army continues to wait in Bloemfontein and interest in the fate of Mafeking has intensified with Col. Plumer's forced retirement to Crocodile Pools, where he was two months ago. Relief from the North now dwindles to improbability.
Lord Methuen is skirmishing with the Boers at Warrenton, 16 miles away. It is hoped that his military administration has a pleasant surprise in preparation for the Britishers by raising the siege with a strong column of cavalry and artillery detouring to Mafeking, while Commandant Syman is drawn off to engage Col. Plumer.
General French's cavalry and mounted infantry it is rumored, are fighting somewhat east of Bloemfontein. This suggests

MORE BOER BAD NEWS.

as Commandant Oliver's command, with two thousand wagons, is reported on the Basutoland frontier toward Kroonstadt via Ladybrand. This enormous wagon train is supposed to be moving twenty miles a day. Gen. French's cavalry posts stretch from Bloemfontein eastward to the mountains.
General Buller has not yet moved in Natal. The Eighth Division will go direct to Bloemfontein.
Lord Roberts's effective disposal at the front these days hence will be, it is estimated, 70,000 men with easy possibility of moving eastward, forcing the Boers to

Evacuate the Biggarsberg range, and joining hands with General Buller, before continuing the promenade to Pretoria.
The Delagoa Bay railway arbitration award, is editorially considered in the morning papers. The approaching declaration of the finding of the arbitration is welcomed as coming at an appropriate moment and is bringing the acquisition of Delagoa Bay appreciably nearer.
A Daily News correspondent at Bloemfontein telegraphing Thursday says: "A letter from Mr. Pultney, an interpreter in the Free State courts, has been received by his wife here, in which the writer declares that General Joubert is commanding the combined forces at Kroonstadt, where there are plenty of men, guns and foodstuffs for a determined resistance."
The Standard in its principal editorial indulges in the hope that many Boers may yet become British soldiers. It says: "The Boers are proved to have a remarkable turn for soldiering, and there must be many young Boers who will be reluctant to return to a dull pastoral life after the excitement of the campaign. If they are willing to

ADOPT A MILITARY CAREER.

we will find room for them in a safer and more satisfactory enterprise than armed rebellion. We may yet hope to see some future Cronje or Joubert leading British troops on the battlefield side by side with generals of Irish, Canadian and Australian origin. Army commissions are to be given to Australians. Similar privileges must be granted to the other colonies, including those of South Africa."

FROM BOER CAMP.

Dispatch Says Free Staters Are Returning in Crowds.
Boer Camp, Kroonstadt, Thursday, March 22.—Affairs are being put in proper shape and the Free Staters who had to leave are returning in crowds. The commands are mobilizing in great numbers and the men are more determined than ever.
President Steyn has issued a proclamation in which he warns the burghers who lay down their arms and helped the enemy that they are liable to the utmost punishment as traitors.
Springfontein, March 23.—It is reported here that Mr. Steyn has been deposed from the presidency and that the public affairs of the Free State are being administered by a committee at Kroonstadt.

PLUMER NEAR GABERONES.

He Tells of the Retreat of His Advanced Post.
London, March 24.—A dispatch to the Daily News from Lorenzo Marques, dated Friday, says: "It is reported here, from Pretoria, that Commandant Eloff is isolating Col. Plumer's force near Gaborone."
London, March 23.—The war office has issued the following from the general at Capetown to the secretary of war: "The following telegram has arrived from Nicholson, Bulawayo, March 18th: 'The Boers advanced force this morning. They advanced from Goudle's siding. After a sharp little engagement Lieut.-Col. Bodle's advance post was compelled to retreat. The retirement was excellently carried out to our main position. The casualties included Lieut. Chapman and a corporal, prisoners, and two missing, probably prisoners. Five troopers were wounded. Chapman's horse fell with him close to the enemy, who immediately surrounded him. The exact Boer casualties are unknown, but several were shot at short range. In the afternoon the Boers advanced further ridge on the left. Our twelve and a half pounder replied. The artillery duel continuing until sunset. Lieut. A. J. Riley has since died of wounds. One native was killed.'"
Notes.

The rebellion in the Prieska district is being suppressed and Lord Kitchener is returning to Bloemfontein.
A Vienna dispatch says Deputies Wolf and Lemisch have telegraphed to the Premier, Dr. Von Koerber, demanding that he take steps to stop the exportation of forty-five cannon, which are said to have left the Skoda factory, Bohemia, on their way to Trieste, it being further alleged that they are intended for the use of the British forces in South Africa.
The Boers have vacated Klip Dam and Windsortown is almost deserted. Their wives and families have fled with them.
It is understood that Sir Alfred Milner's mission northward is connected with the enforcement of martial law. He will use his personal influence towards the pacification of disaffected centres.
A German government official authorized to speak on the subject told the correspondent of the Associated Press yesterday that there was no justification whatever for the persistent press statements here and elsewhere that Germany and the United States were making efforts on behalf of peace in South Africa.
In German colonial circles it is feared that after Great Britain annexes the Transvaal the Boers will trek into German Southwest Africa. Several newspapers have referred to this possibility during the last few days, intimating that the Boers are not wanted.

WHERE IS COL. PLUMER?

London, March 24.—Lord Roberts's dispatch saying he has nothing special to report is generally interpreted to mean that he hopes speedily to announce some intelligence gratifying to the British. The optimists even deduce from the number of minor items of news received that Lord Roberts has satisfactory news of the advance of the flying column from

THE SOUTHWARDS BY A DETOUR TOWARDS MAFEKING.

Plumer's Position.
In the meanwhile Col. Plumer's position is arousing anxiety. He has with him the long train of supplies for Mafeking, the loss of which would be serious, and further information about commandant Eloff's movements is awaited with trepidation in view of the report from Pretoria that he was isolating Col. Plumer's force near Gaborone. Well informed people in South Africa, however, are more hopeful than the inhabitants of this city. The former are preparing all kinds of celebrations to take place on the announcement of the raising of the siege of Mafeking. A sword of honor is in readiness for presentation to Col. Baden-Powell.

BATTLE IMMINENT.

A dispatch from Maseru, Basutoland, dated yesterday, seems to dispose of the story that Gen. French was fighting yesterday, but it indicates that a battle is imminent.

BOERS MASSING.

From elsewhere come stories of the Boers rallying at various points. Kroonstadt is well entrenched, and General Joubert is preparing to make a determined stand, while the Boers in the eastern districts have been ordered to rally at Ficksburg, northward of Ladybrand, in the Orange Free State, doubtless with the view of attempting to intercept the junction of the forces commanded by Lord Roberts and General Buller. Another Boer force at Fauresmith, southwest of Bloemfontein, is in a defiant mood, so the southern part of the Orange Free State is not yet subdued.

THE CANADIANS.

Sir Charles Parsons, commanding a column in the western district composed of Canadians and others, has arrived at Van Wyksdijk, between which and Kenhardt a force of insurgents is reported to be entrenched.
Col. Herchmer, commanding the Canadian mounted rifles, is convalescent at Carnarvon, and will rejoin the troops on Sunday.

DISPATCH FROM ROBERTS.

London, March 24.—Lord Roberts telegraphs to the war office from Bloemfontein under the date of March 23rd, evening, as follows:
"There is no special news to report. The country south of this place is generally settling down. Numbers of arms have been delivered up and the people are beginning to recognize the advantage of bringing supplies for sale."
"The movement of the troops in the western district is being attended with good results."

FRENCH'S FORCE RESTING.

Bloemfontein, Friday, March 23.—Advices from Thabanchu, between Bloemfontein and Ladybrand, on the Orange Free State border, dated March 22nd, says Gen. French's force is resting there and distributing Lord Roberts's proclamation.
One of the former presidents of the Orange Free State, Sir John Henry Brand, continues his duties as Landrost. He appears quite willing to co-operate with the new regime. The people generally, outwardly, express satisfaction with the advent of the British.
The insurgents in the northern part of Cape Colony have been detected in an ingenious swindle. It appears that before the departure of the Boers they purchased quantities of the notes of the Boer force, which they are now presenting to the British authorities demanding compensation for property alleged to have been requisitioned or damaged. The loyalists, who are the actual losers of the goods, are infuriated.

GEN. WOODGATE DEAD.

London, March 24.—Advices received here announce the death in the Mooi hospital yesterday of General Sir Edward Woodgate, who was wounded in the engagement at Spion Kop on Jan. 24th.
The late General Woodgate was born on Nov. 1st, 1845, at Balmbrington, Worcestershire. He served with the Abyssinian expedition in 1865, receiving a medal, and served in the Ashanti war of 1873-4, receiving a medal with clasp and being mentioned in dispatches. He served in the Zulu war of 1879 as staff officer. He received a medal with clasp, was mentioned in the dispatches and received brevet of major. He was made a staff officer in the West Indies, serving there from 1880 to 1885, proceeding to India as regimental officer in the autumn of the latter year, and returning in December, 1889. He was promoted to lieutenant-colonel in 1893, and to colonel in 1897, and was placed in command of the regimental district of the King's Own at Lancaster. In April, 1898, he was sent to command the troops in Sierra Leone, where the natives were in rebellion.

OFFICERS FOR HALIFAX.

Ottawa, March 24.—The officers for Halifax garrison battalion are announced to-day. The lieutenant-colonel, commanding is Lieut.-Col. Vidal and the officers for A Company (British Columbia and Manitoba) are Lieut.-Col. J. McKay, 42nd Battalion; lieutenants, Lieut. H. C. Ackroyd, 6th Rifles, and Lieut. F. Clark, 12th Battalion.

PATRIOTIC FUND.

Ottawa, March 24.—The Canadian Patriotic fund has passed the two hundred thousand dollar mark, having reached the sum of \$206,639.
Capetown, March 24.—Sir Alfred Milner, who is on a mission northward, has arrived at Dordrecht.

DR. PAIN'S

CREAM BAKING POWDER

Used in Millions of Homes—40 Years the standard. A Pure Cream of Tartar Powder, Superior to every other known. Makes delicious cake and pastry, light, flaky biscuit, griddle cakes—palatable and wholesome.

NOTE.—Avoid baking powders made from alum. They look like pure powders, and may raise the cakes, but alum is a poison and no one can eat food mixed with it without injury to health.

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