

TEN MILES FROM LADYSMITH

On Wednesday Buller Moved More Artillery and Troops Across the Tugela River.

SOME BIG NAVAL GUNS IN POSITION

Bombardment of Boer Trenches Believed to Be in Progress --Report From Burghers' Camp Says the British Have Retreated--Fighting in Cape Colony.

(Associated Press.)
London, Feb. 9.—There is still no news of Buller's doings to-day or yesterday. A dispatch, dated Frere Camp, Thursday, February 8th, but probably written with the advanced lines on February 7th, and sent by runner to Frere, says: "The forces of the enemy are on both our flanks, and continued to render our position extremely difficult to maintain." Beyond the fact that Buller devoted Wednesday to bringing more artillery and troops across the Tugela, nothing is known of his movements, but that he badly needed reinforcements is evident from the foregoing from Frere.

Waiting for Artillery.
It is still more patent that it is impossible for him to advance till the artillery have been enabled to take up forward positions for the purpose of subduing the Boer guns on both flanks. Upon the length of time occupied in this operation depends the duration of Gen. Buller's maintenance of the defensive. It is reasonable to suppose that the guns and reinforcements were in position yesterday, and that another attempt to advance is now progressing, or at least that bombardment, preliminary to the actual movement of the troops, is in progress. In the meanwhile news is awaited with very great eagerness, not mixed with anxiety. Almost all the critics now point out that the mere pushing through to Ladysmith without securing a decisive victory on their way would only add danger to what is already a critical situation. Boers at Dornkloof. Another Frere Camp dispatch says a Boer prisoner asserts that the burghers expected Buller to cross at Dornkloof's Drift, and that thousands of Boers were being posted at Dornkloof to oppose such a passage, while on the captured hill there were only a few hundred Johannesburgers. This tends to increase the anxiety of those who believe Buller has scarcely begun the serious part of his advance, though encouragement is gleaned from the news that the heavy naval guns, after repeated attempts during which the mules rolled down the hill, have succeeded in reaching the summit of Zwarts Kop, whence they are doing excellent practice. Foreign Attacks. A dispatch from Capetown dated yesterday, says the foreign military attaches will leave to-morrow. Their destination is not given, presumably they will join Roberts, whose whereabouts has not yet been made public. Increasing Home Army. It was said to-day that one of the first steps to increase the home army will be the raising of 37 new horse and field batteries with barracks at Salsbury Plain, and the addition of third battalions to numerous regiments which at present are without them. Rumors. To the daily rumor of the relief of Ladysmith was added yesterday the report that Lord Rothschild had positive information to that effect, and that he had communicated it to various members of the House of Lords yesterday. Rothschild denied the story. A rumor that Ladysmith has been re-

lieved is again current to-day. The war office say they have no confirmation of the report.

EXPERTS ON THE SITUATION.

Buller is Thought to be Forcing His Way Through Boer Lines.

London, Feb. 9.—The military experts are spending their energies just at present to figuring out, from the meagre news given out by the War Office, just what Gen. Roberts and his chief assistants are doing in South Africa. What puzzles them is the silence of the War Office.

Forcing His Way.
It is figured out that Gen. Buller is not attempting to turn the Boer position. He is seeking to break his way through the Dutch lines by means of his hammering power of artillery. During the first three days, artillery fire from 36 guns at one point and 72 at another were concentrated upon the enemy's entrenchments. Gen. Buller was not in a hurry, but was content with holding the position taken by Lyttleton's and Hildyard's soldiers, and with moving his guns across the river to support them.

Ten Miles From Ladysmith.
The wedge had been driven in only a short way, but it was in the direction of Ladysmith, which was not more than ten miles from the advanced British position. If it could be hammered forward another five miles, White would be enabled to co-operate with Gen. Buller.

RUMORS OF RETREAT.
From Boer Lager—War Office Have No Information.
London, Feb. 9.—6:40 p.m.—Up to the present, the war office had evidently heard nothing of a retreat by Gen. Buller, as described in the dispatch from the Boer head laager. When shown the Boer dispatch the officials appeared utterly dumfounded. Apparently they had not the least suspicion of the possibility of such an outcome of the operations. It is said on reliable authority that Gen. Buller's dispatch announcing Monday's and Tuesday's movements, was particularly hopeful. He described the position gained as effective, so the news of another retirement is exceedingly bitter to the British, and though it comes from Boer sources, there is little disposition to discredit it. The news spread rapidly, and naturally disappointment was visible on all sides, although the long silence from the Upper Tugela had already aroused apprehensions that Gen. Buller might have found it impossible to go forward, in which case he would have no option but to recross the river.

FROM BOER CAMP.

Dispatch Says a British Force Retired Across the Tugela River at Molen's Drift.

Head Laager, Ladysmith, Feb. 7.—An armored train yesterday made a sortie from Chiereley towards Colenso and landed two thousand British troops on the right of the Boer position. Boers immediately crossed the river and made attack with rifles and artil-

lery, forcing the withdrawal of both the train and the troops to Chiereley. Reported Abandonment of Koppie. Boer Head Laager, Ladysmith, Feb. 8.—The British, who were in possession of the koppie at Molen's Drift, abandoned it after a bombardment by Boer cannon this morning and retired across the Tugela River. A desultory cannonade is proceeding at Tugela this morning, but otherwise all is quiet.

WESTERN BORDER.

Boers Attack the British Position at Koodersberg Drift—An Engagement Which Lasted Two Days.

Koodersberg Drift, Feb. 8.—The Boers yesterday made a determined effort to drive the British from a hill commanding the drift. Mounting two seven-pounders at the northern extremity, they shelled the position intermittently the whole day.

The Seaforth Highlanders gained a position on the rocky summit and kept up a sustained fire, but suffered from the shelling. A battery was sent and it succeeded in silencing the Boer fire. Meanwhile two companies of the Argyll Highlanders, advancing along the plain in a westerly direction, found the Boers entrenched at a small drift. An engagement followed, lasting two whole days. Gen. Macdonald now only required sufficient troops in order to completely surround the Boers. Gen. Babington was dispatched from Modder River with a large force of cavalry and two horse batteries, but failed to reach here, although he started early in the day to enable him to get here early this afternoon. This morning the infantry still remained in the old position. Lord Methuen ordered a retirement to Modder River, which is now proceeding. The British losses were 50 men. Reported Repulse of Plumer. Pretoria, Monday, Feb. 5.—Col. Plumer's force on February 2nd attacked the Boer position near Ramonsta, and after heavy fighting, including an endeavor to take the place by storm, the British were repulsed. Their loss is unknown. London, Feb. 9.—The dispatch from

Koodersberg Drift does not say whether Gen. Babington finally joined Gen. Macdonald, but the word "combined" seems to indicate that he did so.

BULLER'S TASK.

London Times on the Work the General Has Accomplished.

London, Feb. 9.—The Times is an editorial dealing with Gen. Buller's task, says:

"The problem before him is unquestionably most difficult. We can't be surprised or disheartened should he be unable to solve it with success. His task is not merely to force a way through the Boer lines to Ladysmith, that operation would be formidable enough, but it would be easy compared with the one he must perform if large strategical results are to follow. He must inflict a crushing defeat upon the Boer army. Unless he can drive into the Drakenberg or otherwise destroy that army, the relief of Ladysmith can hardly be accomplished with safety. We await the issue of the operation with great anxiety." Elsewhere the Times comments on the fact that Buller is "playing his part in the general scheme which is being co-ordinated by Lord Roberts." It says on this point: "The British public is still kept in ignorance of the whereabouts of some 25,000 troops, and developments may be expected. It is difficult to believe that the Boers are equally ignorant of the disposition of the British forces. The great game of war will, however, shortly be begun and we may confidently hope that the period of reverses is drawing to an end."

THE DEFENCE OF MAFEKING.

Conducted by Telephone—Col. Baden-Powell's Ingenious Scheme for Protecting Inhabitants.

London, Feb. 9.—An interesting letter has been received from Col. Baden-Powell telling how he conducts the defence of Mafeking by telephone. He made himself a bombproof mound in the centre of the town. He says: "Here I sit in my bombproof bureau writing these letters. Around me is telephone communication with each one of my outposts. At each one of the outposts a telescope keeps constant watch on the Boer outposts and guns. As soon as it is seen which way their fire is about to be directed, the wire communications send word and the bell, with which each defensive quarter is provided, clangs in that part of the town where the shell is about to fall. All in the open at once go to ground like rabbits."

AGAIN SOUTH OF THE TUGELA

Route to Ladysmith Was Impracticable and on Wednesday Buller Decided to Retire.

GEN. MACDONALD'S BRILLIANT TACTICS

Particulars of the Retirement—The Invasion of the Free State --Activity in Cape Colony--Preparing for the Advance.

(Associated Press.)
London, Feb. 10.—Lord Roberts's campaign remains an inscrutable mystery. He has gone to the front with Kitchener and the foreign military attaches have started from Capetown to join him there, but nobody outside of the innermost circles of the war office knows where the front is. The theories of the military writers for the London papers are that Gen. Buller's movements of the last few days were simply in the nature of feints to keep the Boers watching him, while other positions of the army were advancing elsewhere. These are based on the fact that Kelly-Kenny was reported a fortnight ago to be at Rosemead, and from rumor it has been generally assumed that the sixth division would co-operate with Generals Gatacre and French in clearing the Orange River district, and opening the way for invasion of the Free State, on the lines of Buller's original plan. The March to Bloemfontein. Gen. Tucker has also been reported at Modder River, and this has been the basis of another theory that the seventh division would follow him, that Kimberley would be relieved, and that the army would march across the country to Bloemfontein. The third theory has assumed that the Free State would be invaded from the Orange River bridge, Belmont, Fauresmith and Springfontein, being the immediate objective points, and the cutting of the communications of the Dutch forces south of the river being the strategical advantage. Patrol Captured. A late dispatch from Sterkstroom says that the standing British patrol, consisting of a sergeant and six men of Brabant's Horse at Brown's farm, was surprised and captured early on Wednesday prior to the Boer attacks on the Penhoek and Bird's river camps. The relief sent from Penhoek blundered on 300 Boers. One man of the Cape Mounted Police, whose horse was shot, was captured, but the others escaped. A Frenchman, supposed to be a spy, was captured and brought to Sterkstroom camp. Buller's Retirement. London, Feb. 10.—2 p.m.—Gen. Buller is once more south of the Tugela River, and Gen. Macdonald is back at the Modder River. Yet to-day's news by no means causes the acute disappointment attendant on the failure to relieve Ladysmith. This can be attributed to three causes: First—There is a strong belief that Buller's last attempt was only a demonstration on a large scale. Second—The wisest critics had warned the public not to expect the immediate relief of White, and third, the nation has settled down to the realization that the war will last a long time and they are not swayed as at first by minor reverses and victories. The second and third reasons are self-explanatory, but the first requires considerable elucidation. Part of Roberts's Plan. In favor of the opinion held by Mr. S. Wilkinson, the military critic of the Morning Post, that Buller did not intend immediately pushing on to Ladysmith, there is overwhelming evidence to show that Field Marshal Roberts ordered sys-

tematic activity on the part of all the forces. On this basis Buller's move may only be a repetition of Macdonald's and French's. Mr. A. J. Balfour's statement about awaiting the completion of plans is another strong reason for believing Buller never intended to make the main advance via Vaal Krantz, but was acting under Roberts. It is also curious that the news of Buller's retirement first came from the Boer laager near Ladysmith, and that the British correspondents were freely allowed to send dispatches before anything from Buller was published. The unusual appeal by Bennett Barleigh, war correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph, asking the public to suspend judgment and rely on Buller, also has considerable significance. On the other hand Buller's recent speech to his troops, in which he said he hoped to be in Ladysmith within a week, tends some people claim, to throw doubt on the belief that he has only been demonstrating in force. From Modder River. Latest news from Modder River shows that Macdonald's retirement from Koodersberg was effected in complete order. The most reasonable explanation of his movement is that it was undertaken more to restore the confidence of the Highlanders, still nervous from their terrible experience at Magersfontein, than to gain any important objective. With this important unit Gen. Methuen's force is rehabilitated for attack on Cronje, and an attempt to relieve Kimberley is looked for, more than likely superintended by Roberts, while the seventh division and part of French's cavalry are occupied in a turning movement east of Jacobsdorp. Boer Activity. A dispatch from Rensberg, dated Friday, 9th, reports much aggressive activity against all the British reconnoitering, and declares the Boers are in no sense surrounded at Colenso, but are simply held in check by a series of camps forming a semi-circle from east to west. The Boers, it is added, are still in possession of the lines of communication with the Free State and hold strong positions around Colesburg. During the morning of the 9th a bombardment with Lydite occurred at Rensberg, and the Boers' Maxim-Vickers are believed to have been silenced. A dozen dead Boers were found on the koppies. The Queen and Highland Brigade. The Queen's keen interest in Macdonald and the Highland brigade was evidenced by the great concern she showed at the news of Macdonald's retirement from Koodersberg. Her Majesty sent special inquiries to the war office, but as the officials had no knowledge of the movements up to midnight, the Queen made her secretary telegraph twice to Reuter's agency asking for the most minute details, whence the news came and who sent it, and requesting the earliest notification of any explanation received. Where is Roberts? Lord Roberts has addressed another letter to Kruger and Steyn complaining of the wanton destruction of property in Natal. The fact that the news of Roberts's message to Presidents Kruger and Steyn came from the Modder River is taken

DR. PRICE'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.

PRICE BAKING POWDER CO., CHICAGO.

is an old Natal
this spring to his
He will spend the
THE MEET
Pertaining to the
esterday.
of the British
Orphanage head
meeting yesterday
e, Hillside avenue,
rs. W. F. McCul-
d Mesdames Hay-
g. Rant, Milne,
eGregor and Miss
preliminaries the
rted that the mar-
who had sustain-
ome time ago, had
s, and was highly
nd treatment re-
public hospital, re-
ttee appointed.
to urge upon the
the desirability of
eers of the Home
the deserted and
their charge, re-
the Premier's as-
considerable dif-
y in this matter it
sidered by the
tee for the month
pointed, to consist
er and Miss Edith
d on the excellent
and gratefully
pt of the follow-
Association, per
St. Aiden's church
fruit; Mr. Grim-
ressed lamb; Mrs.
and fruit cakes;
ons coal (Decem-
rs. W. J. Smith,
Cochrane and six
K. dripping; Mrs.
Mrs. B. R. Sen-
Guild, St. John's
dwiches; Mrs. D.
s. Edwards, cash,
Carl Strickland,
and Monker, box
fr. Sookie, four
apples; Y. W. C.
rs; Mrs. (Co.)
nfores and one
boots; Mrs.
Mr. Bates, cloth-
s, bread and-but-
cakes, meat and
d hats; A Friend,
Colonist, daily
overcoat; Wilking
Mrs. Williams,
A. Victor, new
Fraser, box of
Prize
and
gth.
Compound
Weak and
OWL.
lements That
h the Blood.
els Disease
ne System.
and most serious
who is physically
iron nerves,
eases of strength,
nd broken down
unhappy and mis-
they are, frankly
e.
ty and our coun-
temples worthy
the weakly, sick
every endeavor
strength.
to those who are
ves, has given to
Paine's Celery
and grandest of
g Paine's Celery
and happy re-
sicians, lawyers,
sistants, business
rners who have
ong after months
re honestly seek-
appointed in the
s, nerves, sar-
ns, you will have
for Paine's Cel-
ood results that
ttle are wonder-