

AN AFFAIR OF OUTPOSTS

The Boers Drawn From Their Position and Attacked by Two Regiments of Lancers.

FARMING PREFERRED TO FIGHTING

Many Free Staters Refuse to Join the Forces at Kroonstadt—Africaner Bund and the Question of Independence—Joubert in Danger.

(Associated Press.)

London, March 27.—Reconnaissance of slight importance continue to be the only feature of the war in South Africa.

Lord Roberts wires to the war office as follows:

"Bloemfontein, Monday, March 26th.—Captain Sloane-Stanley, of the Sixteenth Lancers, was slightly wounded in an affair of outposts north of the Modder River, on March 25th."

This bare statement is all that comes from the commander-in-chief.

Skirmishes.

A dispatch from Bloemfontein, dated Monday, March 26th, and published in the second edition of the Times, amplifies Lord Roberts's dispatch as follows: "A cavalry reconnaissance was made yesterday towards Brandfontein. The Sixteenth Lancers, by skirmishing, drew the Boers from their position into the open, when the Ninth Lancers attempted to outflank the enemy, while they were engaged from the front by a dismounted section of the Sixteenth Lancers. Our casualties are reported to be few."

On the Border.

A dispatch from Maseru, Basutoland, dated March 26th, says: "The Basutoland government is busy collecting arrears to be employed at Bloemfontein in repairing and laying railroads. The natives report that the Free Staters on the borders of Basutoland have refused to go to Kroonstadt, and are staying on their farms. It is now the ploughing season, and they are inclined to keep their land and submit, rather than give it up and fight."

In Natal.

Boer reports from Natal show no developments of importance have occurred there up to March 23rd.

A dispatch from the Boer camp at Glencoe, dated March 23rd, says: "No attack is expected to be made on the Boer forces in Natal. Generals Botha and Meyer have been joined by their wives. Pretorians and a patrol got between an advance guard of the Lancers and its main body on March 22nd. One Lancer who refused to surrender was shot."

Denial By Botha.

General Botha denies the reports that Transvaal women were wounded in the British trenches. General Buller has sent the Boers a list of their wounded, stating that he buried sixty men. General Botha says it is impossible as his rolls do not show any such loss.

A Ladysmith special says: "Boer patrols endeavored to trap a party of the Third Hussars on March 25th at Waschbank. A hot chase ensued. Several Boers were wounded."

The same dispatch says: "A printed document has been found giving the Boer losses at Spion Kop at over 2,500, but this can scarcely be correct."

Many Prisoners Dead.

Advices from Capetown say: "Rains are general throughout South Africa and the rivers, which have been dry for years, are being flooded. Many camps are transferred into swamps. This will still more militate against an immediate Boer advance. Sickness among the Boer prisoners of the transports is increasing. Three deaths occurred March 26th. The bodies were buried by the British with the Transvaal flag on the coffins, the leading Dutch of Simonstown attending the funeral. Typhoid fever alone claims one hundred victims among the prisoners, and the population of Simonstown fear an epidemic."

The Bund and the War.

"A meeting of the Bund was held at Pearl, March 26th, and was attended by several members of the Cape assembly. It passed resolutions regretting that the Cape government was not consulted before the war, and declaring that any sentiment which did not respect the independence of the Republics would be detrimental to the highest interests of the British Empire. Mr. Hargrove, the chief speaker, prophesied another war within six years unless independence was granted, and Assemblyman Maris characterized the war as a continuation of the Jameson raid."

Address For White.

General White was presented with an address by the mayor and municipal council of Capetown to-day, assuring him of their sympathy in his enforced home-going, and declaring that the records of the siege of Ladysmith were

among the brightest annals of the nation.

Distinguished Visitors.

It is announced that Lord Roberts is going to Capetown to meet Lady Roberts.

Mr. Michael Davitt arrived at Lorenzo Marques on March 24th.

Boers Employ Kafirs.

A dispatch from Lorenzo Marques, in the second edition of the Times, declares the Boers are using natives from the mines to construct trenches around Johannesburg, adding that the mines are expected to shut down owing to the military demand for Kafir labor.

READY TO RETREAT.

Ladysmith, March 27.—It was reported the Boers are massing in their entrenched positions at Biggarsberg, and it is added that their transport trains are packed at Newcastle in readiness to facilitate their retreat in case necessity should require such a step.

PILCHER ENGAGES BURGHERS

Maseru, Basutoland, March 26.—A small British force, commanded by Col. Pilcher, entered Ladysbrand to-day, after driving in the Boer outposts.

A considerable body of Boers then attacked the British, who retired after capturing the Landrost.

The British had three men wounded and the Boers had eight men wounded slightly.

It is understood that the Boers are trying to check the British, while their convoys of wagons pushes on the Senekal.

CANADA AVENGED MAJUBA.

Toronto, March 27.—The Evening Telegram's London correspondent cables that the London Times correspondent, in writing of the battle of Paardeberg which resulted in the surrender of Cronje, says Gen. Hector Macdonald and Gen. Colville, who commanded the division in which the Canadians were brigaded, reminded Lord Roberts that Feb. 27th was the anniversary of the battle of Majuba Hill, suggesting to the commander-in-chief a plan of attack, but Lord Roberts demurred, fearing the plan would result in the loss of too many lives. Canada, however, insisted, and this insistence, says the Times correspondent, broke down Lord Roberts's reluctance, and the Canadians were sent to redeem the blot on the name of the Mother Country, and to avenge Majuba Hill. The correspondent, continuing, says the Boers admit that the fire of the Canadians compelled them to fire at random.

BOERS DISAPPOINTED.

Durban, March 27.—Mr. William Cox, a newspaper correspondent who was released from imprisonment at Pretoria, has arrived here. He adds his testimony to the stories of the good treatment of the prisoners by the Transvaal authorities, though the subordinates sometimes subjected the captive to annoyances.

Mr. Cox saw Secretary Reitz and says he was evidently worried at the turn of events. Prominent persons at the Transvaal capital bitterly accuse Mr. Hofmeyer, the Africaner leader, and Premier Schreiner of deserting them. They say they expected a hundred thousand Cape colonists to join the republic. General Joubert is apparently suspected of half-heartedness, and Mr. Cox gathered that his life would be in danger at the hands of the irate burghers if Pretoria should be besieged.

At Delagoa Bay Mr. Cox saw well known Transvaal secret service agents purchasing and forwarding all kinds of goods to the Transvaal.

EX-CONSUL MACRUM'S MAIL

New York, March 27.—The Journal and Advertiser, in a Washington dispatch, says that Lord Salisbury has made an exception to the United States for the opening, by the British censor at

Durban, of mail addressed to ex-Consul Chas. E. Macrum at Pretoria, and the apology will be sent to the House committee on foreign affairs by Secretary of State Hay, when Macrum's case against the state department is heard.

According to the dispatch, the facts leaked out through Representative Berry, of Kentucky, one of the Democratic members of the House foreign affairs committee. Mr. Berry had called at the state department relative to the Macrum hearing, and afterwards said: "I saw Secretary Hay and he said that the whole ground work of Mr. Macrum's charges rested upon the fact that three letters had been opened by English officials in South Africa. Secretary Hay said that England's attention had been called to this violation of international law, and that Lord Salisbury had made an investigation and then sent an apology to this country."

The Story Denied.

London, March 27.—The report published in the United States that Lord Salisbury has apologized for the opening of American consular mail in South Africa is untrue. Nothing whatever has passed between the two governments on this matter, and the British Premier has taken no action to investigate the allegations of Mr. Charles E. Macrum, former consul of the United States at Pretoria, nor has he been requested to do so.

A printed fac simile letter to Macrum, alleged to have been opened, was given to Lord Salisbury by a representative of the Associated Press, but he made no comment, nor did he direct that anything be done.

An Explanation.

Washington, March 27.—It is said at the state department regarding the story that great Britain has apologized to this government for the action of the censor in opening letter mail addressed to the United States consul at Pretoria, that the United States government has made no demand upon Great Britain for an apology or any official complaint on that subject. The British government, however, voluntary took notice of Mr. Macrum's published complaint and found that as an incident to a transfer of a large quantity of mail from Durban to Capetown, there had been an indiscriminate opening of letters, which probably had affected the consul's mail with others.

Lord Pauncefoot, speaking for his government, disavowed the action of the censor, and said it had not been authorized in respect to Mr. Macrum's mail. The assurance was given long ago, and some of the members of the House committee on foreign affairs were made acquainted with it at the time.

Patriotic Fund.

Ottawa, March 27.—Canadian Patriotic Fund to date amounts to \$213,907.71. Liberals and South Africa.

London, March 27.—The twenty-second annual meeting of the National Federation opened to-day at Nottingham with 1,200 delegates in attendance. Dr. Spence Watson, the chairman, remarked that there never had been a time when the party so much needed the leadership of the late Mr. Gladstone. There were great differences in the party regarding the war, but he was still confident of the future of the party and advised urging upon the government the necessity of allowing the two republics of South Africa the greatest possible independence compatible with the present troubles.

Proposed Field Hospital.

Toronto, March 27.—The Canadian Military Institute last evening passed a resolution urging the government to equip and dispatch a field hospital to South Africa as speedily as possible.

TREKKING NORTHWARD.

London, March 27.—There is considerable confusion among military observers here as to what is being done for the support of Mafeking. Some 5,000 or 6,000 men are engaged with Lord Methuen at Warrenton and Fourteen Streams, and now another column is about leaving Kimberley, if it has not already started, for Griquatown, 106 miles westward. Its ostensible purpose is to drive out the Boers. The force is described as "a strong one" and the expedition as "likely to attract much attention."

General French is reported from Bloemfontein Sunday as returning from Thabanchu, without apparently having headed off Commandant Olivier, with his 15 guns and miles of baggage.

Boer horsemen are in contact with the British outposts from Biggarsberg to Warrenton.

Buller's patrol had a sharp skirmish Sunday at Waschbank.

Robert's infantry have now been quiet four days, and an advance is hourly expected at the war office.

A correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing from Capetown yesterday says: "A strong expedition will leave Kimberley to-day primarily for Griquatown. Its movements are likely to attract considerable attention."

French Returns.

Bloemfontein, March 26.—Gen. French has returned from Thabanchu, having failed to engage the Boers who are trekking northward.

CANADIANS IN ACTION.

Private Banton of Toronto Tells of the Fight at Paardeberg.

Toronto, March 27.—Private T. W. Banton, formerly of the Toronto Star staff, writing to his father, describes the events which led up to the capture of Cronje and the part the Canadians took in it.

The march from Magerfontein was an extremely trying one. The Canadians were in the vanguard of their division

and marched by night and by day; their transports were deficient, and they had to carry their packs when other regiments marched light. By a forced march they overtook Roberts at Jacobdahl. If the regiment stopped five minutes the whole outfit fell asleep. Banton says some of the Canadians slept walking. On February 8th, after marching 23 miles from Klip's Driest, the Canadians came in contact with the Enemy,

who fired upon them when they went to the river for water. The engagement soon became brisk, and a brigade with the Canadians were ordered on the left of the river which they crossed by a ford in rear of the camp. The Shropshires led the way, followed by the Canadians. The water was up to their necks and some even had to swim. The Canadians crossed in fours, holding to each other. Some other bank they advanced by skirmishing orders. "O" Company supporting "A" Company.

The letter continues: "By this time bullets were coming thick and we had a narrow squeak. We reinforced 'A' Company at five hundred yards and opened fire. The Boers were ordered to stop, and our boys were hit. We soon subdued the fire and kept the Boers down. Their position was in the river bed, and we were lying in the open with no cover of any kind except a few ant hills. We could only see very little to fight, except smoke from their anti-Henri rifles, which gave their position away. Our fire was in crescent shape, right on the river and left extended along the river about five hundred yards.

We were

Under Fire All Morning, and in the afternoon the left was ordered to cease fire as some of our troops were on the other side of the river. As soon as we stopped they started sniping, which made us hug the ground.

"Shortly after joining the firing line Capt. Arnold, of 'A' Company, was hit. The Boers started a murderous fire on the stretcher-bearers, who carried him away, a trick they kept up all day.

"Toward evening the left was ordered to reinforce the right. It was a daring move, but we did it by running down by three and fours.

"At dark all our forces retired and quickly men volunteered to search for the wounded.

"Our casualties were 19 killed and 61 wounded."

Boer Raiding Party.

London, March 27.—A Boer raiding party estimated at 400 is believed by the British forces at Warrenton to have crossed the Kimberley-Bloemfontein wagon road on Monday and to have headed for Jacobdahl with the intention of cutting the railway ten miles west.

Commandant Olivier appears to have got his 600 men and 25 miles wagon into rugged country, where he can make an easy re-guard defence.

The Capetown correspondent of the Daily News says it is improbable that the advance from Bloemfontein will be made for another month. General Clements is advancing to Bloemfontein in four columns. Lord Roberts has passed the Orange river and General Gatacre will be left in charge of Bloemfontein.

The Colonial government has ordered the Cape Volunteers to withdraw south of the Orange river for fear of accentuating racial feeling.

The following appears in the Morning Post, dated March 26th, from Burgersdorp: "Dutch lip loyalty is now very strong and the Dutch are tumbling over each other in their efforts to give information to the British authorities. Real loyalty, however, will be a plant of slow growth in these districts. I have travelled with Sir Alfred Milner, and I believe his policy towards the rebels favors tempering justice with mercy."

A dispatch to the Daily Telegraph from Bloemfontein dated Monday says: "The Transvaalers have arrested Commandant Prinsloo, who had the smaller portion of the Free State, and yet been passing north of Bloemfontein, wishing to enjoy peace under British rule."

Mr. Steyn's Flight.

London, March 27.—Writing in the Morning Post, Mr. Spencer Wilkinson warns the public against blinding themselves to the magnitude of the task which has yet to be performed in South Africa. He then refers to the fact that an immense distance has to be traversed and points out that only the smaller portion of the Free State has yet been touched by the British. It is quite possible, he says, "that the Boers may be able to prolong the campaign for several months and the British advance though it must have a crushing effect can be carried on only by the persistent exertions of those in the field and those at home. Another task which does not appear to grow easier on nearer acquaintance is the settlement of districts disturbed by rebellion. The pacification must be difficult owing to their vast extent. Little can be done until Sir Alfred Milner's cause is announced the government's declaration as to how the rebels shall be treated, and how loyal colonists are to be compensated for losses. There should be, of course, no policy of revenge, nor will the government forget that its first duty to itself is to vindicate its authority. The sooner decisions are announced, the sooner will the troubles diminish."

Mr. Winston Churchill in a dispatch this morning from Capetown urges a generous and forgiving policy toward the rebels instead of yielding to the demands of the loyalists for severe treatment. He says: "The Dutch traitor is less to be feared than the British born burgher, but both are the results of our own mistakes and of crimes in Africa in former years. Unless actually caught fighting, rebels should be treated with the utmost leniency and generosity."

The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Morning Post telegraphing on Sunday says: "I learn that Mr. Steyn fled against his own judgment and on the per-

suasion of Mr. Fischer that duty to his country required that he should remain untrapped as long as resistance was possible."

The Boer Force.

London, March 27.—Messrs. Wolmarans, Fischer and Wessels, the peace envoys from the federal forces are due at Naples in a few days. After visiting two or three European capitals they will go to New York by way of Antwerp. It is understood at the Hague that they are invested with large power and are prepared to agree to anything looking to intervention.

The Times prints a statement from Capetown to the effect that the Boers after deducting their heavy losses are probably unable now to put more than 30,000 men in the fighting line.

Herchmer Returning to Capetown.

Capetown, March 27.—It is reported that a British column has been unable to advance from Van Mykseei owing to floods, which have been without precedent. The roads are impassable.

It is also reported that the rebels are still gathered at Bergpan waiting for the British troops to go further north so that they may raid Camarvon.

Col. Herchmer, of the Canadian Mounted Rifles, is proceeding to Capetown on sick leave.

General Joubert.

Pretoria, March 23.—via Lorenzo Marques.—General Joubert has returned from Kroonstadt. He is full of hope and may return to Natal shortly.

News From Mafeking.

Mafeking, March 14.—The Boers recommenced the bombardment of this place March 12th, a six-inch gun, which had been comparatively silenced for a week, firing shrapnel against troops in the open. The projectiles were ineffectual against cover, but were dangerous to pedestrians.

The one shell burst in the court house, killing several natives. Several women were also slightly wounded.

An Austrian's Opinion.

Paris, March 27.—Count Adalbert Sterberg, an Austrian officer who fought under Gen. Cronje, and who was among the prisoners taken at Paardeberg, was interviewed on his arrival here yesterday from London regarding his South African experience. He said European officers in the Boer ranks had as a rule done but little. When asked if Continental corps would have fought better than the British, he replied: "In the first place there is no Continental power which could have armed and sent so many troops such a great distance from home. I am able to say one thing, even our Austrian troops would not have done better. I learned to admire the British army."

DELAGOA BAY.

Portuguese Government Ready to Meet the Award.

London, March 26.—Portugal, it is stated, is quite prepared to meet the Delagoa Bay award without borrowing money. The current reports that Britain intended lending the Portuguese government money, in exchange for privileges at Delagoa Bay is declared to be absolutely incorrect. The British government hope to be informed in regard to the award during the present week.

On all sides it is said that the long delay in reaching a decision has had a most serious effect on the principle of arbitration.

The Delay.

Washington, March 26.—The United States government has not yet been notified of the postponement of the award in the Delagoa Bay arbitration, which was to have been announced to-day. The news from Berne to the effect that the arbitrators probably will refrain from a distribution of the award among the claimants has created a disagreeable impression here, carrying as it does the inference that the result will be an indefinite delay in the settlement of the case. The arbitrators, will, it is said, place the responsibility for the delay upon the claimants, while at the same time turning a postponement of final adjudication of this celebrated case to a date when it can have no possible effect upon the present situation in South Africa.

PURCHASED BY THE STATES.

(Associated Press.) London, March 27.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Paris, says the sale of the Danish Antilles to the United States has practically been completed.

Washington, March 27.—The state department has not been advised that the Danish government intends to introduce a bill at present in the Danish parliament provided for the sale to the United States of the islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix. The negotiations which have been in progress between the two governments in rather an indefinite fashion for some time past, have not yet reached a stage where legislative action would seem to be necessary.

ALLEGED GAMBLING.

(Associated Press.) Montreal, March 27.—The police authorities have begun a crusade against what is called the Canadian Artistic and Musical Academy, an alleged gambling institution which has been operating in the city for some time. Twenty-one men who were employed in connection with the institution were arrested last evening.

THE KENTUCKY CONSPIRACY.

(Associated Press.) Frankfort, Ky., March 27.—Judge Moore to-day ordered secretary of state Powers to be held for the grand jury without bail. He said that in his opinion Powers had not fired the shot, but had been connected with the conspiracy to kill Governor Goebel.

NOTES FROM VANCOUVER.

Steamer New England Returns From Fishing Grounds—Record Catch of Halibut—Cemetery Question.

(Special to the Times.)

Vancouver, March 27.—Steamer New England, which arrived from the halibut grounds on Sunday afternoon, brought 70,000 lbs. of fish, having made a record catch for the time on one afternoon of her trip. This was expected to be the last trip of the season, as the Eastern market is becoming dull, and Capt. Joyce wished to investigate the extent of the fishing grounds. He went 70 miles further north than usual, on the extreme western side of the main island, in the forenoon only 300 fish were taken, all the boats fishing on the land side of the New England. In the afternoon the boats went farther to sea, and before 8 o'clock in the evening 2,400 fish were aboard the steamer, or about 50,000 lbs.

It is not yet definitely settled what the New England will do during the season. The question of a new cemetery is one that is bothering the city fathers a great deal. The present site is low and wet and some of the holders of plots are so strong in their protests against the condition of things that there is talk of the formation of a Plotowner's Association. A new site on the line of the Westminster tramway was offered to the city by the late government at \$35 per acre.

There was two hours of debate at the city council meeting last night on Ald. Shaw's motion to procure the services of a new city engineer. Ald. Shaw charged Engineer Tracy with carelessness in all departments, and that the pay roll on the new Granville street bridge was double what a liberal estimate allowed. The motion was finally defeated with seven to three.

Agents of the Fishermen's Labor Union, recently formed, are travelling along the Coast with the view of inducing every Indian, Italian and Japanese fisherman to join an organization to deal with the canners' combine.

CHARGES AGAINST OTIS.

He Is Alleged to Have Refused Sick Leave to Officers and Men.

(Associated Press.)

New York, March 27.—The Evening World publishes the following as coming from its Hongkong correspondent: "General Otis is on the verge of collapse. Surgeons say that he must return to the United States soon, or he will break down mentally. His own friends admit it and declare he ought to return immediately."

"Highly indignant among the army surgeons because Otis refused sick leave to officers and men whose case demanded immediate return to a temperate climate, that unnecessary deaths occurred as the result."

"The transport Sheridan left Manila on March 26th with a lot of military prisoners. Against the protests of the surgeons Otis sent as guards for the prisoners men from the hospitals who were scarcely able to stand on their feet. They are expected to do two hours on and four hours off duty in the hold of the vessel in tropical sea. This ought to be investigated when the Sheridan reaches San Francisco."

"Guerillas and Ladrones are so active that we are burning towns wherever the telegraph wires are cut or ambushers attempted to work."

CANADIAN STEEL COMPANY.

Meeting of Organizers—Plans Will Be Erected at Welland, Ontario.

(Associated Press.)

New York, March 28.—A meeting of the organizers of the Canadian Steel Company, the incorporation of which, with \$5,000,000 preferred, is now pending in the Canadian legislature, was held in this city this week, says the Journal of Commerce. At this meeting details of the organization were agreed upon. Although the formal organization cannot be effected, it will be done about the 29th of next month.

The plant of the company will be at Welland, Ontario, where a 1,500 acre site has been obtained. This is at the mouth of the Welland canal, where it is said Lake Superior ores can be laid down as cheap as at Cleveland or Buffalo. The company proposes to enter into practically all departments of the iron and steel business.

Among those interested are several capitalists from this and other cities of the United States, while Canadian capitalists are also concerned. A feature of the company is that it will permit the company to make contracts for electric power with the Hamilton & Lake Erie Power Co. specifically, or with other companies. It is claimed that power can be furnished in this way at one-fifth the cost of steam power in Pittsburg.

IMMIGRATION TO ONTARIO.

(Associated Press.) Toronto, March 27.—According to returns brought down in the Ontario legislature yesterday, 4,015 immigrants settled in Ontario last year, compared with 3,353 the previous year. The cost per head to settle these immigrants was \$1.64, as compared with \$2.11 in 1898.

EARL OF HARKOWBY DEAD.

(Associated Press.) London, March 27.—The Earl of Harkowby, D. L., D. C. L., Dudley Francis Stuart Ryder, former president of the board of trade, is dead. He was born January 16th, 1831.

The speculation as to whether or not H. C. Frick would be a director of the new Carnegie Steel Co. has been dispensed of by Mr. Frick himself. When asked the question he replied "No."

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