## The Semi-Weekty Telegraph.

VOL. XXXVIII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1900.

## FREE STATE INVADED

British Troops on Boer Soil for the First Time.

## LONDON VERY HOPEFUL HOWEVER.

French's Cavalry Crossed the Modder River and Roberts Followed with Forty Thousand Infantry and a Hundred and Fifty Guns-Kimberley Will be Relieved - Bloemfontein Threatened.

the news produces an unpreasant impression here. Gen. French had manoeuvred the Boers out of Rensburg in December. learned definitely that Dr. Jameson is operations in other shrink. ments. These were sent, but the Boers in the Globe this afternoon saying Ger also were reinforced. Since then the Brit-many does not contemplate intervention ish lines have been exteded east and west, The German government, it is added so that at the opening of this week they constituted a great horseshoe, 25 miles in length. The lines were not continuous but all the strong positions were held.

Gen. French, when he joined Lord Roberts, presumably took most of his cavalry. Gen. Clements was left with the infantry ing, 5. ant Delarey, with a double turning move-ment, has compelled the British to con-entrate at Rensburg, besides threatening

The Boer mastery of the district has caused a spread of the insurrection, but this, no doubt, will be promptly repressed as large British forces are available not far away.

The indications as to General Buller's

immediate intentions are contradictory. One informant, who has intimate relations One informant, who has intimate relations with the war office, predicts a movement within the next two days. A number of correspondents who have been with General Buller, however, have gone to Durban for a few days' rest under the impression that nothing is to be done immediately. The war office has directed the eighth

THE MAIL'S STORY.

London, Feb. 14-A despatch to the

Daily Mail from Rensberg, dated yesterdays near Colesberg, the Boers making strenuous efforts to outflank the British left. The enemy occupied strong positions from Achtertang, through Potfontein to a

point five miles south of Jaffontein.
"The fighting at the outpost camps has been very severe during the last few days Yesterday the Boers attacked the position of the Worcesters to the southeast of Co'es-berg. Fighting continued all day and after dark it was considered necessary to with draw to Rensberg. Our losses are not yet

ing, but held their positions against long odds. The Boer losses were considerable. "Owing to the growing difficulty experienced by convoys in reaching the camps, all of the latter were vacated last night and the troops withdrawn to Rens-"The Boers are burning the farms of the

Loyalists, but the latter have contrived to get away with their stock."

THE WAR UNDER ROBERTS.

almost wholly upon Field Marshall Lord port of his withdrawal from Vaal Krantz came through Lord Roberts showing that all the different operations over the wide military attaches have gone to join Lord Roberts at the Modder River, another

move preluding an advance.

A despatch from the Modder River annual contract the co nounces the arrival there of 1,400 refugees from the Barkley West district. They had been ordered away by the Boers because they refused to join the republicans.

It is learned that 200 Boers were killed or wounded during Gen. MacDonald's

ish artillery forced the Boers to evacuate their camp on Hlangwana hill, south of Colenso. This is an important position.
In Rensberg district the Boers are meet

weeks; and, with half of his corps, he is already operating on Free State territory. A battle has not yet been fought, but large tactical advantages have been gain-keen anxiety apart from the fact that it threatens Gen. Buller's communications. It is difficult to believe the Zulus can be kept long quiescent while their cattle are commadeered and their country overrun by their hereditary foes.

The friends of Mr. Cecil Rhodes are be
weeks; and, with half of his corps, he is already operating on Free State territory. A battle has not yet been fought, but large tactical advantages have been gain-with the measurable reach, and the way to Bloem fontein is appreciably easier.

The Boers approached in great numbers, estimated at seven to one. The British under good cover, sustained the attack throughout the day.

Meanwhile two big guns on the west opened upon the British at daylight and out, with a brigade of mounted infantry, fired for half an hour, when a British move to Kingston.

of the day is the enforced retirement of the British from the Colesburg district under heavy Boer pressure and probably rope, in regard to the probable course after brisk fighting. Thus at a time when Lord Roberts is apparently about to push his capture. Dr. Leyds said the Boers did izing transport. He is now an army into the Free State the Boers make a counter stroke in an unknown but seemingly great force, not far from indemnity for the Jameson raid should port. About five miles of ox and mule Military observers do not regard this some than a menace. Nevertheless demanded so that Mr. Rhodes' friends sober views of the situation, but are greated the sober views of the situation, but are greated the sober views of the situation, but are greated the sober views of the situation, but are greated the sober views of the situation, but are greated the sober views of the situation, but are greated the sober views of the situation and the sober views of the situation and the sober views of the situation.

does not consider itself interested in the

HOT WORK NEAR RENSBERG.

Rensberg, Feb. 12—Hobkirk's and Eastard's Nek, which the Boers took pos-session of Saturday, have been reoccupied by the British. The Boers were shelled

Rensberg, Feb. 12 (Evening)-The Boers have again driven in the British outposts in the western flank today, all outposts at Bastard's Nek, Hobkirk's, Windmill and other points retiring to Maeder's Farm. There were several casualties, but details

The Boers are actively pressing around Rensberg. The British force, under Lt. Col. Page, consisting of a section of artillery and 150 horses, which reached Slinguistontein on February 10th, has been compelled to fall back on Rensberg, owing to its eastern float bairs threatened. to its eastern flank being threatened.

London, Feb. 13, 6.40 p. m.—A despatch to the Evening News from Rensberg says severe fighting occured during the British retreat, the various outposts on both sides suffering heavy losses. The despatch adds that it is doubtful if Rensberg can be held. Yesterday's retirement of the western outposts included the withdrawal from Cole's Kop and all the surrounding posts. The Boers placed a forty pounder at Bastard's Nek, commanding the surrounding country, and successfully shelled the British position. The Boers numbered some thousands and were five to one everywhere fighting occurred. The Brit-ish are chafing under the necessity of a retreat from their posts, some of which they had held since the new year. The British now have no camp west of Rens berg. They safely brought off the guns

DEATH IN THE CANADIAN REGI-

Toronto, Feb. 13.-The Globe today publishes the following despatch from its correspondent with the first Canadian con-

Jrivate J. J. Purcell, of "B" company, Royal Canadian regiment, died at the Orange River hospital today of locomotor ataxia. Inspection by Brigadian Smith

Dorrien today was satisfactory.

(Signed) Frederick Hamilton.

Private Purcell was formerly in the almost wholly upon Field Marshall Lord Royal Canadian Artillery, "B" company, Roberts, especially since Gen. Buller's re-Royal Canadian regiment, is the London

ANOTHER PATRIOTIC BOARD OF TRADE.

by the imperial government...

London, Feb. 15, 4.20 a. m.—The British gan, is inside the Boer frontier. Lord Roberts with at least 40,000 infantry, 7,000 cavalry and 150 guns, has turned the Magersfontein lines, before which the British forces have been encamped for ten British forces have been encamped for ten tack upon Slingersfontein, assaulting with weeks; and, with half of his corps, he is musketry the hills on the northeast held

poses making a stand against the invaders, no one here connected with the war office

of Lord Roberts are placed at 50,000 in a general way. Quite possibly Lord Rob-erts has 10,000 or 20,000 more.

It is now realized that the incidents at Rensberg have been sent out of all proportions. Merely skeleton lines were

FROM THE TUGELA.

London, Feb. 15-The Daily Telegraph om its special correspondent at Frere:"On Sunday the Boers advanced down the Ladysmith road toward Potgieters. Three hundred men on horseback with others, proceeded to a point where they began to construct new rows of trenches

at right angle to the road. This was about two miles north of the drift.

"A party of Boers also crossed the Tu-gela about six miles below Potgieters Drift where they sniped the South Afri-can Light Horse, who repulsed them.

"Several other skirmishes have taken place and the Boers are evidently anxious

about their positions."

A despatch to the Morning Post from A despatch to the Morning Post from Chieveley dated Tuesday, confirms the report that parties of Boers have occupied the old British camp on Spearman's Farm. The correspondent, who identifies the wounded Lieut. Churchill as the brother of Mr. Winston Churchill, says he was shot through the right leg.

THE FORWARD MOVEMENT BEGUN.

London, Feb. 14--11.35 p. m.-The was office has issued the following further message from Lord Roberts, received this

evening:-"Dekiels Drift, Feb. 14-8.10 a. m.-"Dekiels Drift, Feb. 14—8.10 a. m.—General Frnch left this point at 11.30 yesterday morning with three brigades of cavalry, horse artillery and mounted infantry, including several colonial contingents, in order to seize a crossing of the Modder, distant about 25 miles. He reports, by despatch dated 5.35 p. m., that he had forced a passage at Clip Drift and occupied the hills north of the river, capturing three of the enemy's lazgers with turing three of the enemy's laagers with their supplies, while General Gordon of the 15th Hussars, with his brigade, who had made a feint at Rondeval Drift, four miles west, has seized it and a second drift between that and Clip Drift, together with

two more laagers. "General French's performance is brilliant, considering the excessive heat and a blinding dust storm which raged during

blinding dust storm which raged during the latter part of the day.

"Owing to the rapidity of his movements, General French met with but slight opposition; and his losses were small. Lieut. Johnson, of the Inniskilling Dragoons, is the only officer reported severely wounded.

"The sixth division was last night on the result happy, of the Right at Waterwal.

go on this afternoon.
"Four officers and 53 men had to be sent last evening in the returning ox wagons to the railway line, prostrated by heat

OPPONENTS OF THE WAR IN LON-

London, Feb. 14-Supporters of the Liberal party, to the number of 300 or 400, held a private meeting at the Westminis-ter Palace Hotel today to protest against Hamilton, Feb. 13.—At a special meeting of the board of trade yesterday a resolution was unanimously passed calling on the government to offer to increase the Canadian contingent in South Africa to whatever extent may be found necessary by the imperial government. tion of irresponsible capitalists."

WHY THE BRITISH WITHDREW

CASUALTIES TO DATE. London, Feb. 14.—The total British casualty returns up to tonight are:—
Officers.

DAVIS AT DELAGOA BAY. States assistant secretary of the interior. Free State. on the steamer Kanseler via Naples on suspended. A correspondent, writing from Chieveley Feb. 13, says:—

BOERS WARING ON WOMEN.

ublishes the following despatch from ing matters already sent out by corre-

fell near the English women. Lady Sarah

THE STRATHCONA HORSE OFFICERS Ottawa, Feb. 14-The following are announcements as to those appointed to com-missions in Strathcona's Horse. The ex-

missions in Strathcona's Horse. The exact positions they will fill are not determined:

Officers of N. W. Mounted Police: S. B. Steele, R. Belcher, A. E. Snyder, A. H. Jarvis, D. H. Howard, F. L. Cartwright, W. Parker. Graduates Royal Military College, Kingston: R. C. Laurie. R. M. Courtney. J. E. Leckie, R. H. B. Magee. Officers of the active militia: Magee. Officers of the active militia: Major G. W. Cameron, Royal Scots; Capt. J. F. MacDonald, 37th Battalion; E. E. Mackie, 90th Battalien; Parry Fall, Man Mache, 50th Battanen; Parry Pair, Main-toba Dragoons; T. El Pooley, B. C. Garri-son Artillery. Unattached: A. W. Strange, A. E. Christie, E. C. Parker (late captain 15th Foot), Surgeon C. P. Keenan,

R. V. H., Montreal.

Lt. Col. Steele has been with the North west Mounted Police force since its founda-tion and is a most popular officer of the

Canadian militia.

Capt. Beleher and Messrs. Snyder and

Capt. Howard was captain in the Gen Middleton's column in the rebellion of 1885. He is a barrister of Osgoode Hall. Mr. T. L. Cartwright is a son of Sir Richard Cartwright and has of late been connected with the Yukon force. Mr. R. C. Laurier is a member of the first graduating class of the R. M. C., Kingston, and has since been employed

son of the deputy minister of finance, A.
R. M. C. graduate, and has been connected with a Montreal corps.
A. W. Strange is a son of Major Gen.

Capt. Parker comes from British Colum bia and organized a detachment of eighty men in one day.

He has been selected at the request of Lord Strathcona who asked that the posi-tion be filled by a McGill graduate, and it possible a surgeon of the Royal Victoria Hospital.

will reach Ottawa tomorrow morning probably between eight and nine o'clock. The train consists of sixteen cars containing 287 men and a large number of horses. The squadron is in charge of Col. Morrison of the Northwest Mounted Police and the special train bearing it is making very good time.

TO TRANSPORT THE STRATHCONA

Toronto, Feb. 14-The Grand Trunk Railway has completed arrangements for carrying the Canadian mounted infantry to Halifax. A special train of seven pas senger cars and eleven horse cars leave here at 7 o'clock tomorrow evening.

A VANCOUVER HUNDRED. Vancouver, Feb. 14—Vancouver citizens are equipping a corps of 100 men for South

A SPLENDID CONTRIBUTION Toronto, Feb. 14.-The Massey-Harris Company at its annual meeting today

voted \$5,000 to the national patriotic fund. Senator Cox was elected a director of the

him has been communicated to the public, the military adepts are figuring out the possibilities of Lord Roberts' compacting showed possibilities of the future and mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which if not mentally to the number of troops in progress which is not mentally to the number of troops in progress which is not mentally to the number of troops in progress which is not mentally to the number of troops in progress which is not mentally to the number of troops in progress which is not mentally to the number of troops in progress which is not mentally to the number of troops in progress which is not mentally to the number of troops in progress which is not mentally to the number of troops in progress which is not mentally to the number of troops in progress which is not mentally to the number of troops in progress which is not mentally to the number of troops in progress which is not mentally to the number of troops in progress which is not mentally to the number of troops in progress which is not mentally to the number of t the possibilities of Lord Roberts' com-munications and what there is left for the that were not absent from the Russian

best news England could hear would be that he elects to give battle among the

draw to the north, using the railroad for his guns and heavy baggage, moving to Fourteen Streams station, and thence to

Lorenzo Marquez, Delagoa Bay, Feb. particular reason why Gen. Cronje should 12, Monday.—Mr. Webster Davis, United risk a battle to protect the capital of the risk a battle to protect the capital of the

will of the Basutos, who have thousands of good rifles.

The Boers gave 2,000 Basutos a safe conduct. If the British let loose one tribe the Boers will probably let loose another. The war office has issued orders for the formation of 21 new batteries and three battalions of infantry.

The cabinet council was in session yesterday for two hours. It will meet again today. This is quite unusual

A PART OF THE GAME. London, Feb. 16-The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily Chronicle tele-graphing Wednesday, says: "It is report-ed here that the British have evacuated

Rensberg and retired to Arundel BOER REPORTS. Boer Head Laager, Ladysmith, Monday,

the Upper Tugela.

Boer Laager, near Ladysmith, Tuesday,
Feb. 13—Yesterday General Botha, with
a small force crossed the Tugela to a

HOUSE OF LORDS ON THE WAR.

secretary of state for war had referred, would stand analysis. For the volunteers respect; but by no stretch of the imagination could they be called soldiers, as it as to Russia, events have been recently mountains the larger would be the grave-witnessed in Persia about which England yard they would make there.

Should he determine not to do this, he

This retreat could be a long detour around the head of the British advance have always been too late and have ne-

to defend Bloemfontein; and there is no

"We are still hopeful of relieving Lady-Col. Baden-Powell in a despatch from London, Feb. 15 .- The Daily Chronicle Mafeking, dated Jan. 29, after mention-

Feb. 12—Since Friday everything has been quiet. The English with their cannon, have moved towards Chieveley. They found the Boer position unassailable on

deserted British camp, where he encountered 50 Lancers, of whom 13 were killed, five wounded and nine taken prisoners. One of the prisoners was sent to tell the British to fetch their wounded.

posals and expressed a doubt as to

District Action of the Boer supply bases. On Monday Gen. French, with the cavalry division, seized the crossing of the Riet river at Dekil's Drift, south of Jacobsdal, and 18 miles east of Honey Nest Kloof. He skirmished with the Boers and cleared the way for 20,000 infantry, who followed across.

On Tuesday, with his three cavalry brigades and the horse artillery, Gen. He horse artillery, Gen. With high ground beyond the river and five Boer camps. He had a few casualties in brushes with the Boer horse. Gen. French has now fixed himself on Gentlem, which the British examinations with Bloemfortein, and 20,000 infantry with 72 guns are being pulsed unto a state of the most important base outside of the Gentlem, which the British exacuated under cover of darkness, falling back upon with 72 guns are being pulsed unto a state of the north of the first and the fir London, Feb. 16, 4.30 a. m.—As the wires are closed to correspondence with tile intention to Russia at the present

Gen. Cronje's communications with Bloemfontein have already been cut. The in the course of his reply for the govern-

must raise the siege of Kimberley and reglected opportunities, I would gladly accept a challenge, provided the words The Boers have made no preparations fathers were not discouraged by bad bedefend Bloemfontein; and there is no
ginnings and we should follow their ex-

spondents, gives his total casualties up to Jan. 25 as follows:—

Killed—Five officers and 60 men; wounded, 8 officers and 123 men; missing 34 men.

Chamberlain, said that the government chamberlain, said that the government chamberlain, said that the government chamberlain is the native territories were

berg. The impression is that these forces are on the way to Lord Roberts.

Mr. Chamberlain's announcement in the house of commons of the intention of the government to encourage the Zulus to defend themselves from the Boers, is a contingency the Boers seem to have anticipated, as they have been doing everything in their power to win the good will of the Basutos, who have thousands of good rifles.

Invaded by the Boers the natives "will be encouraged and assisted in every way in defending themselves."

The house after going into committee of supply on the supplementary war estimates, Mr. William Redmond, Nationalist, strongly objected to adding a single man to the British army, which, he said, was now "Engaged in a war which was an insult to God, a war engaged by Christian England against a Christian people who of supply on the supply of the supply of supply of the supply of s

members.

The debate in the commons was, on the whole, rather dull, and confined chiefly to the less prominent members.

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STRATHCONA HORSE AT OTTAWA.

Ottawa, Feb. 15.—The first detachment of the Strathcona Horse arrived at Ottawa shortly after 9 o'clock this morning, and are quartered in the exhibition grounds. There are 280 men and six officers and all of the characteristic western type, strong and rough-looking men of various heights, from five feet six inches to five feet eleven inches, but all execlent horsemen and expert rifle shots. The officers accompanying the detachment are Capt. Barker, in command, Capt. Mackie, Capt. Christie, Lieut. Parker, Quartermaster Lieut. Leckie, and Lieut. Walls. The most of the men are from "A" squadron, Manitche, There are sleet. master Lieut. Leckie, and Lieut. Walls. The nost of the men are from "A" squadron, Manitoba. There are also two troops from "C" squadron, British Columbia, and a detail from "B" squadron, Northwest Territories. Lieut. Col. Steele, the commandant; will arrive this afternoon, and

OTTAWA MILITARY NEWS.

Ottawa, Feb.15-A militia order issued today says that the Canadian Mounted Rifles will receive cavalry rates of pay today the Earl of Dunraven raised a queswhile on special service in South Africa.

The following officers will proceed to left last week for his home. The tion on the government's military prowhether these were sufficient.

The Earl of Rosebery said he fully recognized the gravity of the situation and agreed with the previous speaker in thinking that the measures adopted were inadequate in the circumstances. He also doubted whether the "paper force of 409,"

100 man in Greet Pritain" to replace officers attached for instructional purposes and who have been appointed to the Canadian Mounted Riffley, and brigade division, of Field Artillery, viz.: Lt. Col. M. D. Gordon, commanding No. 5 military district; Major T. L. Boulanger, 1st Quebec Field Battery; Lt. J. E. Burch, 2nd Dragoons

ONE LESSON TO BE LEARNED. was admitted that they needed months of at Chiswick this evening on the war, said training annually to render them efficient. that one lesson to be learned was the fact "The crisis in South Africa is urgent," that a volunteer force could use the long continued Lord Rosebery, "but we must that a volunteer force could use the long continued Lord Rosebery, "but we must that a volunteer force could use the long continued Lord Rosebery, "but we must that a volunteer force could use the long continued Lord Rosebery, "but we must that a volunteer force could use the long continued Lord Rosebery, "but we must that a volunteer force could use the long continued Lord Rosebery," but we must that a volunteer force could use the long continued Lord Rosebery, "but we must that a volunteer force could use the long continued Lord Rosebery, "but we must that a volunteer force could use the long continued Lord Rosebery," but we must that a volunteer force could use the long continued Lord Rosebery, "but we must that a volunteer force could use the long continued Lord Rosebery," but we must that a volunteer force could use the long continued Lord Rosebery, "but we must that a volunteer force could use the long continued Lord Rosebery," but we must be a volunteer force could use the long continued Lord Rosebery, "but we must be a volunteer force could use the long continued Lord Rosebery," but we must be a volunteer force could use the long continued Lord Rosebery Rose for the long continued Lord Rosebery Rose for the long continued Lord Rosebery Rose for the long continued Lord Ro continued Lord Rosebery, "but we must not keep our eyes upon South Africa alone. Last December the government made vigorous overtures to the two great powers, Germany and the United States, for an alliance; but those overtures were land, a successful invasion of the country would be an impossibility. It also meant not received with such cordiality as to en- would be an impossibility. It also meant not received with such cordianty as to en-courage the government to pursue them. It does not appear that the friendship of France would bear any great strain; and,

NORTON NEWS.

Norton, Feb. 15 -As a result inverts were baptized on Sabbatl the pastor, Rev. G F. Currie. these united with the church in ing. The meetings are being conti

The heavy rain of Tuesday night

Now is your opportunity. Then time when the system is so much of a good medicine, like Hood's Si illa, and no time when it is so sust to the benefits to be derived from medicine. By punfying, enrich vitalizing the blood and toning system Hood's Sarsaparilla starts y for a whole year of health.

HAVELOCK NOTES. delightful winter weather has ena ill for the last two months, is im Her son, Walter S., who has t tained on account of her illness, w

for Greenwood, B. C., on Tuesd ing from kidney rouble, is in

at his residence on Thursday ever presented him with a silver-moun as a mark of esteem on his depart Sydney, C. B., where he intends Rev. John Hughes, of St. John pied the pulpit of the Baptist chur on Sunday morning and evening. Mrs. Lewis Keith, who has be

improving slowly.
Miss Sarah Ryder, daughter of Elijah Ryder, died on Tuesday Boston to take a situation as nurs



