

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph.

VOL. XXXVIII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1899

NO. 9.

WAR TODAY.

FIGHTING MAY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN BEHIND THE BORDER.

Kruger in an Ultimatum Demands the Withdrawal of All British Troops—Threats of War if His Demands Do Not Receive a Favorable Reply.

LONDON, Oct. 10.—Late this afternoon the colonial office gave out the text of the following telegram, transmitted by Sir Alfred Milner, British high commissioner in South Africa, to the secretary of state for the colonies, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, and received at 6.45 p. m. today:—

"Sir: The government of the South African Republic feels itself compelled to refer the government of her majesty, queen of Great Britain and Ireland, once more to the convention of London, 1884, concluded between this republic and the United Kingdom, and which, in article 14, secures certain specified rights to the white population of this republic,



MAJ. GEN. FITZROY HART. Who will command a Brigade in South Africa.

namely that (here follows article 14 of the convention of London, 1884).

The government wishes further to observe that the above are the only rights which her majesty's government has reserved in the above convention with regard to the Outlander population of this republic and that a violation of these rights could give that government a right to diplomatic representations or interferences, while, moreover, the regulating of all other questions affecting the position of the rights of the Outlander population, under the above mentioned convention, is handed over to the government and representatives of the people of the South African republic.

"Among the questions the regulation of which falls exclusively within the competency of this government and of the white population, are included those of franchise and the representation of the people in this republic and, although this exclusive right of the government and of the white population, and the representation of the people is indisputable, yet this government has, in a friendly and amicable manner, recognized any right therein of the people of her majesty's government.

"This government has also, by the formulation of the new mining franchise law, and by a resolution with regard to the representation consistently held these friendly discussions before the eyes. On the part of her majesty's government, however, the friendly nature of these discussions has assumed more and more a threatening tone, and the minds of the people of this republic and the whole of South Africa have been excited and a condition of extreme tension has been created owing to the fact that her majesty's government could not longer agree to the legislation respecting the franchise, and the resolution respecting representation in this republic, and finally by your vote of September 25 1899, which broke off all friendly correspondence on the subject and intimidated her majesty's government must now proceed to formulate their own proposals for the final settlement.

"This government can only see in the above intimation from her majesty's government a new violation of the convention of London, 1884, which does not reserve to her majesty's government the right to a unilateral settlement of a question which is exclusively a domestic one for this government and which has already been regulated by this government.

"On account of the strained situation and the consequent serious losses and interruption of trade in general, which the correspondence respecting franchise and the representation of the people of this republic has carried in its train, her majesty's government have recently pressed for an early settlement and finally pressed by your intervention for an answer within 48 hours, a demand subsequently somewhat modified, to your note of September 12, replied to by the note of this government of September 15, and to your note of September 25, 1899, and thereafter further friendly negotiations were broken off, this government receiving an intimation that a proposal for a final settlement would shortly be made.

"Although this promise was once more repeated the proposal up to now has not reached this government. Even while friendly correspondence was still going on the increase of troops on a large scale was introduced by her majesty's government, the troops being stationed in the

neighborhood of the borders of this republic. "Having regard to occurrences in the history of this republic which it is unnecessary here to call to mind, this republic felt obliged to regard this military force in the neighborhood of its borders as a threat against the independence of the South African republic, since it was aware of no circumstances which would justify the presence of such a military force in South Africa and neighborhood of its borders.

"In an answer to an enquiry with respect thereto, addressed to his excellency, the high commissioner, this govern-

ment received, to its great astonishment, in answer, a valued intimation that from the side of the republic an attack was being made on her majesty's colonies, and, at the same time a mysterious reference to possibilities, whereby this government was strengthened in its suspicion that the independence of this republic was being threatened. As a defensive measure this government was therefore obliged to send a portion of the Burgers of this republic in order to offer requisite resistance to similar possibilities."

"This government now feels constrained to make the following demands:—

First—That all points of mutual difference be regulated by friendly recourse to arbitration or by whatever amicable

means may be agreed upon by this government and her majesty's government.

Second—That all troops on the borders of this republic be instantly withdrawn.

Third—That all reinforcements of troops, which arrived in South Africa since June 1, 1899, shall be removed from South Africa within a reasonable time to be agreed upon with this government and with the mutual assurance and guarantee on the part of this government that no attack upon or acquisition by this republic of any possessions by this republic during the further negotiations, within a period of time to be subsequently agreed upon between the governments, and this government will on compliance therewith be prepared

to withdraw the armed burghers of this republic from the border.

Fourth—That her majesty's troops which are now on the high seas shall not be landed in any part of South Africa.

To these demands is appended the definition of the time limit for a reply:—

"This government presses for an immediate and affirmative answer to these four questions, and earnestly requests her majesty's government to return an answer before or upon Wednesday, October 11, 1899, not later than 6 o'clock p. m.

"It desires further to add that, in the

event of an answer not satisfactory being received by it within the period of time specified, it will, with great regret, be compelled to regard the action of her majesty's government as a formal declaration of war, and will not hold itself responsible for the consequences thereof, and that in the event that any further movement of troops occurring within this above-mentioned time in the direction to our borders, this government will be compelled to regard that also as a formal declaration of war.

"I have the honor to be, "Respectfully yours,

"E. Kruger, "State secretary."

Asking for Volunteers.

TORONTO, Oct. 10.—Military officers here have evidently received private advices from Ottawa to the effect that the imperial authorities at last have indicated a willingness to accept the services of a Canadian contingent to the Transvaal.

Captain Mitchell of the Toronto Edis Association, while distributing prizes to the successful marksmen in the season's match this evening, at the armory, calling for volunteers for service in the Transvaal and made up a list. The governor general's body guard, a squad of "A" was drilling and thirty of the hundred and twenty men on parade at once tendered their names to the volunteer list.

Parades Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights and volunteers will then be called for. A number of regulars at the fort are included in the Toronto list. It is anticipated Toronto's share will be from one hundred and fifty to two hundred men.

A Special Session.

MONTREAL, Oct. 10.—Hon. Mr. Tardif, minister of public works, speaking tonight before the Reform club, expressed the opinion that the dominion parliament would have the honor to be summoned before a Canadian contingent could be sent to the Transvaal.

The Chronicle's Opinion of Tupper.

LONDON, Oct. 10.—The Daily Chronicle, referring today to Canada's offer of a contingent of troops to aid the mother country in the event of hostilities in

South Africa, says: "Behind the generous impulsive loyalty of Canada we see the tactics of that unscrupulous politician, Sir Charles Tupper."

The St. James Gazette this afternoon, commenting on the above, retorts: "There never was a more disgraceful insinuation. We hope it will recoil upon the head of the audacious and slanderous journalist who made it."

LONDON, Oct. 12.—A despatch to the Daily Telegraph from Ladysmith, dated Wednesday, alone among the special reports, declares that war has been begun by the Boers in Natal. The correspondent says:—

"Free State burghers have seized a train at Harrismith, which was the property of the Natal government. Last

night a mounted patrol was stoned by the Boers. The men's orders were not to fire unless they were fired upon."

The other despatches only represent that hostilities are imminent.

LONDON, Oct. 11.—It is rumored that Mr. Conyngham Greene, the British diplomatic agent at Pretoria, has been assassinated there.

The report, however, is unconfirmed and is discredited at the colonial office. The rumor that Mr. Greene had been murdered is of doubtful origin, and it is considered extremely improbable as it is believed that in obedience to orders from the imperial government, Mr.

Greene had already left Pretoria confiding the care of British interests to U. S. Consul Macrum.

Gen. Buller Leaves Saturday.

LONDON, Oct. 11.—Great preparations are being made at Southampton for the departure on Saturday of General Sir Buller and a great demonstration is anticipated. The Duke of Connaught, the Duke of York, Lord Lansdowne, G. R. Lord Woolsey and Gen. Sir Evelyn Wood are expected to accompany him to Southampton from London.

It is announced that the fleet of transport vessels, Buller's army corps will be escorted by warships while further despatch boats and gunboats will be sent to South African waters.

The government has already expen-

ded \$5,000,000 in naval and military preparations, the orders placed with contractors this week alone amounting to \$3,000,000.

The authorities anticipating a serious reduction in the output of the South African coal mines, have ordered five thousand tons of English steam coal to be sent to the Cape for the use of the war ships.

An expiration of the ultimatum so it is not yet known whether the first shot has been fired.

The Government Has Been Urging Mates.

OTTAWA, Oct. 11.—The government programme in regard to sending a contingent to the Transvaal will be made public as soon as Sir Wilfrid Laurier returns to the city.

It turns out that the minister of militia and one or two heads of the militia department have been at work for more than two months making all necessary arrangements to send a contingent should the occasion arise that such would be necessary. That this was being done did not commit the government to any action. It was purely a departmental affair, which would have to be referred to the cabinet for approval. No unnecessary expenditure was being made. Contracts were given out for clothing and such things as would be required by the officers and men in the event of their being sent to the front. If the contingent is not sent, the difference was that the work of the contractors was done a little ahead of time. What the men who are thus engaged have had to contend against is that as soon as any action was taken in the direction mentioned it was misrepresented and given to the press. They wanted to move quietly, but as soon as an enquiry was made in Toronto from Ottawa it was at once made public. Some weeks ago Colonel

officer of a higher rank than a major, the commander of the militia, called at the imperial office. No artillery will be accepted. It is also understood that Great Britain will defray the cost and place the contingent on the same footing as British soldiers.

Parliament Must Meet.

MONTREAL, Oct. 11.—Hon. Dr. Borden, minister of militia, who left for Ottawa today, questioned concerning the Transvaal contingent matter prior to his departure.

The action of the Philomel in intercepting the British steamer Gralph, from Southampton, supposed to be carrying ammunition to the Boers, and the fact that the Philomel called today to intercept the German liner Kaiser, with ammunition, go to show that Great Britain will not permit future deliveries of ammunition to the Boers if this can be prevented.

LONDON, Oct. 12.—A Pretoria despatch dated October 11, sent via Lourenço, Marques, says:—

"Mr. Conyngham Greene this afternoon said good-bye to President Kruger and his officials in his private capacity. He and his staff will leave tomorrow by two special trains."

"Martial law was proclaimed at five o'clock this afternoon, and British residents without permits must leave the Transvaal within eight days."

CAPE TOWN, Oct. 12.—The reply of the imperial government to the Transvaal's ultimatum is published here. It was accompanied by instructions to Mr. Conyngham Greene, British diplomatic agent at Pretoria, to ask for his passports. The reply was publicly read by a magistrate at the evening parade of the town guard here and evoked loyal and enthusiastic demonstrations. Mr. Cecil Rhodes has arrived at Kimberley. A panic has broken out at Vryburg and a hurried exodus has begun, owing

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to the Boers' having formally become belligerents.

No Word Yet of Fighting, but Natal Has Certainly Been Invaded—Text of Great Britain's Reply to the Boer Ultimatum—Terrible Fear Among the Refugees.

LONDON, Oct. 12.—The following is the text of the British reply to the Boer ultimatum:—

"Chamberlain to Milner, high commissioner, sent 10.45 p. m., Oct. 10, 1899. Her majesty's government have received with great regret the peremptory demands of the South African Republic conveyed in your telegram of October 9. You will inform the government of the South African Republic in reply that the conditions demanded by the government of the South African Republic are such as her majesty's government deem it impossible to discuss."

JOHANNESBURG, Oct. 12.—War was declared yesterday. The formal declaration occurred at 10 o'clock this morning.

LONDON, Oct. 13.—When the cabinet meets at noon today it is evident the Boer advance will be in full swing. Judging from present appearance the Boers are preparing for a simultaneous invasion at five separate points—Ladysmith, Kimberley, Vryburg, Mafeking and Lobatse. Therefore, it is almost impossible to guess the plan of campaign.

In reply to the formal inquiry of Sir Alfred Milner, governor of Cape Colony and British high commissioner in South Africa, President Steyn, of the Orange Free State, announces that that state will make common cause with the Transvaal.

The home preparations for the war are growing apace. The reservists are responding more actively to the proclamation ordering their mobilization and the government has engaged more transports.

In military circles no apprehension is felt at any of the movements yet reported on the part of the Boers, and it is not believed they will make any serious attack, preferring to wait for the British advance.

So far as news received thus far shows, no shot has yet been fired. The evacuated district between Charles Town and Newcastle has an area of 250 square miles, and consists of hilly moorland, sparsely populated.

A despatch from Durban, dated Thursday, 8 o'clock in the morning, announces that the Boers seized Alberton Station and demanded the keys, which were delivered to them by the station master, who reached Ladysmith on a train. The excitement at Ladysmith is increasing and the troops are ready to act at a moment's notice.

LONDON, Oct. 12.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Lobatse, telegraphing on Wednesday, says:—

"The Boers are on the border preparing to cross at 3 o'clock today. A messenger sent to the Boers asks them to spare the women and children has been detained."

LONDON, Oct. 10.—It is reported that at the coming special session of parliament forming announcement will be made of the cession of Delagoa Bay and the surrounding territory in Portuguese East Africa to Great Britain. The price is said to be £3,000,000 (\$40,000,000).

The Portuguese minister to Great Britain, Senhor Soverri, called at the foreign office this afternoon, and had an interview with Lord Salisbury, and his visit is naturally connected in the public mind with the alleged purchase by Great Britain of Delagoa Bay.

A despatch tending to confirm the report of this purchase comes from London. It states that the British third-class cruiser Philomel is anchored fifteen miles off the port, and is supposed to be waiting the arrival of transports and warships to pilot them into the harbor. It is quite certain, however, that the transports would not go to Lourenço Marques unless the British were about to fly their flag over the port.

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