ST. JOHN SEMI-WEEKLY SUN

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CONFLICTING REPORTS.

One Account Says the Boer Capital is Surrounded, Another that the Enemy Are Full of Fight.

Another Report Says the City Will be Surrendered as Soon as a Formal Demand is Made.

Generals Rundle and Brabant Have Joined Forces and Were Prepared to Advance Last Friday—Their Combined Effort Expected to Put an End to the Resistance in the Orange River Colony.

OUR CANADIAN SOLDIERS.

The following letter was published in the London Times of May 15:

To the Editor of the Times:

Sir—The services of the colonial contingents have been recognized by Englishmen with a generosity most gratifying to those who watch with anxiety the work of our hitherto untried troops in the most exacting warfare of modern times. Will you suffer a Canadian to suggest one feature which seems to have been overlooked in the notice of the contingents sent from the dominion? Serving in the ranks are many men who gave up excellent business positions because of their longing to fight for the Queen and empire. One of the soldiers killed at Paardeburg was a striking case in point. Corporal Withers was foreman in our engineering works at St. John, New Brunswick. He had been for years an efficient member of our local militia, and had intended to retire last year. But the announcement of the war, and the call for Canadian enlistment, found him the first to apply. He obtained corporal's rank at an early date. He fell during the assault on Cronje's camp. It is presumptuous to suggest that citizen-soldiers of this stamp present a new type which ought to modify the too familiar figure of the "absent-minded" Tommy Atkins? He may not be so suitable for the lyrics of the music hall; but he has shown that he can serve, fight and die for his Queen; appealing for no charity, leaving no burdens for others, but only the memory of a good citizen and a brave soldier.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DE SOYRES,
Chaplain 3rd Canadian Artillery.

DICHARGED FROM HOSPITAL.

OTTAWA, June 1.—A militia general order, issued today, says:

The following non-commissioned officers and men, invalid from South Africa to England, have been discharged from hospital and joined a provisional battalion at Shorncliffe:

Corp. W. W. Wallace of G Co., N. B.; Lance Corp. Walker of D Co., Ottawa; Pte. J. S. Cairns of D Co., Ottawa; Pte. Cox of E Co., Montreal; Pte. A. Lockwood of H Co., N. S.; Pte. John McLeod, 71st batt., York, N. B., in G Co.; Pte. J. W. Harnet of H Co., N. S.; Pte. Bruce McFarlane of Fredericton, N. B., in G Co.; Pte. Marentette of B Co, London, Ont.; Pte. Carter of A Co., British Columbia; Pte. Sutton of C Co., Toronto.

Following have been transferred from the first contingent:

Corp. J. Gardner of E Co., Montreal, to rejoin the 5th Scottish Rifles as captain.

Corp. Baldwin of F Co., Quebec, to the Canadian Mounted Rifles.

Privates H. Corogill of F Co., Quebec; C. E. Parry of C Co., Toronto, and G. Thompson, also of C Co., to the Mounted Rifles.

Privates P. Hugall of D Co., Ottawa, and J. R. Roberts of F Co., Quebec, go into the Royal Canadian Artillery.

Besides these W. McLennan of Newcastle, N. B., and J. M. State of Brockville, Ontario, have enlisted in the Canadian Mounted Rifles in South Africa.

TEN CANADIAN OFFICERS WANTED.

The secretary of state for the colonies offers to Canadian militia officers ten appointments to the position of assistant inspector in the West African constabulary. The conditions are: Unmarried; age 22 to 25; pay, three hundred pounds a year, with increase of twenty-ve pounds each three years up to three hundred and fifty pounds; free quarters and free passage to Africa; officers eligible for pension. Those desirous of appointment should apply without delay.

LORD ROBERTS AT ORANGE GROVE.

LONDON, June 3.—Lord Lansdowne, secretary of state for war, has received the following from Lord Roberts, dated Orange Grove, June 2nd:

"Johannesburg is quiet. The people are surrendering arms and ponies. Only three Boer guns were left in the fort.

"The Queenslanders captured, May 30, a creusot, with eleven wagons of stores and ammunition.

"Commandant Botha, of Zoutpansberg, his field cornet and 100 prisoners, were taken in fighting around Johannesburg, some belonging to the foreign contingents and the Irish brigade.

"The Thirteenth Yeomanry were attacked May 29 between Kroonstad and Lindley. There were some casualties."

ANOTHER DESPATCH FROM "BOBS."

LONDON, June 3.— The war office has received the following additional advices from Lord Roberts, dated Orange Grove, June 2:

"Owing to the interruption of the telegraph lines I only today received a report from Col. Spragg that his battalion of Imperial Yeomanry was attacked between Kroonstad and Lindley, May 29. Casualties to follow.

"The shops in Johanensburg are being opened and there seems to be a general feeling of relief at the peaceful occupation of the town.

"The proclamation announcing the annexation of the Orange Free State was made known at Bloemfontein, May 26, by General Pretyman (military governor). The troops under Gen. Kelly- Kenny formed a square, the Royal Standard was hoisted, the troops saluted, a royal salute was fired and the Queen was cheered. The name "Orange River Colony" was well received.

"I received a report yesterday that four prisoners had escaped from Pretoria."

CANADIANS SUFFER.

OTTAWA, June 2.—The following cable was received today:

I have the honor to report the receipt of a cable from Major Ogilvie, commanding special service battery, dated Douglas, 2nd June, reporting the following killed and wounded in a night attack on Faber's Farm:

Killed—No. 482, Bombadier (corporal in nominal roll), W. Latimer, 15th Shefford Field Battery.

Wounded—No. 408, Corporal H. M. Brown; No. 420, Bombadier J. McCaskill, "B" battery (severely); No. 411, Driver J. Kane; No. 445, G. H. Ross, "B" battery (slightly); No. 529, Gunner H. B. Taite; No. 551, Gunner C. Wollard, 13th Field Battery (slightly); No. 475, G. F. Fletcher, Halifax; No. 491, C. Jackson, Pictou garrison artillery (slightly.)

In the Indian mail landed at Dover Saturday was a bag of despatches from Pretoria, including some from the Transvaal government to its agents abroad. The destination of the bag was Naples, but it was landed at Aden by a German steamer through a mistake and was shipped with the Indian mail to Brindisi, where it was taken up by the English authorities.

GEN. COLVILLE AT HEILBURN.

LONDON, June 2, 3.02 p. m.—It is officially announced that Gen. Colville has arrived at Heilburn, northeast of Kroonstad, in the Orange River Colony, after meeting with great opposition.

LONDON, June 2, 3.15 p. m.—The war office has received the following despatch from Lord Roberts:

"JOHANNESBURG, June 1. — Sir Henry Colville, in reporting the arrival of the Highland brigade at Heilbrun, May 29, states that he was opposed more or less the whole way from Ventersburg. Eight men were killed and four officers and 32 men were wounded. Colville says the Lancashire battery of field artillery did excellent work, Grant's naval guns were most valuable and the troops behaved in a most soldierly manner throughout the trying march.

"Rundle telegraphs that his casualties were 32 killed and 150 wounded."

BRABANT HAS THE BOERS SURROUNDED.

MASERU, Basutoland, June 1.—Gen. Brabant has practically surrounded the Boers five miles outside of Ficksburg, Orange River Colony. The only side open for the Boers' retreat is the Basutoland border, where thousands of Basutos, under Chief Jonathan, are waiting events.

GRENADIER GUARDS LOST HEAVILY.

MASERU, Basutoland, June 2.—The Grenadier Guards were the heaviest sufferers during Gen. Rundle's fighting. They lost thirty men killed and had 88 men wounded.

WAS A SUCCESS.

LONDON, June 4.—The Daily Telegraph has the following from Senekal, dated May 30: "Gen. Rundle's action Monday and yesterday entirely secured the object for which it was undertaken. The Boers have now withdrawn from Lindley and Col. Spragge has been able to extricate the Duke of Cambridge's Yeomanry from their difficulties."

THE BATTLE OF SENEKAL.

LONDON, June 4.—The Daily Telegraph has the following from Senekal, dated May 29:

"The scene during the battle was wonderfully picturesque, rolling billows of smoke, higher than the highest kopjes, obscuring the combatants. The roar of artillery and the crackle of musketry, under the light of the flames of the burning veldt, combined to produce a picture of appalling grandeur, but terible for those engaged within its field.

"The whole army of Free Staters is now between Senekal, Lindley and Ficksburg. It is reported to be composed chiefly of desperate men, who would not go to the Transvaal to fight, and who are too proud to surrender. Their total number is believed to be from 3,000 to 4,000."

CANADIAN CASUALTIES.

OTTAWA, Ont., June 4.— Colonel Aylmer reports that he has received a cable from Lt. Col. Otter, commanding the 2nd Battalion, R. C. R., dated Johannesburg, 4th June, reporting the following men as having been wounded on the 29th of May:

No. 7,030, Pte. J. E. Davies, Royal Can. Dragoons; No. 7,235, Pte. J. B. Robinson, 31st Essex Regiment; No. 7,355, Pte J. Jordan, 2nd Regiment, Q. O. R.; No. 7,838, Pte. E. Hill, 9th Volunteers de Quebec; No. 7,939, Pte. A. Hayden, 62nd St. John Fusiliers; No. 7,688, Pte. F. Richardson; No. 5 Mil. Dist. (No corps).

Lt. Col. Otter also reports No. 7,888, Evans, as wounded, but Col. Aylmer is unable to identify this man. Lt. Col. Otter also states that the effective strength of the battalion at the front is only 450, all ranks.

WAR SUMMARY.

LONDON, June 5, 3.20 a. m.—Of official intelligence regarding what is transpiring outside Pretoria, there is little or nothing today. Lord Roberts is silent. Nevertheless, by piecing together items from various correspondents, it would seem that Lord Roberts's immediate army is all employed north of Johannesburg, except one brigade, which is at Johannesburg, and that six columns are converging on Pretoria.

An undated news agency message from Pretoria, via Lourenzo Marquez, June 4, says:

"Pretoria is now invested by the British. No resistance will be offered. The city will be surrendered by the burgomaster as soon as a formal demand is made."

This message purports to come in cipher. President Kruger commands the telegraph eastward from Pretoria, and telegraphic news from Pretoria to Lourenzo Marquez has ceased, but the messengers of newspaper correspondents continue to pass to and fro on the railway. The latest to arrive at Lourenzo Marquez brings events at the Boer capital down to a late hour Friday night. At that time, according to these sources of information, the military leaders had quite recovered from the panic and had determined to defend the town. One message, which is dated June 1, says:

"Pretoria is full of strange burghers, but most of the commandoes are laagered outside. A great war council of generals has just concluded its deliberations. The decision as to the future military course has not been made known. Louis Botha and Delarey sat in the council."

Another despatch, brought to Lourenzo Marquez by messenger, and dated at Pretoria Friday at midnight, says:

"The war council assumes the powers of the government. Its members declare that the capital may still be successfully defended. One commander declared: "With the help of God, the hour will still come when Great Britain will acknowledge the independence of the two republics. A tremendous change will yet come over the situation."

"Gen. Delarey said that Pretoria would be defended to the utmost, adding: "There is every chance that we will yet beat the enemy out of the country.'"

"President Kruger is somewhere to the eastward, but is in constant wire communication with the leaders here. There is, however, a deep feeling of anger against him on account of what is now called his unnecessary flight, and because he and the officials took all the gold and left their subordinates unpaid. The latest phase of public opinion is a marvelous revival of courage."

From Lourenzo Marquez comes a despatch dated June 4, saying:

"It is known that some great British move is in progress outside Pretoria. The mysterious movements of President Kruger's secretary and physician, particularly their secret visit to the Dutch warship Friesland, which is in the harbor here, has aroused suspicions that important personages are expected."

The news from the minor theatre of hostilities is less cryptic. The Boer operations to break Lord Roberts's communications have been completely baffled and the Boer columns are in danger of being surrounded by the British forces at Ficksburg, Senekal, Heilbron and Lindley. Gen Rundle, instead of throwing himself against the Boer's entrenched at Bedulphberg, moved toward Ficksburg and established communication with Gen. Brabant, the Boers marching parallel with Rundle, intending to seize a strong position on the Ficksburg road, but Rundle got there first.

The fifteen hundred Boers who were in this movement are now reported to be going elsewhere.

The correspondents with Gen. Rundle continue to point out the hardness of the fight of last Tuesday, but they believe that it will be the last real resistance. Colonel Lloyd was thrice wounded.

A new phase of the Anglo-Dutch conflict is opening in Cape Colony. The leaders of the Afrikander Bund purpose, it is asserted, to block business in the Cape parliament until the British governments acts upon the resolutions adopted by the people's congress ot Graaf Reinet, declaring that the chief immediate cause of the war was the unwarranted and intolerable interference of the ministry in London in the internal affairs of the South African republics.

Beyond Lychtenburg the Boers are assembling to oppose General Hunter. Col, Mahon effected a juncture with Hunter Thursday at Maribego.

OTTAWA.

To be Brought Back from New Zealand—Twenty-six Newspaper Men Astonished.

OTTAWA, June 3.—J. A. Rudddick has been recalled from New Zealand by cable and will next month take up the duties of assistant to Prof. Robertson. Mr. Ruddick for the past year has been dairy commissioner of New Zealand, where he was very successful.

Twenty-six members of the parliamentary press gallery yesterday visited Depot Harbor, Georgian Bay, as guests of the Canada Atlantic Railway Co. The newspaper men were astonished to observe the great work accomplished by Mr. Booth at the lake terminus of the railway.

OTTAWA, June 4.—Colonel Richard Hebden O'Grady Haley, C. B., and of the distinguished service order, has been appointed major general commanding the Canadian militia to succeed General Hutton. Col. Haley is sixty years of age and is on retired pay. He got his commission in 1858. His name was submitted by the imperial authorities to the Canadian government.

A cable from Buenos Ayres, dated April 28th, says: Bark Mary A. Troop, from Portland, Me., floated off today from where she had been aground in the South channel, and entered the Riachuelo.

AN ITEM OF INTEREST.

You had better get your supply of Summer wearables while our clearance sale is in existance. Overcoats, Suits, Trousers, Shirts, Collars, Cuffs, Neckwear, Hats, Caps, Valises and Trunks.

Fraser, Fraser & Co., - Foster's Corner,
40 and 42 King Street, St. John, N. B.

BOSTON LETTER.

Treating Consumption as a Contagious Disease.

The Board of Health Fumigates Every House Where a New Case Appears.

Business Men Did not Welcome the Boer Delegates—The Coming Summer Tourist Travel to the Maritime Provinces — Recent Deaths—The Lumber and Fish Markets.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

BOSTON, May 31.—The Boer envoys reached Boston just in time to hear the news which told of the practical downfall of the South African Republic and of the fact that Oom Paul himself is energetically "trekking," as if his life depended upon it. To be sure, the intelligence was far from welcome to the envoys, but they accepted the situation philosophically and in a way which indicated that there was not so much of the unexpected as of the expected. As told in the telegraphic despatches in this morning's Sun, the Boer sympathizers in Boston were well represented at the depot when the delegates arrived, and the visitors were cheered until after their hotel was reached. The envoys were wined and dined last night, and no doubt they were not altogether unhappy, even when the impending fall of the Boer capital was announced. Few of the substantial business men of the city took part in entertaining the Boers, that duty being undertaken largely by petty politicians who delight in assailing Great Britain in and out of season. The visit has no significance whatever, unless it has demonstrated the spurious nature of the so-called republican form of government which has held sway under the dictatorship of Kruger, whose inglorious career appears to have reached its end. Yesterday, which was Decoration day, the Transvaal envoys were indiscreet in laying a wreath on the big soldiers' monument on the Common. This monument was erected in memory of the men from Massachusetts who fell in the conflict which resulted in the severing of the shackles which bound the black race in America. The dark record of the burghers in their treatment of the blacks in far away Africa evidently did not trouble the consciences of the hypocritical Boer delegates when they deposited their wreath at the base of the shaft on the green hill on Boston Common.

The weather here is seasonable at last, and during the past two days it has been quite warm. The beginning of June will see the opening of tourist travel eastward. All the transportations agencies in this city doing business with the provinces claim that they expect a much larger traffic than last season. Quite a number of excursion parties have already made arrangements for trips to the provinces during the summer months.

The body of Angus Finlayson, 21 years old, formerly of P. E. I., has been found in a river at Bellows Falls, Vt. Finlayson's disappearance on April 28 caused quite a flurry, and a search of several weeks resulted. It is thought he was drowned during the spring freshets, accidentally.

The state board of agriculture has issued a spring report, in which it is stated the farming season is fully ten days behind the normal in this state. The cold weather has retarded vegetation and the germination of seeds. Severe frosts occurred on May 10 and 11, and again in some districts last Monday night. These frosts did much harm to early vegetables and field crops, but fruit has not been injured to any extent. Pastures and hay fields are generally in an excellent condition. The outlook for a large yield of hay and fruit is good at the present time. Farm help is now in fair supply, with wages averaging about $18 per month and board. The potato bug has made his appearance in some localities.

The Portland Express a few days ago said: "A case where New York parties invested not wisely, called for some clerical work on the part of Appraiser Hewey this morning. A lot of old felt hats was purchased by the New York parties at St. John, N. B. They were entered as fur waste, and if allowed to cross the border into this country as such would have been subject to a 10 per cent. duty, costing the owners $16.80. On examination by the appraiser at Eastport, however, it was found that two-thirds of the consignment was made up of woollen hats dutiable at 10 per cent. per pound and calling for a tax of $1,676.40 instead of $16.80. The purchasers in New York ordered the goods sent back to St. John forthwith, but in the shuffle found that an expense of $50 for clerical work, storage, etc., was attached thereto."

The new board of health regulations requiring Boston physicians to report to the board all cases of consumption have resulted in statistics showing that about nine new cases appear in this city daily. Consumption is now treated as a contagious disease, and wherever a case appears the house of the patient is fumigated.

Among deaths of provincialists in this vicinity the following are announced: In Brookline, May 26, Mrs. Susan A. Crockett, wife of James Crockett, aged 51 years, formerly of St. John; in this city, May 25, Joseph M., five year old son of Patrick J. and Margaret Foran, parents formerly of N. B. and P. E. I.; in East Boston, May 27, James B. Hansen, husband of Bella McLean Hansen, latter formerly of Sydney, C. B.

The following from the provinces were in the city recently: G. E. Raven, St. John; A. MacKinley and Mrs. MacKinley, Miss MacKinley, J. S. Chisholm, Halifax; Capt. G. E. Pettis, Parrsboro; Mrs. W. S. Muir, Miss Lamson, Truro.

As intimated would be the case, in last week's Boston letter, spruce lumber is lower, while business continues dull. The water mills as well as the rail mills will curtail the output at least one half during the next two months. In nearly every case the Eastern Lumbermen's association has reduced prices $1 from Boston quotations, previously agreed upon by the rail men. For lumber, 2x3, 2x4, 2x5, 2x6, 2x7 and 3x4, ten feet and up, $14.50 is now the greatest price here. At the New York market 10 and 12 inch dimensions are now delivered for $19; nine inches and under, $17; 10 and 12 inch random lengths, ten feet and up, $18; 3x9 inch random lengths, 10 feet and up, $16.50; 2x3, 2x4, 2x5, 2x7, and 3x4, 10 feet and up, $15.50; all other random lengths, 8 inch and under ten feet up, $16.50. Shipments to Sound ports will be 50 cents per thousand less than New York prices. Laths here are firmer and in fair demand at $3 to 3.15 for 1 5-8 in., and $3 for 1-12 in. Cedar shingles are in quiet demand and easier.

Fresh mackerel continue in large supply, about 17,000 barrels having been landed already, against 2,200 barrels at this time last season. New salt mackerel are selling here at $15 per barrel of 300 fish. Catches of mackerel are reported off the Nova Scotia coast. Large fresh are worth 12c., and medium 6c. Codfish are easy, with the recent advance in the splitting price maintained. Pickled herring are still quiet at $6 to 6.50 for large N. S. split and $5 to 5.50 for medium. Live lobsters are worth 13c. and boiled 15c.

THE ASHANTI WAR.

LONDON, June 4.— The Daily Express has the following from Cape Coast Castle, dated Saturday:

"Fifteen hundred men are here and 500 others are in Nigeria. It is expected that these, with eight guns, will go to Kumassi. One thousand men have crossed Krah river.

"It is reported that Capt. Hall has already relieved Kumassi, but this report is not confirmed."

MEMORIAL TREES.

Five memorial trees were planted on the south side of Queen square Wednesday forenoon in honor of the late Corp. Withers, Privates Johnston and McCreary, who have fallen in South Africa, for the late Thomas Sloven, famous as a life-saver, and for the British occupation of Johannesburg. Messrs. Stanton Bros., the marble and granite workers, received the trees recently, two silver maples, a locust and a poplar. They were supplied by Samuel Donnelly of Port George, N. S. Those who took part and assisted in the ceremony were Deputy Mayor Maxwell, Major Crawford, Messrs. Stanton, John L. Carleton, Charles F. Tilley, P. F. Mooney and Miss Ritchie. The Johannesburg tree was planted by Ald. Maxwell; John A. Stanton planted the one for Private Johnston, Major Crawford planted the McCreary memorial, and Miss Ritchie the one for Corp. Withers. The tree to the late Tom Sloven was set by Joseph Stanton.

MARINE MATTERS.

Advices from Montreal state that steamer Activ is ashore at Batiscan, River St. Lawrence, and discharging cargo to lighten her. Assistance has been sent from Montreal.

Bark Albatross and sch. La Plata have arrived at Montreal with cargoes of molasses from Barbados. Both vessels encountered terrific weather, the Albatross having about 50 puncheons of molasses smashed, and receiving damage to her rigging, while several of the La Plata's sails were blown away. Lawrence Ross, a sailor on the Albatross, fell from aloft during the storm and was killed. His remains were buried at sea.

Capt. Arthur McGray, formerly commander of the D. A. R. steamers Prince George and Prince Edward, has devised a non-sinkable vessel, and his model is one of ten selected out of 112 which were received by the Pollock heirs for the memorial prize of $20,000. The ten devices will be shown at the United States exhibit at the Paris exposition. This prize was offered by the heirs of a wealthy gentleman who went down with the French liner LaBourgogne, which was lost off Sable Island on July 4, 1898.

Scammell Bros. of New York report the following charters: Ship Marabout, Sabine Pass to Liverpool, timber, 115s.; barks Grenada, Weymouth, N. S., to Buenos Ayres, lumber, $11, or Rosario, $12; Baldwin, Antigua to North of Hatteras, sugar, 35 cents; schooners Henry Weller, New York to Windsor, N. S., creosoted piling, $1,500 loaded and discharged; Ben Bolt, New York to St. John, N. B., brimstone, $1; Lotos, same; steamer Teresa, St. John to W. C. England, deals, 56s. 3d.

Sch. C. C. Lane, from Norfolk, coal laden, arrived at Bridgeport on the 2nd in a damaged condition. Captain Tullock reports having been in collision Friday, June 1, off Oyster Bay, with sch. E. Merriam, Hatfield, from Hillsboro for Jersey City. Her starboard bulwarks forward were stove and upper works and foremast rigging much displaced. She will probably repair at Bridgeport. The Merriam had her starboard side stove in, but vessel was not leaking. She had bowsprit, jibboom and all head gear carried away.

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