

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 28th, 1900. SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR. PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY. JAMES McISAAC, Editor & Proprietor.

The editor of the Patriot says the humor of the HERALD makes him laugh. Any humor in the HERALD's remarks was caused by the Patriot's folly. Our contemporary is therefore in the position of the fool who laughs at his own folly.

In our obituary column to-day will be found notice of the death of Mrs. Captain Cameron. Mrs. Cameron was a daughter of the late Henry Longworth of Glynwood, and had been married about ten years. She leaves a disconsolate husband and three children the youngest of whom is about four years of age.

The unity and sympathy which bind together the different portions of the vast British Empire were wonderfully exemplified by the shifting scenes at the theatre of war in South Africa, within the past week. When the sad news reached us, a few days ago, that a number of Canadians—several of them Islanders, had fallen in battle, a wave of sadness swept over thickly and Province, as well as over all portions of the Dominion and the Empire.

The casualties in the ranks of the Canadian volunteers serving in South Africa, referred to in the war news which we publish this week, furnish cause for widespread sorrow and profound sympathy for the relatives and friends of those brave young men who so cheerfully responded to the call of duty and died in the service of the Empire's cause.

Later intelligence seem to indicate that the name Lane was a misprint for Larue. The one Islander killed was Roland D. Taylor, eldest son of our esteemed fellow citizen, E. W. Taylor. The bereavement is a severe one; but the parents and friends of the deceased have their grief softened by the thought that he gave his life for his country.

FROM time to time since the steamer Minto commenced this season's navigation of the Straits, testimonials setting forth her great qualities have appeared in the Patriot newspaper. Indeed, it would seem that all Grits, who may have occasion to cross to the mainland feel it incumbent upon them to append their names to some manner of certificate in favor of the Minto. All this looks very suspicious and is well calculated to cause thinking people to doubt as to the fitness of the steamer for the work in which she is engaged.

It is necessary to be constantly rushing into print in order to convince the public that the Minto is a good steamer? We feel sure the general public is quite satisfied to allow the Minto to prove her excellent qualities by her record in the same way as the Stanley has done. But the friends of the Government and the Patriot seem to be afraid to submit to this test; hence this everlasting "booming" of the steamer. The latest testimonial of the nature in question that we have observed, appeared in the Patriot of the 20th inst., and bore the signatures of ten men and four women.

These people declare it is their opinion that the Minto is "a first-class steamer," and, "as they believe," "a great improvement on the Stanley." The people are asked to accept this offhand expression of opinion of ten ordinary men and four women as a valuable contribution to the nautical and engineering knowledge of the world. Is not that a rather heavy dose to ask the public to swallow at once? These passengers cross on the Minto on a fine day of an exceptionally mild winter, and immediately seek to impress on the public that they have been able during the few hours they have been on board the steamer to institute a comparison between the

model, the machinery and the ice-breaking power of the Minto and the Stanley. It is not impossible that half these passengers were seasick, especially the women; consequently the public must be excused from believing that they were in a position to contribute anything of value to nautical architecture or engineering science. The Patriot commenting on this celebrated testimonial calls attention to the fact that the Cape service has not been in operation this winter, and attributes this almost entirely to the superiority of the Minto over the Stanley. Surely that is making a rather heavy drain on the credulity of its readers. Everyone knows that this winter has been the mildest ever known here. As a matter of fact, been winter at all, it has scarcely been winter at all. It has been principally a rainy season. If the Minto could not manage to cross pretty regularly this winter she would scarcely be worthy to be regarded as a good summer steamer. When the Minto has battered with the ice during eleven or twelve winters such as the Stanley has passed through, then she will be worthy of a testimonial.

AT OTTAWA.

(Continued from first page.) plete the organization of a truly national militia, free from party political control. He would have more confidence in the future, he said, if the government showed the slightest interest in his patriotic scheme, or any desire to assist in carrying it out. His only reference to the charges in Mr. Tarte's organ was the acknowledgment that though he had taken a great interest in the offer and equipment of the contingent, he was not at Ottawa at the time when La Patrie accused him of interference. It may be remarked that Mr. Minister attended either banquet, and the general has gone without even an expression of sympathy from the Ministers who sentenced him. In this respect he is treated worse than most criminals.

TRANSPORTATION. A great part of two private members' days has been devoted to a discussion of the grain transportation question between the lakes and the sea board. It came up on a motion of Mr. Bennett of Simcoe who proposed a resolution calling for the adoption of some definite line of action with the view of centering the traffic in Canadian Channels. Mr. Bennett finds that while Mr. Tarte and other ministers are exploiting many schemes, they have no definite and consistent plan of action, and that while 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 bushels of grain finds its way from the western lake to the Canadian sea board, 275,000,000 bushels which ought to be equally available, goes from Boston to a United States sea port. Mr. Tarte gave lengthy but rather muddled explanations, while Mr. Dobell was less lengthy but more meddled. Mr. Oiler was able to show that Mr. Tarte's figures as to the cost of transport by some existing routes were grossly incorrect. He suggested that before any further large expenditure were ordered for transportation routes it would be well to know what object was sought and whether there was a fair chance of its accomplishment.

THE REPTILE PRESS. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in the debate on the address, spoke of what he called "the reptile press." This term was formerly applied by Sir Wilfrid's friends to those papers which not Government printing and advertising. Using the same rule, we find the following in the reptile list, according to the latest report from the Auditor-General: Montreal Herald.....\$15,008 St John Telegraph..... 8,006 Moncton Transcript..... 6,702 Halifax Chronicle..... 6,146 Halifax Recorder..... 3,116 Toronto Globe..... 2,629 St. John Gazette..... 2,206 St. John Globe..... 2,233 Quebec Telegraph..... 2,076 Montreal La Patrie..... 1,678

NOTES. Sixty members of the two Houses gave entertainment at a banquet in the Senate dining-room by Sir Charles Tupper last Thursday. A like number are to dine with the opposition leaders next week.

The Senate has adjourned until March. The government has not yet got its budget ready.

The Auditor General has had to publish his accounts with those of the railway department ministers. Mr. Blair is behind time.

The first attempt of Burden of Halifax to resume the enquiry into the alleged election frauds in West Harou and Brockville has been headed off by a technical objection raised on the government side.

(Little else than a continuation of the debates referred to in the preceding paragraph has engaged the attention of the House of Commons during last week. The government appear not to have their business ready.)

MEMORANDA advised reported last evening bring the sad intelligence that another Charlottetownian, Mr. Alfred Riggs fell at the post of duty in South Africa. A dashing and successful advance of the Canadian regiment supported by some other troops, by which six hundred yards of space were gained on the enemy, bringing our forces within 50 yards of the enemy's trenches, was the final cause of Cronje's surrender. This gallant dash was attended by somewhat severe casualties, among them, the brave young Riggs. His parents and friends have the sympathy of the community. (Later advice is that Riggs may not be the name.)

Cronje Surrenders!

Details of the Fighting During the past Week and the Surrender of Gen. Cronje's Army to Lord Roberts.

From the meagre details that have come through it seems that on the 18th a portion of the Canadian contingent forced the Modder River after a night march and were engaged the whole day. So far as announced the casualties were: Western men—5 killed and 10 wounded. London men—killed, 3; wounded, 15; missing, 2. Toronto men—killed, 2; wounded, 8; "G" Company—killed, Taylor (Charlottetown, P. E. I.), and McCreary; wounded, Scott, Hunter, Paden, McLaughlin, Ways (Hunter River, P. E. I.), Gifford and J. Johnson. Ottawa men—killed, 3; wounded, 8. Montreal men—killed, 4; wounded, 9. In addition Began, Adams, B. McCallum, Robertson, of Halifax, are reported wounded, and the following sick men were captured at Waterval Drift: Gobbold, of London; Wood, of Ottawa; Warm, of Ottawa; Polmore, of Quebec; Dorsen, of Windsor and Drake, of Halifax.

On Thursday Lord Minto received the following message from Lord Roberts: "Paardeberg, Feb. 23.—The Canadian Regiment has done admirable service since its arrival in South Africa. "I deeply regret the heavy loss it suffered during the fighting on the 18th and beg you will assure the people how much we admire the conspicuous gallantry displayed by our Canadians."

SUNDAY'S FIGHTING. It is somewhat difficult to explain Sunday's action, in which all the British forces were engaged and in which General Cronje, under difficult conditions, managed to hold his own. On Saturday night the British mounted infantry came into touch with Cronje's rear guard, driving it back upon the main body. On Sunday morning the action was renewed, but the Boers, who had entrenched the river bed during the night, prevented a further advance of the mounted infantry in this direction. Meanwhile the Highland Brigade, consisting of the Seaforth, the Black Watch and the Argylls, advanced from the south bank, and the Essex, Welsh and York-shires formed a long line on the left, which rested on the river, while the rest of the brigade, with the other regiments, swung around the front of the Highland Brigade on the level, covering ground, exposed to a terrible fire, which obliged the men to lie upon the ground, as they did for the remainder of the day.

This began at half past seven in the morning. Through the dreadful heat and terrible thunderstorm, our men hung to the position, answering the Boer fire and shooting steadily. In the meantime the rest of the infantry completed the enveloping movement, the Welsh Regiment having succeeded in seizing the drift, thus closing in the Boers, who had fought throughout with splendid courage. (General Cronje's) lager, full of carts, ammunition and stores could be plainly seen near the north bank. General Smith-Dorrien collected a large body of men, including the Canadians, and crossed the river by Paardeberg Drift, advancing toward the lager, which was being vigorously shelled. This force made a gallant attempt to charge into the lager, but failed.

Before seizing the western drifts the Boers occupied a kopje on the south bank, running down to the river. Therefore their force is out in two. The Boers hold the kopje and have one Vickers Maxim, and probably one or two other guns. Toward evening the battery on the south side opened, co-operating with the battery on the north side. A wonderful sight followed. The shells fell with amazing precision along the river bed, opposite the lager, which was shelled thoroughly, demolishing everything it contained. One shell set on fire a small ammunition wagon which burned nearly all day. Many other wagons were set on fire and the glare was visible at a considerable distance far into the night.

The infantry also maintained a terrible fire, which was answered vigorously. The scene toward evening was a terrible picture, with blazing wagons, the roaring artillery and the crackling rifle fire.

MONDAY'S FIGHTING.

Early on Monday morning General Cronje asked for a 24 hours armistice in order to bury his dead. Lord Kitchener refused and a little later came another message with word that if the British were Johnson enough to refuse an armistice for the purpose of burying the dead, General Cronje saw no other course but to surrender. Upon receipt of this message Lord Kitchener proceeded to the Boer lager in order to arrange their capitulation but he was met by a messenger, who announced that General Cronje said that the whole thing was a mistake that General Cronje had not the slightest intention of surrendering, but would fight until he died.

General Kitchener returned and ordered a bombardment of the Boer position. Three field batteries and a howitzer battery took positions directly in front of the lager and began an accurate fire, the howitzers using lyddite shells freely. The Boers were seen trying to get to the river but in order to speak cover, but no cover could protect them from such a deadly fire.

The howitzer dropped lyddite shells with precision into the very bed of the river and the trenches were soon filled with horrible fumes and green smoke, but the enemy held grimly on. Again during the night dozers arrived. They were much frightened and shaken by the awful experience. They reported that they had water in abundance, but were able to draw but scantily from their lager during the night.

TUESDAY'S FIGHTING.

To-day, Tuesday, was the third day of General Cronje's imprisonment and grim resistance. Early this morning the infantry engaged the enemy in the bed of the river and drove him back a short distance. The morning sun disclosed the Boers

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tolling like ants on the entrenchments around their lager. A few shells were fired to prevent them from "counting the work, but most of the day was quiet.

GENERAL FRENCH'S ARTILLERY was heard off to the east, presumably engaging the Boers' reinforcement. Every opportunity was given the Boers to surrender, but when towards afternoon there was no sign of any such intention, Lord Roberts determined to cross once and for all Cronje's force. On the South bank of the river, at a range of about 2,000 yards, were placed three field batteries and two naval 12-pounders, and on the north bank enfilading the whole river, one howitzer, three field batteries and three naval 4.7 guns.

Then followed the most wonderful scene it was ever the correspondent's lot to witness. Once before in Thessaly he had seen one hundred and ten guns in action, but never such a number of powerful guns concentrating their fire upon a spot about a mile square. The exploding lyddite shells raised great clouds of green smoke, completely filling the bed of the river. The sharp burst in the edge of each bank, except for a short space where the proximity of the British infantry made it dangerous. Our shells searched every bush and every ravine of the river bed. The enfilading guns must have done

TERRIBLE EXECUTION the roar was deafening, yet with a spirit of desperate madness the Boers would again and again attempt to snipe the naval guns, which were firing at a range of 1,000 yards. The long line of field batteries behind their death missiles, while on each side lay two battalions of infantry, whose Maxims sounded petty beside the roaring of the big guns.

What loss the Boers suffered is not yet known. The despatch is being written in a middle of a sleeping camp. Not a sound disturbs the heavy slumber of the tired soldiers. There is something tragic in the stern resistance which General Cronje is hopelessly offering. It is impossible not to admire his pluck, but all concede the wickedness of senselessly sacrificing the lives on his brave followers.

WEDNESDAY'S FIGHTING. General Cronje's position is more hopeless than ever. Our guns dominate the long ascent from the river on all sides, and by a rush of the shrapnel on Wednesday night up the river bed the Boers lost 200 yards space in their course. Deserters say that the British fire had been very deadly, and affirm that General Cronje, himself, is willing to surrender, but is overruled by the young Boers from the Transvaal. There are women and children with the Boer forces. Lord Roberts proposed to let them pass out of danger, but this suggestion, as well as the offer of medical aid, has been rejected. The kopje captured by the British last Wednesday, where 50 prisoners were taken, is an important strategic position. Its possession should enable us to repulse any Boer reinforcements from the eastward.

FRIDAY'S FIGHTING. Parties of Boers recently arrived from Natal, attacked our outposts in force again Friday. They lost a good many killed and wounded and nearly 100 prisoners including the commandant and three field howitzers. Our casualties were 4 officers wounded, two men missing on the 21st, and on the 22nd an officer and 23 men were wounded. Six men were wounded yesterday by hollow-voiced mauler bullets. The nickel case is slit with four slits making a projectile of the most expansive and explosive nature possible. A wounded Boer brought to our hospital yesterday had sixty of these bullets in his pockets. During our advance to Kimberley the casualties were: officers, 2 killed, 13 wounded; men, 4 killed, 78 wounded.

The report of the relief of Ladysmith which we announced in our last issue proved to be incorrect. Gen. Buller continues to make steady progress in his latest attempt to relieve the beleaguered city, but no additional reports as to his movements are forthcoming.

CRONJE'S SURRENDER. The War Office has received the following from Lord Roberts: "Paardeberg, Feb. 27.—General Cronje has surrendered unconditionally. "Cronje is now a prisoner in our camp."

Paardeberg, Feb. 27, 4.05 a. m.—General Cronje, Commander of the Orange Free State Army, has surrendered unconditionally to the British forces under Lord Roberts. He is now a prisoner in this camp.

Cronje sent an officer through the British lines at dawn this morning with a flag of truce. The officer said that he had a message for the British General in command. He was taken to Lord Kitchener, to whom he said that General Cronje was willing to surrender his position, being untenable, and only death and capture in prospect if he continued the fight. He wished to avoid useless shedding of blood and to save his women and children, and he requested that they be given safe conduct.

Lord Kitchener at once granted the request as far as the women and children were concerned, but insisted that the surrender in all respects, be absolute and unconditional. To this Cronje agreed.

The Boer commander at once left his lager, and escorted by half a dozen British officers, entered the British lines. He was met by Lord Kitchener, who immediately brought him to the headquarters of Lord Roberts.

The greetings between the rival generals was kindly and extremely sympathetic on the part of Lord Roberts, who has a great admiration for his captive, and brave and dignified on the part of Cronje.

The condition of affairs in the camp of the Boers was something frightful. They had run out of food, eaten up the cattle and these were being eaten rapidly as they were killed by the British shells. The ammunition had also given out and the artillery was badly damaged by the British shells.

Most of their wagons were burned. The lager was strewn with the corpses of dead lying in the broad light unburied and festering in the sun. The wounded were in a awful plight. The hospital corps was insufficient to attend to them and they lay about the lager in heaps, some crying piteously, others shrieking in agony, many silently bearing their agonies.

The British troops, immediately on taking possession of the lager, were ordered by Lord Roberts to devote all their attention to snatching the wounded and burying the dead, as well as to

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