

AT BAY IN RIVER BED

Cronje's Army Hiding in The Modder Under Incessant Artillery Fire While British Head Off Attempts At Reinforcements.

Must Surrender or Fight to a Finish Kitchener's Response to Request for Armistice--Canadians Engaged in a Charge on the Boer Lager.

Paardeberg Drift, Orange Free State, Tuesday, Feb. 26.—Gen. Cronje's magnificent night march from Magerfontein now appears to end in disaster. The main body of the Boers is enclosed in a terrible death trap. The enemy are hiding in the bed of the Modder, commanded by the British artillery and enclosed on the east and west by the British infantry.

Sunday witnessed a gallant stand on the part of the retreating force. Tired and harassed, they still maintained a bold front.

It is somewhat difficult to explain the Sunday action in which all the British force was engaged and in which Gen. 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 them 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.

AN ARMISTICE REFUSED. Capetown, Thursday Morning, Feb. 22.—In reply to Gen. Cronje's request for an armistice of twenty-four hours to allow him to bury his dead, Lord Kitchener told the Boer commander that he must fight to a finish or surrender unconditionally.

Gen. Cronje's position is reported hopeless. The scene toward nightfall was terribly picturesque, with the blazing wagons, the roaring artillery and the crackling rifle fire.

MEANWHILE the Highland Brigade, consisting of the Seaforths, the Black Watch and the Argyles, advanced from the south bank, and the Essex, Welsh and Yorkshires formed a long line on the left, which rested on the river, the extreme right being the Welsh. The whole line was ordered to envelop the Boers, who lined both banks of the river.

The firing soon became heavy. The Boers, holding a splendid position, covered the left of the Highland Brigade, which advanced partly up the river bed and partly in the open, while the rest of the brigade with the other regiments swung round the front of the Highland Brigade on the level, covered ground, exposed to a terrible fire, which obliged the men to lie upon the ground, as they did for the remainder of the day.

THE BOMBARDMENT was then renewed, and our 17th light shelled the Boer laager. We continued shelling the laager through the night, and in the morning resumed with Maxims and rifles, principally from the north side.

A NECESSARY SACRIFICE. On Sunday there was much waste of life in attacking and the same result will be achieved without it. The Canadians made a gallant charge of bravery at the laager, but were driven back with loss. Gen. Macdonald and Gen. Knox are slightly wounded.

DESPATCH-BEARERS TAKEN. During Monday night seven Boers made an attempt to break through our lines, but they were captured and their leaders were killed. Four were carrying letters, but it is believed that one more got through.

Other prisoners say that Gen. Cronje marched from Magerfontein here with a bombardment continues with unusual persistency and activity from Bulwana and Blaauwbank, but is doing small results. The Boers are very confident of their success and the advance of Gen. Buller, which is now visible.

A special from Paardeberg, dated 21st, says Commandant Botha, from Ladysmith, has been attempting to relieve Cronje. It is believed that one more got through.

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CARPETS, RUGS, ART SQUARES

Advertisement for Weiler Bros. in Victoria, B.C. listing various carpet and rug items and their prices.

Half Way to Ladysmith

Buller's Advance Checked At What is Probably Boers' Last Position.

Three Days' Silence of Roberts Indicates That Cronje Still Fights.

London, Feb. 24.—(4.25 a.m.)—Mr. Balfour announced in the House of Commons at 12.30 this morning that he had received from Gen. Cronje a letter which he had sent to the war office at that hour and had been assured that nothing had come to hand there.

PROHIBITION FOR MANITOBA. New Premier Promises to Introduce Bill at First Session.

Winnipeg, Feb. 23.—(Special)—Premier Macdonald promised today that he would introduce a bill at the first session of the legislature providing for prohibition in Manitoba.

MASONIC TEMPLE IN RUIN. London, Ont., Feb. 23.—The magnificent Masonic Temple building, with theatre and various offices, was entirely wiped out by a fire early this morning.

EDITOR PROMOTED. Montreal, Feb. 22.—Omer Heroux, editor of the *Trifluve*, the Conservative organ in Montreal, has been appointed editor of the new French Conservative morning paper here.

MILLION FROM TOBACCO. Hamilton, Ont., Feb. 22.—The wealth of the late ex-Mayor Robert is estimated at about \$1,000,000.

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL. Postmaster-General in Hot Water Again—London Volunteer Drying—Militia General Orders.

Ottawa, Feb. 22.—Militia General Orders to-day the following relating to British Columbia corps: Rocky Mountain Rangers—To be Second Lieutenant, J. J. Holland, vice Ward, retired.

BULLETINS FROM PRETORIA. Give News of Engagements With Forces Hurrying to Join Cronje.

London, Feb. 23.—Bulletins from Pretoria give the Boer position on the Modder River, Orange Free State, and mention engagements between Paardeberg and Bloemfontein, not hitherto reported.

Pretoria, Feb. 21.—At Petrusburg cannon firing commenced at 6 in the morning. A big fight was expected to-day.

Dewet telegraphed from Petrusburg that all was quiet excepting several cannon shots and small skirmishes. The evening the British stored federal positions as far as Schaefer, but were driven back.

A message from Gen. Cronje is to the effect that his loss yesterday was 14 killed and wounded.

Pretoria, Feb. 22.—Dewet's loss was nil. Commandant Froneman reports that from February 15 to February 20 he was almost surrounded by British at the Modder River, when with a small number of men he broke through the river.

On Sunday there was a heavy fight. The British prepared to lay siege to the Boer laager, with fighting fierce. We were surrounded by 2,500 British five miles from the chief laager. At night we cut through with the loss of seven dead and sixteen wounded. The loss to the Boers was heavy.

Yesterday we cut our way through to reach Dewet, who was in the neighborhood. Fifty-three prisoners formerly taken have been forwarded.

It is reported that the British were attacking Cronje yesterday with infantry and lancers, but they were driven back.

METHUEN ADMINISTRATOR. Commander of Kimberley Relief Force Will Govern the District—Siege of Ladysmith Stopped.

Kimberley, Feb. 22.—Lord Methuen arrived Tuesday. He will act as administrator of Kimberley district, extending southward to Orange River. Col. Kekewich will remain in command of the local forces.

Death or Surrender.

Artillery Reaching Every Part of Boer Trenches But Still Cronje Fights.

Bombardment Most Terrific of the War and No Chance For Escape.

Miserable Fugitives from Boer Army Each Night Give Up to British.

Paardeberg, Orange Free State, Feb. 20.—As night fell after the terrible fighting which lasted all day Sunday, there was a sudden cessation of firing. Both sides were thoroughly tired and glad to rest. The work of collecting the dead and wounded proceeded, and the men slept where they had fought the whole day.

Monday morning found the Boers in the same place. During the night they had constructed entrenchments around the laager, which was still threatened by Gen. Smith-Dorrien.

When Roberts arrived he addressed several regiments and was vigorously cheered. Early in the day Gen. Cronje asked for a twenty-four hours' armistice in order to bury his dead. Lord Kitchener refused, and a little later came another messenger with word to the effect that if the British were in any way inclined to refuse an armistice for the purpose of burying the dead, Cronje saw no other course but to surrender.

Three field batteries and a howitzer battery took a position in front of the laager and began an accurate fire. The howitzers using 17 lb shells were deadly. The Boers were seen retiring from the trenches to the river bed in order to seek cover, but no cover could protect them from such a deadly fire.

The morning sun disclosed the Boers toiling like ants on the entrenchments around their laager. A few shells were fired to prevent them continuing work, but most of the day was quiet.

Gen. French's artillery was heard of to the east, presumably bombarding the Boer's reinforcements. Every opportunity was given the Boers to surrender, but when toward afternoon, there was no sign of any such intentions, Roberts determined to crush once for all Gen. Cronje's resistance.

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 the howitzer, three field batteries and three naval 4.7 guns.

Macdonald followed the most wonderful scene it was ever this correspondent's lot to witness. Once before, in Thoson, he had seen 110 guns fire two battalions of infantry whose Maxims sounded the top of the captured hills, from which they can see right into Ladysmith. All ranks are encouraged, and now perhaps, with God's help, we shall succeed.

According to the Friend of the Free State, an old field cornet of the Transvaal said to one of his men, a recruit, "The six of us, we were to bid, we won't laugh at you; it's your duty."

SEEKING A PROTECTOR.

Chinaman Unfolds to University Governing Scheme to Stand Off the Grasping Europeans.

Philadelphia, Feb. 22.—Wu Jing Fank, the principal guest of honor attending the dedication exercises of the University of Pennsylvania to-day, discussed his Eastern questions in part as follows: "Though it is not more than 125 years ago when Washington founded this young republic, she has through the logical course of recent events acquired territory far beyond this continent and become practically a neighbor of China.

"One of the first requisites towards maintaining proper relations with the Orientals is to understand their ideas, and to judge them not by your standards but by theirs. This is as much applicable to commercial and social intercourse as to diplomatic and international affairs. Constant intercourse between the East and the West of necessity requires a common medium of communication.

"The question now arises," he continued, "whether it is an appropriate time for this country to extend the Monroe doctrine to Asia. The Philippines, Alaska, and may be said to be at the very door of that continent. If it was necessary for 'great power' to have any attempt to encroach upon any portions of the American continent, extending over six thousand miles from the Atlantic to the Pacific, it is necessary for our government to take your peace and safety, what shall you say to this when you find that the mainlands and the men suffered terribly from thirst, as it was impossible to transport water. A heavy thunder storm in the afternoon, however, considerably relieved their suffering.

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A Shadow On Kootenai

Situation So Precarious Rosiland Merchants Suspend All Credits

Managers' Complaint Miners—Only Richer Properties Operated in Slocan

By Associated Press. Rosiland, Feb. 22.—There are signs of trouble over the labor which it is allowed may result out at the War Eagle and Cedar and the Lee and other mines. B. A. C. It is a usual business man's advisers that the miners are doing their work and the mines are the union instead of by the mine. The War Eagle, for instance, a tabulated statement of the work in their mine and thinks cost of the work done is higher than the value of the ore.

"We are impelled to this action by a view of the present situation, also say self-protection, and we have been advised by the business men in Rosiland and elsewhere that we would not from such credit and accommodation would enable us to carry on our work in the same line as the others. We shall regret it if the necessary for us to take this step, but it does not lie at their doors. The situation is thought to be so serious that some sixty odd of the merchants issued the following statement to-day:

"We, the undersigned merchants, are withdrawing from the city of Rosiland, in view of the partial closure of the mines, and realizing that the situation is so serious that some sixty odd of the merchants issued the following statement to-day:

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