

ANOTHER WAIT.

Nothing of Any Importance Received Yesterday from the Theatre of War. Considerable Speculation as to What Commandant Cronje Intends to do.

Still Hopeful of Relieving Ladysmith—List of Casualties at Making up to January 25th—War Office Orders the Organization of Additional Forces.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—The absence of further news from Gen. Lord Roberts is interpreted here as an indication that important operations are in progress. There is practically no news of consequence from the Natal side. An English correspondent at Chieveley in a despatch dated Feb. 13, says: "We are still hopeful of relieving Ladysmith. Nothing has been received from the latter place direct. A Boer report, dated Feb. 13, says that everything is quiet there." A statement is ascribed to a citizen of Pretoria, who arrived at Lorenzo Marques, Wednesday, from the Boer camp at Ladysmith, to the effect that the bombardment is desultory. There is a shortage of big gun ammunition, and fresh supplies from Johannesburg are being awaited.

Mr. Balfour's speech opened the distinct possibility that before the end of the campaign sick and ghortaks will be fighting alongside the British. Mr. Chamberlain's declaration of the government's decision to encourage and assist the natives in every way in defending their territory against Boer invasion, though loudly cheered by the ministerialists in the house, meet with adverse criticism in various quarters, especially on the ground of complete uncertainty regarding the side for which the natives will declare themselves.

LONDON, Feb. 16, 4.30 a. m.—As the wires are closed to correspondence with Lord Roberts, and as nothing further from him has been communicated to the public, the military experts are figuring out possibilities of Lord Roberts' communications and what there is left for the Boers to do. The best news England could hear would be that he elects to give battle among the low hills and ridges west of Kimberley. Should he determine to do this, he must raise the siege of Kimberley and retreat to a point where he would prefer to fight. This retreat could be a long detour around the head of the British advance to Eikenfontein, or, as seems to military students more practicable, he could withdraw to the north, using the railroad for his guns and heavy baggage, moving to Fourteen Straams station, and thence to Transvaal territory.

The Boers have made no preparations to defend Eikenfontein, and there is no particular reason why Gen. Cronje should risk a battle to protect the capital of the Free State. Operations elsewhere are apparently suspended. A correspondent, writing from Chieveley, Feb. 13, says: "We are still hopeful of relieving Ladysmith." Col. Baden-Powell, in a despatch from Mafeking dated Jan. 29, after mentioning matters already sent out by correspondents, gives his total casualties up to Jan. 25 as follows: Killed, 5 officers and 60 men; wounded, 8 officers and 123 men; missing, 34 men. No word has been received regarding Gen. Gomer's 12,000 men at Stormberg. The impression is that these troops are on the way to Lord Roberts.

LANCERS CAUGHT NAPPING. BOER LAAGER, near Ladysmith, Tuesday, Feb. 13.—Yesterday Gen. Botha, with a small force crossed the Tugela to a desert plain, where he encountered fifty Lancers of whom thirteen were killed, five wounded and nine taken prisoners. One of the prisoners was sent to tell the British to fetch their wounded.

MILWAUKEE WILL BE DELAYED. (Special to the Sun.) HALIFAX, Feb. 15.—Major Williams, commanding the Canadian Mounted Rifles, held the last drill previous to embarkation on the Compton today. Each trooper had 25 rounds of ammunition, and there was a spring steam engine on board the Compton. An attack on Cape Hill, to the westward, was made, and these strongholds are supposed to have been captured. During the manoeuvres, Corporal Oliver of Regina was thrown by a broncho. He was picked up in an insensible condition and conveyed to the military hospital. It was found that his injuries were not serious, and he will be able to go to the Cape on the Milwaukee. His injury consisted of a flesh wound above and behind the right ear, which required several stitches to close.

The cars with the big guns, forage, ammunition and ambulance wagons were also given a berth. Seven twelve pounders and four machine guns made up the complement of artillery. These were handled by troopers, who dismounted the guns with slacrity. The various pieces of the repairing engine followed. Hundreds of wheels, shafts and other parts are being taken, and the trooper will have a couple of repair shops to land at Cape Town. The loading of ice commenced this afternoon. The blocks are only six inches thick. Unless the weather continues cold, it will be impossible to get sufficient ice on board by Tuesday.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—In the house of commons today, the Earl of Dunreven raised a question on the government's military proposals and expressed a doubt as to whether 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 400,000 men in Great Britain, to which the secretary of state for war had referred, would stand analysis. For the volunteers, Lord Rosebery said he had the highest respect; but by no stretch of the imagination could they be called soldiers, as it was admitted that they needed months of training annually to render them efficient.

"This crisis in South Africa is urgent," 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 these overtures were not received with such cordiality as to encourage the government to pursue them. It does not appear that the friendship of India and to Russia, events have been recently witnessed in Persia about which England formerly would have had something to say, but which now passes unnoticed.

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

colony have believed that they were... themselves with a powerful... break away from us. If this be not a life and death crisis, I do not know what it is.

The Earl of Kimberley, the liberal leader, said he felt the danger of the situation equally with Lord Rosebery. Although he would not ascribe a direct hostile intention to Russia at the present moment, he said that he could not overlook the fact that there was a movement of troops in progress which, if not momentary, showed possibilities of the future that were not absent from the Russian mind.

The Marquis of Salisbury, the premier, in the course of his reply for the government, said: "It cannot enter upon the springs that guide the Russian government or the course it is likely to take; nor can I discuss the health of the Amoor of Afghanistan. As to whether our forces are adequate for the work in South Africa, or whether it is true that we have neglected opportunities, I would gladly accept a challenge, provided the words would not go beyond this chamber. The present troubles are not due to the expansion of the empire, but to the complications arising from it. Our forefathers were not discouraged by bad beginnings, and we should follow their example and not be cast down. The government is convinced now, as it always has been, that the issue will be brought to a successful conclusion. It does not think any advantage is to be obtained from taking a gloomy view."

John Burns, radical, scouted the idea that it was necessary to strengthen the British army in order to fight a country whose population was only equal to that of his own constituency. Mr. Wyndham, parliamentary under secretary for war, answering criticisms, said it was unnecessary to reply to Wm. Redmond's arguments, because the Irishmen at the front were giving the answer with their lives. (At midnight the closure was enforced and the division was taken.)

The house of commons this evening adopted the government's military scheme by a vote of 23 against 34, the minority consisting chiefly of Irish members.

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

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. LONDON, Feb. 15.—In the house of commons today, during the course of a debate on a question relating to the Boer invasion of Zululand, the secretary of state for the colonies, Joseph Chamberlain, said that the government had decided if the native territories were invaded by the Boers the natives "will be encouraged and assisted in every way in defending themselves."

Mr. Chamberlain's reply confirmed the reports of the invasion of Zululand and showed the consequences could not fail to be serious throughout South Africa as the alarm and spread to the Natal natives. The colonial secretary also said that the Natal ministry had notified the home government that it could not any longer be responsible for the peaceful conduct of the country was contrary to a tacit compact that the natives should not be dragged into the war.

A. J. Balfour, the government leader, dealing with the same subject and the possibility of employing Indian troops, said that the government would not employ natives in the present war was based on the belief that, by common consent, the war would be confined to the two European races, adding: "If the Boers adopt a course inconsistent with that idea, we hold ourselves free to reconsider our decision."

The house having gone into committee of supply on the supplementary war estimates, William Redmond, nationalist, strongly objected to adding to the British army, which he said, was now "engaged in a war which is an insult to God, a war waged by Christian England against a Christian people, who only desire to retain their own land."

THE KINGSTON CONTINGENT. MONTREAL, Feb. 15.—A big crowd greeted the arrival of the Kingston contingent this evening, and there was considerable enthusiasm. The train only remained an hour, leaving for Halifax at 8.30.

LESSONS TO LEARN. LONDON, Feb. 15.—Lord George Hamilton, secretary of state for India, said that one lesson to be learned was the fact that a volunteer force could use the long range rifle and cannon and could, in a fortified position, hold its own against any troops. He said that volunteers were properly reorganized in England a successful invasion of the country would be an impossibility. It also meant that proper use were made of the mountains on the frontier. "India, the biggest of the hostilities that got within these mountains the larger would be the graveyard they would make there."

TO AID THE SICK AND WOUNDED. NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Fifty-seven men today sailed on the steamship LaGascogne on their way to Boer lines in South Africa. Most of the men are Irish-American, and the corps was recruited in Chicago. Today by Major Edward T. McCrystal of the 9th regiment and Hon. Patrick Egan, ex-minister to Chile. They presented a fine appearance, and were frequently cheered as they marched through the streets. They carried the American and the Red Cross flags. The corps is in charge of Dr. John McNamara. The corps was equipped through the efforts of the United States societies in Chicago.

Dr. McNamara said they were going to South Africa in the cause of humanity, to aid the sick and wounded of the Boer army.

PARLIAMENT.

Still Another Brief Sitting of the Commons.

Major General Hutton's Farewell to His Comrades of All Ranks in the Militia.

List of Officers Appointed to Commission in Strathcona's Horse—The First Government Caucus of the Session—Notes from the Press Gallery.

OTTAWA, Feb. 15.—Mr. Puttee, the newly elected labor member for Winnipeg, was introduced by Mr. McCartha (McCarthyite), and Mr. Stubbs (McCarthyite). Mr. Puttee took his seat near the other independent members, but he placed himself at the head of the list of a question of privilege. Hon. Dr. Borden referred to the remarks made by Clarke Wallace respecting the alleged strained relations between Captain Williams and Lieut. Borden. Dr. Borden read a despatch from the chief of staff at Halifax, abstracting the statement that a conflict had taken place.

Clarke Wallace said he was glad to hear it. Sir Charles Tupper urged the government to organize the committee required for the work of investigation would not be thrown over to the end of the session, as happened last year.

CASE OF GEN. HUTTON. Col. Prior of British Columbia brought up the question of the departure of General Hutton. It was supposed that political troubles had led to his retirement. He regretted the loss, because Gen. Hutton was a good officer. He (Prior) thought it was necessary that an officer with imperial experience should command the Canadian forces, and regretted the political troubles and other troubles had removed General Hutton at this particular time.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier hoped that the discussion would not go on. Gen. Hutton had been recalled by the home authorities and was about to depart. He had in some respects done good work, and it was better that he should be allowed to leave the country in peace.

Sir Charles Tupper agreed with this view, especially as the correspondence of the case was not before the house.

Col. ITardale spoke highly of Gen. Hutton and strongly expressed the opinion that the time had not come to do without an imperial commander. Col. Tupper maintained that the proper time to discuss Gen. Hutton was before he went away. The press said he was going away under a cloud. Gen. Hutton had no imperial appointment, yet he was leaving with one. He had trouble in Australia. He never held an imperial appointment more than a few months at a time. His departure was in the best interests of the country. He (Domville) was not pro-Boer, but he would rather have a Boer general than such a man as Hutton, and wanted no more imperial officers here. He quoted with approval a statement which he attributed to Napoleon, that the British were a nation of lions commanded by asses.

Mr. Sproule spoke highly of Gen. Hutton, as did Mr. Oster of Toronto, who said Gen. Hutton grew in public favor the longer he remained here. Mr. McNell took the same view, adding that he did not expect it to commend itself to a member who preferred a Boer general to a British general, or who regarded British officers as asses. If Napoleon used the words "I was ready to vote any amount of money necessary to uphold the honor of Canada and the welfare of the Empire. He exhorted the opposition and everybody to look on this matter in a patriotic spirit and without regard to party."

Mr. Bourassa, who followed, said that he did not introduce his own resolution now, as he preferred to bring it up when it could be considered by itself. He would, however, state his views now. He did not attach so much significance to the money expended, or the mere fact that a few troops had been sent to Africa, but the new relation adopted toward the Empire by Canada was important, and might be claimed by ministers as presiding a public opinion that had not been constitutionally expressed. He agreed with the view set forth by the premier in October, when he said that the Canadian militia should not be employed for other purposes than the defence of Canada. He did not feel big enough to say whether Chamberlain was right in Africa or not, but there were evidently two sides to the question, and he would not condemn the views of John Morley or the action of Gladstone.

Bourassa proceeded to contend that Kruger was straightforward and Miller was inconsistent, that Chamberlain improperly revived a claim of suzerainty after it had been disclaimed, and that generally British diplomacy was to blame for the present trouble. On the Manitoba question, the conservatives proposed to give force the undoubted rights to the minority in Manitoba. The liberals proposed to do it by conciliation. He supported the liberal theory, and now held that some policy of conciliation should have been pursued in South Africa. The British government had adopted force in Africa. He refused to admit that Canada was at war in Africa. War could not be declared by order in council. How many would come back, he knew not. Let the

Evening Session. Mr. Charlton made a vigorous loyal speech, extolling the army and justice of Britain, affirming the justice of the British cause, and declaring that the war was as much Canada's war as Britain's war. He made a mild sensation at the expense of Hon. Edward Blake by saying: "I want support any resolutions which I consider are the resolutions of cravens, actuated by treasonable feelings." Still he commended the government for going slow and waiting for a clear expression of public opinion. That was what Lincoln did. But he himself was ready to vote any amount of money necessary to uphold the honor of Canada and the welfare of the Empire. He exhorted the opposition and everybody to look on this matter in a patriotic spirit and without regard to party."

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Col. Domville was correct in the statement that Gen. Hutton had refused an appointment for service in Africa. This question also Hon. Dr. Borden refused to answer.

When this discussion had closed, Mr. Borden of Halifax gave notice of motion, bringing the West Huron and Brockville election cases under the privileges and elections committee.

Hon. Mr. Fielding informed Dr. Montague that the government did not propose to introduce legislation affecting friendly societies.

Hon. Mr. Fielding read his motion for a vote of two millions for aid to the Empire in Africa. He would say no more than that this was the largest contribution made by any colony, and he hoped that it would be voted unaminously.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER supported the motion, but would like to have had fuller particulars. He took occasion to reply to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who in the address of the debate charged the Sir Charles Tupper had formerly opposed Canadian contributions to imperial defence. The opposition leader reviewed the discussions to which Sir Wilfrid Laurier resorted, showing that he had never taken this position. He had on various occasions, before the Federation League, the Colonial Institute, in the British reviews and in various addresses before learned societies, shown that Canada had made large contributions to imperial defence. He had not done this to show that the colonies should do no more in the future, but to prove Canadian readiness to share imperial burdens. Also he had expressed dissent from the proposition that the colonies should be taxed by the imperial parliament for the support of the royal navy. He had certainly never favored imperial taxation without representation. But it was quite another thing for the colonies to give voluntary aid, and Sir Charles was able to show that the course now taken in sending this assistance was in accord with all that he had said and written on the subject. Referring to the contingents, Sir Charles regretted that Canada was not the first colony to offer troops and did not offer to pay the men. But he was thankful for the concessions so far obtained. The government had abandoned its determined opposition to the offer of a contingent in the first place. The government had consented to ask the war office to keep the Canadians together, though the ministers had denounced him (Sir Charles) for asking that this should be done. The government had consented to send a second contingent, after declaring that the first one would not be a precedent. He was also gratified to find that the government proposed to pay to the men the difference between the Canadian and imperial rates. Again, according to Sir Richard Cartwright, the government proposed to make the same provision for the soldiers as if they had been insured. Sir Charles would like further details as to this, but would accept it as another step in advance. In closing, he assured the ministry that not only the opposition in the house but the people of Canada would endorse the payment of all money necessary to the performance of the full duty of Canada towards the Empire and for the full recognition of the noble sacrifice made by our volunteers.

Mr. Charlton was speaking at six o'clock.

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