

OCCUPATION OF KROONSTAD

Lord Roberts Telegraphs That He Entered the Town This Morning Without Opposition.

BOERS BOLTED FROM ENTRENCHMENTS

French's Cavalry Prevented the Burghers From Opposing the British Advance—Another White Flag Outrage—Several Dragoons Killed by the Enemy.

(Associated Press.)
 London, May 11.—So quickly has Lord Roberts advanced that his cavalry is only 22 miles from Kroonstad, while the main army is only 11 miles behind them. Hence, in about a day, the British army will be within striking distance of the Orange Free State headquarters.
 The critics differ largely in opinion as to whether a determined stand will be made there.
 The presence of 10,000 Boers in the neighborhood of Thaba Nchu is confirmed. They are holding twenty miles north to southeast of Thaba Nchu. A Boer patrol was sighted on Thursday at Thaba Patcho, and a detachment of Brabant's Horse

Pursued the Burghers,
 who retired after some fighting. The Brabants then took up a position on a hill, which they are now holding. There were a few casualties on the British side. The Boers' headquarters are at Eden. More fighting is expected.
 The South African Review asserts that a member of the legislature of Cape Colony offered money to a man to shoot Sir Alfred Milner, the British high commissioner in the Orange Free State. The review demands the arrest of the legislator, who is described as a prominent bondsmen from Piquetberg.

ROBERTS'S DISPATCH.

London, May 11, 10.50 a.m.—Lord Roberts telegraphs to the war office from Riet Spruit, under the date of May 10th, evening, as follows:
 "We have had a successful day, and have driven the enemy from point to point.
 "French, with Porter's and Dickson's brigades of cavalry and Hutton's mounted infantry, crossed the Zand at Vermenter's Kraal and then worked round in a northeasterly direction to Maatschappij, being opposed continuously by the enemy.
 "Pole-Carew's division and Gordon's cavalry brigade, augmented by 'J' battery of the Royal Horse Artillery, and by Henry's and Ross's mounted infantry, crossed the river by drift near the railway bridge. My quarters accompanied this force with the infantry portion.
 "We are three miles north of the river. The cavalry and mounted infantry are at Ventersburg road station, and Tucker's division is at De Wet's Nek.
 "I am Hamilton's force and Broadwood's cavalry brigade are making for the cross roads near Ventersburg, when I last heard from them.
 "Hamilton's column met with stubborn resistance and Smith-Dorrien's brigade engaged for some hours in protecting the rear and flank of his force.
 "The only casualties reported at present are: Killed, rank and file, four; wounded, five.
 "No returns yet received from the cavalry nor Hamilton's force."
 Capetown, May 11.—Lord Roberts wires that he is at Ventersburg and that he is continuously opposed, but that he is making progress.

THE CROSSING OF THE ZAND.

London, May 11.—The Daily Express in its second edition to-day publishes a dispatch, dated Riet Spruit, May 10th, morning, describing the crossing of the Zand River by the British. It says:
 "The rear guard of the Boers, with their guns, resisted the advance. The mounted infantry, two batteries and 'pom-poms' cleared the way and the third cavalry brigade was as a screen before the main column. Gen. French was on the left and Gen. Hamilton on the right. The Boers had destroyed all the bridges during their retreat.
 "It is impossible to ascertain
 but they are thought to be heavy. Those of the British, considering the important advance made, are considered light."
 A dispatch from Riet Spruit, dated May 10th, describing more fully Roberts's successful operations, says: "Gen. Hamilton's scouts had on two previous days ascertained the Boer position and strength. On Wednesday night the Cheshire regiment crossed the river, entrenched themselves and prepared to hold the passage for the regiments following them. At daybreak on Thursday

roll and it is apparent that he must have been taken on in South Africa.
 Patriotic Fund.
 Ottawa, May 11.—The Canadian patriotic fund to-day amounts to \$278,208.

London, May 12.—News has arrived that a British column 300 strong has reached Vryburg, 100 miles from Mafeking. It reached there Thursday and though harassed by the Boers, is pushing swiftly forward.
 Forty miles south of there at Taunje, is Gen. Hunter's main body, moving slowly and containing with considerable forces. The pick of his mounted men are the 3,000 who are going without wheeled transports, and at a rate that may possibly bring them to Mafeking on Monday or Tuesday next.
 Lord Roberts's narrative closes with Thursday evening, but he is continuing his march to-day towards Kroonstad, 20 miles distant, and by this time tomorrow he must know whether the Boers intend to fight there.
 Mr. Winston Churchill says there were only 2,000 Boers who opposed the British at Zand River. Another estimate is that 6,000 Boers with six guns, made a rear guard, acting while many other thousands with convoy retired without firing a shot.
 A cable from Pretoria says: "It is announced that a British force of 3,000 is advancing along the railway by forced marches, night and day, and reached Vryburg yesterday."

THE BRITISH ADVANCE.

Boer Reports of Fighting—Rumors of Heavy Losses.
 London, May 11.—A special dispatch from Christiana (Transvaal), published on Wednesday by the Standard and Diggers' News, says: "Six hundred British cavalry crossed the Vaal Friday at Kalberv, about 13 miles below Fourteen Streams, and went to Mafeking followed by commandos. A second detachment of British crossed at the same place on Saturday. The Griqualanders under Gen. Azwegen, after being repulsed in the direction of Taunje. General Azwegen was killed. The other Boer casualties were seven."
 The British loss was insignificant. Everything was brought away from the laagers except a few tents left to attract the enemy's shells. Taunje was occupied by 500 Boers.
 A telegram from Pretoria dated Monday in the same paper records the British seizure of Fourteen Streams Sunday afternoon. It says: "The British force at Wilrand, was overwhelming. Subsequently, the enemy moved their line toward our positions, bombarding them with such effect that the burghers were compelled to retire, which they did in regular order. To-day a forward movement of the British was checked by a Boer force, who drove them back in places."
 A dispatch from Pretoria dated Thursday, in the Standard and Diggers' News, says: "The British in this passage along the Stellan border towards Mafeking were engaged by Commandant Bischoff, with British troops met a watery grave while attempting to cross the Vaal. A second advance was made up on Taunje on Sunday morning by 1,500 British troops and six guns. Communication with Taunje was cut Sunday afternoon."
 The Lorenzo Marquez correspondent of the Daily Mail in a dispatch dated Friday, 11th, says: "The British report severe fighting on the western border. The facts are very much confused; probably by a desire to conceal the truth from the burghers, but there is enough to show that the Boers admit a British occupation at Taunje."

DECIDED TO CONTINUE.

Steyn Is In Active Command of the Burghers.
 London, May 12.—President Steyn and a council of leaders of several thousand Free Staters in Ladybrand and Hekkerbosburg district determining to submit the question of continuing the war or not at a great open air meeting, the fighting men decided to go on.
 Steyn, who appears to be in active command, began to advance towards the British, and came into contact on Thursday with Campbell's brigade and Brabant's Horse twenty miles northeast of Thaba Nchu. A sharp engagement ensued with no positive success on either side, except that the Boer advance was stopped. Gen. Rundle has disposed of 10,000 infantry along a twenty mile frontier, where he had to bar the advance of the Boers towards Lord Roberts. With the exception of Brabant's cavalry, Gen. Rundle has no horsemen. The cavalry are all with Lord Roberts.
 Moving Against Boers.
 Maseru, Basutoland, Friday, May 11.—British forces from Thaba Nchu under General Rundle and Gen. Brabant are reported to have advanced toward Olopoloan and Platburg. A large commando of Boers has returned from the Kwa-rannaberg hills, and is in readiness to meet the British, but the Boers are pledged to know by which route the British will appear.

SCENES IN VOLKSRAD.

Kruger Quits the Chamber in a Fit of Passion.
 London, May 12.—The Lorenzo Marquez correspondent of the Times, telegraphing Friday, says:
 "The discussion in the volksraad concerning the sale of mining rights caused an exciting scene. President Kruger said the money was wanted for the purpose of war. The members retorted that

this statement conflicted with the declaration in the presidential speech that there were ample funds for prosecuting the war, and they accused the government of squandering money. Finally Mr. Kruger quitted the chamber in a fit of passion, declaring that he had done his best, and that we washed his hands of the business."
 Missing Canadians Return.
 Ottawa, May 11.—A cable from Sir Alfred Milner states that four members of the Canadian Mounted Rifles, Allan, Moorehouse, Delisle and Milan, reported on Wednesday as missing since April 5th, have rejoined the regiment.

ENTRENCHMENTS EVACUATED

London, May 12.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Roberts:
 "Boschrand, May 12—9.05 a.m.—I am eight miles south of Kroonstad. The enemy evacuated the first line of entrenchments during the night. We are now reconnoitering toward Kroonstad.
 "Gen. French's cavalry seized the drift over the Vaalch River at 4.30 last evening, just in time to prevent the passage being opposed by the enemy."
 Brabant Advancing.
 Eden, May 11.—The Boers retired somewhat to-day, but it is impossible to say where they may turn up next, owing to their great mobility.
 Gen. Grenfell succeeded in pushing them back near Rapispook, while Brabant pushed forward in the direction of Brand's Drift, along with Gen. Campbell and the 16th Brigade.
 A body of Boers has appeared at Verona, on the Ladybrand road.
 Invalided.
 Ottawa, May 12.—A militia order to-day announces that hereafter infantry corps, independent companies excepted, will be known as regiments instead of battalions.
 Private A. Macaulay, of the 43rd regiment, and Corp. J. Smith, of the 22nd regiment, have been both invalided from the first Canadian contingent in South Africa to Woolwich, suffering from wounds received in action. Private F. Brown, of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, was slightly wounded in Africa on April 25th.
 Ottawa, May 9.—The department of militia is notified that Father O'Leary, who is with the first contingent, is very ill. No further particulars are to hand.
 Horses for Africa.
 Toronto, May 12.—British remount officials, who have been in Ontario and Quebec for weeks purchasing horses for the British army, have secured a number to be sent by the first transport from Montreal next week. Walter H. Smith, purchasing agent, says 5,000 excellent animals could be secured in Ontario and Quebec at the present time.
 Recruits for Strathcona's.
 London, May 11.—Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, the Canadian high commissioner, bade farewell to-day to the contingent of Canadians belonging to the Strathcona Horse, which landed yesterday at Liverpool and which sailed for South Africa to-day on board the British transport Assaye. The high commissioner made a speech to the troops, during the course of which he expressed the belief that they would emulate the excellent example of the other Canadian units at the front.
 Methodist Conference.
 Election of Officers—New Chairman of Victoria District.
 (Special Correspondence of the Times.)
 New Westminster, May 11.—The fourteenth session of the annual conference of the Methodist church in British Columbia convened in the Queen's Avenue Methodist church yesterday morning at 9.30 a.m., with the president, Rev. Robert Whittington, M.A., B.Sc., in the chair. The opening exercises were conducted by Rev. J. C. Speer, of the Toronto conference.
 The roll being called 48 ministers and 22 laymen answered to their names.
 On the ballot for conference officers, Rev. Robt. Whittington, M.A., B.Sc., of Vancouver, was re-elected president, and Rev. W. H. Barraclough, B.A., of Victoria, secretary. Revs. A. N. Miller and John Robson, B.A., were appointed assistant secretaries, and Rev. C. M. Tate, statistical secretary.
 Rev. T. W. Hall was elected chairman pro tem. of Victoria district in place of Rev. J. C. Speer.
 The report of the conference special committee received, recommended the adoption of the work at Esquimaux and the establishing of a soldiers' and sailors' home under the management and chaplaincy of Rev. J. P. Hicks.
 Rev. Mr. Vert, of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, and Rev. Mr. Reynolds, of the Reformed Episcopal church, were introduced to the conference.
 In the evening Rev. Dr. Sutherland, of Toronto, missionary secretary, gave an address to a large audience on the Ecumenical Missionary Conference held recently at New York. He spoke of the growing enthusiasm on behalf of missions, and the feeling, also growing, that a larger element of co-operation between the churches on the mission field was desirable. It was hoped that even in British Columbia a division of the work might be arranged, whereby one denomination should take one part of the field and another the other, and thus result in the saving of missionary money and the building up of self-supporting charges.
 Drapets in its worst forms will yield to the use of Carter's Little Liver Pills, aided by Carter's Little Liver Pills. They not only relieve present distress but strengthen the stomach and digestive apparatus.

AT KROONSTAD.

London, March 12, 9.10 p.m.—General Roberts has entered Kroonstad, meeting with no opposition.
 The war office has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:
 "Kroonstad, May 12, 2 p.m.—I entered Kroonstad at 1.30 without opposition to-day, when the Union Jack was hoisted amidst the cheers from the few British residents.
 "President Steyn last evening vainly endeavored to persuade the burghers to continue opposing us. The Transvaalers said they would no longer fight on Orange Free State soil, and made off to the Vaal River. The Free Staters accused the Transvaalers of having made use of them and then deserting. Many of the Free Staters have gone to their homes.
 "The procession, entering the town, was headed by my bodyguard, all of whom were colonials, and after the staff of foreign officers came the North Sea Imperial Yeomanry, followed by Pole-Carew's guards and the 18th brigade naval, the 88rd, 84th and 85th batteries, two five-inch guns manned by the Royal Artillery Company, and the Twelfth Engineers.
 "The rest of the force encamped around the town.
 "Before leaving Kroonstad, President Steyn issued a proclamation making Linley the seat of government of the Free State. Generals Botha and Dewet accompanied the Transvaalers."
 MORE BOER TREACHERY.
 Geneva Sliding, May 11.—The British forces have arrived here, marching splendidly. Gen. French in the advance. Firing was heard yesterday in the direction of his force.
 Some of the Inniskillings had approached the kraal, where a force of Boers was concealed. A white flag was flying from the kraal. While the troops were unsaddling their horses a deadly fire was poured in upon them from the windows of the farm house, killing several of the Inniskillings. A score of them were captured, most of whom had been wounded.
 It is expected that the railway to Zand River will be completed to-night. The line is almost entirely destroyed north of the river, but beyond where the British are the Boers retreated from their position too hastily to do much damage.
 The Boers are reported to be entrenching themselves around Kroonstad, twenty miles off.

IN TOUCH WITH ENEMY.

London, May 12.—Roberts telegraphs to the war office under the date of Geneva Sliding, May 11th, evening, as follows:
 "My headquarters, with Pole-Carew's division, marched 20 miles to-day and are now at Geneva Sliding, 14 miles from Kroonstad, and about six miles from Boschrand, where the Boers are holding entrenched positions.
 "The Gordons' brigade is in touch with them, Tucker's division is a short distance southeast, and Hamilton's force is still further east.
 "Broadwood's brigade overtook a part

Caused a Sensation

British Public Was Totally Unprepared for the Speech by Lord Salisbury.

The Country Can No Longer Overlook Perils Which Threaten It.

(Associated Press.)
 London, May 12.—Lord Salisbury's address to the members of the Primrose League on Wednesday and the remarkable utterances of the Premier on that occasion continue to form almost the sole topic of conversation. Editorial writers quickly gave up the attempt to analyse, for the benefit of the public, the numerous features of the speech, and were well nigh staggered into silence by its baffling unexpectedness and the multiplicity of the issues it contained. It was delivered when the nation expected exactly the opposite kind of remarks. To improve his countrymen to

Awake to the Perils
 constantly menacing the great empire and its existence at the very moment when a long period of patient waiting had been replaced by jubilation over Roberts's successful advance was an expedient which seemed so utterly bereft of the first principles of politics, especially considering the approach of the elections, that some of Lord Salisbury's own supporters were astonished. He pulled pieces every fabric that had been built around the Queen's visit to Ireland, calmly comparing the present efforts to attain Home Rule to

Boer Conspiracies and Hostility.
 The whole tone of the speech lacked all those formalities, delicacy and veiled utterances to which the English people have been accustomed since the days of Pitt and Palmerston. Lord Salisbury hitherto has religiously followed such precedents, but on Wednesday he spoke to the public as he might to an intimate friend after dinner.
 So amazing and interesting has been Lord Salisbury himself as revealed this week, that the broad and from the standpoint of other nations, the far most important sensational feature of the speech has passed almost unnoted. Were the Premier of any other European state to get up in these times of war and rumors of wars and urge the people of an eminently commercial race to accustom themselves to

The Use of Firearms
 and to establish rifle clubs in every city, village and hamlet, there would run through Europe such a shiver of fright and such vivid anticipation of hostile intention and devastating conflict that market prices would drop by tens, and mobilization plans would be at the fingertips of every war minister. That this has not occurred appears to be due to the generally recognized fact that when Lord Salisbury pessimistically hinted of the

Hostilities Toward England
 the world over, he was speaking purely in the abstract, without harboring in his mind one concrete instance whereby that hospitality might become an immediate menace.

A curious incident connected with the parade of the Ladysmith naval brigade of the British cruiser Powan was that the decorating authorities almost overlooked the officers of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal the Canadian High Commissioner, with the

Stars and Stripes,
 while on the outside of the United States embassy, in the same street, there was no sign of an American flag. Lord Strathcona pointed out the unsuitability of the predominance of the Stars and Stripes, and the number of those emblems were reduced.

ANOTHER REVOLUTION.
 General Hernandez and His Followers Are Again Causing Trouble in Venezuela.
 (Associated Press.)
 New York, May 12.—A special to the Herald from Port of Spain, Trinidad, says the Hernandez revolutionists are again active in Venezuela. It is reported that Gen. H. Hernandez, at the head of 2,000 troops, entered and occupied Calabozo, the capital of the state of Guario. Gen. Guerra has been dispatched with an army from Caracas to engage Gen. Hernandez.

FIGHT WITH RIOTERS.
 Madrid, May 11.—Dispatches just received here show that disorders due to the anti-taxation agitation occurred last night. The rioting was particularly severe in Barcelona, where a crowd threw up barricades in the streets and exchanged musketry fire with a body of gendarmes. Shots were fired from a number of houses and several gendarmes were hit. A number of the rioters were arrested. Order has now been restored, but it is rumored that martial law will be proclaimed there.

Port Dalhousie, May 11.—Rev. Charles Phillimore, lately of Medford, committed suicide here last night by taking carbolic acid. He was in poor health, which is supposed to have been the cause of the rash act.

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