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BUDGET OF GOOD NEWS

Boer Line of Fortresses Along the lext morning Gen. French advanced and seized two drifts on the Riet River. Gen. Tucker's division followed after a splendid march. Gen. It is announced that the Channel Kelly-Kenny's command was close behind, and both divisions reached the Riet River before Gen. French left.

Tugela Broken by Buller.

Reliy-Kenny's command was close behind, and both divisions reached the Rilet River before Gen. French left. The drift was so difficult of passage that the transport was forced to pack on the south side of the river. Relays of oxen and mules labored throughout the night in the midst of a terrible dust-storm. At four o'clock the next Endeavor to Head off Cronje.

Lord Methuen's Division Now at Kimberley—Canadians which marched to within three miles of Jacobsdal, being obliged to keep to the siver on account of the water. This division waited here for Gen. Kelly-Kenny, who then advanced to Kim Aviet and Aviet and Market and Pursuing Commandant Cronje.

LAURENTIAN AT CAPE TOWN. | disconfiture of Cronje. During his CAPE TOWN, Feb. 17.-The British steamer Laurentian, Captain Nunan, which sailed from Hallifax Jan. 21 with the first artillery section of the second Canadian contingent of troops for service against the Boers, arrived at this port today.

jor John Hanbury-Williams, military secretary to the governor of Cape Colory, and the British high commissioner in South Africa, Sir Alfred Milner, on behalf of his excellency.

DOVETAILED WITH PRECISION. JACOBSDAL, Orange Free State, Friday, Feb. 16.-Lord Roberts' combinations for the movement of the corps, dovetailed with precision, although obstacles that had not been

foreseen had to be overcome.

The execution of his design began at three a. m. Sunday. Gen. French rede into Kimberley Thursday afterneon, just when he was due, according to the field marshal's time table, having in four and a half days marched ninety miles with artillery, and having fought two small engage-

The relief of Kimberley was accomplished with the loss of only fifty men. Twenty thousand infantry made si lendid marches under as sub-tropical sun, and through a drst storm, to hold the positions which Gene French

Lord Kitchener was with Gen. livisions moving over the sandy veldt victory was celebrated. are fed and watered. It is hardly possible to appreciate adequately the mathematical precision with which every part of the transport department has worked, marching through the day, toiling almost sleeplessly throughout the night, victualling the army and evolving every hour results from seeming chaos.

Everybody did what was expected of him cheerfully, though enduring frightful fatigues. Few slept more than three hours.

The battaliors, hour after hour, triled through the heavy sand uncomplainingly, and when, now and then a man fell out of the ranks exhausted he would rejoin his company later after he had rested. About fifty or had to be sent to the rear in the backward defile of empty wagons.

The rapidity of Lord Roberts' movements away from his base has solved one of the problems, perhaps the chief problem of the war. He and Lord Kitchener have created a mobile force, able to move in exterior lines and to outflank the Boers, themselves so wonderfully mobile.

The position of the Boer army at Spytfontein being untenable, Gen. Cronje ordered a retreat. At the moment this despatch is written it is uncertain whether his whole force, or only a portion, has gone toward Bloemfontein. It is possible that a part is going north of Kimberley. It is supposed that a 29 ton gun is still in the neighborhoods of Kimberley. The road from Jacobsdal to Mod-

der Station is now open. Further details of the Boer retreat show that the enemy has been fighting a good rear guard action, and occupying successive kopjes in order to allow the moving of the convoy, which, however, has been going at a very slow pace, the animals apparently being dead beat.

The latest reports show that the Boers in the neighborhood of Klip Kraal's Drift are undoubtedly disheartened.

Gen. French's magnificent march is still the subject of admiration, especially in view of the dust storms and thunderstorms that, all experienced. Their work of shelling the Boers pro ceeds vigorously. Owing to the style of the action, the Boers are bound to show in the open whenever they are

obliged to leave the kopjes. THE CANADIANS' SHARE.

MONTREAL, Feb. 17 .- The Star published on Saturday the following despatch from its special correspondent with the first contingent. JACOBSDAL, Fleb. 15, via Modder

River, Feb. 16 (delayed in transmission).-In the operations which have resulted in the occupation of Jacobsdal by the British troops, the hasty retreat of Gen. Cronje from Magers fontein and the relief of Kimberley, the Royal Canadian Regiment was given a share.

When the order to make a forward movement was given, the Canadians, who were brigaded in the minth division, moved out from Wegedraal on the right flank of the force to attack Jacobsial as reserves. Preparatory to the occupation of Jacobsdal, Gen. French arrived at Wegedraal on the 15th. The seventh division advanced upon Tacobstal from the east on the affternoon of the same day. This movement was the part of the general advance ordered through the Free State for the relief of Kimberley and the

advance General French captured Brown's drift on Modder River.

After the junction of the forces at Wegedraal and the decision to advance upon Jacobsdal it was seen that a sharp fight was in store. The city River. Meanwhile General French vance guard, the South Wales Bor-The troops were welcomed by Ma- derers were placed in the centre, the North Staffords on the right of the flank. These latter were the first in

> retired towards Magersfontein, where Gen. Cronje's forces were entrenched. Col. Heary and Major Hazlett were wounded and captured in the action on Tuesday, and after the Boers evacusated Jacobsdal, we found these officers and ten British, who had been wounded in previous engagements, in the German Red Cross hospital.

While the Canadians, as part of the ninth division, were protecting the right flank of the troops operating for the capture of Jacobsdal the rear guard composed of troops from the minth division attacked Watervaal drift. They were acting as an escort to the British supply column and quite a heavy engagement resulted.

Gen. French with his cavalry, after the capture of Jacobsdal, pushed on towards Kimberley, and official information which reached here Thursday at midnight stated that he had re-Tucker's division. In consequence of lieved that place, and on Friday evenhis transport arrangements, the four ing dined at the club there, where the

In the advance from Wegedraal sev eral Canadians fell out on the march and are either in the hospital or captured. Their names are Private James Drake, formerly of the 63rd Halifax Rifles; Private M. A. Munnis, formerly of the 63rd Halifax Rifles; Private T. J. Walsh, formerly of the 66th Priness Louise Fusiliers, of St. John, all of H company: Private Bordenneas of D company; Private A. W. Woodward, formerly of the 26th Middlesex Light Infantry; Private G. B. Corbould, formerly of the 5th Regiment Canadian Artiflery, both of A company.

(The name of Bordonneas, of D.company, which appears in the above list, is not recorded in the official list of the R. C. Regiment. The reference sixty were overcome by the heat and to Walsh is an error. He belonged to the 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers. Hallifax, not St. John.

CRONJE'S RETREAT.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—The Daily News publishes the following despatch, dated Sunday morning, Feb. 18, from Modder River:

"Our sudden appearance seems to have astounded the enemy and thrown them into panic. All their positions were hurriedly evacuated and the big guns at Magersfontein and Kimberley were left behind.

"Gen. Cronje moved his transport, consisting of many hundred wagons, along a bank of kopjes north of the Modder, toward Koffyfontein. It got past our mounted infantry, but owing to weariness had to stop. Thereupon our artillery opened upon it. The main body of the Boer force kept up a runring fight the whole day, vainly trying to escape.

"Each time their advance guard rought to move off, our mounted infantry galloped round and checked We never attempted to stop them. their main movements, contenting ourseives with trying to check them. "Their position at Koffyfontein is said to be very strong. They entertain a wholesome dread of ten thousand cavalry moving more quickly than they do themselves. We hope to be in Bloemfontain shortly."

The Daily News has another de spetch from the Modder River milltary camp, dated Sunday morning, which says:

"At dawn on Friday the Boers were observed moving wagons along the kopjes toward Koffyfontein. Our n cunted infantry was sent out from Klip Drift, but was driven back and the enemy's wagons persed.

"Gen. Knox's twelfth brigade, however, quickly attacked the enemy's main body and severe fighting went on all day over a line which was very extended. The enemy, making a descerate attempt, finally escaped, owing

to the serpentine bend of the river. "The mounted infantry suffered from the trying flanking movement. Our force has now been reinforced." IN THE FREE STATE.

JACOBSDAL, Feb. 18.— General French's march to this place is the subject of admiration. The mounted men and the horse artillery covered ninety miles in four days, fighting two engagements and relieving Kim-The whole movement was berley. composed of different combinations, all of which dovetailed exactly. Farly on Feb. 11 the concentration of Gen. French's division began, and it was

completed that same day at Ramdam,

when the infantry came in sight. The

dust-storm. At four o'clock the next morning most of the British force was across the river. Gen. Lord Kitch-ener accompanied Gen. Tucker's divi-Gen. Lyttleton worked around the right and Sir Charles Warren in front

where Gen. French was waiting. Then they proceeded towards kimberley. Immediately they arrived Gen Methuen was opposite Magersfontein, Gen. Tucker held Jacobsdal, with Gen. Colvine's division near by ready to move wherever required, while Gen. Keily-Kenny kept possession of two drifts on the Modder

of London Volunteers formed the act- reached Kimberley. Syptfortein was thus rendered untenable and the Boers had the alternative of starvation or retreat. Commandant Cronje chose the latter, but it is still uncer-Jacobsdal. They cleared out the tain whether it is the whole of his Boers opposing them after a gallant force which is retreating by way of charge with bayonets.

Meanwhile the 75th Battalion shelled the outskirts of the town. The enemy ere going nouth of Kimbarley. Gen. Kelly-Kenny has now ceptured over one hundred of the cnemy's warons.

He has been reinforced by the highland Brigade. The Guards' Brigade is concerned on the Boer position at Magersfortein. Gen. Franch has left kimberley in order to co-operate in the pursuit of the Boers, who seem to be fighting a good rear guard action. They are occupying successive kopjes in order to allow the moving of their convoy, which is forced and slow, their animals being apparently dead beat. At last reports the Boers vere in the neighborhood of Klip Kraal Drift, They are undoubtedly disheartened. Gen. Kelly-Kerny has the

paval guns with him. These have been splendidly handled. The bluejackets have improvised temporary repairs to wheels and carriages. The shelling of the Boers is proceeding vigcrously. Owing to the nature of the action they are forced to show in the open whenever they are obliged to

According to Dutch reports received in Jacobsdal, Gen. French wice charged home through the retreating Boers northwest of Kimberley. Boer laagers have been deserted everywhere. Great quantities of stores, tents, etc., have been captured.

The most striking point of the movements are three—the mobility of Gen. French's force, the efficiency of the transport, and the marching of the infantry through deep sand with no water. The four divisions had to be fed while cut off from the primary base. The transport officers toiled continuously and sleeplessly issuing stores during the night. From the moment Gen. Lord Roberts, at the head of the troops, entered Jacobsdal on February 15, the utmost order has prevailed. The military police are patrolling the town, and there is a sentry at every store. The soldiers are allowed to make purchases, and this fact has surprised the inhabitents, who say they had been told that the British always looted captured towns. The behavior of the troops has dissipated this notion and the inhabitants now welcome them. Since the battle of Modder River the town has been regarded strictly as a hosp-The towns people condemned the Boers for firing on the British on

tire, but was not allowed to do so. SUMMARY.

Feb. 14. The landrost offered to re-

LONDON, Feb. 19, 4.50 a. m.-It is now amply confirmed that General Cronje escaped. Every detail, however, proves how admirably Lord Roberts' plans were conceived and were succeeding. But for the unexpected delay at Dekiel's Drift, which was almost impascable for wagons, the whole Boer force would have been surrounded. The delay of one day there gave them their chance for a hasty retreat.

All the other movements of Lord Roberts were executed exactly to time. Apparently Gen. Cronje is retreating with the main army, and even if he escapes altogether he will prob-

ably lose all his baggage. There is still something doubtful about the capture of the British convoy. According to a Daily Mail correspondent with the convoy, which consisted of 200 wegons, each loaded with 6,000 pounds of rations and of forage, and each drawn by 16 oxen-it was quite unexpectedly attacked by a commando supposed to come from Colesberg. The escort, consisting of 80 of the Gordon Highlanders, forty men of the army service ccrps and a few of Kitchener's horse, maintained a defence until the arrival of reinforcements, sustaining insignificant

asualties. The Standard's correspondent at Jacobsdal, telegraphing Thursday, Feb.

15. sa.vs: "An attack was made yesterday upon the rear guard of our main body by a force of 1,400 Boers, who were hurried up from Colesberg. They succeeded in capturing some of wagons, but Lord Roberts did not delay his march to retake these. There

were few casualties on our side. "The last of our supply columns arrived from Heney Nest Kloof today, having met with no opposition on the

way." Specials from Ladysmith report apparent movement on the part of the Boers toward the Free State, presumably with the object of assisting

Gen. Cronje. The news that General Buller is attempting another crossing of the Tugela east of Colesberg, after the capture of Hlangware Hill, there losses so far have been about twenty in wounded. Fis entire army, with

BOERS RETIRE ACROSS THE

CHIEVELEY, Wednesday, Feb. 14 (delayed by censor.)—The movement northeastward began this (Wednesday) morning, Lord Dundonald, with cavalry, infantry and artillery, occupied Huzzar Hill, tive miles north of Chieveley. The infantry entrenched

end to the left. The Boers were heavily entrenched at Hlangnape and Montecristo hills. A steady, independent fire, with occesional volleys, was maintained for

some hours, and the enemy's trenches were vigorously shelled. The Boers had one gun in action during the early part of the day, but when we began shelling, they moved it across the river. They used one Nordenfeldt in the afternoon. Our casualties were few.

DR. JAMESON HLL. LADYSMITH, Tuesday, Feb. 13 (by heliograph and native runner via Chieveley)-Dr. Jameson has the fever The heat is tremendous; but the morale of the camp is excellent. Major Doveten's wife, who was given a safe conduct through the Boer

MAJOR DOVETON DEAD. LADYSMITH, Saturday, Feb. 17 (by neliograph via Weenen.)—The Boer have been very active here during the last few days and are evidently mak-

lines, has arrived here to nurse her

ing a move somewhere. The garrison, greatly delighted to earn of the relief of Kimberley, is in excellent spirits and fit for anything. Major Doveton died Wednesday,

COMMUNICATION WITH DELAGOA BAY.

LONDON, Feb. 18.-A despatch from the Swaziland porder, dated Friday,

"The Boer agent at Bremersdorp has been maintaining regular communication with Delagoa Bay via Swaziland. Two coolie carriers have been bearing secks supposed to contain salt, through Transland On examination it was found the sacks contained gunpow-

BULLER'S OPERATIONS.

CHIEVELEY CAMP, Feb. 18, 7.10 p. m.—Since Wednesday there has been fighting in the high range of hills running north and south, about 10 miles northeast of Chieveley. The northernmost hill of this range is known as Monte Cristo, and the southernmost as Cingolo. Between them is a nek or stretch of comparatively level land, while at right angles to Monte Cristo is a low green hill, which apparently is unnamed. It was important that these positions be taken before Hlangwanti hill was ocupied. On Wednesday the British took an eminence called Hussar Hill. One force held the Weenen road, while another made a prolonged march through the valley of the Blaawkrantz River. The Boers opposed the irregular cavalry, who came in contact with them at eight o'clock in the morning, but they were repulsed. On Thursday the troops rested, being much faitigued by their march over the rough country. On Friday they occupied a position about a thousand yards in advance of that previously held by them. The next day (Saturday) the British right swept the Boers from Cingolo Hill, the enemy's artillery shelling the hillside as their riflemen retired. The British held the position, bivouacking there last night. Today they are crossing the nek between Cingolo and Monte Cristo hills.

BULLER'S HEADQUARTERS.

CHIEVELEY, Sunday, Feb. 18-Gen. Buller has established his headquarters on Hussar Hill. Heavy artillery firing was maintained at intervals by both sides from Wednesday until Friday. The British slowly pushed the advance and their infantry occupied entrenched new positions in front of Hussar Hill, with slight losses. It is believed that the lyddite work-

ed havoc in the Boer trenches. The Boers are supposed to have moved their big guns back over the Tugela Friday afternoon. The rifle fire has been heavy at times. The

whole country is thickly wooded. The British operations are directed to the capture of Hlangwane Hill, where the Boers are strongly fortified, and from which they are shelling the

British with great accuracy. The British infantry are now disposed along a line extending for seven miles to the small kopjes at the base of Monte Cristo hill. From 6 o'clock Friday morning the British incessantly shelled Monte Cristo, with the nek separating it from Blazuw Krantz hill along the right.

The British infantry is making slow progress up the nek, in the endeavor to occupy Monte Cristo, which will enable them to enfilade the Boers on Hlargwane.

BULLER'S CASUALTIES. CHIEVELEY, Feb. 18-Gen. Buller's asualties during the last three days operations have been about 80./ The British forces have now partly as-

ARUNDEL, Saturday, Feb. 17 (received by despatch rider).—Captain Longhurst, of the British Medical corps, spent a night at Hobkier's farm, attending the wounded Australians. He says that the enemy were remark-

cended Monte Christo hill.

REAL ACCEPTION MEDICAL PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT FRASER, FRASER & CO.

Want you. Call in and see the Winter Clothing they are selling so low to clear.

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

ably kind to the wounded, provided them with mattresses and gave them all the eggs they had.

The Boer commander and Captain Longhurst found that they had mutual friends in London, and were soon the British wounded fraternized. Noticing that the bandoliers of the enemy were filled with soft-nosed bullets, one

of our men said: "You ought not to bring such things

The Boer replied: "We must use whatever we can get."

This particular Boer contingent had come from the northern district of the Transvaal, where the Boers are used to hunting big game along the Lira-popo. The men bad obtained their ammunition for that purpose. One Briton, whose thigh had been shattered, replied to this explanation: "Well, I wish you had been kind enough to shoot me lower down." After the retirement of the British forces the Boers held a prayer meeting and thanked Heaven for their success. Then they separated into small panties and moved to their various outposts, chanting hymns as they

Capt. Longhurst says that he was much impressed by their considerate treatment of the British wounded.

FIGHTING NEAR DORDRECHT. BIRDS RIVER, Saturday, Feb. 17.—The position near Dordrecht now is that the Beers occupy a strong hill north of the town and that the British hold a commanding post to the south. Both are maintaining a brisk exchange of shells over Dorgrecht. Grecht.

Gen. Brahant's horse, 2,900 strong, commenced the march from Pen Hook Thursday morning over a trackless veldt and through a mountainous and difficult countries.

through a mountainous and difficult country.

Early on Friday they were fired upon, and the firing continued all day and well into the night, the British clearing the Boers out of successive positions under a terrific riffe fire lasting eight hours.

Towards midnight Friday the British forced the Boers at the point of the bayonet out of their last position, an important one overlooking Dordrecht. The artillery duel was continued today.

The British casualties were eight killed, including Captain Crallan and Lieut. Chandler and eight wounded.

The British captured some prisoners and

FOUGHT TO THE END. LONDON, Feb. 19.—A despatch to the Times from Nauwport, describing the retirement to Arundel draws attention to the devotion of twenty men of the Burghers Mounted Rifles, who were caught in a trap and died to a man fighting their last.

WESTERN MEN REACH HALIFAX. WESTERN MEN REACH HALIFAX.

HALIFAX, Feb. 18.—C. battery of artitlery, from Kingston, arrived by special train at midnight Saturday. Three mounted police were the only military men on hand and of the general public there was none. The train pulled in in almost complete darkness. Nearly all the men were asleep in their berths and tumbled down more or less nwake to find themselves in Halifax. The

their berths and tumbled down more or less awake to find themselves in Halifax. The passenger list was 172 men and 140 horses. The trip down was a good one. The train left Kingston on Thursday noon. Everywhere there were oyations, except in Quebec. At Cornwall, Ont., the town people gave them a dinner. They were not expected at Montreal, and nothing in the way of a reception was given. Thence east there was little enthusiasm till they reached New Brunswick. All along the line in New Brunswick there was abundance of good cheer. At Moncton they left the train and marched through the town, headed by a local band. Amherst and Truro were equally demonstrative.

Three troops of A squadron of 1st battalion Canadian Mounted Rifles arrived this afternoon from Toronto, a 67 hours' run as their special made it. The Toronto train brought 144 men and 159 horses, in command of Lieut. Col. Evans.

The journey was unmarked by special incident. The officers and men are all well. The horses travelled splendidly, and only cue was sick. The train was not on time after leaving Montreal, and there were not many people on hand to cheer the men as they passed by At Campbellton there was an exception to this rule, for there the whole town seemed to gather at the station. Though it was 2 o'cleck in the morr.

an exception to this rule, for there the whole town seemed to gather at the station. Though it was 2 o'clock in the morring when the train reached Moncton, many hoarded it and greeted the soldiers. Beginning with daylight today the train encountered a southeast blizzard, one of the fiercest of the season. It was 4 o'clock when the Toronto train pulled into Richmond station at Halifax. Major Williams and many officers with 1s squadron were on hand to greet the men, taking charge of the horses and all the equipments, allowing the Toronto men to proceed to Willow Park camp at cree for tea.

A unique service was held at Willow Park military camp this morning, when 200 of the

orce for tea.

A unique service was held at Willow Park military camp, this morning, when 200 of the Canadian soldiers gathered in one of the mess rooms for divine worship. It had been the intention for troops to have church parade at St. Paul's, but the howling southeasterly hilizard made it impossible to leave camp yithout discomfort, and accordingly it was decided that the chrrch parade would be given up. But there was service, for Rev. W. J. Armitage went out to the camp to conduct the religious exercise and administer communion. The building, which for a time was sacred, had been erected only for aummer use, and it is by no means draught proof in July. What the place was today with a fierce wind shricking over bleak fields and beating against it can be imagined. The great canvas sails, which had been rigged to make the building less urcomfortable, swayed to and fro, doing much in breaking the force of the wird. Some of the men who could find chairs gathered around their feet folds of surplus canvas lying on the ground. One man lay down and wrapped himself, up in a spare, sail. One or two in the coldest corner donned their knitted caps. Close attention was manifested throughout the service. Two ladies were in the congregation, brave St. John girls, who had come over to see the Milwaukee off, and joined in the devotions of those for whose success and safety their prayers through all the campaign will doubtless ascend.

Members of any church, regardless of de-Members of any church, regardless of demembers of any church, regarders of com-munion, and many accepted the privilege of joining in the sacred rite. Nearly balf of the congregation received the sacrament.

ANOTHER STEAMER SEIZED.

PORT ELIZABETH, Feb. 18.—The British steamer Sabine, Cartain Taylor, from New York Jan. 4 with a miscellaneous cargo, has been seized by the British gunboat Thrush and brought to Delagoa Bay on suspicion of having on board articles contraband of war. Before the Sabine sailed from New York it was rumored that she lad on beard a large quantity of provisions, arms and ammunition, army blankets and general supplies, but no confirmation of the rumor could be obtained. The vessel was cleared for Delagoa Bay. ANOTHER STEAMER SEIZED.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—The Queen's personal interest in the men fighting her battles is being constantly illustrated by her visits to Netley hospital and the private houses where lie officers and men who were wound-

mother to the child of a major's wite, whose hisband was killed at Elandslagte, and she has now summoned to Osborne Bugler Dunn, aged 15, of the First Royal Dublin Fusiliers, who was the first to cross the Tigela river, though the men of the regiment tried to keep him back. While running with the soldiers, holding his bugle in his right hand, Dunn sounded the "advance." A bullet struck his arm and the bugle fell. The boy immediately litted it up with his left hand and repeated the call. He was brought to Netley hospital and was visited there by Princess Christian and Princess Henry of Battenberg, who asked the boy what he would like the Queen to do for him. He replied: "I hope her majesty will send me back to the front. I'm to have a medal and three bars, because I was in three engagements. My father has only two bars to his medal." The lad's father, a sergeant, returned to the front this week, having recovered from his wound. On his arrival at Portsmouth young Dunn was tenderly borne on the shoulders of the delighted populace.

SADDLES SEIZED. LOURENZO MARQUEZ, Feb. i8.—The Portuguese authorities have seized two large cases of saddles, forming part of the baggage of the Russo-Dutch Red Cross contingent that arrived on board the steamer Kanzales. The authorities claim that saddles are contraband of war.

LORD ROBERTS' PROCLAMATION.

LORD ROBERTS' PROCLAMATION.

CAPE TOWN, Feb. 18.—Lord Roberts has issued a proclamation to the Burghers of the Oringe Free State, saying that he feels it his duny to make known to all the Burghers the cause of the coming of the British as well as to do all in his power to terminate the decastion caused by the war; and that he issues the proclamation in order that, if the Turghers continue fighting, they may not do ignorantly, but with a full knowledge of their responsibility before God for the lives lost in the campaign.

The proclamation goes on to say: "The British government believes that the wanton and unjustifiable invasion of British territory was not committed with the general approval of the people of the Free State, with whom the British government has lived in complete amity for so many years. It believes the responsibility to rest wholly with the government of the Free State, acting not in the interests of the country, but under mischievous influences from without.

"Great Britain therefore wishes the people of the Free State to understand that it bears them no ill will and that, so far as is compatible with the successful conduct of the war and of the resetablishment of peace, is anxious to preserve men from is compatible with the successful conduct of the war and of the re-establishment of peace, is anxious to preserve them from the evils brought upon them by wrongful action of their government."

In conclusion Lord Roberts warms all Eurghers to desist from further acts of heetility towards her maicsty's government and troops, and he gives directions regarding requisitions and complaints.

WAR OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT. LONDON, Feb. 20, 12.30 a. m.—The war office at midnight announced that it had nothing further for publication

from South Africa. In the lobbies of the house of commens last evening, however, it was rumored that Gen. Crouje's army was surrounded, that Gen. French had got between the Boer forces and Bleemfontein, and that he was only awaiting reinforcements to close in on

the enemy. No confirmation of this rumor is obtuinable, although the general idea is that the government has received important despatches.

AT THE VERY FRONT. MONTREAL, Feb. 19 .- The Star's

correspondent with the first Canadian contingent, cables: MODDER RIVER, Feb. 18. - The Royal Canadian Regiment is in the nridst of hard work involved in the advance of Lord Roberts' column, It may be because of evidence given by our men during their stay at Balmont, but it seems as if we get our share of all the hard work that is going,

We left Gras Pan with the Nineteenth Brigade of the seventh division on Tuesday last, and that day marched thirty miles to Wegerad Drift. There we were enabled to render invaluable services by hauling naval twelve pounders across a difficult drift.

On Friday we marched on to Jacobsdal, and then on to Klipfontein, where we arrived on Saturday morning, after the drift had been captured. As Commandant Cronje's army had retired up the Modder River on Friday night, the sixth division, followed by the Highland Brigade, marched across the ccuntry to Klipraal Drift,

where the Boers crossed the river. The Nineteenth Brigade, with the Canadians, left Klipfontein last night by a forced march to catch up to the Highland Brigade and sixth division, which are trying to intercept the Boer

army. After the Canadians left, the rear guard, with a convoy of wagons of ford, was attacked by a large force of the enemy with two guns. Our troops fought all morning until they were ordered to abandon the wagons by Lord Roberts. The Canadians had only left the place a few hours when the attack was made, and so we escap-

ed surprise. Our men are standing the fatigue and intense heat with great pluck, and their enthusiasm is most contagious. Our long marches are enlivened by Canadian songs in both French and English, and all are eager for a battle in which they can prove their mettle. The heat and dust are dreadful, but we are well.

WAR SUMMARY.

LONDON, Feb. 20.-It is now three lays since official news was received from Gen. Lord Roberts, and such unofficial news as has been received in the meantime has been inconclusive and sometimes contradictory. The ab-

(Continued on Page Eight.)