

BOERS SPILL FIRST BLOOD

An Armored Train Carrying Troops Destroyed Near the Border of the Orange Free State.

FIFTEEN BRITISH SOLDIERS KILLED.

Burgers Shell the Wreckage of Derailed Cars—Boers Advancing on Mafeking, Where an Attack is Momentarily Expected.

(Associated Press.)

London, Oct. 13.—The news publishes the following:

Capetown, Oct. 13.—An armored train has been destroyed south of Mafeking. Fifteen British troops were killed. The Boers shelled the wreckage after the train was derailed.

Capetown, Oct. 13, 9.45.—A dispatch from Vryburg says an armored train has been destroyed. It is feared much loss of life will result.

The news has been officially confirmed.

London, Oct. 13.—The announcement that the Boers had destroyed an armored train on the western border of the Transvaal is calculated to bring home to the "man in the street" the realities of war.

Attempts are made to avenge the occurrence to the blowing up of the United States battleship Maine in Havana harbor, but that event occurred in time of peace. The Boers were doubtless within their rights as belligerents if they are responsible for the destruction of the train.

The only comparison that can be instituted with blowing the engine up and the battleship, is in respect to loss of life.

There is reason to fear the train in question was one that left Mafeking with the 300 women and children.

Taken in conjunction with earlier announcements from Vryburg that 2,000 Boers were holding the line, it can only be inferred the train was either destroyed by artillery, or blown up by dynamite or some other powerful explosive.

There is still a faint hope that the disaster befell the train not when carrying white women and children to Vryburg, but while it was returning to Mafeking from Vryburg with a detachment of Colonel Baden Powell's force, sent to escort the refugees to Vryburg, where the Cape railway assumes responsibility for their safety.

The war office, however, fears that the worst has happened.

Apart from the destruction of the armored train, the most notable change in the position of affairs is the presence of Boers at Maribogo, forty miles south of Mafeking, which seems to indicate they are endeavoring to get Colonel Baden Powell between two fires.

The gravity of the Boer advance can be better estimated when it is realized that they will probably cut the railway and telegraph communication to the north.

Women and Children Safe.

Vryburg, Oct. 13.—The train from Mafeking, with three hundred women and children passed Vryburg on the way to Kimberley. All on board are well.

British Positions Isolated.

London, Oct. 13.—Telegraphic communication is interrupted with the North, isolating several British positions, which must be speedily relieved.

Despite optimistic reports of the ability of Mafeking to repel an attack, the greatest anxiety prevails here regarding the situation there, as it is known that the redoubtable Commandant Cronje, who captured the Jameson raiders, has the highest command yet put into the field,

with the exception of Commandant-General Joubert's force.

Cronje's troops number between nine and ten thousand men.

Approaching Ladysmith.

The position in Natal has not materially altered.

The reported inroad of three thousand Boers by the way of Tintwa pass is probably identical with the inroad of the force reported yesterday as having crossed Van Reenen's pass. The Tintwa column, according to last advices, had reached within 20 miles of Ladysmith.

On that showing there ought to be speedy news of fighting.

Ladysmith is the Aldershot of Natal.

Mafeking Threatened.

London, Oct. 13.—A dispatch from Paris late yesterday says:

"The Boers, with twelve guns, are preparing to assault Mafeking."

Mafeking, Cape Colony, Oct. 13.—As the Boers, in strong force, are threatening this place the situation is so serious that all non-combatants have been notified that they will be taken away at the expense of the Imperial government and housed at Capetown.

A railroad train, carrying three hundred women and children, will be escorted by a detachment of Col. Baden Powell's force as far as Vryburg, where the Cape railway will become responsible for the safety of the passengers.

Railway Collision Reported.

London, Oct. 13.—It is reported in Capetown, though as yet the rumor is unconfirmed, that a collision has taken place between trains bearing refugees near Victoria West, Cape Colony. Nine persons are reported killed and many others injured.

Moving on Natal.

London, Oct. 13.—The Boer forces, with artillery, according to a dispatch just received from Standerton, broke camp at Standstrop yesterday morning, moving in the direction of Natal.

The latest direct dispatch from Mafeking says that although the Boers are moving restlessly in the vicinity of their laager, there is no sign yet of any attempt to cross the border.

Boers in Natal.

Durban, Oct. 12 (delayed in transmission).—Minister of public works has received a telegram confirming the report that considerable force of Boers have entered Natal by way of Laing's Nek.

The Occupation of Laing's Nek.

London, Oct. 13.—The second edition of the Standard says a dispatch from Ladysmith, dated yesterday morning, says it is again reported the Boers have occupied Laing's Nek, the young burghers insisting upon occupation, despite the more prudent counsels.

Telegraph wires connecting with the Free State have been cut and immediate advance of the Boers is now anticipated.

Reinforcements for Ladysmith.

Durban, Oct. 13.—The first and second battalions of the Manchester regiment, under Lieut.-Colonels Curran and Ridley, have arrived at Ladysmith.

An Appeal to Afrikaners.

Pretoria, Oct. 12.—via Lorenzo Marques, Oct. 13.—An official manifesto has just been addressed to Afrikaners throughout Southern Africa, appealing to them to resist "the unjust demands of Great Britain," and accusing Lord Salisbury, Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Alfred Milner of treachery. It blames the Queen for condoning what it describes as more of Chamberlain's "criminal work," and declares that "The clear desire and object of Great Britain is to deprive the Transvaal of independence on account of the gold mines of the Rand."

Meeting of Cabinet.

London, Oct. 13.—The cabinet council

met at noon to-day. Public interest in its decisions was very keen.

Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain, with other popular favorites, were cheered as they arrived.

Although the latest phase of the situation in South Africa was considered the principal business, the ministers met to arrange the text of the Queen's speech on reassembling of parliament next Tuesday and other preliminaries.

The council adjourned at 2 o'clock.

Flying Squadron Formed.

New York, Oct. 13.—A dispatch to the World from London says:

"The formation of a British flying squadron has created considerable bewilderment. It is purely a defensive measure and is inspired by the hostility to England displayed by the continental press."

"Russian official organs are foremost in threats and incitement to join in action against Great Britain, and though officials of Germany proclaim themselves neutral, the German press is second only to Russian in its denunciation of England's South African policy."

"Though not believing at present that these outbursts of rancor will materialize, the British government is taking timely precautions against eventualities."

"The difficulty and delay in mobilizing an army corps for South Africa is regarded as most unfortunate, and calculated to induce Britain's enemies abroad to take advantage of the present crisis to satisfy old animosities."

America Accepts the Task.

Washington, Oct. 13.—The state department was today notified of the withdrawal of Mr. Conyngham Greene, British diplomatic agent to the South African Republic, and the existence of a state of war between Great Britain and that Republic.

Mr. Macrum, American consul at Pretoria, has accordingly been instructed to undertake the care of British interests in that section during the war.

Official Dispatch.

London, Oct. 13.—The war office has received the following dispatch from the general commanding the Cape forces:

"Capetown, Oct. 13.—(1.45 p.m.)—An armored train from Mafeking, escorted two seven-pounder guns sent from here to Mafeking, was attacked last night at Krepnan. Apparently a rail had been removed."

"The train left the track and the Boers fired into it with artillery for half an hour and captured it."

"Telegraphic communication with Mafeking is interrupted at Krepnan. The women and children have been sent to Capetown."

"The guns referred to belonged to the colony. They are light and old pattern."

"We have no details as to casualties." Caring for Kafirs.

Lorenzo, Marques, Oct. 13.—Ten thousand Kafirs, from the Rand, have been brought here by train and are now camped about six miles outside the town.

Steamers are being chartered to take them to Limpopo district.

Seizure of Gold.

Pretoria, Oct. 11 (delayed in transmission).—A declaration of martial law is momentarily expected. More companies of gold arrived today under an escort and was lodged in the National Bank.

Arranging for Canadians' Departure.

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, Oct. 13.—The cabinet has been in session all day making arrangements for sending a contingent to South Africa.

The story sent out from Ottawa that Hon. J. L. Tarte was threatening to resign is denied by himself. Mr. Tarte was present at the meeting all day.

He denied emphatically to your correspondent that he had made any such threat.

There may be differences of opinion as to details and the form of the contingent, but there is none as to the sending of one.

Widows' War Fund.

Capetown, Oct. 13.—Mr. Hofmeyer, in his appeal issued under the auspices of the Afrikaner Bond, asking for subscriptions for the relief of widows and families of burghers killed in the Transvaal, says that notwithstanding the strenuous efforts to preserve peace, war has been virtually declared. "There are few Afrikaners not bound by ties of relationship and friendship with the inhabitants of both Republics, and it is natural their sympathy should express itself in a legitimate form, and that they should do what they can. To take weapons and join in the work of warfare, their duty as British subjects forbids."

Accordingly he appeals to each person to contribute something to the fund.

DOMINION FINANCES.

Revenue for Three Months Was \$224,000 Over Same Period of Last Year—Public Debt Reduced.

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, Oct. 13.—The financial statement of the Dominion issued today shows that the revenue for the three months ending September last was \$11,004,000, or \$224,000 over the same period of last year. The expenditure was \$6,150,332, as against \$5,784,561 for the year previous, or a betterment all round of nearly \$600,000. There was also a decrease of over one million dollars in the capital expenditure for the past three months. The public debt was reduced by \$1,247,000.

COAL CITY NOTES.

(Special to the Times.)

Nanaimo, Oct. 14.—The Royal fire engine, which was purchased by the city some time since, satisfactorily performed the last required test this morning and will be accepted by the city today.

Joseph McDonald, a fireman employed on the tug Pilot, slipped and fell among the machinery late yesterday afternoon while in the performance of his duty. Several ribs were broken and he was injured internally. He was taken to the Nanaimo hospital for treatment.

PITCHED BATTLES NOW IN PROGRESS

The Boers Reported to Have Been Repulsed Several Times at Mafeking.

MORE BRITISH TROOPS KILLED

Another Armored Train Destroyed in Cape Colony—General White Fails to Draw the Boers From Van Reenan's Pass.

(Associated Press.)

London, Oct. 14.—Those who have been anxious for more stirring news from the seat of war are getting it to the full this morning, as according to dispatches shooting must have been nearly continuous along the entire borders of the Boer Republics, while pitched battles have occurred or are occurring at various points in Natal and British Bechuanaland.

Mose of these reports, however, remain unconfirmed.

As Mafeking is cut off telegraphically, the stories from that point are generally of a Kafir origin.

While there is every probability that Gen. Cronje's big commando has begun the assault upon Mafeking, reliable details must still be awaited.

A Desperate Fight.

Further details are at hand regarding the destruction of an armored train at Kraai Pan. These show that Capt. Nesbitt, who was in command of the train, was warned at Maribogo that the Boers held the line. He replied that he was bound to proceed. On nearing Kraai Pan, the train dashed into a culvert that had been blown up by the Boers, who were lying in wait for the train.

The Boer artillery immediately opened fire and a desperate one-sided fight

appears to have ensued, lasting four hours.

The precise details are uncertain. It seems, however, that the police patrol, attracted by the firing, approached within about two thousand yards of Kraai Pan, saw the train dived with the Boer artillery still pounding at it, but noticed no response.

The Boers seemed afraid to approach until the wreckage was completed. The police patrol feared as there were no signs of life near the train, that the entire force had perished in a desperate attempt to get the train back to Mafeking, where they knew it was anxiously awaited with its load of guns and ammunition.

It is reported that the Boers lost heavily, but there are no means of verifying this.

Two miles of rails were torn up.

Reported British Victory.

There is no authoritative confirmation of the report that a battle has been fought in Natal between Gen. Sir Geo. Stewart White and the Orange Free State troops, although there is no question that the Boers have crossed the frontier at several points. They are said to have 18 guns, but if, as is reported, the engagement began before the Boers had formed a laager and thrown up earthworks, the British cavalry and artillery are liable to have had the better of the fighting.

It is even reported that the British have gained a great victory, that two thousand Boers were killed, and that the British loss was very slight.

This may be without foundation, as another report has been published to the effect that Lord Rothschild was in receipt of news of a great British victory, but when the Associated Press representative questioned him regarding the alleged dispatch he replied: "I am sorry that I have not received anything of the sort."

The probability seems to be that there has not been any fighting as yet in Natal.

Outnumbered by Boers.

London, Oct. 14.—The capture of the armored train on the western border of the Transvaal is the beginning of a few anticipated reverses at the outset of the campaign.

The Boers' plan is now unfolding itself. It seems to be to strike simultaneously at different points with a view of obtaining strong strategic positions in Natal before the arrival of the British army corps. At all points the British are faced by Boer forces superior at least in numbers.

The Force at Mafeking.

The most dangerous positions, especially owing to the loss of the armored train, are Mafeking and Vryburg. Col. Baden-Powell, who is in command at Mafeking, is a man of the greatest courage and energy, but he has only 2,000 men, many of them irregulars, whose fighting capacity is not known, although it is believed to be good.

The fact that he has moved out of Mafeking indicates some apprehension, and in all likelihood he will have to stand a fierce assault or a prolonged siege.

British Force in Natal.

General Sir George Stewart White, commanding in Natal, is estimated to have about 15,000 men stretched in strongly entrenched positions from Ladysmith to Dundee. He is a man of great resources and has the valuable assistance of General Sir Wm. Penn Symons, experienced in hill fighting in India, and General Sir Archibald Hunter, experienced in Sudan campaigns.

Ammunition Destroyed.

In connection with the rumored attack upon Mafeking a disquieting report

Your Good Health

depends upon the food you eat. Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder adds to the healthfulness of all risen flour-foods.

Not only this, it makes the food lighter, sweeter, finer-flavored, more delicious.

It is worth while to exercise care in purchasing baking powder to see that you get the kind that makes the food more wholesome and at the same time more palatable.

NOTE.—There are many mixtures, made in imitation of baking powder, which it is prudent to avoid. They are lower in price than cream of tartar powders, but they are made from alum and render the food unhealthful.

PRICE BAKING POWDER CO., CHICAGO.

people here at least; in Port
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17? Wouldn't it benefit them
?7
dment to substitute \$12,500
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withdrawing his expression;
was referring to his worship
when he called him the
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talked enough, and as for
language, said his respect for
ended upon who the chair
all this the mayor
Williams, Ald. Williams,
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anyone else. Now he
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ameron run against it.
on said he was not afraid
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and making a lot of
cents. Nor was he afraid
an election either. He was
his duty.
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rey said he was surprised
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had said they would take
\$50,000, and there was no
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