

Boer Force

100 Men Under

Bloemfontein

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First Fight Of Canucks

Graphic Account of Their Engagement With the Boers at Sunnyside.

Instance of Boer Treachery—The Enemy Completely Surprised.

Documents Discovered Proving That Cape Colony Farmers Are in Rebellion.

The Eastern press contains some excellent descriptions of the Sunnyside fight in which the Canadian troops were for the first time in this campaign under fire.

After leaving camp the column went out to the Douglas road and arrived at Cook's farm house at 8 o'clock Sunday evening, a distance of some twenty-three miles, when the force bivouacked for the night.

The Royal Horse Artillery under Major de Rougemont, the Canadian Maxims under Capt. Bell, the Australian Maxims under Capt. Barker, the transport wagons and "C" Company of the Royal Canadians, under Captain Barker, marched out from Cook's farm house and around a large kopje to the left of the route from Cook's farm to the position occupied by the enemy.

The Canadians advanced up the ridge in half companies, extended to the right and left with the Maxims in the center, and opened fire on the enemy at eleven hundred yards.

After occupying this position for about half an hour, Major de Rougemont ordered the Canadians to advance under cover across the top of the rocky ridge.

The engagement was over, and the enemy's position completely in our hands. Had our force been a little larger, none of the enemy would have been able to escape.

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volley Lieut. Adie was wounded in two places. One bullet went through the abdomen and another through the left shoulder as he was mounting his horse, which was also shot and killed.

Private Hermann succeeded in mounting his horse and got away unhurt. Private Rose also managed to get away.

When about a mile distant from the place he looked back and saw Lieut. Adie running after him on foot covered with blood, and behind him Private Butler. Rose turned back and succeeded in catching Butler's horse, which had bolted when the firing began.

He succeeded in mounting, and was waiting for Butler to come up and ride double with him when he was shot in the leg and his horse killed. He and Butler escaped on foot, and about two miles away came across Lieut. Adie, who had dropped from his horse from loss of blood.

The Artillery Attack. About the time this little incident occurred, the troops under Major de Rougemont with the guns had advanced along the right front of the enemy under cover of the plateau, about three and a half miles, until they were just about opposite the enemy's laager at the eastern extremity of the kopje.

The practice was splendid, the first shell, which was fired about 11 o'clock, landing immediately in the centre of the laager among the tents. The enemy were taken completely by surprise while preparing breakfast.

Immediately they bolted up the sides of the kopje under a hot fire from the guns, Maxims and the Canadian infantry. Major de Rougemont then ordered Capt. Barker to advance with the two Canadian Maxims to a small rocky ridge about eight hundred and fifty yards to the left front.

This advance was made in splendid style under a hot fire from the enemy on the kopje opposite.

The Canadians advanced up the ridge in half companies, extended to the right and left with the Maxims in the center, and opened fire on the enemy at eleven hundred yards.

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and infiltrate the enemy on the kopje to the left. Shortly after 2 o'clock "A" company of the Australians moved out from behind the two little kopjes, and took up a position in front of the little kopjes, and their two Maxims were also moved along the ridge in support.

About this time the enemy's laager was advanced well along the top of the kopje under a heavy fire and were slowly driving the enemy to his last stand on the highest point of the kopje at its eastern extremity.

Lieut. Wilkie was ordered to retire behind the ridge where the Australian horses were tethered and, by making a detour, gain the top of the ridge of kopje from where they were to advance in support of "B" company of the Australians.

In the meantime Major de Rougemont advanced with the rest of the Canadians from the low ridge which they had occupied from the time the firing started across the open to the small kopje first occupied by the section under Lieut. Wilkie, and from there they made their way to the position occupied by the Queenslanders under Col. Ricardo in front of the two little kopjes.

The Maxims under Capt. Bell remained on the low ridge on the enemy's right front and kept up a flank fire on the kopje opposite. Under Colonel Ricardo, "A" company of the Queenslanders advanced under cover of the kopje, and the Maxims of "B" company of the Queenslanders on the kopje close to the right.

Both companies closed in "B" company, taking the kopje's flank on the left and driving them to the last stand on the high point of the kopje at its eastern extremity. In the meantime the balance of "C" company of the Canadians advanced in two lines across the gap in front of the enemy's main position to the laager.

More Boer Treachery. Just as the sections of the Canadians under Lieut. Wilkie reached the firing line of "B" company of the Queenslanders on the kopje the enemy hoisted two white flags and surrendered. As the Queenslanders advanced to take them prisoners, a shot from the enemy while the white flag was flying, killed the McLeod of "B" company, making the second death during the engagement. It was exactly three o'clock when the enemy gave up the struggle and surrendered, some forty of them being taken as prisoners.

The Return to Belmont. On Thursday evening Col. Picher received information from Modder River that a force of eight hundred Boers were on their way south to intercept the column on its march back to Belmont.

While this position occupied by the column at Cook's Farm could have been held against almost any reasonable force of the enemy, it would have been impossible to properly guard and protect the large number of horses of the mounted troops, this consideration influenced Col. Picher to start at once for the camp at Belmont.

At 10 o'clock that evening the column started out on the return, marched all night picking up the Cornwallis with the prisoners at Richmond, Pa., and arrived at Belmont about 9 o'clock on Friday morning, having marched twenty-three days in a little over ten hours.

The column reached a ridge of kopjes about five miles from Belmont it was met by a force composed of "A" and "H" companies of the Canadians under Major Buchan, which had moved out from camp early in the morning to act as supports to the column if necessary.

There was tremendous excitement in camp at Belmont when the long column of dust-stained and weary soldiers marched in. It was a wonderful sight! The column was over a mile and a half in length, and in the centre were forty-one band-drum looking rebel prisoners escorted by the Cornwallis with loaded rifles and fixed bayonets.

The engagement was over, and the enemy's position completely in our hands. Had our force been a little larger, none of the enemy would have been able to escape.

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the column to a high hill, overlooking the town of Louisa, eight hundred yards distant, in a small ravine on the banks of the Vaal River.

Here the column halted, as Col. Picher had received an announcement to the effect that the town was occupied by a small force of the enemy. The guns were unlimbered and a half company of the Queenslanders sent on into the town as scouts.

As the scouts advanced down the hill into the town the enemy were seen galloping away at the other end across the river. The column then advanced down the hill into the town. The loyal inhabitants who remained turned out en masse to greet the troops.

The Union Jack was quickly run up on the flagstaff in the square in front of the church and the columns advanced the townspeople cheered for the Queen and the troops, waving small Union Jacks and showing their delight in an unmistakable manner.

After the town had been invested, Col. Picher called the townspeople together in the square in front of the church and informed them that he intended to completely sack the town.

He assured the people that they would be given safe conduct to Belmont, and any part of the colony they desired to go to, and that the British government would indemnify them for the loss of their property.

It was about 2 o'clock when the troops entered the town. During the afternoon a large quantity of the enemy's ammunition, something like ten thousand rounds of Martini-Henry and Mauser, was found in a small building, where it was stored. This was taken out and destroyed in the yard in front of the Court House. A considerable quantity of dynamite was also discovered and destroyed during the afternoon.

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Drifting Atlin's Placers

Steamer Dirigo Brings News from the British Columbia Gold-fields.

The Copper Properties at White Horse Proving Very Rich.

Steamer Dirigo called unexpectedly at the outer wharf early yesterday morning, and landed about a dozen northerners, including several members of the Northwest Mounted Police, who have come to endeavor to secure places in Strathcona's Horse, Messrs. Sargent and Hibbard, clothing traders of Dawson, and one or two arrivals from Atlin.

Speaking of affairs in the Atlin district, A. D. Bannerman, the merchant at Discovery on Pine Creek, arrived at Skagway on February 15th, having made the trip out with a dog team in twenty hours, says that while the Atlin district is quiet now, a number of placer claims are being worked and during the summer lots of quartz properties will be worked.

Two stamp mills are going up, and there will be more next year. Lord Hamilton's London Atlin Mining Co. is putting one in, and another company is also putting one up.

J. C. Dillow, who had arrived at Skagway from the British Columbia placers before the Dirigo sailed southward, says the people of Atlin are much disappointed because no legislation has been introduced to amend the laws governing that camp, as British capital is no more anxious to invest there than American.

This will no doubt, though, be changed when it is learned in the northern district that the government is introducing a measure to amend the Atlin laws.

Mr. Dillow says: "There are some magnificent hydraulic propositions in the Atlin country, but only two or three companies are going in now. The placers are being worked through the winter by drifting, are not proving abundant, but there are several that can be mentioned as paying fairly well. Nearly all the drifting that is being done is by the owners of the property, in fact it is the case on all claims with the exception of one, and the man who is working that one is working another man's claim without authority, and is hiring others that he may get through quickly with the illegitimate venture. No strikes have been made in drifting on Pine, except on one claim below Discovery, where \$5 a day to the man is being taken out. I do not remember the name of the claim or its owner. On Willow Creek, Charles Hill and Milligan are taking out \$20 to the man per day. Their claim is 100 feet from Pine Creek. On Spruce Creek several are drifting, taking out from \$3 to \$5 per day. On McKee Creek, old man McKee, discoverer of the creek, is the only one working. He is taking out wages."

Thirty cents per hour is the prevailing rate of wages on the creeks. Earth being taken out is thrown on dumps to be washed out in the spring after the streams open. When it is desired to wash the earth being taken out the miners melt snow to get water for use in the gold pans.

In regard to the quartz properties, Manager Featherstone, who has been in charge of the development work on the Anaconda and Florina groups on the waterfront of Atlin Lake, just a little from the mouth of Atlin, has great faith in their properties. It is not known whether the work will be resumed, for the ore is said to be of a low grade. However, Mr. Featherstone is prosecuting development work.

The Quartz Properties. Crossing Pine Creek, and which Lord Hamilton has boded from Messrs. Clay & Watts for \$40,000 a claim. The workers are sinking a shaft and cross-cutting with the hopes of ascertaining whether or not the properties will pinch out.

The commander of French expedition, however, admits that practically half of his own force was placed hors de combat. Forty-three Singalese sharpshooters were killed and 4 Europeans, including Capt. Robillot, and 200 Singalese were wounded.

After Kang Yu Weil. (Associated Press.) Peking, Feb. 16.—An imperial edict, just issued, commands Li Hung Chang to desecrate and destroy the tombs of the ancestors of the Chinese reformer, Kang Yu Weil, and orders one hundred thousand taels for the capture of Kang Yu Weil, dead or alive. Though the edict purports to emanate from the emperor, it is evidently the work of the Gwangju enterprise, whose bitterness towards the reformers is thus further evidenced.

Sheep and Cattle Drowned. (Associated Press.) London, Feb. 16.—Rains and a rapid thaw have caused many rivers to overflow and there are unprecedented deaths in various parts of the United Kingdom. Great damage has been done to farms, and hundreds of sheep and other live stock have been drowned. Much of the railroad traffic is suspended.

Kentucky Deadlock. Prison Official's Refuse to Recognize Taylor as Governor. (Associated Press.) Frankfort, Feb. 16.—The clash between the Democratic and Republican branches of the state government has become a deadlock since the prison officials, colonel John Sent, a Louisville convict, on a pardon issued by Governor Beckham, Deputy Warden Pugh, was acting warden, and when the prison papers were presented to him he refused Sent to be released, and the latter immediately left the city.

Free from Plague. (Associated Press.) Rio Janeiro, Feb. 16.—Argentine and Portuguese ports have been declared free of the bubonic plague.

tance from the Yukon, and just a little way from White Horse. We have worked on two claims, the Anaconda and Rabbit's Foot, and have been developing it ever since. With our partners, Ole Nielson, W. A. Puckett and Charles Ward, we have tunneled in 65 feet on the Anaconda. We hope to strike the vein on going a little deeper, and according to indications we have hopes to fill the ledge rich. The Anaconda and Rabbit's Foot are on the same lead. The vein is twelve feet wide and the ore from either property assays from 20 to 62 per cent in copper and \$38 in gold to the ton. The ore is of solid baronite and peacock variety, and next in value to native copper. We have begun to sink a shaft on the Rabbit's Foot, and so far have found the ore body solid.

"The surface of the Rabbit's Foot appears to be a solid body of ore, and I believe if it were stripped one hundred men could be employed taking out the solid ore from one claim. The ledge on which these two claims are located is traceable twelve miles. Let this be but one of the leads in the district. We could have sold last year to two or three big concerns, but prefer to develop ourselves, feeling confident we have exceedingly rich properties."

A man named McAllister was killed at the Summit on Monday last by falling down an embankment of snow and striking his head against a passing train. He was employed by the railway company. Seeing a train approaching while he was in a snowbank, he climbed up the steep bank of snow near the mouth of the shed. He had nothing but a shovel to steady himself, and the shock of the train trampled him to lose his footing. An inquest was being held at the Summit the day the Dirigo sailed.

The head of the Crow chiefs of the Chilcat tribe, George Shortridge, will give one of the largest political speeches in the far north since 1883 in his big hut at Kluckwan in August. Over two thousand Indians from the northern tribes are to be invited to attend.

No further news is given of The Four Missing Men, and now another name is added to the list of those missing in the north. The latest to disappear is J. E. Fulton, a mining expert, who left early in January to visit the White Horse mines, and nothing was heard of him after leaving Skagway.

Copies of the Dawson Daily News brought by the arrival from Dawson on the Dirigo tell of numbers of intrepid characters who are hurrying over the trail to Cape Nome. The distance from Dawson to the new gold fields is 1,300 miles, or 1 1/2 days by the Klukwan cut-off.

A mass meeting held at Skagway on February 8th scored Governor Brady and sent resolutions by the steamer to be wired to Washington, to inform congress that J. G. Price has been chosen as the delegate to represent Alaska, and the governor has not the authority of the people to speak for them.

Fighting in West Africa. French Expedition Defeats Force Under Rabah. Four Europeans and Forty Three Singalese Killed. (Associated Press.) Paris, Feb. 16.—Late reports show Rabah, who was defeated in battle by the French expedition, was strokily attacked at Kouma, between the British Congo and Lake Tchad, which is the objective of all French colonies in West Africa and the Congo.

Kouma was defended by 12,000 men with 2,600 rifles and 3 canon. After a desperate fight, according to the dispatch, the French demolished the fortress. Two of Rabah's cannon were destroyed by the French shells. Rabah, who was wounded during the fight, fled six hours before his expulsion.

The commander of French expedition, however, admits that practically half of his own force was placed hors de combat. Forty-three Singalese sharpshooters were killed and 4 Europeans, including Capt. Robillot, and 200 Singalese were wounded.

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Canada's Trade. (Special to the Times.) Ottawa, Feb. 16.—The statement of Canada's trade for the seven months ending Jan. 31st last, published to-day, shows the country in a prosperous condition. The total aggregate trade of Canada was \$27,653,833, compared with \$19,017,356 for the seven months of last year, or an increase of \$8,636,476. The imports increased by \$18,375,957, and the exports by \$13,271,519. There was an increase in duty of \$2,668,612. For the month of January alone it increased by over half a million dollars.

Yaquis Captured. (Associated Press.) Mazatlan, Mexico, Feb. 16.—The Mexican gunboat Oaxaca has arrived there from the mouth of Guaymas river with over 600 Yaqui Indian prisoners on board. They were secured in the battle fought three weeks ago. The prisoners will be taken to Guaymas and there distributed to various interior cities. They will be kept in confinement for a few years, until they have become educated in the habits of Mexican people, when they will be allowed to return to their tribe and impart their newly-acquired knowledge to their fellow tribesmen.

Samoan Treaty. (Associated Press.) London, Feb. 16.—The formal ratification of the Samoan treaty has been exchanged between London and Berlin.