

Boers Are Retreating

They Are Reported as Having Raised the Siege at Wepener.

Chernside Shelling the Burghers Near Reddersburg—All Well at Mafeking.

London, April 17.—The net spread by Lord Roberts to catch the adventurous Boers who have been making mischief in the southeastern part of the Free State, has not yet been drawn in, but at the headquarters of Lord Roberts the impression exists that the power of the Boers is decreasing.

A Daily News correspondent has them fleeing to the southeast; a Standard correspondent reports them fleeing to the northward; a Daily Telegraph correspondent says that some are going north and others south, while a Morning Post representative says it is not known what the Boers are doing.

Evidently the feeling in Bloemfontein is that the disposition made by Roberts is such as to enable him to concentrate a large force rapidly at any point. The Boers being aware of this, are presumed to be thinking now chiefly of retreating. According to a special dispatch from Bloemfontein the investment has been abandoned. According to a Bethany dispatch the Boers are unable to retreat northward, because the British strongly hold all the roads.

London waits confidently for the almost immediate announcement of news favorable to the British. Distrust exists, however, to any rapid continuous advance toward Pretoria, chiefly on account of the lack of horses, many of which die on the long voyages. Letters from the Cape say that the three days' journey by rail is made in open trucks, that the arrangements for feeding and watering are inadequate, and that the unfortunate animals break down rapidly in consequence of these hardships. Despite the energy of its buyers abroad, the war office foresees much difficulty in supplying the enormous number of horses required.

Retreating. London, April 17.—The following dispatch from Reddersburg, dated Friday, appears in the Daily News: "Gen. Chernside saw the rear guard of the Boers disappear southeast in full retreat. The rear guard appeared to be in strong force 14 miles east of Reddersburg. They are falling thick before heavy guns."

The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, in a dispatch dated yesterday, says: "The Boers have raised the siege of Wepener and have left Rouxville. A majority of them have undoubtedly retreated north, with the exception of a body of about 4,000 now reported to be going towards Bethune."

News From Mafeking. Lorenzo Marquez, April 16.—Lieut. Steh, a Rhodesian scout, who entered Mafeking through the Boer lines, has returned to Col. Plumer's camp with dispatches from Mafeking saying all was well there on April 16th. London, April 17.—A Mafeking dispatch to the Times, dated April 16th, confirming earlier reports, says: "After Col. Plumer's repulse Commandant Snyman sent a message inviting Col. Baden-Powell to send out to collect the dead and wounded, but when the ambulance appeared the Boer commander declined to allow them to be taken. It was discovered, however, that the Boer reports of the extent of the British casualties had been greatly exaggerated."

Boer Prisoners. Jamestown, St. Helena, April 16.—The remainder of the Boer prisoners were landed to-day and sent to Deadwood. Col. Shiel and two others who had been confined at the Citadel after they attempted to escape, have been released and have gone to Deadwood.

London, April 17.—At last Lord Roberts seems to be on the eve of making his main advance towards Pretoria. Unless all the usually reliable resources of information are at fault, the British army will in a few days march northward.

After many reports that have purported to tell of this movement, there is naturally, even in the best informed quarters, considerable hesitancy in definitely settling upon the day, but it is now thought Lord Roberts is likely to leave Bloemfontein at the end of this week or the beginning of next. The long weary wait in the Free State capital has apparently effected a much needed rest, though it is possible Lord Roberts would still further have delayed his advance had not the Boer activity forced him to put his forces into position, and unless they quickly proceed northward the strategic advantage will be lost.

The advance will be made with 75,000 men, it is thought.

ACTIVITY OF BURGHERS.

Maseru, Basutoland, Monday, April 16.—The Boers for two days have been displaying great activity along the Reddersburg and Rouxville roads. Their scouts report that the British are advancing on these places to the relief of Wepener, and the burghers are frequently divided whether to remain or retire. A majority of them decide to abandon the investment of Wepener, fearing to be cut off, while the minority, led by Commandant Olivier, are reluctant to move as long as there is a

chance to capture Col. Dalgety's garrison. Scouts have just reported rifle firing in the direction of Thaba Nchu.

ROBERTS CENSURES BULLER.

London, April 17.—The war office tonight publishes in the Gazette a dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated February 13th, submitting Gen. Buller's dispatches describing the Spion Kop and other operations from January 17th to January 24th. Lord Roberts deals severely with Gen. Warren and some others. Even General Buller does not escape.

Lord Roberts complains that the plan of operations is not clearly described in the dispatches.

After stating Gen. Buller's intentions as communicated to Sir Charles Warren, who commanded the whole force, Lord Roberts points out that Charles Warren seems to have concluded, after consultation with his officers, that the flank movement ordered by Gen. Buller was impracticable, and therefore so changed the plan of advance as to necessitate the capture and retention of Spion Kop.

The Proposed Monument. Toronto, April 17.—The Globe correspondent with the first Canadian contingent at Bloemfontein, telegraphs under the date of April 16th as follows: "There is a very strong feeling among the Canadian troops here in favor of some action by the Dominion government looking to the erection of a monument to the memory of those from the Dominion who have fallen in battle."

Another Canadian Deal. Ottawa, April 17.—Lt.-Col. Otter cabled Col. Aylmer, acting general officer commanding, to-day as follows: "Bloemfontein, April 16.—Number 7-190, Private W. J. Adams, 7th Fusiliers, London, died on the 10th of enteric fever; wounded February 18th. (Signed) Otter."

THE BOERS UNEASY.

London, April 18.—Public equanimity has been disturbed by Lord Roberts's long wait and the Boer activity. The commander-in-chief is still three hundred miles from Pretoria. No one doubts the ultimate success of British arms, but behind the British army that crushes the Boer army an army of occupation will have to be installed.

From various sources come hints that more men than are provided for will have to be sent out.

Lord Roberts indicates that at least 10,000 men are advancing to cut off the Boers who are investing Wepener. As there are reports from the Basuto border that firing has been heard in the direction of the hills towards Dewetsdorp, it is possible Gen. Chernside's advanced troops are already in connection with the Boers.

The commander-in-chief wires that he expects to clear the southern section of the Free State, east of the railway, and then swing round to the north and turn one after another the positions held by the Boers north of Bloemfontein. Gen. Buller's prohibition of all press telegrams in Natal until further notice is taken to indicate that a movement is about to begin there.

At Times dispatch from Jammersburg, dated Monday, says: "On Friday the Boers tried to rush Col. Dalgety's left front, but retired after fighting for one hour. Their attack is apparently weakening."

Dispatch from Roberts. London, April 17.—The following dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated Bloemfontein, Tuesday, April 17th, has been received: "Our force at Wepener is still surrounded, but it is reported that the enemy are attacking in a very half-hearted manner and are anxious about their communications, hearing that forces are approaching Wepener from two directions—one under Gen. Ruddle via Reddersburg, another under Gen. Brabant, with Gen. Hart's brigade in support, via Rouxville."

"On the reconnoitring of Rouxville, April 15th, the few Boers there retired, and Gen. Brabant made some important arrests."

"Violent rainstorms somewhat interfered with the march of these columns, but it is hoped they will soon be able to make their presence more decidedly felt."

"Gen. Settle reports from Kenhardt, April 14th, that 200 Transvaalers made a determined attack the previous day on Dopaspoort, held by a party of Orpen's Horse. Our losses were two killed and one wounded. The enemy's losses must have been heavy, as they applied to us for doctors and an ambulance."

NEWS FROM MAFEKING. Can Hold Out For Two Months Longer.

Mafeking, April 17.—The success of Lieut. Smith-Eman, the Rhodesian scout, who, with the exception of a Reuter correspondent, a cyclist, is the only white man who has entered Mafeking since the siege began, is likely to prove of great value to Col. Plumer, to whom he has returned with dispatches, should Plumer decide to raise the siege of Mafeking in earnest.

A Scottish Crofter has introduced a method of making nourishing porridge with oat bran, which is a great boon, and is settling the question of feeding the natives.

We are now confident in holding out two months longer. The men in the trenches are determined to play the game to the end.

Plumer's Force. Plumer's Camp, Friday, April 17.—Via Lorenzo Marquez, April 18.—A let-

ter has been received here from Commandant Snyman, with reference to the British wounded and prisoners at the Boer laager after the engagement of March 31st, from which it is learned that Capt. Crewe died of his wounds. Lieut. Milligan is not a prisoner, and is believed to be among the killed.

The British casualties were two officers and six men killed; three officers and 38 men wounded, and one officer and 11 men made prisoners.

The Boer artillery about Mafeking is well housed, their pompons are mounted on light four-wheeled carriages, each drawn by four smart horses in marked contrast with those Col. Plumer fought with at Crocodile Pool. The Boers are, too, well mounted and well dressed and have fit looking patrols.

Plumer's little force is strongly entrenched northwest of Mafeking. The total casualties Saturday were 78, but many are convalescent. Men and horses are improving in health as the winter approaches.

Native reports that the inhabitants of Mafeking are very hungry, and should a flying column be dispatched to their relief it would find the country well grassed and watered as it proceeds northward.

The Boers are being bolstered up by all sorts of stories from Pretoria, among them reports that Russia and France have declared war against Great Britain.

SPION KOP FIGHT. Lord Roberts's Comments on Tactics of the Generals.

London, April 17.—A dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated February 13th, submitting Gen. Buller's dispatches describing the Spion Kop and other operations from January 17th to January 24th, is published in the Gazette. After stating Gen. Buller's intentions as communicated to Sir Charles Warren, who commanded the whole force, Lord Roberts points out that Sir Charles Warren seems to have concluded, after consultation with his officers, that the flank movement ordered by Gen. Buller was impracticable, and there so changed the plan of advance as to necessitate the capture and retention of Spion Kop.

Lord Roberts continues: "As Warren considered it impossible to make the wide flanking movement which was recommended, it not actually prescribed, in

he should forthwith have acquainted Buller with the course he proposed to adopt. There is nothing to show whether he did so or not. But it is only fair to Warren to point out that Buller appears throughout to have been aware of what was happening."

Regarding the withdrawal from Spion Kop, the retention of which had become essential to the relief of Ladysmith, Lord Roberts says: "I regret to be unable to concur with Buller in thinking that Thornycroft exercised wise discretion in ordering the troops to retire. I am of the opinion that Thornycroft's assumption of responsibility and authority was wholly inexcusable. During the night the enemy's fire could not have been formidable, and it would not have taken more than two or three hours for Thornycroft to communicate by messenger with Major-General Coke or Warren. Coke appears to have left Spion Kop at 9:30 p.m., for the purpose of communicating with Warren. Up to that hour the withdrawal had not been entertained, yet almost immediately after Coke's departure Thornycroft issued the order without reference to the superior authority, which

Upset the Whole Plan of operations and rendered unavailing the sacrifices already made to carry it into effect. On the other hand, it is only right to state that Thornycroft's manner throughout was in a very gallant manner throughout the day."

Gen. Buller's report commenting on Gen. Warren's reports of the capture and evacuation of Spion Kop, after disputing the correctness of some of Warren's assertions and describing some of the dangerous situations occupied by Warren's force, tells how he saw the force at Spion Kop had given way before Warren knew it. Buller then telegraphed to Warren: "Unless you put a really good hard fighting man on top you will lose the hill. I suggest Thornycroft."

Gen. Buller continues: "I have not thought it necessary to order an investigation. If at sundown the defence of the summit had been taken in hand, entrenchments laid out and the dead and wounded removed, the whole place would have been brought under regular military commands and the hills would have been held. I am sure. But no arrangements were made. Coke appears to have been ordered away just as he would have been useful, and no one succeeded him. Those on top were ignorant of the fact that the guns were coming up, and generally there was

A Want of Organization and system that acted most unfavorably on the defence. It is admitted that all of Thornycroft's command acted with the greatest gallantry throughout the day and really saved the situation. But preparations for the second day's defence should have been organized during the day and commenced at nightfall. As this was not done, I think Thornycroft exercised wise discretion."

"It is to be regretted," Roberts proceeds, "that Warren did not himself visit Spion Kop in the afternoon or evening, knowing as he did that the state of affairs was very critical and that the loss of the position would involve the failure of the operations. He consequently was obliged to summon Coke to headquarters, and the command at Spion Kop thus devolved on Thornycroft, unknown to Coke, who was under

the impression that the command devolved upon Col. Hill, as senior adviser. Offences or mistakes of this nature may be trivial in themselves, yet they may exercise an important influence upon the course of events, and I believe Buller was justified in remarking the conviction that there was a want of organization and system which acted most unfavorably on the defence. The attempt to relieve Ladysmith was well devised, and I agree with Buller in thinking it ought to have succeeded."

That It Failed may in some measure have been due to the difficulties of the ground and the commanding positions held by the enemy, and probably also to errors of judgment and want of administrative capacity on the part of Warren. But whatever faults Warren may have committed, the failure must also be attributed to the disinclination of the officer in supreme command to assert his authority and see what he thought best was done, and also to the unwarrantable and needless assumption of responsibility by a subordinate officer."

The dispatch concludes: "The gratifying feature of these dispatches is the admirable behavior of the troops throughout the operations."

Press Opinions. London, April 18.—The dispatches from Lord Roberts pronouncing censure upon Sir Redvers Buller and Sir Charles Warren, two of his most important subordinate commanders, was written February 13, and has been in the hands of the war office for five weeks. Just why it is published now, in the middle of the campaign, is not understood, unless it is expected that Gen. Buller and Gen. Warren will ask to be relieved of their commands.

In a long editorial the Daily News speaks of the "somewhat appalling language" of the dispatches, and then goes on to say: "Upon the whole these dispatches are disquieting and disheartening in no ordinary degree. Following upon the recall of Gen. Gatacre, they will create a widespread feeling of uneasiness."

The Standard, which is supposed to be in the confidence of the government, says: "It is scarcely likely that the publication of Lord Roberts's dispatches is without a purpose. It irresistibly suggests whether it is not to be followed by further changes in South African command. As such measures may be, there must be no hesitation in carrying them out."

For Strathcona's Horse. Vancouver, April 17.—Thirty applicants presented themselves before Inspector Strickland, who is recruiting for Strathcona's Horse, and eight were chosen. The Vancouver quota are: Charles Grey, Vancouver, from England; J. J. Buchanan, born in Ireland; J. G. Macdougall, born at Ottawa, son of Hon. Wm. Macdougall, Ottawa; A. McArthur, born in England, rancher near Vancouver; F. B. Blackmore, ex-assistant engineer, Croft's Nest road, an Englishman; W. A. N. Heygate, Victoria, B.C., born in England; P. H. Shuttleworth, Vancouver, rancher, English; A. M. Andrews, Vancouver, English.

ROBERTS'S CRITICISMS. London, April 18.—Lord Roberts's criticisms of Gen. Buller, Gen. Warren and Col. Thornycroft continues the topic of interest. All the afternoon papers comment at length on the strictures of the commander-in-chief, taking the same lines as the morning papers, praising Roberts for his frankness and his speculating upon what the publication of the dispatches at the present moment portends. Some of them maintain there is nothing left for Buller but to resign.

In referring to Gen. Buller's report the St. James Gazette is particularly scathing. The Globe declares that "a more pitiable record of indecision in plan and confusion in execution we have seldom read," and adds that what little reputation Buller has left has been scattered to the winds.

Shelling the Boers. Practically no developments have been reported so far in to-day's South African cables. A dispatch from Warren, dated 14th, says the Boers are busy making new trenches. We exploded lyddite shells, following up with the Maxims. The enemy's ambulance was afterwards observed on the spot.

No News From Wepener. From Wepener there is nothing later than Roberts's message of yesterday, and neither side having gained any particular advantage at any point in the theatre of war since the last official dispatches were received.

Weather Favors British. The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Daily Telegraph in a dispatch says: "It is hoped that the boisterous weather now prevailing may delay the Boers and afford us an opportunity of capturing a number of raiding bands, as only a few drifts are passable."

Warren Recalled. It is said that a peremptory order for the return of Lieut.-Gen. Sir Charles Warren, the commander of the fifth division of the South African field force, was cabled to South Africa this morning.

WILL BULLER BE RECALLED? London, April 18.—The publication of Roberts's dispatch describing the Spion Kop and other operations from January 17th to January 24th is criticised by Mr.

Spencer Wilkinson in the Morning Post to-day. He characterizes it as ill-advised. The effect of it on the army in Natal, he says, must be positively demoralizing, unless changes are made in the commands, changes, which if necessary, should have been made without any public ventilation of mistakes or cross censures.

He continued: "But with the publication of Lord Roberts's dispatch, the position of Buller is untenable, and his resignation or recall is a matter of course. But the government cannot be credited with arranging the matter with consideration or generosity. There was no need to trumpet these things to the world. The dispatches might have slept in archives for the use of future historians and Gen. Buller's recall might have been arranged with diplomacy and delicacy."

Gen. Buller was appointed by the government and by the government he should have been recalled without exposure. Can it be that the government shrinks from taking the responsibility and seeks to shelter itself behind Roberts and the expression of public opinion which the dispatches are sure to occasion? If that be the case the government is not setting an example to its generals in the field. The government is in supreme command and ought to assert its authority without first appealing to the man in the street.

CASUALTIES AT WEPENER. Maseru, April 17.—Col. Dalgety's casualties since he has been besieged at Wepener have been twenty killed and one hundred wounded.

The Boer losses are reported to have been considerably heavier. After the night attack on April 12th the dead were left on the field, where they still lie unburied.

There is a conflict of opinion among the leaders. Some want to attack again, while others refuse to do so. The Caledon is rising, which alarms the Boers, who are now on both sides of the river, and might be cut off if the stream was to become flooded.

WARREN'S DISPATCH. London, April 18.—In his dispatch Gen. Warren sets forth the fact that the Spion Kop operations had not entered into his original plans, as his instructions were to occupy a plain north of it.

On consultation with the commander-in-chief on January 21st, however, when the question of retreating from or attacking Spion Kop was discussed, Warren expressed his preference for attacking. This was successfully accomplished by Gen. Woodgate. Then came the order of the commander-in-chief to put Thornycroft in command of the summit.

In the meantime Warren had sent Gen. Coke up to reinforce with orders to assume command. Ineffectual efforts were made to helicopter Thornycroft and ask whether he had assumed command. Towards sunset he was finally enabled to get orders through, and concluded the position could be held the next day if guns could be provided and shelter obtained. Both those conditions were about to be fulfilled when "in the absence of Coke, whom I had ordered to come and report in person on the situation, the evacuation took place, under orders given in his own responsibility by Thornycroft. This occurred in the face of the vigorous protests of Coke's brigade major and others."

In conclusion Warren said: "It is a matter for the commander-in-chief to decide whether there will be any investigation into the question of the unauthorized evacuation of Spion Kop."

BOER MANIFESTO. Capetown, April 17.—The Boer governments are circulating the following manifesto to the Afrikaners in South-east Cape Colony:

"We feel that our fate and the fate of all the Afrikaners is at stake, and we appeal to you to stand and fight shoulder to shoulder with us. You cannot, you may not, allow the tyrant to extinguish forever our finest traits of character as a nation. With you on our side the issue can't be doubtful. We must conquer. God grant that love for your country and your liberty and the noble virtues of men truly free may induce you to join us in the hour of our supreme struggle."

Stole a Chicken. Toronto, April 18.—A London cable to the Globe says: "A letter from Bennett Barleigh, dated at Bloemfontein and published in to-day's Telegraph, cites a case of real hardship. A Canadian soldier, he says, was court-martialled and sentenced to fifty-six days' hard labor for appropriating one Boer chicken, while thousands who had committed the same offence escaped scot free. There was considerable indignation in the Canadian camp over the affair."

Patriotic Fund. Ottawa, April 18.—The Canadian patriotic fund to date amounts to \$237,517.

Canadian Horses Wanted. Toronto, April 18.—Major Dent, of the British war office remount department, who it was announced a few days ago, had arrived here for the purpose of buying horses for imperial service in South Africa, has made the announcement that he has sent out agents to buy in various parts of the Dominion a thousand cavalry horses, from 15 hands 1½ inches to 15 hands 3¼ inches high, and five hundred ponies from 14½ to 15½. The animals will be shipped direct from Montreal to Capetown.

Hacked To Pieces

Further Particulars Regarding the Murder of Chief of Police Main.

Body Horribly Mutilated by the Murderers—Several Arrests Made.

(Special to the Times.)

Vancouver, April 18.—The Chinese market gardeners who were arrested yesterday afternoon at Steveston for the murder of Chief of Police Alex. Main, were hastily removed to New Westminster late last night.

There was a strong talk of lynching at Steveston, and it was thought better for the safety of all concerned to get them away to Westminster. The most of the trouble was with the Japanese. They congregated around the jail and endeavored to show their loyalty, and their horror at the murder by threatening viciously to do away with the Chinamen at the end of the branch of the nearest tree.

The finding of a blood marked bush-hook near where Main was discovered explains how the murder was perpetrated. He was evidently struck a blow from behind, which left a long gash on the side of his neck and head. Then he was deliberately hacked to pieces. There was another long cut on the opposite side of the head, which had also been evidently done by the bush hook. A dozen wounds made with a pickaxe had covered the body with blood. The hastily dug hole had been too short to take the body as it lay stretched out, so the legs had been smashed at the knees and the limbs doubled back. The body of Main's dog had also been hacked to pieces and thrown in the hole before the body of his master was laid there.

Two Chinamen are charged with the murder, and a third, who lived in the same house, has disappeared. Seven other Orientals who lived in the vicinity have been arrested as accessories.

THE QUEEN AT DONNYBROOK. (Associated Press.)

Dublin, April 17.—After her morning drive Queen Victoria received in audience the daughter of Sergt.-Major Hartigan, now at Colenso, Natal, who presented Her Majesty with a bouquet from the wives and widows of the non-commissioned officers and men of the Irish regiments in South Africa. The Queen's afternoon drive included Donnybrook.

THE SHAH'S TOUR. (Associated Press.)

Tehran, April 17.—The Shah started from here yesterday on his way to Europe.

FIRE BRIGADE INVESTIGATION. (Associated Press.)

Toronto, April 17.—At the investigation by Judge McDougall into the charge that the Toronto fire brigade is organized as a species of civic Tammany, ex-Mayor Shaw yesterday deposed that he gave deputy chief, now chief, Thompson \$300 in the mayoralty election of 1896, when he (Shaw) defeated MacDonald and McMurich. This money was intended to cover Shaw's expenses in two of the civic wards.

AGAINST IMPERIALISM. (Associated Press.)

Washington, April 17.—In the Senate to-day Senator Hoar (Mass.) delivered a lengthy and forcible address against imperialism. He began his address by speaking of the prosperous condition of the American at the close of the war with Spain. He praised President McKinley's course at that time, saying in his judgment he was the best beloved President who ever sat on the chair of Washington.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE. (Associated Press.)

Montreal, April 18.—A special cable to the Gazette from London says: "Suspected cases of foot and mouth disease have been found among United States cattle at Deptford, and it is expected the market will be closed to them after April 30th. There was no market for cattle or sheep to-day."

'PLAGUE SPREADING. (Associated Press.)

Tehran, April 17.—An outbreak of bubonic plague is reported in the Javannord district, near the Turkish frontier. Since the disease appeared, three weeks ago, 105 deaths have occurred.

CROTON DAM TROUBLES. (Associated Press.)

Croton Landing, N. Y., April 17.—Prior to the treacherous and mysterious shooting of Sergt. Douglas last night, the striking Italians had a good deal of sympathy among the people in their fight with the contractors for the construction of the Croton dam. Since the soldier was shot, all sympathy with the strikers has disappeared.

New York, April 17.—Sergt. Douglas, of Mount Vernon, shot last night at the Croton dam, leaves a widow and two babies. He is a Scotsman, and had served in the British army.

Major-General Rowe and his full staff left this city for Croton Dam at 10:30 o'clock to-day. General Rowe will assume command of the entire militia force now on duty at the scene of trouble.