

FRENCH AT BLOEMFONTEIN

He Has Seized Two Hills Near the Railway Station Which Command the Town.

THE BRITISH CASUALTIES.

Two Hundred and Twenty-one Men Wounded and Sixty or Seventy Killed and Missing—Roberts Advancing With Cavalry Brigade.

(Associated Press.) London, March 13, 2:47 p.m.—Lord Roberts' actual entry into the Orange Free State capital seems likely to be delayed until to-morrow or late to-day, as it is stated that he is going to reinforce General French's position at Bloemfontein...

Boers May Make a Stand. However the Boers may make a strenuous resistance until Lord Roberts's main army should catch up with the cavalry, whose leader has once more been afforded the opportunity of reaping glory in first reaching the goal.

The strategic importance of what is taken to be the practical capture of one of the enemy's assets of government has created little enthusiasm in London, as for days it had been regarded as certain that Lord Roberts would soon be at Bloemfontein.

Only a few persons gathered around the bulletin boards this morning. Here and there flags were displayed, but no demonstration marked the receipt of the news. The predominant feeling seemed to be curiosity as to what would be the result, and surprise that the Free Staters would give in were rife.

Still Holding Out. The rumors of the relief of Mafeking became more circumstantial to-day, but they still lacked official confirmation. The Mafeking despatch of March 15th, published to-day, plainly disposed of the report that the besieged residents had evacuated the place and that the Boers had retired from Boshof.

COMMANDS BLOEMFONTEIN.

London, March 13.—Lord Roberts telegrams from Venters Veld at 5:20 o'clock this morning as follows: "I directed General French, if there was time before dark to seize the railway station at Bloemfontein, and thus secure the rolling stock."

At midnight I received a report from him that after considerable opposition he had been able to occupy two hills close to the railway station, which command Bloemfontein.

A brother of President Steyn has been made prisoner. The telegram lines leading northward has been cut, and railway broken up. "I am now starting with the third cavalry brigade, which I called up from the 7th division near Petrusburg yesterday, and formed the infantry to reinforce the cavalry division."

The rest of the force will follow as quickly as possible. A row in the Camp. A refugee who was at Herschel says that hitherto, almost to the point of hostilities, exists between the Colonial republics, and the Free Staters of that locality.

THE BRITISH LOSSES.

London, March 13.—The war office has received the following additional dispatch from Lord Roberts at Venters Veld, dated March 12th: "Our march was again unopposed. We are now about 18 miles from Bloemfontein."

"The cavalry division is astride the railway six miles south of Bloemfontein. There were 221 men wounded, and about 60 or 70 killed or missing. Col. Umpholy has died of his wounds. Lieut. Pratt, of the Essex Regiment, was wounded severely."

MAPEKING STILL BESIEGED.

London, March 13.—A dispatch received by a South African firm in London, dated Mafeking, March 6th, via Lobatse, March 9th, says: "All well, but town still besieged."

London, March 13.—A dispatch received from Mafeking, dated Monday, Jan. 21, 1900, reached out to-day to relieve the beleaguered town. They may attack and lie in the direction of the "A" Company R. United Rifles have by leaves to-morrow obtain any more have five days' probable."

tion on the part of the President whether it should Accept or Reject

the proposal of the Transvaal in the interests of peace."

Montagu White, in a signed Washington telegram to the World, says: "I have already expressed the desirability of a friendly neutral, preferably the United States, mediating in order to bring this deplorable South African tragedy to a peaceful termination. It is absolutely indispensable that a third power should be a party to a settlement, in order to give a basis for permanency thereto. There is also the danger of the destruction of Johannesburg, which will involve the loss of \$100,000,000, or the entire amount of the British war loan. This, I imagine, will be a strategic necessity, as the Boer could not defend it, nor could they allow it to remain as a base for military operations against Pretoria."

The London correspondent of the World says he learns on good authority that the

ATTITUDE OF FRANCE.

Paris, March 13.—A representative of the Associated Press has secured from a responsible source a French government's official position regarding the

attitude of France in the matter of intervention in the Anglo-Transvaal war, which has been solicited by Kruger. The official in question said: "We believe it is true the Transvaal has sent a request to the powers for their intervention, and that this morning Kruger's message has not reached us."

"As far as France is concerned, she certainly will not take the initiative in offering England mediation, nor will Russia, for the dual alliance is naturally working together in this question."

"We feel that in the present excited state of public feeling in England, and especially as regards ourselves, any step taken by the French government would defeat its own object, and instead of opening a way to peace, would act as oil on the flames and create fresh complications."

"We consider that overtures for mediation can emanate from England, and especially as regards ourselves, any step taken by the French government would defeat its own object, and instead of opening a way to peace, would act as oil on the flames and create fresh complications."

"It is not unexpected that we shall meet with great opposition in entering Bloemfontein."

The March of the British. Lord Roberts is making a very rapid advance, and he is again misleading the Boers by continuing the advance southward instead of through the fat country due east of Amandel Kop. He will probably seize the railway south of Bloemfontein, and although another battle is possible, it is more likely that the Boers are only endeavoring to delay his advance until all the rolling stock of the Orange River district can be gotten away."

The Political Aspect. Such confidence is now felt in the military operations that interest rather than in the political aspect of the war.

The Daily News quotes Whitehead Reid as saying in a private letter: "I give you hearty congratulations on the present aspect of the war. It is an immense relief to us all as well as to you."

"This view," says the Daily News, "is welcome as expressing with an unusual measure of authority the enlightened public feeling of the United States."

Except in the case of Germany, the replies of the powers to the Boer appeals for intervention are not yet known publicly here, but it is quite certain that Austria-Hungary and Italy will decline to interfere, and there is no apprehension that anything will come of the overtures of the two republics.

The morning papers take the line that in some quarters there are open negotiations with the Boer republics except on the basis of complete surrender, and will also make it perfectly clear that nothing in the shape of intervention will be tolerated.

The Standard says: "There is an idea in some quarters that on arriving at Bloemfontein Lord Roberts will issue a proclamation which will leave little doubt as to the future of the republics."

The Times says: "President Kruger and President Steyn should have counted the cost before they made war. They played of a great stake and have lost. Until they are ready for unconditional surrender they may save themselves the trouble of sending communications to Her Majesty's government. We are glad to see that it is understood in the United States as well as on the continent, that any proffer of mediation will be directly repugnant to this country. It would be wholly inadmissible, and the Dutch minister at Washington is entirely mistaken in supposing we would listen to such proposals if they come from a nation on terms of cordial intimacy with us. We mean to settle this controversy ourselves and in our own way."

The Boer Force. Venters Veld, March 12.—Evening.—The British forces, which since the fighting at Driefontein have been marching rapidly hither, have turned the Boer position. Our cavalry are ahead. The Boers were reported this morning about 12,000 strong with 18 guns in position on a range of kopjes commanding the road

to Bloemfontein, which is 15 miles distant.

KRUGER'S APPEAL.

Statement by Mr. Balfour in House of Commons.—The Independence of the Republics.

London, March 12.—Mr. Balfour, in the House of Commons to-day, replying to a question as to whether, consistently with public interests, he could state the essential conditions on which alone the government would entertain peace proposals from the South African republics, promised that papers in this connection would shortly be presented to the House of Commons.

Being asked if there was any foundation for the report that President Kruger had addressed communications to the government, Mr. Balfour reiterated his promise that papers bearing on this subject would be presented to the House within a short time.

It is learned that the papers promised by Mr. Balfour will be presented to-morrow. Kruger and President Steyn the news called by the Associated Press Friday last, that the peace rumors were founded on the fact that President Kruger had appealed to Lord Salisbury for a cessation of hostilities, setting forth at length by cable the terms which he was willing to accept, and also that the cabled reply to the Premier was signed by President Steyn as well as by President Kruger. Lord Salisbury's answer is exactly as given by the Associated Press at the same time, namely that the advances had met with an emphatic rejection at the hands of Lord Salisbury, who also said that to such an attempt to retain the independence of the Transvaal could be considered for a moment by the British government.

Paris, March 13.—The Gaieties publishes the following from its London correspondent: "According to good authority, President Kruger and President Steyn have not made a formal proposition of peace, but have asked the British government, through the United States, the condition it would accept for the opening of negotiations on the basis of the independence of the republics."

LEYS AND THE IRISH. Thanks Mr. Clancy, a Nationalist Member, for Resolution of Sympathy.

London, March 12.—The Lord Mayor has directed that the Irish flag be hoisted over the Mansion House on St. Patrick's Day in recognition of the bravery of the Irish troops in South Africa.

Dr. Leyds, the diplomatic agent of Transvaal, in a letter to Mr. John Clancy, Irish Nationalist member of parliament for the north division of County Dublin, thanking the public corporation for the resolution of sympathy for the South African Republics, says: "The resolution is greatly appreciated, but I know as a matter of fact that my own much suffering country still struggling for independence and liberty, it is a satisfaction to know that a considerable part of the Irish population in the United Kingdom, mindful of the blood being shed in South Africa, continue to extend sympathy to our people. May this sympathy be echoed by numbers of your countrymen."

Dublin, March 12.—Wm. Redmond, M.P., has written to the clerk of the corporation protesting against the proposed address of welcome to Queen Victoria and expressing his intention to resign his seat in the council if the address is presented.

CANADIANS FOR AFRICA.

Twenty-Five Men Left Toronto Yesterday to Join Ship at Halifax.

Toronto, March 12.—Twenty-five men being sent from here to bring the Royal Canadians up to the full standard, left the city this evening for Halifax, as reported word from Ottawa. They will sail after all on the Monterey with Strathmore's Horse. One or two changes took place, and one new man was W. O. McCarthy, brother of Leighton McCarthy, M.P.

Capt. Boyd, who has been acting as recruiting officer, also received word to report for duty in South Africa, and left with the men. He is a son of Chancellor Sir John Boyd, and had command of "B" Company, Royal Grenadiers.

BOERS FORCED TO RETREAT.

From Driefontein—Battle Lasted the Whole Day—Over 100 Killed.

Driefontein, Orange Free State, March 11.—6:35 a.m.—Broadwood's cavalry brigade advancing on Bloemfontein unexpectedly found the Boers in a strong position in the Driefontein kopjes yesterday. General Kelly-Kenny's division arriving, severe fighting ensued.

The Boers resisted stubbornly, but were driven from their centre position, leaving a number of dead and forty prisoners. The British force is moving forward to-day.

During the fighting, in which five regiments took part, with artillery, the Boers, though forced from their centre position clung tenaciously to the other kopjes.

Shelling the British freely with three guns and two Vickers Maxims.

The British cavalry began to turn the Boer position, but night fell before the movement was completed. The Boers retired during the night.

All of yesterday was occupied by fighting. The Boers maintained a stubborn rear guard action along a running front of twelve miles on very difficult ground. The British were advancing in three columns. General Tucker, to the southward, occupied Petrusburg unopposed. General Kelly-Kenny, after following the river bank, moved in the direction of Abraham's Kraal.

At Driefontein, about eight miles south of Abraham's Kraal, the Boers were found in considerable strength on the ridges connecting several kopjes where they had mounted guns. The action began at 8 o'clock in the morning with an Artillery Duel.

General French's cavalry and General Porter's brigade supported our guns. The Boer artillery was accurately handled and the British cavalry found a task harder than they had expected.

General Broadwood moved six miles southward, trying to find a means to get round, but the Boers followed behind riding ground and even attempted to out-flank him.

Meanwhile the Sixth division of infantry, advancing on the Boers' left, slowly forced the enemy to retire. Had the infantry been able to move faster the Boers would have been enveloped.

The last shot was fired at 7:30 p.m. This morning not a Boer was seen. The prisoners belonged to President Kruger's own command.

LORD ROBERTS'S DISPATCH.

The Welsh and Essex Carried Boer Positions at Point of the Bayonet.

London, March 12.—A dispatch to the war office from Lord Roberts dated Driefontein, March 11, 7:15 a.m., says: "The enemy opposed us throughout yesterday's march and from their knowledge of the country gave us considerable trouble. Owing, however, to the admirable conduct of the troops, the enemy were unable to prevent us reaching our destination. The brunt of the fighting fell on General Kelly-Kenny's division, two battalions of which, the Welsh and Essex, turned the Boers out of two strong positions at the point of the bayonet."

"I cannot get the precise number of casualties before I march, but will communicate as soon as possible. The Boers suffered heavily, 102 of their dead being left on the ground. We captured about twenty prisoners."

"Among the killed are Captain Busface, of the Buffs; Captain Lomax, of the Welsh regiment, and Mr. McKartie, a retired Indian officer attached to Kitchener's force."

"Among the wounded are: Buffs—Colonel Hickson, leg, severe; Lieutenant Donald, Welsh regiment—Lieuts. Torkington, Pope, Wimberley. Essex regiment—Captain Broadwood, Field artillerist—Lieut. Devenish. Medical corps—Major White, Lieut. Bence, Australian artillery—Colonel Umphley, abdomen, dangerous."

Boer Treachery. "The following telegram has been addressed to their honors, the state presidents of the Orange Free State and the South African Republic:

"Another instance having occurred of gross abuse of the white flag, through the refusal of holding up hands in token of surrender, it is my duty to inform you that, if such abuse occurs again, I shall most reluctantly be compelled to order my troops to disregard the white flag entirely. The instance occurred on a kopje east of Driefontein farm yesterday afternoon and was witnessed by some of my own staff officers, as well as myself, and resulted in the wounding of several of my officers and men. A large quantity of explosive bullets of three different kinds was found in Commandant Cronjee's laager and this has been the case in every engagement with your honor's troops. Such breaches of the recognized usages of war and of the Geneva convention are a disgrace to any civilized power. A copy of these telegrams has been sent to my government with the request that it will be communicated to all neutral powers."

Shot a British Officer. A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Avogel Kop, dated Sunday, March 11, says: "The white flag treachery was personally witnessed at Driefontein by Lord Roberts, who was looking through a telescope when the Welsh were charging, and saw the Boers hold up their hands, show the flag and drop their guns. He saw an English officer advance to receive their surrender, whereupon a Boer volley was fired and the officer fell."

A large number of Australians were engaged yesterday. The First Australian Horse Brigade, with the Scots Greys, advanced within 800 yards of the Boers under heavy fire.

The new South Wales mounted infantry joined in the pursuit of the Boers northward.

Saved Their Guns.

The Morning Post correspondent at Driefontein, telegraphing Sunday, says: "The fight throughout was much involved. The enemy evacuated and re-occupied positions, subtly concealing their intentions, and only withdrawing their guns a few minutes prior to their impending capture. The guns outranged ours, the naval brigade not arriving in time. Our cavalry losses were so completely tired by the repeated withdrawals. The turning movement was begun too late. The enemy attempted with heliograph to lure us to occupy a kopje which they held, but, detecting the deception, we returned."

The opposition met at Driefontein was somewhat unexpected, the idea being that if, there were any resistance it would be at Petrusburg. Profiting by their experience, the Boers were prepared for a British flanking movement, but in extending their position in order to avoid being outflanked they probably weakened their centre, thus making it possible for the British infantry to carry this with a bayonet charge.

Lord Roberts's dignified protest against the abuse of the white flag is regarded as the most important fact of the situation. According to the accounts supplied by the correspondents the instance

of Abraham's Kraal, the Boers were found in considerable strength on the ridges connecting several kopjes where they had mounted guns. The action began at 8 o'clock in the morning with an Artillery Duel.

General French's cavalry and General Porter's brigade supported our guns. The Boer artillery was accurately handled and the British cavalry found a task harder than they had expected.

General Broadwood moved six miles southward, trying to find a means to get round, but the Boers followed behind riding ground and even attempted to out-flank him.

Meanwhile the Sixth division of infantry, advancing on the Boers' left, slowly forced the enemy to retire. Had the infantry been able to move faster the Boers would have been enveloped.

The last shot was fired at 7:30 p.m. This morning not a Boer was seen. The prisoners belonged to President Kruger's own command.

LORD ROBERTS'S DISPATCH.

The Welsh and Essex Carried Boer Positions at Point of the Bayonet.

London, March 12.—A dispatch to the war office from Lord Roberts dated Driefontein, March 11, 7:15 a.m., says: "The enemy opposed us throughout yesterday's march and from their knowledge of the country gave us considerable trouble. Owing, however, to the admirable conduct of the troops, the enemy were unable to prevent us reaching our destination. The brunt of the fighting fell on General Kelly-Kenny's division, two battalions of which, the Welsh and Essex, turned the Boers out of two strong positions at the point of the bayonet."

"I cannot get the precise number of casualties before I march, but will communicate as soon as possible. The Boers suffered heavily, 102 of their dead being left on the ground. We captured about twenty prisoners."

"Among the killed are Captain Busface, of the Buffs; Captain Lomax, of the Welsh regiment, and Mr. McKartie, a retired Indian officer attached to Kitchener's force."

"Among the wounded are: Buffs—Colonel Hickson, leg, severe; Lieutenant Donald, Welsh regiment—Lieuts. Torkington, Pope, Wimberley. Essex regiment—Captain Broadwood, Field artillerist—Lieut. Devenish. Medical corps—Major White, Lieut. Bence, Australian artillery—Colonel Umphley, abdomen, dangerous."

Boer Treachery.

The following telegram has been addressed to their honors, the state presidents of the Orange Free State and the South African Republic:

"Another instance having occurred of gross abuse of the white flag, through the refusal of holding up hands in token of surrender, it is my duty to inform you that, if such abuse occurs again, I shall most reluctantly be compelled to order my troops to disregard the white flag entirely. The instance occurred on a kopje east of Driefontein farm yesterday afternoon and was witnessed by some of my own staff officers, as well as myself, and resulted in the wounding of several of my officers and men. A large quantity of explosive bullets of three different kinds was found in Commandant Cronjee's laager and this has been the case in every engagement with your honor's troops. Such breaches of the recognized usages of war and of the Geneva convention are a disgrace to any civilized power. A copy of these telegrams has been sent to my government with the request that it will be communicated to all neutral powers."

Shot a British Officer. A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Avogel Kop, dated Sunday, March 11, says: "The white flag treachery was personally witnessed at Driefontein by Lord Roberts, who was looking through a telescope when the Welsh were charging, and saw the Boers hold up their hands, show the flag and drop their guns. He saw an English officer advance to receive their surrender, whereupon a Boer volley was fired and the officer fell."

A large number of Australians were engaged yesterday. The First Australian Horse Brigade, with the Scots Greys, advanced within 800 yards of the Boers under heavy fire.

The new South Wales mounted infantry joined in the pursuit of the Boers northward.

Saved Their Guns.

The Morning Post correspondent at Driefontein, telegraphing Sunday, says: "The fight throughout was much involved. The enemy evacuated and re-occupied positions, subtly concealing their intentions, and only withdrawing their guns a few minutes prior to their impending capture. The guns outranged ours, the naval brigade not arriving in time. Our cavalry losses were so completely tired by the repeated withdrawals. The turning movement was begun too late. The enemy attempted with heliograph to lure us to occupy a kopje which they held, but, detecting the deception, we returned."

The opposition met at Driefontein was somewhat unexpected, the idea being that if, there were any resistance it would be at Petrusburg. Profiting by their experience, the Boers were prepared for a British flanking movement, but in extending their position in order to avoid being outflanked they probably weakened their centre, thus making it possible for the British infantry to carry this with a bayonet charge.

Lord Roberts's Protest.

Lord Roberts's dignified protest against the abuse of the white flag is regarded as the most important fact of the situation. According to the accounts supplied by the correspondents the instance