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BLOEMFONTEI

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

THE BRITISH CASUALTIES.

I'wo Hundred and Twenty-one Men Wounded and Sixty or Seventy Killed and Missing-Roberts Advancing With Cavalry Brigade.

(Associated Press.) Roberts's actual entry into the Orange ree State capital seems likely to be elayed until to-morrow or late to-day, s a statement that he is going to renforce General French implies that oposition is being encountered on the utskirts of the town, though the definite statement that the British cavalry leader has positions which command the situaion leaves no doubt that the occupation will speedily be effected, and with it the London critics believe will accrue to the Buitish important captures of supplies, if not of prisoners.

Boers May Make a Stand.

However the Boers may make a strenous resistance until Lord Roberts's main army should catch up with the avalry, whose leader has once more een afforded the opportunity of reaping lory in first reaching the goal.

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

Only a few persons gathered around lemonstration marked the receipt of the ing. news. The predominating feeling seembe curiosity as to what wou 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, while the Mafeking dispatch of March th, published to-day, plainly disposed of the report that the besieged residents had vacuated the place and that the Boers ad retired from Boshof.

- --COMMANDS BLOEMFONTEIN.

London, March 13.-Lord Roberts telegraphs from Venters Vleid at 5.20 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 tactics. nim that after considerable opposition he had been able to occupy two hills close

n made prisoner. has been cut, and railway broken up. 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

THE BRITISH LOSSES.

London, March 13.-The war office has received the following additional dis-Vleid, dated March 12th: "Our march was again unopposed. We

are now about 18 miles from Blamfon-"The cavalry division is astride the about 60 or 70 killed or missing.

"Col. Umpholy has died of his wounds. lieut. Pratt, of the Essex Regiment, vas wounded severely.

"The wounds are as a rule more serous than usual owing to the expanding bullets which are freely used by the

MAFEKING STILL BESIEGED.

s Ella Little, an a doctorate at delberg. This is London, March 13 .- A dispatch receivnction has fallen ed by a South African firm in London, CONDITION.

5th, says the garrison at that place is London, March 13. 2.47 p.m.-Lord feeling acutely the stress of the siege. They are reduced to the use of horse flesh and bread made from horse forage, while the water is parisitically contam-

> "Typhoid, dysentery and diphtheria are epidemic, but it is impossible to isolate the victims. The sufferings of the women and children are terrible, and there are deaths in the women's laager daily. The natives are starving.

> "The military operations progress favorably. They have been extended to the brick fields, whence the enemy has been completely expelled.

Supplies for Mafeking.

London, March 3 .- A number of cablegrams have been received from Mafeking to-day, including one to a Birmingham firm, telling it to ship goods immediately, thus indicating the speedy relief of the

Lady Georgiana Cuezon also received the following dispatch from Lady Sarah Wilson at Mafeking: "Delighted to receive your cable of February 28th, All well March 1st."

The latter message was dispatched from Mafeking on March 4th by way of Col. Plumer's camp.

The indications are that Col. Plumer was at Lobatsi on March 9th, and as it the bulletin boards this morning. Here is only 57 miles thence to Mafeking, defiand there flags were displayed, but no nite news should be speedily forthcom-

since crossing the Modder River.

At the point where Col. Broadwood turned the Boer left he found himself under the fire of their nine-pounder. The Boers, however, ultimately hoisted the white flag. When Col. Broadwood advanced he was surprised to find the Boers had taken advantage of the cessation of fire to escape during the night. The Transvaal prisoners showed they were entirely surprised by Lord Roberts's

A Free Stater whose house President Kruger occupied during the Boer flight the railway station, which command from Osfontein, said he complained to the President about the depredations of "A brother of President Steyn has the Transvaalers, whereupon the President said: "No wonder we are beaten. "The telegraph line leading northward | The burghers entered into the war to "I am now starting with the third cavalry brigade, which I called up from stealers" fight for a righteous cause, but now they

STATES AND MEDIATION.

New York, March 13.-That the eye of the world are turned toward the United States as the only power that will that bitterness, almost to the point of at least make an effort to mediate behostilities, exists between the Colonial tween Great Britain and the South Afrirebels and the Free Staters of that lo- can Republics, is evidenced by the many specials to the morning papers. The Herald's Washington correspon

dent declares positively that the first step has already been taken by President Mc-Kinley. He says: "Upon the receipt yesterday of a dispatch from Consul Hay concerning the Boer appeal, it was impatch from Lord Roberts at Venter's mediately communicated to London, and it is anticipated that the British government, which has been expecting such proposals, will be able to give an answer. The administration has been stating that it would decline to use its good offices ailway six miles south of Bloemfontein, in the interest of peace unless asked by "There were 221 men wounded, and both powers to mediate, but it has Changed Its Attitude

to the extent of laying before the British government the proposals which United States Consul Hay received from Presidents Kruger and Steyn. It is understood that Mr. Hay reports having attended the conference when Presidents. Kruger and Steyn appealed to all naons to use their offices in the interest of peace. But it is stated that he reeived a special communication to the roposals that should be made, the Transvaal well understanding that the United States as the next best friend of Engdated Mafeking, March 6th, via Lobatsi, land would be the best channel through March 9th, says: "All well, but town which to appeal for peace. It is believed, however, that the administration London, March 13.—A dispatch to the did not commit itself, leaving to Great limes from Mafeking, dated Monday, Britain to determine without representaVICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1900.

Accept or Reject

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

Montagu White, in a signed Washingon 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 of permanency thereto. There is also the danger of the destruction of Johannesburg, which will involve the loss of \$150,000,000, or the entire amount of the British war loan. This, I imagine, will be a strategic necessity, as the Boers 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

Appeal Sent Last Saturday to England by Kruger was remarkable in both manner and matter. The language of the document fairly pulsates with religious fervor, and the appeal for peace is made in solemn phrases, such as "in the name of the Triune God."

It is not improbable that the ministers are awaiting the occupation of Bloemfontein before stating the conditions under which proposals for peace will be considered, and their declarations of a olicy, when published, is more likely to describe the conditions under which eace can hot be made, than it is to formulate a basis for a settlement of the South African complications.

ATTITUDE OF FRANCE

Paris, March 13 .- A representative of the Associated Press has secured from a responsible mouthpiece of the French government the following exposition of France's attitude in the matter of inter- are now rather to the south of Bloemfonvention in the Angle-Transvaal war, which is said have been solicited by Kruger. The official in question said: intervention, though up to 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 FLED DURING THE NIGHT whose relations with England prevent with great opposition in entering Bloemsuch suggestion being construed as an fontein." Dreifontein, Orange Free State, Sun- unfriendly act. The Emperor of Gerday, March 11.-Gen, Roberts's advance, many, for instance, might take the initihere yesterday across the scorching ative, or President McKinley, without plains from Poplar Grove was marked fear of friction which stands in the way by the most severe day's engagement of any action on our part, and after this is done full reliance can be placed on the The Boers stubbornly contested every unqualified support of France and Rusfoot of the ground, fleeing only at dusk. sia, whose only desire is to see the end Lord Roberts threw most of his troops of bloodshed and are eager to lend their against the centre of their weakened good offices in bringing about this end."

GERMANY AND THE APPEAL.

Berlin, March 13 .- It is semi-officially announced that when the Orange Free State and the Transvaal addressed to a number of the larger and small states a request for friendly mediation, the German government replied that it would willingly participate; provided the essential condition of such mediation were pre sent, namely the certainty that both belligerents desired it.

AMERICAN OFFER DECLINED.

London, March 13.—The United States government, at the request of President Kruger and President Steyn, has offered to the British government its services as about peace in South Africa. Lord Salisbury has not yet replied, but a representative of the Associated Press learns that there is little doubt that he will decline the United States good offices. He will do so, however, in terms as cordial and polite as those in which the offer was made. London, March 13.-6:15 p. m.-The White, saw Lord Salisbury at the foreign office this evening, and received a format be tolerated. reply from the British ogvernment, declining the good offices of the United States in regard to peace. It is understood the reasons of the Premier are identical with those already cabled to the Associated

The Negotiations, London, March 13.-The representations made to Great Britain simply transmitted communications made to United States onsul Adelbert Hay, of Pretoria, with the eccompanying assurance that anything the State Department could do in the interests of peace would be gladly undertaken. The well known aversion of the British government to any foreign intervention does not appear to have been aroused, and when Lord Salisbury will doubtless say he is unable to comply with the affair, he half of humanity.

Mr. Hay and the other consuls, subsesending their peace cablegram to Lord and in our own way." Salisbury, were asked to endeavor to secure the good offices of their respective

retary were forwarded on March 12th to a range of kopjes commanding the road

with the instructions outlined above. tant. These Mr. White, the charge d'affaires, personally presented to Lord Salisbury, who received them cordially, but without committing himself to any definite ex-

pressions of opinion. As the Boer overtures had been anewered to the effect that so propositions, acluding the maintenance of the republics, and even independence, could be sufficient importance to put himself on record with a negative reply.

GREAT BRITAIN'SREPLY.

follows: "Her Majesty's government can within a short time. nly answer your honors' telegram by It is learned that the papers p Republic or the Orange Free State."

mier's reply, saying Her Majesty's gov-ROBERTS'S ADVANCE.

British Force Were Not Opposed During Yesterday's March Towards Bloemfontein. London, March 13.-A dispatch to the

Daily News from Venters Vleit, dated last evening, says: "We left Asvodel Kop this morning, preceded by cavalry and marched here, a distance of about 15 miles. The army has been following Kaal Spruit and we

"All the division have not joined the main advance. Lord Roberts's head-"We believe it is true the Transvaal has quarters are at Gregowskis's Farm, You sent a request to the powers for their will remember that the 'reform' prisoners were tried before Judge Gregowski.

tein and only 12 miles off.

"By advancing along Kaal Spruit, Lord Roberts has again outwitted the Boers, who had entrenched themselves along the Modder, thinking that our route would be in that direction.

We found most of the farms along our line of march deserted with white flags flying over the Lousest. All the belongings worth removal had been taken away and there were evident signs that occupants left in a hurry, things being littered about. The commander-in-chief has given strict orders that mothing is to

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 flat country due east of Asvodel Kop. He will probably seize the railway south of Bioemfontein, 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 railway and the stores of troops from the Orange River district can be gotten

The Political Aspect.

Such confidence is now felt in the military operations that interest rather centres in the political aspect of the war. The Daily News quotes Whitelaw Reid as saying in a private letter: "1 give you hearty congratulations on the changed 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 unusuar 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 pubintermediary with the view of bringing Austria-Hungary and Italy will decline licly here, but it is quite certain that 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 the government will decline to open negotiations with the Boer republics except on the basis of complete surrender, United States charge d'affaires, Mr. Henry and will also make it perfectly clear that nothing in the shape of intervention will

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 for 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 distinctly repugnant to this country. It would be wholly inadmissible, and the Dutch minwilt also probably express his apprecia- ister at Washington is entirely mistaken tion of the United States efforts in be- in supposing we would listen to such proposals if they come from a nation on terms of cordial intimacy with us. We quent to Presidents Kruger and Steyn mean to settle this controversy ourselves

The Boer Force.

Venter Vleit, March 12.-Evening.bringing outside influence to bear upon The British forces, which since the fight-Lord Salisbury's reply to the Boer over- ing at Dreifontein have been marching rapidly hither, have turned the Boer po-These efforts have been fruitless, ex- sition. Our cavalry are ahead. The consul, whose representations to the sec- 12,000 strong with 18 guns in position on rection of Abraham's Kraal.

tion on the part of the President whether the United States embassy in London, to Bioemfontein, which is 15 miles dis-

KRUGER'S APPEAL. Statement by Mr. Balfour in House o Commons-The Independence of

Republics.

London, March 12 .- Mr. Balfour, in the House of Commons to-day, replying considered, the presentation of the Am to a question as to whether, consistently erican offer was already too late, but the with public interests, he could state the Premier apparently deemed it a matter of essential conditions on which alone the government would entertain peace posals 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 founda-London, March 13, 4 p.m.—In the tion for the report that President Kru-House of Lords to-day the Premier, ger had addressed a communication to ly Lord Salisbury, read the British govern- the government, Mr. Balfour reiterated ment's reply to Presidents Kruger and his promise that papers bearing on this Steyn. The concluding sentence is as subject would be presented to the House

saying it is not prepared to assent to the by Mr. Balfour will be presented to-morndependence of either the South African row and will confirm in every respec the news cabled by the Associated Press London, March 13.—The telegrams Friday last, that the peace rumors were from Presidents Kruger and Steyn to founded on the fact that President Kruthe Marquis of Salisbury were read in ger had appealed to Lord Salisbury for s both Houses of parliament to-day and cessation of hostilities, setting forth at the concluding paragraph of the Pre- length by cable the terms which he was willing to accept, and also that the cabled ernment was not prepared to assent to dispatch to the Premier was signed by the independence of either of the South President Steyn as well as by President Afrean Republic or the Orange Free Kruger. Lord Salisbury's answer is ex-State, elicited prolonged cheers. Kruger by the Associated Press at actly as given by the Associated Press at had met with an emphatic rejection at

> Paris, March 13 .- The Gaulois publish- onet. s 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 governnent, through the United States, the comlition it would accept for the opening of negotiations on the basis of the independence of the republics."

LEYDS AND THE IRISH. Thanks Mr. Clancy, a Nationalist Mem-

ber, 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 par-

liament for the north division of County

Dublin, thanking the public corporation for the resolution of sympathy for the South African Republic: South African Republics, says: "The

of your countrymen."

CANADIANS FOR AFRICA. Twenty-Five Men Left Toronto Yester-

dress is presented.

day 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, on sudden word from Ottawa. They will sail after all on the Monterey with Strathona's Horse. One or two changes took place, and one new man was W. O. Mc-Carthy, brother of Leighton McCarthy,

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 Drefontein-Battle Lasted the Whole Day-Over 100 Killed.

Dreifontein, 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 Dreifontein kopjes yesterday. General Kelly-Kenny's division ar- volved. The enemy evacuated and reriving, severe fighting ensued,

forward to-day.

During the fighting, in which five pletely tired by the repeated withdrawregiments took part, with artillery, the als. The turning movement was begun Boers, though forced from their centre too late. The enemy attempted with position clung tenaciously to the other beliograph to lure us to occupy a kopje

Shelling the British freely with three guns and two Vickers-

Maxims. The British cavalry begun 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 Petrusberg unopposed. General Kelly-Kenny, after fol-

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 rising ground and even attempted to out-

Meanwhile the Sixth division of infantry, advancing on the Boers' left, slowforced 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 commando. 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 Dreifontein, March 11, 7:15 a.m., says: "The enemy opposed us throughout esterday's march and from their knowledge of the country gave us considerable trouble. Owing, however, to the admirthe same time, namely that the advances able conduct of the troops, the enemy were unable to prevent us reaching our the hands of Lord Salisbury, who also destination. The brunt of the fighting said that no such attempt to retain the fell on General Kelly-Kenny's divisions, independence of the Transvaal could be two battalions of which, the Welsh and considered for a moment by the British Essex, turned the Boers out of two strong positions at the point of the bay-

> "I cannot get the precise number of casualties before I march, but will communicate it 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 Eustace, 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 artillery-Lieut. Devenish. Medical corps-Major White, Lieut. Berne. Australian artillery-Colonel Umphley, abdomen,

> "The following telegram has been addressed to their honors, the state pres-idents of the Orange Free State and the

"'Another instance having occurred of resolution is greatly appreciated by me. gross abuse of the white flag or the sig-I know have keenly it will be prized by nal of holding up hands in token of surour much suffering country still strug- render, it is my duty to inform you that, gling for independence and liberty. It if such abuse occurs again, I shall most is a satisfaction to know that a consid- reluctantly be compelled to order my erable part of the Irish population in the troops to disregard the white flag entire-United Kingdom, mindful of the blood ly. The instance occurred on a kopje being shed in South Africa, continue to east of Dreifontein farm yesterday af-

extend sympathy to our people. May ternoon and was witnessed by some of this sympathy be re-echoed by numbers | my own staff officers, as well as myself, and resulted in the wounding of several Dublin March 12.-Wm, Redmond, of my officers and men. A large quan-M.P., has written to the clerk of the tity of explosive bullets of three different corporation protesting against the pro- kinds was found in Commandant Cronposed address of welcome to Queen Vic- je's laager and this has been the case in toria and expressing his intention to re- every engagement with your honors' sign his seat in the council if the ad- 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,

"The white flag treachery was personally witnessed at Dreifontein 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 Austral-

Boers under heavy fire. The New South Wales mounted infantry joined in the pursuit of the Boers Lorthward.

ian Horse Brigade, with the Scots

Greys, advanced within 800 yards of the

Saved Their Guns.

The Morning Post correspondent at Dreifontein, telegraphing Sunday, says: "The fight throughout was much inoccupied positions, subtly concealing The Boers resisted stubbornly, but their intentions, and only withdrawing were driven from their centre position. their guns a few minutes prior to their leaving a number of dead and forty impending capture. The guns outranged prisoners. The British force is moving ours, the naval brigade not arriving in time. Our cavalry horses were comwhich they held, but, detecting the de-

ception, we returned." The opposition met at Driefontein was somewhat unexpected, the idea being that if, there were any resistance it would be at Petrusberg. 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 These efforts have been fruitiess, etc. Boers were reported this morning about lowing the river bank, moved in the distance of the United States Boers were reported this morning about lowing the river bank, moved in the distance of the white flag is regarded as the most important fact of the situation. tion. According to the accounts sup-At Dreifontein, about eight miles south plied by the correspondents the instance