

SKIRMISHES BETWEEN BRITISH AND BOERS

Several Small Engagements Are Reported to Have Taken Place in Cape Colony.

SEVENTEEN BURGHERS KILLED AND WOUNDED

On the British Side Nine Men Were Wounded—Sensational Reports From Mafeking—Meeting of Imperial Parliament—The Queen's Speech.

(Associated Press.) London, Oct. 17.—A special dispatch from Capetown says that three hundred Boers and eighteen British have been killed in a battle at Mafeking.

British Victory. London, Oct. 17.—Col. Baden Powell made a sortie from Mafeking in force and attacked the Boers who were investing the town.

Two Engagements. Pretoria, Oct. 14.—(Delayed in transmission.)—Heavy fighting took place this morning north of Mafeking.

A second engagement followed in which nine British soldiers were wounded. Then while some of Cronje's troops were near the broken railway bridge, nine miles north of Mafeking, an approaching train, loaded with dynamite, was fired upon and blown up.

Pretoria, Oct. 15.—(Delayed in transmission.)—Further dispatches received by the government say that fighting continues north of Mafeking.

The British, after the second engagement, retired in the direction of the town, but resumed the attack shortly afterwards, two burghers being killed and three wounded.

Another Fight. Kimberley, Oct. 17.—An armored train while reconnoitering near Spytfontein, engaged the Boers, killing five and wounding seven. The British had no losses.

The Boers in Natal. London, Oct. 17.—Belated dispatches from the scene of action in South Africa throw little fresh light upon the situation.

The Orange Free State burghers are apparently threatening to invade Cape Colony by way of Norval's Pont and Aliwal North, both of which are at their mercy, if they possess artillery. So far as known the only British force stationed at Aliwal North is a detachment of the Royal Berkshire regiment.

Sensational Stories. Today's news from the western border probably reduces the alleged heavy fighting at Mafeking to ordinary proportions.

Apparently the earlier sensational stories originated in skirmishes between an armored train and a small detachment of Boers, although since then much may have happened to the little garrison.

It is difficult to understand how re-

fugees arriving at Lorenzo Marques should have come into possession of news of serious Boer losses at Mafeking.

Protecting the Railways. Pretoria, Oct. 16.—(Delayed in transmission.)—As it has been discovered attempts are being made to tamper with the railway, landrosts have been authorized to shoot, on sight, all persons found

near railways with dynamite.

Another Post Isolated. Capetown, Oct. 17.—Aliwal North, Cape Colony, is now isolated.

Trans-Atlantic Liners Chartered. New York, Oct. 17.—The British government is seriously crippling the trans-Atlantic carrying business, the World says, by snapping up a number of vessels to be used as transports during the campaign against the Boers.

Mr. Henry Labouchere, Liberal member for Northampton, will move an amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne in favor of arbitration in the Transvaal embroglio even at this late date.

Mr. John E. Redmond, Parnellite, member for Waterford, will move an amendment protesting against the war.

Mr. Henry Seton Kerr, Conservative member for St. Helens, Lancashire, has given notice of a question for Thursday, concerning the alleged disloyal attentions of certain Irish Nationalist members of the House, which he will contend is in violation of the oath of allegiance.

He will take special exception to an expression by Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Parnellite, of a hope that Irishmen in British regiments, instead of firing on Boers would fire on Englishmen.

Mr. Michael Davitt, Nationalist, and Mr. William Redmond, Parnellite.

Opening Ceremonies. The opening ceremonies occupied a quarter of an hour. There were scarcely a score of persons present when the Lord High Chancellor, Baron Halsbury, took his seat on the woolsack.

The galleries of both houses were crowded with ladies. United States Ambassador Choate and Mrs. Choate, with members of the embassy, were in the diplomatic gallery of the House of Lords.

Mr. Charles Tower, United States minister to Russia, was also present.

United States Senator Nelson, of Minnesota, and Mr. R. McCormick, Chicago, witnessed the proceedings in the House of Commons.

There was little competition for the honor of being the first to arrive. It fell to Mr. John Cunningham Macdonald, Conservative member for North Kilkenny, who was closely followed by Mr. Wm. F. Massey Malinowski, Conservative member

for Central Fifeburg. Subsequent arrivals were slow.

The regular formality of searching the vaults under the House of Parliament for traces of a treasonable conspiracy was carried out.

Cabinet Meeting. Prior to the meeting of parliament, the Prince of Wales visited the Premier, the Marquis of Salisbury, at the foreign office.

The cabinet met this morning at the residence of Mr. Arthur J. Balfour, first lord of the treasury and government leader in the House of Commons.

was wretched, and not a single shell struck the train, which then made bold to approach nearer and opened fire with Maxims. The burghers replied with heavy rifle fire, again shooting wildly.

Subsequently the crew learned that five Boers and two Boer horses were killed. Not a member of the British force was so much as touched.

Poor Shooting. Capetown, Oct. 17.—The fight with the armored train at Kimberley, in which the Boers lost more men than they did at Majuba hill, is held to prove that their shooting is not so good as it is reported to be.

Big Battle Reported. The report that the Boers have attacked Mafeking and have been thrice repulsed with heavy losses is reported from Colesburg.

A special dispatch from Mafeking says that all was intact there up to Saturday night. At that time the Boer artillery was being brought up, but it had not been placed in position.

According to these advices the British have blown up the Capetown railway bridge over the Orange river, with a view of checking the Boer advance southward.

Situation in Natal. London, Oct. 17.—The Dundee correspondent of the Standard telegraphing on Monday night says: "The Boers have brought artillery from Newcastle and are destroying the railway at Inganum in order to prevent the approach of our armored trains."

Ladysmith, Oct. 17.—The threatened Boer assault upon Glencoe is believed



THE ADVANCE OF THE BOERS—The Above Sketch Map Shows the Comparative Position of Laing's Neck Occupied by the Boers; Newcastle, Where the British Garrison Threatens to Retire; and Ladysmith Where the Nearest British Force of Any Strength is Located.

to be a faint in the hope of weakening the garrison here and exposing the towns on the westward.

The Boers are resting preparatory to completing their encircling movement for an attack upon Dundee. They cannot advance much farther without coming into contact with British cavalry, who screen the position.

Nevertheless, the situation is such that little fighting is expected in the near future in this section apart from desultory outpost skirmishes.

All the women and children have left Dundee.

Rising of Basutos. London, Oct. 18.—Telegraphing from Ladysmith, the Morning Post's correspondent says the Basutos have risen against the Free State.

The Government's Future Policy. London, Oct. 17.—The Marquis of Granby moved the address of the peers in reply to the Queen's speech.

After criticizing the action of the Transvaal executive council in sending the ultimatum, the Marquis of Granby observed that "it was not impossible the union of that republic and the Orange Free State originated in some deeper scheme which may have lurked in the minds of the two governments for some time."

"The scheme for a joint movement," he continued, "is not aided, I trust, by Afrikaners in other parts of South Africa. But if it exists, it is one that would tend seriously to impair the power of Great Britain. The unanimous feeling here, however, is that the paramount power in South Africa should be Great Britain."

Baron Barnard seconded the address. The Earl of Kimberley, Liberal leader, said parliament had been summoned at a solemn moment, when Britons found themselves engaged in a war which was in some aspects

A Civil War. Of course, it was not a civil war precisely, but it was one in which a number of British subjects not of the English race were deeply engaged.

"Regarding the calling out of the reserves and the voting of the supplies," continued his lordship, "I can speak with no doubtful voice. Whatever may be our opinions as to the past history of this melancholy business, we are as ready as the usual supporters of the government to vindicate

the honor of the Empire and protect its interests."

Lord Kimberley said the government could not have sent a better reply than they did send to the extraordinary ultimatum of the Transvaal. He warmly praised the readiness of the reserves, and expressed entire confidence that British soldiers would do their duty in South Africa in the future as they had done it everywhere in the past.

"There are some points in our negotiations, however," observed his lordship, "which I have not viewed with satisfaction. The negotiations have not been conducted in a prudent, and certainly not in a successful manner. My own interpretation of the word 'suzerainty' is that there are in the London convention certain stipulations which limits

British Sovereignty in the Transvaal, and that to the extent of those limitations there is constituted 'suzerainty'.

The Marquis of Salisbury replying to Lord Kimberley said: "The Boer government were pleased to dispense with any explanation on our part respecting the causes or justification of war. They have done what no previous occasion on our part could have justified. They have done what the strongest nation has never in its strength done to any opponent it had challenged. They issued a defiance so audacious that I could scarcely depict it without using words unsuited for 'this assembly, and by so doing they libeled this country from the necessity of explaining to the people of England

Why We Are at War. But for this no one could have predicted we would ever be at war.

"There have been very grave questions between us, but up to the time of the ultimatum the modes we had suggested of settling them were successful, and the spirit in which we were proceeding was encouraging. We lately had hoped that the future had in reserve for us a better fate, but now all question of possible peace, all question of justifying the attitude we had assumed, and all questions of pointing out errors and the grave opposition of which the Transvaal has been guilty, all these questions have been wiped away in this one great insult which leaves us no other course than the one which has received the assent of the whole nation and which it is our desire to carry out. It is a satisfactory feature of our policy during these later days that on questions involving vital interests and the honor of the country there are no distinctions of party."

His lordship said he believed that a desire to get rid of

The Word "Suzerainty" and the reality which it expressed had been the controlling desire, the dream, of President Kruger's life. It was for that the President of the Transvaal had set up the negotiations of 1884, and in order to get that hateful word out of the convention he had made considerable sacrifices. Mr. Kruger had used oppression of the Uitlanders as a screw to obtain a concession on the subject of suzerainty.

"I quite agree," he remarked, "that the word suzerainty is not necessary for Great Britain's present purpose. Situated as Great Britain is in South Africa towards the Transvaal and the Uitlanders, she has a duty to fulfil which has nothing to do with any contention or any question of suzerainty. This word, however, being put into the treaty obtained an artificial value and meaning which has prevented Great Britain from entirely abandoning it. If Great Britain dropped it, she would be intimating that she also repudiated and abandoned the ideas attached to it."

In concluding the Premier dealt briefly with the government's

Future Policy in South Africa. declaring that, while there must be no doubt that the white races in South Africa would be put upon an equality, and due precautions taken for the "philanthropic, friendly and improving treatment of those countless indigenous races of whose destiny I fear we have so far been forgetful."

"These things must be insisted upon in future," exclaimed Lord Salisbury. "By what means they are to be obtained, I do not know; I hope they may be consistent with a very large amount of autonomy on the part of the race which raises its individual share in government as much as the Dutch people do. But with that question we are not concerned now. We have only to make it clear that great objects essential to the power of England in South Africa, to the good government of South Africa, and to the rights of all the races concerned, are the objects of the British government, objects which with the full support of the nation and without distinction of party the government are now pursuing and in which they will persevere and persevere to the end.

"It was largely due to the character of Mr. Kruger and to the ideas pursued by him that we have been led step by step to the present moment, when we are compelled to decide whether the future of South Africa will be a growing Dutch supremacy or a safe, perfectly established supremacy of the English people." (Cheers.)

"The House of Lords agreed to the address and then adjourned. Liberal Leader's Speech. In the House of Commons, Sir Alexander Fuller-Aceland-Hood, Conservative member for West Somerset, moved the address in reply to the Queen's speech. Sir Alexander said they had never met in graver counsel, not only for South Africa, but for the whole Empire. Dwelling on the horrors of war, he declared that war should not be undertaken except from absolute necessity, but that in this case, all other means having failed, war had become necessary to establish equal rights for the white races in South Africa and to remove the grievances of Uitlanders. He dwelt on the "splendid offers of

Ser Busch

Plumbers

AND HIS SCHOOL

WINE MARKET

STOCK SALE

Gun, breech loaders

J. R. BOOTH

THE MIDLAND

MAN, AGE 45

Victoria