STREET.

ET.

not only to-day but yesterday

aker—"Order. Are you ready
estion.
stion was agreed to with only
sentients and the house rose
fore four o'clock.

TICE OF MOTIONS.

Joseph Martin—To introduce a
end the Masters and Servants'
lined in chapter 43 of the
f 1899.

McPhillips—To move for a re-
rrespondence (telegrams and
hich may have passed between
cial government or any mem-
of and any officer of the gov-
elating to the sending of Con-
ly from Nelson to Slocan, the
Kelly of the secretary of the
nion there, and the subsequent
this man upon bail, followed
withdrawal from the Slocan
bsequent resignation.

Prentice—To introduce a bill
the Inspection of Metalliferous
t, 1899.

STIONS TO BE ASKED.

McPhillips—Is it the intention
y date to have the various acts
ter commissioners, acting under
Clauses Conservation Act,
er the powers of the Lieuten-
nor-in-Council, approved by the
t-Governor-in-Council.

McPhillips—1. What is the ex-
of the change of proceeding in
n that followed the action of
Kelly in arresting the secre-
e miners' union. 2. Has it been
d upon that it is unwise and
e public interest to oppose any
ction decided upon by the min-
, although it is in contravention
w?

EES FOR LAWYERS.

return presented in the legis-
Hon. Mr. Henderson, the sums
ng the past year for legal "ser-
e set forth as follows: Gard,
Rook, $3,304.79; Bodwell &
088.50; A. L. Belyea, $1,120;
Gray, $102; A. W. MacNeill,
Higgins, $140; H. S. Cayley,
C. B. Jack, $315; G. E.
$139.75; J. S. Yates, $25;
& Martin, $75; J. D. Swanson,
. W. Nuzzun, $600; H. L.
, $15; A. S. Black, $15; O.
er, $75; J. A. Macdonald, $40;
nson, $750; Fulton & Ward,
A. Galliher, $215; W. H. Ed-
34; P. W. Wilson, $15; F.
$90; MacNeill & Deacon, $190;
ien, $15; Yates & Jay, $60;
& Dockrill, $100; E. M. Yar-
5; and Galliher & Wilson, $15.

WAR NOTES.

f the prisoners taken in Lord
ld's successful skirmish Janu-
s a grandson of President Kru-

* * *

upply of shirts in 'Maritzburg
ran so short at one time that
nded had to be dressed in
ngales" with frills round the
The men were intensely amused
garments and begged leave to
em as mementoes.

* * *

Berliner Neueste Nachrichten,
the view of confounding all
e sowers of discord between
l and Germany," has just pub-
number of quotations from
delivered by Prince Bismarck,
zing the importance of keeping
terms with England.

* * *

re was an obliging farmer here."
a Hussar from Arundel, "who
bring chickens to our officers'
nd refused payment for them.
one night he was seen coming
the enemy's camp. The next
e returned to find his house occu-
our troops. They are going to
him."

* * *

per Gorton, of the Imperial Light
who succumbed to the twelve
he received in the attack on
nith, was a young Johannes-
rewer from Burton-on-Trent. At
laagte the chief magistrate of
esburg called out, "Hello, Gor-
nd shot him as he was returning
utation.

* * *

ter from Naauwpoort says: "We
a grand capture yesterday. A
upposed to contain a piano, and
sed to a lady in the Orange Free
was opened and found to contain
y machine gun. Of course, we
ng to play it ourselves."
her reports from Lorenzo Marques
hat large quantities of cyanide of
um have been forwarded to the
s commandoes for the purpose of
ng the pools in the British line of
when our advance begins.

* * *

r Majesty read with feelings of
ation and pride the record by his
nding officer of the noble conduct
our son, Midshipman Huddart,
heroic but untimely death the
deeply regrets." This gracious
ition by Her Majesty is contained
etter sent by Sir Arthur Bigge to
ames Huddart, whose son was
in the battle of Graspan. Her
y has asked for and accepted a
raph of the gallant midshipman,
vas an officer on the Doris.

The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

FORTY SECOND YEAR. THE VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1900 VOLUME XLII—NO. 23

Waits For Surrender

Suggested Reason for Absence of Further Report From Roberts.

British Forces Put At Ease by Arrival of Large Supply Column.

Buller Says Continuous Fighting Prevents Report of British Casualties.

By Associated Press.

Paardeberg, Feb. 22.—There is little change in the situation. There was intermittent shelling to-day and during the night a large supply column arrived. It is reported 2,000 Boers are operating northwards of this place.

Yesterday evening, after the last gun had been fired, the Shropshires rushed forward 200 yards further towards the bed of the river and found a number of Boer dead.

Gen. French captured 75 more prisoners. Gordon and a patrol on the westward side took 30 men.

London, Feb. 24.—The despatch from Paardeberg, dated Thursday, 22, made public this afternoon, shows that the position of Cronje apparently had not changed for the better or worse up to Thursday, and no confirmation of the Durban report of his surrender has been received.

The arrival of the British supply column at Paardeberg may have given Roberts the opportunity to resume his fierce attack on Cronje's laager, for doubtless he cannot keep up the vigorous cannonade with which he started. The long wait may be due to a determination to starve out Gen. Cronje's gallant force.

Other Paardeberg despatches says the Boer plight is still hopeless, and that Lord Roberts is ready to meet all the reinforcements.

A war bulletin published in Pretoria on February 22 said communication with Gen. Cronje was still open on February 21, and that reports of heavy fighting occurred east of Gen. Cronje's laager had been received.

PROVISIONS FOR LADYSMITH.

Ladysmith reported by heliograph on Friday that the Boers were retiring northward in large numbers. Meanwhile the certainty of relief is so strong at Durban that the authorities are actively preparing train loads of provisions, luxuries and medical comforts for despatch to the beleaguered town as soon as communications are re-opened.

The war office received to-day from Gen. Buller a list of the casualties resulting from the fighting of February 22 as follows:

Killed—Lieut. the Hon. R. Cathcart, son of Lord Cathcart, of the Rifle Brigade, Lieuts. Coe and Parker, of the Lancashire Regiment.

Wounded—Fourteen officers, including Major-General Wynne and Col. Harris, of the East Surreys.

Gen. Buller concludes: "Owing to the continuous fighting it is impossible at present to give the number of men killed or wounded."

THE BOER BULLETINS.

How Retreat in Cape Colony Becomes Glorious Victory—Crumb of Comfort From Natal.

Pretoria, Feb. 23.—A special despatch from Colesberg dated Thursday, February 22, says that Commandant Delarey moved out and occupied a position east and south of Arundel, where the British were encamped. At sunrise the British attacked the Boers with cannon, infantry and cavalry, the Boers replying. Late in the evening, when the Boers were attacked in their rear by a force, presumably from Naauwpoort, rendering the Boer position untenable, the British attempted to storm the Boer cannon, but were repulsed with heavy loss. The Boer casualties as far as known were two men wounded.

Boer Head Laager, Natal, Friday, Feb. 23.—Yesterday the British crossed the Tugela in large numbers, with cannon and over 60 wagons. They attacked the Ermelo and Middleburgh commandos, but were forced to retreat under a heavy Mauser fire. A renewed attempt to storm the Ermelo was tried this morning, but the British were again driven off. The fighting continues. The British losses were very heavy.

The Generals report that the commandos are fighting bravely.

Ladysmith fired a few shells this morning at our outposts till silenced by "Long Tom."

BRITISH TOLERATION.

Irish Officer of Boer Army Allowed in Nomination for Imperial Parliament.

London, Feb. 24.—The nomination of Major McBride of the Irish Brigade in the service of the Boers, to contest South Mayo, vice Mr. Michael Davitt, resigned, has caused no little outcry. Another Nationalist, Mr. John O'Donnell, opposes Major McBride. Consequently on February 28, when the voting is done, Mr. O'Donnell and the absentee candidate will fight it out between them.

The authorities pay so little attention to Irish disaffection that no steps have been taken to prevent Major McBride contesting the seat. The indulgence of the government of which this is an instance, fosters the feeling that Irish advocacy of the Boer cause, and in fact the whole Irish movement, at present, is of no importance. This it is claimed is as the government desires it.

If you have never tasted Jesse Moore "AA" whiskey, try it and be convinced that it is the best whiskey in the world.

NOTES FROM TH ECAPITAL.

Rock Bay Bridge Before Public Works Department—Official List of Canadian Casualties.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Feb. 24.—A telegram from Strathcona to-day gives an official list of Canadians killed at Paardeberg, showing the number as 18, the same as announced in Roberts' list published to-day. Strathcona adds that the details of the wounded are not yet available.

Two hundred horses for Strathcona's and 20 men arrived to-night.

Mayor Hayward wired Col. Prior to-day to secure permission for Victoria to immediately repair Rock Bay bridge. Col. Prior saw the public works department, but could not get a definite answer to-day.

BULLER FINDS TROUBLE.

Boers Largely Reinforced in Positions North of the Tugela.

London, Feb. 23.—Gen. Buller, according to a despatch from Chieveley, dated Wednesday, finds the Boers in positions north of the Tugela largely reinforced. This seems strange.

The Imperial Politicians.

Radical Member on the Rack for Alleged Purchase of Stolen Letters.

Ministers In Confusion Over Conscription Idea—Attack on Chamberlain.

By Associated Press.

London, Feb. 24.—Apart from the change that came over the situation in South Africa, the event of the week was undoubtedly Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's vigorous, almost vicious, self-defence in the House of Commons. The Colonial Secretary met the accusations and demands with one of those terrible fighting speeches for which he is noted. With venomous retort and scorn he once more denied complicity in the Jameson raid, denied the so-called revelations of the Independence Belge, and with deft phrases presented the opposition agitation as a personal attack upon himself. In the heat of the debate, and with an overwhelming majority ready to cheer every bitter phrase, Mr. Chamberlain carried all before him, but after reflection some of those who believe Mr. Chamberlain to be absolutely untainted and who place no importance upon letters stolen from Mr. Hawksley, counsel of the British South African Company, regretted that the Colonial Secretary took the matter in such a personal spirit. Viewing this feeling, the Sunday Review, while strongly deprecating another raid inquiry at the present juncture, deplores Mr. Chamberlain's undignified attitude and reminds him that the good faith of a secretary of state is not a personal but a public matter. Continuing, the paper says, it regrets that he did not court a resumption of the raid inquiry instead of leaving it to Mr. A. J. Balfour, but adds that obvious reasons of state prohibited such a proceedure at the present time.

In the meantime, Mr. Gavin Brown-Clark, Radical member of parliament for Caithness, who was formerly consul-general of the South African Republic, stands accused by Mr. Hawksley of buying stolen property in the shape of letters in regard to the raid. Though Mr. Clark has denied the allegations printed in the St. James's Gazette, he has not, so far, denied Mr. Hawksley's charges.

His fellow Radicals are much stirred regarding the matter, but Mr. Clark seems unlikely to take any steps unless his constituents force an issue.

Lord Rosebery this week described as the forsaken and sole oracle of "lugubrious vaticinations" has been bantering the Lords of the government in the lightest satire, upon the fix they have got into by the unexpected change of the Wemyss resolution, which originally proposed to enforce the existing statute providing for conscription, but which at the last moment was altered to read that the statute be amended in order to make it available to be put into force, a change which upset Lord Lansdowne and the Duke of Devonshire's carefully prepared speeches to such an extent that Lord Rosebery satirically moved an adjournment to enable them to prepare new speeches, and even Lord Salisbury laughed.

DEFIES HIS CONSTITUENTS.

Member of Imperial Commons in Disfavor for His Attitude Towards the War.

London, Feb. 23.—The Conservatives of Bodmin division of Cornwall, incensed by the attitude towards the war of their representative in the House of Commons, Mr. Leonard Henry Courtney formerly deputy speaker, have demanded his resignation. The member, however, refuses to resign. He claims he contested the seat on condition that he be allowed to act independently.

Mr. Courtney, who was elected on a Unionist vote, is an advanced Liberal, who was opposed to Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule scheme. He was formerly under secretary of state for the home department, colonial chairman and financier for the treasury. He recently became chairman of the South African Conciliation Committee.

TRAIN DERAILED.

Chippewa Falls, Wis., Feb. 21.—The west-bound passenger train on the Wisconsin Central, due here at 1:30 p. m., was derailed three miles west of Curtis. The entire train excepting the engine left the track. One passenger was seriously hurt and 15 others were painfully bruised.

BRITISH VALOR IN ATTACK AND DEFENCE.

Thrilling Stories of Brilliant Heroism by Garrisons of Mafeking and Ladysmith---Proud Prestige of the Empire's Soldiery Maintained by Willing Personal Sacrifice.

Eluding Pickets by Night Boers Gain Footing In Outworks.

An Awful Day for the Defenders—Victoria Cross Hero Slain In Final Rush.

London, Feb. 23.—Few more brilliant stories have been written than the three column account in the Standard from Ladysmith of the terrific assault upon that camp by the Boers January 6th. Many of the details told by the Standard correspondent are intensely interesting. First of all, he gives a lucid explanation of the mysterious way in which the Boers managed to get so close before they were discovered.

"At 7 o'clock Friday night," he writes "five hundred picked Boers rode from the lager behind Bulwana and fording the river came to a kopje south of Ceasar's Camp. They then bivouacked until one o'clock in the morning when they crept cautiously along the ravine and across Fouries Spruit. Avoiding our pickets and patrols one section moved up the ravine to the eastern shoulder and climbed silently up to the slope in the fold of the hill.

"Another company moved along the boulder strewn ascent towards the plateau on the south. Three or four thousand were in reserve among the kopjes and broken ground. They were ready to assist the storming parties and to occupy the hills in force as soon as their comrades secured a footing.

"In the attack upon Ceasar's Camp, one party of fifty Boers seeking to make good their retreat were overtaken by the Border Mounted Rifles and escaped for the moment by declaring that they were the town guard. This trick was, however, becoming too stale, and every man was shot down as he came into the open.

"The Boers, as I have repeatedly said, appear to think that the white flag is a legitimate weapon of offense and may be used as a cloak for any treachery. A Boer officer with a dozen armed followers advanced up the hill with a white flag and shouted that they were coming to surrender. When called upon to drop their weapons they made it clear that their intention was not surrender but treachery.

"When, after many hours of fierce fighting, the Boers were almost repulsed from Caesar's Camp, a storm came to their aid. The volleying musketry of hail and the roar of thunder added a dreadful note to the cannonade, and sheets of flooding rain turned the spruits into raging torrents and the plains into lakes. To see fifty yards through this blinding shower was impossible. Seizing the moment, the Boers pushed forward another force from behind Bulwana, but they did not get beyond the kopje east of Caesar's Camp, where our naval gun threw a few shells into their midst. The storming party made a dash down the hillside hoping to find protection in the storm. Many were shot in flight while others flung themselves into the river and were swept out of sight. This rush brought the fight at Caesar's Camp to a close amid a fusilade that almost drowned the thunder.

"But it was at Wagon Hill where the most dramatic features of the assault occurred. Of this, the Standard correspondent says:

"Col. Edwards was leading his men into position in the east of Wagon Hill, when a bullet struck him in the shoulder Though robbed of their leader at a critical moment, the Light Horse never wavered. Creeping forward to points that seemed least exposed to the devastating fire from the front of the hill, they fought manfully, often within 20 and often 10 yards of their enemy.

"This duel went on for hours without any manifest sign of advantage on either side, though men were falling on every hand. Major Bowen called for volunteers among the 60th Rifles. Only half a dozen came forward, and with this handful of gallant heroes, the brave officer dashed at a strong position held by the enemy. Not a man lived to tell the story of their valor. Lieut. Tod with 25 men, made another gallant charge. Thus the fight wavered through the long and anxious hours of the morning.

"At noon the Devons came to the rescue. The Gordons having no officer were again falling back, but rallied to the call of a Major Miller-Walnutt, whose gigantic figure was soon at the head of a desperate charge. The enemy left the emplacement and rushing up to the western ascent took cover among the rocks. Their presence was not less dangerous and another effort was made to dislodge them.

"A subaltern was in charge of a working party of Sappers. Lieut. Digby Jones, a youth of 22, who had already won fame by the destruction of the howitzer on Surprise Hill. When the enemy first appeared on the crest of Wagon Hill, Lieut. Digby Jones engaged the storming party from a sangar on the west front. Driven from that position, he had been conspicuous throughout the engagement for acts of heroism that attracted the notice of Col. Hamilton, who had decided to recommend him for the Victoria Cross.

"Collecting a company of Sappers, Rifles and Highlanders, he led them against the new position held by the enemy. As they dashed up the narrow path, the Boers, never imagining that men could display such reckless courage, called upon them to throw up their hands. Bullet and bayonet convinced them of their error and the position was ours.

"But fate was holding the shears over the head of the heroic lifeman hour or two afterwards, when we had at great sacrifice reconquered the western limit of the hill, Lieut. Digby Jones was in the gun emplacement with Major Miller-Walnutt and one or two men. The enemy had been driven back, yet maintained a searching fire and having received strong reinforcements was preparing for another advance. Suddenly three or four dark shadows were cast over the parapet, in which there were no loopholes. Von Wyk, with the leader of the Harrismith command, Field Cornet De Villiers, and another brave Boer, were making their last desperate charge. Major Miller-Walnutt shot his man and fell himself from a bullet aimed at the back of his head. A corporal of the Sappers slew De Villiers, whose bandolier was almost filled with explosive bullets. Lieut. Dibgy Jones, running out of the emplacemnt, shot Commandant Von Wyk, before he himself ended a short hero's career with a Mauser bullet through the throat. His young and brave comrade Lieut. Dennis, fell a moment afterward while going to the aid of the wounded.

"The hard fought fight was nearly over. Our men were again on the summit of the hill and the Hotchkiss gun of the Natal Volunteers was no longer in jeopardy. But there remained a small and gallant hand of Boers who either would or could not retire. They were hidden among some rocks about 30 yards from the brow of the hill. Their fire was deadly in its searching accuracy. One man alone is credited with having shot no fewer than five officers.

"Col. Parke asked whether anything could be done to remove them.

"A charge" suggested the commander of the Devons. The order was given and the three companies went forward with a cheer across the open shot-swept ground. Lieut. Field led his company first, then came Captain Lafone, and upon his heels Lieut. Masterson. The enemy did not wait to receive the cold steel, but threw themselves over the hill in headlong flight, trusting to speed and the flooding sheet of rain.

"Lieut. Masterson, having to return with a message, tumbled into a sangar with ten wounds upon his body. Capt. Lafone and Lieut. Field fell victims to a cross-fire while the Boers were in flight.

"The battle was over. For sixteen hours it had raged and the very heavens had been shaken with the roar of cannon and the rattle of musketry. Ladysmith had not fallen. The enemy had been repulsed on every side, and the tale of their dead, east, west, south and north, was heavy beyond anything that they had suffered in Natal. Night drew a sable cloak over the slain and we waited anxiously till dawn to count the dead and to rescue the wounded."

CASUALTIES AT MODDER.

Official List Gives Total Canadian Deaths as Eighteen—Some Names Yet in Doubt.

Toronto, Feb. 23.—A special cable from London this afternoon gives the war department's official list of Canadians dead, the total being 18. The name omitted from the list of 19 previously forwarded is that of Private Pat. McGreary, of the 47th battalion, Sussex, N. B., and there is some ground therefore for hoping that he may be alive. The only other variation is in "B" company, where there are two Smiths, one J. Smith, of Woodstock, the other R. Smith, of London.

Hamilton's list reported R. Smith killed, and the official list makes the killed J. Smith, who was reported wounded in the first list. Both Smiths presumably are in the casualty list, one as killed and the other wounded. The mother of Private J. Kennedy, Co. "C" received a cable to-day saying that his wound was slight.

ROBERTS PRAISES CANADIANS.

Messages Following News of Severe Losses in Last Sunday's Fighting.

Ottawa, Feb. 22.—Lord Minto has received the following message from Lord Roberts:

"Paardeberg, Orange Free State, Feb. 22.—The Canadian regiment has done admirable service since its arrival in South Africa.

"I deeply regret the heavy loss it suffered during the fighting on the 18th inst., and beg you to assure the people how much we all here admire the conspicuous galantry displayed by our Canadian comrades on that occasion.

Signed "ROBERTS."

The following is a copy of the cable sent to Col. Otter this afternoon:

"Ottawa, Feb. 21.—I desire to convey to you and your men, the grateful thanks of the government and parliament of the Dominion for the gallantry displayed on the battlefield. Canada warmly appreciates the sacrifices made by her sons for the honor of the Empire. The wounded have our sympathy and our prayers for speedy recovery. Those who have given up their lives will ever be held in remembrance by a grateful people.

Signed "WILFRID LAURIER."

At the Dominion Artillery Association annual meeting a resolution of sympathy was passed with those who have been bereaved by the loss of loved ones in Sunday's fighting at Modder River.

Detroit, Feb. 22—The Canadian-American club sympathizes with the families of the Canadians who fell at Modder River.

A VOLUNTEER'S PATRIOTISM.

Montreal, Feb. 24.—The Elder-Dempster company has offered John Barry, whose brother was killed at Paardeberg, South Africa, on Sunday, and who offered to take the recent place in the ranks of the Royal Canadians, paying his own expenses, a free passage to Capetown on the Monterey, which will transport Strathcona's Horse to South Africa.

Handful of British at Mafeking Make a Hopeless Assault.

Of Eighty Men Who Stormed the Boer Fort Fifty-Four Were Laid Low.

London, Feb. 24.—A detailed description of the desperate sortie made from Mafeking during December 26 comes from Reuter's correspondent in that hard-pressed little town. It is in part as follows:

"The day after Christmas we made an attack upon the Boer lines. Our seven-pounders under Major Panzera had been emplaced during the night on our left front. As dawn broke a flash and a cloud of white smoke showed they were in action. Shot after shot fell rapidly around the enemy's position. As it grew lighter the Maxim joined in, ripping automatically, and to the right the armored train crept slowly like a great black snake over the plain toward her destination. The whole scene commenced to unfold itself like a photograph which is being developed. The outlines grew sharper, and we could see the Union Jack flying proudly over the leading truck of the train. The rattle of musketry broke on our ears, and we knew that our men had opened fire and been sighted by the enemy.

"After that the attack developed with marvellous rapidity to the east of Game Tree, the fort which we were attacking, and Verona and Fitz Clarence took up their positions preparatory to a final rush.

"Away to the right flank Capt. Cowan with 70 men of the Bechuanaland Rifles was disposed to intercept reinforcements or the enemy's retreat. The armored train under Capt. Williams, with machine gun and Hotchkiss, ran up as fast as the broken line would allow. The whole of the right flank was commanded by Major Godley. The guns of Major Panzera were escorted by a squadron under Lord Charles Bentinck. Just before the sun arose the armored train sounded a whistle as a signal from Capt. Vernon that he was ready to rush the position, and to the guns to cease firing. As the sun rose we could see the khaki-clad troops of the Protectorate Regiment rushing forward, waving their hats and cheering each other on.

"They are swarming over the bags; the position is ours!

"Meanwhile the firing was continued furiously, and we waited for it to stop, expecting that the enemy would surrender to a man. Then there was an anxious halt, and a staff officer said, 'Our men are coming back.' It was only too true. Slowly, sullenly and sulkily the men fell back, those that were left of them turning to fire in defiance now and again at the enemy. We could hear the hoarse shouts of the officers as they rallied the troops under cover of a hollow in the ground. Then there was a stop. There seemed to be very few in the company which we could see gathering together.

"An aide-de-camp came up from Major Godley. 'Capt. Vernon, sir, has been repulsed,' he said. 'The position is practically impregnable to infantry, and Major Godley does not think it is worth while trying again.'

"For a moment the Colonel hesitated, and we could see the question as to whether he should again attempt to carry the enemy's position was being weighed in his mind. Then he turned around to the C. S. O. and said, 'Let the ambulance go out.' That was all. The battle of Game Tree was over.

"How daring and desperate, also gallant, the attack had been we were only to learn later on, when the tale of dead and wounded came to be told. Out of six officers who had led the men so well, three were dead, one wounded, and only two returned unhurt, one of the two with his sword bent by a bullet. Of 80 men who formed the storming party, 21 were killed and 4 have since died; 28 lie to-day in the hospital—53 out of 80. In the evening we gathered in the cemetery to bury the dead.

"A long trench had been dug for the non-commissioned officers and men, and there, because neither time nor material permitted, they were buried without coffins, wrapped in white calico. At the edge of the trench stood the escort. It would have been unwise to fire a volley, as we might have drawn return fire from the enemy. At the far end the English rector, Mr. Weeks, read service over the dead. Down the line of the long trench white bodies showed through the half light.

"It was strange to think that merry crowds were gathered in the theatres in London, hailing with delight the Christmas pantomimes."

FATAL AND COSTLY FIRE.

Philadelphia, Feb. 23.—A fire which broke out at 7 o'clock to-night in the straw goods manufacturing office at 751 Arch street, resulted in the loss of life of a woman employee, the injury of several girls who jumped from the windows, and destruction of property valued at several hundred thousand dollars. The fire extended to the adjoining building and some dozen or twenty firms were burned out. The fire was got under control in about two hours and was confined to the buildings from 751 to 759 Arch street.

PHILIPPINE COMMISSION.

Washington, Feb. 21.—It is understood that the President has practically decided to appoint Gen. Luke E. Wright, of Memphis, Tenn., a member of the new Philippine commission.

HALIFAX STORM SWEPT.

The Worst in Years Brings Down All Wires and Does Other Serious Damage.

Halifax, Feb. 23.—(Special.)—A terrific blizzard raged here last night and continues this morning. It was the worst storm in years and all over the city hopes were expressed that the troopship Milwaukee would escape harm. Being 24 hours out, there is little doubt but that the vessel was out of its reach. At midnight a hurricane swept the city accompanied by rain, sleet and heavy snow. The electric current had to be closed off early leaving the city in almost complete darkness. Gradually ice formed in tons, around the telephone wires and the fury of the gale with this great weight snapped the telephone poles and over one hundred were down in different parts of the city. The street car service had to close down, the posts supporting the trolley wire having collapsed. Much damage is reported from all quarters of the city and the loss will be many thousands of dollars.

AN EDITOR'S DEATH.

London, Feb. 21.—Mr. Henry Duff Traill, editor of Literature and a well known newspaper man and author, died to-day in this city of heart disease. He was born in 1842.

Tragedy In New York

Dentist Enamored of His Partner's Wife Shoots Her and Suicides.

Deed Planned for Several Days and to Have Included Victim's Husband.

New York, Feb. 24.—Mrs. E. P. Hayes, the wife of Dr. E. P. Hayes, a dentist with offices at the Hotel Endicott at West Eighty-First street, was shot and killed to-night in her apartments in that hotel by Dr. Frank D. Conwell, an assistant of Dr. Hayes. Conwell then shot and killed himself.

Persons who knew the Hayes couple and Conwell say that Dr. Hayes had for years befriended Conwell, and had given him an opportunity to advance in his profession, and in fact had considered him almost as one of his family. As a result of this treatment Conwell became enamored of Mrs. Hayes, and it seems after many repulses decided that if he could not possess the woman he would take her out of the world with him. When brooding over his failure to win the love of the wife of the man who had been his partner in business and his best friend, Dr. Conwell murdered the woman of his affections and then put an end to his own life.

There are evidences pointing to the intention of the murderer to also include his victim's husband in the tragedy, which he had evidently been planning for several days.

KIMBERLEY FOOD SUPPLY.

Methuen Reports Good Progress With It and Early End to Prevailing Misery Looked For.

London, Feb. 23.—(1:30 a.m.)—The war office has issued the following from Lord Roberts:

"Paardeberg, Feb. 22.—Methuen reports from Kimberley that supplies of food and forage are being husbanded as fast as possible. There will be enough corn to start the De Beers mill in ten days. By this means great misery will be alleviated. Hospital arrangements there are reported perfect.

"He hopes Prieska and the adjoining country will soon be settled."

At the same time the war office announced that nothing further would be issued to-night.

SEVEN MEN KILLED.

Sawmill Boiler Explodes and Brings Down the Building.

Texarkana, Ark., Feb. 24.—News has been received from Hullman, Ark., a small town on the Pittsburg & Gulf railway fifty miles north of here, of the explosion of a sawmill boiler at that place by which seven men were killed. The whole building was blown down upon the workingmen, and efforts are being made to extricate those confined in the debris. The only one whose name is known is Hoover Thompson, the fireman.

POWDER MILLS WRECKED.

Explosion Kills Three Men and Injures Others While Property Loss Is Heavy.

Plattesville, Wis., Feb. 24.—The Plattesville Powder Mills were wrecked by an explosion this afternoon killing three men and badly injuring another. The cylinder mill exploded and this was followed by the two presses. The mixing mill took fire and was burned to the ground. Several of the other buildings were badly wrecked.

BROUGHT YELLOW FEVER.

New York, Feb. 25.—The Lambert and Holt steamer Homer, Captain Cadagon, from Santos, January 23, via Bahia and St. Lucia with coffee, arrived at quarantine to-night and reported yellow fever on board, two deaths having occurred on the voyage from the scourge. They were R. P. Price, fireman, died February 5, and J. Richards, mess-room, died February 9. Both were buried at sea.

A JAPANESE DIPLOMAT.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The Japanese minister to the United States, Mr. Kutaro Komura, has been notified by cable from Japan of his appointment as minister to Russia. He will leave for St. Petersburg about April 15.

The Week's Progress

Boer Efforts Centred on Attempt to Save Cronje From Annihilation.

Roberts Can Hold Him in Trap and Spare Troops to Crush Arriving Commandos.

Withdrawal of Enemy From Natal Gives Buller His Opportunity.

By Associated Press.

London, Feb. 25.—(4.35 a. m.)—Since 2:15 o'clock yesterday afternoon nothing has been received from the scene of what the London papers call Gen. Cronje's death struggle. The war office announced at midnight it had nothing to give out. The officials stated that they believed it impossible for Cronje to escape from the grip of Lord Roberts.

The report circulated in Berlin that Cronje had succeeded in making his escape emanated from the Boer headquarters in Brussels, where it was stated that details were still lacking.

Mr. Spencer Wilkinson, summarizing the week's events in the war in South Africa for the Associated Press, says:

"On the night of Thursday, February 15, Gen. Cronje marched out from Magersfontein between Gen. French, who had just entered Kimberley, and Gen. Kelly-Kenny, then at Klip Drift on the Modder river. The next day Gen. Kelly-Kenny pursued him, attacked his rear guard and delayed him until the Highland Brigade was on its way to stop him on the south bank of the Modder, and Gen. French could pass him on the north bank.

"After a three days' running fight Gen. Cronje was stopped at Koodoosrand, near Paardeberg, where he was surrounded. His force was between the river banks, which gave him a defensive position, facing either way, so that attacks on him involved heavy loss, but he was held until, on Tuesday, Lord Roberts arranged to grip him with a girdle of infantry in position, while cannonading with 50 guns enfilading the river bed. In the meantime Lord Roberts, with a spare division or two beyond the three brigades holding Cronje, set himself to intercept and drive away any Boer reinforcements.

"This was the situation on Wednesday, and it offered a reasonable probability of the capture of Cronje's force and the defeat of any reinforcements.

"We have little news beyond Wednesday. On Thursday the shelling of Cronje was continued at intervals, shelling probably involving a too lavish use of ammunition.

"The Boers have been giving themselves up by fifties a day.

"On Tuesday Lord Roberts drove off reinforcements coming from Colesberg and from Natal.

"A Berlin report declared that Cronje had forced his way through. This is improbable, but may refer to a small party who may have escaped in the night.

"Lord Roberts' advance has drawn away some of the Boer forces from Colesberg, Sterkstroom and Natal, as is seen from the diminished resistance to the British at these points.

"Gen. Buller, after taking Indlawe Hill, has crossed the Tugela river, and according to the latest telegrams had been fighting continuously since Thursday morning. This looks like a decided attempt to relieve Ladysmith, wherein I expect Gen. Buller will succeed if he does not, as before, interrupt his advance by stopping to count his losses and declaring that he has lost enough. A General has never lost enough to justify the giving up of his enterprise, so long as his troops are willing to go on with him.

"Ladysmith can probably hold out several weeks, and in that time the effect of Lord Roberts' advance will probably be even more marked than it has yet been."

THE PLAGUE IN INDIA.

Deaths in Bombay Nearly Six Hundred in One Week—The Appalling Famine.

London, Feb. 24—The plague in India continues. There were 583 victims in Bombay city during the week ending February 16. With over 61,000,000 people affected by the famine and about 4,000,000 in receipt of relief, India seems in a bad plight, though the death rates over the famine area are decreasing.

The Indian government has issued a resolution approving of Prof. Hakins' anti-plague inoculation, and the viceroy, Lord Curzon, is advocating its use throughout India, and is paying high tribute to the Professor.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

London, Feb. 24.—The Spectator, which often voices the government's views, claims it is to Britain's advantage to have the United States fortify the Nicaragua canal, and adds: "If America asks us to give up the clause forbidding the fortification, we ought and most certainly should at once agree to do so."

The Spectator, however, points out that other powers might not be so willing, for though Great Britain in effect has acknowledged the validity of the Monroe doctrine, the rest of the world has not.

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