

PRACTICALLY CLEAR OF BOERS

General Buller Says He Cannot Learn of the Presence of Forces in Natal.

SHARP FIGHTING IN CAPE COLONY.

Gen. Brabant Engages the Enemy at Dordrecht—Splendid Conduct of Colonials—Boer Position at Osofontein Can Be Easily Turned.

(Associated Press.) London, March 6.—The Boers in northern Cape Colony are in full retreat to the Orange Free State. The possession of Stormberg puts Gatare in railroad communication with the Orange River, for though the Boers partially wrecked the railroad, it is understood that it can be quickly repaired, and the entrance of British troops into the Free State will be greatly facilitated.

Skirmishes at Osofontein.

From Osofontein, where Field Marshal Lord Roberts is opposed by a good-sized body of Boers, there is still no news except reports of minor skirmishes.

Brabant's Success.

The position gained by General Brabant at Dordrecht is reported to be exceedingly strong. According to the Times the Boers' numbers alone enabled them to retreat from Dordrecht practically unhindered. It also reports a violation of the white flag by the Boers, and that they deliberately fired at close range on a stretcher party.

White's Garrison.

General White's garrison has begun to leave Ladysmith and is arriving at the Orange River camp, where the troops will remain several days, after which they will go further south. They are emaciated and exhausted, and say the road to Colesburg presents a very serious prospect. Dead men and animals are lying mutilated and putrefied in the trenches formerly occupied by the Boers, and fill the air with a sickening stench. In cases where hurried burial had been attempted, the rains have washed the earth away, and out of the earth stick ghastly legs and arms of dead burghers.

Statement by Prisoners.

London, March 6, 2.50 p.m.—A dispatch from Osofontein says that according to the Boer prisoners another important British success will cause President Steyn to flee to Pretoria, leaving a provisional government at Bloemfontein, which is likely to make peace overtures, and the Free Staters not wishing for peace, are breaking into the Transvaal and there helping to make a stand, which most of the British military critics now point out will constitute the most difficult and deciding feature of war.

Supplies for Roberts.

The recent rains have afforded Lord Roberts good news, copious supplies have been reached him, and news of his advance is eagerly awaited.

Mrs. Steyn Visits Relatives.

The Press Association says that the wife of President Steyn, of the Orange Free State, is residing at Aberdeen with relatives.

Fever at Ladysmith.

Surgeon Trever cables from Ladysmith that the state of the town is most deplorable, and there are 800 cases of typhoid fever. Lush supplies of comforts are now in the place.

LORD ROBERTS'S DISPATCH.

London, March 6.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

"Osofontein, March 6.—Gatare occupied Stormberg yesterday. The lines of railway north and west will now be repaired.

"General Clements is at Joubert's siding station beyond Colesburg.

"The Duke of Marlborough, with the Oxford company of the Imperial Yeomanry has left Capetown for Nasauport.

"General Buller reports Natal as practically clear of the enemy, and that he cannot hear of any formed forces anywhere. The Boers left some ambulances full of their sick and wounded, from which the mules had been taken for transport services."

PURSUING THE BURGHERS.

Dordrecht, March 5.—Following yesterday's success, General Brabant again engaged the Boers to-day with advantage, holding the position captured yesterday.

There was some smart fighting this morning, the British losing five or six men and capturing the Boer fort, thus vastly improving their position.

The Boers fought tenaciously, contesting every inch of the ground, but ultimately retreated suddenly, carrying their guns and wagons.

A mounted force pursued them, but the

were drawing ever closer together. He said it had made his heart thrill with pride to read of the doings of "Canada's heroes." "Our heroes," he added, "had to rush the breaches in the trenches, and a determined enemy had snatched victory and glory."

This allusion was received with prolonged cheers.

The Colonies and Britain.

Kingston, March 6.—The Rev. Dr. Wilde, a well-known Congregational minister of Canada who has been preaching in Los Angeles, in a letter to a friend here, says it is wonderful how British and Americans, through their governments, now see eye to eye, and how nicely Providence welds the British colonies together on the African war.

Concluding this excellent divine says Southern confederacy must be formed from Capetown to Cairo, in Egypt.

Flight of a Boer Sympathizer.

Fort Erie, Ont., March 6.—Mullen, the Boer sympathizer, who was reported to have been kidnapped and carried away in a cutter on Friday by some indignant citizens, has not yet returned, but it is learned that he was not forcibly taken away, but made his escape to Fort Erie village about two miles away and intending to take up his residence in the United States. While making his escape he had one foot and two fingers frozen.

London, March 6.—The British forces under Lord Roberts still press in the neighborhood of Osofontein, while stores and remounts and fresh troops stream toward him from the Cape.

The British position also continues to improve in minor spheres of the campaign. Natal is clear of Boers, and Cape Colony is nearly so.

The Boers seemingly are pursuing the course commended by the strategists and are concentrating to resist the British main army.

Various messages from correspondents with Lord Roberts report that the enemy are increasing continually on his front, extending as one correspondent wires, 10 miles, and as another says, 18 miles. The lowest estimate of their number give the Boers 10,000 men, with smaller bodies moving north and south of the British lines. Each army is on both sides of the Modder River. The Boers have mounted eight guns on top of kopjes, and though they appear to be too far away for inspection, the British scouts report they are using pick and shovel industriously.

Military opinion is that their present position merely separates more easily defended ones.

A Daily News dispatch from Modder River, dated Monday, 6th, and describing the Boer position in front of Lord Roberts, says: "The Boers seem to be busy entreaching. They have mounted eight guns on high kopjes."

None of the military experts endeavor to fathom Lord Roberts's plan, but it is suggested that he is quite willing to give the Boers

Time to Assemble

all their men in order to deliver a smashing blow more effectively.

The round robin in favor of annexation of the Transvaal and Free State which is being promoted among the supporters of the government in the House of Commons continues to receive signatures. The memorial to Mr. Balfour affirms that the time has arrived for plain speaking inside and outside of parliament, and that Lord Salisbury's words are being construed into a pledge against annexation, and Lord Roberts's proclamation into a promise of no confiscation of Boer property.

Mr. A. G. Hales, the Daily News correspondent, who was captured by the Boers on February 9th, was released at Bloemfontein and put through the lines near Sterkstroom. He telegraphed that the Boers

Are Demoralized.

but adds that they have been treating the British wounded splendidly.

A dispatch to the Standard from Osofontein, dated Sunday, March 4th, says: "Gen. Joubert is reported to be in supreme command of the Boer forces."

Dutch Rising.

Capetown, March 6.—Nearly the whole of the Dutch population of Prieska and Kenhardt districts are in rebellion. Many of the Dutch from neighboring districts are reported to have joined them, and Lucas Steinkamp, commanding the Boers, is reported as marching on Carnarvon. It is believed that Cordonia and Victoria West will rise. It is thought that the total number of men in arms will exceed 3,000. The general opinion of loyalists is that a strong force of British will be required, as a reverse would spread the rebellion. The Dutch church has issued a manifesto in favor of the Boer republics retaining complete independence.

Many women who are reported to be good shots are among the Boer prisoners arriving here.

Colesburg, March 6.—The British advance camp is now at Orlongpoort River, several miles beyond Acktertang.

Rebels Aggressive.

Orange River, Cape Colony, March 6.—The recent British victories have had a wonderfully quieting effect upon the rebel Dutch, most of whom in the neighborhood of Douglass are reported disheartened and about returning to their homes.

Bristown has been given carte blanche. The command in the neighborhood of Bristown is held by President Steyn to raise as many recruits as possible.

The rebels in the neighborhood of Kenhardt are particularly aggressive, acting on the supposition that the troops of Lord Roberts are fully occupied in the Free State.

Delagoa Bay.

London, March 6.—Replying to a question in the House of Commons to-day, the parliamentary secretary of the foreign office, Mr. Broderick, said no negotiations were proceeding between Great Britain and Portugal regarding the acquisition of Delagoa Bay or any other part of Portuguese East Africa.

The Boer prisoners at Capetown, he added, totalled 627 men, exclusive of those captured at Paardeberg or by Lord Roberts in other engagements.

The House of Commons in committee of the whole this evening adopted a resolution to authorize a loan of £35,000,000. The vote stood 161 to 23.

The Halifax Garrison.

Ottawa, March 7.—A Canadian officer will command the new battalion for garrison duty at Halifax to replace the Leinster regiment, which goes to South Africa for active service. The name of Lieut.-Col. Vidal, of the Royal Canadian Regiment, who is now attached to headquarters staff at Ottawa, is mentioned as the likely commander. He is second in command, and all officers will be chosen from the regular forces in the Dominion.

Patriotic Fund.

Ottawa, March 7.—The Canadian Patriotic Fund has reached \$156,199.01.

Mason Withdraws Resolution.

Washington, March 7.—Mr. Mason gave notice that to-morrow, after the morning hour, he would enter a motion that the committee on foreign relations be discharged from further consideration of his resolution expressive of the Senate's sympathy with the Boers. It had been in the hands of the committee since December 6th.

Another Canadian Died.

Ottawa, March 7.—A cable has been received stating the Dominion policeman W. J. N. Ross, a member of the first contingent, died at Kimberley of enteric fever. This will make 11 deaths altogether out of 34 members of the contingent from Ottawa.

In Memory of Fallen Canadians.

Montreal, March 7.—The M.A.A.A. has started out with a subscription of \$500, with the ultimate object of raising \$100,000 for the erection of a monument in this city toward the Montreal heroes of South Africa, who have fallen and who may fall.

Wounded Doing Well.

Ottawa, March 7.—Col. Otter cables the militia department this morning that Lieut. McLean, of St. John, N.B., with the first Canadian contingent in South Africa, has been appointed a "D.C." to Gen. Colville.

Lieut.-Surgeon Ryerson reports all the wounded doing well.

Sir Roderick Cameron, a native of Glangarry county, Ontario, now in New York, has offered to pay for all freight going to the Canadian troops in South Africa by the steamer Maria, sailing from New York on March 15th.

THE MINING DISASTER.

It is Feared That One Hundred and Twenty-Five Men Perished in the Red Ash Mine.

Fire Creek, Va., March 6.—The explosion at the Red Ash mine this morning was the worst disaster ever known in the New River district. Although most heroic work by the rescuing party has been going on incessantly all day it is impossible to-night to estimate the full extent of the loss of life and property. More than 50 dead bodies have already been taken out, and the most reliable estimates obtainable put the number of victims of the mine explosion at 125. The bodies as a rule are so mangled as to be beyond recognition. Nearly all of the men employed were white and most of them were married and had families.

Red Ash mine is a large drift and the explosion occurred near the entrance, which was thus closed by the falling slate, entombing a large number of miners. Every assistance possible was rendered by the C. & O. Railway Company and by the adjoining mining towns. Relief parties from great distances arrived as soon as possible.

About 10 a.m. the rescuers recovered ten bodies. Seven of them were already dead and the other three men were dying. As the miners were located at different places in the drift and the explosion caused the falling slate to blockade the rooms in the different parts of the mine the work of rescue met with one great obstruction after another.

The mine was very heavily timbered in the different drifts, and it was for this reason it was feared that those who had not been killed by falling debris at the time of the explosion, would be pinioned by these connected timbers and suffer death from suffocation. Air was pumped into the mines by engines on the surface, which were kept working after the explosion, but it was feared that air could be pumped into the drift only a short distance as the coal, stone and earth shut off all possibility of reaching the interior. The pumps and all other machinery in the mine were demolished so that everything had to be done through temporary arrangements on the surface.

Had the accident occurred an hour later many more would have been entombed in the mine. The estimates of the number in the mine when the explosion occurred are based on the number who entered at 7 o'clock. The population of this mining village is only 500, all are miners and the calamity will reach almost every little house in the mining town.

A case of bubonic plague has developed on board a steamer at Capetown from Rosario, Argentine Republic. The steamer has been quarantined.

THE ENEMY IN FULL RETREAT

Boers at the Modder River Were Quite Unprepared for Flank Attack by Lord Roberts.

CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY MOUNTED TROOPS

Commander-in-Chief Tells of Successful Advance—Our Casualties Slight—Flying Column in the Transvaal—Buller Moving Towards Free State.

(Associated Press.) London, March 7.—For lack of news from General Roberts public attention turns to Natal. It is reported that General Buller has pushed forward along the Harrismith railroad. One towards Van Keenan's Pass, using the railroad freely for communications.

It appears that the Boers intend to take up a strong position in the Biggarsberg Range and contest the Glencoe passes, although it hardly seems likely that General Buller will attempt to force these for the present. But his plans are kept almost as secret as those of General Roberts.

Peace Rumors.

While waiting for the important developments which are daily expected in the Free State, rumors of peace recur.

The second edition of the Times this morning contains a dispatch from Capetown which says there is a crying need for an explicit statement by the British ministry that nothing short of annexation is intended, in order to damp the mischievous agitation that is going on under the pretext of a demand for peace.

Casualties.

Another list of casualties sustained by General Buller's forces from Feb. 14th to Feb. 27th, shows: Killed, 123; wounded, 573; missing, 54.

Of these the losses of Inniskillings were as follows: Killed, 54; wounded, 162; missing, 22.

Dublin Fusiliers: Killed, 15; wounded, 97; missing, 15.

Connought Rangers: Killed, 19; wounded, 105; missing, 8.

Royal Irish Fusiliers: Killed, 11; wounded, 63; missing, 2.

Scotts Fusiliers: Killed, 18; wounded, 68; missing, none.

Total cost to rank and file in the final relief of Ladysmith, 1,859 men.

THE BRITISH ADVANCE.

London, March 7.—Lord Roberts telegraphs from Osofontein:

"Advance, March 7. Enemy in full retreat followed by our troops. Casualties few."

The text of Lord Roberts's dispatch is as follows:

"Osofontein, March 7.—4.20 p.m.—Our operations to-day promise to be a great success.

"The enemy occupied a position of four miles and eleven miles south of the Modder River.

"I placed Gen. Colville's division on the north bank and Generalis Kelly-Kenny and Tucker's divisions with cavalry, on the south bank.

"The cavalry division succeeded in bearing back the enemy's flank, opening a road for the sixth division, which is advancing, without having been obliged to fire a shot up to the present time.

"The enemy are in full retreat towards the north and east."

"They are being closely followed by cavalry, horse artillery and mounted infantry, while Tucker's seventh division, Colville's ninth division and the Guards' brigade, under Pole-Carew, are making their way across the river at Poplar's Drift, where I propose to place my headquarters this evening.

"Our casualties will, I trust, be few, as the enemy was quite unprepared for being attacked by the flank, and having their communications with Bloemfontein threatened."

BRITISH IN ENEMY'S COUNTRY

London, March 7.—4.16 p.m.—A special dispatch from Durban says a flying column of British troops, from Zululand, has entered the Transvaal and will be daily skirmishing with small parties of Boers.

The force consists of mounted infantry, Natal scouts and artillery, all commanded by Major Prendergast.

The column first crossed the border on February 26th.

It now occupies an entrenched position on Catass Hill, nine miles within the Transvaal.

TRANSVAALERS RETIRING.

Biggarsberg, Boer Camp, March 8.—The Federals have fallen back on the

Biggarsberg chain, crossing Natal south of Dundee.

The retreat from Ladysmith was due to the mistake of a certain commandant in ordering his men to retire from the key of the position, without any reasons for the movement.

On receipt of the bad news from the Modder River on Wednesday, it was resolved to send the wagons back to Biggarsberg, and soon long strings of wagons lined the road. Over a thousand wagons took the westerly route to the larger southwest of Ladysmith.

Another convoy was sent to the foot of the Drakenberg. A large number of tents captured from the British at Dundee, and also the ammunition, were abandoned as worthless.

The chief difficulty was in dismounting "Long Tom."

BULLER PRAISES THE TROOPS

Durban, March 6.—General Buller, in a general order regarding the relief of Ladysmith, says:

"The two forces, during the last few months, have striven with conspicuous gallantry and splendid determination, and are an honor to the Queen and the country."

"The Ladysmith garrison for four months held that position against every attack with complete success, and endured many privations with admirable fortitude."

"The relieving force had to force its way through an unknown country, across unfordable rivers, and on almost inaccessible heights face a fully prepared, well-armed and tenacious enemy. By the exhibition of the truest courage, courage that burns steadily besides flashing brilliantly, accomplished its object, and added a glorious page to the history of the country."

"Ladysmith was successfully held and relieved, and the sailors and soldiers, colonial and home-born who had done this, were united by one desire and inspired by one patriotism."

The order congratulates both forces on the material qualities displayed, and thanks them for their determined effort. General Buller also sympathizes with the relatives and friends of the gallant comrades who have fallen.

REBELS MAY RETURN HOME

Capetown, March 7.—An undated telegram from Colesburg says that the Australian regiment has been honored by a visit from Lord Kitchener.

The Arundel column has been largely reinforced.

An official notification has been issued that the Queenstown proclamation of Feb. 22nd, regarding certain terms offered the rebels by General Brabant in event of their surrendering, has been withdrawn, but these in arms against England may return to their farms upon surrendering their weapons and receiving a pass, but they are liable to be called to account later on.

No Boers Near Ladysmith.

Ladysmith, March 5.—There are no Boers within 20 miles of here. Plenty of supplies are available, and the troops are quickly recovering their strength.

NIHILIST PLOT.

St. Petersburg, March 6.—The discovery of Russian and Polish nihilist plots have led to renewed police precautions. On all the Russian frontier the police are exercising extreme vigilance, and are guarding the Czar's movements. The route of the Czar's visits to barracks, the routes and public functions are don'tly patrolled by secret police, while the guards about the Winter Palace and along the Neva Quay are particularly numerous.

AN EDITOR FINDS A SURE CURE FOR RHEUMATISM.

A. R. De Fluert, editor of the Journal, Daylestown, Ohio, suffered for a number of years from rheumatism in his right shoulder and side. He says: "My right arm at times was entirely useless. I tried Chamberlain's Pain Balm, and was surprised to receive relief almost immediately. The Pain Balm has been a constant companion of mine ever since and it never fails." For sale by Henderson Bros., wholesale agents, Victoria and Vancouver.