

IN FULL RETREAT.

Report from Cape Town that the Natal Force Has Made a Move.

Are Being Hotly Pursued by a Big Force of Cavalry and Mounted Infantry.

Unless Kroonstad Has Been Strongly Fortified, Word of Its Occupation by Lord Roberts May be Expected Within Forty-eight Hours.

THE HEROES OF LADYSMITH.

LONDON, May 7.—The annals of service demonstrations probably show nothing to parallel the enthusiasm with which the naval heroes of Ladysmith, the officers and crew of the British first class cruiser Powerful, were greeted in London today.

After the inspection by the Prince of Wales and others, the parade formed a square, with the officers in the centre, and the first lord of the admiralty, George J. Goschen, and a number of high naval and military officers, inspected the blue-jackets.

The march of the naval brigade of the Powerful from the admiralty to the Mansion House was marked by more numerous crowds of people than London has seen for many a day.

dered by the people of London to the British navy.

CANADIANS MISSING.

MONTREAL, May 8.—The Star's special correspondent with the first Canadian contingent, telegraphs as follows:

BLOEMFONTEIN, May 7.—The following Canadians have been missing since April 30:

7,825, Private W. Cooper, 62nd Fusiliers, St. John, N. B.

7,876, Private W. McIntosh, Royal Canadian Artillery, Both members of "F" company (Quebec).

7,948, Private G. Keswick, 13rd Northumberland Batt., member of "G" company (New Brunswick).

8,167, Private S. Lester, 2nd Regiment Canadian Artillery, belonging to "H" company (Nova Scotia).

THE KEY TO THE TRANSVAAL.

and is the natural storehouse of supplies for the arm crossing the Vaal River by either line of railway. Possession of this stronghold is of greater importance than the direct co-operation of Buller with Lord Roberts's army. It will enable Gen. Methuen and Gen. Hunter to co-operate with Lord Roberts from the west and will give direction to the turning movements in the level reaches of the Transvaal toward Johannesburg and Pretoria.

The war office was silent yesterday and there was no confirmation of the reported renewal of activity in Natal, or of the rumors that a secret expedition, consisting entirely of mounted troops, was approaching Mafeking far in advance of Hunter's column.

Lord Salisbury made yesterday a most uncompromising speech in Albert hall before the Primrose League, condemning Gladstone's home rule policy both in South Africa and Ireland.

The Prince of Wales introduced Capt. Lambton to the Princess of Wales, and the brigade was afterwards entertained at luncheon, preparatory to marching through the city.

The Cape Town, correspondent of the Mail learns that the town will be relieved in about a week.

COL OTTER NOT PLEASED THAT NEWSPAPER MEN GET AHEAD OF HIM.

OTTAWA, May 8.—Lieut. Col. Otter reports to the militia department as follows:

I notice from Canadian newspapers lately received and from letter No. 5, of 22nd Feb., that my reports by cable do not seem to reach their destination either punctually or regularly and some, perhaps, not at all.

I am therefore determined to secure the re-opening of peace negotiations.

BOERS LOST HEAVILY.

CAPE TOWN, May 9.—It is believed here that on the arrival of the British at the Vaal River, a proclamation was issued annexing the Orange Free State to the Dominion of the Queen.

The Boer losses at Brandfort are now reported to have been much heavier than was at first understood.

THE BOARDING OF THE SEA WITCH.

LONDON, May 9.—The admiralty has not yet received an official report in regard to the boarding of the American ship Sea-Witch by a boat's crew from the British warship Wasp, while in Portuguese waters, in Delagoa Bay.

LONDON, May 10.—Lord Roberts has not hampered his advance with more infantry than he needs. He had two divisions, Tucker's and Pole-Carew's, when he crossed the Zand yesterday, and the only infantry which he had with him was the High and Light Brigade at Winburg, and another brigade within supporting distance.

MORE CANADIANS MISSING.

MONTREAL, May 9.—By cable from W. Richmond Smith, the Star's special correspondent with the British forces in South Africa:

BRANDFORT, May 8.—The following are missing in addition to those wired yesterday:

228, Private E. B. Allen of Windsor, 22d, C. D. Odellie, 48th Battalion, Toronto.

418, A. H. Moorehouse, 74th Battalion, New Brunswick, and 429, J. P. Blant.

BULLER ADVANCING.

CAPE TOWN, May 9.—It is reported that Gen. Buller is advancing on the Biggarsberg and that the Boers are withdrawing.

FROM THE LONDON PAPERS.

LONDON, May 10.—A despatch to the Daily Telegraph from Smaldeal, dated Tuesday, May 8, says:

"Stores are being accumulated here. Convoys are proceeding regularly to both Dutch rebels and burghers who are willing to surrender, notifying them that he will recommend all who now surrender voluntarily for greater leniency than those who continue fighting after this warning."

A despatch to the Times from Smaldeal dated Tuesday, May 8, says:

"Lord Roberts has halted here to complete the railway and to allow time for the cavalry now returning from Thaba N'Chu to take the place designed for them in the original scheme of advance."

"Gen. Hamilton last week was continually in touch with Gen. Botha's rear guard. The enemy manoeuvred field guns skillfully to check Gen. Hamilton's advance. On one occasion they masked their position so well as to jeopardize the British convoys, which was saved by the timely arrival of the Highland Brigade with naval guns."

The advance on Winburg was so rapid that Hamilton's advance scouts were overlapping the town before Botha's transport was clear, but owing to difficulties at the depot, the guns arrived too late to effect the Boers' capture."

While the British Captain Balfour was negotiating with the landrost for the surrender of Winburg, Gen. Botha

by their misunderstanding of the envoy's message threatened to shoot him, but the landrost, rightly interpreting the words and perceiving that the British were in a position to bombard the town, decided to surrender. Gen. Buller then retired.

It is impossible to say whether the Boers will dispute the passage of the Zand river seriously, but it is known that Botha has ten guns in front of Hamilton, and that Gen. Delarey has six in front of the main advance."

The Lourenzo Marques correspondent of the Times, telegraphing Wednesday, says:

"I learn that a strong party in the veldkroon is determined to secure the re-opening of peace negotiations."

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The battle British patrols visited the houses in the surrounding district and all the men were taken prisoners, while the horses and guns were removed.

Lord Roberts is thus adopting a sterner policy with a view of preventing guerrilla fighting in the rear of the British. Horses are now commandeered, and farm houses where guns are found are destroyed, while the men are arrested.

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"Boers" from his cable cart directs operations all along the line and pays out the wire which sends bulletins of victory to London.

No details of today's engagement had been received at Fleet street at midnight and little news from any quarter.

Mafeking was officially reported as being well April 27. Hunter's progress and the line of direction are not known.

The situation in Natal was unchanged. No details have yet been received with regard to the battle on Zand River yesterday, and it is not yet known what measure of success has attended the cavalry and horse artillery, who were sent by Lord Roberts in pursuit of the retreating Boers.

Rather startling information comes, however, from Thaba N'Chu, to the effect that the federalists said to be under command of Steyn, have been sighted in the vicinity of Moutmak, in force in the vicinity of Moutmak, near Thaba N'Chu, on May 1. The Boers occupied a strong position, their right flank holding Thaba N'Chu mountain and the left a range of low ridges. The British column attacked along the whole front of the Boer position, a distance of fully 21 miles. The initial attack on the Boer position was made by the foot infantry, while the mounted infantry endeavored to flank the enemy. An exciting feature of the engagement was the determined attack made by the German legion on the Gordon Highlanders. They were repulsed in true Highland style with heavy loss. When darkness closed the enemy were still in possession of the position.

At dawn on Wednesday the attack was resumed with renewed vigor on the part of the British forces. The mounted infantry were successful in turning the right flank of the enemy, while the cavalry were equally successful in their operations against the Boers' left flank.

In the meantime the foot infantry advanced towards the Thaba N'Chu plateau. The Royal Canadian Regiment was held in reserve as the infantry advanced. The enemy realizing that both their flanks had been turned, rushed to their horses, mounted and fled in hot haste. They were promptly pursued, a portion of the cavalry being sent around the mountain to cut off their retreat.

The British artillery was meanwhile hurried forward to the capitulated position and the fast retreating Boers were subjected to a heavy shell fire. The British loss was very small, the casualties among the Canadians amounting to practically nothing. Nevertheless, they did splendid work and were complimented by the commanding officer.

On the following Thursday the whole column advanced in the direction of Winburg. The enemy was encountered first between Welcome and Verkeerhoff drifts, where they held a high range of cliffs.

Reinforcements for the enemy arrived from Brandfort as the engagement began, but the mounted infantry under Col. Broadwood got between the main body of the Boers and the reinforcements. This successful move on the part of the British cavalry caused the whole Boer force to retire in haste.

On Sunday the whole force marched to Winburg, which was entered without opposition on the part of the Boers.

Gen. Hamilton summoned the town to surrender in order to avoid bombardment. The landrost (mayor) consented, and when Gen. Botha, with 500 Boers, marched into the place and entered a strong protest against the decision of the mayor, the inhabitants refused to listen to him.

The town then surrendered, and when the British troops marched in they were warmly welcomed by the residents. As the British entered the place the Boers retired. The column under Gen. Hamilton is now eighteen miles east of Smaldeal, Lord Roberts's headquarters, the (Municipal) mines, east fifteen miles north of Winburg.

MINES WILL BE PROTECTED. CAPE TOWN, May 10.—The Cape Argus publishes a report from Johannesburg, said to have been expressed in the cross-examination of Acting Mining Engineer Munnick, in the recent mysterious Dempsey case. Munnick testified that preparations had been made to explode twenty-five mines, and that on the authority of State Secretary Reitz, he (Munnick) had already bored shafts in eight.

"Well informed foreigners in Pretoria," says the correspondent of the Cape Argus, "now consider the mines safe. The Transvaal officials have issued appeals to the people to protect property, and although preparations were made to destroy the principal mines, wisest counsel now prevails."

"State Engineer Klinka declined to resume his duties unless the dynamite was removed, and the government agreed to his demands."

GERMANY'S POSITION.

BERLIN, May 10.—The semi-official Post this morning stated that Germany has participated in the collective note, which, according to a despatch credited to a semi-official source in Pretoria, the powers have delivered to President Kruger, informing him that they will hold him personally responsible for the safety of the mines, and will support Great Britain in enforcing compensation in the event of their destruction.

HOW THE UNITED STATES FEELS. WASHINGTON, May 10.—Respecting the statement telegraphed from Pretoria to the effect that the foreign representatives in that capital have jointly notified President Kruger that he would be held personally responsible by their governments for the safety of the Johannesburg mines, it can be stated that the U. S. consul general, Adolph Hay, did not join in the representations, if any such were made. While citizens of the United States are believed to be peculiarly interested in the Johannesburg mines, and the department of state is fully disposed to do everything within the line of propriety to protect their interests, it will adhere to its uniform policy in such matters of acting singly.

SEALED HIS WIFE UP. A Major Hook of the East India company service in London was entitled by the will of a relative to an annuity of £400 a year until his wife was buried. To this end he had a glass case and placed in the upper chamber of his home, where it remained for thirty years, but no person was ever permitted to enter that room where it lay.

THE THABA N'CHU ENGAGEMENT. MONTREAL, May 10.—The follow-

SCREEN DOORS Two Styles. Four Sizes. WINDOW SCREENS Two Sizes. Write for prices. W. H. THORNE & CO., LTD. ST. JOHN.

Children by pre- N. Y. passing another school will be turns to C. A. May 1st, minister, Alexander Hodgson, d. at the Rev. of Carter-estall not d. at the Rev. of Clark, era, both d. at the Rev. of Lister, to ck, N. B. May 6th, W. Peck of se, daught- city, on Chambers, d. at the Rev. of Hannah Keith, in vine three their sid 6th, after 4th, after 88 County Aug- 6th, Alex- in this city nes T. Sar- crew was May 4th, age, who a husband os. 2,217 tons d. at the Rev. of Ha- to obtain from New the south day morn- Vesta at ace, from eal, before a machin- and pro- perty, from e, has been nnel, and crew was eeded. She er at Wey- lman, ar- e W. I. via Dear River will go to Broos. are ve in a few d at Digby was cut at sowed out been char- from government er at Beal to be ship- Dorley, from e of Wight agon, Capt. for Robert- rd the crew erson, from ea.