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RAILROAD OPEN TO KIMBERLEY

Lord Roberts Announces That Methuen With Reinforcements and Supplies Will Be Sent Forward.

BURGHERS ABANDON THEIR POSITIONS

And Country Around Kimberley is Now Clear of Boers--The Fighting in Natal--Gen. Hart Has Occupied Colenso.

(Associated Press.)
London, Feb. 20.—Whatever good news may have been received from the front is being carefully guarded.

In spite of the Queen's announcement to the fourth battalion of the Lincolnshire Militia this morning, that good news had been received from the seat of war, the war office officials solemnly averred that they had received no news up to 1:30 o'clock this afternoon.

Unofficially, it is rumored Gen. Kitchener has brought Cronje to a standstill and has engaged him, and, it is added, that the war office is awaiting the result of the battle.

In Favor of Surrendering.
This, though plausible, may be premature.

In any case the confident hope that General Cronje has been cut off from Bloemfontein continues to prevail in London, especially in view of the detailed dispatches saying that the Free Staters, when they saw the extent of the British forces, were in favor of surrendering.

For Kimberley.
The first train to Kimberley left Capetown last night, and the neighborhood of the famous siege seems thoroughly cleared of Boers.

Shelling the Boers.
Gen. Buller apparently is contenting himself with shelling the Boers from his newly gained position at Monte Cristo, which, according to good opinion, is likely to form his base for another attempt to relieve Ladysmith.

May Join Cronje.
The Westminster Gazette's military critic says he believes the Boers have started northward in Natal, and will raise the siege of Ladysmith and reinforce Gen. Cronje.

All Quiet in Zululand.
A dispatch from Pietermaritzburg, dated Monday, Feb. 19th, says all is quiet in Zululand and that the Boers main bodies are reported to be retiring upon Dundee and Helpmaaker, leaving small forces and two pieces of artillery in each magistracy.

Boer Force at Stormberg.
According to a special dispatch from Tarkastad, a refugee who has arrived there says the Boers are 6,000 strong at Stormberg, but that at Burghersdorp they have only a small town guard.

IN THE WEST.

Boers Have Abandoned Their Positions Around Kimberley—Later Particulars Regarding French's Advance.

London, Feb. 20.—The Standard's correspondent at Modder River, under the date of Sunday, February 18th, wires as follows:

"The magnificent successes of the plan of campaign of Roberts must be ascribed in great part, after full credit has been given for careful and brilliant strategy, to extreme mobility of the newly organized forces employed, but this mobility has to be paid for. It involves a great expenditure in horses. Those of the Boers, for instance, are nearly finished. If we are to retain our advantage, there must be an unstinted

drawing upon every possible source of supply throughout the Empire. Otherwise we shall soon be without enough horses of the suitable kind to furnish the necessary remounts.

"The infantry, under Lord Roberts, have done some marvellous marching, mostly at night. Their pluck and endurance have gone very far toward ensuring the safety and success of the cavalry operations."

Boer Positions Evacuated.
Kimberley, Feb. 18.—By helicopter to Modder River, Feb. 19.—The country is all free around Kimberley. The Boers have evacuated Dronfeld, Saltpan, Spytfontein and Scholtznek.

One of their 12-pounders with ammunition was captured, as was also their laager at Dronfeld, which was abandoned on Friday night.

Rails are being laid to Modder River. Several herds of cattle have been captured. Cecil Rhodes is in excellent spirits.

Entrance Unopposed.
Modder River, Feb. 19.—Although the rapid march of Gen. French's division was marked by a number of conflicts, his actual entry into Kimberley was unopposed.

When the British were still eight miles off the signalling corps they intercepted a helicopter message from the beleaguered garrison to Modder River saying: "The Boers are shelling the town." The advancing column replied: "This is Gen. French coming to the relief of Kimberley." The garrison was incredulous and thought the message was a Boer ruse and flashed the query: "What regiment are you?"

The reply satisfied the defenders of Kimberley. Anxiously awaited succor was at hand and a few hours later French, at the head of a column, made a triumphant entry into the place, the people surrounding the troops and intermingling with them, cheering wildly, grasping the soldiers' hands, waving flags, hats and handkerchiefs and exhibiting in a hundred ways the intensity of their joy.

The inhabitants had been on short rations for some time, eating horse flesh and living in burrows under heaps of mine refuse. The diminishing rations had been served out daily at 11 o'clock in the market square under the shell fire of the enemy, whose guns opened on the square whenever the inhabitants assembled.

Throughout the siege Cecil Rhodes provided the natives with work and food, and thus kept them quiet. The mules of the convoy bearing provisions for the relief column of the town, slowly winding its way across the plain in the direction of Kimberley, was the gladdest sight which had greeted the eyes of the besieged for four months.

Gen. French's march was so rapid and the heat so intense, that many of his horses died of exhaustion. At the crossing from Modder River the Boers bolted, leaving their tents, guns, oxen, wagons and large quantities of ammunition in the hands of the British.

Moving northward the Boers again attempted to stem the advance, but French turned their flank and reached his goal with the insignificant losses of seven men killed and 35 wounded, during three days from Wednesday, Feb. 14th, to Friday, Feb. 16th.

After a night's rest at Kimberley, Gen. French's column pursued the Boers to Dronfeld, surrounded the kopjes on which they were posted, and shelled them till midnight, when the Boers fled, leaving many dead.

Gen. Cronje left a gun, his tents, food and clothes at Magerfontein.

Trains for Kimberley.
Capetown, Feb. 19.—The repairs to

the railway have sufficiently advanced to enable the dispatch to-night of the first train to Kimberley, laden with coal. After that the military requirements will be the first consideration, second food-stuffs, and then passengers, the train for the last of which, it is anticipated, will start on Wednesday or Thursday.

Officers Killed and Wounded.
London, Feb. 20.—The war office announces the casualties among the officers during the relief of Kimberley as follows: Killed, Lieut. A. B. Heisketh, 16th Lancers; Lieut. The Hon. W. McClin-tock Bunbury, 2nd Dragoons.

Wounded—Capt. B. R. Gordon and Lt. P. E. Brasse, 9th Lancers; Capt. C. E. Tason, 16th Lancers; Lieut. R. I. For-dee and W. Long, 2nd Dragoons.

Dispatch from Lord Roberts.
London, Feb. 20.—The war office has issued a dispatch from Lord Roberts, the main importance of which is the fact that it is dated Paardeberg, 7:05 p.m., Monday, Paardeberg is 30 miles east of Jacobabad.

The dispatch announces that the railway to Kimberley is open, and that General Methuen will proceed there with reinforcements forthwith, and that large supplies will be forwarded to the town.

IN NATAL.

Durban Dispatches Tell of the Fighting at Tugela River—The Attack on Hlang-wana Hill.

Durban, Feb. 19.—There was continuous fighting yesterday from the British positions on Gun hill and Hussar hill. The troops advanced from the former towards Monte Cristo.

There was a heavy bombardment with three 4.7-inch guns and the one hundred-pounder siege gun, supported by infantry, against the Boer position on Hlang-wana hill, which adjoins Monte Cristo and is regarded as the key to Groblers Kloof.

The firing was particularly active from Hussar hill on the strong Boer entrenchments at the extreme end of Hlangwana hill. These entrenchments were strengthened with sandbags. The firing was still continued at 6 o'clock yesterday evening.

During the day the gun, Lady Randolph, came on an armored train from the direction of Colenso. It is reported that we have captured over 100 prisoners.

The naval guns knocked out the "Long Tom" on Hlangwana hill at the first shot, for which Gen. Buller especially complimented the gunners.

Hlangwana hill lies between two bends on the Tugela River. The Boers have erected a bridge between Hlangwana and the northern bank of the river.

Boers Cross the River.
Durban, Feb. 19.—Evening.—While Gen. Buller is continuing his movement on the extreme right and has made every disposition for the defence of his position to the left and south of the Tugela by maintaining there a force adequate for that purpose, isolated parties of Boers sometimes cross the river. There is much sniping.

Occupation of Colenso.
London, Feb. 20, 5:22 p.m.—News has been received here that Gen. Hart has occupied Colenso, after a slight engagement.

THE QUEEN INSPECTS MILITIA.

Her Majesty Says Good News Has Been Received From Ladysmith.

London, Feb. 20.—The Queen, prior to leaving Osborne House this morning on her return to Windsor, inspected the 4th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Militia. Her Majesty announced, with a gratified smile, that good news had been received this morning from the seat of war, the occupation of Bloemfontein.

Another account says the Queen specified that the good news was from Ladysmith.

ban, Nov. 4th. From Durban it was sent to Pretoria.

It is also claimed that the British authorities are familiar with the American consular code.

The Patriotic Fund.
Ottawa, Feb. 20.—The Canadian patriotic fund to date is \$121,900.

London, Feb. 20.—The Daily News correspondent at Capetown telegraphing on Sunday, says: "Lord Methuen's force I learn has arrived at Kimberley, having got through from Magerfontein without fighting."

Lord Roberts's generalship was conducted with such secrecy, says a telegram from Modder River, that even the senior officers who took the Sixth Division through the preliminaries of the operation did not know what they would finally have to do.

The sole explanation of the government's withholding good news is that confirmation and more details are awaited.

The war office message communicated to Mr. Lucy seems to indicate that Lord Kitchener has either got ahead of the Boers or is about to realize his plan.

Mr. Wynham was beset with anxious members of the House, but would only reply that the government's news was extremely satisfactory.

Free Staters Withdraw.
London, Feb. 20.—The Daily News correspondent at Kimberley telegraphed yesterday as follows: "We now occupy the hills to the right of Colenso, including Hlangwana, which the Boers evacuated last night (Sunday). A successful advance and recapture of the railway may be expected."

Gen. Buller has achieved real success since the capture of Hlangwana Hill, therefore, gives great satisfaction. Buller's losses so far have been about 20 in wounded. His entire army, with the exception of Gen. Hart's Brigade, is engaged in the operation.

According to Dr. Leyds the Free State troops who were besieging Ladysmith have withdrawn and defend their homes. In this way he accounts for Gen. Buller's success against the weakened forces. He will forego his projected trip to Rome, he says, because "decisive events are now taking place in the theatre of war."

London, Feb. 21.—The last news of the day is that Gen. Buller thinks the Boers are about to raise the siege of Ladysmith. They are leaving all the positions held by them on British territory and are concentrating for the defence of the town.

Gen. Buller reports that the force confronting him has been greatly diminished. Ten thousand men are said to have gone from the Colenso district alone. The Boers are also retracing their steps from Zululand.

"Thus they are relaxing their hold on all sides in order to assemble to oppose Lord Roberts. He is pressing on steadily towards Bloemfontein. This is shown by his inconsequential telegram from Paardeberg, fifty or sixty miles away. Doubtless he is miles behind the column that is

Pursuing the Boers, and the next important news may be the occupation of Bloemfontein.

Nothing has been heard from the chase of the Cronje force for two days.

Owing to the lack of transports, the British are not likely to invade Boer territory except where Lord Roberts is operating. Gen. Buller will have to stop at the Drakensberg mountains. Probably a part of his 40,000 men will ultimately join the legions of Lord Roberts.

the rest of the force advancing towards the Tugela.

"This morning the enemy had withdrawn all the troops north of the Tugela and practically evacuated Colenso."

"To-day General Hart occupied Colenso after a very slight resistance by a weak rear guard and we hold the line of the Tugela on the south side from Colenso to Bagle's Nest."

"The enemy seem to be in full retreat, and apparently are only holding the position they occupy across the Colenso-Ladysmith railway, where it is close to the angle of the Tugela, with a weak rear guard."

"Hart's advanced guard is crossing at Colenso."

"Our casualties yesterday and to-day have, I hope, been but few."

MAGERFONTEIN RETREAT.
Kellie-Kenny is endeavoring to Cut Them Off From Bloemfontein.

London, Feb. 21.—The Daily Chronicle's correspondent telegraphing on Sunday, describes Gen. Cronje's retreat with the Boers at Magerfontein on learning of Gen. French's success.

At midnight on Thursday, headed by Gen. Cronje, 5,000 Boers, with their heavy guns and ox wagons, evacuated Magerfontein. At dawn on Friday the retreating Boer army was seen from the British naval gun station on Klip Drift.

The action lasted most of the day. Our Infantry Fought Splendidly, but the enemy held his ground under the continued bombardment.

Later on the Boer commander ventured on a bold stroke. Leaving 2,000 of his men under cover, he withdrew the rest from his main position and headed for Klip Kraal Drift, six miles to the east. This movement was soon discovered.

Our mounted infantry came back across the Drift and marched along the south bank in an endeavor to head off the enemy. When we reached the neighborhood of Klip Kraal Drift, night had fallen and half the Boers were already across to the south side. Our mounted infantry harassed their movements.

Meanwhile the Boer rear guard, having covered the crossing of the main body, retired slowly and successfully across the Drift. The rear guard fought desperately, and as it

Fell Back to the River
It was harassed on the flank and rear by the British.

Having thus passed the Modder under cover of darkness, the Boers trekked throughout the night in the direction of Bloemfontein. Gen. Kellie-Kenny with the Sixth Division then pursued them at daylight, Gen. Macdonald with the Highlanders following him.

Macdonald reached Klip Kraal Drift by forced marches on Sunday.

Gen. Kellie-Kenny moving from Klip Kraal Drift was endeavoring to outflank the enemy and to cut them off from Bloemfontein, so as to drive them back into Gen. Macdonald's hands.

ical appeals" of Lord Rosebery for a mobilization of the fleet.

The Earl of Kimberley supported the contention of Lord Lansdowne, Lord Rosebery, Lord Dunraven and Lord Northbrook with others supported the proposal of Lord Wemyss.

The Marquis of Salisbury opposed the motion. He said there was not the slightest chance of passing such a bill without angry and acrimonious debate, and without public discussion of those dangers to which Lord Rosebery thought the country exposed. He asked if the House thought this would be advantageous. "Suppose the bill were to pass," said the Premier, "and the ballot were to prove unsuccessful, it would give abroad an impression of defencelessness, thus adding to the many dangers enumerated by the noble lord (the Earl of Rosebery)."

If the ballot were introduced it would be impossible to stop short of conscription. It has been suggested that the ballot will have the effect of driving men into the ranks of the Volunteers. I rather suspect it would drive them to emigrate to the trans-Atlantic countries where their own language and religion prevail, and where there is no ballot of that sort to frighten them. I prefer not to run the risk of awakening unaccustomed emotions at a time when it is necessary that the nation should work in harmony."

The motion of Lord Wemyss was rejected by a vote of 69 against 42.

FOR HOME DEFENCE.

An Invitation to Reserve Men to Re-join the Colors.

London, Feb. 20.—The Queen, through her private secretary, Sir Arthur John Bigge, has sent the following letter to the Commander-in-Chief of the forces, Field Marshal Lord Wolseley:

"My Dear Lord Wolseley:
"As so large a proportion of the army is now in South Africa, the Queen fully realizes that necessary measures must be adopted for home defence.

"Her Majesty is advised that it would be possible to raise for a year an efficient force from her old soldiers, who have already served as officers, non-commissioned officers, or privates, and confident in their devotion to their country and loyalty to her throne, the Queen appeals to them to serve her once more in peace of those who, for a time, side with the peoples of her colonies, who nobly resisting the invasion of her South African possessions.

"Her Majesty has signified her pleasure that these battalions shall be designated the Royal Reserve Battalions of her army." Signed, Arthur Bigge."

REPLY TO MACRUM.

He Made No Complaint Regarding His Mail—Report of Alliance With Britain Unfounded.

Washington, Feb. 21.—The answer of the state department to the house resolution for information regarding certain charges made by late Consul Macrum was transmitted to the house yesterday by the President. It is signed by Secretary Hay, and after reciting the resolution says:

"Answering the first part of the resolution, the department of state has been in regular communication by mail and telegraph with Charles B. Macrum, late consul of the United States at Pretoria, South African Republic, since his entrance upon duties of the office. Communications made to him have been answered and the execution of instructions sent has been reported by him. His dispatches to the department forwarded through the consulate at Lorenzo Marquez have, during that time, been regularly received. The only instance of complaint in respect to the transit of the mails for Lorenzo Marquez and Pretoria was in November last, when a temporary stoppage of the mails occurred at Capetown against which Mr. Macrum and the consulate at Lorenzo Marquez protested. Arrangements were made for the prompt delivery of the consulate mails to the United States consul-general at Capetown, by whom the mail for Mr. Hollis and Mr. Macrum was forwarded to Lorenzo Marquez. The delay lasted but a few days and has not recurred so far as the department is advised. After that time the department's mail for Lorenzo Marquez and Pretoria was sent by a neutral route, which, it appears, was known and open to Mr. Macrum and Mr. Hollis as early as November 19th last. No obstacle, therefore, is here known to have existed since then to Mr. Macrum's unimpeded correspondence with the department of state. At no time while the mails post did Mr. Macrum report to the department any evidence of violation by the opening, or otherwise, of his official mail by the British censor at Durban or by any person or persons whatsoever, there or elsewhere, neither has he so reported since he left Pretoria, although having the amplest opportunity to do so by mail while on the way home, and in person, when he reported to the department upon his return home.

"Answering the second part of the aforesaid resolution, the undersigned secretary of state has the honor to say that there is no truth in the charges that a secret alliance existed between the republic of the United States and the empire of Great Britain, that no form of secret alliance is possible under the constitution of the United States, inasmuch as treaties require the advice and consent of the senate, and finally, that no secret alliance, convention, arrangement or understanding exists between the United States and any other nation.

"(Signed) John Hay, department of state, Feb. 20th, 1900."

It is estimated that 18,000,000 tons of coal are imported into London every year, of which amount 7,288,000 tons come by sea.

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NATE.
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ONOLULU.
A San Fran- cases of plague the past four