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TWENTY-FIRST YEAR

LOYALTY TO BRITAIN

THE DURING TOPIC

Resolution For Payment of

Canadian Contingent Was

Under Discussion.

FUN POKED AT CHARLTON,

Davin Says That Every Sentence of

That Pro-British Speech Echoed

on Tarte's Back.

I. ROSS ROBERTSON STRIKES IT

Government That Baited Railroads

for Private People Ought to

Pay for Soldiers.

Ottawa, Feb. 16.—(Special.)—The debate

on Mr. Davidson's resolution for the granting

of two million dollars for the payment of

the contingents occupied the attention of

the House all day to-day, and it is yet

to be further debated. The day was de-

clined one in which the Opposition show-

ed most talent in debate. Mr. Robertson

and Mr. Clarke from Toronto proved their

right to command the ear of the House,

the former by the brevity and vigor of

his remarks and the latter by his com-

prehensive grasp of the situation.

A pleasing feature of the evening session

was the presence in the speaker's gallery

of Lady Laurier and a coterie of lady

friends. Their costumes were variegated,

and not a pleasant tint to the sober up-

holstering of the chamber. Lady Laur-

ier held a miniature court while the de-

bate was in progress, several prominent

Liberals paying their respects.

IN THE COMMONS.

The Toronto Members Showed How

Canada Should Pay the

Contingents.

But one bill was introduced this after-

noon. It was that of Mr. Gilmour, to

amend the Companies' Clauses Act. Its

aim is to give mercantile and manufactur-

The Toronto Star

FOURTEEN PAGES SATURDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 17 1900—FOURTEEN PAGES

FRENCH'S FORCES HAVE REACHED KIMBERLEY...

MORE BRILLIANT WORK DONE BY THE BRITISH.

Lord Roberts' Despatches Give Great Satisfaction in London—Jacobsdal Has Also Been Seized

and Communication Is Now Open to the Modder River—Have Boers

Deserted the Trenches at Magersfontein?

There Was Fierce Fighting on Both Flanks Near Rensberg and British Have Withdrawn to Arundel—Gen. Roberts' Plan is to Cut Off

Gen. Cronje's Retreat—French's Move Was Too Quick for the Boers, Who Were Outwitted at Every Point—Gen. Buller is Keeping

the Boers Busy in Natal—Ladysmith is Able to Hold Out—Fighting Near Mafeking.

WAR OFFICE BULLETINS.

LONDON, Feb. 16—(9.51 a.m.)—The War Office has just

posted up the following message from Field Marshal Lord Roberts:

JACOBSDAL, Feb. 16—(2 a.m.)—French with a force of

artillery, cavalry and mounted infantry reached Kimberley this

evening, Thursday.

General French Tells the Story.

LONDON, Feb. 16—(7.44 p.m.)—The War Office makes

public a despatch from Field Marshal Lord Roberts saying:

JACOBSDAL, Feb. 16.—The following from Gen. French

was received this morning:

I have completely dispersed the enemy from the southern

side of Kimberley, from Alexandersfontein to Oliphantsfontein,

and am now going to occupy their ground. Have captured

the enemy's laager and store-depot supplies, and supplies of

ammunition. Casualties, about 20 of all ranks wounded.

Kimberley cheerful and well.

Wounded at Jacobsdal.

LONDON, Feb. 16—(10.55 p.m.)—The War Office has just

issued the following from Lord Roberts:

JACOBSDAL, Feb. 16—(7.45 p.m.)—Much gratified on

arrival here to find admirable hospital arrangements made by

the German ambulance corps under Doctors Kaetner and

Hildebrand, who, with their staffs, have shown the greatest

kindness to our wounded, as they have to the Boer wounded.

Some of our wounded have been here since December. Some

were brought in yesterday.

Magersfontein Trenches Abandoned.

I have good reason to believe the Magersfontein trenches

have been abandoned and that the Boers are endeavoring to

escape. General French is scouring the country north of

Kimberley. One of Gen. Kelly-Kenny's brigades of infantry

is in pursuit of a large Boer convoy moving towards Bloem-

fontein.

Further Details.

LONDON, Feb. 16—(9.30 p.m.)—The following despatch

from Gen. Roberts fills the gap in the earlier despatches:

MODDER RIVER, Feb. 16.—The sixth division left

Waterfall drift early yesterday morning and marched here, go-

ing on the same evening to Rondevaal drift to hold the crossing

of the Modder River and leave Gen. French free to act.

Shortly after arriving here the mounted infantry visited

Jacobsdal and found it full of women and children, with four

of our wounded men doing well.

Attacked by the Boers.

On the way back the mounted infantry were attacked and

nine men were wounded. Col. Henry and Major Hatchell

and ten men were missing. Both officers were subsequently

found at Jacobsdal, slightly wounded.

The cavalry division is moving in a northerly line and

has apparently already reduced the pressure on Kimberley, as

Kekekis signals the enemy has abandoned Alexandersfontein

and that he has occupied it.

French has advanced as far as Abonsdam, with slight

loss, and is pushing on the posts, his rear being held by

mounted infantry.

Clements at Arundel.

Gen. Roberts adds:

Clements, having been pressed by the Boers, has retired

to Arundel to cover Nauwpoort.

The War Office points out that the word "here" in the

above despatch means some point on the Modder River

other than the Modder River Station.

British from Rensberg. The place was oc-

cupied by only a small force, which fell

back before the patrol. After a series of

skirmishes a battery of artillery

shelled the environs and drove out the last

of the Boers.

Boers Attacking a Convoy.

Early this morning a large force of Boers

from Colesburg, with ten guns, attacked a

convoy of 200 wagons on the Modder River.

Shelling vigorously and doing damage. But

strong reinforcements have been sent

hence, and it is hoped they will bring in

the whole convoy in safety.

Boers Were Entrenched.

Gen. French's division seized three drifts

on the Modder River. At the third drift

the Boers were fairly strongly entrenched.

Gen. French bombarded them and drove

them off. To-day he moved rapidly in the

direction of Kimberley.

The Boers have left Alexandersfontein,

which the British occupy.

"Boers" in Good Health.

General Roberts is in excellent health

and spirits. The hardships and rapid

marching appear to agree with the whole

of the Boers.

ROAD IS NOW OPEN

Between Jacobsdal and the Modder

River for Reinforcements

and Supplies.

Outside Jacobsdal, Orange Free State,

Thursday, Feb. 15.—The road between

Modder River and Jacobsdal is now open.

The distance is only nine miles. The road

is available for sending reinforcements and

supplies.

Showered With Shrapnel.

When the Boers evacuated Jacobsdal,

they were obliged to pass over a ridge,

where they afforded a splendid mark for

the British guns, which showered shrap-

nel upon the retreating enemy. The con-

voy, which was attacked at Riet River,

had been contemplated, but the order

did not arrive in time and the experience

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ONE CENT

SERIOUS DISASTER

NEAR RENSBERG!

Company of New South

Wales Mounted Infantry

Was Annihilated

IN ATTACK ON THE FLANKS

Most of the Men's Bayonets Bore the

Impress of Sanguinary Con-

flict With Their Foos.

OUT OF 50 OFFICERS, ONE RETURNED.

Death Roll of the British in the

Withdrawal to Arundel is

Not Yet Known.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—The Daily Telegraph

has the following despatch from Nauw-

poort, dated Feb. 13, and delayed in trans-

mission:

"Very severe fighting occurred on both

flanks near Rensberg. The enemy

greatly outnumbered our troops, being

about 4000 in number. They attacked the

Westchester Regiment on their bill, and

with desperate determination charged home.

Only a few men of the Westchester

remained. The rest of the men's bayonets

showed the impress of sanguinary

conflict with their foes.

Only One Officer Returned.

"Col. Campbell was shot thru the heart

at the outset of the engagement. The

enemy chose the time of the moon's setting

for their onslaught. Out of five colonial

officers only one returned to camp.

Death Roll Not Yet Known.

"A strategic and concentrated attack was

made on the British position. Our

troops, however, have been safely re-

turned to their camp. The enemy's

losses are estimated at 400 men.

Two Companies Cut Off.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—A despatch to The Daily

Mail from Lourenco Marques, dated Feb.

15, says:

"Heavy fighting has occurred at Ramah

(Rensberg) in the Free State, not far from

Hopetown. Cape Colony. The Boers say

they held all the positions, the British in-

firmly retiring.

The Times has the following despatch

from Cape Town, dated Wednesday: "Two

companies of the Witwatersrand, New York

regiment, failed to join the force before

the retirement from Rensberg, and their ab-

sence not being noticed on the parade they

were eventually cut off."

Have Not Yet Returned.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—A despatch to The

Daily Mail from Nauwpoort, New York

regiment, says nothing of the return of the Wit-

waters.

THEY CANNOT VERIFY IT.

A Report from Ottawa That Govern-

ment Contemplates Increasing

Preferential Tariffs.

Winnipeg, Feb. 16.—(Special.)—An Ottawa

special says: It is reported that the Govern-

ment contemplates increasing the prefer-

ential tariff in favor of Great Britain to

35 per cent. It is difficult to obtain corrob-

oration of the report, as the members in

position to speak are very reticent at pre-

sent.

The Mail View the Milwaukee.

A special mail for British possessions in

South Africa will be despatched by S.S.

Milwaukee, sailing from Halifax for Cape

Town on the 21st inst. Letters and papers

for despatch by train must be in the

Toronto Postoffice before midnight

to-day.