

"BOBS" AT KROONSTAD

The Hardships and Sufferings of Colonel Baden-Powell's Band of Heroes Probably Over.

Cable from Cape Town Suggests that the Relief Was Effected Either Sunday or Monday.

Buller Makes a Bold Move in Natal and Successfully Turns the Boer Position—Roberts Forces Will Rest a Day or Two at Kroonstad Before Advancing North.

MISSING MEN TURN UP.

OTTAWA, May 11.—The militia department received today a cablegram from Sir Alfred Milner, announcing that the four Canadians reported missing since April 30 have turned up all right. The men are: Privates Moore, Allen, Edouard and Niant. No explanation is given as to their use of their absence from the regiment for ten days. In the cablegram announcing that the men were missing Niant's name was given as "Niant," an evident mistake of the telegrapher.

PART OF THE LAST ACT.

CAPE TOWN, May 11.—At the closing of the Volksraad, Monday, May 7, President Kruger cried out: "God of the Volksraad! shall this be the final act? No! it shall not. God will be merciful and strengthen the right. Ours is the right." The president added that he had documentary proofs of a "devilish conspiracy to annihilate the Republics."

LONDON, May 13.—Fleet street received last night several versions of the occupation of Kroonstad and the scattered forces, but these despatches merely repeated the essential facts of Lord Roberts's previous bulletins. The Dutch allies have been impressed with the overwhelming power of the British resources and with the hopelessness of resistance when they are outnumbered and outclassed. They have begun with reproaching each other with lack of co-operation, and have ended by separating their forces. Strong positions have been abandoned north and Kroonstad, and there is no probability that another stand will be attempted south of the Vaal. Dutch operations on the eastern flank are no longer menacing, while Lord Roberts's army is well supplied by the railway and prepared to advance in the course of a few days. The Dutch commanders are discouraged and hopeless. Their attempt to thwart the British advance by raiding southward and by hanging on the eastern flank has failed, after involving a dispersion of their forces and the wearing down of their men and transport. Lord Roberts has an army of 200,000 men for guarding communications and operating on a front virtually 200 miles wide from Pietermaritzburg to Biggarsburg. Against this army the Boers have 20,000 burghers in the Transvaal and Natal, and Steyn has perhaps 5,000 burghers under arms in Bethlehem district. The Dutch have fought bravely and made a wonderful defence, but the day of miracles has passed. There was sharp skirmishing Friday on the road to Kroonstad, and Gordon's cavalry brigade acted with gallantry in the final onset. The town was normally surrendered by the landroost after the Transvaal burghers had removed the bulk of their own stores, blown up the bridge, wrecked the railway station and done other damage. There were groups of British sympathizers in the streets when Lord Roberts entered the town at the head of the troops, and the scenes enacted at Bloemfontein under similar conditions were repeated. The troops halted yesterday after their long march. Two columns which had been 40 miles apart at the outset having been massed at Kroonstad, this town will now be converted into the advanced base of supplies for operations in the Transvaal. The German press considers the fate

of the Dutch republics sealed by the capture of Kroonstad, and praises Lord Roberts's northward advance as worthy to rank with his march from Kandahar. While Gen. Buller, with the Transvaal burghers has retired to the Vaal river, Steyn with the remnant of the Free State army is making a needless stand in the north-eastern corner. Hellbron has been abandoned because it lies on the line of Roberts's march northward, but Lindley on the Vaal, north of Vicksburg, is held by a small Dutch force as the temporary capital with Bethlehem and Harrismith as places of refuge. Olivier's commandos have been operating against Gen. Rundle's division from Mequading Nek, from which line the retreat leads through Vicksburg to Bethlehem. Gen. Brabant's scouts reported Saturday that the Boers were moving north. What remains of the Free State force could be easily dispersed if Gen. Hillyard's division were sent from Natal over the mountains to Harrismith, but Gen. Rundle's division with the cavalry seems entirely competent to deal with it without assistance from Lord Roberts's plan of campaign, unless all signs fall will not include operations on a large scale against Bethlehem, and the scattered Free State commandos on the eastern flank, but he will make a fresh start from the Vaal river after a brief halt and carry the bulk of his army into the Transvaal leaving strings of burghers at liberty to retain control of the small section of the country around Bethlehem, where they will gradually disperse under pressure from Gen. Rundle. There was little news at midnight from either Natal or the Warrenton line.

The reason why the Boers failed to make a stand at Kroonstad is explained by a news correspondent with Lord Roberts. It appears the Boers' position was probably impregnable, and the burghers had every intention of fighting, but the far extending sweep of Roberts's flanking operations rendered it impossible for them to maintain their ground. Tucker's and Hamilton's on the right and French and Hutton on the left completely enveloped the position, and the Boers had to retreat or surrender. The Winton Churchill, telegraphing to the Post, states that if the British had succeeded in cutting the line to the north before four o'clock on Friday afternoon they would have captured seven engines and several trains including one which contained 240,000 in specie and immense quantities of stores. According to Bennett Burleigh, the honor of hoisting the Union Jack at Kroonstad fell to Mrs. Lockhead, an American lady there. There is no news whatever regarding the missing relief column. The Mail says information has reached Lorenzo Marquez to the effect that Baden-Powell has food sufficient to last until next Saturday. Rumors have reached Durban that Gen. Buller's forces have been engaged in heavy fighting, but no news from the front has been received in confirmation.

I. N. FORD.

WAR OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT.

LONDON, May 12, 10 p. m.—The war office has received the following despatch from Lord Roberts: "KROONSTAD, May 12, 2 p. m.—I entered Kroonstad at 1.30 without opposition today, when the Union Jack

was hoisted amidst cheers from the few British residents."

ROBERTS AT KROONSTAD.

KROONSTAD, Orange Free State, Sunday, May 13.—The arrival of Lord Roberts was hailed with enthusiasm by all the British inhabitants. Three hundred Free State men anxious to surrender, the bridge to the south had not been destroyed, but the large bridge near the town had been demolished. The Irish brigade, with the federals, yesterday burned the goods shed. According to the townspeople, many of them were drunk. The Boers are now trekking to the Vaal river, where they are entrenched. Gen. French occupied northeast of the town and despatched a force to cut the line. The project succeeded late at night, but unfortunately after the departure of the last train. Although the troops had marched 15 miles, they were in excellent form, and the march was uneventful. Many arrests have been made, chiefly of those who had maligned the British. It was found that many persons have been reported from Ladysburg for ultra-British sympathy.

President Steyn has gone to Lindley, the new seat of the Free State government. A number of the burghers are trekking homeward. The opposition in the Free State is practically over. All the prisoners in the hands of the British here agree that the quarrel between the Free State and the Transvaal is so acute that the Transvaalers have decided to leave their allies, whom they accuse of cowardice and lack of patriotism. Most of the Transvaal prisoners think that if they are defeated at the Vaal River, the Boers will be driven into the Orange River, and the burghers will be a growing distrust in their Transvaal government. In a word, the back of the Boer resistance seems to have been broken. The burghers are fighting without their previous stubbornness. They seem ready to retreat on the slightest pretext. The prisoners, even the Transvaalers, appear glad to have been captured. They say they are sick of war which can have only one end. Several have exclaimed: "We have lost our liberty, but why should we lose our lives?"

CANADIANS KILLED AND WOUNDED.

(Special Correspondence of the Sun.) OTTAWA, May 13.—The militia department has received information of the following casualties in the Canadian special service (first contingent) in the Thursday's action: Killed. Private F. G. W. Floyd (7193), B Company—7th Fusiliers, London, Ont. Wounded. Private E. Armstrong (7018), A Company—6th Royal Canadian Artillery, B. C. Private G. W. Leonard (7208), B Company—2nd Oxford Rifles, Woodstock, Ont. Private A. R. McLean (7221), B Company—38th Dufferin Rifles of Etobicoke, Ont. (This despatch was handed to newspaper men at 9.45 Saturday night.)

PROMOTION FOR GUNNER FRED CHEBLEY.

OTTAWA, Ont., May 13.—The Montreal Star's correspondent with the Gunner Fred Chebley, of "B" Battery, has been appointed Base Supplier at Cape Town to the battery. He is a son of John Chebley, ex-M. P.

KRUGER GOING TO LYDENBURG.

LONDON, May 14.—A despatch to the Times from Kroonstad, dated Saturday, says: "It is reported that President Kruger intends moving to Lydenburg as soon as he is joined by President Steyn, who left yesterday with Gen. Buller. The country between Boshplatt and Kroonstad might have been effectively held if the spirit had been willing."

AT THEIR LAST EXTREMITY.

LONDON, May 14.—The Lorenzo Marquez correspondent of the Times, telegraphing Sunday, says: "It is rumored that the Transvaal Raad, in secret session, has resolved to order all residents, irrespective of nationality, to assist in the defence of the republic, in accordance with the terms of the amended military laws. The Boers recognize that they are now at the last extremity and all sorts and conditions of men are being commiserated. The merchants here have protested against the stoppage of a consignment of clothing and corned beef, of which the latter was purchased in America. U. S. Consul Stanley Hollis, whose sympathies are notorious, is said to have remonstrated against

what he called "interference with American trade."

WAR SUMMARY.

LONDON, May 14, 4 a. m.—"The war is practically over," says the Daily Chronicle's Kroonstad correspondent, and in less definite terms, this is the view to be gathered from all the correspondents. They picture the Boers as utterly demoralized and disheartened by Lord Roberts's unexpectedly rapid advance and by his facile turning of the Boer position. The occupation of the carefully prepared positions of the Boers. There was practically no fighting, and there are no further details to give respecting the occupation of Kroonstad. The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says: "The Union Jack was hoisted in the market place by Mrs. Lockhead, the American wife of a Scotchman. Most of the horses of the Boers are in a wretched condition, but President Kruger declares he will continue the war."

It appears that the Boers at Kroonstad had been reinforced by 3,000 from Natal last Friday, and that altogether 10,000, with 20 guns, trekked from Kroonstad on the approach of Lord Roberts. The Boers made an ineffectual stand at Boshplatt and had elaborate entrenchments in front of Kroonstad, which offered great facilities for a rear guard action. Their only anxiety, however, appears to have been to get away with all their guns and convoys, which again they have successfully accomplished. The few stores they were unable to carry away they burned. President Steyn is represented as having been from the Vaal and as having kicked and cuffed the burghers after vainly imploring them to continue the fight. Lord Roberts, after a march which is regarded as worthy of being ranked with his famous march to Kandahar, has thus covered another stage of his campaign, a stage which, although successful and without the mistakes and misadventures that characterized the earlier stages, leaves the Boer forces cut off, not having lost a gun and having lost very few men. Experience has taught the critics to be wary of accepting reports of Boer demoralization. The Times says: "The signs point to military breakdown on the part of the Boers; but after experience of the past, we cannot accept the reports of demoralization without reserve. The game of war must be strictly played out to the end. Lindley, the new Free State capital, is 45 miles southwest of Kroonstad, half way to Bloemfontein, and was probably selected as a convenient rendezvous for the commandos now in the hands of Gen. Brabant and Gen. Rundle in the Thaba N'Chu district. Brabant has occupied Hoepollok, half way on the road from Thaba N'Chu to Ladysburg."

HEAVY FIGHTING IN NATAL.

LONDON, May 14.—The Standard publishes the following from Durban, dated Sunday: "There are persistent rumors here of heavy fighting in Natal. A Red Cross train left last night for the north."

SPENSER WILKINSON'S FORECAST.

NEW YORK, May 14.—Spenser Wilkinson of London in an article on "How long will the Boers last?" which will appear in the forthcoming edition of Leslie's Weekly, says: "I have from the beginning expected that the Boers would make a desperate fight. According to their view the cause for which they are in arms is that of their independence, and for that cause every community will fight harder and longer than for any other. 'Great Britain is fighting for the unity of her empire and for the existence of the British nation. It is a cause which appeals less directly to the intelligence of the masses than that of independence, and the disproportion between the resources of the British empire and those of the Boer republic is so great that neither the British government nor the constitution which supports it is accustomed to guide itself able to realize the importance of extreme exertions to bring the war speedily to an end. 'In the present case the British government, the group of politicians in charge of the nation's affairs is not more than half awake, and if the provision hitherto made for the conduct of the war should prove insufficient before fresh exertions by way of preparation would produce a visible result. 'There are now under command of Lord Roberts altogether 100,000 men, and even if the most liberal deductions be made for casualties of all sorts, for garrisons left on the communications, for invalids and for troops stationed in the districts lately disaffected, and if we allow that there may be in Natal 40,000 to supply a field force of 30,000, there is still abundant material for Lord Roberts to attack the Boers with a force outnumbering their whole army. On the lower estimate of what the British commander of Natal can do, he must hold fast a respectable fraction of the Boer forces. The remainder cannot, without great danger, fight a pitched battle against Lord Roberts, for in that case his attack will certainly envelope them and involve them in disaster. At best they can delay him and harass his communications. 'It is little more than a month's march from Bloemfontein to Pretoria. The Boers by the various expedients open to them of rear-guard actions may prolong this time by a couple of months; but in the process, even though they should escape crushing defeat, their army would be used up. After that there is nothing left to them but guerrilla warfare or the attempt at wholesale trek to the north. 'This appears to me to be the normal forecast, but I have no personal knowledge either of the country or the

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people and there are many unknown elements which conceal various possibilities which I cannot gauge."

FAVORS ANNEXATION.

LONDON, May 13.—Rudyard Kipling brought from Cape Town the appeal of well known Wesleyan minister to the president of the Wesleyan conference in favor of the annexation of the two Republics. To this appeal Mr. Kipling adds: "It is through any influential leadership, we in England prefer to tackle emotion by being generous once again at other people's expense when the sentiment comes, all this weary, bloody work will have to be done away from the beginning, five or ten years back. I assume that you have full knowledge of the situation in South Africa, but I do not think you can realize how passionately and eagerly the loyalists look to England for a sign that the mother country will neither desert them nor betray them to the Dutch."

OCCUPATION OF KROONSTAD A SURPRISE IN BERLIN.

BERLIN, May 13.—The occupation of Kroonstad by Lord Roberts without resistance has caused the greatest surprise here. The military expert of the Lokal Anzeiger finds an explanation in the fact that many of the Boers have deserted. He says: "Lord Roberts's advance was splendidly executed. It is worthy to be placed with the Kandahar expedition. The situation has changed so greatly in favor of the British that the fate of the Transvaal Boers is sealed. President Steyn's movement eastward is interpreted as confirming the rumors of a split between the Transvaalers and the Free State. A BIG ARMY CONTRACT. HAMILTON, May 13.—The Sanford Mfg. Co. has received an order for thirty thousand khaki serge uniforms for the imperial troops in South Africa. This is the first time such an order has been placed in Canada. The contract calls for the delivery of the uniforms in four months, in lots of two thousand per week. The contract was made through the agency of Messrs. G. H. & Co., an inspector has been appointed by the government.

LONDON, May 14.—Gen. Buller's army has been in motion since Thursday, and has succeeded in turning the Boer positions on Biggarsburg, where his three divisions have been encamped since the relief of Ladysmith. East, west and south of the scene of the prolonged siege with cavalry scouts at Acton Homes on one flank and at Wessels Nek beyond Elandsplaagte on the other side, and with reserves at Pieters and Colenso, the Boers have held Biggarsburg or a series of mountain spurs running from Tintwa Pass toward Helpmakaar. These spurs were over 4,000 feet at the highest, and the defensive positions selected by the Boers were of a nature to block the British advance northward toward

GLENCOE AND LAING'S NEK

and preventing the passage of Buffalo river to the north. The Boers have broken up the Vryheid district in the Transvaal. Buller by stationing one division at Elandsplaagte has seemed bent upon following the railway northward. Although the armchair strategists in London have persisted in sending Mm mounted men to the Draakenburgs through Van Reenen's Pass into the Free State to co-operate with Lord Roberts, his advance has neither been north nor west but toward Helpmakaar, and in turning the Biggarsburg positions he has secured control of the leading access to the Vryheid district. The British advance began Thursday and was directed against Helpmakaar, where the attack was made Sunday after a long march. There was heavy mounted men on both sides, and the army around the enemy's flank, while Bethune's Horse came up from the Greytown road as far as Pomeroy. Helpmakaar does not appear to have been held by a very strong Boer force, and the southernmost position on Biggarsburg was easily taken. The correspondents telegraphing yesterday were profuse in admiration of the BRILLIANCY OF BULLER'S MANOEUVRES.

but exceedingly frugal in explanations of the scope and nature of the proceedings. The effect of the turning movement was described as complete, emptying the Boer defensive positions on Biggarsburg, upon which an enormous amount of labor had been expended. The occupation of Dundee, where the first battle was fought, is confidently expected, but a more important result will be the command of the road to Rorke's Drift and Vryheid. This will secure the entrance into the Transvaal by which a turning force can be sent north to cut off the Boer retreat from Laing's Nek and compel the evacuation of Natal by the Dutch forces.

The war office was silent at midnight, but I received semi-official assurance that Gen. Buller's movement had been COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL

and that Dundee had probably been occupied on Monday. The situation at Kroonstad has remained unchanged. Lord Roberts's new bulletins relate to white flag outrages and to correspondence with Kruger respecting the treatment of colonial prisoners. There is no evidence that the Dutch force at Kroonstad exceeded 8,000, nor is it possible that the passage of the Vaal will be contested by more than 15,000 Boers. The Free State burghers in front of Gen. Rundle's division are still falling back. News of the relief of Mafeking is expected in the course of a few days. Mr. Wyndham intimated in the commons yesterday that the garrison might already have been rescued. The mounted force which was reported at

Vryburg the middle of last week can hardly be expected to reach Mafeking before the 18th, even if unmolested by the Boers. This movement has been jealously guarded as an official secret too important even to be whispered, but the authorities in Pall Mall certainly expect that the siege will be raised by the end of the week. Mr. Chamberlain's speech at the Australian Commonwealth meeting yesterday was a masterly performance. He was eloquent and sympathetic respecting points on which there was no difference of opinion and minimized with tact and skill the hundredth point on which the imperial government considers an amendment necessary. It was an adroit appeal to the Australian premiers not to weaken even a small link in binding the

COLONIES TO THE MOTHER COUNTRY.

but to enable Barton and the other delegates to follow the advice of the judiciary and accept the amendment relating to the court of appeal for the empire, on which every colony will be represented by a life peer. Campbell Bannerman and Dilke indicated plainly the sympathy of the liberals with Barton, and the government amendment is likely to be converted into a party issue. No official news has yet been received with regard to Gen. Buller's move in Natal, and accounts from correspondents at the front leave a good deal to the imagination. The News telegraph says that the operations were completely successful, but it must for the present remain doubtful whether the Boer force that was defeated was a formidable body or merely a rear guard contingent left to observe Buller's movements after the main army had withdrawn. It does not appear from any report yet to hand that Buller had more than a portion of his force with him. The Express correspondent in Cape Town says MAFEKING WAS PROBABLY RELIEVED on Sunday or yesterday, but owing to delays in communication the news can hardly arrive in London before tomorrow. Definite intelligence as to the situation of the garrison and the progress of the relief column is however altogether lacking. The situation in the Free State is apparently unchanged, but Gen. Rundle appears to be clearing the district east of Thaba N'Chu, where the Boer forces have not yet proved formidable. Hon. Cecil Rhodes called for Cape Town yesterday from Beira. I. N. FORD.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

LONDON, May 15, 3.45 a. m.—General Buller's turning of the Biggarsburg position was effected by a bold movement. The Boers had a stand Monday evening at Bieskopplaagte, seven miles from Dundee. The correspondents on the spot regarded this as a rear guard action intended to cover the retreat of the army. At the same time Gen. Hillyard took Indaba, and it is reported that the Boers withdrew in disorder. Gen. Buller, who seems to be employing his full strength, is expected to push on. His first marches were forty-five miles in three days. He is thus breaking into British territory which had been administered for six months by the Transvaalers as though it were part of the republic, they holding courts and levying taxes. His success, therefore, has political as well as military consequences. While Lord Roberts's infantry was concentrating at Kroonstad, where they will rest for a day or two, his horsemen have penetrated eighteen miles northward. In the squadron which cut the railway fifteen miles beyond Kroonstad was the African scout, Frederick Barham. Two hundred Boers who had ridden in the river jungles near Kroonstad to escape service have surrendered to the British and taken the oath of allegiance. According to a despatch from Gen. Buller to the Daily Telegraph, dated Thursday, May 10, Paul Botha and MacDonald, members of the Free State Volksraad, demanded that the chairman should call a meeting to sue for peace, as further resistance was suicidal, and proposed to make President Steyn a prisoner. Nothing definite has been heard about the expected relief of Mafeking. The Cape Town correspondents continue to wire that relief is imminent, fixing Tuesday or Wednesday as probable dates. "Inquirers at the war office are told that the news of the relief will be made public immediately upon its receipt. No word has come to hand at midnight. The latest supposition concerning Gen. Buller is that possibly he is marching up the north bank of the Vaal, with a force sufficient in co-operation with Lord Roberts, to render the Boer defence of the Vaal frontier impracticable. East of Bloemfontein, Gen. Rundle is advancing toward Ladysburg. His troops and those of Gen. Brabant are stretched over a distance of thirty miles. The Boers are described as "quite disorganized," and as retreating northward. President Steyn's lieutenants are trying to rally them. (Continued on Page Eight.)

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