

REPORT THAT MAFEKING HAS BEEN RELIEVED.

That Boer Yarn About Gatacre Being Captured.

THERE IS NO TRUTH IN THE STORY Pretoria Still Confident Lord Roberts Can be Checked.

Boer Women Want to Shoot British Prisoners—Kruger and Steyn at Loggerheads—Sir Alfred Milner Flanking a Tour of Reoccupied Towns—Her Majesty's Visit to Woolwich Hospital—The Enemy Abandons Klipdam and Windsorton—Col. Gough's Charges—Generals Lord Kitchener and Settle Have Combined Forces—Rebellion in the Prieska District Ended.

London, March 23, 4 p.m.—Commandant Symman's tactics, aiming to defeat Colonel Plumer's relieving force before it is able to co-operate with the British besieged at Mafeking, have rendered more acute the interest in the operations which centre in Col. Boden-Powell's gallant defence of the town. The public interest here to learn the result cannot yet be gratified, as even the most sanguine British reports leave matters in an indecisive state, while the Boer accounts claim a British defeat.

A rumor that Mafeking itself had been relieved was again abroad last night, but the War Office at midnight declared that it was unable to confirm the report.

The Daily News, however, asserts that the foundation of the rumor is much less flimsy than that of previous reports. It claims to have good authority for stating that a telegram reached the War Office in the course of yesterday positively announcing the relief of the town, but the department is unwilling to issue it until it shall be confirmed, because the form of the message admitted the possibility of a mistaken interpretation.

The Daily News adds that the telegram included a statement that the intelligence was conveyed by a scout, who met the British force advancing from the south.

Mr. Spencer Wilkinson, reviewing the general field operations in the Morning Post says: "Interest in Mafeking increases in acuteness. Commandant Symman evidently writes brightly-colored despatches, which seem a pity, for his tactics are sound."

"Lord Roberts is not likely to let the Boer army escape him, and he is putting so as to ensure, when he next moves, the mobility and hardness of all his columns. By this time he has taken the measure of all his generals and troops, and there is not likely to be any sudden failure of execution as occurred during the march on Bloemfontein. He will be directing the movements of two, if not three, armies, and the result will probably greatly astonish the Boers."

Silenced the Artillery.

London, March 23.—A despatch from Warrenton, dated March 21st, says that in an artillery action north of the Vaal River, four British guns silenced the Boer artillery. A reconnaissance showed that the Boers were camped in several strong laagers.

Have Vacated Klip Dam.

Warrenton, March 22.—The Boers have vacated Klip Dam and Windsorton, which are almost deserted. Their wives and families have fled with them. They sank the punts, or ferry-boats, at Riverton and Windsorton. The Vaal River can only be crossed by swimming. The country this side of the river is well patrolled by the British.

No British Disaster.

London, March 23.—The Boer reports of the capture of Gen. Gatacre and his staff excite less uneasiness than they would if they emanated officially from Pretoria. The British have learned to respect Boer official reports, but official stories from that source have been frequently discredited.

The War Office denies knowledge of disaster to the British in any form, and against the story, which was first started on Monday, may be set a despatch to the Daily News from Springfontein, which says that Gen. Gatacre and his staff were still there on Wednesday.

Boers Hold Council of War.

London, March 23.—Little is known of the strength, and nothing of the plans, of the Boer army at Kroonstad. The correspondent of the Morning Post at Bloemfontein reports the arrival there of a deserter, who says that the withdrawal of the Boers from Bredford was the outcome of repeated discussions. The deserter does not think that the Boers will even make a stand at Kroonstad, or anywhere south of the Vaal River, owing to the desire of the Transvaalers to defend themselves on their own territory, after the refusal of the Free States to fight at Bloemfontein. The correspondent discredits the view of the deserter.

It is stated that a council of war on Saturday, presided by the issuing of the Presidential proclamation at Kroonstad, President Steyn, Gen. J. J. van Rensburg, and Generals Joubert, De la Rey, and others, considered the issue of the war to the end of the year.

appeal to his hearers not to despair, on the assertion that the total Boer losses hitherto had been only about 900, while the British newspapers admitted that the British had lost 64,000.

General Joubert, in a speech, urged unity among the Boers. He instanced Ireland's woes as the result of disunity.

The Daily News has the following from Bloemfontein, dated Wednesday: "It is rumored that Mr. Kruger and Mr. Steyn will meet at Kroonstad in the Orange Free State, on April 4th, to discuss the future programme. The feeling between the Transvaal and the Free State is very bitter."

COUNTER PROCLAMATIONS.

A despatch to the Times from Bloemfontein, dated March 22nd, says that President Kruger on Wednesday issued a proclamation annexing the Orange Free State to the Transvaal, whereupon President Steyn issued a counter proclamation declaring that the Free State remained intact.

Fear a Boer Trek.

Berlin, March 23.—In German colonial circles it is feared that after Great Britain annexes the Transvaal the Boers will trek into German Southwest Africa. Several newspapers have referred to this possibility during the last few days, plainly intimating that the Boers are not waiting, inasmuch as undesirable conditions would arise in time through the inability of Germany to grant them the degree of self-government.

The Boer-Briton.

London, March 23.—The Standard, in its principal editorial to-day, indulges the hope that many Boers may yet become British soldiers. It says: "The Boers are proved to have a remarkable turn for soldiering, and there must be many young Boers who will be reluctant to return to a humdrum pastoral life after the excitements of campaigning. If they are willing to adopt a military career we can find room for them in safer and more satisfactory enterprises than armed rebellion. We may yet hope to see some future Orange or Joubert leading British troops on the battlefield side by side with generals of Irish, Canadian, and Australian origin. Army commissions are to be given to Australians. Similar privileges must be granted to the other colonies, including those of Southern Africa."

Boer Women Frontie.

London, March 23.—It is reported from Lorenzo Marques that Pretoria is preparing to stand a siege of two years, and that the Boer women frantic at the reverses to the Boer army, are entreating to be allowed to shoot the British officers imprisoned at Pretoria.

It is also announced from the Transvaal capital that the Italian Government has declined to interfere.

Queen Visits Wounded.

London, March 22.—The Queen, accompanied by Princess Christian and attended by a large suite, visited Her Majesty's Hospital at Woolwich this afternoon to see the sick and wounded soldiers who are being cared for there. Immense crowds awaited the arrival of Her Majesty at the station in Woolwich, and lined the route to the hospital. There were lavish decorations, and unbounded enthusiasm was displayed.

The Queen appeared to be in excellent health. She drove in an open landau through the assenal grounds, where 20,000 employees were drawn up in line, and gave Her Majesty a magnificent reception. The Queen distributed quantities of Windsor flowers in the wards of the hospital. On the parade ground of the garrison the school children viewed the procession from military wagons and sang "God Save the Queen." The original flag made by some of the ladies of Pretoria on the occasion of the town's first annexation was hoisted over the artillery barracks in honor of Her Majesty's visit, and the house of General Gordon was born was effectively decorated.

The Queen spent an hour in the hospital and spoke to numbers of the patients, wishing them a speedy recovery.

No Boer Uniforms.

Paris, March 22.—The McCreagh process here to-day was marked by no untoward event, and it did not produce the unpleasantness between British and French that was expected to follow a proposed manifestation of sympathy by some of the merry-makers for the South African Republic.

A number of the participants in the process planned to wear Boer uniforms, as evidence of their sympathy with the Transvaal and the Orange Free States, and this fact coming to the ears of certain Englishmen here, they threatened to indulge in a demonstration against the wearers of the uniforms.

When the Government learned of the

threatened trouble, M. Delcasse, Minister of Foreign Affairs, issued an order that none of those taking part in the ceremony should wear the Boer uniform. The order was obeyed, and not the slightest difficulty occurred.

Have \$6,000,000 to Spend.

New York, March 22.—A letter was sent to the Viscount de Santo-Thyrso, Portuguese Minister in Washington, to-day by Geo. W. Van Slen, advocate in America for the Transvaal, saying he was in a position to offer to lend Portugal the sum necessary to pay the Delagoa Bay award, amounting to six millions dollars, on fair terms.

The money has been subscribed by friends of the Boers in this country. The object of this offer is to forestall and anticipate any offer that England may make to Portugal, the acceptance of which would result in closing Delagoa Bay.

Warren's Division Leaving Natal.

London, March 23.—The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily Chronicle, telegraphing Thursday, says that Sir Charles Warren's division is embarking at Durban for East London, Cape Colony.

Gatacre at Springfontein.

London, March 22.—A despatch to the Daily News from Springfontein, dated Wednesday evening, March 21, says: "Gen. Gatacre and his staff are still here. He is most strict regarding the private property of the Boers. Some officers who had looked for a military career were tried and severely punished, to the great astonishment and gratification of the Boer residents."

Pretoria is Confident.

Pretoria, March 21.—A correspondent has just seen Capt. Leon, the agent of the gun works at La Cresset, France, who was reported to have been killed in an engagement with the British some time ago. Capt. Leon was quite badly wounded, but he is

THE TREATMENT OF REBELS.

The rising in the Prieska district has been completely crushed, and Lord Kitchener and Gen. Settle joined forces at Doornburg, Natal, on Tuesday without encountering any opposition. Among the supporters of the Government in the House of Commons the belief is growing that unless the Cape rebels are treated with a certain amount of severity the effect will be injurious upon the future of the colony and may encourage fresh risings.

CONVERGING ON BLOEMFONTEIN.

When rifles have been collected and ammunition delivered the march northward will be taken in easy stages, and the same process of pacification will be continued. Generals Gatacre and Clements are carrying their columns northward to the capital and east and west of the railway line, and Lord Roberts' army will have with these reinforcements 60,000 men for forcing the passage of the Vaal River.

IN NATAL.

The campaign in Natal has not yet been re-opened, but preparations are making for a rapid movement of General Buller's forces, with a system of improved transport. The town of Fomeroy has been burned by the Boers, who are reported to number 5,000 strong in the Biggarsburg. The Boers are entrenched in that quarter to prevent an advance into the Transvaal by Dr. Kitchener's Drift, if Gen. Buller has in mind a turning movement, by which Laing's Nek may be avoided. Military experts assume that General Buller's army will be mainly employed in expelling the Boers from Natal, and occupying the southeastern quarter of the Transvaal, while Lord Roberts is marching to Pretoria.

More Leys' Recruits.

London, March 23.—The Times has the following special to-day: "Lorenzo Marques, March 22.—According to the War Press, the authorities claim that the military situation is improving daily, and that

Col. Gough, he added, had been informed that an inquiry would be held into his case.

Col. Gough is alleged to have been ordered home by Gen. Methuen after declining to obey a command issued by the latter, and the colonel demanded a trial by court-martial.

Asked to Resign.

London, March 22.—The factors of Colman, at a largely attended meeting held at Wick to-day, passed a resolution calling on their representative in Parliament, Dr. Gavin Brown (Clark), to resign, because of his pro-Boer sentiments. Dr. Clark was formerly Consul-General of the South African Republic in Great Britain.

Boer Agents See Hays.

Washington, D. C., March 22.—Montagu White, the Boer agent in this country, called at the State Department to-day, and spent some time in conversation with Secretary Hay. Mr. White was said to have been asked about the fate of Johannesburg, and it was intimated that the subject of the conversation was purely personal in character.

Was With Lieut. Osborne.

London, March 2.—Pte Read, 2nd Scottish Rifles, writing home to Gatcombe, I. W., of the Spion Kop battle, on a trial on the charge of rape—a crime which, like murder, is punishable by death. The prisoner, who is over forty years of age, at one time worked on a farm near the village of Apple Eddrid township, and while there he made the acquaintance of Wm. Earhardt and family, who lived close by. Pte Read finally moved from the locality, and the Earhardts heard nothing more of him until the 22nd of August last, when he called at the house and found Mrs. Earhardt and two children—Jan, aged 11 years, and Jimmy, aged 7 years, at home. Pte Read said he had found a partridge's nest in a near by woods, and upon offering to show it to them, the youngsters went with him. After they had gone into the woods a short distance, Pte Read told Jimmy to stay back for some reason, and it is said that upon going a few rods further he criminally assaulted the girl, despite the latter's screams for help.

Pte Read was captured the following day, but escaped from the county constable and crossed the border, where he remained until Christmas, returning then to Port Swirell to visit his family. The crown has half a dozen witnesses. Pte Read was examined yesterday afternoon, and while in the witness box she showed herself to be a remarkably bright, intelligent child. During the cross-examination she cried bitterly. Jimmy is also a bright child.

The medical evidence showed conclusively that a rape had been committed. Mr. McPhillips, for the prisoner, called him as a witness, when he denied committing the offence and asserted that the prosecution was a put-up job. Under Mr. Washington's vigorous cross-examination, however, it was shown that there was no motive whatever for putting up a job on him, and that his story was absurd and unreasonable. He was also forced to admit that he had been once convicted for indecent language once for exposing his person and twice for indecent exposure. The Judge charged strongly against the prisoner, and the jury, after a short deliberation, found him guilty. After giving him a severe lecture, Lord Justice sentenced the prisoner to 15 years in Kingston Penitentiary.

KRUGER'S LATEST.

A despatch from Bloemfontein, dated Thursday, March 22nd, says: "President Kruger is reported to have issued a proclamation declaring Great Britain to be in dire straits and that the Russians have occupied London."

A Springfontein telegram, published in the second edition of the Times, says: "The apparent submission at the table of the Free States should be accepted with caution. The large proportion of obsolete, inferior weapons being turned in by them to the British is giving the impression that large stores of modern Mausers are being concealed."

The Outlook's special correspondent at Cape Town says: "Feeling is running strong against the leniency with which rebel Cape Colony and Natal are being treated by the British authorities."

French Moving.

Bloemfontein, March 22.—Gen. French, with a brigade of cavalry and mounted infantry, has arrived at Thabaneha, and opened telegraphic communication with Maseru. He reports all well.

Kilburn Out of Quarantine.

Cape Town, March 23.—The transport Kilburn has been released from quarantine. The only fatal case of the plague was that of the captain. All the other patients are convalescent.

BRIBED ST. PAUL KRUGER.

The Story Told by a Firm Now Being Sued by the Transvaal.

New York, March 23.—A criminal case which will attract the greatest attention in England and in all countries where the struggle between Great Britain and the Boers is exciting attention, will be heard on June 11th before the Brussels Tribunal. The case, known as the "Bribe Case," is a trial which will put to the test the accusation of corruption brought out by the Boer official in general and President Kruger in particular.

The parties concerned are the well-known financiers, the Baron Oppenheimer of the firm of Oppenheimer, Freres; Louis and Henry Warant, Belgian barrister; M. Braconier, a wealthy Belgian capitalist of Liege, and another Belgian, M. Terwange, all of whom were associated some years ago as lessees of the Transvaal railway, which was to connect Komatje Port and Selat.

The Transvaal Government complains that by producing false accounts the company claimed from them an amount of interest largely in excess of the capital subscribed or required.

According to information given out by the company's directors, who are being prosecuted on this charge, allege that they were compelled to make the charge higher in order to consent the bribes which they had to pay to President Kruger and his family, and are most of the members of the Pretoria Volksraad, including some of the generals now engaged in the war.

The Proof is Clear, However.

New York, March 23.—Phillip Loutter Wessels, Government envoy of the Transvaal to America, now in this city, denied the statement sent from Cape Town that there was a connection between the Transvaal and the Cape and that the Cape documents were in the hands of the Transvaal.

Col. Gough's Charges.

London, March 22.—Replying in the House of Commons to-day to a series of questions on the subject of Gen. Lord Methuen and his alleged agreements with the officers of the Transvaal, which have caused some comment, the War Office Secretary for the War Office, Mr. Wyndham, declared no charge had been brought against Gen. Gough by Col. Gough or any other

you, fighting for my country and Queen. It is very lonesome out here, for me, as I often sit on a rock while on sentry duty on a moonlight night with my comrades sleeping on the ground near me, as thoughts go far away home across the sea to my darling mother, whom I may never see again. It makes tears come to my eyes, but, aunt, war is war; so I must not complain.

"We are fighting a very treacherous foe. They fire on our white flag and our wounded. Boers are coming out to meet them.

"Wishing you a happy New Year and many of them, I remain, W. W."—Windsor Record.

AN EXEMPLARY SENTENCE.

Wm. Price, London, Gets 15 Years

FOR RAVISHING A CHILD.

The first of the cases on the criminal calendar was reached yesterday afternoon, when Wm. Price, a laborer, belonging to Port Swirell, was placed on a trial on the charge of rape—a crime which, like murder, is punishable by death. The prisoner, who is over forty years of age, at one time worked on a farm near the village of Apple Eddrid township, and while there he made the acquaintance of Wm. Earhardt and family, who lived close by. Pte Read finally moved from the locality, and the Earhardts heard nothing more of him until the 22nd of August last, when he called at the house and found Mrs. Earhardt and two children—Jan, aged 11 years, and Jimmy, aged 7 years, at home. Pte Read said he had found a partridge's nest in a near by woods, and upon offering to show it to them, the youngsters went with him. After they had gone into the woods a short distance, Pte Read told Jimmy to stay back for some reason, and it is said that upon going a few rods further he criminally assaulted the girl, despite the latter's screams for help.

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ARCHDUKE OTTO'S EARS BOXED

Attempted to Embrace a Pretty Girl at a Ball.

Buda Pesth, March 23.—Strange reports are in circulation regarding Archduke Otto, nephew of the Emperor, and next heir to the throne. Three months ago the archduke was attending a public ball at a pleasure resort in Vienna, known as Gastein. He was attracted by the charms of a girl there with her father and mother.

Later in the evening, when he had freely imbibed, the archduke, who was in civilian dress, approached the young woman and attempted to embrace her. Her father intervened, and dealt his Imperial Highness a sun-bug box on the ears. A scuffle ensued. The archduke was recognized by many of those present. He was anxious to chastise his assailant, but was persuaded by an officer in attendance to leave the ball and go home.

The Emperor was extremely annoyed when he heard of the occurrence. His Majesty's annoyance was increased by the discovery that his nephew had contracted debts to the amount of £250,000 (about \$1,225,000). The Archduke Otto obtained leave of absence, and went abroad until the affair blew over. He will return to Austria soon, but to Meran, instead of Vienna.

Tommy Atkins Well Fed.

George Love, plasterer, of Westminster Road, B. C., has received a letter from his brother, who is a member of C. Company, of Toronto, of the First Canadian contingent, in South Africa. The letter is dated from Belmont, Jan. 15th. The writer says, among other things: "The one thing that stands out most prominently in the efficiency of the British army organization. Just think of the task of feeding 100,000 men scattered over hundreds of miles of territory, and feeding them well, perhaps better and more certainly more regularly than ever troops on an active campaign were ever fed before. England is 6,000 miles away, yet her commissariat department has reached such perfection that no blunders are made in the feeding of her huge army. Think of the Canadian war where American soldiers almost starved practically in sight of their own country, and you will realize the enormousness of the task. We are fed well for soldiers, far better than I anticipated. For breakfast we get bread and coffee; for dinner, fresh meat soup; supper, bread and tea. We also receive three rations of jam per week. The food is of excellent quality."

Named McLean, while walking

at Point Aconi, near Syd. caught her foot in thicket, and shortly afterwards

report of the Department shows that during there has been erected York buildings to the

ch says: Some time stone, of near Clyde, haled, blood poisoning, day morning he died, fifty-third year.



THIS ORIGINAL DOCUMENT IS IN VERY POOR CONDITION