

ROGER COULDN'T STOP THE FLYING BOERS.

British Now Pushing Ahead on the Road to Bloemfontein.

BULLER TO REMAIN IN NATAL.

Gen. White Goes to Stormberg and Gen. Hunter for Tenth Division.

Kruger Addresses Free State Burgers—Many Boers Found Killed by the Fumes of Lyddite—Great Fear That Mafeking Will Have to Surrender—Two Canadians Seriously Ill With Fever—Boer Commanders for Natal—Pretoria Boer Women to Form Home Guard—Canadians and Highlanders Capture a Krupp Gun.

London, March 10.—While the official and semi-official telegrams from Pretoria speak emphatically of the stiffening of the Boer resistance in face of reverse, and the prevalence of a spirit of desperate resolve, several English correspondents continue to declare that not only are the Free State Boers demoralized and anxious for peace, but the Transvaalers are wavering and seeking a settlement by which they may escape a prolongation of the exhausting struggle.

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the War Office.

98 Boers Killed by Lyddite. Durban, Natal, March 7.—Lieut. Anderson, who commanded a section of the Natal Naval Volunteers at Ladysmith, has arrived here. In the course of an interview he said that towards the close of the Pieter's hill engagement the naval guns threw lyddite shells on a kopje 2,500 yards distant. When the place was evacuated by the Boers he visited the trenches and counted therein 98 Boers who had been killed by the concussion of the lyddite, not one of them having a wound of any kind. Lieut. Anderson declared that the fumes of the lyddite turned the hair and beards of the dead men to a peculiar greenish hue, while the color of the skin was a strange yellow.

Kruger Couldn't Stop It. London, March 9.—Both Presidents have been very active during the past few days in encouraging the burghers. President Kruger only returned to Pretoria from Natal on March 3rd. He then hastened to Bloemfontein, from which city he proceeded with President Steyn to hear the fighting line facing Gen. Roberts. A correspondent at Poplar Grove telegraphs that President Kruger has been in the rear on March 7th. He tried to arrest the flight of the burghers, but the retreaters refused to stay. The Bloemfontein police also vainly tried to stop the retreat.

Three Years for a Spy. London, March 9.—An elderly Russian Jew named Benjamin Silpent, who is alleged to be a naturalized American citizen, has been sentenced at Kimberley to three years' imprisonment at hard labor for signalling to the Boers from a house-top during the siege. His plea of insanity was rejected.

The Situation in Natal. London, March 9.—A despatch to the Daily News from Ladysmith, dated March 7th, reports that Gen. Buller's force is now ready to consist of a much-needed rest, but its future employment is unknown. Some reorganization of the command is being arranged, and according to the Standard's correspondent, General White is going to Stormberg, while Gen. Hunter will be given command of the tenth division. Gen. White and Gen. Buller, who were unable to attend the reception to the Governor of Natal owing to indisposition.

De Wet's Appeal. Lorenzo Marquez, March 8.—The Pretoria newspapers state that Commandant De Wet's report announcing the surrender of Gen. Cronje recommended the burghers to follow him, but to remain silent before the Lord in this hour of their trial. He added: "Let us trust that God will strengthen our officers and burghers and give them a better conception of their duty to Him and the Government."

Female Home Guard. Pretoria, S. A. R., March 8. Soon via Lorenzo Marquez.—A very hopeful view of the situation is entertained here. Notwithstanding the reports of Boer reverses, the patriotic spirit of the people shows no disposition, and everyone is willing to give his services to aid the Government. A number of Boer women have offered to form a home guard in order to enable the burghers who are now performing that duty to proceed to the front.

Will Mafeking Surrender? London, March 9.—The situation at Mafeking is causing extreme anxiety here. There is no detailed news from the garrison later than Feb. 19th, and that is of the most depressing character, with a distinct report from Pretoria, though brief, as written in language indicating that the Boers have strong hopes of capturing the town. One of these dates is dated March 7th, stating that the burghers have captured all the outside forts except one. There is little to encourage the British people, except the hope that the garrison will be speedily relieved. The accounts show that Col. Plumer's force is held in check by the enemy north of Mafeking, and nothing is known of the march of the supposed relieving column from Kimberley. The despatch from the correspondent at Pretoria, reports that firing had been heard from Bloemhof, possibly indicating that the Kimberley column has advanced, and engaged the Boers between Kimberley and the Vaal River. There is a suggestion barely amounting to a hope that a column left Kimberley as soon as that

place was relieved, and is now well on its way to Mafeking. Falling from the fire strata to which the garrison is known to have been reduced three weeks ago, by lack of food must apparently grow worse, until famine renders the defenders helpless.

Kruger's Forlorn Appeal. Bloemfontein, Natal, March 6. 1 p. m., via Lorenzo Marquez.—Among the Boer artillery officers who were killed while fighting under General Cronje was Lieut. von Dantz, a German, who was extremely popular. President Kruger, of the Transvaal, was given a most enthusiastic reception upon his arrival here. He made a rousing speech to the burghers, who cheered him again and again. He said: "Although God is testing our people, my personal opinion is that the limit of the test is nearly reached. If the people are sustained by faith in the time of adversity God will soon again turn the tide in our favor. If we have strong faith in God He will surely deliver us. The God of deliverance of the olden time is the same God now. The speech of the venerable President brought tears to the eyes of men and women alike. The Free State Volkslied (National Anthem) was then sung. The chief magistrate Kruger has cheered the despondents. President Kruger, more recently, has been visiting the commandos south of Bloemfontein. Much sympathy is expressed in all circles at the courtesies extended to Gen. Cronje by the British.

Presidents Want Peace. Rome, March 8.—The Agenzia Libera announces that the Italian Consul at Pretoria has telegraphed to his Government that President Kruger and President Steyn are prepared to accept peace on the basis of the status quo ante-bellum, and that they request the intervention of the powers to bring about that end. Two Canadians Ill. Ottawa, March 8.—A cable has been received stating that Corporal Grant, of the 48th Highlanders, Toronto, is seriously ill at Wynberg of enteric fever. Private F. B. Irwin, of the

REINFORCEMENTS FROM NATAL

are going to Lord Roberts. Gen. Warren's division and some artillery have already been ordered to join the commander-in-chief, who is preparing for all eventualities, including possible desperate opposition to his crossing the Vaal River and the necessity of the

siege of Pretoria. Thousands of natives are reported to be employed at the Transvaal capital in the construction of defensive works, concerning which such secrecy is maintained that no one is allowed to walk or drive on the outskirts of the town.

Kruger Seeks Delay. London, March 9, 5.10 p. m.—It was learned late this afternoon that peace rumors had been founded on the fact that President Kruger had appealed to Lord Salisbury for a cessation of hostilities, offering at length by cable, the terms which he was willing to accept.—These, however, were not taken seriously, as they included

TITLED BRITONS WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED.



VICTOR CAVENDISH, M. P., Son of the Duke of Devonshire.



LORD WOLVERTON.

8th Batt., Quebec, is also reported to be seriously ill of fever. Celebration at Ladysmith. London, March 9.—The Times has the following special to-day: Ladysmith, March 7.—The Governor of Natal to-day addressed the inhabitants and read the Queen's message, thanking them for their loyalty and the splendid defence of the town. Gen. Buller was present, and a salute was fired. The powerful contingent left to-day for Durban. The burghers of the fighting line to the 25th Feb. is shown by the list of casualties, showing 110 officers, including six battalion commanders, and 1,500 men killed and wounded.

London, March 9.—From various quarters come signs of the possibility of peace in South Africa being shortly within the bounds of practical politics. All the despatches from Lord Roberts' headquarters, including those of the commander-in-chief himself, indicate the lack of a guiding spirit among the Boers and individual demoralization, portending disintegration unless speedily stemmed. INGLOURIOUS FLIGHT. The flight of the burghers from Poplar Grove, according to all accounts, was wholly inglorious. A Times despatch from Poplar Grove, under yesterday's date, goes so far as to assert that the Boers' rout was so complete that the submission of the Free State is being demanded by the burghers from their unwilling President, and it is said their submission will be made within a week.

Despatches from the Boer camp at Glencoe, via Lorenzo Marquez, depict President Kruger as donning a bandolier, seizing a rifle and inviting volunteers to accompany him, as he wished to have a shot at the enemy himself. President Kruger is quoted as having declared in his address to the troops that he "did not know whether arbitration or intervention would end the struggle, but that it would end quickly, within the next month, he strongly believed."

MOVING FORWARD. In the meanwhile, the British are not staying their advance. Lord Roberts has moved ten miles nearer Bloemfontein, evidently with the view of seizing and utilizing the railway. With this he could reach the Free State capital in three or four days and begin repairing the railroad southward to meet the British advance from Cape Colony, which is expected to be hastened as soon as Gen. White takes control. The British occupied Jamestown unopposed on Thursday, March 23d, and the Boers are reported to be retreating beyond Allwal North, so Cape Colony is practically clear of armed Boers.

AWFUL MINE DISASTER.

Explosion in the Red Ash Mines in Virginia.

FIFTY DEAD BODIES TAKEN OUT.

Fire Creek, Va., despatch: The most disastrous mine explosion ever known in the New River district occurred at the Red Ash mines shortly after the miners went to work this morning. Although the most heroic work of the rescuing party has been going on incessantly all day, it is impossible to estimate the full extent of the loss of life and property. More than 50 dead bodies have already been taken out, and the number of the dead may reach 75 or more. It is thought to-night that at least 45 miners are yet entombed in the wrecked mine.

The Red Ash mine is a large drift, and the explosion occurred near the entrance, which was thus closed by the falling slate, entombing a large number of miners. The scene of the disaster is between this place and the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway, and every assistance possible was rendered by the railway company and by the adjoining mining towns. Relief parties from great distances arrived as soon as possible. State Mine Inspector Mackey, with a corps of experts and many workmen, has been on the ground during the day rendering all assistance possible and devoting his attention more toward relief than to an official investigation as to the cause of the disaster. J. Fred Effinger, of Staunton, Va., the principal owner of the mines, spared no efforts in the work of rescue and relief, and his manager, Ferdinand Howell, had all the men available at work in trying to clear away the debris and rescue the entombed men.

The managers and bosses of all the mines in this district came to the scene as soon as possible and joined in the work of rescue. It is impossible to describe the amount of work done by this concentrated army of men, as they were greatly impeded because of the extent of the enormous blockade at the entrance to the drift. The large heavy slabs of the entrance were blown out to some distance together with a lot of heavy timbers. Even mules were blown out some distance. The force of the explosion caused an immense falling of the slate and other debris, so that the entrance was filled up for a great distance, and the difficulties in digging through it caused delay in the work of rescue, as many men as could work at one time were digging away with all their might and were relieved in short relays by other men.

The first successful strike of the rescuers was about 10 a. m., when ten bodies were recovered. Seven of them were already dead, and the other three were dying, and the miners were located at different places in the drift and the explosion caused the falling slate to blockade the rooms in different parts of the mine, the work of rescue met with one great obstruction after another. At the mouth of the mine the scene was beyond description. The wives and children, the neighbors, those who were known to be entombed, were there in full force, and their anxiety and distress were most intense. While they were all seeking to help and to get the mine reopened, yet these bereaved people were for the most part in the way of the rescuers, and had to be held back from the entrance.

The mine is one of the largest in West Virginia, and was very heavily timbered in the different drifts. It was for this reason it was feared that these drifts would have been killed by falling debris at the time of the explosion would be pinched by these connected timbers and suffer from suffocation. Air forced into the mine by engines on the surface, which were kept working after the explosion, but it was found that air could be pumped into the drifts for only a short distance, the coal, stone and earth shut off the possibility of reaching the interior. The pumps and all other machinery in the mine were demolished, so that everything had to be done through temporary arrangements on the surface.

After the men got under headway in the work of rescue they reached the first party in less than an hour, but they met greater difficulties after that time. It was then that telegrams were sent to Montgomery, Charleston, and other places for physicians, nurses and caskets, but during the greater part of the day there was use only for the caskets. Had the accident occurred an hour later many more would have been entombed in the mine. The estimates of the number in the mine when the explosion occurred are based on the number who entered at 7 o'clock. The population of this mining village is only 500. All are miners, and the majority will reach a candle metre in length in the mining town.

Visual Fatigue. The fact seems to be abundantly proved by Professor Cattell, and by others, that facility of reading is affected by size and quality of type, by "leading," by the intensity and quality of the illumination and by the quality of the paper. But the result to which all this class of inquiries comes is that the size of the type is the all-important condition of "visual fatigue"; that no type less than 15 min. in height, eleven point, should ever be used, the fatigue increasing rapidly even before the size becomes so small as this. The intensity of illumination is found to be of little consequence within the limits of daylight in well-lighted rooms, and experience shows that few intensities less than three to ten candle metres—candle metre being the light of a standard candle at a perpendicular distance of one metre—are sources of even greater visual fatigue. It is certainly not considered a type limit. Experiments were made with different sizes of type, and the results were certainly to establish the accuracy of the result.

Government in connection with the plan for road improvement provide for the abolition of all over the Federal highway system. It is believed to be

THIS ORIGINAL DOCUMENT IS IN VERY POOR CONDITION