

The Chatham Daily Planet.

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A Glimpse At the New Silks

In all the years of our Silk business we never saw such handsome silken fabrics as we are now showing. Oriental patterns in their wealth of bizarre colorings, dainty warp printed effects in subdued shadings, and—no more—ramble on for an hour—THE PRICES ARE

45c, 50c, 75c and \$1.00

Buy an Umbrella for a rainy month

Because now good Umbrellas are cheap—these just arrived from Scotland to-day. You can close your eyes in choosing from this Umbrella stock, for there is not one but is worth every cent you pay for it and sometimes more—here's a hint at the prices—

75c, \$1, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75,
\$2.00 and up to \$5.00

Thomas Stone & Son Thomas Stone & Son

Why not buy good Carpets?

You're not buying for six weeks or three months, but for years. Quality in Carpets commands a standard price. Shoddy you can get for any price where they keep it. We don't, our Carpet reputation is the result of years of hard fighting for quality.

We want to call your attention to a very large shipment just received—50 pieces—very choice Brussels with or without border, all selling at one price

\$1.00 yd.

How about an outfit of Window Shades

Throw out those old rattle traps that have caused so much annoyance. We have the best roller, best shade cloth, a competent man to do the measuring and making. The price part is easy, especially now before we're rushed. Let us have your shade order.

WILD CONSTERNATION

Reigns at Pretoria Where Cronje's Position is Regarded as Hopeless.

London, February 26.—The Lorenzo Marques correspondent of the Times says:—"The feeling in official circles at Pretoria borders on consternation. Gen. Louis Botha and President Steyn are both urging President Kruger to sue for peace. At Bloemfontein, Gen. Cronje's position is regarded as hopeless."

The campaign is in a most interesting stage. In about a fortnight the council of the Afrikaner Bond will meet, and it is rumored that Mr. Hofmeyr will then propose peace terms on the basis of the Republic's attaining absolute independence, but offering to disarm. If these terms are not accepted, a proclamation will be issued calling on the Dutch colonists to throw off their allegiance to Great Britain. Probably the Boer rumors are exaggerated, but there is no doubt the greatest anxiety prevails in Cape Town over coming events.

Dr. Leyds, in the official Berliner Post, asserts that all reports of German intervention are quite without foundation.

The Standard has the following from Cape Town, dated Saturday:—"A proclamation has been announced by Pres-

ident Steyn, annexing the Prieska section to the Free State, and all loyal British subjects have been given 48 hours to leave the place. I am informed from Prieska, that unless troops are speedily sent there, the whole north-western district will rise."

THE SITUATION.

London, Monday, Feb. 26, 4.35 a. m. Perhaps never before in the course of the present campaign have such crowds visited the War Office as went there yesterday (Sunday). As the Times remarks today:—"The dearth of news is somewhat trying at the time when a general success was regarded as imminent. No diminution of confidence in Lord Roberts is felt, however, and the public is ready to believe that he had good reasons for not mentioning Gen. Cronje in the official despatches. Probably he is in no hurry to end a situation that is daily brightening." Small parties of Boers in vain endeavor to reinforce Cronje. Lord Roberts has already captured over 400 Boers, and at this rate he will soon have quite a respectable array of prisoners to hold as hostages for the three hundred British already in Pretoria. Gen. Cronje's failure to accept the offer of Lord Roberts regarding the women and children indicates that his position is less perilous than was supposed, or that he has been able to gain an absolute, safe place.

buying shoes

is quite a serious matter if you haven't money to burn—it pays to be careful—to look about and find the best place—even in buying shoes. Some one shoe dealer must have better shoes than the others—must have better prices—he's the one you want—look around until you find him—it won't do any harm to start here.

A new line in this week is a man's fine, heavy dongola kid laced boot, good weight, sole, english back strap, nicole eyelets and hook, 19.0 spring last, very comfortable and sensible, the shape that will suit you—price..... \$2.50

SLATER STAMPED SHOES AT CUT RATES

\$5.00 kind for \$4.00
\$3.50 kind for \$3.00

geo. W. cowan
chatham

BOERS ARRIVE TO RELIEVE CRONJE

Lord Roberts Defeats Them With Heavy Loss Taking One Hundred Prisoners Including a Commander.

Cronje's Position Shelters Him From the Artillery but he is Short of Ammunition—The British have Captured 460 Prisoners so far—Details of the Fighting.

London, Sunday, Feb. 25, 3.55 p. m.—The war office published the following from Lord Roberts:—"Paardeberg, Feb. 24, 12.20 p. m.—Parties of Boers recently arrived from Natal attacked our outposts in force again yesterday. They lost a good many killed and wounded and nearly 100 prisoners, including a commandant and three field cornets. Our casualties were nine men killed, 23 men wounded, two men missing. On the 21st and 22nd one officer and 13 men were wounded. Six men were wounded yesterday by hollow-nosed Mauser bullets. The nickel case is still with four slits, making the projectile of the most expansive and exploding nature possible. A wounded Boer brought to our hospital yesterday, had forty of these bullets in his pockets. During the advance to and at Kimberley, the casualties were:—Officers killed, two; 13 wounded; men, four killed, 78 wounded."

PAARDEBERG WEST OCCUPIED. Lord Roberts has sent the following additional advice to the war office:—"Paardeberg, Saturday afternoon, Feb. 24.—Meiburn reports that Barkley West was occupied by British troops on Feb. 22. The loyal inhabitants displayed great enthusiasm. The country west of the railway from Cape Town to Kimberley is gradually settling down. A detachment has started from De Aar for Britstown, and Douglas and Prieska will shortly be visited by our troops. Meiburn's account of the admirable manner in which the Kimberley hospital is managed made one desire to send some of our sick and wounded there."

UNDER GOOD COVER. The Times publishes the following from Paardeberg, dated Wednesday, Feb. 21:—"Gen. Cronje's forces have good cover from the British artillery fire, and have considerable store of provisions. A despatch to the Morning Post from Kimberley, dated Friday, says:—"Gen. Cronje is reported to have plenty of provisions, but to be running short of ammunition. Rhodes is extremely hopeful that the war has reached its concluding stage."

CLOSING IN ON CRONJE. Paardeberg, Orange Free State, Wednesday, Feb. 21.—The fourth day of Gen. Cronje's fine defence opened in startling fashion. Soon after dawn a most terrific rattle of rifle fire broke out, waking the sleeping camp. It soon developed that the Gloucestershire and Essex had lost their way and had bivouacked, in error, close to the Boer laager on the north side of the river. The enemy fusilladed, but the British casualties were practically none. There was desultory firing all day long on both the north and south banks. Gen. Knox's brigade holding and pushing forward the line south of the river, while Gen. Smith Dorrien, with the Canadians on the north side, worked toward the laager. Meanwhile Gen. French advanced, in a far easterly direction

that many wounded had been removed. A British doctor, who visited the Boer lines to see the wounded, found the trenches along the river full of wounded and saw many dead. The position to-day is practically the same. The Boers are strengthening the entrenchments around the laager, but the case is hopeless. The capture of the kopje to-day has given the British a splendid position and will prevent a Boer relieving force making headway. Everyone admires the splendid stand of the burghers, but from a humanitarian point of view it is considered that further resistance on the part of Gen. Cronje would be criminal. To-day Gen. Roberts sent Gen. Cronje an officer, for the sake of the women and children, with an order for a free passport to them, and also an offer of medical assistance. Cronje's answer was a curt refusal. Desultory firing was resumed."

MULES AGAIN STAMPEDE. Paardeberg, Thursday, Feb. 22.—Artillery shelling continued through the early part of last night. As soon as the last gun was fired the shopkeepers, who had been occupying the trenches since Sunday, rushed forward, seized an additional 200 yards of new ground and entrenched a fresh position before daybreak. At dawn Gen. Cronje found himself docketed that amount of space, work under a galling fire, since Sunday, and they were relieved by the Gordons to-day. During the artillery firing last evening the mules of the 82nd battery, which had remained hitched to the carriages, suddenly stampeded and galloped off en masse, and to-day the wagons, with one exception, were recovered. Gen. French has sent in 75 prisoners. A British patrol, eight miles to the west, discovered thirty Boers wandering away and cornered them. Altogether this force has already captured 460 of the enemy, while many dead Boers have been seen. The Boer prisoners are all depressed at the present course of the war, and they comment bitterly on Gen. Cronje's persistence, which they call "murder."

NEAR A KOPJE held by a strong force of Cronje's men, reinforced by a Ladysmith contingent. At the same time Gen. Broadwood's brigade, with a battery of horse artillery, took up position to the rear of the same kopje. The front of the hill was thoroughly searched by a raking fire. Suddenly the Boers bolted from every side toward Gen. French, who headed toward the drift, shelling vigorously. Many were killed by shrapnel and about forty were captured. Our first contact with the Ladysmith Boers was singularly unfortunate for them. A great deal of forage, provisions and equipment was captured, and the kopje was frequently dotted with blood, showing

HE'S ALMOST IN TOUCH

Only Two Miles Separate Buller From General White at Ladysmith.

London, Monday, Feb. 26, 4.35 a. m.—Everything goes to show that Gen. Buller's advance is most stubbornly opposed. It is hoped that he will soon be in a position when Gen. White will be able to assist him materially. The Times publishes the following despatch from Colenso, dated Saturday:—"The British are now within two miles of being in touch with Ladysmith, but the ground still to be covered is the hardest part, and very severe fighting must be expected."

BOERS MADE A STAND.

London, Monday, Feb. 26, 4 a. m.—A despatch, dated Colenso, Natal, Saturday, Feb. 24, says:—"The Boers, who had been reinforced, made a stand on Thursday at Grobler's Kloof and on a range of hills running east. They had been forced from all their positions on the right. Gen. Lytton's division on Thursday advanced under cover of the kopje. The Boers fired a Crescut and a 'Long Tom.' The British artillery was well sheltered in the action at daybreak and until late in the afternoon, when a heavy rifle fire on both sides developed. The fire on both sides advanced a mile and a half, the movement being kept up till after dark. The Boers stuck to their positions. The British artillery fire was irregular. A few shells were sent towards the thickly wooded spots and ravines, from which the Boer fire was heaviest. The Boers sent shells into the headquarters baggage, close to the hospital, but no material damage was done. Gen. Wynne was slightly wounded."

THE BOER POSITIONS

are not considered strong, with the exception of Grobler's Kloof. The hills eastward are not so high and cannot be entrenched so well as the mountains which the British have taken. The Somersets were the first across the pontoon on Wednesday. They were subjected to a heavy fire for five hours in an isolated position. It was the first time they had been under fire, and they behaved excellently. Early on Friday a severe rifle fire was resumed on the right and front from

the positions held over night by both sides. The British naval guns, howitzers, mountain and field batteries shelled the Boer entrenchments incessantly. The Boers replied with two heavy guns, some of their shells bursting over the hospital. As a result the British wounded were removed. During the afternoon the 5th Brigade of the Inniskillings and Dublin leading, began to advance up the hills. In spite of the constant shelling, the Boers stood up in their trenches, aiming deliberately down the hills. The infantry advance was further covered by parties on the right and left firing volleys. It was slow, the British taking advantage of every bit of natural cover. The Boers on the crest of the hills, as well as from the trenches, the cordons, and the advancing line. At dark the British infantry had reached within a few hundred yards of the Boers' trenches."

WAR NOTES.

The Boer method of removing their dead is to tie a couple of reins to the body, which is thus dragged off by two horsemen at full gallop.

General French captured 75 more prisoners, who had previously escaped the cordons, and a patrol of the Canadians on the westward side took 30 more.

The British took 80 prisoners as the result of yesterday's engagement. A balloon ascended and discovered several air works, which the British shelled to-day.

There were several pour parlors on Thursday on the subject of a short armistice. It seems that Gen. Cronje is willing to surrender, but that the young Transvaalers refuse. The other beleaguered Boers are anxious to give up.

A Sterkstroom despatch of Feb. 23 says a British refugee from Heidelberg asserts that the Boers have admitted losing 500 men in the assault on Ladysmith, Jan. 6, and that it was true General Joubert was no longer in command. He added that some Boer Staters were publicly flogged for cowardice after the battle of Belmont. A deserter who came into camp last night, says that yesterday's bombardment was appalling in its effects, especially in the case of the howitzer batteries enfilading the river. Every shrapnel shell finds a victim and unless a miracle occurs Cronje's force must be wiped out or captured. The former result is terrible to contemplate; but, although it would require a few days, it would be easy to accomplish.

A Widow's Love Affair.

Receives a setback, if she has offensive breath through Constipation, Biliousness or Stomach Trouble, but Dr. King's New Life Pills always cure those troubles; clean the system, sweeten the breath, banish headaches, best in the world for liver, kidneys, and bowels. Only 25c. at A. L. McCall & Co.'s drug store.

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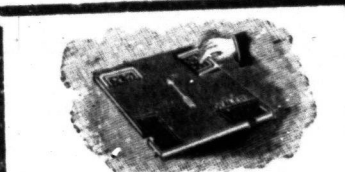
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