

The Chatham Daily Planet.

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What Shall I Do With My Money?

If that is what is bothering you my friend let us give you a little advice

Come to Our Annual Linen Sale

You will never be able to invest your money to better advantage—prices are advancing and if you do not buy now you will have to pay at least 25 per cent more after this lot is sold out—and we want to tell you that they won't last long (though the shipment was the largest we have ever brought to Chatham) for the reason that the patterns are the daintiest and quality the best our customers have ever seen. We have sold more linen in the last two days than ever before in the same length of time, conclusive evidence that the prices are extraordinarily low, note them

Full two yds. wide, grass bleached Irish Table Damask, guaranteed pure flax, extra heavy quality and satin finish, special value, at per yard..... 65c

72 in. grass bleached Irish Table Damask, guaranteed pure flax, extra heavy quality and satin finish, special value, at per yard..... \$1

Napkins to match, two yds. wide, Irish Table Damask, pure linen, half bleached, special per yard..... 50c

58 inch wide, extra heavy Table Damask, Irish manufacture, very special per yd..... 25c

Great Handkerchief Sale.

2 1/2 yds. wide, Grass Bleached Irish Table Damask, pure flax, satin finish, beautiful designs, regular price \$2 and \$2.50, extra special at per yard..... \$1.50

Table Napkins, dinner size, full 1/2 yds. wide, regular \$1.25 for..... \$1.25

Table Napkins, full 1/2 yds. wide, slightly imperfect, worth \$2.50 and \$3.00 for..... \$1.50

We Sell Linens.

THOMAS STONE & SON IMPORTERS

Extra heavy Towels, size 18 x 42, fringed, with red borders, pure linen, very special at per pair..... 25c

Full Bleached Towels, pure flax, size 20 x 42, fringed, extra quality and finish, special per pair..... 50c

1/2 yard wide, bordered Huck Toweling, pure linen, special per yard 10c

22 inch Glass Toweling (note the width) pure linen, red and blue checks, special per yard..... 12 1/2c

Great Handkerchief Sale.

SURRENDER OR FIGHT TO THE DEATH

Lord Kitchener's Reply to General Cronje's Request for an Armistice to Bury His Dead.

The Boer Commander Decided to Fight it out and is Being Hotly Shelled by Half a Hundred Guns—The Enemy Trying to Concentrate an Adequate Force to Relieve Cronje.

Cape Town, Feb. 22, Thursday morning.—In reply to Gen. Cronje's request for an armistice of 24 hours to allow him to bury his dead, Lord Kitchener told the Boer commander that he must fight to a finish or surrender unconditionally. Gen. Cronje's position is reported hopeless.

A DODGE TO GAIN TIME.
London, Feb. 23.—The Cape Town correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says:—“Gen. Cronje's request for an armistice was a mere dodge to gain time to make trenches. Lord Kitchener refused, but gave him half an hour to consider whether he would surrender unconditionally or fight to a finish. The Boers having said that their intention had been misunderstood, and that they would fight to the end, the battle was resumed.”

DRIVEN FROM A KOPIE.
The Times has the following from Paardeberg, dated Feb. 21:—“We have expelled 500 Boers from an isolated kopje about a mile south-east of Gen. Cronje's laager.”

The Times says editorially:—“The fact that the Boers started to reinforce Gen. Cronje from Natal a few days ago is an additional reason why Lord Roberts should finish with him as promptly as possible. Small bodies of Boers, such as have already been broken up, are not very formidable; but a large body with guns and supplies would call for serious treatment, in which, no doubt, Gen. French would find congenial work. Lord Roberts at present sees the advantage of being nearer to his base than the Boers are to theirs, but that advantage will be reduced in proportion to his eastward progress, and it is important that bodies of the enemy should not hover on his right flank.”

CRONJE'S LAST STAND.
London, Friday, Feb. 23, 4 a. m.—Gen. Cronje is seemingly making his last stand, and is dying hard, surrounded by our infantry, with shells from 50 guns falling into his camp. On the third day of the fight the Boer chief asked for an armistice to bury his dead. “Fight to a finish or surrender unconditionally,” was Lord Kitchener's reply. Gen. Cronje's immediate sent back word that his request for a truce had been misunderstood, and that his determination then as before was to fight to the death. And the battle went on. This was the situation of Gen. Cronje Tuesday as sketched in the scanty telegrams that have been wired from the semi-silence of South Africa. Officially, Lord Roberts writes that he has scattered the advance commands of the reinforcements that were trying to reach Gen. Cronje. It is regarded as singular that Lord Roberts, wiring Wednesday, should not mention the appeal for an armistice on the previous day, and also that the War Office should withhold good news, if it has the scanty materials at hand, it seems plain that Gen. Cronje is in a

bad, and even a desperate situation, and that the British are pressing their advantage. While the attack on Gen. Cronje proceeds, there is a race for concentration between the Boers and the British. The engagement with Gen. Cronje's 5,000 to 6,000 entrenched men is likely to become an incident in a little between the Boers and the British. The separated fractions of the Boer power are rapidly drawing together to attack Lord Roberts. Will Gen. Cronje be able to hold out until the Boer masses appear? or, if he does, will they be able to succor him? The British are facing the Boers on grounds where the arms, tactics and training of the British are expected to give them the advantage.

AGREE TO SURRENDER.
London, Feb. 23.—The Daily News has the following despatch from Modder River, dated Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 21:—“The Boer forces under Cronje are estimated at 8,000 men. At 12 o'clock he asked an armistice of 24 hours, which was refused. Later he sent a messenger to say that he would surrender.”

The British general sent a reply telling him to come into camp. Cronje refused, saying there had been a misunderstanding and that he would fight to the death. The bombardment was then resumed and our lyddite shells set fire to the Boer wagons. We continued shelling the laager through the night and in the morning we resumed with Maxims and rifles, principally from the north side.

On Sunday there was much waste of life in attacking, and the same result could have been achieved without it. During Monday night seven Boers made an attempt to break through our lines, but they were captured and their leader was killed. Four were carrying letters. It is believed that there was one other who got through.

Other prisoners say that Gen. Cronje marched from Magersfontein here without outspanning a distance of 33 miles. Had he succeeded in escaping it would have been one of the finest performances in the annals of war. The Canadians made a gallant charge at the laager, but were driven back with loss. Gen. MacDonald and Gen. Knox are slightly wounded.

CRONJE MUST SURRENDER.
Spencer Wilkinson, reviewing the military situation in the Morning Post, says:—“Lord Roberts, who was once an artillery officer, will take care that the artillery fire is properly concentrated. Prolonged shelling will compel the Boers either to bury themselves at the British infantry in the hope of forcing their way out, or to surrender. The best chance for Gen. Cronje would be to make a night attack, but the dayonet will serve the British at night as well as day. There are, of course, in war, all sorts of chances. A party of Boers from the north or south might conceivably fall by surprise on some point of the

investing ring, and thus gain a chance to escape for the beleaguered Boers; but the probabilities are that Gen. Cronje will be compelled to surrender, and that thus at Paardeberg will be effected the destruction of the first fraction of the Boer army.”

BRACING UP AGAIN.
London, Friday, Feb. 23, 430 a. m.—Gen. Buller, according to a despatch from Chieveley, dated Wednesday, finds the Boers in positions north of the Tugela, largely reinforced. This seems strange.

BRITISH LOSSES.
London, Feb. 22.—The war office, for the first time gave an official compilation of the British losses. The total is 11,349 to Feb. 17. This does not include, therefore, Lord Roberts' recent losses, nor the Witwatersburg prisoners. The Press Association learns that the British losses at Koodoospan were 700.

HELLED BY FRENCH OFFICERS.
Paris, Feb. 23.—A letter from Col. De Villabois Mareuil, Gen. Joubert's chief of staff, to whom the Boer victory at Colenso is mainly attributed by the French papers, is published today. In the course of this communication, the colonel says that two of the Boers' representatives rendered the Boers valuable aid. One named Greunberg, he adds, is the head of their artillery, and the other, Leon, is the head of their engineers. Leon directed the hoisting of “Long Tom” to the dizzy heights around Ladysmith, and also arranged for the victroling of the camps, which he himself located.

The writer expresses admiration for the organization and commissariat arrangements at the Boer camps. The burghers, he says, get excellent meat, bread or biscuits, coffee, rice, potatoes and other commodities with surprising liberality. He pays a high tribute to the unsuspected military capabilities of the Boer leaders, and declares every detail of the Boer organization works like clock.

WAR NOTES

Three thousand fresh troops will embark for South Africa today. The relative position of the combatants is likened to chess players, one of whom, from time to time, adds pieces to the board, while any loss to the adversary is irreparable.

The morning reports allude to the thoughtfulness of Lord Roberts in sending a despatch to the Earl of Minto, the Canadian Governor-General.

The military critic of the Times, urges the continuance of efforts to send more troops to South Africa so as to be ready for the many difficulties that must be surmounted, even after Lord Roberts has succeeded against Gen. Cronje. He adds:—“The splendid spirit shown in Canada, which has just received the first news of losses incurred in service of the Empire, should serve to impel us to greater exertions.”

CHARGED BOER LAAGER

How the Canadians Fell in Trying to Rush the Enemy's Position.

Charge Boer laager.

Paardeberg, Orange Free State, Feb. 21, via Modder River, Feb. 22.—Gen. Cronje's magnificent night march from Magersfontein now appears likely to end in a terrible death trap. The enemy are hiding in the bed of the Modder, commanded by the British artillery and enclosed on the east and west by the British infantry.

Sunday witnessed a gallant stand on the part of the retreating foe. Tired, harassed, they still maintained a bold front. It is somewhat difficult to explain Sunday's action in which all the British force was engaged, in which Gen. Cronje, under difficult conditions, managed to hold his own. On Saturday night the British mounted infantry came into touch with Cronje's rear guard, driving them back upon the main body. On Sunday morning the action was renewed, but the Boers, who had entrenched the river bed during the night, prevented further advance of the mounted infantry in this direction.

Meanwhile the Highland brigade, consisting of the Seaforth, the Black Watch and the Argylls, advanced from the south bank and the Essex, Welsh and Yorkshires formed a long line on the left which rested on the river, on the extreme right being the Welsh. The whole line was ordered to envelop the Boers, who lined both banks of the river.

The firing soon became heavy. The Boers, holding a splendid position, covered the left of the Highland brigade, which advanced partly up the river bed and partly in the open. While the rest of the brigade with the other regiments swung round the front of the Highland brigade on the level, covered ground, exposed to a terrible fire

which obliged the men to lie upon the ground as they did the remainder of the day. This began at 7.30 in the morning. Through the dreadful heat and a terrible thunder storm our men hung to the position, answering the Boer fire and shooting steadily.

HEAVY SHELL FIRE.
In the meantime the rest of the infantry completed the enveloping movement, the Welsh regiment having succeeded in seizing the drift, this closing in the Boers who had fought throughout with splendid courage. Gen. Cronje's laager, full of carts, ammunition and stores, could be plainly seen near the north bank. General Smith-Dorrien collected a large body of men, including the Canadians, and crossed the river at Paardeberg drift, advancing toward the laager, which was being vigorously shelled. This force made a gallant attempt to charge into the laager, but failed. Before seizing the western drifts the Boers occupied a kopje on the south bank, running down the river. Therefore, their force is cut in two. The Boers hold the kopje and have one Vickers-Maxim, and probably one or two other guns.

Toward evening the battery on the south side opened, co-operating with the battery on the north side. A wonderful sight followed. The shells fell with amazing precision along the river bed, opposite the laager, which was shelled thoroughly, damaging everything it contained. One shell set on fire a small ammunition wagon, which burned nearly all day. Many other wagons were set on fire and the glare was visible at a considerable distance far into the night. The infantry also maintained a terrible fire which was answered vigorously. The scene toward nightfall was terribly picturesque, with the blazing wagons, the roaring artillery and the crackling rifle fire.

GEN. CRONJE SURRENDERS.

London, Feb. 23.—General Cronje has surrendered his entire force comprising about 10,000 men. During the fighting since Sunday it is reported that the Canadians have lost 15 men killed and wounded and the Highlanders 65. Above not confirmed. See Page 4.

LONDON'S GREAT FIRE.

The Masonic Temple There Totally Consumed—Loss About \$200,000.

A serious conflagration visited London this morning in which the Masonic Temple including the opera house on the corner of Richmond and King streets was totally destroyed. The Temple was four stories high. The ground floor is occupied by stores, the opera house being to the rear part of the block. Offices and lodge rooms occupy the other floors of the building.

About 4 o'clock the alarm of fire was given. The blaze was discovered first in the opera house portion. A strong wind blowing from the northwest rapidly kindled the fire throughout the building and within an hour after the fire brigade arrived the block was enveloped in flames. The dome of the building was burning by this time and the west side was pretty far gone.

The firemen were working with 10 or 12 streams and their new aerial but they were powerless against the flames. The city was lighted up as bright as day and the reflection could be seen for miles around. Cinders were flying in clouds in every direction. It was impossible to stand within 100 yards of the building without being covered with brands. All that saved the fire from reading was the fact that it had snowed and rained during the week and there was three or four inches of snow on all the buildings around. Thus the neighboring buildings were protected from the blazing cinder.

All down Richmond and King Sts. there was a perfect river of sparks and the G. T. R. platform and beyond was covered with several inches of charcoal. By 6.30 o'clock only the bare walls were left standing. There was some doubt early in the fire as to whether the city hall, next door north, would not go, too, although it was on the leeward side of the blaze, but the firemen were able to protect it.

The building was one of the finest in London. It was built 15 or 16 years ago by the Masonic Temple Co. at a cost of over \$150,000. This company it will be remembered raised most of the money by a lottery, the last permitted by the government. It was insured for \$75,000 about half its value. The loss on the

building and contents will be over \$200,000. Col. Leys, M. P., is said to be among those most interested in the property.

CHICAGO MARKETS.				
	Open.	High.	Low.	Close
Wheat—Dec.				66 1/2
" May.				66 1/2
July.				66 1/2
Corn—Sept.				34 1/2
May.				34 1/2
July.				34 1/2
Oats—Sept.				23 1/2
May.				22 1/2
July.				22 1/2
Port.—Dec.				10 7/8
May.				10 7/8
July.				10 7/8
Lard—Dec.				5 96
May.				6 00
July.				6 00
Ribs—Oct.				5 87
May.				5 87
July.				5 87