

Buller Held in Check.

London Anticipates Report That His Tactics Are Yet Ineffective.

That Boers' Resistance Nears End Shown by Sending Off Stores.

Roberts Reports Success of Gatacre's Operations in Cape Colony.

By Associated Press.

London, Feb. 9.—Mr. Balfour, the government leader, replying to a question in the House of Commons this morning as to what information had been received from the seat of war, said: "Our information points to the fact that General Buller is not pressing an advance from the position he has captured. We do not consider it right to press him for details of the operations which are in progress, nor if he does give such information do we consider it proper to make this public until such operations are completed. The government has no information as to whether General Macdonald has retired."

A BOER REPORT.

Boer Head Lager, Ladysmith, Feb. 8.—The British, who were in possession of the kopje at Molien's Drift, abandoned it after a bombardment by Boer cannon this morning and retired across the Tugela River. A desultory cannonade is proceeding at Tugela this morning, but otherwise all is quiet.

An armored train on Thursday made a sortie from Chieveley towards Colenso and landed 2,000 British troops on the right of the Boer position. Boers immediately crossed the river and made a tank with rifles and artillery, forcing the withdrawal of both the train and troops to Chieveley.

London, Feb. 9.—The news contained in the despatches from the Boer headquarters caused considerable excitement in the House of Commons. The government leader had just previously announced that there was no news from South Africa.

GATACRE DOING WELL.

A war office despatch from Lord Roberts, dated August 2, has been reported that Gen. Gatacre has repulsed the Boers at Pen Henk and Bird's River and that the security of both outposts is established. In regard to Gen. Macdonald's operations, Lord Roberts does not mention the Boer's retirement to Modder River.

McDonald was despatched to prevent the Boers blocking the main drift at Koodoosberg, and to occupy the Babington was sent with reinforcements. On Wednesday, the 7th, Babington threatened the Boers north of Koodoosberg, while another force drove out the Boers southward.

The despatch concludes with the statement: "The enemy has not evacuated their position, and none are in sight."

BOERS RETIRING STORES.

Heliograms from Ladysmith dated Monday describe the effect General Buller's cannonade had on the worn garrison. Hope ran high that the long period of inactivity and tedium was drawing to a close. The crash of guns was almost continuous for ten hours and at times it seemed as if as many as twenty shells burst in minutes. The Boers, preparing always for the possibility of defeat, were driving heavy and sending long wagon trains towards the Drakenburg passes.

PLUMER MEETS REVERSE.

Attacks Boer Position Which His Force Was Unable to Carry.

Pretoria, Monday, Feb. 5.—Col. Plumer's force on February 2 attacked the Boer position near Ramona, and after heavy fighting, including an endeavor to take the place by storm, the British were repulsed. Their loss is unknown.

UNITED IRISHMEN ACTIVE.

Protest in Commons Against Taxation—Contributions Again Flowing In.

London, Feb. 9.—During the debate in the House of Commons to-day on the amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne introduced by Mr. John Joseph Clancy, Irish Nationalist, calling attention to the over-taxation of Ireland, Mr. Tim Healy, an Irish Nationalist, protested against the interpretation of the act of union being decided ex parte. He contrasted the

English attitude therein to the Venezuelan case, wherein, he said, the United States forced arbitration; and in which, he asserted, England was worsted. The amendment was lost by a vote of 200 to 77.

VALUES BRITISH FRIENDSHIP.

Socialist Leader in German Reichstag Says There Is Every Reason to Cultivate It.

Berlin, Feb. 10.—The debate on the first reading of the navy bill was resumed in the Reichstag to-day. Herr Bebel, the socialist leader, earnestly opposed the measure. He said it was considered that a portion of German industry could not be maintained in the event of a general war of British trade, widespread hatred of British rule would be the result. He finished saying: "We have every reason to cultivate the friendship of England, if she should ever be compelled to operate seriously with the whole of our resources, including the army, and no one can foresee how it would end."

The secretary of the admiralty, Admiral Tirpitz, in connection with Herr Bebel's suggestions said no one doubted that Great Britain would be a great calamity.

Herr Hausmann, of the South German People's Party, in opposition to the bill said the aggressive policy inaugurated by the British secretary of state for the colonies had met with a moral rebuff from the civilized world, and could have no permanence. The bill was referred to the budget committee.

DETAINED AT BELMONT.

Canadians Ordered to Grasp Find the Programme Unexpectedly Changed.

Toronto, Feb. 10.—Frederick Hamilton, the Globe's war correspondent, calling from Belmont says: "The Canadians who were to have left here four days ago under orders to proceed to the front to Grasp, have been unexpectedly detained at Belmont."

Wearing Out The Enemy.

Suggestion That Such Is Main Object of Operations Now Reported.

Roberts' Main Advance At Hand—Accident Explodes the Ladysmith Mines.

By Associated Press.

London, Feb. 10.—(5:25 a. m.)—A special despatch from the Boer headquarters, dated yesterday (Friday), noon, says: "Owing to the Boer cross-fire and the impossibility of entrenching Vaal Krantz, Gen. Buller's forces withdrew."

The financial news, which publishes this despatch, suggests that the Boer's retreat is not yet actually reversed.

STRATEGY, NOT DEFEAT.

Gen. Macdonald's retirement puzzles the military commentators. The theory which finds acceptance is that it was ordered by Lord Roberts, and that both Gen. Buller and Gen. McDonald's operations were directed by the commander-in-chief in order to occupy the Boers at widely separated points, so that they would be unable to transfer any portion of their force to oppose the projected central advance.

ORANGE RIVER NEXT.

Mr. Charles Williams, a military writer who is understood to be in confidential relations with Lord Wolseley, says that beyond doubt the most authoritative opinion in London regards it as an advance. His cablegram leaves General Buller on Tuesday night sending a fresh brigade to relieve the tired soldiers of Vaal Krantz. The descriptive writes with General Buller were allowed a rather free hand again in explaining the right position which the British held and the nature of the obstacles which had to be overcome. So it is easy to infer. With Boer troops and arms, and the Boers have them, these hills, ravines and jungles have not been overcome and thus the plan is prepared in advance for bad news.

THE HALL MINES, TOO.

Mainstay of Nelson Ceases Operations and Eight-Hour Law Held Responsible.

Nelson, Feb. 8.—The Miner announces to-morrow morning the closing down of the Hall mines smelter and the Silver King mine, and attributes it to the eight-hour law. Nelson has become a commercial centre since the Hall Mines commenced large operations, but the mine and smelter have always been of great assistance in building up the city. The close down is consequently of great importance.

LE ROI CLOSING, TOO.

Uneasy Feeling That Eight Hour Law Is Real Explanation of General Suspension.

Rossland, Feb. 9.—The Le Roi ceased shipping to-day and paid off about 160 men this morning, retaining about 200 men for development work only. It is not expected that the move will affect the other British American Corporation mines. Shipment will not be resumed until the new 40-drum compressor plant ordered last October is installed and in working order. The plant is expected to be in place by October to estimate when shipping would be resumed.

A SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT.

Evidence of West Elgin Accidents Destroyed in Advance of the Investigation.

Toronto, Feb. 9.—(Special)—When the West Elgin investigation commission met at the parliament buildings to-day G. H. Watson, Q.C., crown prosecutor, announced that by an accident the West Elgin ballots sent from St. Thomas after being received at the department buildings from the court of appeals had been destroyed. The court will investigate the circumstances of the destruction of the ballots.

Why Buller Drew Back

Balloonists Laced an Artillery Plant Set for His Advance.

Conviction That His Attack Was Not to Be Pressed at Great Cost.

Roberts Preparing to Strike Boer Centre While Others Hold the Wings.

By Associated Press.

London, Feb. 11, 4:20 a.m.—The war office still maintains silence regarding the situation at the seat of war, announcing at 11:30 last evening that no further news had been received and none has come from other sources which would give a clue to General Buller's movements since he re-crossed the Tugela or to the present positions of the force.

A NEW EXPLANATION.

A special despatch from Springfield Bridge under date of Friday, February 9, gives a new explanation of General Buller's retirement. According to this despatch a balloonist on Wednesday discovered the fact that the Boers have developed extraordinary and unexpected artillery strength on Doorn Kloof, to the British right, where they had managed to draw up a dozen heavy guns, some fitted with disappearing mounting, and all cunningly masked. These, but for the balloonist, never would have been discovered in time to save the British from falling into the deadly trap, as they commanded the road the British would have to take in order to reach Ladysmith. These guns rendered the actual positions of the British untenable and further advance impossible except at the cost of a terrible and useless loss of life.

BULLER'S SAFE TACTICS.

Mr. Spencer Wilkinson, the military expert, reviewing the South African situation for the day, says: "Lord Roberts has now taken hold of the campaign. His strategy evidently is to act in the western theatre of war with every energy and to the centre of gravity there. General Buller's move must, therefore, be considered in its place in the general scheme. The idea seems to be that if General Buller cannot skin the bear himself, he can hold it by the tail. Ladysmith, accordingly, is not to be risked. His army, but, short of that, is to give the Boers as much to do in Natal as he can. His attack of the past week was hardly carried out with the push that marks a man resolved to win or be broken. In any case, it is not clear that he crossed a river and to pierce the front of any army posted beyond it. Modern weapons favor an attack which envelops the flank, but not an attack which tries to break the centre of an army."

ROBERTS' MAGNETIC PRESENCE.

The new plan involves prompt and successful operations against the Boers. The Boers in the west—a series of crushing blows. Any failure in their execution would tighten the hold on Ladysmith which would mean disaster. The west and certainty of more to follow, will make the Boer let go. But Lord Roberts is not a man to let go. He has a resolute will and a clear head. His presence with a British army has a magnetic effect, and when he moves he probably will make the Boers move. He has reinforced Methuen with a cavalry brigade and more artillery and the is probably an infantry division to follow.

IMPROBABLE SPECULATION.

A telegram received this evening from Lord Roberts on the night of Thursday to Friday, says that an attempt by General Buller to get out was probable and may succeed, although the nature of modern weapons is against him and there would be heavy loss and many stragglers would be captured. The likelihood of General Buller trying to fight his way out of the position is not to be underestimated. It would also explain the demonstration from Chieveley.

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THE BOER BULLETIN.

Confession of Twenty-six Killed Indicates Heavy Losses in Recent Fighting.

Boer Head Lager, Ladysmith, Feb. 9.—(Friday)—It is reported from the Upper Tugela that in yesterday's fight while driving the British across the river, the Boers had four men killed and eight wounded. On retreating the kopje 22 Boers were found killed.

The alarm was given at midnight that the Ladysmith troops were trying to force a passage in the direction of the Free State laager. Heavy firing was heard, but no particulars have been received.

FRANCE MIGHT PROFIT.

Suggestion That She Attempt to Reap Some Advantage from British Entanglements.

Paris, Feb. 9.—Prince Henri d'Orleans has an article in the Matin to-day in the course of which he advises France to take advantage of England's difficulties. He says:

"At the present time we must not content ourselves with purely negative formulas in foreign politics. We have not the right to follow events in South Africa. We must try to complete our disinterestedness."

FILLS A SOLDIER'S GRAVE.

Toronto, Feb. 9.—Word has reached this city that Pte. Robert Lindsay has been killed in the Ladysmith. Deceased belonged to the 1st Manchester regiment and had been in Ladysmith since the siege commenced. He was killed on the 8th of January. He was the eldest son of James Lindsay of Helena avenue, Wickwood park, Brantford. His father and sisters are employed in Toronto.

Highlanders Again Engaged

Boers From Magerfontein Assault Advanced Position of Methuen's Column.

Horse Artillery and Cavalry Sent to Trap Enemy But Arrived Too Late.

By Associated Press.

Koodoosberg Drift, Feb. 8.—The Boers yesterday made a determined effort to drive the British from a hill commanding the drift. Mounting two seven-pounders at the northern extremity, they shelled the position intermittently the whole day.

The Seaforth Highlanders gained a position on the rocky summit and kept up a sustained fire, but suffered from the shelling. A battery was sent and it succeeded in silencing the Boer fire.

Means of two companies of the Argyll Highlanders, advancing along the plain in a westerly direction, found the Boers entrenched at a small drift. An engagement followed, lasting two whole days.

In order to completely surround the Boers, General Buller had despatched from Modder River with a large force of cavalry and two batteries of horse artillery, but failed to reach here, although the Boers were not only not caught, but he accused the Finance Minister of introducing cowardly tactics into the manner of that gentleman's departure from the scene.

Such an opening was apparently just what Mr. Martin had longed for, and when he came to speak therein he observed that he failed to see therein this affected the question before the house, and that it was not only not to commend how Manitobans regarded Mr. Martin's career and actions in view of his manner of that gentleman's departure from the scene.

General Methuen ordered that the combined force should retire upon Modder River, which move is now proceeding. The British losses in the fighting on Wednesday were fifty killed or wounded.

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General Buller's retreat to the Modder River, which was reported to have been a success, is now being investigated by the British government. It is said that the Boers had a large force of cavalry and horse artillery, but failed to reach here, although the Boers were not only not caught, but he accused the Finance Minister of introducing cowardly tactics into the manner of that gentleman's departure from the scene.

CONTROL OF SOUTH AMERICA.

British Interests Served by United States Preventing a European Descent.

London, Feb. 10.—The abrogation of the Bulwer-Clayton treaty is a source of copious comment in the weeklies. The Saturday Review cavils at Great Britain's acquiescence in the proposed treaty, which would ever be got from the United States in return, and says: "Great Britain's acquiescence in the proposed treaty by congress for a desire to maintain peace on account of the troubles in Africa."

The Speaker, on the other hand, says: "Certainly it is not in our interest to allow ourselves of a diplomatic technicality which would prevent a result which is inevitable." Continuing, the Speaker supports Lord Salisbury, declaring that the lines of the Natchez Act suggested by the colonial secretary, Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, in correspondence to the Governor-General on the subject of disallowance.

RAILWAY BUILDING.

New York, Feb. 9.—The Railroad Gazette resume of railway construction in 1899 to-day shows 386 miles of railway in Canada by nine companies. The increase over 1898 was 32 miles in Canada.

Scene in The House

Leading to Demand for Committee to Investigate Finance Minister.

Mr. Martin's Advice to Defy Dominion Leads to Exciting Reminiscence.

Ottawa's Reply to Offer of Troops—Mr. McInnes or Lieut. Governor?

Out of a clear sky and a most innocent looking resolution, a veritable thunder-bolt dropped into the placid arena of parliamentary debate on Friday afternoon; and the long-looked-for duel between Finance Minister Cotton and his supplanted ex-colleague, "Fighting Joe" Martin, was on in bitter earnest. The subject of debate was Mr. Holgerson's resolution of recommendation to the federal government that the naturalization of Chinese and Japanese should be restricted or prohibited—but the question technically before the house had nothing to do with the dramatic episode that filled the lobby with the buzz of excited conversation just as soon as the episode had closed, and Mr. McInnes proceeded to debate the negative amendment he had offered to the Cariboo member's resolution—this amendment being that it would be unwise to trench upon the subject of treaty relations with Great Britain's friendly relations with Japan.

Mr. Martin had debated the resolution holding that while it was of a class which generally he disapproved—inasmuch as the legislature should restrict the business constitutionally referred to by the B. N. A. Act—in such burning questions as that of the threatening Chinese and Japanese immigration it was well for British Columbia to lose no opportunity of pressing the views and wishes of the province forward. In the hope of eventually eliciting a similar attitude of Canada to a comprehensive knowledge of the facts in their relation to the working of the B. N. A. Act, Mr. Martin, in illustration he cited the experience of Manitoba on the railway question, during his tenure as attorney-general of the Prairie Province; the people of the Dominion at first had not understood, but the insistence of the United Provinces on its position had finally won for Manitoba the sympathy and support of the Eastern provinces, and victory at length secured the provincial campaign of agitation and education.

While he was speaking Hon. Mr. Cotton swung carelessly from one subject to another when he came to speak therein he observed that he failed to see therein this affected the question before the house, and that it was not only not to commend how Manitobans regarded Mr. Martin's career and actions in view of his manner of that gentleman's departure from the scene.

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Shooting in Tacoma

Ed Boyce With Borrowed Revolver Goes From Victoria to Kill His Wife.

Was a Member of the Theatre Orchestra and Well Known to Musicians.

Letters of Complaint by His Wife Enraged the "Queer" Musician.

Special to the Colonist.

Tacoma, Feb. 10.—Ed. L. Boyce shot Louisa Boyce, his wife, early this evening. The woman had been employed several weeks as cashier in the Domestic bakery. During that time Boyce has been on a spree in Seattle and Victoria. Two weeks ago Mrs. Boyce refused to support him, claiming that as she was in a delicate condition she could do no more than support herself. Boyce got mad and left her after selling his trombone to a local musician for \$20. This money was spent on his Seattle spree. To-day he returned with the deliberate intention of killing his wife. She screamed when she saw him enter, for he had threatened to kill her. He pulled out a borrowed .32-calibre revolver and fired five shots. Four of them took effect. Mrs. Boyce was shot in the breast and stomach, and both arms were broken. One lung was pierced. She was removed to the hospital and to-night is dying. Boyce claims he reached San Francisco in October from Manchester, where Mrs. Boyce and she were married. He claims she was previously married to Louis Bordard, a Frenchman, to whom she bore two children. They came to Seattle, and when their first child was born, she was looking for work. Mrs. Boyce to him at Victoria throws much light on their relations. She says they quarrelled when she refused to work and support him. She told him that if he still desired to shoot her he should do so, and she would be willing to be killed, for in seven months she would become the mother of his child. Despite their quarrel, they were together, talked about her, and she was a honest living and was respected by those about her. She begged him to behave himself, and informed her that she was visiting bad houses. This letter was addressed to Boyce at the Commercial covered walk. On February 9 she wrote to Bandmaster Finn, stating that she was doing honest work, and that her husband's cruel talk about her was breaking her heart. Her husband was playing over the Trilby saloon. She asked Finn to tell him he was breaking her heart, and that she was apparently gave this letter to Boyce. It enraged him and was one cause of his coming here to-day. Boyce is in jail.

ARMED ALLIANCE WITH PORTUGAL.

Ripe for Announcement and a Factor to Hasten Close of War.

British May Then Close Boer Back Door Without Consulting Powers.

London, Feb. 10.—There exists to-day what practically amounts to a defensive and offensive alliance between Great Britain and Portugal. For the past week and longer there has been a tacit understanding between the respective of party lines, a nervous apprehension of European opposition, and a still more nervous apprehension of the fact that Great Britain at the present moment is unable to face it with honor to herself.

Constant editorials in the most unsensational papers have almost unceasingly proclaimed a national nightmare. In the first place much of the press clamor for a tremendous army in order to meet unforeseen emergencies is originally inspired with a view to compel the people to pass quickly any financial measures proposed by the government and make the same popular.

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WALKING PILLS

and banish all men and women equally valuable make new, rich gthen weak or

STRENGTH TO WALK.

Dr. Schilling, Peninsula, writes—"I had suffered with a weary feeling, strength to walk about. I took in anything, as I thought, I had only taken them, time when I noticed a movement. I was strong, walk a long better in every would recommend Dr. Williams' Pills highly to any one who thinks they will be sure results obtained from

ed paralysis, locomotor diseases arising from chronic erysipelas, conal muscular weakness, e back, nervous headaches, weakness and purgative. Sold by all a box or six boxes for Medicine Co., Brock-

ffered be sure you ask e People.

red at an arm's length between forces. It was the encounter in the gray dawn. The sides fought like demons, the bewildered of the scene picture without parallel in the of those who took part in the

the invalids proceeding home in name Williamson, of the Black native of Montrose. He was six bullets at Magerfontein. One a testament and passed through which it broke. His two wives the possession of a copy of the Williamson was shot through foot, left thigh, right shoulder, and back.

English families passing the win- asso, on the Italian Riviera, have their villas at the disposal of in- British officers.

BORN MOTHER AND SON.

Too Busy Setting the World Right to Teach Him Great Truths.

an learns his politics and opinions from his father and other men, but his from his mother," writes An Mother in the February Home Journal. "No vicious can quite kill the faith which up in his soul when he knelt, a lid, at her knee every night, or that sleep on her breast while 'that sweet story of old, when here among men. In earlier this country a mother had little side of her house and children, ted her boy day and night to near to God and out of the matches. It was she who told the Babe and the Cross out of the which lay on the table, beside He saw her turn to it when happy, when she was wretched, was old and dying. So it came he was nothing so near to God in ne eyes as his mother, her Bible Saviour. But that woman is to dead as buried. In earlier talks of her as of some coarse whose ignoble life was started Her own feet are set in a from. Her horizon talks in the She manages political caucuses, fairs, countless