

Boers Near Ladybrand

Many Free Staters Are Preparing to Fight on the Basuto-land Frontier.

The Seizure of Winburg and Smaldeal-Lord Roberts's Strategy.

London, May 8.—Everywhere with the exception of the Natal frontier and at Mafeking the Boers are retiring before the British to the inland circle of their defense. They appear determined not to fight until the Kroonstad hills are reached.

Lord Roberts is expected to do another forty or fifty miles, and then to wait for more time in order to bring up supplies and repair the railway.

Gen. French in the official or unofficial dispatches for four days. It is by no means likely that he is idle, and the conjecture is that he is either detouring towards Kroonstad or raiding the Ladybrand district.

Fifteen thousand British are now operating on the western frontier of the Free State. As the deadlock at Warrenton has been broken and the Boers are retreating there is nothing formidable except the distance between Warrenton and Mafeking. The most hopeful advice from Mafeking on April 22nd were that the garrison would be barely able to hold out for a month. At that time the fever was spreading.

Advices from Maseru, Basutoland, says that several thousand Free Staters are north of Ladybrand, where they have collected great herds. The district is rich in food for men and horses, and the Boers seem resolved not to move northward, but to be preparing to resist where they are. If they are let alone, they will menace the line of communication after the main British army had passed into the Transvaal.

Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener personally directed the artillery in the Vet river engagement.

Queen Victoria will send a signed photograph to Col. Kekewich, the hero of Kimberley.

Six thousand four hundred and fifty-eight troops are now at the front on the way to South Africa. No orders are under orders to go except to fill up the loss of the regiments at the front.

News from Mafeking. London, May 8.—The Times Lorenzo Marquez correspondent says: "Commandant Snyman is so alarmed at the prospect of having his retreat cut off that he has appealed for permission to retire northward from Mafeking to intercept Col. Plumer."

Lady Sarah Wilson wires from Mafeking, under date of April 22nd, as follows: "Situation unchanged. Garrison is depressed at there being no sign of relief, but is as determined as ever to deprive the Boers of a triumph on the western border. A case of whiskey realized \$108 at a raffie, and a pound of flour was sold at auction for two guineas."

Boers Outnumbered. Smaldeal, May 6.—The movement that culminated in the capture of Winburg and Smaldeal was part of a great general movement extending from General Hunter on the west to Gen. Rundle on the east.

Lord Roberts's admirable strategy resulted in placing everywhere five British to one Boer. Out of what appears the inextricable confusion of divisions and brigades order was quickly evolved, and the Boers were compelled to meet Lord Roberts under unfavorable conditions.

What is more important is that the British are now able to wait. Their front and strong positions are safe in the knowledge that their flanking columns will advance and outflank the Boers, yet the Boers held a really strong position, from which earlier in the campaign they could only have been forced by hard fighting.

Gen. Hamilton's arrival at Winburg, although not directly outflanking the Boers, made their position extremely uncomfortable.

Gen. Hutton's movement on the left was even more successful than at first imagined. Forty Boers were killed. The march to-day was short, but Gen. Pole-Carew's division is marching on our left to-day, and Gen. Maxwell's brigade is to cross the river before night.

Lord Roberts has been very strict in his examinations of the farms with the result of disclosing the fact that nearly every house is a miniature arsenal, Martins, Mausers and ammunition being found.

sailors' admirers were clustered in such numbers that all business was suspended. Hundreds of policemen struggled to clear the way for the defenders of Lady-smith.

But from all parts of the country men and women had come and they were determined to see Capt. Lambton, his tiny midshipmen and trusty tars and they struggled to get on window ledges and forced their way into offices. There they waited until an occasional cheer broke into a roar announcing the arrival of the sailors. Capt. Lambton, riding, wearing a cocked hat, followed one hundred mounted policemen who had prepared the route, and the band of the Coldstream Guards. Behind Capt. Lambton was a single band after which came the blue-jackets. Amid thunderous cheering and the waving of flags from several hundred thousand people they entered Royal Exchange and sat down to tea.

This finished they marched back to the station and returned to Portsmouth this evening, after receiving one of the greatest ovations ever tendered by people of London to the British navy.

London, May 8.—The following dispatch from Lord Roberts has been received at the war office: "Smaldeal, May 7.—The railway from Mafeking to this place was considerably damaged and the bridge over the Vet river has been hopelessly damaged. This delays supplies coming up. Every few yards charges of rackarock has been laid under the rails. This might have created loss of life, but was fortunately discovered by a West Australian infantryman.

"Winburg is occupied by the Highland brigade. In spite of these Wrecked Railroads. The British advance goes on steadily. Lord Roberts's outposts are apparently about 120 miles north of Smaldeal. Gen. Brabant has joint Gen. Rundle at Thaba Nchu, whence they are moving forward. The country is all quiet in that direction. A reconnaissance made by Gen. Rundle of the Boers' recent positions at Thaba Nchu resulted in them being pronounced impregnable, and their evacuation is reported to have been due to the receipt of an urgent message from President Steyn. The Boers are said to be moving northward, but their immediate destination is not known. The whereabouts of the British Cavalry under Gen. French is still a mystery, while Gen. Kelly-Kenny's and Gen. Chermaside's divisions are also accounted for.

A dispatch from Capetown dated today says: "Lord Roberts's phenomenal advance is not only utterly demoralizing the Boer, but is striking terror into the rebellious. The relief of Mafeking is expected at any moment."

The Capetown correspondent is slightly optimistic as regards Mafeking. Judging from the direct dispatches, the British forces south of Mafeking are still nearly two hundred miles from their objective, while the latest

Advices From Mafeking itself, dated April 29th, show little amelioration in the conditions there. The dispatches say: "With the exception of a little rifle fire at the outlying trenches, everything is quiet. The slight epidemic of typhoid fever is abating as a result of the medical precaution."

"The enemy's artillery, with the exception of two five-pounders, has apparently been withdrawn. "It was learned on April 25th that the enemy intended to attack and the entire garrison stood to its arms. When day broke Col. Baden-Powell took up a position on the lookout and the heavy rattle of musketry and the boom of four guns convinced us that an

Attack Was About to Open, but it became apparent that the Boer officers could not persuade their men to advance. Through glasses we saw officers kindly urging the infantry forward. The enemy reformed and retired. Our men fired a shot in the hope of inducing the enemy to come to close quarters. The native distress has been alleviated, many of them slipping through Boer lines."

"The men of the garrison forego their sugar ration for the benefit of the women and children. "After the bombardment on April 24th all was comparatively quiet."

The Standard hears that information has been officially received of a plot to assassinate Lord Roberts. The latter was warned, and telegrams are now passing between the Cape authorities, Lord Roberts, and the home authorities on the subject.

CAMPED AT WELGELEGEN.

Smaldeal, Orange Free State, May 7.—Gen. Hutton's advanced camp of the colonial regiments is to-night settled at Lodgelegen (Welgelegen) siding. According to reports the Boers intend to make a big stand near the Zand river. The railroad has been repaired to the south side of the Vet river, and the engineers are busy making a deviation across the bed.

BOERS AROUND MAFEKING.

Lorenzo Marquez, May 5.—A dispatch received here from Col. Plumer's camp, bearing the date of April 26th, states that the Boers around Mafeking have been gradually reinforced, and that their strength is estimated at 5,000. Col. Plumer has succeeded in communicating with Mafeking by means of

carrier pigeons, and is endeavoring to communicate with the southern relief column.

KRUGER ON THE WAR.

Pretoria, May 7.—The official closing of the 1899 Volksraad, which broke up unofficially in September last, occurred this morning. The vacant seats of Gen. Joubert and Gen. Dekokk and others were filled with flowers. The hall was crowded, large numbers of ladies being present.

In the prayer of the chaplain the allusion to Gen. Joubert moved many to tears. After the prayer the read adjourned until the afternoon, when the session of 1900 was inaugurated. The ceremonies were accompanied by the customary salute.

President Kruger arrived in the state carriage with the usual escort. All the diplomatic corps and foreign attaches, including Gen. Gourke, the Russian attaché, were present.

President Kruger, in his speech opening the session, alluded feelingly to the vacancies. Referring to Joubert he said: "Future generations will be able to judge the work of the deceased, whose demeanor inspired the enemy with respect and whose humane and brave conduct gave fame and importance to the state among civilized nations."

He was profoundly struck, he said, by the Proof of Friendship given by the people of the Free State who had fulfilled their obligations to the Transvaal under the treaty. They had realized that a united front was required, as an attack upon the independence of the Transvaal meant a threat against the Free State. He had implicit confidence in the Afrikaner nation. By deeds the Free State had shown good example to the people of the Transvaal, which had proved of great moral value to those guiding the efforts of a small state to maintain its independence.

He was pleased to say that the relations of the Transvaal with foreign states, with the exception of Great Britain, were good. After referring to the Peace Proposals of the Presidents of both republics and Lord Salisbury, President Kruger said: "We proved by legislation and our dealings with Great Britain last year that it was our desire to preserve peace, and now that war has broken out we will do everything to restore peace."

After alluding to the deputation now on a mission to Europe and the United States and the presence of so many attaches, proving the intense interest of the powers in the republics and their methods of fighting, he said he was pleased to see that the sympathy of the world was on their side in the war; that ambulances had been sent, and that their friends were united in endeavoring to

Alleviate the Distress caused by the struggle. After references to alleged violations of the Red Cross convention and to the consequent protests of foreign powers, President Kruger continued: "Notwithstanding the difficulty, I am glad to say that our finances will enable us to bear the great expenses of the war and that the mines are flourishing."

The President concluded with reference to the Free State loan, and suggested that the session be not prolonged and that only matters of importance be dealt with. In a moving prayer he invoked the blessing and help of the Almighty. The proceedings terminated with unusually impressive speeches and prayers. Fifty out of a total of sixty legislators were present. Several of them are still suffering from wounds.

The Canadians. Kingston, May 8.—A letter has been received here from Major Bruce Caruthers, with the first Canadian contingent, in which he says the Canadians, since the battle of Paardeberg, have not been so rash, but are exercising more caution, thus saving life and accomplishing just as much.

Cronje. Halifax, May 8.—The Elder-Dempster steamer Milwanke, which conveyed Commandant Cronje from Capetown to St. Helena, arrived here this morning. Captain Webster states that Cronje did not seem at all disheartened over the Boer reverses.

Patriotic Fund. Ottawa, May 8.—The Canadian Patriotic Fund to date amounts to \$260,481.09.

London, May 9.—British cavalry went to the Zand river on Monday, 25 miles beyond Smaldeal, where Lord Roberts continues to date his dispatches. The scouts, who have been searching the country for miles along the stream, have found no Boers south of the river. The enemy are laagered in unknown force on the north bank. Thus the British advanced guard is within 45 miles of Kroonstad.

The Free Staters, in the expectation that Kroonstad will speedily

Become Untenable, are, according to information from Lorenzo Marquez, preparing to transfer their government to Heilbron, a little more than fifty miles northeast.

The proclamation of Lord Roberts appears to have little effect upon the inhabitants of the invaded districts. Every farm is found deserted except by the women and children. All the men are away fighting. Correspondents at headquarters are

now wiring freely concerning the incidents connected with the occupation of Smaldeal. Some exasperation is expressed at the ease Boers escaped with their transports before the very eyes of the British troops. When the British entered Smaldeal, the Boer wagons coolly outspanned only five miles away. Lord Roberts is described as "Rightly

Unwilling to Sacrifice His Horses for the sake of a comparatively minor advantage." Nevertheless, the loss of horse flesh in spite of all precautions, is enormous. Smaldeal is a village of only a score of dwellings, but it expanded in one night to a vast canvas city and the glow of the camp fires like a scene in an iron smelting district. The city is likely to fade away in a day by the immediate progress of infantry to Zand river.

The tidings from Mafeking are gloomy indeed; everybody there has an empty stomach and a pinched face. The natives are no longer given even porridge and the whites have nothing but a quart of that substance and a pound of horse sausage daily. Everything else is gone. Insufficient food, wet trenches and cold nights are deadly to the health of the garrison. This information comes from reliable natives.

Lady Sarah Wilson, under date of April 27th, says: "The Boers now number 4,500, including young Eloff, President Kruger's grandson, who has sent for six more guns."

A Times-Mafeking correspondent, who also emphasizes the extreme Gravity of the Situation, says: "It is impossible to figure the fatal significance of Col. Baden-Powell's reference to the hardships endured by the women and children, among whom many deaths have already occurred. The commissariat is holding a stock of food in reserve for use in the direst extremity."

A British column is reported to have reached Taungs, 80 miles north of Warrenton. According to Pretoria advices, the British are nearing Vryburg, which is half way between Warrenton and Mafeking. Gen. Hunter is probably not in personal command of this relief column. His forces embrace 2,000 infantry and 5,000 to 6,000 horsemen, an army far greater than has hitherto been supposed. Lord Methuen is apparently a subordinate.

While the relief column is moving towards Vryburg, Gen. Hunter is apparently preparing an orderly advance northeast, along the Vaal river, and are taking up their positions at Boschrand, south of Kroonstad.

A large number of burghers have come in and delivered their Mausers and horses to the British. They affirm that there is a bitter quarrel between the Free Staters and the Transvaalers, which is likely to end in the speedy surrender of the former.

Gen. French has arrived here. Abandoning Ammunition and Personal Effects—British Camp at Fourteen Streams.

London, May 8.—The war office has issued the following dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated Smaldeal, May 8th: "Gen. Hutton with mounted infantry reconnoitered yesterday to the Zand river and found the enemy in considerable force."

Gen. Broadwood's brigade of cavalry with Gen. Ian Hamilton's force performed the same operation with much the same results. "Gen. Hunter reports that he occupied Fourteen Streams yesterday without opposition, owing to a great measure to the able dispositions made by Gen. Paget on the left bank of the Vaal river, at Warrenton, where his artillery fire rendered the enemy's position practically untenable. A six-inch gun was found most useful. When the Sixth and half the Fifth brigades of infantry advanced under cover of the artillery the enemy retired, abandoning their clothing, ammunition and personal effects."

Warrenton, Cape Colony, Monday, May 7.—A British camp is now being formed at Fourteen Streams. The old railroad bridge can be repaired in a week. The Boer prisoners says the burghers, who number 10,000 men, are now on their way to Christiansburg.

MESSAGE FROM BADEN-POWELL. Besieged Celebrated Two Hundredth Day of Siege With Horse Dinners.

London, May 8.—The besieged at Mafeking celebrated the two hundredth day of the siege with horse dinners. Col. Baden-Powell sent a message to Lord Roberts saying: "After two hundred days of siege I desire to bring to your lordship's notice the exceptionally good spirit of loyalty which pervades all classes of the garrison and the patience of everybody."

"Mafeking is making the best of things under the long strain of anxiety, hardship and privation, which is beyond all praise, and is a revelation to me. "The men, half of whom are not accustomed to the use of arms, have adapted themselves to their duties with the greatest zeal and readiness. "The pluck and devotion of the women have been remarkable. With such spirits our organization runs like clockwork. "I have every hope it will pull us through."

THE DEFENCE OF KIMBERLEY. Roberts Pays a Tribute to Kekewich and His Force.

London, May 8.—This evening's Gazette contains a dispatch from Lord Roberts enclosing Col. Kekewich's report on the operation at Kimberley. Lord Roberts pays his tribute to the fact, judgment and resolution of Colonel Kekewich and his forces and adds that Mr. Cecil Rhodes, the mayor and other citizens, rendered the most valuable assistance in helping to maintain order among the civil inhabitants encouraging them to hold out, attending to the sick

and wounded and generally co-operating with the military commander. He also says by the active part which he took in raising the Kimberley Light Horse and providing horses for all the mounted troops at Kimberley, Mr. Rhodes, in particular contributed materially to the successful defence of the place.

Canadians Missing. London, May 8.—It is reported to the war office that Private W. Cooper of the 62nd Fusiliers, Pte. W. McIntosh Royal Canadian Artillery, of "A" Company Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry; Pte. Geo. Keswick, 73rd Northumberland Battalion, "G" Company, and Pte. S. Tester, Second Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery, both of "D" Company, have been missing from Bloemfontein since April 30th.

London, May 9.—Although the British expected opposition at the difficult drift of the Zand River, the latest advices from Smaldeal indicate that the Federals are not yet ready to make a determined attempt to stem Roberts's advance. The latter's front indeed, is so wide and overwhelming in numbers that it is difficult to see how the Boers can help being ousted out of Virginia side, as they were out of Smaldeal, even if they elect to give battle.

The same considerations would probably affect the stand at Kroonstad, hence the general belief that

Little Real Opposition will be encountered south of the Vaal. The repairs to the bridges over the Vet River and the Vaal are expected to retard the general march from Smaldeal and Fourteen Streams for three or four days, when Buller will also be ready.

The general idea is that Lord Roberts will direct his right on Harrismit in order to get in touch with the Natal army coming through Van Reenen's Pass.

A dispatch from Maseru, dated May 8th, says the Boers have deserted both Ladybrand and Ficksburg, in a panic condition, owing to reports that the British had occupied Seneka, thus threatening their retreat to the Transvaal.

RETIRED FROM ZAND RIVER.

Smaldeal, May 8.—It is reported that the Federals are quitting Zand River, and it is variously stated that they are retreating toward the Vaal, and are taking up their positions at Boschrand, south of Kroonstad.

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Speech by Salisbury

Britain is on the Road to Wipe Out the Humiliation of Majuba.

The Irish Question—Ireland Can Never Hope to Obtain Practical Independence.

(Associated Press.) London, May 9.—The annual grand habitation of the Primrose League was held in Albert Hall this afternoon. Lord Salisbury, who presided, commented on the remarkable change which had taken place in the latter half of the century in the views of the people regarding the Empire. They had formerly regarded it as a burden, and that doctrine had been carried to such extremes by a man of splendid genius, Gladstone, that it had produced a strong reaction which started after the disaster of Majuba Hill and the death of General Gordon. The death of Gordon had been avenged. Perhaps it was too soon to say the great humiliation of Majuba Hill had been effaced or that the great wrong had been righted, but he felt they were on the Road

to accomplish that thing. Under the brilliant guidance of Lord Roberts, 200,000 soldiers, a larger army than had ever before been sent across the same expanse of sea, were now engaged in reducing to obedience to the Queen, those territories which ought never to have been released and to restoring to South Africa the only chance it has of peace, development and tranquility.

The Premier referred to the difficult and intricate Irish problem and said: "Mr. Gladstone, in an evil moment for the fame of the country and for his party, attached himself to the idea of the separation of England and Ireland. There has been a long struggle, but no one can say

The Home Rule Cause presents any elements of sanguine anticipation for the future. It might be said that the Irish idea would be realized and that Mr. Gladstone's aspirations would be fulfilled. But I do not believe that the causes which have once been well beaten, have reappeared to any purpose in English history. Apart, however, from the fate of former struggles, I am still assured that there is no hope of the predominant partner ever consenting to give Ireland practical independence. We have learned something from the South African war, how a disloyal government, in spite of warnings, should accumulate munitions and thus secure a terrible advantage against the most powerful combatant. We now know better than we did ten years ago

What a Rock It Would Be if a government, disloyal in Ireland, had the power of the accumulation of forces against this country. "Mr. Gladstone shattered his own party, so that for the moment they are erased and a powerless factor in English politics, but it must not be imagined that the effacement is likely to be permanent."

MILITAMEN'S PAY.

Brooklyn Lawyer Holds That Volunteers Should Be Paid by State as Well as Federal Government.

(Associated Press.) New York, May 9.—John C. Judge, a lawyer of Brooklyn, has been retained by about 5,000 militiamen, who served in the Spanish-American war, to secure for them pay for their services from the state, in addition to the regular pay they received from the Federal government. He has brought a test case in the court of claims at Albany, which will be argued on May 15th.

Among his clients are members of troop C, the 13th, 14th and 47th regiments of Manhattan.

Mr. Judge asserts that every enlisted man who served in the New York State volunteer regiments during the war and who received an honorable discharge, is entitled to \$1.25 for each day of service whether active or in camp, regardless of what was paid him by the Federal government; also that officers and non-commissioned officers are entitled to pay for the same period, but at a higher rate per day. He estimated that his 5,000 clients served on an average of eight months, or 240 days each, which would bring their claims against the state up to \$1,500,000. It would take more than \$5,000,000 to settle with all the volunteers of the state on the same basis.

MANY STARVING.

Kingston, Jam., May 7.—Advices from St. Kitts say the island is in a terrible financial condition owing to the shortage of sugar crops, and want and starvation prevail among the people. The secretary of state for the colonies, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, has been asked to stop relief works.

NO SUNDAY CLOSING.

Ottawa, May 7.—A cablegram from Hon. J. T. Tarte, Canadian commissioner to the Paris exposition, to-day says his efforts to have the Canadian exhibition closed on Sunday have been futile, that the matter rests alone with the directorate of the exposition.

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