A Sad Chapter From Rensburg

Company of New South Wales Mounted Infantry Annihilated in Retreat.

Inniskilling Dragoons Win Fresh Laurels—Wiltshires Lose Two Companies.

By Associated Press.

London, Feb. 16.—A despatch from Lord Roberts says: "Clements, having been pressed by the Boers, has retired to Arundel to cover Naauwpoort."

London, Feb. 17.—The Daily Telegraph has the following despatch from Naauwpoort, dated February 13 and delayed in transmission:

"Very severe fighting occurred on both our flanks near Rensburg. The enemy greatly outnumbered our troops, being about 4,000 in number. They attacked the Worcestershire Regiment on the hill, and with desperate determination charged home, only to experience such a heavy Maxim and rifle fire from our men that the death roll of the enemy must have been considerable.

"A patrol of the Inniskilling Dragoons was surrounded by some 500 Boers and gallantly cut its way through without losing a man, but a company of New South Wales Mounted Infantry was unfortunately annihilated, most of the men's bayonets, however, bearing the imprint of sanguinary conflict with their foes.

"Col. Conyngham was shot through the heart at the outset of the engagement. The enemy chose the time of the moon's setting for their onslaught. Out of five colonial officers only one returned to camp.

"A strategic concentrative movement back to Arundel has been decided upon. Our guns from Coles Kop have been safely removed, one Maxim being destroyed to prevent its falling into the hands of the enemy. Nine wounded officers and 35 men were brought into the Naauwpoort field hospital. Our death roll at present is not known."

TWO COMPANIES MISSING.

London, Feb. 17.—The Times has the following despatch from Arundel, dated Wednesday: "Two companies of the Wiltshires that were on outpost duty failed to join the force before the retirement from Rensburg, and their absence not being noticed on the parade, they were eventually cut off.

A correspondent of the Mail at Naauwpoort, telegraphing Wednesday and describing the evacuation of Rensburg, says: "Two companies of the Wiltshire Regiment, in withdrawing from Kloof camp, lost their way and are missing. Their whereabouts, however, is pretty well known, and they will probably be relieved to-night. The Boer losses around Colesberg on Monday are reported extremely heavy."

A despatch to the Daily Mail from Naauwpoort, dated Thursday, says: nothing of the return of the Wiltshires.

BOERS' ABSURD REPORT.

Pretoria, Feb. 16.—An official despatch from Colesberg says that fighting was resumed on Tuesday, February 12, and that the British had 60 killed and wounded and lost 80 captured. The federal forces had no casualties during the fight."

LONDON GOSSIP BY CABLE.

Unwelcome Influx of Continental Tourists—Golfing in America—Winston Churchill's Novel.

London, Feb. 17.—The senate of Cambridge University has refused to accept the recommendations of the committee, and by a majority of 33 has decided to retain the order of merit in its famous mathematical tripos. Thus the quaint chapter which no longer signifies the best all-round mathematician of the year is saved from extinction. The decision meets with some severe criticism from the press.

It is a strange anomaly to find Great Britain, the home of the emigrant, threatened by the emigrant, yet such is the case. Industrial activity and the increase in wages in the United Kingdom have attracted hordes of Continental labor. Last month alone about 4,000 emigrants arrived, a large increase on the average. The Globe remarks: "When the present wave of industrial prosperity is succeeded by a wave of adversity, we shall have on our hands a multitude of foreigners, eagerly competing for the bread which ought by right to nourish the native-born. We have no legislative machinery for sifting out pauper aliens and returning them to their own country, as they have in the United States."

Mr. Winston Churchill's first novel, "Savrola," was published this week, and has been tolerably well reviewed. The young war correspondent has depicted the political intrigue and revolution in the imaginary republic of Laurania, throwing in lots of fighting epigrams and political maxims, the latter evidently gathered from his experience in England. The book was mainly written in 1897.

Lord Dunraven seems to be losing all interest in yachting. By reason of his failure to attend the requisite number of meetings last year, the Yacht Racing Association, he, so the announcement politely puts it, "ceases to be vice-president."

The Pall Mall Gazette says: "Of all the papers in this country that comment on the golfing gossip about Vardon in America, several are taking the view that Americans are to be surprised and not a little humiliated by the splendid golf he will no doubt show them. These papers insinuate that the American golfer rates his own prowess a very great deal too highly, and that he will be reduced to his proper level by a sight of the great champion's play. We believe this is stating the case for the American golfer very unjustly. We have seen nothing, have heard nothing and have read nothing to dispose us to be of the opinion that he has any inordinate notion of his own prowess. In fact he seems to look to the Old Country for models and masters in golf, with a modesty altogether becoming. Vardon is not going to give them any revelation."

HAMBURG LINER AGROUND.

New York, Feb. 17.—It is reported that the Hamburg-American line steamer Graf Waldersee is aground in the bay near Buoy No. 7. The Graf Waldersee sailed to-day from this port for Hamburg by way of Plymouth. The Hamburg-American Company, as soon as the news of the grounding reached them, sent a tug to the scene. The officials of the company express the opinion that the grounding of the Graf Waldersee was due to the blinding snowstorm prevailing, and they expect that as the tide was rising when she grounded, the steamer will be floated at high water this evening, or at about 8 o'clock.

WESTMINSTER'S ESTATE.

Declared at But Half a Million Pounds Exclusive of Entailed Property.

London, Feb. 16.—The last will and testament of the late Duke of Westminster was filed to-day. It shows a gross estate valued at £594,229, not including, of course, the enormous entailed landed property. The widow will get the residue estate after the various bequests. The testator left to the National Gallery Hogarth's celebrated painting, "The Gate of Calais."

The Daily Chronicle, commenting on the will says: "If the death duties had never been imposed, would the Duke of Westminster's estate have been declared at the absurd figure of half a million sterling? Unless the public are entirely astray in their calculations, that sum more nearly represents a single year's income. We should imagine that the total estates approximated to £1,400,000, at which they were once valued."

ROSEBERY ON THE ALLIANCES.

Washington Officials Fail to Understand His Reference to Chamberlain's Recent Suggestions.

Washington, Feb. 16.—Lord Rosebery's statement in parliament yesterday to the effect that last December the British government made unsuccessful overture to the United States and Germany for an alliance has caused the greatest surprise at the state department. While officials are not in a position to make an official denial, they do not hesitate privately to assert their ignorance of any overtures of the kind described. Officials here intimate that from his position as an opponent of the present English government Lord Rosebery is not in a position to speak by the card as to what took place in matters so important as this.

Roberts to Rest His Column

While Rail to Kimberley Is Restored and Line Cleared of the Enemy.

Cape Colony Operations Grow in Importance—Yet More Artillery.

By Associated Press.

London, Feb. 17, 4.45 a.m.—Gen. Cronje, with a start of a day or two, is seemingly in full retreat from Lord Roberts, moving northward. General French, with the cavalry, simply stayed over night in Kimberley and then pushed on to get in touch with the retreating army. A long Boer wagon train is moving toward Bloemfontein, followed by a large force of British infantry. In their hasty departure, the Boers lost quantities of supplies and ammunition.

Military opinion here is that Lord Roberts will not push far after the Boers immediately because of transport problems and the need of rest for the troops. He has to feed 70,000 persons in this army and the whole Kimberley population. He must rebuild the railway from Modder River to Kimberley and re-victual the latter.

General French lost a few men only in action, but the forced marches and heat have probably made many ill. Numbers of remounts must be provided.

Lord Roberts has wrought a genuine preliminary success and the impression is that he has done enough for the present. He will need to prepare for another strike.

Those who read the news closely see only one disturbing feature in the Cape situation, and that is the pressure of the Boers towards Lord Roberts' line of supply through De Aar, which was never more important than now. The Boers under Commandants Delarey and Grobler are making a persistent effort to penetrate to the railway. They have pushed General Clements back to Arundel and have out-flanked him. All are within sixty miles, or two days' hard march, of the Central railway. Doubtless Lord Roberts has left considerable forces along the line and can send back more it necessary.

In the lobbies of the house last evening it was rumored that General Buller had again crossed the Tugela. A special despatch dated two days back and just transmitted from Chieveley says an important move was then pending there, although contrary indication are found in the fact that 750 ambulance bearers have been temporarily disbanded and the further fact that traction engines are arriving at Durban from the front to be sent to Lord Roberts.

More artillery is being sent to Lord Roberts from Capetown.

HOW PRETORIA TELLS IT.

British "Trying to Reach Kimberley" Done Up in Usual Fashion.

Pretoria, Feb. 15.—The Transvaal government has made public the following official despatch:

"Yesterday at Rondoval Drift, in the neighborhood of Jacobsdal, the federal troops were engaged in a severe fight with 2,000 British who were trying to reach Kimberley.

"Commandant Delary continued the engagement until this morning, the federal casualties being five wounded.

"After another two hours of hard fighting it is reported that the British retired, leaving Col. Henry dangerously wounded. Col. Henry with his servant was taken to Jacobsdal."

THE PRICE FOR PERJURY.

Offer of Ten Thousand Dollars to Help Fix Claim on Five Millions.

San Francisco, Feb. 16.—In the suit of Mrs. Nettie Craven, who claims a portion of the $20,000,000 estate left by James G. Fair, Mrs. Craven recently testified that in addition to being married by contract to Senator Fair a marriage ceremony had been performed by Justice of the Peace Simpson of Sausalito. Simpson last night made an affidavit before Judge Hunt of the superior court in which he states that he never performed the alleged marriage ceremony and that Mrs. Craven offered him $10,000 to testify that he had done so.

Ladysmith Diet During Siege

Horse and Mule Flesh the Staples and Food Supply Yet Available.

Thrifty Boers Sending in Tobacco for Sale At Famine Prices.

By Associated Press.

London, Feb. 16.—A correspondent of the Associated Press at Ladysmith, from which place he escaped on February 10, and arrived at Durban February 14, sends the following, written before he left Ladysmith:

"Since the furious cannonade in the early part of the week quietness has reigned. The hills on which the relief column's lyddite shells were bursting in hundreds, are now occupied by grazing cattle.

"Further away on the north side of the Spion Kop, the Boer laager can be seen, evidently bigger than before, showing they have no idea at present of retiring from their position.

"Much disappointment is felt at the non-appearance of Buller, as from the severity of the fire every heart was glowing with hope and excitement at the prospect of immediate relief, not that we are at all in the blues, for everyone capable of shouldering a rifle is confident of our ability to hold the town against any force the Boers are capable of putting in the field.

"Still the continued diet of horse and mule flesh is getting monotonous, although the health of the camp, taking everything into consideration, is better than it could be expected. Enteric fever and dysentery have abated. The camp fever is not violent, but is slightly increasing.

"The scarcity of vegetables is very trying to the troops. Eggs are 36 shillings a dozen, small fowl 18 shilling and sixpence, pumpkins 12 shilling each, small vegetable marrow 6 shillings, a tin of jam 12 shilling and sixpence, a tin of milk 7 shillings and sixpence, a box of sardines 3 shillings and tobacco 90 shillings a pound. A case of whiskey was raffled for £145.

"The Boers are smuggling tobacco into camp through natives. A local factory is turning out excellent horse sausages, and another is making nourishing soup, which is appreciated by the troops, who have increased in strength since these were served out."

The correspondent says that except for two slight attacks of fever, which never incapacitated him, Sir Geo. White, the British commander in Ladysmith, has been in excellent health throughout the siege. The total number of people within the British lines, including the intombed camp, is 17,000, all of them troops, except 3,000 civilians and 600 blacks.

When the Associated Press correspondent left, the live stock on hand included 4,000 horses, 700 mules and 650 cattle, and the garrison had no fear that the necessaries of life would be exhausted for some time to come.

A PATHETIC APPEAL.

Father of Condemned Prisoner Protests Son's Innocence and Asks Public to Respect His Grief.

New York, Feb. 16.—A statement issued by Gen. Molineux, father of the man condemned to die in the electric chair, is in part as follows:

"I am rich in the firm belief in the justice of Almighty God, in the devoted love and comfort of a noble wife, my sons and their wives, all united and certain in the innocence of Roland Burnham Molineux, and certain that it will be so found in time. I need for myself no other assistance and no other comfort or support, but for my household I do need and I do appeal for the support of the prayers of all those of every denomination, every faith, who like myself feel that my son is innocent and the victim of unjust persecution. I appeal, moreover, to every man who is a man to respect the sanctity of the grief of my afflicted wife and my sorely afflicted daughter, my daughter in affection and my daughter in law by her marriage to my son, Blanche Chesebro Molineux.

"As for my sons, I trust they are brave men, with the strength to live and die bravely. I have seen my son Roland asleep as a child by his mother's side. I have seen him asleep in his cell after the verdict condemning him to death had been pronounced. Who is better able than I, his father, to judge whether that sleep was the natural sleep of innocence? And I have heard his first words of awakening at the call of his father, as by reveille, from the sleep after the verdict: 'How is Blanche?' 'How is mother?'"

MILLIONS IN COPPER.

Immense Amount Named as Damages for Keeping Ontario Property Idle.

Akron, Ohio, Feb. 15.—Charles Howland, in behalf of himself and other stockholders of the Vermillion Mining Company of Ontario, to-day sued the Canadian Copper Company, the Anglo-American Iron Company, Stevenson Burke, C. W. Bingham, Henry McIntosh, Charles Baird and J. R. Wright, executors of the Cornell estate and all stockholders of the Canadian Copper Co., for $1,350,000 damages. He alleges that Burke and others, fearing that the Vermillion Company would become a strong rival of the Canadian Iron Company, conspired to secure possession of the stock of the Vermillion Company and did finally secure possession and by controlling the same have kept the Vermillion mines idle, while reaping rich profits from the mines of the Copper Co.

ENGAGED AT MAFEKING.

Pretoria, Feb. 13.—A smart rifle and artillery duel took place at Mafeking February 12. There was no Boer loss.

The British attacked Fort Eloff, south of Gaberones, at daybreak February 12, but the Johannesburg men under Von Delawaigh forced the British to retire, leaving six dead and four wounded on the field. Capt. Friend was among the killed. The Boers suffered no casualties.

Mafeking, Feb. 12.—The Boers have rebuilt the two forts demolished by the British.

There is no one article in the line of medicines that gives so large a return for the money as a good porous strengthening plaster, such as Carter's Smart Weed and Belladonna Backache Plasters.

VANCOUVER NEWS NOTES.

Copper Queen Miner Hurt—Fear of Diseased Pork—Northern Telegraph Construction.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, Feb. 15.—Lieut. Jones, R. N., left to-day for Halifax, and is reported to be on his way for duty in South Africa.

Robert Elliott, a miner employed at the Copper Queen, Van Anda, was struck by falling timber while in the shaft and had his leg broken and arm broken in two places.

Several diseased hogs have been washed ashore at False Creek. This story coming on top of the announcement that Chinamen were burying hogs that had died of typhoid is alarming the citizens, as nearly all the pork eaten in the city is from Chinese ranches.

Active operations have been commenced on the construction of the all-Canadian telegraph line to Dawson via Ashcroft. Tuesday last four men went to Ashcroft, one of them being empowered to engage 70 men at that point and proceed with them to Quesnelle, whence construction to Hazelton is to be carried on. To-day Mr. A. Boyer, C. E., left for Bennett with 17 men. Mr. Boyer will engage some 30 men at Bennett and Atlin, and commence the construction of the line from Atlin to Telegraph. On the 22nd Mr. Charleson, superintending the construction, will proceed to Bennett with his private secretary, Mr. Joseph Gobeil, his accountant, Mr. Hardie, and the balance of the supplies, horses, etc. More men will be engaged in the North, who will commence construction at a third point, Telegraph Creek, working their way to Hazelton.

The water and market committee have appointed a sub-committee to go into the matter of reducing the water rates. It is likely that 30 per cent. will be the discount hereafter instead of 20 per cent., and that the rate to small concerns will be much reduced.

Miss Elizabeth Dickie and Mr. A. H. Thatcher were united in marriage yesterday.

The Lyric Operatic and Dramatic Company of Vancouver are being congratulated by the local press on their rendition of "Morocco Bound" last night. The amateurs contemplate paying Victoria a visit.

Ford Wilson of Ladner was drowned yesterday. His team became unmanageable and backed into the Fraser.

Vancouver, Feb. 16.—Passengers from Victoria this morning declared that the report was current in the capital and accepted as true that the government would bring in their redistribution bill on Tuesday next, and that if the government were not defeated they would appeal to the people within a month. If they were defeated they expected that the measure would be a powerful campaign document.

Upon receipt to-day of news that Kimberley had been relieved, both afternoon papers issued extra editions and flags were raised on public buildings.

Justice Irving to-day sentenced James Hamilton and Manuel Johnson to penitentiary for three years and five years respectively for violently robbing an old pensioner named Wilson of $87 while he was in bed at the City hotel on the 5th inst.

A man was found dead on the New Westminster road this afternoon. At this writing the remains had not been identified.

The Fraser river is frozen eight miles down from New Westminster.

Some comment is made in the city over the fact that Mr. Charleson, superintending the construction of the all-Canadian telegraph line, shipped north by the Amur to-day for his men on construction work flour bought in Ottawa and shipped out here at a cost of 50 cents a barrel more than he could have bought it here for. Gloves and sleighs he could have saved the freight upon; horses he could have saved money on by buying them here, and so on down the list. Some 300 men applied here for work on the construction, but the seventeen who went north on the Amur were principally French-Canadians from the East.

The City Hospital is filled with patients at present, 65 beds being occupied. Yesterday it was found necessary to refuse admittance to three applicants owing to there being no room.

Owing to the cold weather there is a great deal of sickness in the city influenza, gripp and bronchitis being prevalent.

Vancouver, Feb. 17.—The steamer Guernsey left for China to-day with 3,117,756 feet of lumber, the largest lumber load on record here.

The news that Private G. B. Corbould of New Westminster had dropped out during the recent Corbould-Hall contested concern in Westminster and Vancouver, where he was well known, being a son of Police Magistrate Corbould of Westminster.

The Mansion House Fund concert at Westminster last night realized $820.

There is a rumor that the authorities of New York are to attempt to ship some Chinese lepers to China, by Vancouver. The health inspector at Huntingdon has been cautioned to refuse the admittance of lepers to the province.

The Liberals of Burrard met last night and decided to engage a paid organizer to devote his entire time to getting the party in shape for emergencies.

At lengthy meeting of the trades and labor council took place last night at which the board of trade was censured for petitioning the government to amend the eight-hour law.

T. Giffin, in charge of a carload of Calgary cattle, had his leg cut off while attempting to board a train at New Westminster Junction this morning.

LOST IN A WRECK.

Bordeaux, France, Feb. 15.—The steamer Ernestine has been wrecked at the mouth of the river Gironde. The captain was killed by a falling mast and only three of the crew were saved.

TO IMPERIAL COMMONS.

London, Feb. 16.—Hon. Iver Guest, Conservative, has been elected to represent Plymouth in the House of Commons, without opposition, in succession to Sir Edward Clarke.

The girl is the mother of the woman just as "the boy is the father of the man." The period when the womanly functions begin is one to be carefully watched and considered. Irregularity or derangement at this time may be promptly met and cured by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. But neglected at this critical period may entail years of future suffering. "Favorite Prescription" acts directly upon the womanly organs, giving them perfect vigor and abundant vitality. It removes the obstructions to health and happiness, and delivers womanhood from the cruel bondage of "female weakness."

You pay the postage, Dr. Pierce gives you the book. The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser, 1008 pages, 700 illustrations is sent free on receipt of stamps to defray cost of mailing and customs. Send 31 one-cent stamps for the paper bound book, or 50 stamps for cloth bound. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N.Y.

County Court Judges' Pay

Dominion Government Insists That Province Bargained to Add Allowance.

Present Repudiation Shown to Be Not Creditable to Local Ministers.

A return presented to the legislature by Premier Semlin a few days ago contained the correspondence in the matter of the discontinuance of the allowance heretofore paid by the province to the county court judges. A letter from County Court Judges Harrison, Bole, Cornwall, Spinks and Forin directed attention to the fact that under an agreement between the two governments the province formerly paid them $500 per annum in consideration of their acting as stipendiary magistrates.

A minute of the executive council of the province sets out that there was no bargain or arrangement of any kind for the payment of the allowance. On the other hand Hon. R. W. Scott, secretary of state for Canada, in presenting the views of the privy council says: "I have at the same time to observe that . . . there can be no doubt that an arrangement was concluded and acted upon with respect to the appointment and salaries of the county court judges which, in good faith, should be carried out, and to request that the salaries withheld be restored."

The report of the privy council is as follows:

Extract from a Report of the Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency on the 13th June, 1899.

On a report, dated 1st June, 1899, from the Minister of Justice, stating that by a memorial dated 28th November, 1898, the county court judges of British Columbia represented to Your Excellency that the provincial government had intimated to them that the salary of $500 a year, theretofore paid to each of them by the province, would cease after 30th November, 1898.

They called attention to the fact that in 1889, after a considerable discussion between Mr. Dewdney, representing the Dominion government, and Mr. Robson, representing the provincial government, it was arranged that each county court judge should, on appointment, receive a salary of $2,400 per annum from the Dominion government, and that the government of the province should supplement that salary by $500 in consideration of each judge acting also as stipendiary magistrate, and they pointed out that Mr. Robson, on behalf of the province, had stated at the time that $2,900 was the lowest salary at which it would be possible to secure the services of competent men. The judges stated further that a salary of $2,400 per annum was far from being adequate for the services rendered, having regard to the jurisdiction which they possessed, and they expressed the hope that steps would be taken to repair the loss which would be inflicted upon them by the proposed action of the province, and to secure the full amount of their salary as agreed upon.

The minister observes that, in pursuance of the minute of council, approved 23rd January, 1899, this memorandum was communicated to the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia for his report. On 16th February, 1899, the Lieutenant-Governor transmitted to the Secretary of State an approved report of the Attorney-General of the province upon the memorial of the county court judges.

The minister submits herewith copy of the said report of the Attorney-General, from which it appears that the government of the province understand that a claim is made by the county court judges that an arrangement exists between Your Excellency's government and the Provincial government by which the latter government ought to supplement the salaries of the judges. It is stated, however, that no such arrangement has been made or proposed, and this is sought to be established by reference to the correspondence, by which, it is stated, the provincial government pointed out that the salaries which the Dominion government proposed to pay were not adequate for the province of British Columbia; that the Dominion government, however, insisted that they could not discriminate between the provinces, and would not agree to appoint county court judges for British Columbia except at the same salary as was paid in the other parts of Canada, that thereupon the provincial government suggested that they would supplement the salaries in order to obtain the services of competent men, but that this was an entirely voluntary statement on the part of the province and not asked for in any way by the Dominion. It is not denied that the judges were appointed upon and in view of the alleged statements in this correspondence.

The minister further states that, he fails to apprehend, even upon the effects of the correspondence as stated by the Attorney-General, how it can be said that there was no bargain or arrangement of any knid whatever. The ground which seems to be particularly emphasized by the Attorney-General is that the proposal of the provincial government to supplement the judges' salaries for the purpose of obtaining the services of competent men was a voluntary proposal, but the statement of that ground is merely an affirmation of a fact which is essential to the validity of any contract or arrangement. It is assumed, or must be established in proper cases, when two parties, whether they be governments or individuals, have entered into an arrangement by which they are afterwards to be bound, that each party acted voluntarily, or as a free agent. In the present case, of course, it has never been suggested that the government of the province made the proposal, which was accepted by the Dominion government, and upon the faith of which the judges accepted appointment to office, otherwise than in the exercise of a free and sound judgment as to what was expedient in the general interest of the province. The ground urged by the Attorney-General