

RELIEF OF KIMBERLEY.

The Siege Raised, and the Enemy Surrounding the Town Dispersed.

A despatch from London says:—The following despatches from Lord Roberts respecting the relief of Kimberley have been published by the War Office:—

"Jacobsdal, Feb. 16.—French, with a force of artillery, cavalry, and mounted infantry, reached Kimberley last evening, Thursday."

"The following from Gen. French was received this morning:—

"I have completely dispersed the enemy from the southern side of Kimberley, from Alexandersfontein to Oliphantsfontein, and am now going to occupy their ground."

"Have captured the enemy's laager and store depot supplies and supplies of ammunition."

"Casualties, about 20 of all ranks wounded."

"Kimberley cheerful and well."

"I have good reason to believe the Magerfontein trenches have been abandoned and that the Boers are endeavouring to escape."

"General French is scouring the country north of Kimberley. One of Kelly-Kenny's brigades of infantry is in pursuit of a large Boer convoy, moving towards Bloemfontein."

A despatch from Jacobsdal, Feb. 17, 7.45 p. m., says:—"Much gratified on arrival here to find admirable hospital arrangements made by the German ambulance corps under Drs. Kaetner and Hildebrand, who, with their staffs, have shown the greatest kindness to our wounded, as they have to the Boer wounded. Some of our wounded have been here since December. Some were brought in yesterday."

The following despatch from General Roberts, posted to-night, fills the gaps in the earlier despatches:—

A despatch from Modder River says:—"The sixth division left Waterfall drift and marched here, going on the same evening to Rondevaal drift, to hold the crossing of the Modder river, and leave General French free to act."

"Shortly after arriving here the Mounted Infantry visited Jacobsdal, and found it full of women and children, with four of our wounded men, doing well."

"On the way back the Mounted Infantry were attacked, and nine men were wounded. Col. Henry and Major Hatchell and ten men were missing. Both officers were subsequently found at Jacobsdal, slightly wounded."

"The cavalry division is moving in a northerly line, and has apparently already reduced the pressure on Kimberley, as Kekewich signals the enemy has abandoned Alexandersfontein and that he has occupied it."

"French has advanced as far as Abonsdam, with slight loss, and is pushing on the posts, his rear being held by Mounted Infantry."

The War Office points out that the word "here" in the above despatch means some point on the Modder river in the Orange Free State, and not Modder river station."

FURTHER DETAILS.

A despatch from London, Monday says:—"Further details of General Lord Roberts' well-planned and well-executed operations amply prove that he has really attained a large measure of success, but the points that were doubtful Saturday remain almost equally so to-day. The general evidence, however, is taken to indicate that Commandant Cronje has his main force with him, going east on northeast. This frees the greater portion of the troops at Modder river and Kimberley, where a couple of brigades will suffice. Of course the great thing is the infliction of a crushing blow to Commandant Cronje. The despatches hitherto do not show that this has been done, and the rarity of such a blow on retreaters, unless they are retreating after being dispersed in battle, is pointed out here."

A despatch from the Daily News' correspondent at Modder river proves that Lord Roberts' move was a complete surprise to the Boers, as it was not until Friday morning that Gen. Cronje commenced his bold retreat on Bloemfontein between the British columns. He dared not hamper himself by taking his heavy guns, and abandoned them both at Kimberley and Magerfontein. How many the correspondent does not say. Gen. French has left Kimberley, and is now helping Gens. Kelly-Kenny and Hatcher to smash the remnants of Cronje's army."

The Times' correspondent at Modder river says it is expected that the Boer rear guard will fight all the way to Bloemfontein. It says that a telegram from the Boer commandant was found complaining that the Boers had been completely caught. The despatch concludes:—

"The guns that were pushed on Saturday outrange the Boer guns covering the retreat. The well-known mobility of the Boers has now vanished."

A COSTLY DELAY.

It is now amply confirmed that Gen. Cronje escaped. Every detail received, however, proves how admirably Lord Roberts' plans were conceived and were carried out. But for the unexpected delay at Dekiel's drift, which was almost impassable for waggons, the whole Boer force would have been surrounded. The delay of one day there gave them their chance for a hasty retreat."

All the other movements of Lord Roberts were executed exactly to time,

Apparently Gen. Cronje is retreating with the main army, and even if he escapes altogether he will probably lose all his baggage."

Specials from Ladysmith report an apparent movement on the part of the Boers toward the Free State, presumably with the object of assisting Gen. Cronje. The news that General Buller is attempting another crossing of the Tugela east of Colenso, after the capture of Hlangwane hill, therefore, gives great satisfaction. Buller's losses so far have been about 20 in wounded. His entire army is engaged in the operations."

It is announced that the Channel Squadron, instead of going to Gibraltar, has been ordered to remain in British waters until March."

The Daily News' correspondent at Modder river says:—"The Boer position at Koffyfontein is said to be very strong. They entrench in a wholesome dread of 10,000 cavalry moving more quickly than they do themselves. We hope to be in Bloemfontein shortly."

The Standard's correspondent at Jacobsdal, telegraphing Thursday, Feb. 15, says:—

"An attack was made yesterday upon the rear guard of our main body by a force of 1,400 Boers, who were hurried up from Colesberg. They succeeded in capturing some of our waggons, but Lord Roberts did not delay his march to retake these. There were few casualties on our side. The last of our supply columns arrived from Honey Nest kloof yesterday, having met with no opposition on the way."

AUSTRALIANS ANNIHILATED.

A correspondent of the London Mail at Naauwpoort, telegraphing Wednesday, and describing the evacuation of Rensberg, 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 Colesburg on Monday are reported extremely heavy."

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 Rensberg, and their absence not being noticed on the parade, they were eventually cut off."

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

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 Rensberg. The enemy greatly outnumbered our troops, being about 4,000 in number. They attacked the Worcestershire Regiment on their hill, and with desperate determination, charged home, only to experience such a hearty Maxim and rifle fire from our men that the death roll of the assailants 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 impress of sanguinary conflict with their foes."

"Colonel 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 and concentrative move 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."

BRITISH TAKE JACOBSDAL.

A despatch from outside Jacobsdal, Orange Free State, Thursday, says:—"Jacobsdal is now in possession of the British. Yesterday a small cavalry patrol entered the place and found it full of wounded, including several British from Rensberg. The place was occupied by a small force, which fell back before the patrol."

After a series of small skirmishes a battery of artillery shelled the environs and drove out the last of the Boers."

When the Boers evacuated Jacobsdal, they were obliged to pass over a ridge, where they afforded a splendid mark for the British guns, which showered shrapnel upon the retreating enemy."

The road between Modder river and Jacobsdal is now open. The distance is only nine miles. The road is available for sending reinforcements and supplies."

STRENGTH OF BOERS.

The British Intelligence department estimates the number of Boers liable to service in the Transvaal at 31,314; in the Orange Free State, 22,314; disloyal Cape Dutch, 4,000, and foreigners enlisted, 4,000, making a total of 61,638, from which 1,893 men are deducted for the police."

The Boers, it is said, have eighteen old guns of all kinds, 19 captured from the British, and 73 new guns, classified as follows:—Cresset 15-C, guns, 16; 3.7-inch, 21; 7.5-inch, 32; and 4.7-inch howitzers, 4. Against these, the British sent out mountain guns, 12; horse artillery, 54; field artillery, 23; five-inch howitzers, 33; naval guns, mostly 4.7-inch, 33; heavy siege train guns, 36."

The British forces prior to the war consisted of 9,600 men, 7,000 unmounted

and 2,000 mounted. On the date of the ultimatum, Oct. 9, they had increased to 12,600 unmounted and 3,400 mounted; a total of 16,000. On January 7, there were 83,000 unmounted and 19,000 mounted. On February 28, they will consist of 87,800 mounted men and 142,800 unmounted."

NAVY RESERVE CALL.

A despatch from London, says:—"A telegram from Portsmouth says the Admiralty enquires at the naval ports have resulted in the assurance that forty-seven additional battleships, cruisers, and torpedo-boat destroyers could forthwith hoist the pennant."

The Admiralty on Friday ordered the ships in the fleet reserve at Portsmouth to be fully crewed and ready for sea. This is regarded in some quarters as preliminary to putting the whole reserve in readiness for commissioning."

FIVE DAYS' FIGHTING.

Important Positions Captured on the Hills North of Chieveley.

A despatch from Chieveley Camp says:—"Since Wednesday there has been fighting in the high range of hills running north and south about ten miles north-east of Chieveley. The northernmost hill of this range is known as Monte Cristo and the southernmost as Cingolo. Between them is a neck, or stretch of comparatively level land, while at right angles Monte Cristo is a low green hill, which apparently is unnamed. It was important that these positions be taken before Hlangwane hill was occupied."

On Wednesday the British under Dundonald took an eminence called Hussar hill. One force held the Weenan road, while another, under General Hart, made a prolonged march through the valley of the Blaauwtrant river. The Boers opposed the irregular cavalry, who came in contact with them at 8 o'clock in the morning, but they were repulsed."

The Boers were heavily entrenched on the Monte Cristo hills. A steady independent fire, with occasional volleys, was maintained for some hours, and the enemy's trenches were vigorously shelled."

The Boers had one gun in action during the early part of the day, but when we began shelling they moved across the river. They used one Nordenfiedt in the afternoon. Our casualties were few."

On Thursday the troops rested, being very much fatigued by their march over the rough country."

On Friday they occupied a position about a thousand yards in advance of that previously held by them."

The next day, Saturday, the British night swept the Boers from Cingolo hill, the enemy's artillery shelling the hillside as their riflemen retired. The British held the position, bivouacking there last night."

To-day they are crossing the neck between Cingolo and Monte Cristo hills."

ABANDONED THEIR LAAGERS.

A despatch from Frere Camp says:—"The Boers have abandoned several laagers. General Buller renewed bombardment of the Boer position without eliciting a reply. Another forward move is regarded as imminent."

It is believed the Lyddite worked havoc in the Boer trenches. The Boers are supposed to have removed their big guns back over the Tugela. The rifle fire has been very heavy at times. The whole country is thickly wooded."

GIRL BURNED TO DEATH.

Saved Three Children From the Flames, Returned for a Forth.

A despatch from Sydney, N.S., says:—"A young girl named Steele lost her life while heroically engaged in saving children from a burning house on Saturday. The house was occupied by two families named Farrell and McIntyre, the latter living in the upper flat."

When the fire was discovered Mrs. McIntyre went outside while the girl remained and dropped three young children, one after another, out of a window to their mother below. Her position was one of extreme danger, as the whole of the upper part of the house was in flames."

BOTH WERE BURNED.

Instead of saving her own life, as she might have done by escaping through the window, she rushed to another room with the object of rescuing Mrs. Farrell's boy, who slept in the same flat. The heroic girl was met at the door by a burst of flames, which must have at once overcome her, and both she and the boy were burned to death."

The girl was a niece of Mrs. McIntyre. The charred remains of the victims have been recovered from the ruins. Nothing but an organ was saved in the shape of furniture."

PLAGUE AT MANILA.

Forty-three Genuine Cases Discovered, and Thirty-two Deaths Have Occurred.

A despatch from Manila says:—"Out of a total of 51 cases of suspected bubonic plague reported 42 proved genuine and 32 deaths resulted, half of them being Chinamen. There were twelve cases during the past week, mostly within the walled city, and a hundred inspectors, under the superintendence of a health officer, Major Edie are enforcing the sanitary regulations. Thirty of the inspectors are Chinamen, who have been furnished by the Chinese merchants."

The health department census shows the population of Manila is about 190,000, including 81,000 Chinese."

MARKETS OF THE WORLD.

Prices of Grain, Cattle, Cheese, &c. in the Leading Marts.

Toronto, Feb. 20.—About forty carloads of live stock came to hand this morning. Except for the best cattle the market was not a satisfactory one, and the proportion of poor stuff continues unduly large."

We had a fair trade in export cattle and prices were maintained at from 4 1-4 to 5c per pound, with an eighth or a quarter more for choice selections."

All the best butcher cattle sold at about the prices of last Tuesday, that is, from 3-4 to 4c per pound, and occasionally a little more for picked lots; but for secondary to inferior cattle the demand was slow, and prices, while scarcely notably changed, showed a weakening tendency. Several loads were left over."

The market for stockers was slow, and prices weaker."

Feeders and bulls were about unchanged."

A dozen milk cows came in and sold at the usual range. A few choice cows will sell."

Good veal calves are being asked for, and will sell up to ten or twelve dollars."

Sheep and lambs were a slow sale to-day, and as a result prices were easier, while notably unchanged. Between three and four hundred were here, and they did not all sell."

One thousand hogs were received here this morning. For prime hogs, scaling from 160 to 200 lbs., the top price is 5c; light and fat hogs are bringing 4 1-2c per lb."

Following is the range of quotations:—

Cattle.	
Shippers, per cwt.	\$ 4 25 \$ 5 00
Butcher, choice do.	3 75 4 25
1st tier, med. to good.	3 5 3 5
Butcher, inferior.	2 75 3 0
Stockers, per cwt.	3 00 3 10
Sheep and Lambs.	
Sheep, per cwt.	3 00 3 50
Lambs, per cwt.	5 0 5 50
Bucks, per cwt.	2 25 2 50
Milkers and Calves.	
Cows, each.	25 00 50 00
Calves, each.	2 00 10 00
Hogs.	
Choice hogs, per cwt.	4 50 5 00
Light hogs, per cwt.	4 00 4 50
Heavy hogs, per cwt.	4 00 4 50
Sows.	3 00 3 00
Stags.	2 00 2 00

Toronto, Feb. 20.—Wheat—Outside markets were firmer to-day, and local prices had a better tone, especially those of Manitoba. Quotations are as follows:—Ontario red and white, 65 to 66 1-2c, according to nearness to the mill, Western Ontario points; and 67 to 67 1-2c, east; goose wheat, 71c, low freights to New York; spring, east, 67c; Manitoba No. 1 hard, sold at 79 1-4c, North Bay; and at 79 3-4c, G.T."

Flour—Steady to firm. Outside millers offer straight roller, in buyers' bags, middle freight, at \$1.70 per bu.; and export agents bid \$2.60. Special brands, in wood, for local account, sell around \$3."

Millfeed—Scarce. Bran is quoted at \$15.50 to \$16; and shorts at \$17 to \$18, at the mill door through Western Ontario."

Corn—Steady. No. 2, American, yellow, quoted at 41c, track, Toronto, and mixed, at 40 1-2c; Canadian corn, 39 1-2c, track, Toronto. Offerings of Canadian corn light."

Peas—Firm and wanted. Car lots, 61 to 61 1-2c, north and west, and 62 to 62 1-2c, east."

Barley—Tone strong and demand good. Car lots of No. 2, middle freights, 42c; and east, at 43c. No. 1 is quoted at 44c, outside."

Rye—Firm. Car lots, 50c, west, and 51c, east."

Oats—Firm and active. White oats, north and west, 27c; middle freights, 27 1-2c; and east, 28c. These prices would be paid freely, and rather for round lots."

Buckwheat—Quiet. Offerings light. Car lots, outside, quoted at 49 to 50c. Chicago, Feb. 20.—Flaxseed—Closed:—North-West and South-West, cash, \$1.60; May, \$1.60; September, \$1.16; October, \$1.14."

Buffalo, Feb. 20.—Spring wheat—Fair demand; No. 1 hard, 77 5-8c; No. 1 Northern, carloads, 77 3-8c; round lots, 76 5-8c. Winter wheat—No. sales. Corn—Quiet; No. 2 yellow, 38 1-4c; No. 4 yellow, 37 1-2c; No. 2 corn, 37 3-4c; No. 3 corn, 37 1-2c. Oats—Easier; No. 2 white, 29c; No. 3 white, 28 1-2c; No. 4 white, 28c; No. 2 mixed, 26 1-2c; No. 3 mixed, 26c. Rye—Nominal. Flour—Firm; fair demand."

Minneapolis, Feb. 20.—Close:—Wheat—In store, No. 1 Northern, February, 66c; May, 66 1-4c; July, 67 1-2 to 75-8c; on track, No. 1 hard, 67 1-2c; No. 1 Northern, 65c; No. 2 Northern, 64c."

OVER THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY.

The Loss Sustained by the British in the Vaalkrantz Engagement.

The War Office has issued a list of casualties among the non-commissioned officers and privates at Vaalkrantz. They include:—

Killed	24
Wounded	322
Missing	5
Total	351

Of this number the 1st Durham Light Infantry, which captured the hill, had 12 killed and 77 wounded."

The despatch from Gen. Buller giving the casualties at Vaalkrantz was sent from Chieveley camp. This would seem to indicate that Gen. Buller has removed his headquarters from Springfield further south to Chieveley camp. It is not known whether any large body of troops remains at Springfield."

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

What is Going on in Our Legislative Halls Down at Ottawa.

Mr. McCarthy introduced a bill to amend the Criminal Code of 1892. He explained that the object was to put in infringement of copyright upon the same footing as the infringement of a trade-mark, and to make both equally subject to the criminal law."

Dr. Montague enquired whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce legislation this session to regulate friendly society insurance."

Mr. Fielding said it was not the intention of the Government to proceed with that measure."

Mr. Flint gives notice of the following resolution:—"That this House is now of opinion that it is desirable and expedient that Parliament should, without delay, enact such measures as will secure the prohibition of the liquor traffic for beverage purposes in at least those provinces and Territories which have voted in favor of such prohibition."

Mr. Reid introduced a bill to regulate freight rates on railways. He explained that his object was to have a commission appointed to fix passenger and freight rates, and to decide cases of differences between railway companies and their customers. By way of illustration, he referred to the Standard Oil Company, which is said to get an unfair advantage over its competitors by securing rebates on freight charges. The effect of his bill will be to stop all such practices."

Mr. Charlton introduced a bill to amend the Criminal Code. The object is to raise the age of consent to eighteen years."

Mr. Sifton introduced a bill to amend the Dominion Lands Act. The measure relates to the homestead laws of the North-West."

Mr. Davin introduced a bill to amend the Mounted Police Act. This is a measure dealing with promotion from the ranks of the force."

Mr. Marcotte was informed by Mr. Fielding that the amount paid out of the superannuation fund last year was \$25,560.21, and for the previous year \$30,185.41, showing a decrease of \$4,625.20."

Sir Hibbert Tupper was informed by Mr. Sifton that in the case of Yukon mining claims, parties who had been deprived of their claims through errors of the clerks, or through other mistakes, were being given opportunity to take up other claims as compensation."

Mr. Casey will move that Parliament should meet on a fixed day annually, or on a day between certain fixed limits in December or January."

Cofonel Prior will enquire whether an order-in-Council was passed dismissing General Hutton or calling upon him to resign."

Mr. McInnes will introduce a bill to prevent Chinese or Japanese from being employed in mines."

Sir Charles Tupper enquired whether the order-in-Council for the suspension of the coasting laws had been rescinded."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier replied that the suspension applied only to the past season of navigation."

Mr. Campbell introduced a bill to legalize the union label."

Mr. Davin introduced a bill to amend the Land Titles Act and to get rid of an anomaly existing in the North-West regarding the proving of wills made in England."

Mr. Putee will ask whether the Government in awarding the contracts for the work at St. Andrew's rapids Red river, will provide for the protection of union labour."

Mr. Pettit will ask if it is the intention of the Government to introduce any legislation this session for the inspection of apples or protection of the apple trade, and if so, what scheme is proposed."

Mr. Gilmore introduced an Act to amend the Companies Clauses Act. He explained that his bill had reference to mercantile and manufacturing companies incorporated by special Act, and subject to the provisions of that Act. It had no reference to manufacturing and mercantile companies incorporated by letters patent. The object was to enable companies of the kind indicated to change the place in which their headquarters were located without applying to Parliament for a special Act for that purpose."

Mayor Middleboro, Ald. K. Webber, R. B. Miller, W. J. Hatton, and J. M. Kilbourn, Owen Sound, waited on the Government, asking for harbour improvements, and that Owen Sound's interests be protected in the proposed scheme for improving the transportation facilities on the upper lakes."

Judge E. A. Richards, of Winnipeg, has been appointed chairman of the Elevator Commission in the place of Judge Senkler, of St. Catharines, who died recently at Winnipeg."

A deputation from the city of Buffalo, consisting of Dr. H. Y. Grant, son of Sir James Grant, of Ottawa, J. N. Adams, and John B. Webber, was in town to interview the Minister of Agriculture and urge the erection of a special Canadian building at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo."

Not content with his deep-laid plans to rival England's naval supremacy Emperor William now starts to catch up to her as a colonizer. He has donated 10,000 marks to promote German emigration to Palestine."

It is rumored that the Danish Government, which for twenty-five years has rejected all proposals of the United States to purchase the Danish West Indies, is about to submit a bill authorizing the sale of these possessions at 12,000,000 kroner."