

HARD PRESSED TEN DAYS AGO

As Yet There Is No Word of the Relief of Mafeking.

Some of the Natives Are Dying of Starvation - Boer Shelling Has Been Heavy - Four Officers of the Guards Were Fired on by Johannesburg Mounted Police Nine Miles From Modder River - More British Bravery.

London, March 26.—(4.15 a.m.)—Except for the "unfortunate occurrence," as Lord Roberts calls it, which resulted in the killing of Lieut. Lygon, and the wounding and capture of Lieut.-Col. Crabbe, Lieut.-Col. Coltrington and Captain Trotter, the campaign presents no new feature. The mishap of the Guards' officers is a testimony to their bravery. They met a party of five Boers, whom they tried to capture. The Boers took refuge on a kopje, where three of their comrades were hidden, and within five minutes every member of the British party was hit.

Apparently little progress is being made toward the relief of Mafeking. A private telegram from a lieutenant at Kimberley, dated Wednesday, March 21, announces that he was on the point of starting for Mafeking, presumably with the relief column.

General Sir Forestier-Walker and Prince Alexander of Teck have left Cape Town for Bloemfontein. It is reported from Ladysmith that Van Roonan's Pass bristles with guns.

A despatch to The Daily Telegraph from Kimberley, dated Sunday, March 25, says: "Prisoners brought in here report that a force of British cavalry has entered the Transvaal and penetrated to a point 18 miles north of Christiana. The British forces at Fourteen Streams are being strengthened. A movement northward is expected soon."

MAFEKING WELL MARCH 13.

During the Few Days Previous the Enemy's Cordon Had Been Much Relaxed.

London, March 26.—The War Office has received the following despatch from Lord Roberts: "A telegram from Nicholson, at Bulwayo, states that Baden-Powell reports 'All well to March 13. During past few days enemy's cordon much relaxed.'"

The Nicholson referred to in Lord Roberts' despatch is Major John Nicholson, commandant-general of the British South African Police, stationed in Rhodesia.

Mafeking is still closed. London, March 26.—The Daily Mail publishes the following from Mafeking, dated Wednesday, March 14: "We are still being heavily shelled. There have been several casualties. Skirmishing continues in the trenches. The native food question is becoming difficult. The Boers have broken the arrangement to respect the Sabbath by not firing, and have seized the opportunity to extend their trenches."

Natives Dying of Starvation. Lady Sarah Wilson, in a despatch from Mafeking, dated Wednesday, March 14, says: "We have received news of the relief of Ladysmith, but it serves to increase our disappointment, as there is no prospect of our relief. The town remains closely invested. The Boers are reported to be very numerous and strongly entrenched between us and Col. Plumer's force. Some of the natives are dying of starvation owing to their prejudice against horseflesh."

BRAVE BUT CARELESS.

Boers Killed Lt. the Hon. E. Lygon and Wounded Three Others.

London, March 26.—The War Office has posted the following despatch from Lord Roberts: "Bloemfontein, March 24.—Yesterday Lieut.-Col. Crabbe, Capt. Trotter and Lieut. Lygon of the Grenadier Guards, rode eight or nine miles beyond their camp on the Modder River without an escort except one trooper. They were fired upon by a party of Boers, and Lieut. Lygon was killed, and Lieut.-Col. Crabbe, Lieut. Codrington and Capt. Trotter were seriously wounded. The trooper also was wounded. One of the wounded officers held up a white handkerchief, and the Boers came to their assistance and did all they possibly could, attending to their wounds. The Boers then conveyed the wounded to the nearest farm house, where they were taken care of."

Shot by Johannesburg Police.

Bloemfontein, Saturday, March 24.—The Boers who yesterday killed Lygon of the Grenadier Guards, and who wounded Col. Crabbe, Lieut.-Col. Codrington and Capt. Trotter of the Coldstream Guards, who had ridden eight or nine miles beyond their camp on the Modder River without escort, except one trooper, were members of the Johannesburg Mounted Police. After dressing the wounded, they sent them to the British camp in an ambulance.

CLEMENTS AT PHILIPPOLIS.

Read Roberts' Proclamation and Burghers Began Turning in Arms. Philippolis, Friday, March 23, via

Norval's Pont, Saturday March 24.—Gen. Clements entered Philippolis at noon to-day. He assembled the burghers, addressed them, and read Lord Roberts' proclamation in Dutch and English. The future of the Free State, he declared, would have to be decided by Her Majesty's advisers, but the burghers might be cert in that the late Government at Bloemfontein would never be restored. He advised that all the inhabitants accept the inevitable, and obey all the orders of the military and other authorities duly appointed, intimating that the Landrost and sheriffs had been reappointed under the Queen. The burghers began taking the oath of allegiance and surrendered their arms.

FRENCH'S FORCE IS RESTING.

At Thabanehu and Distributing Lord Roberts' Proclamation.

Bloemfontein, Friday, March 23.—Advices from Thabanehu, between Bloemfontein and Ladybrand on the Orange Free State border, dated March 21, say Gen. French's force is resting there, and distributing Lord Roberts' proclamation. Brand, a son of the former President of the Orange Free State, Sir John Henry Brand, continues his duties as Landrost. He appears quite willing to co-operate with the new regime. The people generally outwardly express satisfaction with the advent of the British.

Boers Are Terrified. Barkly West, Saturday, March 24.—Griquatown was re-occupied Thursday by 400 Boers. A column left Kimberley yesterday (Friday) to drive them out. It is reported that all the loyalists there, including two men, have been imprisoned.

Gen. Woodgate Dead.

London, March 26.—Advices received here announce the death in the Mood Hospital on Friday of General Sir Edward Woodgate, who was wounded in the engagement at Spion Kop on Jan. 24. The late General Woodgate was born Nov. 1, 1845, at Belbroughton, Worcestershire.

TRANSVAALERS IN RESERVE.

With Retirement of Free Staters They Come to the Front.

Ladysmith, March 24.—The scouts frequently engage the Boers beyond Meran, under the Biggarsberg, but no important fighting has taken place.

The Free Staters continue to enter our lines, surrendering under the proclamation by Lord Roberts. They declare that the Transvaalers are determined to fight to the bitter end.

The majority of those who have hitherto taken part in the fighting have been Free Staters. The Transvaalers have been held in reserve. The Boers are preparing for another campaign, and will occupy a strongly-fortified position in the Transvaal, necessitating heavy fighting before they can be driven out. The Boers are not expected to make a stand at Johannesburg, but will concentrate at Pretoria.

British Losses to Date.

London, March 26.—The total British losses, exclusive of the invalids sent home, are 16,418 in killed, wounded and missing.

Krugers Annul Concessions.

Brussels, March 26.—It is announced that President Kruger of the Transvaal republic has annulled the Belgian railway concessions in that country. Much Belgian capital is invested in these concessions and grave commercial complications are likely to follow.

2,000 More Troops Sail.

Southampton, March 26.—Over 2,000 troops sailed from here on Saturday for South Africa.

Boers Know They're Beaten.

Durban, March 24.—It is learned from an authentic source that the Boer leaders are aware that they are beaten, but think they can hold out for four or six months, within which time they firmly believe foreign intervention will force Great Britain to grant favorable terms, including independence. They expect Germany or the United States to interfere. The mission of Messrs. Weyland, Fischer and Wessels to Europe is to hasten this so far as Germany is concerned. The Boers plan include a stand at Kroonstadt, the Vaal River and other points, culminating at the defence of Pretoria, which has been preparing for a siege.

Keeping at Bloemfontein.

London, March 26.—A special despatch from Bloemfontein, dated March 24, says: Rudyard Kipling has arrived here.

The Boers are reported retiring from Kroonstadt, after having blown up a bridge.

TO BE ON CANADIAN LINES.

Proposed Plans for British South Africa, Including the Two Republics—First Governor-General.

London, March 26.—It is understood that the committee of the British Cabinet which has been deliberating on the political future of South Africa in general, and on the Boer Republic in particular has already arrived at an agreement on the several points of principle, including the creation of a new Vice-Royalty. The settlement will provide for a Governor-General of the whole of South Africa on Canadian lines, with a House of Commons sitting at Cape Town and Legislative Assemblies in the various Provinces, including the Transvaal and the Orange Free State after a period of political probation.

Lord Reay May Get It.

Field Marshal Lord Roberts will have the first offer of the Governor-Generalship, and will refuse. The post will not be offered Sir Alfred Milner, as has been suggested. He will, in fact, be recalled. Politicians expect that the new Viceroy will be Lord Reay, a peer of ability and administrative experience, with almost the unique advantage of having Dutch blood in his veins and of speaking the Dutch language.

A Conference to Be Held.

The Cabinet having settled the broad lines of policy, the details will be arranged at a conference which will be held in London, and which will include Lord Loch, the former High Commissioner to South Africa; Sir Alfred Milner, Premier Schreiner of Cape Colony, the Premier of Natal and several ex-Cabinet Ministers from South Africa.

Will Wait for Roberts.

Nothing has yet been settled with regard to the military position after the war, beyond the general decision to offer all possible inducements to suitable soldiers, such as the Imperial Yeomen, to settle in South Africa. The question as to who must stand over until General Lord Roberts is comfortably quartered in Pretoria, and has had time to think over the situation and draw up a report. The widest differences of opinion on this point exist even among well informed men. The estimates of a military strength which will be requisite to hold the Transvaal range from a permanent garrison of 50,000 down to a police force of 5,000.

DOMINION DEFICIT.

Notes of Proceedings in the National Legislature.

THE HIGH JOINT COMMISSION.

Sir Charles Tupper enquired when the House was to be furnished with copies of the protocols and other information concerning the commission appointed to arrange outstanding matters between Canada and the United States. As the work of that commission had now, apparently, come to an end, he thought it was time that the House and the country should be told exactly what they had done.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier could not agree with the idea that the commission had finished its sittings, or that the negotiations had come to an end, although he was not prepared to say when they would be resumed. In the meantime, he was not in a position to say when the protocols and other information would be laid before the House, but the Government now had the matter under consideration, and he would give an answer in a few days.

GARRISONING OF ESQUIMALT.

Mr. Prior called attention to the fact that men who had been recruited in British Columbia for Company "A" of the Provincial Battalion, which is to garrison Halifax, had been sent to do garrison duty at Esquimalt. He wanted to know whether it was the intention to garrison Esquimalt permanently with Canadian troops. Also he had been informed on good authority that the Leinster Regiment, now in Halifax, had received marching orders for Africa, and that they were going to leave behind them all the men under 20 years of age and all those unfit for active service. He suggested that the men thus left behind would be a good nucleus for the repatriation of the regiment.

Dr. Borden said he had no information regarding Mr. Prior's first question, but was not inclined to think it was well founded. He promised to give information on this point tomorrow. As to the repatriation of the Leinster Regiment, the War Office was now seriously considering the question, and had strong hopes of being able to carry it out in the near future. Applause.

THE PACIFIC CABLE.

Mr. Casey produced a copy of the Hansard of the Australian colony of Victoria, dated February 9th, in which appeared a statement credited to Mr. McLean, a member of the Victoria Cabinet, to the effect that the Imperial authorities had no objection to Australia granting the Extension Cable Company landing rights and facilities for doing business for their proposed cable to Cape Colony on condition that Imperial messages should have the preference and that rates once lowered should never be increased.

Mr. Mulock said that this statement was not at all in harmony with the Canadian Government's views of the attitude of the Imperial authorities. So far as this the Government know, and he felt pretty sure, the Imperial Government had not given its consent to any variation in the terms of the agreement for the construction of a Pacific cable to be owned jointly by the colonies and Great Britain.

ORFORD COPPER COMPANY.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier presented the petition of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, praying that the bill of the Orford Copper Company do not become law. The petition was referred to the Select Committee on Private Bills.

ONTARIO'S CONTINGENT NUMBERS.

Mr. Cargill was informed by Dr. Borden that it was impossible to tell the total number of men who volunteered for service in South Africa.

either from the separate provinces or from the Dominion as a whole. No record was kept of those who were rejected for various reasons, or those who volunteered after the lists were filled. The number of men furnished from Ontario was 600, not including the 40 who enlisted as reinforcements for the first contingent, nor those who went with the Strathcona Horse.

THE BUBONIC PLAGUE.

Mr. Fisher, replying to Col. Prior, said that no cases of bubonic plague had been reported at British Columbian ports, but that a case had been reported at Port Townsend and another lately in the Chinese quarter of San Francisco. As a result, orders have been given to treat ships coming from these ports in the same manner as those coming from the Orient.

PLAINS OF ABRAHAM.

Mr. Taylor was informed by the Premier that there had been informal negotiations respecting the purchase of the Plains of Abraham by the Government. It had been fully decided to acquire the property if it could be procured at a reasonable figure.

GRANTS TO SOLDIERS.

Mr. Sutherland introduced a bill to make further provision respecting grants of land to members of the militia who on active service in the North-West.

STANDARD BARREL.

Sir Henri Joly, in answer to Mr. Mills, said that the Government had now under consideration the question of defining the dimensions of a standard barrel.

BUDGET SPEECH.

Mr. Fielding delivered the budget speech on Friday afternoon. He spoke for two hours and a half. Mr. Fielding estimated the revenue for the year at over \$50,000,000, the expenditure at \$48,175,000, and the surplus at \$7,525,000. The salient proposals of the budget are an increase of the preferential duty on British goods to 33-1-3 per cent., an offer of free trade with Trinidad, and the placing of beet sugar machinery, of a kind not manufactured in Canada, on the free list. Mr. Fielding announced that the Government has succeeded in having Canadian securities placed on the list in which English trustees may invest trust funds.

PRETORIA IS CONFIDENT.

The City Is Lively and Full of Military Activity.

A despatch from Pretoria, says:—A correspondent has just seen Capt. Leon, the agent of the gun works at La Creusot, France, who was reported to have been killed in an engagement with the British some time ago. Capt. Leon was quite badly wounded, but he is now improving rapidly. He will sail for Europe next week. The people here have not been cast down by the British successes. They are confident of maintaining a sturdy resistance for many months.

The Rand Post says it has been advised that there will be a general destruction of the mines before the British are allowed to occupy the gold fields. The Standard and Diggers' News of Johannesburg, strongly opposes such a measure. It declares that the destruction of the mines would be an act of vandalism which would alienate the sympathy of friendly powers. This view is strongly endorsed. Johannesburg continues calm, and no breaches of order are reported from that town. Pretoria is lively and full of military activity.

President Kruger returned yesterday from Kroonstad. He states that he never found the burghers more resolved. He is assured that the fight in the Free State will be desperate. I am informed that the Transvaal Government has taken no resolution to destroy the mine property as a last resort.

A HUGE FIELD FORCE.

Strength of Lord Roberts' Army for Operations of Offence.

A despatch from London, Saturday, March 24, says:—A telegram announcing that the eighth army division is expected to land at Port Elizabeth and East London is interpreted to mean that this division will join General Roberts, travelling by way of Springfontein. It is estimated that General Roberts will then have practically two army corps available for field operations, exclusive of the troops guarding his communications. In addition, he has General French's cavalry, thus outnumbering the Boers three to one.

CRUSHED BY KITCHENER.

Two British Forces Operating Near Prieska Unite.

A despatch from Prieska, March 22, says:—General Sattler and Lord Kitchener joined forces at Dordenberg yesterday. Kitchener's cavalry entered Prieska, on the 19th without opposition. The Boers evacuated the town shortly before their arrival. Two men of the City Imperial Volunteers, who were taken prisoners in the Houwater engagement, had been released, and are well.

The enemy is reported to be dispersing, and the rebellion seems to be crushed. A few Boers are reported to be at Kenhardt. Neither Lord Kitchener nor General Sattler encountered any opposition en route, and found the farms deserted.

MARKETS OF THE WORLD

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

Toronto, March 27.—Run was fair consisting of 600 cattle, 800 hogs and 150 sheep and lambs—quite sufficient for the demand.

Export Cattle—Trade slow; offerings not large. A few loads sold at \$4.50 to \$4.80 for heavy cattle and \$4.25 to \$4.40 for light stock.

Butchers' Cattle—Demand was not strong. Loads of choice heifers and steers sold at \$1 to \$1.25 per cwt., good cattle at \$3.50 to \$3.90 per cwt., medium to mixed lots at \$3 to \$3.50 per cwt., and common cows to \$2.50 to \$3 per cwt.

Export Bulls—Offerings light and demand weak. Quotations were \$3.50 to \$3.75 per cwt. for light stock and \$3.75 to \$4 for heavy grades.

Feeders—Few offered to a slow demand at unchanged prices.

Stocks—This market holds steady with fair offerings and demand at \$3 to \$3.65 per cwt. for steers weighing from 500 to 900 lbs.

Feeding Bulls—Steady at \$2.75 to \$3.25 per cwt.

Sheep—Trade was dull and some stock left over. Offerings were generally inferior. Export ewes sold at \$3.25 to \$3.75 per cwt., bucks at \$3 to \$3.25 per cwt., and butchers' sheep at \$3 to \$4 a head.

Lambs—Rather weak demand at \$4.50 to \$5.50 per cwt., and \$4.50 to \$5.75 per cwt. for picked ewes and wethers.

Toronto, Mar. 27.—Wheat—Western markets closed weak to-day. In the local market Manitobas were off 1c, but Ontarios remained about steady. Quotations are as follows:—Ontario, red and white, 65 to 65 1-2c, according to nearness to the mill, Western Ontario pines, and 65 to 66c east; goose wheat 70c, low freights, to New York; spring east, 66 to 66 1-2c; Manitoba No. 1 hard, 79c, North Bay, and 80c, g.i.t.

Flour—Quiet. Outside mills offer straight rollers, in buyers' bags, middle freight, at \$2.60 per bbl.; and export agents bid \$2.55. Special brands in wood, for local account, sell from \$2.85 to \$3, according to brand.

Millfeed—Bran is quoted at \$14.50 to \$15.50, and shorts at \$15 to \$16, at the mill door through Western Ontario.

Corn—Continues firm. No. 2 American yellow, quoted at 43c, track, Toronto; and mixed at 42c; Canadian corn, 42c, track, Toronto.

Peas—Demand quiet and prices easier. Car lots, 60 1-2 to 61c, north and west; and 61 1-2 to 62c, east.

Barley—Tone easy. Prices rather easier. Car lots, No. 2, middle freights, 42 1-2c; and east at 43c; No. 1 is quoted at 43 1-2 to 44c, outside.

Rye—Quiet. Car lots, 51c, west, and 52c, east.

Oats—Prices steady on small offerings. White oats, north and west, 27 1-2c, middle freights 28c, and east 28 1-2c.

Buckwheat—Quiet. Offerings light. Car lots, outside, quoted at 49 to 50c.

Buifalo, March 27.—Spring wheat—No. 1 hard, round lots, 77 1-4c; No. 1 Northern, carloads, 76 3-4c; No. 2 Northern, carloads, 73 3-4c. Winter wheat—No. 2 red, 74 1-2c, asked; No. 1 white and mixed, 73 1-2c, asked. Corn—Quiet; No. 2 yellow, 41 3-4c; No. 3 yellow, 41 1-2c; No. 4 yellow, 41c; No. 2 corn, 41 1-2c; No. 3 corn, 41c. Oats—Firm; No. 2 white, 29 3-4 to 30c; No. 3 white, 29 to 29 1-4c; No. 4 white, 28 3-4c; No. 2 mixed, 26 1-2c; No. 3 mixed, 26c. Rye—No. 2 nominally 62 to 62 1-2c. Flour—Steady.

Chicago, March 27.—Flaxseed—Closed:—North-West and South-West, cash, \$1.65; May, \$1.65; September, \$1.16 bid; October, \$1.13.

Minneapolis, March 27.—Close:—Wheat—In store, No. 1 Nor hern, March, 64 1-8c; May, 63 5-8c; July, 64 7-8c; on track, No. 1 hard, 65 1-8c; No. 1 Northern, 64 1-8c; No. 2 Northern, 62 5-8c.

Duluth, March 27.—Wheat—No. hard cash, 66 1-4c; May, 67 1-4c; No. 1 Northern cash, 64 3-4c; May, 65 3-4c; July, 66 5-8c; No. 2 Northern, 62 1-4c; No. 3 spring, 59c. Oats—23 1-2 to 24c, Corn—34 3-4c.

CORPS OF YOUNG BOERS.

Under British Officers They Are Doing Police Duty.

A despatch from London says:—The second edition of the Times of Wednesday publishes a despatch from Bloemfontein, dated Monday, March 19, which says:—"The blowing up of bridges by the Boers is an evident sign that the Transvaalers intend to abandon the defence of the Free State."

"All is quiet in the south and west. A corps of young Boers from the farms surrounding Bloemfontein, under an Imperial officer, has been detailed for police work, and to prevent the further pillage of abandoned farms by the Kaffirs."

TO SEE THE WAR THROUGH.

What Kruger Told a Deputation of Burghers.

A despatch to the London Daily News from Pretoria, says that a deputation of burghers waited on President Kruger to enquire regarding the situation. They received a reassuring reply. The President said the Government intended to see the war through determinedly, and that a council of war by the nation's leaders would be held shortly.