

# GENERAL ADVANCE BEGUN.

## Boers Still Withdrawing, Wrecking Bridges as They Go.

A despatch from London, Thursday, says:—The next few days should produce interesting developments in South Africa. Lord Roberts has again advanced, but the burghers are reported to be already moving to the north-east, with the intention of carrying out their long-announced plan of retiring to the Lydenburg mountains. Gen. Roberts was recently credited with saying, "I cannot follow them into the centre of Africa. If they choose to shut themselves up in the Lydenburg mountains, I cannot prevent them."

The Boers are now repeating the tactics they have followed ever since Bloemfontein fell that is, withdrawing safely, wrecking bridges as they go, and always distancing their pursuers.

There is a report that Gen. De Wet

hoped when he broke through the British who were hemming him in, to go southward and concentrate at Stormberg. At present, however, he is retreating northward. He was last reported to be within a few miles of the Vaal river. He was being followed, but had not been overtaken by a British force.

Nothing has been heard of Gen. Buller for several days. His whereabouts is unknown to the public.

According to a report from Maseru, Basutoland, a considerable number of Boers are still in the eastern part of the Orange River Colony. They are well equipped, have plenty of supplies, and are not thinking of surrendering. Heavy rifle firing was heard near Ficksburg Tuesday, but no details have been received of fighting there.

St. Catharines ratepayers have voted in favor of granting the Walpole Manufacturing Company \$4,000 a year for 15 years, and of fixing the assessment of the Kinleith Paper Co., at \$21,000, but have voted against the by-law to provide \$25,000 for a new collegiate institute.

The Galt Town Council have decided to appeal to the Attorney-General to interfere with the proposed removal of the works of the Robertson-Taylor Company from that town to Guelph, because Guelph has offered a bonus of a piece of land valued at \$1,500, which is to be sold to the company for \$250, this being an illegal act.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

Joseph Chamberlain, Great Britain's Colonial Secretary, refused the post of War Minister.

Next year's Christian Endeavour Convention will be held in Sheffield, Manchester in 1902.

Thirty invalided Canadians are now on furlough, staying at the Soldiers' Rest, near Buckingham Palace.

Lady Strathcona has left London for Carlsbad, Lord Strathcona will spend his August holidays at Glencoe.

The British Government, has withdrawn the proposal to amend the army bill by making volunteers liable for service abroad.

Benjamin R. Cant, England's champion rose grower, is dead at 78. He had taken over 2,000 prizes and won the National Rose Society's trophy nine times.

Edouard de Reszke has been decorated with the Victorian Order by the Queen for singing before her in "Faust." Suzanne Adams received a diamond bracelet.

The new warships being built for the British navy will be of the H. M. S. Formidable class—15,000 tons displacement, with 15,000 indicated horsepower and 400 feet in length.

Rev. J. R. Bacon, an insatiable aeronaut experimentalist in London, is planning a unique journey in a balloon, with the object of sending messages to such isolated places as Pekin.

The public discovered for the first time that Lord Salisbury was an expert gardener when the Royal Horticultural Society awarded him a silver medal in the fruit section for a box of brown Turkey figs.

Prof. David Edward Hughes, the inventor of the printing telegraph and of the microphone, has left his fortune of \$2,000,000 to four hospitals, the Middlesex, London, King's College and Charing Cross.

The Hospitals Commission, appointed by the British Government to investigate the charges as to the treatment of sick and wounded soldiers in South Africa, has commenced work by examining a number of patients recently arrived in England.

In the House of Commons of Tuesday, Mr. G. T. Goschen, First Lord of the Admiralty, declared that it was due to the delay of contractors that the Admiralty had not produced more ships and defended the Belleville boilers, which had been adopted by the States, Germany, Japan and France.

A good joke is related in one of the London morning papers on the Prince of Wales and Mr. Choate. At the Marlborough Club the other day the Prince, it is said, effusively shook hands with a man he took for the American Ambassador and later discovered the fellow was an immaculately groomed waiter.

### UNITED STATES.

A cloudburst has wiped out the town of Coleman, Texas.

Chicago stockyards' newsboys have put a ban on cigarettes.

A shipment of 890 horses has been made from New Orleans to South Africa.

A man in White Plains Hospital who has lost his identity is believed to have been struck by lightning.

Chicago division, railway mail service, increased nearly 53,000 pieces in mail matter handled last year.

A daring thief robbed Miss Rickett of \$1,339, at a Jersey City bank and frightened Mrs. Fuhring to death. Efforts are being made in New York to free Mrs. Nack, serving 15 years for the murder of Wm. Gulden-suppe.

The swearing-in of the newly-appointed Governor-General of Federal Australia, and the inauguration of the Commonwealth will take place at Sydney.

Miss Eugenia Horton is seriously ill at Port Ewen, N.Y., due to overexertion from riding a bicycle. She has lost the power of speech and the use of her arms.

James Hill, the Great Northern Railway magnate, is reported to have the finest yacht on the lakes. Her canvas capacity is over 14,000 feet, and her crew numbers 53 men.

Eliza Wise, in court at Anoka, Minn., charged James Hardy and Elmer Miller with the murder of her parents and admitted her own and sister's knowledge of the plot.

Attorney General Davies will be asked for an order directing the removal of Mayor McGuire, of Syracuse, on the ground that the mayor was interested in the sale of supplies to the city, which is contrary to law.

When Barbara Minter, aged 82, died at Brooklyn last Sunday morn-

ing, her husband, John Minter, aged 87, was so stricken with grief that he exclaimed, "Delay the funeral and bury me too." He died within twelve hours.

### GENERAL.

The strike at Rotterdam now involves 12,000 men.

The Shah of Persia is visiting the Czar at St. Petersburg.

There were 9,928 cases of cholera in the famine districts in India during the week ending July 7, of which 6,474 were fatal.

Trouble between British subjects and Venezuelans is on the increase at Ciudad Bolivar, according to a Kingston, Jamaica, despatch.

The sister of Edmund Rostand, the French dramatist, was robbed of jewelry worth \$24,000. Burglars broke into her country residence.

Bayonets had to be drawn on Newfoundland strikers in order to unload the cargo of the schooner Hector McGregor at Belle Isle, Nfld.

The last living descendant of Sir Francis Drake has been discovered in New Zealand, Mrs. John Angelo nee Drake, the wife of a settler.

The London Express Lorenzo Marquez correspondent sends the sad news that Kruger has had his hair cut and his whiskers shaved off.

A Kingston, Jamaica, despatch says that after investigation nearly half the militia who volunteered for service in Ashanti were rejected.

Zwelly Schafferson, an American subject, was arrested in Paris on Monday for picking pockets. The man was wearing a card across his breast on which was written in English and French "Pity a poor blind man," and was accompanied by a little girl who was found to have seventeen purses in her possession, containing over \$20 in gold and silver.

Attorney-General Ross-Innes, in reply, stated that he had consulted with 22 magistrates. Two favoured the repeal of martial law, four favored a qualified repeal, and 16 were opposed to any repeal. The liberty of the subject, he added, was subservient to the safety of the State. The time was not ripe for the reinstitution of the civil law.

Ex-Attorney-General Solomon, in supporting Mr. Ross-Innes, stated that only six cases not arising from a mere breach of the martial law regulations had been tried by court-martial and the records in this case, only one appeared to him to be a miscarriage of justice. The military authorities, upon application, willingly submitted the record in this case, and upon his advice the severe sentence that had been imposed was reduced from five years to six months. Hardships were undoubtedly caused by martial law, and he sympathized with those who were subjected to them, but never before had martial law been so carefully administered nor had there ever been such a desire to do strict justice, tempered with leniency.

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# THE HIRED MAN'S STORY

## Saw Gerald Sifton Beat Out His Father's Brains With An Axe.

A despatch from London, Ont., says:—Gerald Sifton is behind the bars, charged with the murder of his aged father, and Walter Herbert, his self-confessed accomplice, is held for the same awful crime. Young Sifton made no resistance, and expressed confidence that everything would be all right.

Herbert is a big boy of 20 years, who was employed by Joseph Sifton as a farm hand.

During the last couple of days the pressure has been getting too strong for Herbert, and early Thursday morning he told the story of the killing of High Constable McLeod.

McLeod was interviewing Edgar Morden, who lives on the farm adjoining the Sifton place, when Herbert walked into the room. He handed his watch to the constable, with a request that should anything happen to him the timepiece be given to his grandmother. Then he broke down and told his story.

HERBERT'S CONFESSION.

According to it, Gerald Sifton, had arranged with him to do away with the old man. The plan was to call the elder Sifton up into the loft, and as he came through the floor to brain him with an axe. The two were in the loft when the old man came up the ladder. At the last moment Herbert's courage failed, and he claims that he struck the old man a light blow with the side of the axe. Then he alleges Gerald Sifton, seized his father's arm and dragged him, half unconscious, up to the floor of the loft, at the same time crushing the head with repeated blows of the axe, which he snatched from his trembling accomplice. A couple of boards had been knocked from the side of the barn, and through this hole the body was thrown to the ground, 24 feet below.

A YARN FIXED UP.

The bloodstained axe was placed beside the head and neighbours called in. To them the story was told that

Joseph Sifton had fallen from the barn while endeavouring to knock down some boards with the axe. The old man was still breathing, but did not regain consciousness before he died, a few hours later. Herbert seemed glad to tell his ghastly tale, and declared his willingness to repeat it in the witness-box.

THE CULPRITS ARRESTED.

After he had eased his mind, he went to bed at Gerald Sifton's house where he was guarded all night by two constables. Early Monday morning Murray drove out, and Gerald Sifton and the hired man were aroused and brought to gaol.

Inspector Murray's week of hard work has disclosed much evidence which makes the case against the son very black. Three men have stated that Gerald had threatened to do away with his father rather than allow him to marry again.

RIVAL WAS APPROACHED.

Martin Morden, who at one time was engaged to marry Mary McFarlane, the young woman to whom the elder Sifton was to have been married on the day of his death, was approached by Gerald, who wanted him to come out to the farm. To him the son said that it would be an easy matter to let something fall on the old man an apt him out of the way.

LOOKS DARK FOR GERALD.

James Morden is said to have been offered money by Gerald Sifton to help in disposing of the father, but refused to have anything to do with him. To several neighbours Sifton is alleged to have stated that he would put the old man out of the way before he would allow him to marry again, and Edgar Morden warned Joseph Sifton of what his son had said, and the night before the wedding day Sifton and Miss McFarlane (to stay at his house. The old man left for his home at daybreak and said that he was safe, then, and would have the wedding take place in the morning instead of waiting until the afternoon.

FEAR ANNIHILATION.

Russians Believe That Railway Guard of 200 Has Been Massacred.

A despatch from St. Petersburg, says:—General Gacharoff cables that he has been bombed and destroyed Lauschi. The garrison fled. It is now believed that the Russian railway guard of 200 at Charbin and Telin, which was said to be surrounded by thousands of Chinese, has been annihilated.

The Russian agent at Hankow telegraphs as follows:—

"Foreigners are in a constant state of panic owing to the hostility of the natives, who are affected by the events in the northern provinces. The American and British Consuls have recommended their respective people to send their families to Shanghai. The foreign Consuls and barbarian troops have been slaughtered like chickens and dogs.

CANADIANS WERE BEATEN.

Clothes Torn From Their Backs and Women Dreadfully Treated.

A special despatch from Shanghai, says that the Canadian missionaries arriving in that city on Tuesday experienced dreadful hardships en route from Honan. The hostile natives tore the clothes off the missionaries and beat them as well. The ladies of the party were subjected to great indignities.

NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATURE HAS RESOLVED TO SEND A CONTINGENT.

A despatch from London, says:—The Legislature of New South Wales has resolved to despatch a military contingent to join the Imperial troops in China.

Seven terrific earthquake shocks took place on Sunday last at Caracas, Venezuela, doing great damage to the buildings.

COLONIALS FOR CHINA.

New South Wales Legislature Has Resolved to Send a Contingent.

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