LOUIS BOTHA REPULSED AFTER A SEVERE FIGHT.

Boer General, Two Field Cornets and Many Burghers Slain.

24 BRITISH KILLED, 53 WOUNDED

Boers Panic-Stricken by Kitchener's Movements in the East——De Wet Failed to Cross at the Drifts East of Bethulie——Calvinia Occupied by De Lisle——The Midland Commando Driven North——New Zealanders Do Some Clever Work——Smart Capture of Boers——More Troops Going to Africa——Promotions for Brave Actions——Effect of Kitchener's Latest Moves——De Wet's Brother Appeals to Him to Give up the Fight.

Cape Town, Feb. 8.—Gen. Kitchener's policy of concentrating his troops and denuding the country of supplies is being steadily maintained in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony. The British authorities say that if necessary this policy will be extended to Cape Colony, and that in the disturbed districts all the supplies will be commandeered or destroyed. According to the British officers such a policy is absolutely necessary, as otherwise the Boers who are constantly evading the troops, would return and appropriate whatever the troops left.

It is possible that the Boers will extend the sphere of their operations in Cape Colony, and the necessity of reinforcements, in the opinion of British officers, is therefore evident, especially as it is expected that two or more additional commandoes will invade the colony. Whether they will succeed in getting back across the Orange river is another matter.

It is understood that Governor Sir Alfred Milner will inspect the town guards to-morrow, and that he will invite a portion of this force to proceed to the frontier at the earliest possible moment.

Fired at Passengers.

Pretoria, Feb. 8.—On Monday night last four hundred Boers attacked near Standerton a train bound for Natal, and fired among the civilians and nurses, who were passengers. One of the carriages was afterwards found to have 47 bullet holes in it. The burghers robbed the passengers, taking £25 from one nurse. Another nurse had a bullet shot through his hat. Nine of the passengers were wounded.

The nearest garrison shelled the Boers, but was not strong enough to attack them. Later Tullibardine's Scottish Horse came up, whereupon the Boers cleared off. The disgraceful conduct of the burghers has caused universal disgust.

The Boers are still in force south of Johannesburg. A number of refugees, including women and children, have arrived here. They were expelled by the Boers from Waterberg.

The Hollanders residing here were out in holiday attire yesterday, in honor of the marriage of Queen Wilhelmina. To-day the military governor gave special permission to Dutch subjects to raise the flag of the Netherlands.

Holland and Peace.

Brussels, Feb. 8.—In the Chamber of Representatives to-day, M. Maenhout called attention to the petition presented to the House in favor of arbitration between Great Britain and the Transvaal, for the purpose of stopping the war in South Africa.

M. De Favereau, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, said he had no objection to the reference of the petition to a committee. But he said he was bound to inform the Chamber that in his opinion the authors of the petition were mistaken in regard to the meaning of Article XXVII. of the Hague Convention.

The Minister added that mediation could only be proposed when circumstances permitted. There now appeared to be no opportunity for it. He referred to Great Britain's answer to the United States, and the subsequent declarations of Chancellor von Buelow and M. Delcasse, the French Foreign Minister. Even Holland, he said, did not consider herself able to take the initiative.

M. Janson submitted an order of the day, favoring intervention.

M. de Favereau repeated that Belgium's intervention was impossible, and the order of the day was therefore unnecessary.

Nevertheless the Chamber by a show of hands adopted the order of the day as proposed by Mr. Janson.

Boer Envoy Released.

Bloemfontein, Feb. 8.—Jan. Theron, one of the peace envoys, has returned, after having been tried by Commandant Grobelaar at Aasvogelkop for penetrating the fighting line, and bringing in undesirable documents. He was released on parole. The Boers, he says, are badly off for food and clothing.

Editor Committed.

Cape Town, Feb. 8.—Mr. Cartwright, the editor of the South African News, who was arrested yesterday on a charge of publishing a seditious and defamatory libel, was arraigned in court this morning, and remanded until next Thursday. The proceedings to-day were purely formal.

Natives Have Risen.

London, Feb. 9.—A despatch to the Standard from Pretoria states that northern refugees say the natives around Leysdorp have risen against the Boers, owing to the latter's exactions, and are advancing on Pietersburg.

Recruiting Brisk.

London, Feb. 8.—The Government has requisitioned three of the Union Castle liners to transport reinforcements to South Africa. The remount department is uncommonly active, its agents buying largely in several parts of the world. Following yesterday's War Office announcement, recruiting to-day was brisk.

Dutch Pastor's Testimony.

Cape Town, Feb. 8.—Rev. Mr. Bosman, Moderator of the Dutch church at Pretoria, has published a denial of the allegations that the British troops have assaulted women and committed other brutalities. He testifies to the high discipline of the troops.

Pro-Boer Clarke Again.

London, Feb. 8.—Sir Edward Clarke, former Solicitor-General, addressing the Holborn Conservative Association in London this evening, said—

"After driving the Boers out of Cape Colony, Great Britain ought to offer terms of immediate amnesty, without distinction of person or rank, together with an assurance of absolute equality in civil rights, and as much local self-government as is possible. This horrible war could thus be ended."

Occupied Boer Depots.

London, Feb. 8.—From Delagoa Bay it is reported that the British have occupied Ermelo and Carolina, which until recently were Boer depots.

BULLER HESITATED.

Roberts Insisted on the Relief of Ladysmith.

London, Feb. 8.—Lord Roberts' detailed mail despatches ranging from February 6th to November 15th, 1900, were gazetted this evening. They fill 157 quarto pages, and make up the official history of the war, although without throwing new light upon several interesting disputed subjects, such as the Sanna's Post affair. Hundreds of officers, noncommissioned officers, and men are favorably mentioned, including Lord Kitchener, who is referred to in warm terms. Sir Redvers Buller comes in for criticism.

The first despatch undertakes to "give a concise account of the state of affairs in this country (South Africa) on my arrival, Jan. 10." It describes the forces as much scattered. He decided to leave Gen. Buller with a free hand in Natal, but otherwise to remain on the defensive until reinforced and until the transport had been organized.

He found no transport corps existing. The colonial forces had not been sufficiently used. Cape Colony was restless.

Writing from Jacobsdal, Feb. 16, Lord Roberts says—"General Buller, Feb. 6th, wired that he had pierced the enemy's lines, but that to get his army across to the Ladysmith plain would cost from 2,000 to 3,000 men. I replied that he must relieve Ladysmith even at that cost. Buller telegraphed Feb. 9th that he was not strong enough to relieve Ladysmith without reinforcements, and regarded the operation in which he was engaged as impracticable. I replied that my instructions must hold."

Enemy Well Informed.

In the course of a sketch of the capture of General Cronje, the occupation of Bloemfontein, and the long wait there, he wrote— "The enemy knew exactly how we were situated, and had accurate information as to the condition of our supplies, transports, artillery, and cavalry horses, and they regained courage."

The marches to Johannesburg and Pretoria were uneventful, as described by Lord Roberts, his chief concern being to provision the army.

"We were practically living from hand to mouth," he wrote, "and at times had not even one day's rations to the good."

He finds that no specific blame can attach to Col. Broadwood in the Sanna's Post affair, as "the disaster was mainly due to the failure of the patrol at Boesman's kop to warn their comrades that an ambush was prepared."

The officer who was placed in command of the patrol is not mentioned.

Writing from Johannesburg, Nov. 15th, he said— "With the occupation of Komatipoort and the dispersal of Louis Botha's army, the organized resistance of the two Republics may be said to have ceased," but there "still remains much for the army in South Africa to do," to meet the conditions of guerilla warfare with forces "broken up into small columns and operating over an area larger than France, Germany and Austria combined."

Incorporated with the despatches are reports from subordinate commanders, including the narrative of Gen. Baden-Powell, who says the newspaper correspondents gave him much trouble, as the enemy "derives a great deal of information as to our circumstances in Mafeking from the newspapers."

Sir George White gives an account of the siege of Ladysmith and of the struggle of the population and the garrison against starvation and enteric fever.

Roberts to His Troops.

Lord Roberts' despatches are not regarded as giving any further elucidation of the conduct of the war, but they are interesting as proving that throughout the campaign he never had sufficient men, horses or supplies to cover such a vast field of operations. Looking at all the circumstances, Lord Roberts says the campaign is unique in the annals of war, and he pays the highest tribute to the gallantry and worth of the troops, declaring that, "No finer forces ever took the field under the British flag."

There is a general idea that the despatches have suffered considerable excision at the hands of the War Office. They do not throw any further light on the summary retirement of General Colvile or many other matters regarding which the public is anxious to hear.

Milner Appeals.

Cape Town, Feb. 8.—To-day Sir Alfred Milner makes another earnest appeal to the employers to allow as many men as possible to enrol in the colonial mounted defence force.

Murder of the Peace Envoys.

London, Feb. 8.—The latest account of the killing of the Boer peace envoys is contained in a Bloemfontein telegram, in which an un-named ex-burgher from Kroonstad, who is said to be a prominent and influential man, is quoted as saying that Commandant Froneman shot Morgandaal at the instigation of Gen. De Wet. When Gen. De Wet's force was moving camp, Froneman found Morgandaal and Wessels, the peace envoys, and another prisoner named Muller standing beside a cart, which had no mules to draw it. Froneman asked them why they had not inspanned. Morgandaal replied that they had been ordered to await mules. Froneman immediately struck Morgandaal with a sjambok over the head and face, and said: "I have a good mind to shoot you." Gen. De Wet, who was standing by, overheard this remark, and said "Why don't you?" Froneman thereupon shot Morgandaal through the body. The latter fell, but revived for a while, only to die later. Wessels was shot subsequently at Kilpfontein. No details of his shooting are given.

London, Feb. 10.—A despatch from General Kitchener, dated Pretoria, Feb. 9, says—"Gen. Louis Botha, with 7,000 men, moved eastward on the British occupation of Ermelo, taking a peace delegate, who had been sentenced, and other prisoners with him. All reports show that the Boers are exceedingly bitter.

"About 800 wagons with families passed through Ermelo on their way to Amsterdam, and very large quantities of stock are being driven east. Fifty Boers surrendered.

"Louis Botha, with 2,000 men, attacked General Smith-Dorrien's camp at Bothwell at 3 a. m., Feb. 6. They were repulsed after a severe fight.

"Gen. Spruit was killed and Gen. Rademeyer severely wounded. Two field cornets were killed. Twenty dead were left for the British to bury, and many severely wounded were also left behind.

"The British casualties were 24 killed and 53 wounded.

"Our movement to the east is reported to have thoroughly upset all the enemy's calculations, and created a regular panic in the district.

"Christian De Wet appears to be crossing the line south of Jagersfontein road to the west this morning, having failed to effect a crossing by the drifts east of Bethulie.

"In Cape Colony Calvinia has been occupied by Col. De Lisle, who entered February 6 the enemy retiring toward Kemhardt. Col. Haig is driving the Midland commando northward past Aberdeen."

Brush Near Balmoral.

Pretoria, Feb. 10.—Some New Zealanders and Queenslanders had an exciting brush with the enemy near Balmoral. The colonials, who numbered 120, were under the command of Major Tumbridge, and they were patrolling the railway line. A force of 400 Boers attempted to cut them off and very nearly succeeded.

The issue of the fight depended upon who should seize and hold a kopje which commanded both the road and the camp. Boers and British made a rush for it and arrived there almost simultaneously. The colonials, however, managed to secure the actual hilltop, and there they remained, keeping the enemy at bay until reinforcements arrived, losing in this very plucky performance two men killed and six wounded.

An exceptionally gallant deed was performeed by two of the colonial troopers on the extreme left flank. The enemy sought to get round our position on the kopje, but they were completely foiled, despite their overwhelming numbers, by these two isolated troopers, who, firing straight and steadily, prevented the Boers from executing their flanking movement.

DeWet Foiled.

London, Feb. 10.—The Weekly Despatch states it has good ground for saying that information is being received in an authoritative quarter in London that Commandant DeWet late on Friday night attempted to escape along the Smithfield-Bethulie road, but was foiled by a strong body of scouts. Subsequently, Knox intercepted another movement, whereupon De Wet retreated, and was forced over the Basutoland border.

Treats His Men Cruelly.

Herschell, Cape Colony, Feb. 8.—A deserter from Gen. De Wet's force avers that De Wet treats his men cruelly, and frequently sjamboks them. A deserter was arrested by the Boers after he had surrendered to the British, and was given 25 lashes. President Steyn and Gen. De Wet personally shoulder rifles.

Capture of Boers.

Standerton, Feb. 10.—A smart capture of Boers was effected last night through the initiative of the magistrate, Mr. Allison, who formerly belonged to the guides.

Capt. Wiggin accompanied Mr. Allison with a squadron of the 13th Hussars and thirty-five police. They left camp at 9 o'clock last night, crossing into the Orange River Colony, and making for a farm which was known to be a rendezvous of the local Boers.

On the arrival the house was surrounded, and the door burst open. Striking a light, they discovered six Boers asleep in bed, and also an Englishman named Davis, who was their prisoner.

How Commandant Was Shot.

Pretoria, Feb. 10.—A party of Boers attacked a train standing at a station on the Delagoa Bay line. The driver shot a Boer dead who was tampering with the vacuum brake. The rest fled, leaving the body of their comrade, who proved to be Commandant Liebrandt.

A Fight With DeWet.

East London, Cape Colony, Feb. 9.—Details have been received here of severe fighting at Tabaksberg mountain, 40 miles east of the railway and about midway between Smalldeel and Bloemfontein. Major Crewe, with a composite column travelling southwest, sighted the mountain on the morning of Jan. 31st. He heard heavy firing, and knowing that Col. Pilcher's column was on the other side of the mountain, he concluded that this officer was in action. Consequently he hurried forward, only to meet Boers streaming down and evidently retiring from Col. Pilcher's lyddite shells. Immediately Major Crewe brought three 15-pounders and a "pom-pom" to bear on the Boers, who, however, were found to be so numerous that it was impossible to head them. Orders were given to return to camp, about two miles from the mountain. The column rested until four in the afternoon, when the march was resumed southwest. Major Crewe was just touching the southern point of the mountain when a terrible rifle fire opened from a large force of Boers who were in ambuscade on the mountain. The fight soon became general. The Boers out-numbered the British five to one, and were attacking them on both flanks and the rear. The British "pom-pom" jammed and became useless. Major Crewe grasped the situation, and by a brilliant move got the convoy into a safe position.

Between seven and eight in the evening the Boers charged the position and turned both flanks. The British ammunition became exhausted, and Major Crewe was obliged to retire and abandon the "pom-pom," after the advance party had endeavored to save it, and had sustained severe losses.

A rear-guard action was fought by Major Crewe into the camp where the wagons had been laagered. He personally superintended the retirement, the Boers harassing him throughout. Entrenchments were thrown up during the night.

When morning came Major Crewe started to join Gen. Knox, twelve miles southwest. The Boers immediately re-attacked him, compelling him to fight a second rear-guard action for a few miles. Gen. De Wet personally commanded the Boers, estimated at 2,500. Major Crewe's force was only 700. Eventually the British officer joined Gen. Knox, and returned to Bloemfontein.

Lord Kitchener has highly complimented Major Crewe upon the achievement.

Plague Spreads in Cape Town.

Cape Town, Feb. 10.—There are now thirteen cases of bubonic plague here and in the suburbs, all of which can be traced from the colored dock laborers who were first attacked by the disease. Two deaths have thus far resulted.

The destruction of rats, which spread the disease, is vigorously proceeding. No whites have been attacked.

Boers Forced to Retreat.

Cape Town, Feb. 10.—Kritzinger's commando of Boer invaders has been compelled to make a rapid retreat from a point south of Oatland's station, in a northeasterly direction. The Boers were surprised by the force under command of Col. Haig, and compelled to abandon their cart-horses and a quantity of rifles.

A small commando under Commandant Scheepers is in the vicinity of Sprreuwfontein, in the Prince Albert district of Cape Colony, about 100 miles from Mossel bay.

No Boers have been seen in the neighborhood of Uniondale or Avontuur, which are also in the Prince Albert district.

That Peace Canard.

London, Feb. 10.—Lord Raglan, under-Secretary of State for War, stated to-day that General Sir Evelyn Wood is not going to South Africa, and that no Peace Commission is contemplated. "The report as to a Peace Commission is false from beginning to end," he said. "The policy of the Government is the very opposite of what would prompt such a step. Troops, not peace commissioners, are going to South Africa."

It is also understood that Sir Evelyn Wood is less likely than any other high officer to be chosen for important special duties, as he is now so deaf that his retirement is only a question of a short time.

Saved by the Fireman.

Kimberley, Feb. 10.—Further details of the capture of the train at Slijpklip show that the second train was saved through the prompt action of Smith, the fireman of the first train, who rolled off the engine upon the first shots being fired, made a detour of several miles and reached the line again nearer Kimberley in time to stop the second train.

The driver of the captured train was slightly wounded in the shoulder and the Boers sent him back to Warrenton in company with two wounded soldiers. The train has been brought back here, but only the iron frame and the wheels were left. The goods it contained were chiefly wheat and oats, principally all of which the enemy burned, taking very little away with them. The captured train had no escort, but there were some soldiers in an armored truck at the end of the second train which came back.

The Boers who effected the capture are said to have numbered only 100, but they were in heliographic communication with others in the kopjes. There were 82 bullet marks on the engine.

Promotions for Bravery.

Pretoria, Feb. 10.—Army orders have been issued promoting twenty of the rank and file for distinguished gallantry and conspicuous bravery. Among the men promoted are Corporals Sexton and Kidd, of the 18th Hussars, who at Uitkyl, on January 25th, galloped through a heavy fire from the Boers and stopped a train that would otherwise have been captured by the Burghers. Kidd was severely wounded.

Privates Faulkner and Hall, while doing patrol duty at Uitkyl, were suddenly covered by the rifles of two Boers, who were in the grass and called upon to surrender. They rode at the Boers and each killed his man, one with a sword and the other with a rifle. Faulkner was wounded. Privates Hopkins and Speight are promoted for their conduct at Uitkyl.

Sergeants Stephens and Howard, and Privates Collyer, Prithett, Birkett, Talbot, and Hopkins, held a kopje at great odds while the retirement of the remainder of the patrol was effected. Sergeant Coxen and Private Speight held a position on the flank of the Boers, who were within a few yards of them. Sergeant Howard and Privates Collyer, Prithett, Birkett, and Talbot were killed. All the above belonged to the 18th Hussars.

KING EDWARD VII. AND EMPEROR WILHELM II.

Typifying the Friendship of Two Great Peoples.

Light on Kitchener's Movements.

The situation in South Africa has been very hazy for several weeks owing to the way in which the censorship has been exercised. A little light is now being let in upon it by the description of Lord Kitchener's disposition of his forces in the Transvaal and on both sides of the Orange River.

Lord Kitchener, to obtain greater freedom of circulation on the railways between Pretoria and Lorenzo Marques to the eastward, and from Johannesburg to Durban on the southeast, organized a great round-up of the burghers operating between the two lines of rail, with the intention of driving them into Swaziland, where they might be corralled between the converging forces from the westward and the Portuguese territory and British Zululand. By last accounts the movements of the troops engaged in this interesting operation were in progress, but no result is yet reported.

Turning to the Orange River Colony, the situation is exceptionally interesting. It was announced a few days ago, apparently apropos of nothing in particular, that Petrusburg had been reoccupied by the British. It was not until the news by mail from Cape Town arrived that the significance of this particular move became apparent. It was to secure the lateral communication with Kimberley in case of accidents, and at the same time bar the way to any commandoes moving either north or south between Kimberley and Bloemfontein.

It was also to prevent their obtaining supplies in the event of their passing that way, that the provisions in all the stores at Fauresmith and Jagersfontein, to the southwest of Kimberley, were destroyed a short time back. The only passage thus left to the Boers is the one with which they are so familiar, that between Bloemfontein and the Basuto border, where all the British attempts to catch them have been eluded.

DeWet Appeals to DeWet.

Bloemfontein, Feb. 10.—The text of a portion of the letter from Piet De Wet, chairman of the Peace Commission, to his brother, Christian De Wet, appealing to the latter to surrender, published to-day, is as follows—

"Dear Brother,—I hear you are so angry that you have decided to kill me, accusing me of high treason. May God not allow you opportunity to shed more innocent blood. When I saw we were beaten by the British, I wrote to the President, requesting him to consider terms of peace, and rather to surrender than to ruin the country and starve the people. I was with you afterwards for a month, convincing me that it was better to lay down our arms. I did my duty in the battle at Schietma with Priasloo. I charged the guns when I was shamefully left in the lurch by Froneman, who fled. Convinced that further struggl was hopeless, I left with my staff and surrendered, and was sent to Durban.

"You and Steyn, in carrying on guerilla warfare, caused me to write to Kitchener, Nov. 12, requesting an opportunity to come to the Free State and persuade the men to lay down their arms, no Free State Government existing against whom I could commit treason. What is better—for the Republics to continue to struggle at the risk of total ruination as a nation, or to submit? Could we think of taking back the country if it were offered to us, with thousands of people to be supported by a Government that has not a farthing, but a debt of five or six millions, even if helped by you? Do you think any nation so mad as to have thousands killed and spend millions and then give us the Republics and the necessary capital to govern them?

"Put passionate feeling aside for a moment, and use common sense, and you will then agree that the best thing for the people and country is to give in, be loyal to the new Government, try to get responsible government, and as soon as the finances will allow doing so, govern the country virtually ourselves, have our children properly educated, and save the people as a nation.

"Should the war continue a few months longer, the nation will become so poor that it will become a working class, and disappear as a nation.

"I have heard that you and others accuse me of being paid by the English Government for what I am doing. I can only answer that there is a God, and He will pass righteous sentence. I have also heard that Kitchener's offers to me and other attempts are considered by you as signs of weakness on the part of the British. When you cornered fifty soldiers at Blaawnbank, did the same to four hundred at Noster's hock, and surrounded a small body at Rhenoster River, under a flag of truce, and asked them to surrender, was it weakness or magnanimous on your part?

"The British are convinced that they have conquered the land and the people and they consider the matter ended, and are only trying to treat those continuing the struggle magnanimously in order to prevent unnecessary bloodshed.

"Believe me when I tell you that no troops are sent from England, but thousands are still coming to South Africa. If you do not consider the Free State, you will be insensible and act insensibly.

"Burghers, are you blind? Can you not see that you are being deceived by the Transvaal generals? What are they doing? They do not fight one-tenth part as much as we do. The Transvaal is not so much ruined as is the Free State. They are inclined to submit, and are only waiting to see what you are going to do. The moment you surrender, fall or are captured, they will surrender. I pray you again to consider before you proceed further."

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