

IN FULL RETREAT.

Report from Cape Town that the Natal Force Has Made a Move.

Are Being Hotly Pursued by a Big Force of Cavalry and Mounted Infantry.

Unless Kroonstad Has Been Strongly Fortified, Word of Its Occupation by Lord Roberts May Be Expected Within Forty-eight Hours.

THE HEROES OF LADYSMITH.

LONDON, May 7.—The annals of service demonstrations probably show nothing to parallel the enthusiasm with which the naval heroes of Ladysmith, the officers and crew of the British first class cruiser Powerful, were greeted in London today. The scenes in the streets were remarkable and inspiring. The whole route was a floating mass of color, and the enthusiasm displayed was of the most frantic description. The flags of all nations, banners and mottoes formed an almost continuous canopy for Captain Lambton and the contingent of the Powerful to pass under. Stands were erected at all the points of vantage, the houses were crowded with sight-seers, and all sorts and conditions of men, women and children commingled in the streets below, vying with one another in honoring the gallant sailors who saved Ladysmith. There was one continuous roar of greeting, waving handkerchiefs, flags and hats, as the naval brigade, with the khaki colored guns, marched from the depot to the Horse Guards' parade, where the Prince of Wales, in the uniform of an admiral of the fleet, accompanied by the first lord of the admiralty, George J. Goschen, and a number of high naval and military officers, inspected the blue-jackets. They were surrounded by thousands of privileged guests, who warmly applauded the defenders of Ladysmith, but whose reception of the sailors in no way equalled the intense enthusiasm displayed in the streets.

After the inspection by the Prince of Wales and others, the parade formed a square, with the officers in the centre, and the first lord of the admiralty, George J. Goschen, and the Prince of Wales spoke briefly in terms of admiration of the work and valor of the seamen and officers, and then Mr. Goschen individually introduced them to the Prince of Wales, who shook hands with them and said a few words to each.

The Prince of Wales introduced Capt. Lambton to the Princess of Wales, and the brigade was afterwards entertained at luncheon, preparatory to marching through the city. After the meal set down to luncheon the Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales, Mr. Goschen and others traversed the rooms and were heartily cheered.

The march of the naval brigade of the Powerful from the admiralty to the Mansion House was marked by more numerous crowds of people than London has seen for many a day. From all parts of the country men and women had come, and they were determined to get a glimpse of Captain Lambton, his tiny midshipmen and the trusty tars, and so they struggled to get on lamp posts and window ledges, and forced their way into private offices. Captain Lambton, riding, wearing a cocked hat and looking brown and bored, was followed by one hundred mounted policemen, who had to prepare the route, and the band of the Coldstream Guards. Behind Captain Lambton was a blue-clad band, after which came the blue-jackets. Amid thunderous cheers and the waving of flags from several hundred thousand people they entered the Royal Exchange and sat down to tea. This finished, they marched back to the station and returned to Portsmouth this evening, after receiving one of the greatest ovations ever ten-

dered by the people of London to the British navy.

CANADIANS MISSING.

MONTREAL, May 8.—The Star's special correspondent with the first Canadian contingent telegraphs as follows:

BLOEMFONTEIN, May 7.—The following Canadians have been missing since April 30:

7,825, Private W. Cooper, 62nd Fusiliers, St. John, N. B.

7,876, Private W. McIntosh, Royal Canadian Artillery. Both members of "F" company (Quebec).

7,945, Private G. Keswick, 73rd Northumberland Batt., member of "G" company (New Brunswick).

8,167, Private S. Lester, 2nd Regiment Canadian Artillery, belonging to "H" company (Nova Scotia).

THE KEY TO THE TRANSVAAL.

and is the natural storehouse of supplies for the arm crossing the Vaal River by either line of railway. Possession of this stronghold is of greater importance than the direct co-operation of Buller with Lord Roberts's army. It will enable Gen. Methuen and Gen. Hunter to co-operate with Lord Roberts from the west and will give direction to the turning movements in the level reaches of the Transvaal toward Johannesburg and Pretoria.

The war office was silent yesterday and there was no confirmation of the reported renewal of activity in Natal, or of the rumors that a secret expedition, consisting entirely of mounted troops, was approaching Mafeking far in advance of Hunter's column.

Lord Salisbury made yesterday a most uncompromising speech in Albert hall before the Primrose League, condemning Gladstone's home rule policy both in South Africa and Ireland. He took the grace out of the recent visit of the Queen to Ireland by the vehemence.

WITH WHICH HE WARNED Irishmen that recent events in South Africa proved that there could not be practical independence anywhere in the empire, with opportunities for arming hostile forces against the imperial government. It was a trenchant but acid speech and was not well received.

Barton made another logical speech at the dinner of the Imperial South African Association in defence of the Australian commonwealth bill and its high court appeal for Australian questions. There was nothing in his speech to indicate that Chamberlain had succeeded in arranging a compromise of what has become a burning question in imperial politics.

Colonel Denison delivered a stirring address on behalf of Canada, laying stress upon the necessity for an independent British cable system around the world, safeguards for Britain's food supply and the summoning of an imperial council after the close of the war to decide the issues of peace to the empire.

From Boer sources it is announced that there was a skirmish outside Mafeking last Saturday. On that day Baden-Powell was still holding his own.

The Cape Town correspondent of the Mail learns that the town will be relieved in about a week.

I. N. FORD.

COL. OTTER NOT PLEASED THAT NEWSPAPER MEN GET AHEAD OF HIM.

OTTAWA, May 8.—Lieut. Col. Otter reports to the militia department as follows:

I notice from Canadian newspapers lately received and from letter No. 6 of 22nd Feb., that my reports by cable do not seem to reach their destination either punctually or regularly and some, perhaps, not at all. In this connection I wish to say that I have never missed reporting by cable any death, wound or important movement affecting the regiment that has occurred since its departure from Canada, and further that I know of no arrangement by which information of the description just referred to is to be communicated to you by another than by myself. My reports by cable at times a few hours in order to obtain definite and reliable information as to death or wounds, I never fail to report at the very earliest opportunity respecting the lists of casualties arising from the action. On the 18th February I sent the cable from Paardeburg to Kimberley for transmission by wire from there. My message seems to have been delayed through unforeseen circumstances or by those over whom I had not the least control. Many reports by cable seem to have reached Canada through the press correspondents, and while I am I invariably give the best information I have at the time, yet they are so eager to furnish their respective papers with the first news that they will not wait for reliable confirmation until I am in possession of it.

For instance, the capture of six men was reported as having taken place at Waterval drift, Velt River, on the 15th February, from a field hospital, and while I myself heard the report, yet I had no official confirmation of it from the medical authorities, and therefore did not say anything about it. The report turned out to be false, as I thought it likely to prove, yet it was cable by a press correspondent to Canada and, no doubt, caused infinite worry to relatives of the men concerned. It also caused me trouble, as I have no less than three cablesgrams to answer from relatives of the men. I shall continue in the course I have hitherto pursued respecting important matter until instructed to the contrary by you. I may also mention that I understand Lieutenant Colonel Ryecroft has instructions to cable information respecting the regiment, and while there can be no objection to his doing so, yet he cannot be so familiar with what concerns it as I am, or receive the official documents affecting it, I do not well see how his reports can be reliable unless obtained from him or through me. I regret to say that fever is still prevalent in the regiment, though not on the increase. In the hospitals in Bloemfontein there are some 70 cases of fever, typhoid or enteric, and of these I regret to announce that a considerable number are of the latter type.

Lord Salisbury made yesterday a most uncompromising speech in Albert hall before the Primrose League, condemning Gladstone's home rule policy both in South Africa and Ireland. He took the grace out of the recent visit of the Queen to Ireland by the vehemence.

WITH WHICH HE WARNED Irishmen that recent events in South Africa proved that there could not be practical independence anywhere in the empire, with opportunities for arming hostile forces against the imperial government. It was a trenchant but acid speech and was not well received.

Barton made another logical speech at the dinner of the Imperial South African Association in defence of the Australian commonwealth bill and its high court appeal for Australian questions. There was nothing in his speech to indicate that Chamberlain had succeeded in arranging a compromise of what has become a burning question in imperial politics.

Colonel Denison delivered a stirring address on behalf of Canada, laying stress upon the necessity for an independent British cable system around the world, safeguards for Britain's food supply and the summoning of an imperial council after the close of the war to decide the issues of peace to the empire.

From Boer sources it is announced that there was a skirmish outside Mafeking last Saturday. On that day Baden-Powell was still holding his own.

The Cape Town correspondent of the Mail learns that the town will be relieved in about a week.

I. N. FORD.

OTTAWA, May 8.—By cable from W. Richmond Smith, the Star's special correspondent with the British forces in South Africa:

BRANDFORD, May 8.—The following are missing in addition to those wired yesterday:

228, Private E. B. Allen of Windsor.

228, C. D. Odell, 45th Battalion.

418, A. H. Moorehouse, 74th Battalion.

New Brunswick, and 429, J. P. Blant.

The roster for neither contingent gives the name of Blant.

BULLER ADVANCING.

CAPE TOWN, May 9.—It is reported that Gen. Buller is advancing on the Biggarsberg and that the Boers are withdrawing.

FROM THE LONDON PAPERS.

LONDON, May 10.—A despatch to the Daily Telegraph from Smaldeal, dated Tuesday, May 8, says:

"Stores are being accumulated here. Convoys are proceeding regularly to the north, and also to Winburg."

"Gen. Hutton's brigade, while skirmishing yesterday, took sixty prisoners."

A despatch to the Morning Post from Ladysmith, dated Wednesday, says:

"Gen. Buller has issued a proclamation to both Dutch rebels and burghers who are willing to surrender, notifying them that he will recommend all who surrender voluntarily for greater leniency than those who continue fighting after this warning."

A despatch to the Times from Smaldeal, dated Tuesday, May 8, says:

"Lord Roberts has halted here to complete the railway and to allow time for the cavalry now returning from Thaba N'Chu to take the place designed for them in the original scheme of advance."

"Gen. Hamilton last week was continually in touch with Gen. Botha's rear guard. The enemy manoeuvred field guns skillfully to check Gen. Hamilton's advance. On one occasion they masked their position so well as to jeopardize the British convoys, which was saved by the timely arrival of the Highland Brigade with naval guns."

The advance on Winburg was so rapid that Hamilton's advance scouts were overlapping the town before Botha's transport was clear, but owing to difficulties at the defile, the guns arrived too late to effect the convoys' capture."

While the British Captain Balfour was negotiating with the landrost for the surrender of Winburg, Gen. Botha

was in a position to bombard the town, decided to surrender. Gen. Buller then advanced.

"It is impossible to say whether the Boers will dispute the passage of the Zand river seriously, but it is known that Botha has ten guns in front of Hamilton, and that Gen. Delarey has six in front of the main advance."

The Laurens Marquis correspondent of the Times, telegraphing Wednesday, says:

"I learn that a strong party in the veldt is determined to secure the re-opening of peace negotiations."

BOERS LOST HEAVILY.

CAPE TOWN, May 9.—It is believed here that on the arrival of the British at the Vaal River, a proclamation was issued annexing the Orange Free State to the Dominion of the Queen and that the Boers' forces to assert British supremacy over the annexed territory.

The Boer losses at Brandfort are now reported to have been much heavier than was at first understood. After the battle British patrols visited the houses in the surrounding district and all the men were taken prisoners, while the horses and guns were removed.

Lord Roberts is thus adopting a sterner policy with a view of preventing guerrilla fighting in the rear of the British. Horses are now commandeered, and farm houses where guns are found are destroyed, while the men are arrested.

THE BOARDING OF THE SEA WITCH.

LONDON, May 9.—The admiralty has not yet received an official report in regard to the boarding of the American ship Sea Witch, by a boat's crew from the British warship Wash, while in Portuguese waters, in Delagoa Bay. But other government despatches from Lourenzo Marques incidentally mention that the Sea Witch was in trouble, which combined with the fact that she signalled for a tug, leads the British authorities to believe that the onus for the mistake in boarding chiefly lies with the Sea Witch.

LONDON, May 10.—Lord Roberts has not hampered his advance with more infantry than he needs. He had two divisions, Tucker's and Pole-Carew's, when he crossed the Zand yesterday, and the only infantry within call was the Highland Brigade at Winburg, and another brigade within supporting distance. He had at least three divisions on the line of communications, but prepared the advance toward Kroonstad with two, rather than five divisions, and in this way reduced the army upon the front to a mobile force which could be brought into action at a moment's notice.

He had four cavalry brigades and a large body of mounted infantry and heavy naval guns and Royal Garrison Artillery, in addition to a great force of horse artillery. The contrast between this reconstructed army and the Boers' army which went to South Africa with Gen. Buller is striking. A large mounted force with guns of long range has been substituted for an infantry force with guns of inferior range and a few cavalry supports. Lord Roberts has converted the British army into a mobile force admirably adapted for operations against the Boers. The march from Bloemfontein, via the Thaba N'Chu line to Ventersburg has been made with remarkable celerity and every halt has been brief.

Lord Roberts' bulletin states that the army reached the Zand Wednesday night and forced the passage of the river early yesterday, gradually driving back the enemy.

from a strong position on the hills south of Ventersburg. As this position was 20 miles in length, it extends across the railway from the west eastward toward the road leading from Senekal to Kroonstad. The British line was the longer, two columns having gone from Smaldeal and Winburg, and having widened out the front in order to turn the position at each end. Skirmishing began soon after the dry bed of the Zand had been crossed and was continued all along the line from eight o'clock until past twelve, when the Boers were in full retreat northward. The Dutch position was so long that the engagement was not a rear guard action, but a deliberate feeble attempt to block the progress of Lord Roberts' army. If the casualties were light it was because full use was made of the British superiority in artillery. The Boers being outnumbered, outmanoeuvred and outlasted, fell back upon Kroonstad, hotly pursued by the cavalry and mounted infantry along the railway of Ventersburg road to Kroonstad and the Senekal road northward.

A fresh Boer defeat occurred in Ventersburg district, about thirty-five miles south of Kroonstad. While Roberts does not describe it as a battle with frontal attack and serious losses on either side, the defeat of the Boers seems to have been decisive. They were gradually enveloped with mounted troops and

FORCED TO ABANDON positions of great natural strength. The country beyond the Ventersburg hills is open and less favorable for defence and unless Kroonstad has been strongly fortified and the Boer forces have heavily manœuvred, their occupation may be expected within 48 hours. As Steyn's second capital and the key to the Transvaal, its seizure will be almost as important as the capture of Bloemfontein.

The most remarkable feature of the last fortnight's operations are the efficiency of the transport service. The bulk of the work falls to the mounted force, and it is no longer a slow moving infantry campaign. Six supply trains were at Vent on Tuesday and the railway will probably be in operation to the Zand today. All preparations for a forward movement have been thoroughly made, and

"Boers" from his cable cart directs operations all along the line and pays out the wire which sends bulletins of victory to London.

No details of today's engagement had been received at Fleet street at midnight and little news from any quarter.

Mafeking was officially reported as being well April 27. Hunter's progress and the line of direction are not known.

The situation in Natal was unchanged. No details have yet been received with regard to the battle on Zand River, but it is not yet known what measure of success has attended the cavalry and horse artillery, who were sent by Lord Roberts in pursuit of the retreating Boers.

Rather startling information comes, however, from Rhabs N'Chu, to the effect that the federalists said to be under command of Steyn, have been sighted in force.

THE STANDARD'S CORRESPONDENT with Lord Roberts sends some hints as to the probable future course of the campaign. There may be another stand by the Boers, he considers, at Kroonstad, but whether there is a pitched battle at the new capital of the Free State or not, the passage of the Vaal River will certainly be contested.

Definite intelligence from a correspondent of the Express at Fourteen Streams shows that Gen. Hunter's division does actually include both Henson's and Baylton's brigades. Hunter's progress seems to be still opposed. The Boers have been located twelve miles north of Fourteen Streams, but one commando has retired upon Vryburg.

The Standard's telegram confirms the rumors that the Boers intend to retire ultimately to Lydenburg, leaving only foreign mercenaries to defend Johannesburg and Pretoria.

I. N. FORD.

ACROSS THE ZAND RIVER.

LONDON, May 10, 10.25 a. m.—Lord Roberts telegraphs to the war office by the Weigelgen under date of May 9, evening, as follows:

"Pole-Carew's and Tucker's divisions, Hamilton's column of heavy naval and Royal Garrison artillery guns, and four brigades of cavalry marched here today. The enemy held the opposite bank of the Zand river. Their strength will be ascertained to-morrow when I hope to be able to force a passage of the river."

Lord Roberts also reports to the war office as follows:

"Cable Cart Headquarters at the Front, May 10, 8.10 a. m.—We are now across the Zand river. The enemy are still holding a strong position, but we are gradually pushing them back."

ENEMY IN FULL RETREAT.

LONDON, May 10, 4.52 p. m.—An official notice issued here announces that the Boers are in full retreat from the Zand river.

LONDON, May 10, 4.55 p. m.—The war office has received the following despatch from Lord Roberts:

"Cable Cart, Zand River, May 10, 2.55 p. m.—The enemy are in full retreat. They occupied a position twenty miles in length; ours was necessarily longer. With the widely scattered force it will take some time to learn the casualties, but I am hopeful we have not suffered much. The cavalry and horse artillery are pursuing the Boers by three different roads."

WILL KEEP THEM ON THE RUN.

LONDON, May 10.—Lord Roberts' announcement this evening of the flight of the Boers from the Zand River naturally caused considerable gratification at the war office, where it is now believed that he will not allow the Boers enough breathing space to reform southward of Kroonstad. It is just possible that Lord Roberts' army may be in such a condition that he will be able to keep his troops moving so rapidly as to drive the Boers right through Kroonstad, without giving them time to organize resistance in the formidable entrenchments so carefully prepared at the Zand river. The fact that Gen. French and the cavalry have been brought up to supplement Gen. Hutton's mounted infantry leads to the hope in British official circles that the pursuit announced by Lord Roberts may prevent all the Boer guns and convoys from escaping.

The action of the customs authorities at Lourenzo Marques in more closely scrutinizing consignments for the Transvaal is liable to be a serious matter for the Boers, and indirectly for the British prisoners, who are liable to be the first to feel the effects of any shortage of foodstuffs.

OTTAWA, May 10.—The governor general received the following cablegram this morning from Sir Alfred Milner:

"CAPE TOWN, May 8.—I regret to report that 239, Farrier Sergt. D. McCulloch, 2nd Canadian mounted infantry, wounded, and privates 228, E. Allen; 228, C. D. Odell; 429, J. P. Blant; 418, A. H. Moorehouse, 2nd Canadian mounted infantry, missing, 5th of May."

(Signed) MILNER.

(Two of the men who are reported as missing belong to B Squadron, Canadian mounted rifles. J. Niant is on the official list as belonging to the 62nd Batt., his next of kin being given as J. Niant, Boston, U. S. A. A. H. Moorehouse of the 74th Batt. gives his residence as English, Eng., where his father resides.)

HAMILTON, Ont., May 10.—A. B. Carpenter of this city yesterday received a cable from his son, Capt. Carpenter, announcing his safe arrival at Winburg, Orange Free State. Capt. Carpenter left Canada in charge of a detachment to fill vacancies in the first contingent.

THE THABA N'CHU ENGAGEMENT.

MONTREAL, May 10.—The follow-

ing cable has been received from W. Richmond Smith, the special correspondent of the Star with the British forces in South Africa:

BRANDFORD, May 8.—The forces under Gen. Ian Hamilton, consisting of mounted infantry, and Gen. Smith's Dorien's brigade, including the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry, attacked the enemy, which were located in force in the vicinity of Moutmak, near Thaba N'Chu, on May 1. The Boers occupied a strong position, their right flank holding Thaba N'Chu mountain and the left a range of low ridges. The British column attacked along the whole front of the Boer position, a distance of fully 31 miles. The initial attack on the Boer position was made by the foot infantry, while the mounted infantry endeavored to flank the enemy. An exciting feature of the engagement was the determined attack made by the German legion on the Gordon Highlanders. They were repulsed in true Highland style with heavy loss. When darkness closed the enemy were still in possession of the position.

At dawn on Wednesday the attack was resumed with renewed vigor on the part of the British forces. The mounted infantry were successful in turning the right flank of the enemy, while the cavalry were equally successful in their operations against the Boers' left flank.

In the meantime the foot infantry advanced towards the Thaba N'Chu plateau. The Royal Canadian Regiment was held in reserve as the infantry advanced. The enemy realizing that both their flanks had been turned, rushed to their horses, mounted and fled in hot haste. They were promptly pursued, a portion of the cavalry being sent around the mountain to cut off their retreat.

The British artillery was meanwhile hurried forward to the capitalised position and the fast retreating Boers were subjected to a heavy shell fire. The British loss was very small, the casualties among the Canadians amounting to practically nothing. Nevertheless, they did splendid work and were complimented by the commanding officer.

On the following Thursday the whole column advanced in the direction of Winburg. The enemy was encountered first between Welcome and Verkeersdorp, where they held a high range of cliffs.

Reinforcements for the enemy arrived from Brandfort as the engagement began, but the mounted infantry under Col. Broadwood got between the main body of the Boers and the reinforcements. This successful move on the part of the British cavalry caused the whole Boer force to retire in haste.

On Sunday the whole force marched to Winburg, which was entered without opposition on the part of the Boers.

Gen. Hamilton summoned the town to surrender in order to avoid bombardment. The landrost (mayor) consented, and when Gen. Botha, with 500 Boers, marched into the place and entered a strong protest against the decision of the mayor, the inhabitants refused to listen to him.

The town then surrendered, and when the British troops marched in they were warmly welcomed by the residents. As the British entered the place the Boers retired. The column under Gen. Hamilton is now eighteen miles east of Smaldeal, Lord Roberts' headquarters at the time, and fifteen miles north of Winburg.

MINES WILL BE PROTECTED.

CAPE TOWN, May 10.—The Cape Argus publishes a report from Johannesburg, said to have been prepared in the cross-examination of Acting Mining Engineer Munick, that in the recent mysterious Dempsey case Munick testified that preparations had been made to explode twenty-five mines, and that on the authority of State Secretary Reitz, he (Munick) had already bored shafts in eight.

"Well informed foreigners in Pretoria," says the correspondent of the Cape Argus, "now consider the mines safe. The Transvaal officials have issued appeals to the people to protect property, and although preparations were made to destroy the principal mines, wisest counsel now prevails."

"State Engineer Klinka declined to resume his duties unless the dynamite was removed, and the government agreed to his demands."

GERMANY'S POSITION.

BERLIN, May 10.—The semi-official Post this evening stated that Germany has participated in the collective note, which, according to a despatch credited to a semi-official source in Pretoria, the powers have delivered to President Kruger, informing him that they will hold him personally responsible for the safety of the mines, and will support Great Britain in enforcing compensation in the event of their destruction.

HOW THE UNITED STATES FEELS.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—Respecting the statement telegraphed from Pretoria to the effect that the foreign representatives in that capital have jointly notified President Kruger that the would be held personally responsible by their governments for the safety of the Johannesburg mines, it can be stated that the U. S. consul general, Adolph Hay, did not join in the representations, if any such were made. While citizens of the United States are believed to be peculiarly interested in the Johannesburg mines, and the department of state is naturally disposed to do everything within the line of propriety to protect their interests, it will adhere to its uniform policy in such matters of acting singly.

SEALED HIS WIFE UP.

A Major Hook of the East India company service in London was entitled by the will of a relative to an annuity of £500 a year until his wife was buried. To him the terms of this important document after death, he caused her body to be embalmed, sealed up in a glass case and placed in the upper chamber of his house, where it remained for thirty years, but no person was ever permitted to enter that room where it lay.

SCREEN DOORS

Two Styles. Four Sizes.

WINDOW SCREENS

Two Sizes.

Write for prices.

W. H. THORNE & CO., LTD.
ST. JOHN.