ST. JOHN SEMI-WEEKLY SUN

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BRANDFORT OCCUPIED.

Bulletin from London Announces the Capture of the Boer Position.

Lord Roberts Has Fifty Thousand Men Between Thaba N'chu and Bloemfontein.

The Correspondents at Kimberley Have Been Forbidden to Communicate for Several Days—Boers in Natal Are Getting Restless.

REPORT FROM COL. OTTER.

OTTAWA, May 1.—In another report received from Col. Otter it is said that E. F. Pullen, formerly a bank clerk in Toronto, turned up at Bloemfontein on the 22nd of last month, having gone there at his own expense. He was as a special case attached to C company, and the department has approved of this.

The first Canadian contingent left Canada 1,039 strong. On the 23rd of last month the strength of the contingent was 751. There were sick in hospital and wounded 206, and one officer and 33 men killed.

The following is taken from the report of Lieut. Col. Otter received at the militia department this morning under date of March 10: "During the march, which begun on the 18th February and ended on the 13th inst., I cannot speak too highly of the conduct generally of officers and men of the Royal Canadian Regiment. Taken altogether the march was a very trying one. Without tents or change of clothing for many days, engaged more or less with the enemy for two-thirds of the time upon half rations, subjected to a very hot sun, cold nights and several severe rain storms, the endurance, courage and good spirits of the battalion were more than tried, and it is with much pleasure I have to record its having proved itself fully equal to the strain. The battalion is now resting in conjunction with other parts of the army, and though in bivouac is still again on full rations, to which I have been favored with funds at my disposal to procure a few extra comforts in the way of food. I regret having to report the sentence by the F. G. C. M. on the 14th inst. to 56 days' field imprisonment of a soldier for stealing a fowl, the property of an inhabitant. The orders on the subject of looting were most stringent and definite, and while no doubt the provocation was great, considering the lack of food for the previous three weeks, yet, owing to the constant warning the men had received, the offence cannot from a military point of view be palliated. In recording the action of the battalion on the 27th ultimo I find that a very important event was omitted by me, viz., the personal inspection by the F. M. C. in G., Lord Roberts, at his own request on the afternoon of that day. The field marshal in addressing the battalion expressed his great satisfaction with its conduct on the 18th and 27th inst., his pleasure in having them under his command, and his belief that the surrender of General Cronje and his forces had been accelerated by its action of the morning. By the parade state it will be seen that the strength of the battalion is very much reduced through the large number of the sick and the wounded. These, however, are doing well so far as I am able to learn, but my reports for the past month have in that direction necessarily been most meagre."

WITH THE SECOND CONTINGENT.

TORONTO, May 1.—The Globe today publishes the following special cable from its correspondent with the second contingent:

VAN WYKS VLEI, Cape Colony, April 14, via London, April 30.—The first death in the second Canadian contingent occurred today. Private Bradley of Ottawa had ridden his horse to the river in order that the animal might drink. The horse suddenly threw him and he sank into a deep hole. Bradley could not swim. Private Walters of Ottawa and a dozen others jumped into the water to rescue him. Private Firns, a West Australian, brought him to the surface, and Lieut. Morrison threw a rope to the pair, who were then pulled to the shore. Bradley was unconscious, but after prolonged effort Dr. Stewart and Hospital Sergeant Whitton succeeded in restoring animation. The mud, however, had so injured his lungs that pneumonia set in and he died the same night. The body was buried here with military honors.

The fearful rains, almost impassable roads and threatened shortage of provisions and forage are characterizing the march. These hardships are beginning to tell. We left nineteen men in hospital at Carnarvon, and another hospital has been established here. Private Hopkins of D battery accidentally discharged his revolver, the bullet taking effect in his knee. The wound is not serious. Lieut. Col. Herchmer has taken a staff appointment at Cape Town, and Major Howe is now commanding the Canadian Rifles.

DESPATCH FROM LORD ROBERTS.

LONDON, May 1, 7.15 p. m.—The war office has received the following despatch from Gen. Roberts:

"BLOEMFONTEIN, May 1.—Ian Hamilton marched yesterday in a northerly direction from Thaba N'chu wth a body of mounted infantry and Smith Dorrien's brigade of Clements' division. At Hautney he found himself opposed by a strong force, commanded by Gen. Botha in person. Reinforcements reached this force during the day, and I directed French to strengthen him during the night from Thaba N'chu. This he was able to do, as the number of Boers in the neighborhood of Thaba N'chu has considerably decreased. In addition to these troops Hamilton should be reinforced during the day by Broadwood's cavalry and Bruce Hamilton's infantry. Hamilton mentioned that his casualties yesterday were about thirty.

"Maxwell's brigade of seventh division yesterday occupied Vlaksonter's and Schuskraal, a row of kopjes, without meeting with opposition. But the mounted infantry were engaged for some hours."

AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS.

LONDON, May 1.—A letter from Sergt. Parker, who is believed to be one of those just decorated with the Victoria Cross, describing the Sannas Post disaster, is published today. He says:

"In galloping from the Spruit, my gun was overturned and every horse was shot. I got up with No. 4 gun, and we remained three hours under the most terrible fire. In five minutes I had lost two complete detachments, and only Gunner Lodge and myself were left to work the two guns, he at one and I at the other. We remained at the guns, loading, laying and firing by ourselves, and brought both guns out of action by ourselves. We have been recommended for the Victoria Cross."

MORE BOERS ARRIVE AT ST. HELENA.

JAMESTOWN, St. Helena, May 1.—The British auxiliary transport Bavarian has arrived here from Cape Town with 1,099 Boer prisoners. All are in excellent health. They will be landed as quickly as possible, although the wharves are blocked with stores owing to the insufficient transport inland.

CANADIANS AT NETLEY.

TORONTO, May 1.—The Telegram's special cable from London says: The Canadians invalided home from South Africa and now in Netley hospital are all well with the exception of Pte. F. E. Weir of the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto, who is confined to bed with enterio fever. All complain of the tardiness on the part of the authorities at Ottawa in making arrangements regarding their return either to Africa or Canada. They also complain that the doctors at Netley are mostly students, the best doctors having been sent to the front. In yesterday's cable it should have been stated that Sergt. R. H. Ryan and Pte. Thos. E. Lyden were missing from Bloemfontein and not Mafeking, Basutoland.

WAS NOT A ST. JOHN MAN.

MONTREAL, May 2.—The Star's special cable from London says: The war office gives it out that No. 7,833, Private J. W. Culver, was slightly wounded at Israel's Poort on April 25.

The official roster of the first contingent gives No. 7,833 as Private J. W. Raymond of 62nd, St. John Fusiliers.

Private J. W. Culver's parents reside at Brooklyn, N. Y. Culver at the time of joining the contingent was a clerk at the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec. When volunteers were asked for at Quebec, Culver volunteered and was accepted. However, as he was an American citizen and did not wish his parents to know of his intended departure, he gave his name as J. W. Raymond, 62nd Fusiliers, St. John, N. B., Raymond being his mother's maiden name. While the contingent was preparing for departure, Culver's parents in Brooklyn thought it convenient to take a trip to Quebec to surprise their son, but arrived two hours after the Sardinian sailed. At the battle of Paardeberg, Culver or Raymond, as he was known by some, was employed as ammunition carrier and had several narrow escapes.

TWO MORE CANADIANS GONE.

LONDON, May 2.—The war office has been notified that Private H. B. Barr, of 21st Essex Fusiliers, died at Naauwport, Cape Colony, from enteric fever. He belonged to "B" company. Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry. The death of Shoesmith McMillan, of the Canadian Mounted Rifles, at Bloemfontein, is also confirmed.

CANADIANS IN IT.

THABA N'CHU, May 1 (afternoon).—General Hamilton's division was engaged yesterday and today in forcing a passage northward. At Houtney the Boer front held a line of hills commanding the sides of the nek. The Canadians and Gordons attacked the hill to the left, and the Shropshires and Marshall's Horse, supported by a battery, also made an attack on the enemy, who eventually fled, leaving many wounded, and the passage was cleared. The Boers on the mountain are now shelling the outlying camp, necessitating removal to a safer place. The Boers have three guns on the hill to the eastward of this place outside the range of the British artillery. The Boer shelling is not doing any damage. The enemy retain their positions and the British are not attempting to dislodge them. Gen. Hamilton, by reaching Houtney after a full day's fighting, secured the Thaba N'chu-Bloemfontein road.

TWO BOER LETTERS.

LONDON, May 3.—The Morning Post's correspondent at Bloemfontein in a despatch dated May 1, says that two letters of considerable interest have fallen into the hands of the British. The first letter was written by President Steyn to Commandant Gen. Louis Botha, complaining that a sufficient number of troops had not been left to protect Kroonstad, the seat of the government of the Orange Free State, and that the commandos supposed to be protecting that place were occupied in looting the grain districts, thus causing intense suffering. The letter reports that the British have 50,000 men and are about to move forward. It urges the withdrawal of a portion of the 10,000 Boer troops in Natal through Van Reenan's Pass, in order that the struggle might be concentrated at Kroonstad and a decisive blow struck against the British. President Steyn concludes by declining to hold himself responsible for the loyalty of the Free State Boers unless a guarantee was given of the Transvaal's intention to protect the temporary capital of the Free State.

The second letter is a reply of President Kruger to the Commander at Fourteen Streams. The president states that it is absolutely impossible to accede to the commandant's request to provide more troops, since every man at the disposal of the republic is required in the position he occupies. President Kruger adds that great victories have recently crowned the federal arms, and that others are in immediate prospect which will put an end speedily to the British intention to advance from Warrenton.

ON THE BRITISH SIDE.

LONDON, May 2.—"I am entirely on the British side in this war in South Africa," said the King of Sweden and Norway, now on a visit to this country, in an interview with a representative of the Associated Press today. "You may make it quite clear that I have no sympathy with the Boers, and I will tell you I find it difficult to understand either the principles of a religion which is apparently a monopoly of the Burghers of the two States, or of the political manifestations of a government which seems to have refused most of the reforms suggested by the British, and which closed its negotiations by invading British territory. In my opinion the English-speaking races are the exact opposite of the Boers, because they are among the best colonizers of the world when savage and uncivilized territories have to be reclaimed. No greater proof of this could have been given than the splendid outburst of loyalty at home and the heroism in the field which every British colony has so unanimously displayed. That is the good which has come to Great Britain out of the evil which any war brings in its train, and that will be her compensation for the many disappointments she has suffered hitherto. You may make it quite clear that I have no sympathy whatever with the Boers, and that I will give no support to the attempts they are making to secure the countenance or co-operation of other countries."

BOERS WILLING TO RETREAT.

LONDON, May 3.—The Morning Post has the following despatch from Winston Churchill, dated Thaba N'chu, April 29:

"When Gen. Dickson retired in the circumstances related in my last telegram, his own mess cart and the brigade water carts fell into the hands of the enemy, and his rear guard was heavily fired on. This retreat compromised Gen. Hamilton, who, therefore, collected his forces and fell back warily into Thaba N'chu after sharply checking the advancing enemy, with musketry and artillery fire.

"Although much ammunition was expended on both sides, the losses were insignificant, the fighting being at great range. The result is that the Boers are willing to retreat, but it is not in the power of the present force to interfere with them or with their wagons."

ALL WELL AT MAFEKING.

LONDON, May 2.—Lord Roberts has telegraphed to the war office from Bloemfontein, under today's date, that news had been received from Col. Baden-Powell, the British commander at Mafeking, saying all was well there.

The despatch from Col. Baden-Powell was dated April 20.

LARGE FORCE HAS LEFT BLOEMFONTEIN.

BLOEMFONTEIN, May 1.—Early this morning Gen. Pole-Carew's division, composed of the Guards and Gen. Stevenson's brigades, with several batteries of artillery, all in winter clothing, left Bloemfontein.

Lord Roberts, with Lady Roberts and their daughter, reviewed the division in market place.

Later Lord Roberts, while reviewing Roberts's Horse, congratulated the men upon their bravery, spoke of the gallantry of the colonial troops and expressed the hope that he might soon review them in Pretoria.

BRANDFORT OCCUPIED.

LONDON, May 4.—It is announced that the British have captured Brandfort.

ADDITIONAL CANADIAN CASUALTIES.

OTTAWA, May 3.—A cable was received this morning at the militia department from Lieut. Col. Otter, commanding the first Canadian contingent, giving the following casualty list:

Killed in action on the 30th April or 1st May:

No. 7,468, Private Henry Cotton, 43rd Battalion Ottawa and Carleton Rifles.

Wounded in action on same date:

Lieut. J. M. Ross, 22nd Oxford Rifles.

No. 7,955, Private John Lutz, 74th Battalion, Sussex, N. B.

No. 7,952, Private Joseph Letson, 62nd St. John Fusiliers.

No. 7,486, Private P. R. Foster, Governor General's Foot Guards, Ottawa.

No. 7,204, Private R. Irvine, 19th St. Catherines Battalion.

No. 7,234, Private C. K. Rorison, 21st Essex Fusiliers.

No. 8,176, Private A. E. Zong, 66th Battalion, Halifax, died from enteric fever on the 1st inst.

Lord Minto has received the following from Sir A. Milner, Cape Town: Shoesmith J. McMillan, one of the artificers sent by the Canadian government at the war office's request, died at Bloemfontein of enteric fever.

(Joseph Letson, aged 22, joined the first contingent at St. John. He boarded at Elliot's hotel, Germain street. He came here from Chatham, where his mother resides, and gave up a job at the Mispec pulp mill to go to the front.)

BRUCE MACFARLANE'S WOUND.

Private John H. Wilson of Keswick, a member of the first Canadian contingent, writes to a friend in St. Mary's from Bloemfontein, under date of March 21st: "I don't suppose you have heard of Bruce MacFarlane shooting himself. It was the first day after Paardeberg, and we started out with the prospect of a fight. We had advanced to within a mile of the kopje on which the Boers had taken up their position. Our big guns had been shelling them from a piece of rising ground on our right, and everything was looking like a hard fight. We were all waiting for the order to advance when we heard a shot from the direction of our company, and afterwards the word came down the line that Bruce had accidentally shot himself in the foot."

GOOD MEN AND TRUE.

TORONTO, May 3.—The Globe's special cable from London says: Rudyard Kipling in today's London Daily Mail, referring to the desirability of colonials settling in South Africa and the lack of inducements offered by the home government, says: "Among the various hospitals lie three hundred Canadians of the very stamp and breed we require, young, sound, clean, intelligent, well educated. Three hundred heads of sane and scaped families. Shall we let all these beautiful men go back to their own place and never lift a finger to stay them?"

WOUNDED CANADIAN TALKS.

MONTREAL, May 3.—The Star's London correspondent cables:

Captain J. E. Peltier of Montreal, and not Major Pelletier as reported, is a French-Canadian officer invalided home, now residing as a private guest in a house in the West End suffering from sunstroke and wounds. His left leg, neck and right leg are temporarily paralyzed, yet he talks bravely of going back to the front. His doctor hopes he may be able to leave and recruit his health at Brighton in a week or so.

Capt. Peltier confirms the statement that five or six Canadians were killed or wounded at Paardeburg by accidental bayoneting by the Gordons. As the Canadians fell back on the trenches the Gordons mistook them in the half light for Boers. Capt. Peltier advises that the Gordons are not for a moment to be blamed. He expresses the heartiest appreciation of his kind treatment here.

Gen. Smith-Dorrien's command is highly praised by a captain in the Leinsters, also invalided. He says he saw much of the Canadians and other colonials. The soldierly qualities of the Canadians excited universal admiration.

ONLY A FEW ALLOWED TO REMAIN.

PRETORIA, May 1.—The total number of British subjects allowed to remain here and in the gold fields district, under President Kruger's proclamation, is 121. Of this number 62 are men and 59 women. This number does not include the staffs of the water and lighting companies.

THE JOHANNESBURG EXPLOSION

LONDON, May 3.—The Standard and Diggers' News says that Thomas Richards, an American, has been arrested as a suspect in connection with the Begbie factory explosion at Johannesburg. He was arraigned yesterday, charged with murder, and remanded until today. The accused man, it was added, was not defended. The paper also says that an excavation has been made where the explosion was most violent, and that as no trace of a tunnel was found, other excavations will be made.

PRETORIA, May 2.—Mr. Begbie, jr., one of the proprietors of the engineering works at Johannesburg, which were recently blown up, has been remanded to jail on a charge of murder. Bail would not be accepted. Besides Begbie, an American has also been arrested on suspicion of having been connected with the explosion.

WAR SUMMARY.

LONDON, May 4.—Operations involving the British in ten days' hard work, seven being occupied in fighting, have culminated in what Gen. Roberts describes as "considerable success." There is every probability that this phrase covers a great deal of disappointment, all the indications are that the intention was, as already pointed out in these despatches, to surround the Boers retiring from the southeastern part of the Orange Free State, capture their convoys and virtually repeat the Paardeberg affair. These hopes have been defeated, apparently by Commandant General Botha's skilful directions, and the Boers have withdrawn in good order, driving enormous herds of cattle and sheep with them. The burghers probably did not expect to hold the eastern part of the Free State with a powerful enemy occupying the railways and threatening their flank, but it may be assumed that they attained the purpose for which they returned to the south after the British occupation of Bloemfontein, and that they will now rejoin the main Boer army with valuable food supplies. The British, on the other hand, claim to have cleared the southeastern corner of the Free State at comparatively trifling cost in lives, and a general advance northward seems to be imminent. There is little to indicate where the Boers will make their next stand. It is reported that they are prepared to make a stubborn opposition on an entrenched hill southeast of Kroonstad, which town they will probably abandon as soon as their stores are north of the Veet River. Another unknown factor of the situation is their strength in the Ladybrand district. There are rumors in Bloemfontein that they are evacuating that district entirely and concentrating their whole strength in the north. Nothing authentic is known of the Boer losses in the recent operations. A report from Kimberley states that there are considerable Boer movements at Fourteen Streams and other points across the Vaal River. Little is known regarding them, but it is believed that the Boers are moving northwest. If this is so, it is probably with the view of opposing Gen. Hunter's advance in the direction of Mafeking.

There is no news of any movement in Natal. The British have not advanced. The Boers are reported to be quitting the passes in the Biggarsberg range on account of the cold, and camping at the foot of the range, their principal laager being at Hlatikulu Mountain, sixteen miles north of Elandslaagte.

LONDON, May 4, 4.15 a. m.—Gen. Broadwood's cavalry brigade has reached Isabelfontein, 28 miles north of Thaba N'Chu. Gen. Ian Hamilton is bivouacking at Jacobsrust, 15 miles north of Thaba N'Chu. Gen. Tucker's division is moving eastward from Karee Siding. The divisions of Gen. French and Gen. Rundle are in and near Thaba N'Chu. Thus Lord Roberts has 50,000 men operating clear of the railway along a front of forty miles. He has been advancing slow with some success, but nothing decisive. Yet at all points of concentration the Boers appear in force sufficient to compel the British to proceed with caution.

Observers at headquarters in Bloemfontein seem to think that the Boers are preparing to evacuate Brandfort and Ladybrand. The Boers still holding Thaba N'Chu district are estimated at 4,000. They have among their guns a 40 pounder. One correspondent, wiring from Bloemfontein Wednesday, said the British hope to cut off the whole commando.

The correspondents at Kimberley have been forbidden to communicate for several days, the deduction being that a forward movement is under way there. The Boers in Natal are restless. Two hundred crossed Sundays River Wednesday and tried to engage the British outposts.

THE GENERAL ADVANCE.

LONDON, May 4.—The Bloemfontein correspondent of the Standard, telegraphing May 2, says:

"I have just ridden hither from Thaba N'chu, along the line of our advance east of Bloemfontein. The distance is fully forty miles, and yet almost every point of concentration is contested by the enemy.

"Gen. Rundle, with the Eighth Division, is posted on our right flank, with orders to guard a strong and boldly outlined frontal position in a country of a decidedly difficult nature. There the Boers have posted a number of guns of superior weight and range to our own. However, they show no disposition to do more than to harrass our advance.

"Further to the west, Gen. Ian Hamilton, with his division of mounted infantry, is pressing northward, encountering only a desultory fire. The Highland Brigade, from Val Krantz, has been engaged, while Gen. Tucker, commanding the Seventh Division, has moved eastward from Karee Siding, and has returned south, followed by the Boers.

"Nevertheless the cavalry, owing to the greater numbers of the enemy, have been prevented from completing the movement that was intended to encircle the Boers on the march to Brandfort; and the enemy are now prepared to offer stubborn opposition on an entrenched hill to the southeast of Kroonstad.

"Gen. Tucker's attempt to advance on Brandfort showed the enemy to be in considerable strength. The Colonial Cavalry were engaged, and they lost twenty horses while under fire from pompoms. The Boers, however, were driven from their position."

AFRAID OF THE BAYONET.

LONDON, May 4.—The Daily News has the following from Thaba N'chu, dated Wednesday:

"In yesterday's flanking movement Captain Towse and fifty Gordon Highlanders were surrounded by 250 Boers, who demanded their surrender. Captain Towse ordered his men to fix bayonets and charge. With a wild cheer the Gordons rushed at the enemy and swept them away with great slaughter. Captain Towse was blinded in both eyes by the enemy's fire, and throughout behaved most heroically."

JURY DISAGREED.

Could Not Come to a Decision After Three Hours Deliberation in the Nickerson Case.

DORCHESTER, May 2.—On the reopening of the circuit court at ten o'clock this morning the case of the Queen v. Thomas Nickerson, charged with receiving stolen goods, was resumed. The cross-examination of Detective Power by M. G. Teed, counsel for accused, concluded the case of the crown. One witness only was examined on behalf of the accused, after which Mr. Teed closed to the jury. He spoke for thirty minutes, and was followed by Attorney General Emmerson on behalf of the crown, at equal length. In his charge to the jury his honor Chief Justice Tuck paid a high tribute to the manner in which the case was conducted, saying: "I might safely say one could not find in this province a counsel who could make a more earnest or effective plea to a jury than made by Mr. Teed today, and it is a pleasure to the court to have a young counsel who can stand before a court and jury and plead his case so well and so effectively. The attorney general is well known, and his eloquent remarks must have their effect. There is also this to be said, and I say it because it is the first time I have had the pleasure of seeing him conduct a criminal prosecution, he has done it with all fairness. The attorney general has done just what was within the line of his duty." After nearly three hours' deliberation the jury announced that they were unable to agree upon a verdict, and were discharged. Nickerson was remanded to jail until tomorrow morning, when he will probably be admitted to bail until the next circuit court in September.

The first case on the civil docket, Wright and Cushing v. Dryden, was settled, and Maxwell v. Crossman, an action of ejectment, is now before the court. W. B. Chandler, Q. C., and B. B. Teed for plaintiff; Hon. H. R. Emmerson and Chapman for defendant.

The civil cases are entered on the non-jury docket.

READY FOR ACTIVE SERVICE.

Twenty-first Essex Fusiliers Have Received Orders to be Ready to Take the Field at an Hour's Notice.

WINDSOR, Ont., May 2.—Officers and men of 21st Essex Fusiliers have been notified by Major Bartlett to make all necessary preparations to take the field at an hour's notice. The necessary tools with which to throw up fortifications are included in the articles with which the men will have to provide themselves. The quartermaster has been ordered to secure stores for the battalion, and have the same in readiness to follow the men whenever called on.

FOUR ITALIANS KILLED.

WINNIPEG, May 2.—A Port Arthur despatch says four Italians were blown to pieces by dynamite yesterday while working on the new Ontario and Rainy River railway.

DUBLIN FENIAN CONSPIRATORS.

TORONTO, May 2.—The crown attorney of Welland has received conclusive evidence identifying Walsh and Nolan, the canal dynamiters. They belong to a gang of Dublin Fenian conspirators. Nolan was tried for murder some years ago in Dublin.

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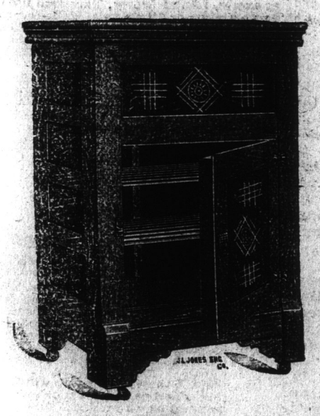

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