

# A GENERAL RETREAT

## Boers Said to Be Also Retiring From Natal.

### RENEWED FIGHTING ON THE TUGELA

#### General Kelly-Kenny Captured Cronje's Supply Train—The Retreat From Rensberg.

LONDON, Feb. 18, 2:30 A. M.—The war office made the usual statement at midnight that it had no news; but at about the same time came dispatches from Durban dated late Saturday evening, giving reports of the renewed fighting on the Tugela, where the Boers stopped all telegrams. Arrivals at Durban from the Tugela say that important operations are progressing, and that fighting has occurred daily since the commencement of the week. In these engagements the British casualties have been comparatively light. According to these unconfirmed reports, General Buller had recaptured Vaalrivier and the Boers had retreated in the direction of the Free State. In the meantime wounded officers and men are arriving daily at Durban, and are placed aboard the four hospital ships now there. Dispatches from Zululand, received at Durban, say that the Boers are retreating, thanks to the appearance of a flying column. The Boers seem nervous and uncertain, and have stayed their advance.

#### BOER SUPPLY TRAIN CAPTURED.

Kelly-Kenny's Brigade Seized 78 Wagons Laden With Supplies.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—The following dispatch has been received at the war office from Lord Roberts:

JACOBDAL, Feb. 17, 1:30 A. M.—General Kelly-Kenny's brigade captured yesterday 78 wagons laden with stores, two wagons of Mauser rifles, eight boxes of shells, 10 boxes of explosives and a large quantity of stores, all belonging to Cronje's laager, which was still being shelled by our artillery, when Kitchener dispatched his messenger.

General Cronje in full retreat and General Kelly-Kenny harassing his rear. It is hoped now that a decisive action will occur, if it has not already been fought. The dispatches from Jacobdall confirm the reports that General Cronje has been obliged to "move on" in order to reform a laager or camp, in order to reach his oxen. This explains the latest dispatch referring to the shelling of the Boer laager, which also brought the long-expected word of Kitchener's withdrawal. That the general who so resolutely pursued the Khalifa to his doom is superstitious in the pursuit of Cronje, adds greatly to the interest of the news. Another dispatch dated at Jacobdall, the same day, states that Captain Slocum and the Austrian attaché are at that place.

#### Captain Slocum at Jacobdall.

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#### THE TRANS-SIBERIAN LINE.

##### From St. Petersburg to Vladivostok in Twenty Days.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17.—Among the passengers on the Coptic, which left R. A. Niekammer's acting general manager of the International Sleeping Car Company, which operates cars on the Trans-Siberian, and other Russian railways, R. Rodin, engineer of the same company. They state that through sleepers cars are operated from St. Petersburg to Irkutsk, a distance of about 700 miles. They say the government seems powerless to stop their depredations. During the early part of last month the crew of a steam launch from the British gunboat Tread, stationed near Chouliou Chang, China, had a red flag, which is the "Order of the Red Flag." Several pirates were killed, a number wounded, and one British bluejacket was shot through the chest.

#### Will Testify for Macrum.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17.—Charles G. Macrum, formerly superintendent of mines in the Transvaal, but who returned to this country after the breaking out of the war for the reason, as he states, that he could not get his American papers owing to the interference by the British with ex-Consul Macrum's mail, will leave for Washington tomorrow to meet Mr. Macrum, and to testify before a congressional committee should his testimony be desired.

#### Ak for Free Hides.

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Eight Hours' Engagement Between Brabant's Horse and the Boers.

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# CANAL BILL REPORT

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### ADVANTAGES OF THE ENTERPRISE

#### Estimates of Cost and Revenue—The International Aspect of the Case.

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"If the provisions of the bill can be carried out, the United States will, within a few years, be in full ownership and control of a waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans that it can defend and that it can use in the interests of its navy and its merchant marine, as wisdom may dictate. There seems to be little doubt that the United States will give its consent for the construction of this great work. It will traverse either the border or the interior of the United States for a distance of about 191 miles. It will give to that state a waterway from its capital and its most productive region to the sea. It will place that country on one of the great waterways of the world, bringing it into immediate contact with a large foreign commerce and those who conduct it. In very many ways the state will have advantage over its neighbors. It will be for a long time lost if another route by which the oceans are connected should be adopted. All of these considerations are in favor of the bill. The government should be glad to aid in carrying out this great enterprise."

#### Reported Effort at Mediation.

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#### Attack on Vanikraats.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—A dispatch to the Evening News from Lourenco Marques, dated today, says from Boer sources it is reported that the British are attacking the Boer position at Vanikraats, and that the Boers are still holding the position. The report is probably identical with the bombardment of Blaauwkrans, announced yesterday.

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"The British postoffice requests us to cancel yesterday's notice in regard to Kimberley, and to advise the cable companies at present with Kimberley."

#### Canadians Reach the Cape.

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#### M'KINLEY'S POLICY.

##### Attitude of the Administration Toward Our New Possessions.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—The World tomorrow will publish a summary of a long statement made by President McKinley, which is said to be the result of a long conference with the cabinet. The article is vouchsafed for as an authoritative interpretation of the president's views, according to Mr. Nelson, it is McKinley's policy. It is his purpose to carry the belief into operation, that the constitution does not apply to any of our new islands; that those people are to be left to their own devices, except the proposed for Hawaii; that our new possessions must not be permitted to injure any of our protected interests, and that free trade with Puerto Rico is right before us. McKinley's policy is to be to elevate them, to educate them, and he hopes that, in the end, they will become worthy of being entrusted with local self-government. He does not think any of our possessions should be sold, except the Hawaiian islands, which it is intended to bestow the suffrage—a few more than possessed the suffrage under the Dole government.

#### Clayton-Bulwer Treaty.

After alluding to the possible international objections to the building and construction of the canal, the report says: "We want to increase our power upon the Pacific coast. Our people are intent on having their full share of the commerce of the world. The canal is an aid in that direction. It is true that it will disturb the conditions of equality that now exist, but every effort that is made to disturb the equality of conditions is a disturbance of the equality of conditions that exist between merchants. They are all deemed justifiable, pre-emptively, and the securing of this short route is only an effort of greater magnitude in the same direction. We save 10,000 miles in the passages to China over the old route by way of Cape Horn. Our government would have preferred the same right to take offense at the use of the canal by British merchants as would the English government at our using the Nicaragua canal. There are persons who say that we are bound by stipulations with the government of Great Britain to refrain from carrying out this great enterprise. This statement we don't believe. We recognize the fact that 50 years ago the United States and Great Britain entered into an alliance to secure the building of the Nicaragua canal. Any person who dispassionately studies carefully that treaty must come to the conclusion that the primary purpose was to secure the right of navigation of a canal under influence that might be exercised by the two governments, rather than a prohibition of either to build it. After quoting the treaty, the report goes on:

#### Negro Plend Lynched.

AIKEN, S. C., Feb. 17.—Will Burt, a negro, was lynched near Baskett mills, eight miles north of Aiken today, by a mob of 50 men. Last Monday, eight Burt's attempted to assault Mrs. C. L. Weeks, a planter's wife. He escaped, and was captured this last night. When Burt was strung up, the rope broke. The rope was tied and Burt's arms swung up, the crowd emptying their guns into his body. Burt confessed to attempting to kill Mrs. Weeks' throat, and said he told her he would kill her.

#### Turkish Decoration for Loubet.

PARIS, Feb. 17.—The sultan's envoy, Munir Bey, presented President Loubet today with the insignia and grand cordon of the Order of Nichmedin, the highest decoration in the Turkish empire, which the sultan sent specially by Munir Bey, the envoy, and his suite.

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