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RELIEF AT LAST.

Portion of Buller's Men Reach Ladysmith.

GEN. CRONJE A PRISONER.

British Celebrate the Anniversary of Majuba.

LONDON, March 1, 9:52 A. M.—The War Office has received the following dispatch from General Buller:

"Lyttleton's Headquarters, March 1, 9:35, Morning.—General Dunderdall, with the Natal Carbineers and a composite regiment, entered Ladysmith last night. The country between me and Ladysmith is reported clear of the enemy. I am moving on Nelthorpe."

LONDON, March 1, 4:50 A. M.—General Buller's tidings come weighted with his long list of casualties. His losses in the four attempts to get General White out aggregate 4900.

Ladysmith was in desperate straits. Charles Williams, the military expert, says he learns on very high authority—presumably that of Lord Wolseley, that "General White's force was almost at its last gasp."

London, Feb. 27.—The War Office has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

"Paardeberg, Feb. 27, 7:45 a. m.—General Cronje and all of his force capitulated, unconditionally, at daylight, and is now a prisoner in my camp. The strength of his force will be communicated later. I hope that her Majesty's government will consider this event satisfactory, occurring as it does on the anniversary of Majuba.

LORD ROBERT'S HUMANITY.

The Boers are at His Mercy, but he is Treating Them Considerately.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—The Daily Mail has the following dispatch from Paardeberg, dated Sunday:

There are about 4000 beleagured in General Cronje's camp, exclusive of the losses he has hitherto sustained. His wife is not with him, although there are women and children in the camp. The Boer position is now almost exclusively confined to the river bed. The enemy are entirely at our mercy, but Lord Roberts is treating them with great consideration, from motives of humanity."

MASSING AN ARMY.

Boers Concentrating at Bloemfontein.

LONDON, Feb. 27, 4:20 a. m.—The Boers are assembling an army near Bloemfontein, with which to dispute the invasion of Lord Roberts.

This intelligence comes from Pretoria by way of Laurence Marques. The commandos are described as "hastening from all quarters of the two Republics." No estimate is made in their numbers, but the withdrawal of the Boers from most of the places where they have been in contact with the British, except the district near Ladysmith, may raise the resisting force to 30,000 men. This figure assumes that the Boers have between 60,000 and 70,000 men in the field.

The gathering of this army across the path of Lord Roberts gives significance to General Cronje's steadfast defense. He has engaged the corps of Lord Roberts for 10 days, and has given time for the dispersed Boer factions to get together and to prepare positions to receive the advance of the British when Lord Roberts moves forward.

General Buller Saturday faced the last and strongest position of the Boers who bar his way to Ladysmith. The strenuous fighting indicates a battle between armies, rather than rear-guard actions protecting a retreat. Thursday and Friday he lost 43 officers killed and wounded, representing probably a total loss of from 400 to 500.

General White's guns worked Saturday upon the Boer positions, and a telegram from Ladysmith reported that the Boers were retreating, and that larger rations were being issued, in view of the fact that relief was at hand.

Nothing has been heard from Mafeking since February 12.

The movement on the veldt away from the railway is becoming increasingly difficult for large bodies of troops, as the grass is burned up. General French has to wagon forage for his horses, and even the infantry finds the long marches harder than before, as forage for the transport animals must be carried. This requires the formation of garrisoned depots.

The ordinary campaigning season is over and the sickly season for both men and animals has set in. Technical military writers take these things into consideration in forecasting events.

The Daily Chronicle says that it learns from private letters that British rifles and ammunition have been landed on the southern coast of Cape Colony, presumably by the Dutch colonists. Lord Roberts has recently received 72

additional pieces of artillery. Whether all have been sent to Paardeberg is not known. Probably the Eighth division will leave England next Monday.

DEFENSE OF BLOEMFONTEIN.

Reinforcements Are Arriving From All Parts.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—A dispatch to the Daily News from Laurence Marques, dated February 23, says:

"It is reported here that 5000 burghers have left Ladysmith for the Free State. The Boers are concentrating their forces 30 miles outside of Bloemfontein, and the Free State government is moving to Winburg. Reinforcements from all parts are passing through Bloemfontein hourly. President Steyn has telegraphed President Kruger that Lord Roberts is within a few hours of Bloemfontein, and he urges that every male, irrespective of nationality, should be commandeered. President Steyn is said to favor peace.

"The Boer General who was in command at Colenso sent a message to President Kruger, saying that he had been smashed up there, and recommending overtures for peace. The burghers at Mafeking are also reported to have sent word to Kruger that they would rather defend their own farms than fight elsewhere.

"The Pretoria government is paying its debts with bar gold, the English professional coiners having refused to work. Understanding how Continental shareholders are affected by the closing of the Robinson Bank, President Kruger allowed the institution to reopen."

BULLER'S ADVANCE.

Boers Offer Stubborn Opposition—British Losses Heavy.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—Winston Churchill, in a dispatch to the Morning Post from Frere Camp, dated Sunday, says:

"The idea that the Boers are raising the siege of Ladysmith is premature. The advance is being pursued in the face of the most stubborn opposition and of heavy loss. President Kruger's grandson is among the Boers killed."

Mr. Churchill then proceeds to describe the heavy fighting last Friday, in which the Inniskillings approached within 500 yards of the summit of a rocky Boer position, and then gallantly charged in the face of a hail of bullets. He says: "After repeated attempts, having lost heavily, they recognized that they were unable to prevail. Nevertheless, they refused to retreat, but lay down on the slope, behind a shelter of walls. The Connaughts and the Dublin Fusiliers were sent to their support, but the light faded, and the night closed in before the main attack had developed."

Spencer Wilkinson's article in the Morning Post today is almost wholly devoted to criticism of General Buller's apparently mistaken tactics in sending small forces to take positions, and then reinforcing these by details, as revealed in the dispatch from Winston Churchill. Mr. Wilkinson admits however, that Mr. Churchill's advice are too incomplete to enable a correct idea to be formed, since his dispatch breaks off in the middle, leaving the battle unfinished.

The Times has the following from Pietermaritzburg, dated Friday, Feb. 23: "The Dublin Fusiliers again distinguished themselves by volunteering to take Groebler's kloof, which they did. This gallant battalion, which began the campaign 850 strong, can today be said to muster on parade only between 100 and 200 of its original members."

U'Rea Replies to Ogle.

Let us first define the two plans. It is not worth while to waste time attacking or defending individual democrats or republicans, though even the worst of them is far better than creatures who write and publish personal attacks to which they sign false names like "A Populist."

The referendum men offer an affirmative policy they propose to re-elect by the largest possible majorities, such members of the last legislature as may be re-nominated who supported the direct legislation amendment and publicly promise to do so again, democrats, republicans, populists and silver republicans. We propose to be true at the ballot box to those who have helped us, regardless of party lines.

I know that Brother Ogle started in good faith for a new and independent party to include the whole state. But as nearly as I can understand his position now, he has landed plump in a little local fusion puddle for Clackamas county alone, striving in effect only to defeat republicans, saying nothing about the re-election of any of our members. It seems to be simply and only "anti-republican."

You say our plan is an "attempt to bribe practical politicians" by the hope of votes in the future. Yet you propose to vote for Mr. Bryan, and the democrats are going to nominate him for no other reason than that he can get the populist vote. The democrats would vote for any democrat but the populists will vote only for Bryan. If it is right for you to trade your vote and influence for the promise of democratic endorsement of our principles, why is it wrong for us to

trade part of our votes and influence for both republican and democrat help for the most important of our state principles? Is it "the moral quality of enthusiasm that makes it right for you to do this trading with the democrat machine, but "bribery" for us to do the same thing with individual democrats and republicans who have been true to our principles? If so, why?

Which of the principles of the people's party do you advance by your "union" in Clackamas county? No such "union" is proposed in the state, and the democrats do not seek it in any county where they are strong enough to "stand on their own props." In such counties if you "don't want to ride in the democratic band wagon you needn't."

Brother Ogle has been honored by the people's party as often as I have been. Surely I have as good a right to sit in its councils and advocate independent voting for our principles as he has to sit in its councils and preach fusion or "union" with democrats for the same principles. This "union" may help some democrats into paying office again, but how will that advance our reforms?

It is not many years since Brother Ogle was proclaiming that there was no difference between the old party machines and the unfaithfulness of old party politicians. I believed him then and think it is still true. Has the democratic machine grown pure and honest by fusing or "unionizing" the people's party down near death?

Does Mr. Ogle think the populists would endorse the details of the alleged "union" in this county if the democrats had permitted the plan to be submitted to our people in the primaries? I do not.

Is it possible that Brother Ogle would rather wait until we can get direct legislation from professed reformers than try to get it now on a non-partisan effort? I have heard such expressions from others, but I cannot believe he has grown so partisan.

He thinks our plan is worse than eating crow, and he is authority on crow diet, because middle of the roaders are the only populists who have had anything else since the Bryan fusion. But you will strike a new flavor, George, when you tackle the "reform" record of the democrat end of our fusion bird.

W. S. U'REA.

We print the above letter because we believe in fair play. The reform paper, the Courier-Herald refuses to print it after printing Ogle's letter. It is only another evidence that the "union" is to be run by the democrats and the populists simply asked to contribute their vote. What kind of a union is it when the secretary of the populist state central committee can not be heard in a paper that has been calling loudly for "union and reform?"

After refusing to publish my letter I bought 4 inches of advertising space at top of third column of first page, for the purpose of letting my friends know why my reply did not appear in the Herald. On last Tuesday the Herald absolutely refused to publish anything from me on the subject, even as paid advertisement.

W. S. U'REA.

U. S. Department of Agriculture.
The following data, covering a period of 28 years, have been compiled from the Weather Bureau records at Portland, Or. Month, March for 27 years.

TEMPERATURE.

Mean or normal temperature, 47 deg.
The warmest month was that of 1889, with an average of 54 deg.
The coldest month was that of 1897, with an average of 40 deg.
The highest temperature was 79 deg on the 29th, 1886.
The lowest temperature was 20 deg. on the 2nd, 1896.
Average date on which first "killing" frost occurred in autumn, Nov. 26.
Average date on which last "killing" frost occurred in spring, April 11.

PRECIPITATION
(Rain and melted snow).
Average for the month, 5.5 inches.
Average number of days with .01 of an inch or more, 17.
The greatest monthly precipitation was 12.76 inches in 1873.
The least monthly precipitation was 0.63 inches in 1885.
The greatest amount of precipitation recorded in any 24 consecutive hours was 2.25 inches on the 26th 1883.
The greatest amount of snowfall recorded in 24 consecutive hours (record extending to winter of 1884-85 only) was 3.0 inches on the 20th, 1887.

CLOUDS AND WEATHER.
Average number of clear days, 5; partly cloudy days 10; cloudy days, 16
WIND.
The prevailing winds have been from the south.
The highest velocity of the wind was 55 miles from the south on the 25, 1897.
Station: Portland, Oregon.
Date of issue, Feb. 24, 1900.
G. N. SALISBURY,
Section Director.