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BOERS FALL BACK

They Fight Hard But British Are Too Strong.

SEVERAL DAYS OF SEVERE WORK

Intimations That Imperial Forces Have Taken Winburg—No Relief Yet for Mafeking.

LONDON, May 7, 4:30 A. M.—Lord Roberts is making better progress than anyone had dared to hope, and is meeting with success at all points. The only news of the actual occupation of Winburg is the incidental reference in the dispatch from Vet River, describing General Pole-Carew's operations, but as the latest news of General Hamilton's operations, dated Sunday morning, was that he was then preparing to force the difficult passage over Little Vet River, on the Bloemfontein-Winburg road, there is no doubt that the news of the occupation is accurate.

The Boers, following their customary practice, had evacuated their positions on the Vet River during Saturday night. As Lord Roberts, advancing along the railway, and General Hamilton, 30 miles to the east, threatened the two wings of the Boer forces, it could not be surprising to hear that they had also evacuated Winburg. General Hamilton's advance will prevent the Boer forces in the direction of Thabanchu joining their main army near Winburg. General Buller on Saturday had arrived in pursuit of the Boers several miles north of Thabanchu, compelling the Boer force to retreat in a westerly direction. A Boer account of the capture of Brandfort says:

"The Federal forces, although weak in numbers, offered stout resistance, but they were forced by the overwhelming force opposed to them to evacuate the town. General Hunter's progress, although slow, is satisfactory. The idea that the relief of Mafeking is in sight, however, appears to have been premature, as the Boers in that quarter are still stoutly resisting the British advance.

According to a dispatch to the Daily Mail from Cape Town, a special expedition to the westward left Kimberley a few days ago, and will endeavor to relieve Mafeking, while General Hunter and Lord Methuen are operating on either side of the Vaal River in conjunction with Lord Roberts's army.

From Lourenco Marques come various rumors that Colonel Plumer has been reinforced, and is again advancing toward Mafeking. Another report says Mafeking has been relieved, and General Lommer, with 2000 Boers, captured at Fourteen Streams.

Women have been placed in the Government offices in the Transvaal in order to relieve the burghers for service rendered. Two New South Wales Lancers, who escaped from Waterburg prison, have arrived at Delagoa Bay after a dangerous journey.

The Johannesburg shell factory has resumed work with Austrian, Italian and Greek workmen.

LOLD ROBERTS'S STORY.

Describes Operations Along the Vet and the Little Vet.

LONDON, May 6, 3 P. M.—The War Office has published the following dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated Vet River, Saturday, May 5, 1:15 P. M.:

"I marched here today with Pole-Carew's division. Headquarters and Wavell's brigade of the Seventh division are two miles in the rear. Maxwell's brigade of the same division is the same distance to our right.

"The enemy are in considerable strength on the opposite bank of the river. Our guns engaged theirs for some three hours without our being able to force a passage of the river, but shortly before dusk the mounted infantry, under General Hutton, turned the enemy's right, and in a very dashing manner pushed across the river, under heavy shell and musketry fire.

"We are now bivouacking for the night within three miles of Vet River. Our casualties, I hope, are not numerous.

"Hamilton was in action yesterday and succeeded in preventing a junction of two Boer forces by a well-executed movement by some of the Household Cavalry, the Twelfth Lancers and Kitchener's Horse, who charged a body of the enemy and inflicted serious loss. The enemy, by leaving their dead on the field and their wounded to be attended by our doctors.

"MacDonald's Highland brigade dislodged the enemy after a right flank attack covered by the naval guns, in which operation the Black Watch distinguished themselves and were very skillfully led.

"Hamilton was advancing this morning to a difficult spot over the Klein Vet (or Little Vet) River.

"Hunter reports that Barton's brigade was heavily engaged this morning two miles north of Brandfort.

"The enemy's position was quite four miles long, and strongly held. He states that our men marched magnificently and carried ridge after ridge in grand style. Casualties in this fight in Hamilton's and Hunter's brigades will be reported as soon as possible.

"Captain Miller, who was taken prisoner near Thabanchu, has been sent to Rensburg camp by the enemy with a severe wound in the abdomen. Brabant reports that one sergeant and three men were captured on May 2 while on patrol, and that one of them, who had been brutally ill-treated and left for dead by the Boers, was found the following day.

"Lieutenant Lilly, Victoria Mounted Rifles, reported missing, was found at Brandfort dangerously wounded, and has been most carefully attended by the Netherlands ambulance.

HARD FIGHTING, BOERS RETIRED.

Account of Pole-Carew's Progress Toward the North.

VET RIVER, Sunday, May 6.—Yesterday the British, after a sharp engagement, countered the Boers holding Vet River with six guns, two being of long range. An artillery duel ensued. Meanwhile General Hunter, after a sharp engagement, crossed the river on the left just before sunset. The Boers retreated during the night.

The dismounted firing line with a Maxim, but General Hutton pushed forward and forced the Boers to leave the river bed. The Boers had destroyed three bridges. The whole British force crossed the river, threatening the Boer right. The Boers must have received about the same time the news of General Hamilton's occupation of Winburg.

About sunset a detachment of 90 Australians, who had crept unobserved toward the Boer position, threw a couple of fixed bayonets and charged, capturing the kopje. All was done on their own initiative, and they might well. Early this morning it was discovered that the Boer force had fled.

General Hutton, during the night, got two squadrons to blow up the line near Swaldwell.

The British discovered yesterday at every hundred yards along the railroad covered small packets of high explosives. The Boers had destroyed three bridges, but in every case it was possible to make a detour. The Boers appear to be fighting with much less spirit. It is reported that they are commanded by General Lucas Meyer. The bridge over the Vet River is completely destroyed. Boer prisoners captured a Maxim and took a few prisoners.

BOERS LEFT 13 DEAD ON FIELD.

Severe Engagement in the Hills About Rooiland.

WARRENTON, Sunday, May 6.—Yesterday General Barton drove from 2000 to 3000 Boers from hilly positions at Rooiland, where they were waiting. They retreated after stiff fighting, leaving a number of dead on the field. The British casualties were slight. General Barton is still pursuing them.

Windsorton and Kilp Dam have been evacuated. General Page's brigade is attacking the Boer position at Warrenton.

The engagement yesterday was severe, and lasted from 8 in the morning until 10 in the afternoon. More than once the British infantry were obliged to engage the Boers at close quarters, and the Boers only retired when their retreat was nearly cut off. The British losses were five killed and 25 wounded, mostly Welsh Fusiliers. The British took a batch of prisoners, including the Swedish ambulance, which they allowed to return. The Boers in their hurry left 13 dead.

Today General Paget made a strong demonstration against the Boer position, east of the ridge, thereby preventing Boer reinforcements from coming in to check General Barton's advance.

Free States Demoralized.

LONDON, May 7.—The Lourenco Marques correspondent of the Times, telegraphing Sunday, says:

"General Botha has been to the Free State to rouse the burghers, but has returned demoralized and disgraced. I hear that he is openly stating to friends that the Free States are so completely demoralized that it is hopeless to expect anything from them."

THE ASHANTEES FIGHT.

Several of the Constabulary and British Allies Were Killed.

LONDON, May 6.—The Colonial Office has received the following dispatch from Sir Frederick Mitchell Hodgson, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Gold Coast Colony, dated Kumassie, April 27:

"The situation, I regret to inform you, has changed for the worse. On April 23, a force was sent to clear the rebel force to the westward, and a large number of the rebels were killed or wounded. On April 25, the Ashantees surrounded the town in great force, probably 10,000. The Ashantees determined to take the town. The Ashantees were obliged to evacuate the cantonment and to concentrate around the fort. The engagement lasted four hours. Several native allies and two Hausas were killed.

"The present operations of the fort number 200, including 18 Europeans, six of whom are missionaries. It is necessary that further reinforcements be sent to the Gold Coast."

Sir Frederick Hodgson, under date of April 30, telegraphed:

"Yesterday a serious attack was made on the fort by rebels, but they were routed on all sides, and a number of members of the constabulary were killed and 10 wounded.

"A contingent of Lagos constabulary, under Inspector-General Applin, has arrived after two days' marching. The column was attacked at Asigau, which was taken with the loss of one killed and 25 wounded, among them Applin, slightly.

"On the following day the contingent was attacked two miles from Kumassie by 8000 rebels. There was great loss in taking the stockade across the road. Several Ashantees there had arms of pre-delegate cost over \$20 a head. I should like to see the Ashantees killed and 13 wounded, including Assistant-Inspector Reid. Have been unable to send letters or telegrams to Kumassie."

Under date of May 1, Sir Frederick Hodgson wired that the rebels were massed eastward and that he had made a demonstration the previous day with two guns, inflicting great loss. One of the native auxiliaries was killed."

The Colonial Office announces that, in addition to the Lagos constabulary, reinforcements have been sent to Sir Frederick Hodgson from the Sierra Leone frontier police and from the West African frontier police, in northern and southern Nigeria.

NO BALM TO HERETICS.

If They Don't Accept John Wesley's Religion Must Quit Methodism.

CHICAGO, May 6.—The report of the Constitutional Commission to the Methodist General Conference, which will probably be presented this week, will call for the continued maintenance of the religion of John Wesley. The episcopacy may be featured and other constitutional features and other doctrinal features of the church, are to be retained in their purity. The heretic of the future must leave the church, and the church must not accept any departure from the theology of the fathers.

BRYAN AND TOWNE

This Combination Said to Have Been Agreed To.

NEBRASKAN WON'T TALK ABOUT IT

Arrangement Reached at Conference of Democrats, Populists and Silver Republicans in Chicago.

CHICAGO, May 6.—The Chronicle tomorrow will say:

Bryan and Towne—that was the way the probable Democratic, Populist, and Lincoln Republican National ticket was framed up as the result of a conference yesterday afternoon between leaders of the

JAMES M. BARRIE TO TRY FOR A SEAT IN PARLIAMENT.



James M. Barrie, the novelist, has accepted the invitation of a committee to contest the vacancy in the representation in the House of Commons of Edinburgh and St. Andrew University, provided the Liberals of the constituency generally approve of his candidacy. It will probably be a surprise to Barrie's admirers that he has political ambition; for heretofore he has confined his activity to journalism, literature and the drama. Barrie is not a college man, but he was educated in a good school, the daily newspaper, and he formed his style and habits of an English provincial journal. His first great hit was "A Window in Thrums," a series of sketches of life in his native Scotch village, and this was followed by "The Little Minister" and "Sentimental Tommy," and a sequel to the latter, called "Tommy and Ordeal," is now running as a serial in Scribner's Magazine. Barrie has never been seduced by his great success to do any careless writing.

three parties at the Sherman House. The Presidential nomination was not discussed, that being a foregone conclusion, but when the conferees had devolved into the puzzle of the Vice-Presidential situation, Charles A. Towne, of Duluth, stood on a pinnacle of importance that dwarfed other possibilities.

The Populist representatives at the conference were: Senator Marion Butler, of South Carolina, chairman of his party's National committee; General James B. Weaver, of Iowa, and Congressman George Shibley, of Virginia. The Republican nominees were: Senator Pettigrew, of South Dakota, and ex-Senator Fred T. Dubois, of Idaho. The Democratic representatives at the conference were: Vice-Chairman James G. Johnson, of the National committee; Daniel J. Campau, of Detroit, National committeeman from Michigan. Colonel Bryan was not present, nor was Mr. Towne.

"I am not interested myself in the Vice-Presidential nomination," said Mr. Bryan. "I have seen the men of the three parties present in the city today, but I am not saying anything regarding conference. I am going home for a two-month rest on my farm."

The Populist plan does not contemplate the nomination of Mr. Towne at the National convention at Sioux Falls this week. The programme of the leaders, so far as leaders of the Populists can lay out the work for a convention, contemplate the nomination of Bryan without nominating any one for second place. The convention, it was stated, would be asked to name a committee to attend the Democratic and Silver Republican conventions in Kansas City. This body will be empowered to ratify the nomination of the two parties, which are expected to agree on a National ticket, but in case of their failure to put up a satisfactory running mate for Mr. Bryan it will be authorized to name a Populist candidate.

The object in giving such extensive powers to a committee, it was intimated, was that the party might hold a club over the Democratic party to insure the reaffirmation of the Chicago platform. Assurances were declared to have been given that this would be done, in which case it was said nothing stood in the way of a satisfactory fusion of all three parties, thus avoiding the "Tom Watson" mistake of 1896.

GATHERING AT CINCINNATI.

Mid-Road Populists Ridelike the Sioux Falls Platform.

CINCINNATI, May 6.—The advance workers of the National convention of the Middle-of-the-Road Populists, which meets here next Wednesday afternoon, arrived today. They are all opposed to fusion and almost everything else that has any connection with other political parties. They claim they represent a large majority of the People's party, that the convention at Sioux Falls would contain a minority of delegates, as over two-thirds of the delegates were instructed by their states for the Cincinnati convention, which will keep in the middle of the road, and not be sidetracked in the interest of anybody or any party. They call attention to the fact that their call is in accord with the Omaha law of 1892, excluding all office-holders, and charge that the Sioux Falls convention is in charge of Senators Butler, Allen and Pettigrew and other office-holders, the same as Republican and Democratic conventions.

"It is well recognized by all people," said J. O. Parker, secretary of the National committee of the Middle-of-the-Road Populists, "that those who know him best know that he was incapable of making such a remark."

Roosevelt to Go to St. Paul.

NEW YORK, May 6.—Governor Roosevelt has accepted an invitation to be a guest of honor at the National convention of Republican Clubs to be held at St. Paul, Minn., July 17, 18 and 19. He will probably make a speech.

Roaders, whether they be Populists or not, that the Cincinnati convention represents the real Populist movement. It is equally well known that the Sioux Falls convention is simply an adjunct to the Democratic party. This accounts for the unanimity with which Populists in every section have repudiated the call for the latter convention and indorsed the Cincinnati movement. We are confident of an attendance fully as great as the capacity of our hall, and it is claimed that Robinson's Opera House will seat 200 people.

"The Sioux Falls convention cannot deliver a vote to Bryan that would not go to him as the regular Democratic nominee. Any action of the Sioux Falls convention may take will only embarrass Bryan and give his enemies in the Democratic party a chance to hammer him. He would be much stronger as a thorough Democratic candidate than as a fusion candidate, and if the leaders of the Sioux Falls convention were really for Bryan they would go about the matter in a way to accomplish his election. They would openly join the Democratic party and help to elect its nominees. But they are not so much for Bryan as they are for themselves, and

THE PRINCE OF AGE

Impressive Ceremonies Attending the Celebration.

AMERICAN MINISTER TOOK PART

The Crown Prince Has Acquired Capacity to Ascend German Throne in Case of Vacancy.

BERLIN, May 7.—Yesterday being the third and last day of the festivals in connection with the celebration of the coming of age of the Crown Prince, fittingly capped the climax. The downtown streets were crowded, nearly the entire Berlin population turning out and several scores of thousands coming from the outside. At 7 A. M. the two emperors, attended by a gorgeous retinue, were present at a special imperial mass. From the church both drove to the Silesia Palace for the unveiling of the statue of Emperor Sigismund. The statue was particularly fine, and the ceremony was beautiful throughout.

Then the emperors drove back to the castle, where at 10 A. M., Emperor William and the Crown Prince received the congratulations of the special mission, including the United States Ambassador, Mr. White, who made a short speech, first addressing the Emperor and presenting congratulations from President McKinley. The Emperor rejoined in a pleasant, smiling manner, and was very much gratified, and that the sentiments expressed by President McKinley were cordially reciprocated by both himself and his son. Mr. White then turned to the Crown Prince and made another brief speech to the same purport.

Soon after occurred the symbolic services in the castle chapel, whereby the majority of the Crown Prince was declared. The scene was most impressive. Emperor Francis Joseph and the German Emperor led the way, Emperor William with the Grand Duke of Baden following. Next came the youngest imperial child, and then the Crown Prince and the Italian Crown Prince.

Others present were the chief accredited missions, all the princes, the Imperial Chancellor, Prince von Hohenlohe, the members of the Bundesrat, Knights of the Order of the Black Eagle, generals, admirals, members of the cabinet, officers of the Russian, Austrian and Prussian Diet, regimental delegations, etc.

After singing by the cathedral choir and a discourse by the chief court chaplain, came the most impressive part of the ceremony, the taking of the oath by the Crown Prince. In front of the pulpit stood a tall soldier with a drawn sword. Across the altar was laid the flag of the Life Company of the First Guard Regiment. The Crown Prince raised two fingers of his naked right hand and placed his left upon the flag. Then Lieutenant-General von Plessen pronounced the oath which the Crown Prince repeated sentence by sentence in a resonant voice. The oath was very precise, stringent and comprehensive, the Prince vowing to be a faithful and obedient life to the emperor in all military commands on land or sea.

The oath having been concluded, Emperor William shook his son's hand and kissed him on the cheek. The Crown Prince then kissed the Emperor's hand, after which the ceremony came to an end with the singing of the old Hohenzollern hymn.

Outside in the Lustgarten, the First Life Guard's field artillery gave a salute of 21 guns and the entire congregation slowly filed out of the chapel, to reasonable in the famous words there to be presented to the Crown Prince.

Among those tendering congratulations, special prominence attaches to the Presidents of the Senate of Lubeck, Bremen and Hamburg, and also to the representatives of the municipality of Berlin, who presented a magnificently executed address.

Emperor Francis Joseph has appointed the Crown Prince to be chief of a Hussar regiment. He also presented to the Crown Prince a fine portrait of himself as a Russian field marshal.

By virtue of yesterday's ceremony, the Crown Prince has acquired the capacity to succeed to the throne, in any reason, the throne becomes vacant, and the can now claim a suitable allowance from the crown funds. He has also become Governor of Pomerania and Prince of Oels, a post carrying large revenues.

The Berlin press today publishes an enormous quantity of material about the Crown Prince, biographical and otherwise, describing him as a "most sympathetic youth," as "earnest, unaffected, modest," and as "filled with a strong sense of duty and solid in body and soul."

At 7 P. M. began the gala dinner to which Field Marshal Ambrosio Wolff, with the other Ambassadors, had been invited. The company included only about a score of ladies, the Emperor and the Princesses. The dinner was a gorgeous affair. The main play of the evening from Sir Arthur Sullivan's "The Lost Chord," which was a special compliment paid to the Duke of York.

Emperor William announced the health of Emperor Francis Joseph in a finished speech. He dwelt upon the honor and joy of the visit of his imperial guest, laboring upon the desire of the Germans to maintain peace, but he refrained referring to the Dresden.

Emperor Francis Joseph, replying, read from manuscript his remarks being under oath only by those in his immediate vicinity. However, the general impression was that the answer was not political.

During the banquet Mr. White sat next to the British Ambassador, Sir Frank Lascelles. General comment was occasioned by the fact that Cardinal Kopp, in his scarlet robes, was present.

Shortly before 10 o'clock, Emperor Francis Joseph, with Emperor William, drove swiftly down through Brandenburg gate, the populace greeting the imperial pair with thunderous hurrahs. Anhalt station was reached promptly at 10 o'clock, and after a cordial farewell-taking, the Austro-Hungarian train departed.

Statue of Thomas Jefferson.

BERLIN, May 6.—Today there was shipped a magnificent statue of Thomas Jefferson, intended for Louisville, the American artist, Moses Ezekiel, is the sculptor.

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