

GENERAL CRONJE ESCAPED

An Attack Upon the British Supply Wagons.

HOW ROBERTS' PLANS WORKED

Boers From Natal Are Reported to Be Moving to the Assistance of the Free State Forces.

London, Feb. 20.—It is now amply confirmed that General Cronje escaped. Every detail received, however, proves how admirable Lord Roberts' plans were conceived and were succeeding. But for the unexpected delay at Dekiel drift, which was almost impassable for wagons, the whole Boer force would have been surrounded. The delay of one day there gave them their chance for a hasty retreat. All the other movements of Lord Roberts were executed on time. Apparently General Cronje is retreating with the main army, and even if he shall escape altogether, he will probably lose all his baggage.

There is still something doubtful of about the capture of the British convoy. According to a Daily Mail correspondent with the convoy, which consisted of 200 wagons, each loaded with 6,000 pounds of ration and forage, and each drawn by 16 oxen, it was quite unexpectedly attacked by a commando supposed to come from Colesburg. The escort, consisting of 80 of the Gordon Highlanders, 40 men of the army service corps, and a few of Kitchener's horse, maintained a defense until the arrival of reinforcements, sustaining insignificant casualties.

The Standard's correspondent at Jacobsdal, telegraphing February 17, says:

"An attack was made yesterday upon the rear guard of our main body by a force of 1,400 Boers, who were hurried up from Colesburg. They succeeded in capturing some of our wagons, but Lord Roberts did not delay his march to retake these. There were few casualties on our side."

The last of our supply columns arrived from Honey Nest kloof today, having met with no opposition on the way.

Specials from Ladysmith report an apparent movement on the Boers toward the Free State, presumably with the object of assisting General Cronje.

Bonded Warehouses.

City of Mexico, Feb. 20.—The president has issued a decree for the establishment of a system of bonded warehouses at ports of entry. Managers of warehouses may lend money on the goods deposited, as well as enjoy the usual privileges pertaining to this business in foreign countries, collect storage charges, etc. Exemptions of customs duties on the materials for the construction of the warehouses is granted for five years. Several banks here are interested in this business, and New York parties are expected to take a portion of the capital required. The business was projected some years ago, but was defeated in congress, but it is now certain to pass.

Steel Plant for Mexico.

Chicago, Feb. 20.—A special to the Record from Monterey, Mex., says: An American syndicate with a capital of \$10,000,000 will immediately begin the construction of a great steel plant in this city. The plans for the mammoth concern have been completed and the ground purchased for locating the several buildings. An abundance of high grade iron ore and coal is within easy shipping distance. The plant will make a specialty of manufacturing steel rails, and will be the first industry of the kind to be established in Mexico. It will give employment to about 4,000 men in the different departments when they are in operation. Several American capitalists in Monterey are heavy stockholders in the enterprise.

The Venezuelan Revolution.

Havana, Feb. 20.—General Ignacio Andrade, former president of Venezuela, who is now in Havana, said today:

"I left Venezuela for the good of my country, as it was claimed that I was the cause of the revolution. As the revolution continues, I can scarcely have been the sole cause. I confess that I do not know the precise cause of the war. By some it has been attributed to the division of the country into 20 states by congress. The revolutionists pretend to consider it unconstitutional, but they have themselves maintained that division."

Elephants Ran Amuck.

London, Feb. 20.—An exciting scene took place at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, this afternoon. Two large elephants belonging to the circus ran amuck, killed their keepers and gored another man. There was a terrible panic in the audience attending the concert in the place. One animal was captured after great damage to property. The other escaped through the grounds, but was captured late this evening in the suburbs of Breckenham.

Fire in Denver, Colo., destroyed a four-story building. Loss is estimated at \$150,000.

BATTLE IN SOUDAN.

French Force Defeated Rabah, a Native Chieftain.

Paris, Feb. 19.—M. de Crais, minister of the colonies, has received a telegram from the governor of the French Congo, M. De Lamothe, announcing the defeat in battle of Rabah, the principal chieftain of Central Soudan, by a French expedition under M. Gentil.

Rabah has long been the strongest opponent of the extension of French influence in the Soudan. It appears that he was strongly intrenched at Kouna, between French Congo and Lake Tchad. Kouna was defended by 12,000 men, with 2,500 rifles and three cannons. After a desperate fight, the French demolished the fortress. Rabah, who was wounded during the fight, fled six hours before its conclusion. The commander of the French expedition, however, admits that practically half of his own force was placed hors de combat. Forty-three Senegalese sharpshooters were killed, and four Europeans, including Captain Robillot, and 106 Senegalese were wounded. The commander of the expedition says in his report:

"We had altogether 320 rifles, so I thought it advisable to continue the march to Lake Tchad. Captain Robillot occupied a fortified cantonment at Tounia."

The commander of the expedition returned to Bangue to inform the governor of the defeat of Rabah. He reports that the result will be very important, as Rabah is completely demoralized by his losses, estimated at between 2,000 and 3,000 killed.

YAQUI PRISONERS.

Six Hundred of Them Will Be Distributed in Various Cities.

Austin, Tex., Feb. 19.—A dispatch from Manzanillo, Mexico, says that the Mexican gunboat Oaxaca has arrived there from the mouth of the Guaymas river with 600 Yaqui Indian prisoners on board. They were captured in the battle fought about three weeks ago near Mazocota. The prisoners will be taken to Guadalupe, and there distributed to the various interior cities. They will not be confined in prisons, but will be kept under surveillance for a few years, until they have become educated in the habits of the Mexican people when they will be allowed to return to their tribe and impart their newly acquired knowledge to their fellow tribesmen.

When the Oaxaca left the Yaqui river the government troops were making good progress toward subduing the rebels. General Torres had divided his command, and the two armies were to advance into the Yaqui country from two different points. No official confirmation is obtainable as to the government's loss in the recent battles, but it is reported that there were over 400 killed and wounded. It is claimed that the Yaquis left 200 killed, about 800 wounded and 600 captured.

Bacon's Resolution.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Consideration of the financial matter having been concluded, discussion of the Philippine question was resumed in the senate today. McEnery, (Rep. La.), strongly opposed the permanent acquisition of the islands, and believed the United States ought to relinquish them as soon as the authority of this country had been asserted. Stewart, (Silver Nevada), took a pronounced position in favor of the admission of the products of any of the island possessions of the United States free of duty. The bill providing a form of government for the territory of Hawaii was read, but beyond that formality nothing was done with it.

Injured at Fires.

Chicago, Feb. 19.—Eight persons were injured, one fatally, in four fires that occurred late last night and early this morning in the residence portion of the city. In all about 35 lives were imperiled by the fires, and there were heroic deeds of rescue by the firemen. M. W. Littlefield, Mrs. M. W. Littlefield, Curtis Jamieson and Frank Hampden were overcome by smoke and rescued by firemen. The two small children of Mrs. H. E. Bump, sleeping on the first floor, were also overcome by smoke and rescued by their mother at the peril of her life.

The total loss will not amount to \$50,000. Most of the fires were caused by overheated furnaces.

Locomotive Exploded.

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 19.—Two men were instantly killed and three frightfully injured by the explosion of a locomotive boiler in the Santa Fe roundhouse this afternoon. The dead are: John Heustis, a boilermaker; Neils Linden, fireman. The injured are: J. L. Beardsley, will probably die; Artie Sailor, bruised and badly shaken up, and Bert Shields, face cut and one eye injured. The explosion was caused by compressed air, which was to be used as a motive power in the "midget" locomotive, a small switch engine. Beardsley was letting the air into the boiler when the explosion occurred.

Calaveras Big Tree Grove Sold.

San Francisco, Feb. 17.—Robert Whiteside, of Duluth, Minn., has practically purchased the Calaveras Big Tree grove, having paid the company owning it \$1,000 for an option of 90 days. The price for the grove is \$100,000, and it consists of 8,800 acres.

SAW HER OWN LEG CUT OFF.

Woman 83 Years Old Undergoes Surgical Operation by New Method.

Chicago, Feb. 21.—Mrs. Mary Arndt, in spite of her 83 years, watched a surgeon at the county hospital today amputate her right leg near the hip without giving any evidence of pain. The operation proved successful. The method by which the operation was performed was of great interest to the surgeons, and is said in professional circles to be a great step in surgery in America. Dr. Samuel Weber, a member of the advisory staff of the hospital, had charge of the operation, which is said to be the first of its nature performed in America, and the second known to medical men, the first having been performed in Europe. Dr. Weber made a study of the initial operation, and concluded the method might be employed for the amputation of lower limbs of patients who were unable to withstand the effects of anaesthetics.

The method consists in the deadening of the nerves in the limbs by the injection of cocaine in the vertebral cavity above the point where the nerves controlling the lower limbs branch from the spinal chord.

The patient had suffered a gangrenous affection of the leg, and amputation became necessary to save her life. She was not in a condition to make the use of an anaesthetic safe, and the surgeon decided to try the method which had proved successful in a Berlin hospital. The drug was injected into the patient's vertebral cavity a short distance below the waist line, and soon she announced that she had lost all feeling in her lower limbs, while she was fully conscious of what was going on and had the full use of all her faculties.

The limb was removed two inches below the hip, and after the effect of the drug had passed away the woman said she felt well. The prospects for her recovery are good.

ALL AROUND CRONJE.

The Boer General Hopelessly Surrounded.

London, Feb. 21.—A member of the cabinet told H. W. Lucy tonight that the war office had received a telegram announcing that General Cronje was hopelessly surrounded. Mr. Wyndham was beset with anxious members of the house, but would only reply that the government's news was extremely satisfactory. The sole explanation of the government's withholding good news is that confirmation and more details are awaited.

The situation, as disclosed by correspondents over the Free State border, is tantalizing to the public expectation. The elementary facts are that the Boers are trekking eastward toward Bloemfontein with slow moving baggage trains, and that they are pursued by Lord Kitchener with General Kelly-Kenny's division. General MacDonald, with the Highlanders, made a forced march to Koodoosrand ford and Sunday pushed 20 miles eastward. General French left Kimberley Saturday, going along the Modder river. Lord Kitchener is trying to outmarch and to outflank the Boers, thus checking their retreat, if possible, and driving them back in to the hands of MacDonald and French.

THE EL PASO RIOT.

Captain Loughborough's Report of the Affair.

Washington, Feb. 21.—General McKibbin, commanding the department of Texas, has forwarded to the adjutant-general a copy of the following telegram from Captain Loughborough, commanding the troops at Fort Bliss, Texas, in regard to the trouble with the local authorities at El Paso, Texas, on the 17th.

"Through negligence or connivance of noncommissioned officers in charge of the barracks, arm racks were opened last night and a number of rifles taken out. One soldier was killed, and I learn one guard at the city jail, where two soldiers were held for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. Arm racks are now locked and the keys are in my possession. All ammunition has been placed under lock and key. I have not permitted any one to leave the garrison. I am co-operating with the civil authorities and will do everything in my power to bring the guilty parties to justice."

General McKibbin adds that he has ordered an additional officer to Fort Bliss, and that he will make a thorough investigation. He says further trouble is apprehended.

Drove Rebels From Rich Country.

Oaxaca, Mexico, Feb. 21.—General Bravo's force of government troops has driven back the Maya Indians and taken possession of several important towns that were occupied by the rebels during the week. The country occupied by the Mayas is little known to the outside world. Its natural riches are great. An army officer with General Bravo's troops writes as follows of the country:

"All this vast territory which is now being reconquered contains fabulous wealth and an exuberant fertility of soil, which can raise everything in the way of agriculture. Its forests are extensive and have all the precious woods. The whole country is well watered. There is an abundance of game, the singing birds, many with splendid plumage, are everywhere. Deer and mountain turkey are here by the thousands."

CENSUS OF CROPS.

The Next Enumeration Will Be Taken in June, 1900, of the Products of 1899.

The first really valuable census of agriculture in the United States was taken in 1850, of the crops of 1849. The next enumeration of agriculture will be taken in June, 1900, of the products of 1899.

Instead of recording several farms on one schedule in the Twelfth census, as heretofore, each farm will be accorded a separate blank, the entries on which will not be known to any save sworn officers of the department. No names will be published in connection with information secured from the people.

Tax assessors, collectors, and equalizers cannot serve as enumerators, or have access to the census returns, or to the information therein contained.

There are more than 5,000,000 farms, plantations, ranches, stock ranges, and market gardens in the United States, all of which, for census purposes, will be designated as "farms."

A "farm" is all the land cultivated or held for agricultural purposes under one management, whether in a single body or separate parcels.

The enumerator will ask for the size and value of each farm, the value of buildings, and the aggregate value of all machinery, implements, vehicles, harnesses, etc., used thereon; and the amount of land owned and leased, respectively, by said occupant.

He will also ask for acreage and value of each crop, and the acreage of improved, unimproved and irrigated lands.

The designation "each crop" includes all grains, cotton, corn, rice, sugar cane, sugar beets, sorghum, hay, clover, wild grasses, gathered forage, flax, hemp, hops, peanuts, tobacco, seeds, nuts, tropical fruits, small fruits, orchard fruits, nursery and greenhouse stock, broom corn, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes and yams, all vegetables, including the product of all family, truck, and market gardens, etc.; also new or unusual crops, when found.

The enumerator will ask for the number and value of the live stock on the farm June 1, 1900, which will be reported under a number of heads, such as horses, colts, mules, asses, cows, heifers, steers, calves, bulls, ewes, rams, lambs, swine, goats, chickens (including guinea fowl), turkeys, geese, ducks, bees, etc.

He will also ask for the quantity and value of milk, cream, butter, cheese, raisins, prunes, molasses, sirup, sugar, eggs, beeswax, honey, wool, wine, cider, vinegar, dried and evaporated fruits, forest products, poultry and meat products, and generally, all articles made at home, or for the home, from farm materials in 1899.

If a person who moves from a farm between the end of the crop year 1899 and June 1, 1900, will leave a written record of the products and crops of that farm for 1899 where it will reach the appropriate enumerator, the statistics for his operations for that year will not be lost. He will be required to give the enumerator of the district in which he lives on June 1, 1900, the acreage, value, buildings, machinery, implements, and live stock of the farm he then occupies.

If every farmer will begin at once to prepare a careful record of all the facts which the enumerator will be instructed to record in June, 1900, he will save time for himself and the officer, and insure more accurate returns to the government.

The twentieth century will begin on January 1, 1901. Therefore, the pending census will afford to future generations a measure of the strength and condition of the United States at the threshold of the new hundred year cycle. For that reason everyone should take an active interest in making it as nearly perfect as possible. If each farmer will make his own report perfect, the aggregated report for every community, and for the nation, will be perfect.

Spokane is to send a formal invitation to President McKinley to visit the town in October, when, it is said, he will come to the Pacific coast.

North Yakima merchants are not worried because a mild winter has left heavy stocks of woolen goods on their hands; the price on woollens has advanced 25 per cent in the past three months.

Thursday 100 horses were shipped from Walla Walla to Vancouver, says the Walla Walla Union. The animals, together with a number of other horses, will be transported to the Philippines for cavalry use. No more horses will be purchased for the government in Walla Walla at the present time.

Blanche Dewey, a 15-year-old girl of Snohomish county, made complaint against her father, charging him with criminal assault upon her, and on the witness stand swore that the complaint was false and that there was no ground for it. Then she was arrested for perjury, and, it is said, will be sent to the reform school.

George Gross, at Junction City, has a hog that weighs 525 pounds.

C. R. Hunt is about to build a new barn on his Tillamook dairy ranch, for which 45,000 feet of lumber will be required.

BRADSTREET'S REPORT.

Favorable Increase of Trade as Compared to Last Year.

Bradstreet's says: Satisfactory advances as to expanding trade in dry goods and kindred lines come from a number of markets. That the aggregate business of the country is of good volume otherwise is, however, indicated by detailed reports of increases in trade, as compared with last year, confirmed by satisfactory railroad earnings reports, by fair gains in bank clearings and by reports of better demands for money in commercial channels. A year ago, it may be recalled, extremely stormy weather was experienced, and some effects, notably those on winter sown crops, were very unfavorable. This year opposite conditions have ruled and though some talk of lack of snow in grain-growing regions is heard no widespread damage from cold weather is yet noted. In fact, unseasonably mild weather has been an appreciable effect on several industries, notably those engaged in the manufacture of footwear, in discouraging sales of the same actually causing the shut down of some rubber manufactories, and also in the lumber and ice business. The scarcity of snow in the Northwest will unquestionably affect the log cutting season, and a firmer tone as to values is already perceptible, notwithstanding talk of labor troubles affecting the building trades.

The foreign demand for iron and steel seems likely to have a most important effect upon prices of the domestic product. It is conceded that any important recession in value would be met by a heavy enlarged export movement.

Failures for the week in the United States number 199, as compared with 231 last week, 160 in this week a year ago, 269 in 1898, 325 in 1897 and 276 in 1896.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.

Onions, new, \$2.25@2.50 per sack.
Lettuce, hot house, 40c per doz.
Potatoes, new, \$18@20.
Beets, per sack, 75@85c.
Turnips, per sack, 60c.
Carrots, per sack, 50c.
Parsnips, per sack, 75@85c.
Cauliflower, 75c@1 per dozen.
Cabbage, native and California, \$1.00@1.25 per 100 pounds.
Apples, \$1.25@1.50 per box.
Pears, \$1.00@1.25 per box.
Prunes, 60c per box.
Butter—Creamery, 31c per pound; dairy, 17@22c; ranch, 20c per pound.
Eggs—20c.
Cheese—Native, 16c.
Poultry—13@14c; dressed, 14@15c.
Hay—Puget Sound timothy, \$12.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$18.00@19.00.
Corn—Whole, \$23.00; cracked, \$23; feed meal, \$23.
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$21; whole, \$22.
Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.25; blended straight, \$3.00; California, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$6.00; graham, per barrel, \$3.80; whole wheat flour, \$3.00; rye flour, \$3.80@4.00.
Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$14.00; shorts, per ton, \$16.00.
Feed—Chopped feed, \$20.00 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$20; oil cake meal, per ton, \$30.00.

Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef steers, 7½@8c; cows, 7c; mutton 8c; pork, 7½c; trimmed, 9c; veal, 8½@10c.
Hams—Large, 13c; small, 13½c; breakfast bacon, 12½c; dry salt sides, 8c.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 53@54½c; Valley, 53c; Bluestem, 57c per bushel.
Flour—Best grades, \$3.00; graham, \$2.50; superfine, \$2.10 per barrel.
Oats—Choice white, 35@36c; choice gray, 34c per bushel.
Barley—Feed barley, \$14@15.00; brewing, \$17.00@18.00 per ton.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$13 per ton; middlings, \$19; shorts, \$15; chop, \$14 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$10@11; clover, \$7@7.50; Oregon wild hay, \$6@7 per ton.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 50@55c; seconds, 42½@45c; dairy, 30@37½c; store, 25½@32½c.
Eggs—14½@16c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 13c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.00@4.00 per dozen; hens, \$4.50; springs, \$2.50@3.50; geese, \$7.00@8.00 for old; \$4.50@6.50; ducks, \$5.00@6.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 10@11c per pound.
Potatoes—55@90c per sack; sweets, 2@2½c per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, \$1; turnips, 90c; per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cabbage, 1½c per pound; parsnips, \$1; onions, \$1.50@2.00; carrots, \$1.
Hops—7@8c per pound.
Wool—Valley, 12@13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8@14c; mohair, 27@30c per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 4½c; dressed mutton, 7@7½c per pound; lambs, 7½c per pound.
Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$5.00; light and feeders, \$4.50; dressed, \$5.50@6.00 per 100 pounds.
Beef—Gross, top steers, \$4.00@4.50; cows, \$3.50@4.00; dressed beef, 6½@7½c per pound.
Veal—Large, 7@8c; small, 8½@9½c per pound.