

THE BOERS AT DRIEFONTEIN

British Came Upon Them Unexpectedly.

WERE LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES

The Dutch Troops Withdrew in the Night, Leaving the Imperial Forces in Possession—Boers' Stubborn Fight.

Driefontein, March 12.—Broadwood's cavalry brigade, advancing on Bloemfontein, unexpectedly found the Boers in a strong position in the Driefontein kopjes yesterday. General Kelly-Kenny's division arriving, severe fighting ensued. The Boers resisted stubbornly, but were driven from their center position, leaving a number of dead and 40 prisoners. The British force is moving forward today.

During the fighting, in which five regiments took part, with artillery, the Boers, though forced from their center position, clung tenaciously to the other kopjes, shelling the British freely with three guns and two Vickers Maxims. The British cavalry began to turn the Boer position, but night fell before the movement was completed. The Boers retired during the night.

A large number of Australians were engaged yesterday. The First Australian horse brigade, with the Scots Greys, advanced within 800 yards of the Boers under heavy fire. The New South Wales mounted infantry joined in the pursuit of the Boers northward.

Boers' Stubborn Rear Guard Action.

All of yesterday was occupied in fighting. The Boers maintained a stubborn rear guard action along a running front of 12 miles on very difficult ground. The British were advancing in the three columns. General Tucker, to the southward, occupied Petersburg, unopposed. General Kelly-Kenny, after following the river bank, moved in the direction of Abraham's Kraal.

At Driefontein, about eight miles south of Abraham's Kraal, the Boers were found posted in considerable strength on the ridges connecting several kopjes, where they had mounted guns. The action began at 8 in the morning, with an artillery duel. General Porter's brigade supported the British guns. The Boer artillery was accurately handled, and the British cavalry found a task harder than they had expected. General Broadwood moved six miles southward trying to find a means to get around, but the Boers followed, behind rising ground, and even attempted to outflank him.

Meanwhile, the Sixth division of infantry, advancing on the Boer left, slowly forced the enemy to retire. Had the infantry been able to move faster, the Boers would have been enveloped. The last shot was fired at 7:30 P. M. This morning not a Boer was seen. The prisoners belonged to President Kruger's own commando.

BOTH SIDES ARMED.

Fighting Forces Confront Each Other in Kentucky.

Frankfort, Ky., March 12.—The Democrats and Republicans are today, for the first time since the present political complications assumed acute form, divided into two armed and organized factions. Surrounding the capitol and the state executive building, and encamped in the grounds around Governor Taylor's home, are nearly 200 state militia, well provided with ammunition, while in the corridors of the capitol hotel, in which the Democratic state executive offices are located, and in the street adjacent to that building, are 60 special officers and the men and boys of a militia company that was organized in Frankfort today as the nucleus of Governor Beckham's state guard, besides scores more of heavily armed citizens, partisans of the Democratic claimant. It was stated today that an attempt was to be made by the state militia to take Governor Beckham into custody, and inside of an hour after the report was circulated, a petition had been circulated and signed by the requisite number of men necessary to form a militia company. The men will guard the capitol hotel today and night against any possible attempt to arrest Governor Beckham.

Convict-Made Binding Twine.

Kansas City, Mo., March 12.—Implement men say trouble is about to result because of the action of the board of control of the Kansas state penitentiary making binding twine. Kansas City makes about 7,000,000 pounds of twine a year, and the new factory at the state penitentiary is equipped to turn out about one-tenth of this amount. This is enough to disturb the market. While regular dealers are asking retail merchants to pay them 11½ cents per pound for their offerings, the Kansas penitentiary managers announce they will sell theirs direct to the farmer at 10 cents per pound, 1½ cents less than the retail dealers can buy it for.

Refused to Order General Strike.

Chicago, March 12.—The Building Trades Council at its meeting today refused to order a general sympathetic strike, at the request of the officers of the machinists' union.

THEATER FRANCAIS BURNS.

Destruction of a Famous Paris Playhouse.

Paris, March 12.—The famous Theater Francais has been destroyed by fire. The fire broke out about noon, but was not discovered immediately, and the theater was burning furiously before the fire brigade got to work. Even then the appliances were quite inadequate to cope with the conflagration, and by 1:30 P. M. the entire building was a roaring furnace. The dense column of smoke arising from the fire attracted crowds from all parts of Paris, the Theater Francais being regarded as a national institution. The theater, which is the home of the Comedie Francais, was only reopened a fortnight ago, after having been renovated for the exposition throughs expected to visit Paris during the year.

A rehearsal of a comedy which was billed for the matinee had just concluded when the fire broke out. Indeed, two actresses, Madame Dudley and Mademoiselle Henryot, were still on the stage when an electric wire fused, and a spark catching the scenery, the whole stage was soon in flames. Madame Dudley had to be rescued in costume and let down from a window. M. Sardou, the playwright, arrived on the scene about 1 o'clock, and burst into tears when he saw the building was doomed. A part of the dome collapsed at 2:30 P. M.

The Theater Francais, or Comedie Francais, was situated on the Place du Theater-Francais, near the Palais Royal, and occupied the highest rank among the theaters of France.

The magnificent ceiling, bearing the allegorical painting by Mazerolle, the ceiling painting by De Beuff, the younger, of "Truth Enlightening the World," which adorned the foyer, and a number of other mural tableaux and works of art, together with a portion of the invaluable library of manuscript, perished in the flames. Practically all the sculpture, however, was saved and removed to the ministry of finance, which faces the site of the theater on the Rue de Rivoli. The priceless statue of Voltaire, by Houdon, one of the chief beauties of the foyer, escaped by being enveloped in a pile of mattresses.

WILL FIGHT TO THE END.

Secretary Reitz Says the Burghers Are Not Discouraged.

Pretoria, March 12.—Secretary of State Reitz has issued war bulletins, in which, after saying the government has no official tidings of the surrender of General Cronje, he must accept it as a fact, however painful, he adds:

"The government remains assured that the surrender will not discourage the burghers in the defense of their independence and standing as a nation. The struggle thus far has shown that the republics have vindicated themselves as an independent people. This reverse will not stagger us. In the struggle for our cherished rights, our belief remains that, whatever happens, the Lord still reigns. Owing to the invasion of the Free State by a large number of the enemy, and other circumstances, it became necessary to take up other positions, hence the burghers in Natal have retired to Biggersburg. All the commandos have reached there in safety, except a few who retired in the direction Van Reenen's Pass. Thus Ladysmith and Kimberley are no more besieged. In retiring, the enemy was time after time driven back, so that our laagers were not cut off. In these fights a few men were killed or wounded, and the enemy lost heavily.

"In spite of all reports, the spirit of the fighting men as to the outcome remains unchanged. Among the commandos in Natal the burghers are full of courage. General Dewet now commands all the commandos at the Modder river. The president started yesterday evening for Bloemfontein, to visit the laagers of the Free State."

Disbursing Clerk Arrested.

Washington, March 12.—Chief Wilkie, of the treasury secret service, was notified today of the arrest in Philadelphia, of Edward E. Grimmell, formerly a civilian clerk in the disbursing office of the medical department under Major D. H. Hall, in San Francisco. Chief Wilkie states that on December 23 Grimmell decamped with a clerk book containing 400 checks of the regulation engraved kind used by the disbursing clerks, directed to the assistant treasurers of the United States. He came east and south and in January drew checks made payable to him to an amount approximating \$10,000.

Fuse Factory Blew Up.

Pompton, N. J., March 12.—The Smith fuse manufactory, at this place, blew up today and four persons were killed and a number more or less injured. The victims were at work in the factory with about 30 other men and girls. The bodies of the four persons killed were badly mangled, and some of them blown to pieces.

Desperado Killed.

Denver, March 12.—A special to the Republican from Albuquerque, N. M., says: Samuel Sandoval, a young desperado, was killed and several citizens wounded at the battle at Atarique, which followed an attempt to arrest Sandoval and Juan Mestas, who had been shooting up the town. Mestas was captured.

FARMING FOR ALASKA

Grains, Flax, Clover and Vegetables Thrive Surprisingly—Also Goats, Sheep and Cattle.

One of the important reports which has just been submitted to congress by the secretary of agriculture and ordered to be printed deals with the agricultural investigations in Alaska. It is important because it brings out some facts in regard to the agricultural capabilities of our vast Northern territory, which will astonish those who have regarded it as a useless ice box, which at most, was valuable only for the gold it might contain or for the fur and fish it yields.

These investigations, as far as they have gone, indicate that it has latent capabilities which, when developed, may sustain a large population and make it a prosperous state. And why not? The little country of Finland, which lies between Sweden and Russia in the same latitude and is less than one-fourth the size of Alaska, has a population of 2,500,000 and exports both grain and livestock, as well as vast quantities of dairy products. The author of the report, Professor C. C. Georgeson, who has charge of the investigations, brought to Washington 11 varieties of spring wheat, a dozen varieties each of barley and oats, and also rye, buckwheat and flax, all of which had matured at the experiment stations at Sitka and Kenai, in the Kenai peninsula. The report states that red clover lived through the winter at Sitka, made a luxuriant growth and matured seed, and that vetches and other forage plants did equally as well. All of the common hardy vegetables were grown to perfection, some cauliflower at Kenai measuring 14 inches across the head.

A statement by the superintendent of the Alaska Commercial Company in regard to his company's experience with livestock at Kadiak is of more than passing interest, because it reveals possibilities in the stock industry which are bound to be of much importance in the future development of the country. The company has for many years kept cattle, sheep and Angora goats on some of the small islands near the town of Kadiak. On one of these islands it was not found necessary to feed or shelter the cattle at all, winter or summer. Year in and year out they lived in the open and were maintained solely by the native grasses, which are abundant in all of Southwestern Alaska. The herd increased yearly about 75 per cent of the breeding cows. A flock of Angora goats increased 60 per cent annually and gave very good results in mohair. A flock of sheep has been kept for the past 16 years on pasture, the year around. The increase was something over 60 per cent, and the clip averaged about five pounds of wool per head yearly. There seems to be no doubt that animal husbandry can be successfully prosecuted in different parts of Alaska.

Land for agricultural experiment stations has been reserved at three places in the coast region; namely, at Sitka, Kadiak and Cook Inlet, and development work was begun the past season at Sitka and Kenai. A headquarters building was erected and partially completed at Sitka. It is to contain offices, laboratory, library and quarters for the person in charge. Most of the scientific work will be done at Sitka.

The stations are equipped with work oxen and all the tools necessary for pioneer farming. The report enumerates also the lines of experimentation which are of chief interest to that country. They include those which relate to the improvement of the soil, the selection and improvement of small grains, experiments with vegetables, the introduction of fruits and experiments relating to the various branches of livestock industry.

Northwest Notes.

An opera house to cost \$12,500 and to have a seating capacity of 1,000, is to be erected at Albany, Or., this year.

Mrs. Jane Kees, who died near Lebanon, Or., left an estate valued at about \$120,000, mostly in money. She left no children, and the money goes to her brothers and sisters.

The hoisting engine at the government works at Bandon, Or., was crushed to smithereens. A big blast was set off, and a rock weighing 25 tons fell on the engine, fairly pulverizing it.

Fairhaven, Wash., claims to have not only the largest salmon cannery in the world, but also the largest shingle mill, and the daily capacity of the latter is now being increased from 500,000 to 700,000.

A. C. Pettys, ex county assessor of Morrow county, Or., who has a fine farm and orchard three miles east of lone, is of the opinion that the late frost injured the peach crop. His trees were nearly in bloom when the frost came. He also states that the codlin moth was doing a great deal of injury to his orchard.

Pendleton, Or., will have a Chinese voter at the June election by the name of Eng Chung, who was born in San Francisco. He is well educated and reads and writes the English language as well as the average American, and to hear him talk without seeing him it would be impossible to say that he was not an American.

MINES AND MINING.

Rich Claims in the Klondike Country—Aestheticism in Mining Camps.

Some one said that man first works for bread, then for butter on his bread, and will exhaust himself to get sugar on the butter. There is a great deal of truth in the remark; at least as far as miners are concerned. They want the best when they have the price. They are not so exacting so far as flowers and perfumes go. They are not aesthetic in their tastes and inclinations, but they want good clothing, good board, good magazines and books and good, comfortable homes or lodgings. They can rough it when necessary, take their bacon and beans as their every day diet, sleep where night overtakes them and never whimper, growl or grumble at their fare. They are miners and take life as they find it, not as they would wish it to be. Of course, they enjoy their bread, but will take butter on it if they can get it, and will have the sugar if it doesn't cost too much.

But a miner's life, and his custom and habits do not lead him in the direction of aestheticism. He is a gentleman, but not a dude. He may be little rough in his ways and blunt in his language, at times, well-meaning and kind-hearted and disposed to do the right thing under all circumstances. He may appear stern and unyielding, but it should be borne in mind that the miner is forced to meet and overcome stern and apparently unyielding conditions in his daily avocations. These conditions often find expression in his demeanor.

Not Good for Poor Men.

Fred Smedeman, an old time Seattle man, who has spent the past 18 months in Atlin, B. C., and one of the pioneers who blazed the trail into that section, returned to Seattle a couple of days ago, en route to St. Paul. Mr. Smedeman will return to Seattle in a few weeks and go from here to the new gold fields in the Cape Nome district in April. In Atlin he has several mining properties, but speaks in very conservative terms of the district. He says: "It is not a 'poor man's camp' in any sense of the word, but will take money to develop the country. Money will be made, generally speaking, only by large concerns who have secured and are securing strings of claims to be worked on a large scale with hydraulic plants."

Rich Mines in Southern Oregon.

The Kubli Bros., of Jacksonville, Or., who own the Golden Standard mine, situated on Gall's creek, near Gold Hill, have arranged to start work on their property the present week with a force of 12 men. For the present they will use the old and thrifty two-stamp mill, which has reduced so much rich ore for them in the past, but they have decided to replace it, and have secured a 10-stamp mill, with 500-pound stamps, which they will change to 800-pound stamps, and have in running order in the near future. Extensive development work has also been planned, and when it shall be carried out this mine is expected to enter the list of large producers in Southern Oregon.

Rich Klondike Claims.

Sections of Gold Run Gulch in the Klondike are yielding \$1,000 per lineal foot of the claim. One claim in the twenties, for which the owners asked \$600,000 some time ago, but did not sell, is yielding an exceptionally fine return. Not being able to sell it, the owners set to work with seven men and without thawers have shown up \$75,000 and not over 100 feet of the 500-foot claim has been touched. A section of 45 feet of the claim yielded \$7,000, \$1,000 and over per lineal foot, and the owners claim that they will receive more than \$300,000 from the ground included in the claim area.

Rains Benefit Mines.

The late heavy rains and the freshets following them in some of the sections of Southern Oregon and Northern California, especially along the Klamath river, have cleared away large bodies of tailings and rock piles and other debris that have accumulated in the past few months. This has been most beneficial to the miners along the whole length of the river. The mines along the Klamath river which have produced big in the past are receiving special attention now.

Rich Strike in Josephine County.

L. Brown, who at one time owned the Greenback mine, in Josephine county, has struck a very rich ledge near Leland, for which he has been made a very large offer, but declines to dispose of the property. The rock is rich in gold, and the farther he goes into the earth the richer the ledge, which is two feet wide.

A good preparation for the toilet is made by grating two teaspoonsful of white Castile soap, three or four of orris root, powdered, and a handful of oatmeal. Let all soak together in a cupful of warm water for a couple of hours; then add a few teaspoonsful of this preparation to the water in which you bathe. It is cheap, and good for the skin.

Silver spoons and forks may be kept bright when used daily by soaking them in strong borax water for a few hours. The water should be at a boiling heat when the silver is put in it.

BRADSTREET'S REPORT.

General Trade Distribution Has Shown Tendency to Expand.

Bradstreet's says: Relieved from the hampering effects of stormy weather, general trade distribution has shown a tendency to expand this week, prices of many staples are firmer and higher, and generally there is a better tone than noted for some weeks. Easily holding first rank in the matter of speculative activity, cotton early in the week touched the highest level, not only for the present season, but for at least six years past.

Wool is rather weaker, following the drop in prices at the London sale, and the rather slower demand from American manufacturers.

By a number of the short swings which have distinguished wheat prices for a long time past, quotations have been advanced this week to the level touched some time ago.

Boot and shoe manufacturers are actively employed, and leather is firm, but hides are weaker or lower at most markets.

Building materials are firm, except at cities where labor troubles are apprehended.

The industrial situation is rather irregular, owing partly to the combined strike and lock-out of 50,000 building hands, building material workers and machinists at Chicago, and partly to isolated strikes of small numbers of men throughout the country.

Wheat, including flour, shipments for the week aggregate 4,208,758 bushels, against 3,863,387 bushels last week, 4,398,821 bushels the corresponding week of 1899, and 4,844,761 bushels in 1898.

Business failures in the United States for the week number 189, against 173 last week, 177 in this week a year ago, 247 in 1898, 227 in 1897 and 282 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.
Prunes, 60c per box.
Butter—Creamery, 31c per pound; dairy, 17@22c; ranch, 20c per pound.
Eggs—15½@16c.
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, \$20;
Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.25; blended straight, \$3.00; California, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$6.00; graham, per barrel, \$3.00; whole wheat flour, \$3.00; rye flour, \$3.80@4.00.
Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$13.00; shorts, per ton, \$15.00.
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, 13½; breakfast bacon, 12½c; dry salt sides, 8c.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 51@52c; Valley, 52c; Bluestem, 54c 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@17.50 per ton.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$13 per ton; middlings, \$19; shorts, \$15; chop, \$14 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$9@10; 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—11c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 13c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.50@4.50 per dozen; hens, \$5.00; springs, \$2.50@3.50; geese, \$6.50@7.50 for old; \$4.50@6.50; ducks, \$5.00@5.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 10@11c per pound.
Potatoes—50@65c 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@2.25; carrots, \$1.
Hops—3@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, \$6.00@6.50 per 100 pounds.
Beef—Gross, top steers, \$4.00@4.50; cows, \$3.50@4.00; dressed beef, 6½@7½c per pound.
Veal—Large, 6½@7½c; small, 8@9c per pound.
Tallow—5@5½c; No. 2 and grease, 3½@4c per pound.