

ACT AT LAST

Lord Roberts' Army Invades the Orange Free State

A BLOODY BATTLE IS IMMINENT.

General Kitchener is Organizing the Transport Service and Forwarding Needed Troops.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—(Thursday, 4:20 a. m.)—The British army, for the first time since the war began, is inside the Boer frontier. Lord Roberts, with at least 40,000 infantry, 7,000 cavalry and 150 guns, has turned the Magerfontein lines, before which the British forces have been encamped for ten weeks, and with half of his corps he is already operating on Free State territory.

A battle has not yet been fought, but large tactical advantages have been gained. The relief of Kimberley is within measurable reach, and the way to Bloemfontein is appreciably easier. The dispatches of Lord Roberts sketch Lord Roberts' three days' work. The forward movement began Monday, when Colonel Hannay set out with a brigade of mounted infantry from Ramah, on the Riet, eight miles from Jacobsdal, the Boers' supply basis. On Monday, General French, with a cavalry division, seized the crossing of the Riet river at Dekils Drift, south of Jacobsdal, and eighteen miles east of Henry Nestkloof. He skirmished with the Boers and cleared the way for 20,000 infantry, who followed across on Tuesday, with his three cavalry brigades, and the horse artillery.

General French rode to Modder river, a distance of twenty-five miles, and took three fords with the high ground beyond the river, and five Boer camps. He had a few casualties in the brush with the Boer horse. General French has now fixed himself in General Cronje's main line of communication with Bloemfontein, and 20,000 infantry, with seventy-two guns, are being pushed up to support him there.

Lord Roberts' dispatches, wired from inside the Free State and on the Riet river, left him Wednesday morning. His advance has not been opposed by the Boers in force. Their patrols melted away as the British moved forward. The Boer army is likely to be felt in a day or two, and a battle is consequently imminent. As to what forces General Cronje has now at his disposal, and as to where he propose making a stand against the invaders, no one here, connected with the war office, knows anything.

The forces immediately at the disposal of Lord Roberts are placed at 50,000. Quite possibly Lord Roberts has 10,000 or 20,000 more. It is now realized that the incidents at Rensburg have been seen out of all proportion. Merely skeleton lines were maintained there while the troops were being secretly and rapidly concentrated on the Modder river, and beyond by rail, to Immes, shows that Lord Kitchener has been fully successful in organizing the transport. He is now supposed to be down the line sending forward more troops, and getting together more transports. About five miles of ox and mule wagon trains are estimated for each division, so that Lord Kitchener, who is reputed to have more skill than a circus manager in handling field transports, has immense labor in hand.

ROBERTS' REPORT.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—The war office has issued the following message from Lord Roberts, received this evening: "Dekils Drift, Feb. 14, 8:10 a. m.—General French left this point at 11:30 yesterday morning with three brigades of cavalry, horse artillery and mounted

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A TEST VOTE

Chandler's Bimetallic Resolution Was Badly Defeated

IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

The Finance Committee Offered an Amendment—Attacked by the Democratic Members.

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The Chandler proposition out of the way, the discussion proceeded on the amendment brought in by the finance committee, providing that the provisions of the bill are not intended to place any obstacles in the way of international bimetallicism. The democratic senators arraigned the republicans for reporting the amendment, declaring they were insincere, and that the proposition was intended to hoodwink the people and to catch votes. No vote on the amendment was reached. The final vote on the amendment and bill will be taken some time tomorrow.

The vote on Chandler's amendment was as follows: Yeas—Allen, Bate, Berry, Butler, Chandler, Chilton, Clay, Cockrell, Culberson, Harris, Heitfield, Jones (Ark.), Jones (Nev.), Kenny, McEnery, Martin, Money, Morgan, Pettus, Rawlins, Sullivan, Teller, Tillman, Turley, Turney—25.

Noes—Aldrich, Allison, Burrows, Caffery, Carter, Clark (Wyo.), Cullom, Davis, Deboe, Depew, Elkins, Fairbanks, Foraker, Foster, Frye, Gallinger, Hale, Hanna, Hansbrough, Hawley, Kean, Lindsay, Lodge, McBride, McComas, McComber, McMillan, Mason, Nelson, Penrose, Perkins, Platt (Conn.), Platt (N. Y.), Proctor, Ross, Charles, Sewell, Shoup, Simon, Spooner, Thurston, Vest, Warren, Wetmore, Wolcott—45.

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ANTI-TRUST CONFERENCE HAS A LIVELY TIME.

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Washington, Feb. 13.—The house committee on interstate and foreign commerce today decided by a vote of 8 to 5, to report a Pacific cable bill along the lines of the Sherman bill, defeating by 5 to 8 the Corliss proposition for a government ownership.

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Omaha, Neb., Feb. 13.—It is rumored at Union Pacific headquarters that the Union Pacific will not, after all, abandon its agencies in Portland and other coast points in the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company's territory. All ticket agents have been dispensed with, but agents of the freight department have not been relieved, and the general opinion at headquarters is that they will not be, through those high in authority are non-committal. The fact that changes have been made in Butte in both departments, and at other points in the passenger department, lends color to this story.

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Just arrived at the

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Laces, Embroidery, Ribbon, Table Linen, Crash and a Full Supply of all Kinds of Notions and Hosiery.

New line of ladies' ties. They're beauties, two yards long. See our new line of gents' summer shirts. Neatest styles you can find. Don't buy lace curtains 'till you see our line. We save you money on everything you buy. Sale's "one price cash store."

E. T. BARNES, Prop.

CORNER COMMERCIAL AND CHEMEKETA STREETS

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\$2.48

Bring the boys' to us today we will dress them up in \$6.00, \$5.00, \$4.00 or \$3.00 suits for \$2.48.

Special Today Only

Never mind the snow it will be all right next summer.

Come Today and Come Early. This is a Rare Opportunity.

The Snow Can't Stop Us, Neither Can We Stop the Snow, But WE CAN KEEP YOU WARM

20c Fascinators
All colors in wool fascinators special to close 20c.

40c Fascinators
50c and 60c qualities in all colors special to close 40c.

22c Wool Hose
A hose that sells for 35c in most stores. Special 22c.

12c Wool Mittens
Ladies' fine wool mittens 12c and up we guarantee the quality.

50c Silk Lined Mittens
We think this the best value ever shown in Salem.

75c Kid Mittens Lined
Here is a mitt that will stand the racket they are dressy and tough wearers.

95c Boas Worth \$1.50
A special line of feather boas formerly sold for \$1.50, special 95c to close.

Butterick's Patterns and Fashion Plates for March Now In.

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