

ACROSS

Into Boer Territory Pass the British at Last.

BATTLE NOT YET JOINED

But an Important Tactical Advantage Claimed.

RENSBURG DOESN'T COUNT

Twenty Thousand Infantry Across the Belt Into the Free State Without Opposition, So Far

London, Feb. 15 (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 line, before which the British forces have been encamped for ten weeks, and with half his corps he is already operating in Free State territory.

The dispatches of Lord Roberts sketch three days' work. The forward movement began on Sunday, when Colonel Hamman set out with a brigade of mounted infantry for Ramah, on the Riet, eight miles from Jacobsdal, one of the Boer supply bases. On Monday General French, with the cavalry division, seized the crossing of the Riet river, at DeKliff's Drift, south of Jacobsdal, and eighteen miles east of Homestead Kloof. 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 the Modder river, a distance of fifteen miles, and took three fords, with high ground beyond the river and five Boer camps. He had a few casualties in brushes with the Boer horse.

General French has now fixed himself on 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 had 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 proposes making a stand against the invaders, no one here connected with the war office knows anything. The data for conjectures are wholly wanting.

The forces immediately at the disposal of Lord Roberts are placed at 50,000. In a general way, these figures are revealed by the commands mentioned in the dispatches as having been added to the divisions known to be with Lord Methuen, quite possibly, Lord Roberts has 10,000 or 20,000 more.

It is now reported that the incidents at Rensburg have been seen out of all proportion. More skeleton lines were maintained there, while troops were being severely and rapidly concentrated on the Modder river. The facility with which 20,000 men have already been sent beyond the rail terminus shows that Lord Roberts' march has been successful in organizing the transport of his army and in breaking down the line, sending forward more troops and getting together more transport. About five miles of ox and mule wagon trains are estimated for each division, so that Lord Kitchener, who is reported to have more skill than a circus manager in handling field transport, has immense labor in hand.

The London morning papers take rather sober views of the situation, but are greatly pleased and hopeful of what is to come. They have been fed, however, on such a low diet of British successes that they are disposed to caution, and given to measuring developments with considerable reserve. They fully realize that serious fighting is yet to come.

Lord Roberts' march makes the main operations in other parts of the field shrink.

London, Feb. 14 (6:20 p. m.).—It is officially announced that the British cavalry division under General French, on Monday, February 12, seized the crossing of the Riet river, at DeKliff's Drift, on the east bank of which the British and Boer divisions are now camped.

London, Feb. 14 (6:28 p. m.).—The following dispatch has been received at the war office from General Roberts: "Riet River, Tuesday, Feb. 13.—Colonel Hannay, in command of a brigade of mounted infantry, marching from the Riet river to Ramah, had a slight engagement Monday 11 (Sunday) with the Boers holding the hills and threatening his right flank. With a detachment of his force, Colonel Hannay detained the enemy while he pushed his baggage and main body through to Ramah. The object of the march was successfully carried out. Four men were killed, 22 were wounded and 15 are missing."

STORMY

Scenes Among the Anti-Trusters at Chicago.

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Practically Organizing a New Political Party.

NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET

WILKINSON PANTS AT BOSS

Chicago, Feb. 14.—Stormy scenes characterized the sessions of the national Anti-Trust conference proceeding the final adjournment tonight. The climax came when Delegate Joseph Parker, a middle-of-the-road populist, surprised the conference with a resolution pledging the delegates to vote for no party that does not stand for government ownership and the principle of direct legislation. The democratic leaders interpreted this as an attack on W. J. Bryan and were on their feet in an instant to block the movement. A score of delegates the floor, and all tried to talk at the same time. "You must not stifle free speech here," was shouted. "Everybody must be heard," was the warning that came from a delegate in the gallery. Chairman Monnett was in doubt as to what to do. Disorder reigned for ten minutes, and then Chairman Monnett used the gavel and temporarily adjourned the conference.

Another whirl of excitement took place after the reading of the report of the committee on resolutions, when Delegate Quinn of Illinois offered an amendment to the declaration of principles, calling for the repeal of all laws sustaining the right of citizens to private property, with a view to giving every citizen a free home. A long wrangle ensued over the disposition of the amendment. Captain W. P. Black, Tom L. Johnson and others appealed to Quinn to withdraw the amendment, but he refused. After much discussion, during which Quinn was denounced as a disturber by delegates on the stage, Chairman Monnett put the motion to adopt the report. He was in doubt, and two ballots were taken. Finally, he declared the report of the committee adopted, and the ruling caused a thunder of disapproval.

Delegate Quinn during the uproar appealed from the decision of the chair, and his motion was seconded. The vote was put and Chairman Monnett was sustained by a large majority. A strong attempt was made at the conference today to offset the partisan effect of the resolutions adopted yesterday denouncing the pending currency bill. Frank C. Monnett, permanent chairman of the conference, made a speech in which he declared the movement for public ownership of public utilities was being carried on by the republican party as well as by the democratic party. "In the republican north-west," said he, "sixty-five per cent of the public utilities are owned by the public, whereas in the many southern democratic states less than 5 per cent are owned by the public. The republican party, therefore, I would remind the convention that Ohio, which is the state of the president, is also the state of the author of the Sherman anti-trust law. If we have an Attorney General Griggs we had also an Attorney General Olney."

The conference was enlivened also by an attack by Prof. Bont on "unethical" members whose endorsements come from trustees. The professors in these institutions, said the ex-professor of political economy at Chicago university, do their best, but cannot overcome this handicap. As a remedy he advocated the establishment, through the state legislature, of chairs in state universities, devoted to the study of the trust question. A number of set speeches were heard at the morning and afternoon sessions, and the night session, which wound up the three days' conference, heard as many of the remaining speeches as could be read in the time that was left.

An address to the American people on the trust question formulated by the committee on resolutions has followed. Jerry Simpson, he said, and he did not propose to take back a word he had uttered. Any one could see the hand of the politician in the house list. His statement was greeted with mingled boos and cheers.

After five minutes of disorder, Mr. Parker was permitted to proceed. He denounced the position of length, concluding: "Let us not let the units for the old ball-box-stuffing parties go to the devil."

Judge William Prentiss followed. He deprecated partisan feeling. "We are here," he said, "for but one purpose—that is to fight trusts."

General Weaver scored Parker and his resolution as "an evident attempt to bind the delegates to support the middle-of-the-road platform."

Judge Cannon of Chicago followed, on the same line. Mr. Parker appeared to be rapidly losing the affection of the delegates. A delegate moved to have a vote of thanks for his attempt to enlighten the conference.

Mayor Jones of Toledo followed. He hoped every delegate would be true to his own best principles. The resolutions already adopted were the best that could be framed. He favored this convention because it was educational. "In the word 'education' he said, 'is our only hope.'"

At the close of Mayor Jones' remarks the report of the committee on national organization was unanimously adopted. M. L. Lockwood of Pennsylvania, was unanimously elected president of the national organization. Franklin H. Wentworth of Chicago was chosen secretary. C. T. Brice of Washington, D. C., was elected treasurer, and W. B. Fleming of Kentucky financial secretary.

OUTRAGE

Put Upon America by the Censor at Durban.

READ MACRUM'S LETTERS

This Brought Him Home—His Grievance Stated.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—The following signed statement was given out today by Charles E. Macrum, former United States consul at Pretoria:

"The situation in Pretoria was such that, first, as an official, I could not remain there while my government at home was apparently in the dark as to the exact conditions in South Africa. Secondly, as a man and a citizen of the United States, I could not remain in Pretoria, sacrificing my own self-respect and that of the people of Pretoria, while the government at home continued to leave me in the position of a British consul and not an American consul. I want to say right here that there was not one single request made of me through the department of state looking to the care of British interests in South Africa which I did not fulfill and report upon according to my orders. On the other hand, American interests in South Africa, in that condition which demanded that the department of state should be cognizant of them."

"I issued the statement received from the state department, that Americans should remain neutral. In the face of this, Americans were continually going to the front and taking up arms in the cause of the Boers. I could not help but know that many of these were citizens of the United States. I also knew that many of them, in utter despair at the apparent attitude of our own government, were taking the oath of allegiance to the Transvaal Republic. When affairs had reached that state that my view ceased, Mr. Van Ameringen, closed up his business, took the oath of allegiance to the republic and went to the front as a burgher. I thought the time had come when I should make a report of these conditions. It was over four weeks from the time the war opened before I received a single mail dispatch from my government, or a personal letter. The mail for the Transvaal had all been stopped at Cape Town by order of the high commissioner. When this mail was finally forwarded to me, after Colonel Stowe, the consul general at Cape Town, had secured its release, I had the humiliation, as the representative of the American government, of sitting in my office in Pretoria and looking upon envelopes bearing the official seal of the American government, opened and officially sealed with a stick, notifying me that the contents had been read by the censor at Durban. I looked up international law but failed to find anywhere that one military power can use its own discretion as to forwarding the official dispatches of a neutral government to its representative in a beleaguered country."

"The mail service from Delagoa Bay to Europe was continually interrupted by the action of British men-of-war at that port. The service was over two weeks longer than by the west coast, and there were continual rumors that the port would be closed, and communication with the outside world entirely cut off. The cable service for the Transvaal was absolutely cut off. I was privately informed by the Belgian and German consuls at Pretoria that their official cables in code to their governments had been refused by the censor. I filed one cable in the interest of an American in Pretoria which was refused absolutely by the censor. This cable I sent to the fiancée of a Mr. Nelson, an American business man in Pretoria. She was on her way to South Africa from Buffalo, N. Y., when the war broke out. According to a letter which Mr. Nelson received just before the war commenced, she was buying her trousseau in Europe. The cable requested her to come by the east coast. When I informed Mr. Nelson that the cable had not been sent, his brother took the oath of allegiance to the republic and went to the front."

"But these are simply minor details. The misrepresentations which had been going on before the war and after it opened were of such a detailed nature, and would require such a serial explanation that, on the 8th of December, I filed a cable to the department in code stating that I wished leave of absence in order to visit the states. I set forth in this cable that my vice consul had enlisted in the Boer army; that a Mr. Atterbury, an American whom I had known very favorably for more than a year, could take charge of the office until my return. In reply to this dispatch, which was forwarded without delay, I received from the department a reply advising me that my presence at Pretoria was important to public interests. On the 8th I telegraphed again, acknowledging the receipt of the cable and advising the department that the situation was not critical and that Mr. Atterbury was competent to take my place in America, was important. No reply was received, and I wired again on the 11th, stating that no reply had been received, and again urged a favorable reply. No reply was received to this. On the 14th of November I again wired the department, stating that I would leave my post if the reasons which I set forth in my dispatch did not prove satisfactory. This cable was delayed by the censor until the 14 of December, when I had advised that it had just been forwarded."

"On the 15th of November I again filed a cable, stating that three of my cables had been unanswered and stating that a substitute would answer as needed during my absence, and requesting a reply. To this I received a reply immediately which was a restoration of the reply to my first cable. Upon receipt of this reply, which was on the 8th of November, I immediately wrote to the department, accepting the refusal to grant my leave, and stating in that letter that I would abide by the decision of the department and attempt to convey an intelligent idea for the department's guidance of the conditions, in mail dispatches. On the 4th of December I received a reply to my cablegram of the 15th, which I had been

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GOVERNORS BRING SUITS

One Against the Other, for Possession of the Office—Democrats From Louisville to See Taylor.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Feb. 14.—In the circuit court of the United States, Judge W. N. Taft this afternoon decided the motion for a preliminary injunction in both of the cases from Kentucky. In addition to the attorneys in the case, most of the members of the bar of Cincinnati, Covington and Newport were present and the court room was unable to hold all others wanting admission. Judge Taft completed the delivery of his opinion at 2:30 p. m., and occupied less than half an hour in delivering almost 4,000 words. While the court held that no injunction would issue under these bills, yet it also held that after the cases had been heard in the state courts, they could get in an error for review in the United States supreme court.

After the decision was announced, former Governor Bradley and his associate counsel announced that they were unable to state what would be the next step in the case. The Republican state officers of Kentucky, Counsel for the plaintiffs had a long consultation in the law library after the announcement of the decision. Governor Bradley and his associate counsel, after their consultation, said they had no doubt either of the ultimate possibility of a hearing of these cases in the United States court as indicated by Judge Taft, or of the final result, but at present counsel could not say what would be the next procedure.

In announcing his decision Judge Taft said: "I should have been able to decide this question at the close of the argument; but the importance of the interests involved and the outrageous character of the electoral frauds under the forms of law which the bill charged that the state contest board is about to consummate, have led me to give the question presented a fuller and more careful investigation. This has only confirmed my first impression and requires me to make an order denying the motion for a preliminary injunction in both cases."

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