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FOREIGN NEWS

SAN FRANCISCO, May 31.—Johannesburg has been taken by the British and the mines are safe. Pretoria is now surrounded and it is conceded that the Boers will lay down their arms within eight days.

The formal annexation of the Orange Free State to Great Britain has been consummated and it is now a part of the Empire. There is great rejoicing throughout England.

Washington, May 28.—The Supreme Court of the United States today decided Admiral Dewey's bounty claim against the Admiral's contention. The effect is to deprive the Admiral and the men engaged with him at Manila of half the amount claimed by them. Chief Justice Fuller delivered a dissenting opinion, and Justice White and McKenna also dissented.

The original claim of Admiral Dewey and his sailors was about \$400,000. The Court of claims reduced it to \$200,000. That decision is sustained by today's decision. The Admiral's personal claim is reduced from about \$20,000 to about \$10,000.

London, May 29.—A special dispatch from Shanghai says it is believed Russia is about to land troops at Taku from Port Arthur, where 20,000 are in readiness. The Chinese are reported to be sending large masses of troops overland from Hu-Nan and Kiang, but the generalissimo refuses to assume command on the plea of sickness.

The "Boxers" assert that they are confident of receiving support from the Do-vager Empress, Princess Kiang and Chang Tuan and the entire Manchurian army. Throughout the north the "Boxers" recruiting hordes of desperadoes. They are intent upon expelling every foreigner.

London, May 29, 2 p. m.—The tenor of Lord Roberts' despatch of last night and the news from Pretoria this morning lead the authorities here to expect further important news from the British commander in chief, dated, they hope, from Johannesburg.

The remarkable rapidity of Lord Roberts' movements and the unwonted mobility of the whole British army under him have upset the calculations of the house observers as much as they appear to have disconcerted and demoralized Lord Roberts' Federal opponents. Possibly even now he is at the gates of Johannesburg and it is believed, ten days hence or less, he ought to be demanding admittance to the Transvaal capital itself. If the Federal ever really intended to "stagger humanity" by blowing up the gold reef city and the mines, which is doubtful, Lord Roberts may yet be too quick for them and arrive before they have time to do any wrecking.

The majority of the burghers will undoubtedly be glad of an excuse for saving the mines and they may find the excuse in Lord Roberts' skill in hustling them out of one position after another.

The effectiveness of the British invasion of the Transvaal is further emphasized by the news from Pretoria of the occupation of Zeerust and the advance on Lichtenburg. Apparently the British dragnet will be drawn through the Transvaal as it was in a similar manner hauled through the Free State.

The fighting at the Klip river Sunday, reported from Pretoria, was presumably done by Generals French and Hamilton in forcing their way round to the northward of Johannesburg.

The Orange free state was annexed to the British Empire May 28, according to Cape Town advice, but Lord Roberts seems to have given his army the first intimation of this on the previous day.

Newcastle, Natal, May 28.—The British guns at Ingogo have been heavily bombarding the Boer positions since daylight. The Boer guns have replied intermittently.

Cape Town, Monday, May 28.—Lord Roberts yesterday announced to his troops the annexation of the Free State which hereafter will be called the Orange River State.

Cape Town, May 28.—The Orange Free State was formally annexed today.

Cape Town, Monday, May 28.—It is rumored here that General French has cut Boer communications between Heidelberg and Boksburg within a few miles of Johannesburg.

Klip River, Transvaal, Monday, May 28.—The Boers after preparing a good position, fled early. The train bearing their last detachment was nearly captured by Pilkington's West Australians. Prisoners taken state that there was no intention of blowing up the mines, declaring that the threat was made simply with the intention of frightening away the burghers.

The British advance force is now within fifteen miles of Johannesburg.

Pretoria, May 28.—The British occupied Zeerust this morning and a large force is marching on to Lichtenburg.

An official bulletin states that the British crossed the Vaal river Saturday. General Lemmer had a severe fight at Klip river. Five of the burghers were wounded and two were captured. The British were 5,000 strong.

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TELEGRAPHIC ITEMS

Small fights are of daily occurrence on Luzon.

The King of the Belgians has arrived in London.

Five thousand street car men at Berlin are out on a strike.

Bids accepted for first 600 miles Pacific cable, price \$600,000.

Foreign troops are going to Peking to protect the legations.

Automobiles are making their way in Central Africa as freight carriers.

The Paris police are making no progress in the search for "Gyp's" abductors.

"Lucky" Baldwin has sailed for Alaska with an outfit for a gambling establishment.

American Consul Store, at Cape Town, urges Americans to join British Army.

Atlin claims deposits of gold worth \$18,000,000 in the branches of Spence bank.

Andrew D. White, Ambassador to Germany, is spoken of for McKinley's pending mate.

An excellent land-locked harbor has been found in Eastern Luzon, which is not down on Spanish charts.

A wreck on the Oakland ferry local killed the engineer and firemen, and injured a number of passengers.

The San Francisco census may increase the number of California's representatives in Congress by one or two.

A heroic feat of General Grant, a gift of the Grand Army to the Nation, has been erected at Washington.

According to the Shanghai papers, the best, all the vessels of the Peking squadron of the sadly depleted Chinese navy which were then in the neighboring waters were under orders to proceed north on the 25th inst.

It is reported that at a place called Sim-ao, in Ningpo district, Okelding, the natives have attacked a French mission and wounded the French missionary in charge. A report of the occurrence has been sent to the French Consul General at Shanghai who is moving in the matter.

A naval expert, talking to a correspondent of the Jinnia, takes a very confident view of his country's capability for defense. He thinks England is the only power to be feared at sea. The Japanese fleet is much stronger than anything that Russia could send against her, and even if Pesner had been in the fray, she dare not reduce her fleet in home waters sufficiently to be really formidable to Japan. He evidently has a great admiration for the methods pursued in the British navy, and is convinced that no other service is in such a condition of efficiency. He is also persuaded that the Japanese fleet could easily beat the seas of China and Japan if the occasion for such a measure arose.

A correspondent writes to the North China Daily News that rumors are flying over the Wenchow district of extensive of unrest and possibly a wide brewing. Placards have been stuck up in many places calling on the people to strike a blow for freedom and expel the foreigners, while in certain print shops have been raised as rallying points for the members of the Kelao Hui, described with the sentence, "Commanded by Heaven and obeying our leaders, let us destroy heretic and infidel." Sufficient evidence has been given to these reports to cause a large body of troops to be called in from the country and quartered in the city. Whether this unrest is due solely to news of the state of matters in Shantung, or whether it may have been fostered by proclamations in the city offering rewards for the capture of the reformer Kang Yuwei, is hard to say.

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