

BOERS FLEEING

TRYING TO ESCAPE THE NET GEN. LORD ROBERTS HAS SPREAD.

War Correspondents Say They Are Hurrying Out of the Southern Part of the Free State.

SIEGE OF WEPENER RAISED

AND BURGHERS IN RETREAT ALONG THE BASUTOLAND BORDER.

Natives Marching Parallel with Them on the Frontier and Determined to Prevent Invasion.

TWO REPORTS FROM NATAL

CONFLICTING STATEMENTS AS TO WHEREABOUTS OF THE BOERS.

Message from Lady Sarah Wilson Saying the Mafeking Garrison is Hungry—Baden-Powell Alive.

LONDON, April 17, 4:15 a. m.—Lord Roberts has spread his net far and wide to catch the adventurous commandos that have been making mischief in the south-eastern part of the State. The net has not yet been drawn in; but, at the headquarters of Lord Roberts, the impression exists that the power of the Boers is decreasing. A Daily News correspondent has them fleeing to the southeast; a Standard correspondent has them fleeing northward; a Daily Telegraph correspondent says that some are going north and others south, while a Morning Post representative says it is not known what the Boers are doing.

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OUTCOME OF THE BIG STRIKE

THE DEED SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN COMMITTED BY AN ITALIAN.

Three Shots Fired from "Little Italy" at a Group of Sheriff's Deputies, but No One Injured.

ALL QUIET DURING THE DAY

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Trouble Predicted by the Italian Consul General—Status of the Southern Railway Operators' Strike.

CROTON LANDING, N. Y., April 16.—The first bloodshed as the outcome of the strike at the Cornell dam was the life of Sergeant Robert Douglas, of the Eleventh separate company, of Mount Vernon, who was shot dead by an unknown assassin while he was relieving guard at ten minutes to 9 o'clock to-night. The wildest excitement prevailed throughout the camp as soon as the news of the assassination spread to the different tents, and the soldiers were frantic over the crime. The point where the sergeant fell is known as Post 19, which was in charge of Corporal McDowell. It is situated on top of the hill near Little Italy, where armed strikers were seen drilling or marching about early this morning brandishing rifles and shotguns. The spot is high over the huge pile of masonry, and from it one can command a view of the country for miles on each side up and down the Croton valley.

Douglas was talking to Corporal McDowell and the other members of the guard when he suddenly clapped his hands to his stomach and said, "Boys, I'm shot!" and immediately fell to the ground. It was pitch dark at the time, but McDowell and the others fired a volley into a clump of bushes near by without hitting any one. No one saw the flash or heard the sound of the shot which killed Douglas, and it was a most mysterious affair. Meanwhile the men picked up the fallen sergeant and carried him down the hill on a stretcher, but as soon as they reached Douglas's tent the poor fellow died without saying a word. Lieutenant Glover, with a squad of men, went up to the hilltop, where they made a thorough search, but failed to find any person up there. Then the guards were called in and concentrated on the valley with the exception of those placed at the cable station, where the shooting took place.

SHOTS FIRED AT DEPUTIES. At about 10:30 o'clock to-night the deputy sheriffs who are guarding the cable house on the east side of the river saw three figures lurking near the place and the deputies disappeared quickly in the darkness. A few minutes later, while the deputies thought there was no person near them, three shots rang out from the direction of Little Italy, but the sheriff's men were not injured.

At about 9 o'clock this evening three Italians were found within the lines, and when searched by the soldiers each was found to have a loaded revolver on him. The soldiers extracted the cartridges from the revolvers and returned the weapons to the men, who were allowed to go away. When Sergeant Douglas was killed he had one of these same cartridges in his pocket, and as he was one of the men who unloaded the weapons it is thought the shot which killed him was fired by one of the three men who had been allowed to go free with their empty pistols scarcely an hour previously.

At present the Fourth and Eleventh separate militia companies are in camp in the Croton valley and a cavalry troop from New York is at Ardsley. Early this morning the strikers held a meeting and finding that an effort was going to be made to work on the dam, dispersed. From the New York newspapers they learned that troops were on the way. Before the hour for their arrival the Bowery was filled by Italians, who stood in groups and listened to the talk of the leaders. About 11 a. m. a telegram was received by one of the leaders from Consul Branchi, advising them to be quiet and informing them of the fact that the militia was on its way to the dam.

COUNTER DEMONSTRATION. It was after noon when the special train from Yonkers carrying the troops arrived here. Their arrival was noted by an Italian on a bicycle, who remained long enough about the station to count them and then started for the dam. About half a mile from the village he was met by another strike messenger on a wheel, who carried the news about a mile, where a third messenger rode with all haste to the Bowery. Before the deputy sheriffs about the works knew of the arrival of troops in Croton valley the strikers were aware of it. There was blowing of horns, and while the troops were resting at the station waiting for the word to move forty armed Italians carrying an American flag and two Italian flags crossed the Little Italy hill to the Bowery. They were cheered by the men in the Bowery and watched with interest by the deputy sheriffs.

When the troops had been rested and the wagons carrying the camp equipment had been loaded the march to the dam was begun. When they were approaching the Bowery three nervous militiamen accidentally discharged their rifles, but no one was hurt. As the troops swung into the narrow lane called the Bowery a strange sight met their eyes. About 200 men were on the broad sidewalks. Flags were hanging from the windows and crowds of people on the stoops. About twenty Italians with mandolins and guitars were seated on the walk playing a lively tune. To-day is Easter Monday, a holiday in Italy.

The militiamen pitched their camp inside the ground where construction work on the dam is temporarily suspended and patrol

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SHIPPERS PAY

BOTH FREIGHT CHARGES AND COST OF THE GOVERNMENT STAMP.

Two Decisions in the United States Supreme Court in Favor of the Express Companies.

OPINION BY JUSTICE WHITE

WHO REVERSED THE RULINGS OF THE LOWER COURTS.

Holding There Was Nothing in Revenue Act Prohibiting Express Companies Shifting Burden of Taxes.

HARLAN AND M'KENNA DISSENT

TAKING A DIRECTLY OPPOSITE VIEW OF THE QUESTION.

Texas Negro Filing Another Case for His Life—Kentucky Will Case—Victory for Mrs. Fleischmann.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The Supreme Court to-day decided the cases involving the tax stamp as it applies to express packages, the question involved being whether the shipper or the carrier shall pay the stamp charges on packages. The opinion was handed down by Justice White and was favorable to the express companies. There were two cases before the court involving the question at issue, but the opinion was based on the case of the American Express Company vs. Attorney General Maynard, of the State of Michigan. The cases came to the Supreme Court from the decision of the State Supreme Court of Michigan, which decision was adverse to the claims of the express companies. The opinion to-day reversed this opinion.

The original proceedings in this case consisted of a prayer for a mandamus commanding the company to receive packages for transportation by express and to issue a receipt with stamp duly canceled without seeking to compel shippers to pay for the stamp. The express company contended that the question as to who should pay for the stamp was one for adjustment between the shipper and the express company. It was alleged also that the company had in effect but increased its rates on express shipment by adding to the previous rates the sum of the stamp tax. It was contended that there was no inhibition in the act of Congress against this increase.

Justice White, in his opinion, said that it was unnecessary to consider whether the law forbids the express companies from requiring the shipper to furnish the receipt stamp since it would not be decisive of the case even if it should be conceded that the act imposed