

LORD ROBERTS RESCUES KIMBERLEY FROM SIEGE

(Continued from Page 1.)

phantomlike, and are now going to occupy their ground. Have captured the enemy's baggage and stores and supplies of ammunition. Casualties about twenty of all ranks wounded. Kimberley cheerful and well.

Cronje in Full Retreat.

LONDON, Feb. 17, 4:45 a. m.—General Cronje, with a start of a day or two, is seemingly in full retreat from Lord Roberts, moving northward. General French, with the cavalry, simply stayed over night in Kimberley and then pushed on to get in touch with the retiring enemy. A long Boer wagon train is moving toward Bloemfontein, followed presumably by a large force of British infantry. In their hasty departure the Boers lost quantities of supplies and ammunition.

Military opinion here is that Lord Roberts will not push far after the Boers immediately, because of transport problems and the need of rest for the troops. He has to feed 70,000 persons in his army and the whole Kimberley population. He must rebuild the railway from Modder river town to Kimberley and reticulate the latter. General French lost a few men only in action, but the forced marches and heat have probably made many ill. Numbers of remounts must be provided.

All over England tonight there has been evidence of public joy. In every theater and public meeting, around the railway stations and in the streets there have been expressions of gladness over the news. The newspapers are editorially rejoicing.

Those who read the news closely see only one disturbing factor in the Cape situation and that is the pressure of the Boers toward Lord Roberts' line of supply through the De Aar, which was never more important than now. The Boers under Commandants Delarey and Grobler are making a persistent effort to penetrate to the railway. They have pushed General Clements back to Arundel and have outflanked him. All are within sixty miles, or two days' hard march, of the Central Railway. Doubtless Lord Roberts has left considerable forces along the line and can send back more if necessary.

An Important Capture.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—The following despatch has been received at the War Office from Lord Roberts:

JACOBSDAL, Feb. 17, 5:50 a. m.—General Kelly-Kenny's brigade captured yesterday seventy-eight wagons laden with stores, two wagons of Mauser rifles, eight boxes of shells, ten barrels of explosives and a large quantity of stores, all belonging to Cronje's laager which still being shelled by our artillery when Kitchener despatched his messenger.

Hopes Running High.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—(Afternoon Service).—With General Cronje in full retreat and General Kelly-Kenny harassing his rear, hopes run high that a decisive action will occur if it has not already been fought. The despatches from Jacobsdal confirm that belief, saying General Cronje has been obliged to "outspan" in other words, form a laager or camp, in order to rest his oxen. This explains General Kelly-Kenny's latest despatch referring to the shelling of the laager, which also brought long expected word of General Kitchener's whereabouts.

That the General who so relentlessly pursued the Khalifa to his doom is supervising the pursuit of General Cronje adds greatly to the confidence of the nation so eagerly awaiting further news. If General Tucker, with the Seventh division, is able to effect the projected junction with the forces of General Kelly-Kenny while the Ninth division, under General Coillie, is rapidly coming up from the rear, the hero of Khartoum should have a sufficient force to decisively engage General Cronje, prevent him from reaching Bloemfontein with an effective force. In the whole Modder district there is such tremendous military activity that it is hard to realize the area covered or grasp the full meaning of the movements.

The Boers, though retreating from Magersfontein, are active elsewhere. A special despatch from Orange river, dated Friday, February 16, says they are attempting to cut the British lines of communications at Graspan, but it is said they are not likely to effect a serious result. They are, however, undoubtedly making a strenuous effort to cut the British lines to De Aar.

On the other hand comes the news that General MacDonald has again acceded Koodoroberg.

What precautions Lord Roberts has adopted against counter-attacks are not yet known but the War Office and public are thoroughly convinced that he is fully able to cope with all contingencies and that, if it is within human possibility, he will inflict the defeat on General Cronje that is so much more important than the relief of Kimberley, brilliant as was the latter achievement. While General Kelly-Kenny's, or rather General Kitchener's dispatch referred to the Boer rear guard as being General Cronje's, it is still doubtful if that General is personally with it, as it is possible he may be employing more than one line of retreat.

The reported capture of a large British convoy by the Boers is still not mentioned officially. There is no news of importance from elsewhere on the scene of war. Despatches from Cape Town announce that enthusiastic demonstrations followed the announcement of the relief of Kimberley.

More Troops Moving.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—(Afternoon Service).—The first unit of the special corps of Yeomanry called the Duke of Cambridge's Own, left London this morning to embark at Southampton for South Africa. The force is composed entirely of men of good social position. Lord Abinger wears corporal's stripes while Lord Abinger's son is a trooper. Each man had to pay £120 for the privilege of joining, the money going to purchase their outfits, while



LORD ROBERTS OF CANDAHAR

and when questioned on the subject the Russian Ambassador assured his dear friends in Downing street that the reports were exaggerated. It was nothing but annual maneuvers, he explained, and least of all was it intended as a menace. In fact, it was a little bit of a joke, he said, and the British officials had no other alternative but to believe the reports were practically untrue, especially as Russia, in conjunction with every other European power, had a few weeks previous, formally assured Lord Salisbury that she had not the faintest intention of profiting by Great Britain's embarrassment in South Africa by pressing outstanding claims or interfering in any way. News from Central Asia trickles into England slowly, but this week there came from many sources information showing that Russia's Ambassador had, to put it mildly, misled Lord Salisbury, and the Foreign Office Wednesday last had to bring itself up with a sharp turn to the realization that the Central Asian situation demanded immediate attention. Yet, what form such attention will take constitutes a dilemma, on the horns of which the British Government is still perched. Details of the proceedings at the borders of Afghanistan are still lacking and are likely to be for some time. As a high official said to a representative of the Associated Press: "If we politely suggest to the Russian Ambassador that a further explanation is in order we are sure to get the same friendly assurances that it does not amount to anything. If we address a formal, stringent protest to St. Petersburg, we deliberately cast doubt on Russia's practically spontaneous declaration of friendship and non-interference. It is possible the latter is what the Americans call a 'bluff.' But we have to be very sure of our facts before proceeding on such a basis. The Amerer is not ill, in spite of all the alarming reports. I suppose he will die some day and there will possibly be great disorder. But until this occurs I fail to see what Russia can effect. If the movement is as important as represented, I think it far likelier that she intends to make a demonstration of the strength that might be brought to bear upon some minor country. The opinion of this official and those of the majority of persons accurately informed is that Russia's move is merely one of the finer points of the diplomatic game and that she has no more idea of forcing a war with Great Britain than she has of forcing a war upon the United States. So, while it appears that international relations are really not threatened with any serious break, it also appears that Russia is likely to get whatever she asks for, within reasonable diplomacy, in the near future. Nothing is more patent, from the conversation of the Cabinet Ministers and officials, than the desire to conciliate and not to overvalue minor concessions. However, it must not be inferred that Great Britain intends to allow herself to be bullied into granting anything asked for, and it is interesting to note in this connection that the channel squadron, consisting of eight battleships and other craft, is due in the neighborhood of Gibraltar February 25th.

The renewed naval activity has had almost as much to do with the return of national confidence as Lord Roberts' evident grasp of the campaign. While the nation is evidently still looking askance at the new military program introduced this week, there is genuine gratification at learning that the reports that hundreds of thousands of tons of Welsh smokeless coal had been bought for a foreign nation are untrue. There is no substitute for that "breath of empire." It is almost as important as smokeless powder, and were the supply to be seriously diminished it would affect Great Britain's power of defense tremendously. The navy's activity is also evidenced in its progress with wireless telegraphy. Experiments will shortly occur to ascertain whether it is possible to communicate by this means between ships and balloons. The importance of such a test, in ascertaining the whereabouts of an enemy and countless other points of warfare, cannot be overestimated. The Queen's personal interest in the sea fighting her battles is being constantly illustrated by her visits to

their pay is donated to the fund for the relief of the widows and children of the killed soldiers. Immense crowds ovated the "Gentlemen Rankers" who they were termed, on their way to the station and the train started amidst remarkable scenes of enthusiasm. The Duke of Cambridge and other titled personages went to Southampton to bid the Yeomanry farewell. General Roberts reports the British casualties during the fighting at Jacobsdal as follows: One killed, fourteen wounded and three missing.

A Pessimistic General.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—(Afternoon Service).—Major General E. P. Hutton, who recently resigned his post as general commander of the militia in Canada and who is en route to South Africa, for special service, arrived in this city last night and will sail for England today. When questioned concerning the news from Kimberley, he said: "It does not amount to much. You cannot hold a town with a few mounted men."

A Press Opinion.

LONDON, Feb. 17.—(Afternoon Service).—The Morning Leader expert thinks the Boers have entirely abandoned Kimberley and the Modder river points. He adds: "It is scarcely likely that the Boers will sacrifice many men by further opposing Generals Gatacre and Clements. We do not think they will hold on long in any part of Cape Colony. "But what will be the effect on Lady-smith? Will the Free State men hang on there while their own land and families have fallen or are about to fall under the care of the advancing British?"

Harassing Cronje.

JACOBSDAL, Friday, Feb. 16, via Modder River.—General Cronje, with 10,000 men is in full retreat towards Bloemfontein. General Kelly-Kenny is fighting a rear guard action and harassing the retreat. The Boers are reported to be leaving Spytfontein, going in a northwesterly direction. The Boers captured a large convoy as a result of yesterday's (Thursday) fighting at Riet river. The British casualties were comparatively slight in view of the tremendous bombardment. Less than thirty men were wounded and but one killed. General French's division was enthusiastically welcomed at Kimberley. The officers dined at the club last evening. The news of the entry into Kimberley has greatly cheered the troops who are working splendidly.

LATEST LONDON CABLE.

The Central Asian Question Dividing Interest With the War. The following Associated Press cablegram was received in San Francisco half an hour before the Rio de Janeiro left the wharf and sent in care of the purser to the Advertiser. It appeared that afternoon in journals which will arrive here by the next Coast steamer: LONDON, Feb. 17.—What is known in Great Britain as the Central Asian peril once more obscures the pacific international aspect of affairs. As viewed by the Man-in-the-Street, the definite news shows that in spite of denials, Russia has advanced a strong force within striking distance of Herat, and whether she intends this as a distinct demonstration against Afghanistan or merely as a blind to draw attention from or ultimately assist her objects in the Persian Gulf, is merely a matter of surmise. Whatever all this really means, a large portion of the British public and press is devoting serious attention to that time-worn bugbear, the menacing shadow of the bear. Though Lord Salisbury refused to discuss the question in the House of Lords, the Associated Press is able to give the opinions of British Government officials, which, in the main, are those of Lord Salisbury, upon this latest development. But, first of all, it will be well to say that no action has yet been taken or decided on by the British. Weeks ago the report of a Russian advance was circulated,

Netley Hospital and the private homes, where the officers and men who were wounded in South Africa. A few days ago Her Majesty stood godmother to the child of a Major's wife, whose husband was killed at Elands Laagje, and has now summoned to Osborne Bugler Dunn, aged 15, of the First Royal Dublin Fusiliers, who was the first to cross the Tugela river, though the men of the regiment tried to keep him back. While running with the soldiers, holding his bugle in his right hand, Dunn sounded the "Advance." A bullet struck his arm and the bugle fell. The boy immediately lifted it up with his left hand and repeated the call. He was brought to Netley Hospital and was visited there by Princess Christian and Princess Henry of Battenberg, who asked the boy what he would like the Queen to do for him. He replied: "I hope Her Majesty will send me back to the front. I'm to have a medal and two bars because I was in three engagements. My father has only two bars to his medal." This lad's father, a sergeant, returned from the front this week, having recovered from his wound. On his arrival at Portsmouth young Dunn was tenderly borne on the shoulders of a delighted populace.

What Will America Do?

LONDON, Feb. 17.—(Afternoon Service).—Mr. H. W. Massingham, formerly the editor of the Chronicle, writes as follows to the Morning Leader, under the heading: "What will America do?" "A new world power has arisen—the great American people. "President McKinley and Secretary of State Hay share, I believe, the opinion of the minority of Englishmen that the war in South Africa is an error and a crime. But they remember that, thanks to the pressure from below the British Government, the English Government was benevolently neutral in the Spanish war. Therefore, so far as public opinion will allow them, they would like to sail on an even keel in South Africa. But, as they well know, behind them lies a mighty and, as they will know, an ungovernable force, expressing itself with absolute freedom, forcing its will on party messengers knocking imperatively at the doors of the President. "Because a few American ladies who had married or sought their way into English society started a hospital ship it was imagined that American sympathies were with British power. Nothing can be more unfortunate than any political action that comes from such quarters and is blessed by such negligible persons as Smalley, a New York correspondent. "America is not pro-English and never will be in the sense that our sentimental imperialists desire. "America is profoundly attached to the Republican principle. She will not see it weakened to the profit of her ancient mistress. "The great popular newspapers like the World have been quick to read this sign of the American temper. "Hostile intervention on the part of America would not be tolerated, but what if, using the machinery of the Hague conference or acting on a hint from private sources, America were to propose a policy of mutual disarmament?"

The writer then suggests this basis of intervention: "Demolition of the Boer Government. "Withdrawal of the British army, except the Durban and Cape Town garrisons. "An international guarantee of the independence of the republics, subject to British control of their foreign affairs. "Five year naturalization for outlanders. "The South African states and colonies to meet in convention one year after the close of the war to arrange a confederation."

TELEGRAMS CONDENSED.

New Notes From a Week's File of Coast Papers. Mme. Melba, the singer, is to wed. Prince Henry of Prussia is at Vienna. The new Russian steam dredger Devolant has been given up as lost at sea. Bear Chief, leader of the Pawnees, is dead. A race war is threatened in Martinique. The Navy will rule at Tutuila, as at Guam. The equal suffrage cause is gaining ground. Earthquakes and floods are reported from Peru. A German gunboat is surveying Macao harbor. The cruiser San Francisco will be rehabilitated. The Klondike is being deserted for Cape Nome. The round cities report mild cases of smallpox. Japan is having trouble with rebels in Formosa. Conditions are easier in the Berlin money market. The reports of the Sudanese mutiny were exaggerated. Germany accuses America of favoring Italy in trade. House Republicans oppose the Puerto Rico Tariff Bill. Great Britain is rapidly getting her fleet ready for sea. Milwaukee wants the National Democratic Convention. Burglars have robbed four stores in Monterey, California. The Nicaragua Canal Treaty is not distasteful to France. The greenbacks are not to be retired by the Currency Bill. Lord Chesterfield and Miss Enis Wilson have been married. A Southerner will be put on the new Philippine Commission. The Samoan treaty has been ratified and is now in full effect. Carnegie and Frick have broken and a steel war is impending. Will Burts, a negro, has been lynched at Aiken, S. C., for assault. Prince Mura, the acrobat, has committed suicide at Havana. Final action on the Hay-Pauncefote treaty is far from certain. Three British Commissioners have been murdered in Burmah. Generals Bates and Bell are about to invade Camarines province. The Finance Bill has passed the Senate by a good majority. The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce has decided to report a Pacific cable bill on the lines

of the Sherman measure, rejecting Government ownership. Frenchmen will try to reach Dawson from Victoria in a balloon. Six hundred Yaquis have been captured by the Mexican troops. Pope Leo's newspaper organ is in favor of a strong German navy. An epidemic of plague has broken out in Canton. It is very virulent. Freest. Iglesias of Costa Rica is in favor of the present canal bill. The Mexican campaign against the Maya Indians is making progress. Democrats will try to add a free coinage rider to the currency bill. A serum to cure alcoholism is said to have been discovered in France. The torpedo boat Goidaborough made thirty-three knots on her trial trip. Andrew D. White, Ambassador to Germany, is seriously ill of the grip. The stock market is stronger owing to a prosperous outlook for the country. A railway, 1300 miles long, will be built across Persia by Russian capital. Roosevelt says that he will not accept the Vice Presidential nomination. Col. Wm. P. Sullivan, Jr., has been made Chief of Police of San Francisco. There is a strong demand in Pennsylvania for the election of Senators by a direct vote. A bank at Las Cruces, N. M., was held up in the middle of the day and robbed of \$3,000. A quick lunch restaurant trust has been formed in New York with a capital of \$7,000,000. Russia is mobilizing troops on the border of Afghanistan in the neighborhood of Kushk. King Menelek is trying to come to an agreement with the British regarding his Sudanese pretensions. Congress will be asked to buy the old cemetery in Paris where Paul Jones was buried. The body can perhaps then be located.

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