



CRONJE PROBABLY DOOMED.

THE BRITISH SURROUND THE BOER FORCE INTRENCHED IN THE BED OF MODDER RIVER.

GENERAL BOTHA, WITH A RELIEF COLUMN, DEFEATED

General Roberts reported on Wednesday from Modder River, Orange Free State, that he was shelling the laager of General Cronje, and that he had defeated Boer reinforcements arriving from Ladysmith, capturing fifty prisoners.

Press dispatches describe the fighting on the Modder on Sunday, and say that General Cronje's army is hiding in the bed of the river, and in a veritable death trap.

General Cronje's losses were estimated at 800, and it was reported that on Monday he had asked for an armistice, which was refused. Then he offered to surrender, but subsequently declared he would fight to the death.

Supplies are being pushed into Kimberley as fast as possible. It is expected that the De Beers mine will be at work again in ten days, alleviating great misery.

FIGHTING TO A FINISH. OFFERED TO SURRENDER.

DESPERATE NATURE OF THE CONFLICT RAGING ON THE MODDER RIVER.

[Copyright, 1900, by The New-York Tribune.] [BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

London, Feb. 23, 6 a. m.—The graphic details published this morning of the fighting which took place at Paardeberg on Sunday show the desperate nature of the resistance General Cronje is making in the face of a superior force.

The Boer commandant occupies an intrenched position in the bed of the Modder River at Paardeberg Drift, which is described as a veritable deathtrap. Here the Boers were surrounded by the British on Sunday, the Highland brigade being on the south bank of the river and a brigade of the Sixth Division on the north bank.

The British endeavored to envelop the Boers, but a stubborn resistance was offered, and they were unable to make headway against the hall of bullets the Boers poured against them, while the burghers, on the other hand, could not leave the sheltering banks of the river, which formed a natural breastwork, without exposing themselves to the shell fire of the British artillery.

The Highland brigade suffered heavily, and, as at Magersfontein, the men were obliged to lie prone, owing to the terrible Boer rifle fire. The Canadians formed a part of the force which, under Colonel Smith-Dorrien, crossed the river at the drift in a vain effort to reach the enemy's laager.

The little body of troops fought gallantly, but were eventually compelled to fall back with severe loss.

Owing to the terrible effects of the British artillery fire, General Cronje on Monday asked for an armistice, which was refused. He then sent a messenger to say that he would surrender.

The British General sent a reply telling him to come into camp. Cronje refused, saying there had been a misunderstanding and that he would fight to the death.

General Cronje's position is reported hopeless. The British have occupied Barkly West. SHUT UP IN A DEATH TRAP.

THE BOERS SURROUNDED IN THE RIVER BED BY BRITISH ARTILLERY AND INFANTRY.

Paardeberg Drift, Orange Free State, Tuesday, Feb. 20.—General Cronje's magnificent night march from Magersfontein now appears likely to end in disaster. The main body of the Boers is inclosed in a terrible death trap.

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Continued on fourth page.

by the British artillery, and inclosed on the east and west by the British infantry. Sunday witnessed a gallant stand on the part of the retreating foe. Tired, harassed, they still maintained a bold front.

It is somewhat difficult to explain the Sunday action, in which all the British force was engaged and in which General Cronje, under difficult conditions, managed to hold his own.

On Saturday night the British mounted infantry came into touch with Cronje's rear guard, driving them back upon the main body. On Sunday morning the action was renewed, but the Boers, who had intrenched the river bed during the night, prevented a further advance of the mounted infantry in this direction.

Meanwhile the Highland Brigade, consisting of the Seaforth's, the Black Watch and the Argylls, advanced from the south bank, and the Essex, Welsh and Yorkshires regiments formed a long line on the left, which rested on the river, the extreme right being the Welsh. The whole line was ordered to envelop the Boers, who lined both banks of the river.

The firing soon became heavy. The Boers, holding a splendid position, covered the left of the Highland Brigade, which advanced partly up the river bed and partly in the open, while the rest of the brigade, with the other regiments, swung around the front of the Highland Brigade on the level, coverless ground, exposed to a terrible fire which obliged the men to lie upon the ground, as they did for the remainder of the day.

This began at 7:30 o'clock in the morning. Through the dreadful heat and a terrible thunderstorm the British hung to the position, answering the Boer fire and shooting steadily.

In the mean time the rest of the infantry completed the enveloping movement, the Welsh regiment having succeeded in seizing the drift, thus closing in the Boers, who had fought throughout with splendid courage.

General Cronje's laager, full of carts, ammunition and stores, could be plainly seen near the north bank. General Smith-Dorrien collected a large body of men, including the Canadians, and crossed the river by Paardeberg Drift, advancing toward the laager, which was being vigorously

shelled. This force made a gallant attempt to charge into the laager, but failed.

Before seizing the western drifts the Boers occupied a kopje on the south bank running down the river. Therefore their force is cut in two. The Boers held the kopje and have one Vickers-Maxim and probably one or two other guns.

Toward evening the battery on the south side opened, co-operating with the battery on the north side. A wonderful sight followed. The shells fell with amazing precision along the river bed opposite the laager, which was shelled thoroughly, damaging everything it contained.

One shell set on fire a small ammunition wagon, which burned nearly all day. Many other wagons were set on fire, and the glare was visible at a considerable distance far into the night.

The infantry also maintained a terrible fire, which was answered vigorously. The scene toward night was terribly picturesque, with the blazing wagons, the roaring artillery and the crackling rifle fire.

GENERAL ROBERTS BREAKS SILENCE. THE BRITISH COMMANDER IN CHIEF SENDS A CHEERFUL REPORT.

London, Feb. 22, 4:17 p. m.—The War Office has received from Lord Roberts the following message, which was delayed in transmission, dated Paardeberg, Wednesday, February 21:

Yesterday afternoon I was satisfied, by a careful reconnaissance in force of the enemy's position, that I could not assault it without very heavy loss, which I was most anxious to avoid.

Accordingly, I decided to bombard him with artillery and turn my attention to the enemy's reinforcements. The result was most satisfactory. The Boers were driven off in all directions, losing a good many killed and wounded and about fifty prisoners, who say they arrived from Ladysmith two days ago by railroad.

They also say it was our artillery fire which caused them to abandon the kopje they were occupying. Our loss was two officers—Captain Campbell, of the 9th Lancers, and Lieutenant Houston, of the artillery—and four men, all slightly wounded.

IN KANSAS CITY JULY 4

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION CALLED—SENTIMENT ALL FOR BRYAN.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Feb. 22.—As predicted last night in these dispatches, the Democratic National Committee lost no time in sending the Democratic National Convention to Kansas City, the choice of the three leaders—Stone, Jones, of Arkansas, and Bryan—now most potent in directing the committee's policy. July 4 was fixed as the day for the Convention to assemble. In this respect the committee adhered to party tradition, which has usually inhibited meeting at an earlier date than that set for the Republican National Convention.

Kansas City won over its rival, Milwaukee, by a vote of 40 to 9, for reasons previously given, among them the promise of surroundings more distinctly congenial to the spirit and purpose of the Democratic organization as now directed and officered. Kansas City also bound itself to contribute \$75,000 in cash to the Democratic campaign chest, as well as to meet all the expenses incident to the entertainment of the Democratic delegates.

The representatives of the second city in Missouri engaged, moreover, to furnish ample accommodations for the visitors who are likely to attend the convention next July, though they naturally failed to assure a climate tempered to the feelings of what is likely to prove an excited and tumultuous gathering. The sentiment expressed at to-day's gathering indicated, of course, the unanimous renomination of Colonel W. J. Bryan for the Presidency.

CLAIMS OF CITIES PRESENTED. The committee met at the Hotel Raleigh. The claims of the rival cities as to hotel accommodations, railroad and telegraphic facilities were presented in open session by representatives of each city, and later, in executive session, ex-Governor W. J. Stone, on behalf of Kansas City, and E. C. Wall, the National Committeeman from Wisconsin, on behalf of Milwaukee, explained the financial inducements which the city he represented was willing to make.

One of Milwaukee's strongest arguments was the political effect which the holding of the convention in that city would have on the German-American voters, who were represented to the committee as wavering in their allegiance to the Republican party. It seemed to be taken for granted by the speakers that Bryan would be renominated, and that the Chicago platform in substance would be reaffirmed. Opposition to trusts, expansion and imperialism, together with every mention of Bryan and the Chicago platform, aroused enthusiasm, but in the open session of the committee there was no allusion to free silver.

Three dates for holding the convention were proposed—May 9, by Mr. Townsend, of Oregon; June 14, by Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, and July 4, by Mr. McGraw, of West Virginia. The vote on fixing the date of the convention was: In favor of July 4, 27; June 14, 21; May 9, 1.

GERMAN INFLUENCE STRONG. A speech which had great influence in fixing the date was made by ex-Senator Gorman. He said that four years ago it might have been well to hold the convention early, as the party then took a new position—one which drove many of the leaders out of the party and into temporary retirement. The organization then went into new hands—into the hands of able men, but many of whom had not been active in control of party affairs, and it took them some time to organize. Now there was a good organization. The party was ready and equipped to enter the campaign. The party in power should be allowed to hold its convention first, and the indictment of that party could be made as it had been in times past. Mr. McLean, of Ohio, also favored the late date.

THE CALL ISSUED. The committee issued the following call: The Democratic National Committee having met in the city of Washington on February 22, 1900, has appointed Wednesday, the 4th day of July, as the time, and chosen the city of Kansas City, Mo., as the place for holding the Democratic National Convention. Each State and Territory—Alaska, Indian Territory and the District of Columbia—shall have six delegates. All Democratic conservative reform citizens of the United States, irrespective of past political associations and affiliations, who can unite with us in an effort for pure, economical and constitutional government, and who favor the republic and oppose the empire, are cordially invited to join us in sending delegates to the convention.

Another difficult question has been the Senate provision as to an international bimetallic conference. The House conferees have been unwilling to accept this, and up to to-night they had declined to yield, although the chances seemed rather more favorable to its retention than its rejection.

BRITISH CONSULATE ATTACKED. A MOB OF MUSLIMANS GIVES TROUBLE IN BEYROUT. Beyrout, Syria, Feb. 22.—A mob of Mussulmans has wounded the son of the British Consul, Abela, at Sidon, and has surrounded the consulate. Troops have been dispatched and the Consul-General has gone to the scene of the disturbance.

BRITISH WARSHIPS HONOR THE DAY. London, Feb. 23.—A dispatch to "The Daily Mail" from Sydney, N. S. W., says: The British warships dressed with bunting to-day (Thursday) in honor of Washington, which was greatly gratifying to the American colony.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES. Pittsburgh, Feb. 22.—The report of the output of salt from the Monongahela River mines to the Pittsburg Harbor shows a total of 4,689,000 bushels for the week ending February 17.

Columbia, S. C., Feb. 22 (Special).—At Mechanicsville Monday night an ordinance was proposed for which it was contended that it would pass a tax adjustment law, which has entailed what is only the greatest lobby legislative fight ever known in Texas. The bill was kept in the House all of the thirty days, and little progress was made in its consideration owing to the successful tactics of the filibusters.

Chicago, Feb. 22.—Forty passengers who spent the night on the Goodrich Line steamer Iowa, which was blocked by the ice outside the harbor here yesterday, reached shore at 6:30 o'clock this morning. The boat, which left Milwaukee at 8 p. m. Tuesday, became wedged in the ice about a mile out from the harbor on reaching here yesterday. A tug was sent to lend assistance, but succeeded only after a night of incessant work, which ended at midnight by a bitter wrangling between the crew and the passengers, and to furnish light and waterworks power.

Chicago, Feb. 22.—The immense water power of the new Ship and Drainage Canal, estimated to be worth millions of dollars, is to be utilized and controlled by the municipal government of Chicago if plans by Mayor Harrison are carried into effect. Mayor Harrison said that the passage by the City Council Monday night of an ordinance authorizing the issue of \$2,500,000 bonds for the construction of a power plant at Lockport is only a step in the process, and that if necessary, legislation will be pressed to secure the water energy for the plant. Mayor Harrison also intimated that he would fight all attempts to lease the power to private individuals. The power will be secured with the use of light and waterworks power.

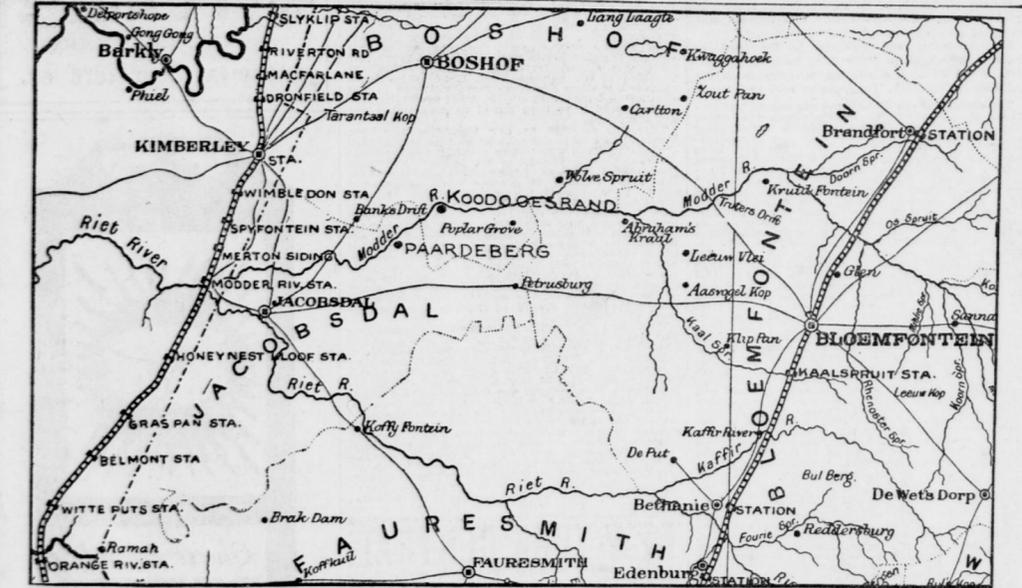
BEAUTIFUL, SWIFT AND SURE. The "Royal Limited," arrives in all appointments, leaves New York, South Ferry and foot of Liberty St., Daily 5 p. m., exclusive Washington 5 p. m. Unexcelled Dining and Cafe Car Service.—Advt.



GENERAL CRONJE.



GENERAL KELLY-KENNY.



THE SCENE OF LORD ROBERTS'S CAMPAIGN.

for an armistice, which was refused. He then sent an offer to surrender, but afterward withdrew it, declaring that he would fight to the end. The firing was resumed and a number of Boer wagons were set on fire by lyddite, the scene being described as terribly picturesque. The British infantry suffered severely on Sunday, owing to the advance being over a flat country devoid of cover, and this fact has evidently influenced General Roberts in his decision not to endeavor again to carry a Boer position by assault. "The News's" correspondent believes the Commander in Chief's object will now be attained by other means and a further great loss of life avoided.

General Buller continues to make steady progress in his latest attempt to reach Ladysmith, but no additional reports as to his movements are forthcoming. I. N. F.

BRIGHTER FOR THE BRITISH.

[Copyright, 1900, by The New-York Tribune.] [BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

London, Feb. 23, 1 a. m.—Generals Roberts and Buller are marching on from one triumph to another, but they are also acting cautiously and with discretion. The reports current for several days that General Cronje's force had been surrounded were confirmed yesterday by dispatches from Cape Town and Modder River, and by General Roberts himself. An official message from him, dated Wednesday, stated that he had been satisfied by a reconnaissance that an assault upon Cronje's position would be costly, and consequently had decided to bombard it, and also to turn his attention to the reinforcements which were arriving for the enemy. The results of the latter manoeuvre were satisfactory, since the enemy was driven off in all directions.

Assemblies of the British Empire. The British Empire is the greatest in the world, and it is the duty of every citizen to support it. The British Empire is the greatest in the world, and it is the duty of every citizen to support it.

AGREEMENT ON GOLD BILL.

CONFERRERS SETTLE MOST OF THE IMPORTANT POINTS AT ISSUE.

Washington, Feb. 22.—The Republican conferees on the Currency bill, after being in session seven hours to-day, practically completed their work, full agreement having been reached on all the points at issue except the Senate amendment relating to the refunding of the bonded debt and the international bimetallic clause, and on these the outlook was that a satisfactory arrangement would be reached to-morrow.

The concurrence was so complete that the Senate conferees prepared to call in the Democratic members, but the House Republicans—Messrs. Brostus and Overstreet—were not quite ready for this step, indicating a purpose to continue their insistence on the two questions still open.

THE GOLD STANDARD PROVISION. Already, however, most of the important questions have been disposed of. The language by which the gold standard is established proved less difficult to adjust than was at first anticipated. While the provisions in the House and Senate bills were the same in principle, they differed entirely in wording, and, after some consideration the Senate provision commended itself to the conferees of both houses. This provision doubtless will be a part of the final agreement, and is as follows:

That the dollar consisting of twenty-five and eight-tenths grains of good pure gold, fine gold, as established by Section 3511 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, continue to be the standard unit of value, and all forms of money issued or coined by the United States shall be payable in full for all debts in value with this standard; and United States notes and Treasury notes issued under the Act of July 14, 1890, when presented to the Treasury for redemption shall be redeemed in gold coin of such standard.

GOLD RESERVE QUESTION SETTLED. The difference as to the maintenance of a gold reserve was also speedily and satisfactorily adjusted. The Senate provision calls for a reserve of \$150,000,000, while the House provision did not fix a definite sum, but made a reserve of 25 per cent of outstanding notes. On this question, also, the Senate provision met with most favor because of its definiteness.

The Senate conferees, however, thought that the Senate section be changed so as to provide for a Division of Issue and Redemption in the Treasury, as was originally provided in the House section relating to a gold reserve. The purpose of this issue and Redemption Division is to keep the fiscal and the banking features of the Treasury entirely distinct. It is understood that this feature and the Senate provision of the gold reserve will be incorporated in the final settlement.

THE BANKING FEATURES. An agreement has also been reached on the provision for National banks with small capital, and also for the issue of bank note circulation up to the par value of bonds deposited. The agreement on the issue of United States notes of small denomination was a compromise. The Senate provided that no notes should be issued below \$10, but the House conferees insisted that this would cause a stringency in small change, and they proposed to issue notes with the limitation of \$10, and to provide that the small notes of \$5 and under should be kept up to the volume now in circulation, which is \$300,000,000.

MAY COMPROMISE ON REFUNDING. The important question of the refunding provision of the Senate bill proved more difficult to settle, and up to the close of the conference to-night no actual agreement had been reached, although a compromise was suggested. The House made no provision for refunding the debt, and under the circumstances the House conferees felt that if they were to accept such an important provision as the Senate had incorporated in the bill they should have a part in framing it. Instead, therefore, of accepting the Senate provision as a whole, a new form was prepared, and this is likely to be the basis of a compromise. It retains the principle of refunding, but makes a considerable alteration in the original phraseology.

Another difficult question has been the Senate provision as to an international bimetallic conference. The House conferees have been unwilling to accept this, and up to to-night they had declined to yield, although the chances seemed rather more favorable to its retention than its rejection.

WHAT MR. GROUT SAYS. Borough President Grout, of Brooklyn, will oppose the bill. When seen yesterday he said: "This bill should be killed. The charter gives plenty of authority for acquiring park land, and it is going to Albany for special legislation. As a matter of fact, no park is needed at Coney Island. What Coney Island needs is a better sidewalk, water mains and sewers. This talk about more parks is largely nonsense. I don't know who the real promoters are, but they are not doing any good. The bill is a piece of legislation that will do nothing for the city. It is a piece of legislation that will do nothing for the city. It is a piece of legislation that will do nothing for the city."

Ex-Park Commissioner J. G. Dettmer, of Brooklyn, said: "On general principles I am in favor of increasing the number of parks, and of doing it now while land is cheap. The city is growing so rapidly that if buying needed park sites is put off it will mean paying excessive prices at some future date. If this bill provides for extending the present park or course right through to Sea Gate I should be in favor of it, but if it only provides for a park on the salt marshes back of Coney Island, that is a different matter. The bill invests the Controller with a great deal of power. If Mr. Dettmer were to be Controller permanently that provision might be wise; but in view of the fact that he may serve only one term it should be left to the people to give him. There is no telling what may happen to us under Tammany Hall in the next few years."

R. Ross Appleton, formerly Tax Collector of Brooklyn, had the following to say: "When I was a member of Mr. Schieren's administration I was strongly in favor of a park all along the ocean front of Coney Island, with recreation piers of a plain and inexpensive sort, and playgrounds for the use of the people. The money spent for Forest Park spent at Coney Island, but Forest Park was selected. If the Controller were to be Controller permanently that provision might be wise; but in view of the fact that he may serve only one term it should be left to the people to give him. There is no telling what may happen to us under Tammany Hall in the next few years."

More parks are all right enough," said ex-Civil Service Commissioner Jordan, "but the land acquisition part of the bill would hardly make an inviting park. The bill has a suspicious look."

NO FURTHER THAN THE ASSEMBLY. Park Commissioner Brower said yesterday that he thought the De Graw bill would get no further than the Assembly, despite its apparent popularity among the Assemblymen. He added that Brooklyn already had as many parks as it could care for.

The bill says that the lands to be taken for park purposes are those between the Atlantic Ocean, West Seventeenth-st., Coney Island Creek and Gravesend Bay, and the lands of the Norton Point Land Company. An examination of the best maps shows that a greater part of this area is overlaid by high dunes, and if it is converted into a park it will require an immense amount of dredging of water channels and filling in in order to keep the land out of the reach of the high tides.

THE FIRST RAILWAY IN THE WORLD. To adopt for all its cars the Pintsch light is the New York Central. This line has Pintsch light in its sleeping and parlor cars, its coaches, baggage cars and mail cars, contributing in this way, in all other things, to the comfort and safety of its patrons.—Advt.

NEW BROOMS SWEEP CLEAN. Lackawanna Railroad has just assumed charge of its dining car service. Improvements everywhere.—Advt.