SILENCE ON BOER CHASE.

ROBERTS SENDS NO REPORT ON RESULT OF HIS OPERATIONS.

Spirit of Criticism Increasing in England—Mail Reports From Bloemfontein Make Roberts Partly Responsible for the Korn Spruit Disaster—Relief That All Is Ready for a General Advance From Bloemfontein.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 28.—Public interest in the war has fallen to a low ebb in this country, or, perhaps, it would be more correct to say that the war is rapidly becoming unpopular. There may be a change shortly if Gen. Lord Roberts executes a brilliant forward movement, which, it is generally believed, will be immediately attempted. Whatever turn events may take, however, there is no doubt that the English popular verdict about this war will be that it is an unmitigated calamity. Its glamour and enthusiasm have entirely disappeared. No possible gain can offset the terrible cost already paid, and the question asked more persistently daily by all classes is: "Couldn't it have been honorably avoided?"

This growing spirit of criticism finds no expression as yet in the great journals. In fact the press is not a reliable index of English public sentiment at the present moment. It is necessary to get at the people themselves.

I happened to drop into a second-class music hall for an hour the other evening. When the war biograph was on there was plenty of patriotic enthusiasm over the pictures of military and other favorites, but to my amazement when the portrait of Colonial Secretary Chamberlain was shown there was a storm of hisses which almost drowned the faint applause. This, remember, was inconservative, imperialist London, where six months ago the Colonial Secretary was one of the most popular men of the day. I was sorry that Cecil Rhodes's picture was not shown, for by the above token there is little doubt that he would have been execrated.

As for the military situation, no one's opinion in this country outside of the War Office is worth anything. The embargo on all important information from the front is more complete than ever. To-day's South African mail, which brings letters dated Bloemfontein, April 7, supplies the only news in regard to the situation of any real value, and it is not pleasant news from an English point of view. It is made clear, for instance, that Gen. Roberts himself was primarily responsible for the Korn Spruit disaster. Col. Broadwood sent word to Gen. Roberts four days before his loss saying that the enemy in great force was near him and his two small brigades of cavalry and mounted infantry. Gen. Roberts told him to return. Col. Broadwood in reply pointed out that the Boers were on both his flanks. Gen. Roberts answered that they could not be in more than trifling numbers. Thereupon Col. Broadwood tried to make a forced march at night, but the Boers surrounded him before daybreak.

It is further explained in regard to the apparent disbanding of the Boer forces when Bloemfontein was occupied by the British that the burghers mostly received ten days' leave to visit their wives and farms. They reassembled as strong as ever a fortnight later. This action on the part of the Boers was entirely safe, for it was well known to them that it was impossible for the British to move further until a long halt had been made to bring forward horses and supplies.

Gen. Roberts has now accumulated sufficient stores to make Bloemfontein a permanent base and there is little doubt that he will now undertake an active campaign, if he is not already on the move.

The Central News the other day published an interview with Major-Gen. Sir William Henry Rhodes Green, the famous Anglo-Indian strategist and fighter whose predictions during the war have been singularly correct. His present belief is that Gen. Roberts after leaving a strong force to oppose the main Boer army at Kroonstad will strike for Van Reenen's Pass and overwhelm the Boers who are now in Natal, and with Gen. Buller's army invade the Transvaal by way of Laing's Nek. This statement has not attracted nearly the amount of attention it deserves. It certainly has the merit of novelty and probability. That there is some amount of truth in it is strengthened by the fact that Gen. Green is a close personal friend of Field Marshal Lord Wolseley and Adjutant-General Sir Evelyn Wood.

Adjutant-General Wood, by the way, stated yesterday that as soon as he learned of the publication of Gen. Lord Roberts's strictures on the conduct of the Ladysmith relief operations, Gen. Buller tended his resignation to Gen. Roberts, who refused to accept it.

The well-informed *Agencia Libera* of Rome states that the military attaché with the British headquarters in South Africa has sent a second report of the recent operations, dealing more particularly with the relief of Kimberley, the capture of Gen. Cronje and the occupation of Bloemfontein.

The attaché describes the enormous difficulties which the English soldiers had to surmount, their courage and great powers of endurance, and the inaptitude of some of the British Generals and the marvellous resistance of the Boers. The attaché expresses the opinion that while the campaign will still be long and difficult there can be no doubt of the eventual occupation and absorption of both republics. The attaché is evidently a devoted admirer of Lord Roberts as a General and a gentleman and of Lord Kitchener as an organizer and a master of details.

The work of the Boer Peace Commissioners to Europe has been absolutely without result and their efforts no longer attract any attention. This is not because of any change in Continental public sentiment, which is still almost unanimously pro-Boer, but is owing to the fact that their mission is entirely hopeless at the present time. The delegates themselves freely admit this and profess to confine their hopes to the United States, where they still propose to undertake a campaign on behalf of their doomed republics. They are wise enough to add that they will refuse to make their mission in any sense partisan with regard to the coming Presidential campaign in the United States. They have not yet fixed a day for sailing. Dr. Leyds, the European diplomatic agent of the Transvaal, will remain in Europe, where he can do more for the cause of the struggling burghers alone than with the assistance of the special emissaries.

KRUGER SEEKS A SOLDIER'S DEATH.

Col. Ricci Says That "Oom Paul" Is Disheartened and Hopes to Die in the Field.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 28.—A private letter has been received in London from Col. Ricci, the Italian officer in the employ of the Boer Government, which gives a gloomy account of the state of affairs in the Transvaal a month ago. The writer says: "Every day diminishes the burghers' hopes of obtaining an honorable peace based on the recognition of the independence of the republics. President Kruger, by look and voice, shows himself disheartened. He is nearly always in the field, where he ardently hopes to find a soldier's death. Many European volunteers have deserted various commandos and the Boer armies daily lose men whose places cannot be supplied. Since the commencement of February there have not been a dozen volunteers from the outside world. Roberts has all the trump cards in his hand and can subdue the Transvaal without giving battle.

"One need only wait. Already the process of disintegration of the Boer forces has set in, while the stores of ammunition are diminishing at a much greater rate than new shot and shell and cartridges can be manufactured. At Johannesburg, as in Pretoria, the one overpowering desire is for peace. The country is dead, and many despair of its ever coming to life again."

Col. Ricci adds that the commandant at Johannesburg has issued a proclamation forbidding citizens going near the mines, from which it is assumed that there is some truth in the reports that arrangements have been made for their destruction. A good many burghers appear to believe that the gold mines constitute a sort of hostage which God has placed in their hands and by means of which England, whose one desire is to get gold, can be compelled to concede reasonable terms of peace.

ARRESTS AT JOHANNESBURG.

Police Investigation of the Explosion at the Begbie Engineering Works.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

From THE SUN'S Correspondent at Johannesburg.

JOHANNESBURG, April 26, via Lorenzo Marques, April 28, 7 A. M.—State Mining Engineer Klinke has been interviewed in regard to the explosion at the Begbie Engineering Works. He states emphatically that after due investigation he is of opinion that the explosion was caused by dynamite placed in trenches outside the factory and connected with it by wires. The total casualties were twelve killed and sixty injured. Most of the injured were only slightly hurt. The majority of the employees were Frenchmen and Italians.

The works sustained small damage. Splendid services were rendered by the Jewish, Swiss and French burghers' ambulance corps.

The representatives of the mining companies who are still in town immediately started a public subscription fund for the relief of the distressed. The Goerg Company (limited), the Eckstein Company, the Consolidated Gold Fields and the French Bank each contributed £250. The French Red Cross Society and several other organizations subscribed £150. In less than two hours £2,000 had been subscribed and the good work is still progressing.

Just as this despatch is being sent the Detective Department has made several important arrests.

CANADIANS WERE IN FRONT

Smith-Dorrien's Occupation of Thaba N'Chu—Christian Richter's Farmhouse Burned.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

From THE SUN'S Correspondent with Gen. Roberts.

BLOEMFONTEIN, April 27.—Gen. Smith-Dorrien occupied Thaba N'Chu on Thursday. The Boers retired to Ladybrand after fighting a rear-guard action throughout Wednesday's retreat.

The Canadians, spread out in skirmish order, were Gen. Smith-Dorrien's vanguard and had to do most of the work. The Shropshires and a battalion of the Gordon Highlanders were also with Gen. Smith-Dorrien.

Christian Richter's farmhouse has been burned. A white flag was flying over it, but this was regarded as a decoy, as many armed Boers were seen in the vicinity. Mr. Richter is not charged with shooting at British soldiers while the white flag was flying over his house, but he is under arrest.

DUTCH NEWSPAPERS COMPLAIN.

Say the Government of Cape Colony Is Becoming a Farce.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

From THE SUN'S Correspondent at Cape Town.

CAPE TOWN, April 28, 10:10 A. M.—The Dutch newspapers *Ons Land* and *News* savagely attack the Hon. J. Rose-Innes, the leader of the British minority in the Cape Parliament, for the interview with him printed in THE SUN of April 3. They say that Mr. Rose-Innes desired to override the constitution. They go on to say that there is no reason why the Cape Parliament should not be able to deal with the trial of the rebels. The Dutch papers also advocate an immediate meeting of the Cape Parliament.

The *News* characterizes the appointment of Mr. Blackwood as Judge Advocate as scandalous. The *Ons Land* says the government of the Colony is becoming a farce.

GEN. POLE-CAREW'S ADVANCE.

Had a Hot Engagement at Bushmansfontein With 1,000 Boers.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

From THE SUN'S Correspondent at Thaba N'Chu.

THABA N'CHU, O. F. S., April 28, 5:35 P. M.—Gen. Pole-Carew, after fighting at Leeuwkop in conjunction with Gen. Dickson on Sunday and capturing Paard Kraal, marched to Tweedejelak. On Monday he marched to Bushmansfontein, where he found 1,000 Boers with a Krupp gun and some pompons. Gordon's brigade seized the forward ridge, the possession of which the Boers contested.

In a short time the entire cavalry division was engaged, and they remained in action until the Boers retired.

SMALL LOSSES OF THE BOERS.

Sir William MacCormac Says They Had Only Five Killed at Colenso.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 29.—Sir William MacCormac, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, who has recently returned from the front, said in a speech here last night that Englishmen discredited the Boer reports of their casualties. But, he added, two German officers whose word he had no reason to disbelieve told him that at the first battle of Colenso, when the British losses were 1,140, the Boer losses were 5 killed and 25 wounded.

BOER PLANS IN NATAL.

Forces Arranged to Defend Any Pass the British May Decide to Attack.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LADYSMITH, April 28.—The reports about the massing of the Boers at Tintwa Pass appear to have no foundation. There are only small parties of burghers in that neighborhood.

Commandants De Beers and Vanniekerk have so arranged the Boer forces that they can be massed at any pass which the British might attempt to force.

REPULSE OF BOER DELEGATES.

Told at The Hague That Their Mission Was of No Avail.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

THE HAGUE, April 28.—It is reported that Dr. de Beaufort, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the Ministerial Council, informed the Boer peace delegates that however much the Government of the Netherlands sympathized with the South African republics it was impossible to undertake isolated diplomatic intervention.

TAXES IN NEWPORT.

Cottagers Pay More Than Half of Them—Some of the Assessments.

NEWPORT, R. I., April 28.—New Yorkers and other prominent summer residents own more than half of the $39,737,600 worth of real estate in Newport and pay more than half of the taxes. The tax rate is $11 per $1,000 this year. The following are the largest taxpayers:

Estate of Cornelius Vanderbilt, $983,000; estate John Carter Brown, $822,000; Alva E. Belmont, $800,000; estate Ogden Goelet, $598,500; George Peabody Wetmore, $537,700; Hamilton McK. Twombly, $514,500; estate Robert Goelet, $417,200; Josephine Brooks, $364,100; Frederick W. Vanderbilt, $361,100; James J. Van Alen, $332,200; Mary A. King, $307,200; Elbridge T. Gerry, $290,500; Harriet Ive Gammell, $274,100; J. N. A. Griswold, $253,400; Perry Belmont, $235,600; estate W. H. King, $324,000; Catherine L. Kernochan, $208,000, and William Waldorf Astor, $203,400.

The Mexican General Torres Promoted.

AUSTIN, TEX., April 28.—A despatch from Ortiz, State of Sonora, Mexico, says that Gen. Lorenzo Torres was to-day officially advised that he has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General by President Diaz, and that his appointment has been ratified by the Mexican Senate. The promotion was made in recognition of his efficient service in conducting the campaign against the Yaqui Indians. Gen. Torres is in command of about 7,000 troops now in the field against the Yaquis.

Mae Williams Discharged.

Mae Williams, who was taken to the New York Hospital in a cab on Thursday night suffering from carbolic acid poisoning, was discharged by Magistrate Meade in the Jefferson Market police court yesterday. She refused to give the name of the man who was with her in the cab.

Brief Reviews of Important and Interesting New Publications.

Transpacific mails are forwarded to port of sailing daily and the schedule of closing is arranged on the presumption of their uninterrupted overland transit. §Registered mail closes at 6 P. M. previous day.

WORK OF THE BOER WOMEN.

THEY TILL THE FARMS WHILE THE MEN ARE AWAY FIGHTING.

Like the Men, They Believe That It Is a Holy War and Give Their Dearest to the Defence of the Republic—An Illustration of the Spirit in Which the Men Fight.

LONDON, April 20.—With practical every able-bodied man and boy at the front, the duty of looking after the farms has devolved upon the women of the Transvaal. The importance of this is easily realized when one considers that an army, as a famous General said, is like a serpent, for it moves on its belly. Some light is thrown upon the splendid manner in which these Boer women have worked by a letter written from Pretoria by Douglas Story. Here is his description of a Pretoria market.

"Two long rows of wagons stood axle-deep in the mud, with their curtains rolled up and their interiors showing. In each was a Boer woman, sometimes a couple, and always a youngster or two. But there was no man, and people refrained from reference to the absentees. Gowned in black, with her sallow, wrinkled face set far back in her black kappie, the Boer woman sits on a bundle of clothing in the hinder part of the wagon eying the crowd. Before her on a wisp of straw are the eggs, pumpkins or potatoes she has brought to market. But there were other keen-eyed women on the market square that morning—women who stood guard over heaped wagons of forage and heavy loads of potatoes in bags. Their immediate object was business, and I stood curiously by while the auctioneer disposed of their bringings.

"Anxiety sat on every line of these women's rugged faces. They scanned the crowd and rearranged the potatoes in the mouth of the bags until the auctioneer's quick hammer had cleared the lot. Then they clambered silently into the wagon again and resumed their interrupted toilet. Crowded market square or solitary veldt brought no blush to their cheek, and they braided their hair in the full presence of the townspeople without a sign of embarrassment. Blushes are the luxuries of the rich and the grace of the effete dwellers in towns. The veldt woman has no use for such fopperies, and despises them.

Meanwhile the potatoes and mealies were passing under the hammer, and I noted the prices they fetched in war time. I and other ignorant persons had predicted a failure in the food supply consequent upon the absence of the men upon commando. We had reckoned without the Boer vrouw and a remarkably rainy season. Prices are lower to-day than I have ever known them in the Transvaal. When Jameson crossed the border, four years ago, forage was £6 10s. per hundred bundles; to-day it is 25s. per hundred bundles. Potatoes have fallen from 45s. to 15s. the bag. To its own astonishment, the Transvaal has emerged from the battle smoke an agricultural country.

"In war time, in the face of a possible siege, prices in Pretoria are less than one-half of those current in Buluwayo. Forage is £3 15s. in Buluwayo, but only 25s. in Pretoria; Boermeal is sold at 55s. in Buluwayo, but fetches only 25s. in Pretoria. I saw bags of potatoes change hands to-day at 15s. the bag, when the price in Buluwayo is £9. Whatever else may fail them, the food supply is assured.

"The extraordinarily favorable season which has marked this year of war has seemed to the Boer women a direct evidence of the hand of God. They remember that the year of the raid was the blackest in the country's history, with its miserable tale of drought, rinderpest, and locusts, and they joyously proclaim the difference from this year of plenty. In every phase of this struggle one must recognize the religious fervor of the people, and without a full understanding of it no one can realize the forces at work within the Republic. The Transvaalers believe themselves engaged in a holy war, and the fact is one which the statesmen who arrange the final settlement may not neglect.

"Every night the people meet in the big church on the Kerk square, a vast congregation of women and children, with such of the men as can be present there. Wounded burghers from the front and those on furlough sprinkle the audience. They attend the service as they would a war counsel, and esteem their predikant as they would a well-tried general. The war seems to have burned out in great part the influences of the gold rush, and the people are become simple as in their pastoral days.

"Meantime there is neither death nor desolation in the silent dorps and farmhouses. Boer women are carrying on the work of their sons and husbands, directing the Kaffir labor, and themselves driving to market as goodly loads as ever were seen there in peace times. But it is quietly done. There are vacant chairs and dusty, untenanted velschoen to still the heedless laugh and to set the sad-eyed vrouw bustling about unnecessary duties when the children grow noisy or the Hottentot kitchen help shouts across the yard.

"They are not beautiful, these Boer women, nor promising candidates for romantic treatment, but I have seen enough to know their practical value in the land. On them falls the slow sorrow of the times. The politics of the war were in other hands, but the prosecution of it rests in great part with the women. Had they not taken the direction of the farms into their own hands famine would now be staring the country in the face instead of well-filled granaries and forage sheds. While the ladies of England have been employed devising comforts for the troops the Boer women have busied themselves with getting in the mealies and digging up the potato crops. The same woman's heart beats with the same divine compassion under the Boer vrouw's lyfje as under the daintiest vestment from Worth.

"This is a war of the Cromwellian period. The men at the front may be degenerate Calvinists, may have all the vices of the century-end; but the women are simple in the faith, and their faith kept the men in their trenches at Colenso and at Spion Kop. When the history of this war is written the influence of the Boer women will demand a very special place. They have been single-hearted in their determination to maintain the independence, and have not faltered in giving their dearest to its defence. I saw one woman turn dry-eyed from the train at Pretoria with the hoarse whisper:

"'He's the fourth son I have lost for Land en Volk since Elandslaagte. God preserve the Republic!'

"With such lie the prosecution of the war and the difficulty of settlement. Paul Krüger has not only the back-country Boers to wrestle with; he has the women in and around Pretoria, who dog his steps and exhort him to remember the sacred cause the people have sworn to defend. Their influence ennobles patriotism, but it makes policy vastly more difficult."

Something of the spirit in which the Boers are fighting can be seen too in the following story told by the Australian journalist, Mr. Hales. The conversation took place when he was a prisoner in the hands of the Boers.

"What do you fellows think of Australians as fighters?"

"I asked the question carelessly, but the answer that I got brought me to my bearings quickly, for then I learned that more than one gallant Australian officer dear to me had fallen never to rise again since I had been taken prisoner. The man who spoke was little more than a lad, a pale-faced, slenderly built son of the veldt. He had tangled curly hair, and big, pathetic blue eyes, soft as a girl's, and limbs that lacked the rugged strength of the old Boer stock; but there was that nameless something, that indefinable expression in his face which warranted him a brave man. He carried one arm in a sling, and the bandage round his neck hid a bullet wound.

"'The Australians can fight,' he said simply. 'They wounded me, and—they killed my father.' Perhaps it was the wind sighing through the hospital trees that made the Boer lad's voice grow strangely husky; possibly the same cause filled the blue eyes with unshed tears.

"'It was in fair fight, lad,' I said gently; 'it was the fortune of war.'

"'Yes,' he murmured, 'it was in fair fight, an awful fight—I hope I'll never look upon another like it. Damn the fighting,' he broke out fiercely. 'Damn the fighting. I didn't hate your Australians. I didn't want to kill any of them. My father had no ill-will to them, nor they to him, yet he is out there—out there between two great kopjes—where the wind always blows cold and dreary at night-time.' The laddie shuddered. 'It makes a man doubt the love of the Christ,' he said. 'My father was a good man, a kind man who never turned the stranger empty-handed from his door; even the Kaffirs on the farm loved him, and now he is lying where no one can weep over his grave. We piled great rocks on his grave. My cousin and I buried him. We had no shovels; we scooped a hole in the hard earth as well as we could, a long shallow hole, and we laid him in it. I took his head and Cousin Gustave carried his feet. We folded his hands on his breast, laid his old rifle by his side, because he had always loved that gun and never used any other when out hunting. Then we pushed the earth in on him gently with our hands, breaking the hard lumps up and crumbling them in our palms so that they should not bruise his poor flesh. He had always been so kind, we could not hurt him, even though we knew he was dead, for he had been gentle to all of us in life; even the cows and the oxen at home loved him—and now who will go back and tell mother and little Yacoba that he is dead, that he will come to them no more. Oh, damn the war,' the lad called again in his pain. 'I don't know—only God knows—which side is right or wrong, but I do know that the curse of the Christ will rest on the heads of those who have made this war for ambition's sake or the greed of gold, and the good God will not let the widow and the orphan child go unavenged; blood will yet speak for blood, and it must rest either on the heads of Krüger and Steyn or Chamberlain and Rhodes.'"

After these glimpses of Boer character as it appears to men who are opposed to them, it may be interesting to see what a Boer thinks of the Englishman as he finds him in the field. The following are extracts from a letter written by a burgher who fought at Colesburg and Paardeburg:

"At the commencement of the war, when there were but few British troops in South Africa, there was not much fighting to do with the exception of the commandos who went to Natal and bottled up Sir George White and his army in Ladysmith. With the other Boer armies it was just one huge picnic. I was with one of the contingents that lay round Kimberley, and with the exception of a few small skirmishes, which fade into insignificance compared with recent battles, we had not much fighting to do. There was hardly any danger then, but still we were always very careful and hid ourselves as much as possible. It is in our nature to take cover. We cannot understand how men can charge across a flat and try to get into the trenches so that they can use the bayonet. We all own that it is plucky, but then it is not war. Our idea of fighting is to kill as many of the enemy as you can and lose as few of your own men as possible. The British officer—that is, as far as I know him, and I have only met him as an opponent on the battlefield—seems to me to be a sort of a careless daredevil who aims out at one thing, and that is the Victoria Cross. He does things on the battlefield that no sane man would think of doing, and places himself in danger when there is not the slightest reason why he should do so. With the Boer it is quite different. There are no 'Distinguished Service Orders' for him, and he prefers to lie safe in his riflepit, or comfortably ensconced behind a huge ironstone boulder, to endeavoring to save the guns, or foolishly attempting to pick up a wounded man under a terribly raking fire. The ordinary sportsman will consider that in this case the Britisher is the best, but is it best, is it common sense? The Boer loses hardly any men, the roll call of the British regiment shows fearful gaps."

After describing how the British would bombard a kopje with lyddite and shrapnel, having their fire drawn by a line of Boers firing Martinis from the summit, while the men with Mausers and smokeless powder lay quietly in trenches at the foot, he proceeds:

"The British General officer commanding would then think all the Boers on that kopje were killed, and would send some poor unfortunate regiment to take the position. The order to charge would be given, and the wretched Tommies were sent into the mouth of hell, for our men, with their deadly Mausers, were waiting for them below the kopje, and when they came within about four hundred yards would rain lead on them. No living mortal could have stood the terrible, raking fire we used to give them, and I cannot understand how the 'Tommies' used to re-form and charge again with a cheer. Those khaki-clothed beggars were veritable demons. I know that if we Boers had been in their places we should have taken to our heels and run. I had often read about British pluck, but had never seen it. It wants to be seen before it can be believed. But, after all, is it war? Just look at the many positions of ours that could have been taken with the greatest ease if common sense had only been used by the British officers, and when regiment after regiment was repulsed and sent by the officers right into our rifles' mouths to be shot down. I was fighting for some weeks at Colesburg and had the honor to draw my sword against Gen. French's forces there. French knew how to fight us Boers. He did not rush his men into death-traps when he could outflank them, and I must own, as an honest man, that he completely outgeneralled us. He made some mistakes, I admit, for instance, when he sent the ill-fated Suffolks to charge us. The poor chaps never had a show. There were very few Boers on that hill that morning, but, then, we were hidden and secure, while the charging Britishers made a splendid target for our Mauser bullets. The Suffolks did all they could, and no man can do better, but they never had the slightest chance, and although we were completely outnumbered, they fell an easy prey into our hands."

The First Baby.

When baby comes to the home it will bind the wife closer to the husband, or it will gradually tend to cut her off from his companship. A sickly mother loses in physical charm, and often in temper and disposition. A fretful child is a trial, even to loving parents. The use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription prepares the wife for motherhood. It strengthens the body, and induces a healthy condition of mind, free from anxiety or fear. It makes the baby's advent practically painless. The mother being healthy her child is healthy, and a healthy child is a happy child, a joy to the parents, linking them together with a new bond of affection.

There is no opium, cocaine or other narcotic in "Favorite Prescription."

"I read what your medicine has done for other people," writes Mrs. Edwin H. Gardner, of Beechwood, Norfolk Co., Mass., Box 70, "so thought I would try it, and I found it a blessing to me and family. I took your medicine a year when I had a ten pound girl. I had the easiest time I ever had with any of my three children, and I have been very well ever since. I took three bottles of 'Favorite Prescription,' three of 'Golden Medical Discovery,' and three vials of 'Pellets.' Before I took your medicine I only weighed 135 pounds, and now I weigh 175 pounds."

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cure sick headache.

THE RISK KITCHENER TOOK.

CUT LOOSE FROM HIS BASE OF SUPPLIES TO TAKE BLOEMFONTEIN.

He Supplied Roberts's Army With Twenty Days' Rations, Marched It Into the Veldt, and Showed That the English Can Operate in South Africa Far From a Railroad.

From THE SUN'S Correspondent with Lord Roberts.

BLOEMFONTEIN, March 22.—I will try to tell the story of an uncommercial risk. Even in this country at this time it would not be an exact description to call it a war risk, for all the calculations turned on beef and biscuits and forage and ox and mule transport at one and at the other on engineering: work and iron girders and pontoons and trestles of crossed railway sleepers. Ordnance and ammunition were not discussed as the most important factors, so that the best title for the enterprise is to call it an uncommercial risk undertaken on a large scale.

Lord Kitchener was the underwriter and the cargo concerned was Lord Roberts's South African field force, numbering 40,000 men. The risk was taken up at a place called Poplar Grove on the Modder River, fifty miles west of this place. The date—which is important—was March 8, just a fortnight ago. We had arrived at Poplar Grove on the previous afternoon after the most peculiar military performance I have yet seen as the day's work of two opposing armies. Lord Roberts moved his various units into the lines of position he had selected with the hope of outflanking the Boers. Gen. French brought his division of 8,000 cavalry from the north to the south of the river on the previous night and moved at dawn to the extreme south of the British position. The infantry divisions of Gen. Colville's and Gen. Kelly-Kenny's moved along eastward to the left of the cavalry, on the north of the river bank, where the Boers were to be cut off should they run up country from French. The other infantry division, Gen. Tucker's, was away twenty miles south to see that reenforcements did not reach the Boers. It should have been a bad time for Commandant Christian De Wet, who was to have been the victim of strategy and big numbers. But in vain the net is spread in the sight of any Boer. Christian De Wet had seen too much, and he conducted a successful retirement at a range of 4,000 yards from the British artillery. The infantry had no part in the performance and the cavalry found their stern chase unproductive. It was after this great and bloodless operation—like a champion prizefight, where the combatants carefully keep the entire diameter of the ring between them—that we rested at Poplar Grove and Lord Kitchener, to outwit the Boer, took up an uncommercial risk.

Cronje was captured because he refused to allow that a British army could feed itself away from a railway. He was wrong. Even the sacrifice of 200 odd wagons laden with supplies weighing more than a million pounds, which were let go to the Boers at Waterfall Drift with scarcely a struggle rather than jeopard the converging movement on Cronje, did not prevent the British from sitting and getting food by transport until they tired out the Boers after ten days of the appalling nausea of their Paardeberg laager. Could another great Boer force be caught outright by underrating British ability to feed a large army mostly moving slowly on foot in a foreign country? The British troops were getting rather too far from their railway bases at Modder River and Kimberley. They had to keep open lines of communication over forty miles on the veldt to Poplar Grove, and the Boers knew this difficulty must increase the nearer the British approached Bloemfontein. Until Feb. 8 the supplies for the invading field force had been brought up slowly but regularly by convoy. Lord Kitchener's uncommercial risk was to lay in supplies for twenty days for 40,000 men; to drop all convoys and lines of communication with bases at the rear; and to give the army the twenty days to take Bloemfontein, repair all the railway south into Cape Colony, rebuild the bridge at Norvals Pont on the Orange River, and draw their regular supplies by rail from the great main depot at De Aar. The first risk was leaving the railway. The next was cutting the painter absolutely.

So confident was Lord Kitchener in his estimate, or so clearly did he see that if it failed through rains or Boers of any risk or the veldt, his presence on a derelict in midocean of sand and sparse scrub could not save it, that he went with a few of his staff officers that day, March 8, to Kimberley by road, took train for De Aar, came round the branch line to Naauwpoort, joined the British troops operating at Colesberg and pushed on to the river. He found the bridge badly damaged in three spans. It was a risk he had taken into account. He set at work pushing on men and material from Cape Town to make a bridge strong enough to stand heavy continuous traffic and a swollen river before his twenty days ran out. Culverts were, of course, blown up between here and Orange River, but could all be repaired in a few days. The great difficulty expected was lack of rolling stock. The Boers, it was reckoned, would certainly push all their engines and wagons northward on our approach. No pontoon or ferry was likely to be able to bring over locomotives from the Cape Colony side to this side. This expectation of no stock on the north side made the construction of a strong railway bridge over Orange River an immediate, imperative necessity in Lord Kitchener's scheme. The events that have already practically saved the situation, although the bridge is not yet working, belong to the story of Lord Roberts's advance from the west on Bloemfontein.

His headquarters troops, consisting of the Ninth Infantry Division, the Guards Brigade under Gen. Pole-Carew, the Naval Brigade with four 4.7-inch guns and four twelve-pounders, moved out from Poplar Grove on the morning of March 10. A large force of mounted infantry had moved on the previous afternoon. Gen. French was already six miles forward at Waalhock and Gen. Kelly-Kenny was two miles behind him at Roodepoort. On the morning of March 10 French advanced on Abramskraal where De Wet had established his head laager. Five miles out they suddenly encountered heavy artillery fire from a long, low Boer position some distance south and four miles west of Abramskraal. It was a surprise to which the First Artillery Brigade had no answer until two batteries of Horse Artillery galloped up and engaged the Boer guns. The fight went on at long range till midday, when the advanced columns of Kelly-Kenny's division joined right of the cavalry position. The Boers made the vital mistake of regarding the Sixth Division as the central headquarters column and spread very wide till they turned their own extreme left well round Kelly-Kenny's right. Lord Roberts's own column appeared early in the afternoon on the outside of this formation and before the Boers could withdraw they lost more men probably than they have had killed in any one engagement in the western campaign. The next morning the entire British force moved on from Driefontein, the scene of the battle, to Doornboom, a fourteen-mile march, and saw nothing of the Boers. Another tired sleep and early start and a march fourteen miles to Venter's Vlei, a farm belonging to the Transvaal Judge, Gregorowski, who sentenced the Johannesburg leaders to death after the Jameson raid fiasco. Still there were no Boers within reach. It was here, on March 12, that we had the first inkling of Kruger's proposal and Salisbury's refusal. That night it was hourly more evident that there was to be no fight before Bloemfontein, and so it proved. The cavalry entered the town by 10 in the forenoon unopposed. An hour later the Mayor, the Landdrost and the Volksraad members drove out and tendered the surrender of the capital to Lord Roberts. We learned from inhabitants that President Steyn had left for Kroonstad, more than a hundred miles north, on the previous afternoon after a reproachful meeting with the City Council, who said that they would not stand having their buildings shelled. Thus, on the fifth day from the beginning of Lord Kitchener's risk his side was in Bloemfontein with fifteen days' full rations irrespective of what could be raised in the town and neighborhood or brought up the line above the nearest point of interruption.

There is not yet a full train service to the south, but on the sixth day after our entry the manager of the Cape Government railways and a few other passengers arrived from Cape Town on official business connected with taking over the line. They were able to come up from the north of Orange River because the Boers had left eleven locomotives near the station here, and nine more which had been lying in the repairing sheds are again on the track. For this windfall it is believed a locomotive manager with British sympathies has to be thanked.

Thus results have justified the first device of moving troops without the railway and the second of feeding troops from a great convoy moving within their lines instead of relays from the base of communication. The Boers have seen a great invading army can exist in the field under both those conditions and they may be trusted to take that into account in future counter tactics. Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener are now framing other schemes for making the mastery of the Transvaal possible without costly frontal attacks. They have enormous numbers and have shown how to make concerted movements effective. It is probable that the Boers' resources will succumb to some variation of Lord Kitchener's new style of tackling his work simply as a big business proposition.

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