

## BRITISH CAPTURE BOERS

### Roberts' Troops Take Prominent Federal Officers.

Generals Duprez and Daniels Surrender to Methuen at Hoopstad. Commandant Botha and Field Cornet Cassen Surprised by Hunter's Mounted Men—Broadwood Occupies Lindley After Slight Opposition. Orange Free State Burglers Turning in Their Arms—Retreating Forces Destroy the Rhenoster River Bridge—The Official Despatch.

LONDON, May 18.—General Roberts' forces continue their advance movement and gratifying despatches have been received to-day from the army in the Orange Free State.

All advice tell of the continued success of the British and demoralized condition of the Boers.

General Methuen has occupied Hoopstad without the necessity of fighting and Ian Hamilton's cavalry has entered Lindley after slight opposition.

Several surrenders and captures of Boers, including burghers of prominence, are officially reported.

General Roberts today sent the following despatch to the War Office:

"Kroonstad, May 18.—Methuen entered Hoopstad yesterday without opposition. General Duprez and Daniels and forty men surrendered.

"Ian Hamilton's cavalry under Broadwood occupied Lindley yesterday. There was slight opposition and two of our men were wounded. Steyn was not taken. His government officials left last Sunday.

"Huston's mounted men yesterday surprised and captured about thirty miles northwest of this place Commandant Botha, Field Cornet Cassen, five Johannesburg policemen and seventeen Boers. There were no casualties on our side.

"Buller reports that several Natal farmers are handing in their arms."

"ROBERTS."

General Lord Roberts' despatch about the capture of "Commandant Botha" gives no idea as to which Botha is meant. There are several officers named Botha in the Boer Army, one of whom is Louis Botha, the commander-in-chief, who succeeded General Joubert.

A despatch from Kroonstad, dated May 17, 10.30 a. m., says that many of the burghers are turning in their rifles and going to their homes under the escort of British troops.

Two members of the Orange Free State Kolkraad, Paul Botha (Botha), of Kroonstad, and MacDonal, of Wepener, are here and are advising the Free State burghers to lay down their arms and return to their homes.

A despatch to a London news agency from Kroonstad states that the Boers in retreating to the Vaal River, destroyed the bridge across the Rhenoster River, placing another difficulty in the way of General Roberts' advance.

According to another despatch, from Pretoria, via Lourenco Marques, there are reports of continued heavy fighting along the line of the Beuchuanaland Railway. It is announced that the Republican troops evacuated Christiansia on May 15.

## THE MOVEMENTS IN NATAL.

Federal Commandos Retiring to the Defence Line Under Orders.

LONDON, May 18.—A despatch from Dundee, Natal, dated May 15, via Lourenco Marques, May 17, 3.30 p. m., says that under orders from Pretoria, the federal commandos are retiring to the Natal defence line and that all the commissariat and materials have been removed to the borders of the Transvaal. The railway is said to have done excellent work for the Boers in their retirement. The artillery and the wagons of the various laagers were removed in perfect order.

The Dundee despatch adds that as the burgher army passed Hartingspruit the gigantic and perfectly managed retreat presented a weird scene. A belated Pretoria despatch says that all the federal commandos are concentrating in the Drakensberg.

## BRITISH GUNBOAT IN DANGER.

Alleged Boer Plot to Blow Up the Forts.

DURBAN, May 17.—There is a sensational report from Delagoa Bay of a Boer plot to blow up the British gunboat Fort, after the manner in which the Maine was destroyed in Havana Harbor.

The authorities at Delagoa Bay are apparently convinced that the reports are well founded as the Fort puts out to sea for seven miles every night.

## MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN.

Victoria Congratulates Buller on the Occupation of Dundee.

DANNAHAUSER, Natal, May 17.—General Buller has received a congratulatory message from the Queen on the occupation of Dundee.

Her Majesty expresses her appreciation of the conduct of the troops during the northward movement.

## THE CHOLERA IN INDIA.

Forty-five Famish Camps Attacked by the Disease.

MANCHESTER, May 18.—The "Guardian's" correspondent, Mr. Vaughan Nash, cables from Hyderabad that the cholera is spreading fast in the famine districts.

In one division, forty-five famish camps have been attacked. Many thousands perished at Gujarat and there have been 1,000 victims in the Godhra camp. The correspondent concludes: "I fear an appalling loss of life is inevitable."

## Russian Torpedo Boat Blown Up.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 17.—The boiler of a harbor torpedo boat exploded yesterday afternoon. Six persons were killed and six injured.

## A Boy Attempts Suicide.

HAZLETON, Pa., May 18.—Little seven-year-old John Bruno attempted to commit suicide yesterday by drowning himself in the reservoir east of this city. He had been ill-treated by playmates, and became so morose that he ran to the reservoir and plunged from the bank into the water. He could not swim, but was saved from drowning by several men.

## BOERS ANXIOUS FOR PEACE.

### Boerers Said to Be Disheartened Over Recent Reverses.

LONDON, May 18.—The advice from Pretoria all point to the disheartened condition of the Boer leaders.

A despatch from the Transvaal capital, dated May 15, by way of Lourenco Marques, May 17, 4 p. m., declares that the recent heavy reverses in the Orange Free State have had a most depressing effect on the Boers, and that there is no longer any attempt to conceal the fact that the discouragement is spreading.

Advice from newspaper correspondents at Pretoria state that there is every reason to believe that the Boers will presently sue for peace. It is said that the Transvaal Government has asked an American correspondent to invoke the aid of his newspaper in securing the intervention of the United States. It is stated that a strong peace party is now being organized in Pretoria. There is great difficulty in getting despatches through from Pretoria, owing to the strict censorship that is being maintained.

The rumor from Lourenco Marques to the effect that President Kruger is preparing to flee from Pretoria at a moment's notice is repeated.

It is said that many Transvaal officials are also preparing for flight, and that Secretary of State Keltz has decided to make South America his future home.

Lourenco Marques advises say there seems to be no doubt that the Transvaal seat of government will be transferred to Lydenburg, and that the final stand of the Boers will be made there. It is declared that the Boers have endorsed this plan.

Correspondents at Lourenco Marques say that Michael Davitt, who is returning home after a visit to the Transvaal, expressed the opinion before he sailed that the war is practically ended, but if the Boers hold out a few months until the American elections are in progress they will keep their independence, as the Americans will declare in their favor. Mr. Davitt, after returning to Ireland, will go to the United States.

## DELEGATE FISCHER'S OPINION.

Envoy Does Not Believe the Boers Will Sue for Peace.

NEW YORK, May 18.—Abraham Fischer, chairman of the Boer deputation, was seen at the Hotel Manhattan this morning, and when questioned about the despatch from Pretoria said:

"I have heard nothing of the report that the Boers are about to sue for peace. It is, of course, merely my opinion that no such step is contemplated—I never give my opinions as facts.

"These reports are quite common to us. Before we came to this country we were frequently confronted with them. Even after our great victories it was quite common for us to be handed a despatch which said that somewhere some important functionary of the Boers had said that our Government was about to sue for peace.

"It is of course true that we sue for peace. We seek it by all honorable means. But that we seek it especially now more than heretofore I do not believe."

## BISHOP HARTZELL ATTACKED.

Charged With Manufacturing Sympathy for the Boers.

CHICAGO, May 18.—Bishop J. C. Hartzell's address at the Methodist Conference, in which he defended Great Britain's course in the South African war, was condemned in strong terms yesterday by former Judge William Prentiss. Mr. Prentiss was one of the members of the committee which held a meeting for the purpose of arranging for the reception in Chicago of the envoys of the Boer Government. The committee met in the Oxford building. Mr. Prentiss charged Great Britain with manufacturing sympathy.

"I believe," he said, "that Bishop Hartzell's address at the instigation of England to misrepresent the Boers. I say this as a Methodist. There is no question in my mind that England is greatly interested in the sentiment of the American public. England probably pays more attention to public feeling in this country than to that manifested in other countries. Bishop Hartzell's address was a masterpiece of a meeting of the representatives of the church scattered in all parts of the globe. President McKinley is a Methodist. A few days after our great victories it was quite common for us to be handed a despatch which said that somewhere some important functionary of the Boers had said that our Government was about to sue for peace.

"It is of course true that we sue for peace. We seek it by all honorable means. But that we seek it especially now more than heretofore I do not believe."

## METHODISTS STILL VOTING.

Dr. Spellmeyer Leads on the Sixth Ballot for Bishops.

CHICAGO, May 18.—At assembling time it seemed practically certain that the Rev. Dr. Henry Spellmeyer, of Newark, N. J., would be elected a bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the conference today. His rapid gain in votes in the balloting made public this morning and the withdrawal from the race of Dr. William V. Kelley, whose strength would logically go to Dr. Spellmeyer, made him the man everywhere talked of as almost a certain winner. Dr. Joseph F. Berry was thought most likely to be elected as the companion to Dr. Spellmeyer.

The morning session was opened by Dr. H. J. Talbot, of Evansville, Ind., who led the devotional exercises. Bishop Earl Cranston presided at the business meeting. At 10 o'clock the announcement of the results of the sixth ballot was made and the seventh was taken. The spare time between the ballots was given to the report of the mission committee on the number of missionary bishops to be elected. The report of the committee on temperance was set for the last of the session.

As expected, the sixth ballot showed Spellmeyer in the lead, though he needed two-thirds vote. The vote was as follows: Henry Spellmeyer, 309; J. F. Berry, 264; Dr. H. Moore, 259; J. W. Hamilton, 222; W. V. Kelley, 166. Four hundred and thirty-nine votes were needed to elect. A comparison between the fifth and sixth ballots show that Berry lost 23 and Spellmeyer 69.

## Passengers on the Crook.

NEW YORK, May 18.—Among the passengers who arrived this morning on the United States transport Crook from San Juan, Porto Rico, and Santiago, Cuba, were Major W. A. Glassford, Capt. Seth Spelman, United States Consul, and a Geodetic Survey, and Hobart S. Bird, editor of the "San Juan News."

\$1.25 to Baltimore and Return via B. & O. Saturday and Sunday. May 19 and 20, good for return. Following Monday. Tickets good on all trains except Royal Limited.

Good Weather Boarding at only \$1.85 per 100 feet for frame dwellings, 6th and 7th Aves.

## INVITED TO THE CAPITAL

### Hospitality of Washington Extended to Boer Envoys.

Representative Sulzer Speaks in Behalf of the Local Escort Committee at the Hotel Manhattan—Mr. Fischer Replies and Expresses Thanks for American Courtesies.

NEW YORK, May 18.—The committee representing Congress and the citizens of Washington, and which is to escort the Boer envoys to the Capital, arrived at the Manhattan Hotel at 10 o'clock this morning. They were at 10 o'clock escorted to the envoys' apartments on the seventh floor, where Representative Sulzer of this city formally invited the envoys to visit Washington. Owing to a mistake as to the time when the train left for this city, several members of the committee were left behind. It was said that the tardy members would arrive here in time to escort the Boer representatives to Washington this afternoon.

Those of the committee who arrived here this morning were: Senator Allen, Judge Robinson, of Nebraska; Representatives Ridgely, Daly and Sulzer, C. T. Brice, of Washington, and Cornelius Vanderhoef, of Baltimore. Senators Mason and Teller, and Representatives Rhea, De Armond, and Clark were the absentees.

The envoys, Messrs. Wolmarans, Westendorp and Pienaar, were in the ante-room on the southern side of the hotel. They stood quietly at one end of the apartments until Mr. Sulzer stopped for a moment and then the committee from Washington had arrived.

"We are a committee," he said, "representing the citizens of Washington, and I am glad to see you here. I am sure that you will be ultimately successful in your brave fight for independence and the cause of the Republic. At least ten-fifths of the inhabitants of these United States of America."

At the conclusion of Mr. Sulzer's address, Mr. Fischer replied:

"It is hardly necessary for me to say how we thank you for your kind words. We have now been in this city for several days and we have appreciated the kindly spirit with which you have received us wherever we have gone. We did not come to New York city on business—that lies in Washington. We simply came to rest and to view one of the greatest cities in the world. However, we have noticed a great unanimity in the feeling of sympathy for us. It comes from no party or interest. It is the feeling of the people that a party or sect existed here. If I tried to learn of their existence through the friendship which has been expressed to us both in word and deed. As I say, it comes from the heart of the American people. Gentlemen, I thank you again and again."

The first bulletin issued by the Boer envoys this morning at the Manhattan Hotel was that they were traveling in this country under the auspices of the National Boer Relief Association.

They wished it to be distinctly understood by the American people that they were not in the care of any society or organization, but that they were the duly accredited representatives of the Transvaal and Orange Free State Republics and that their mission here was to carry out a programme mapped out by their respective governments, and that they were not expected in any way to be influenced by the distress and suffering in Boer families other than by making efforts to place their side of the case before the American public in its true light, and in a manner to create a movement whose ultimate object would be to bring about a cessation of hostilities.

The following cable message was given out by Mr. Wessels who said it bore the names of five professors of Hamburg:

"A large company of prominent German professors cable to the Boer envoys at various public meetings. They wish the Boer envoys a hearty welcome in America, the classic soil of freedom. They heartily condemn the war between the Boer Republics and wish a most complete success to the efforts of the envoys to have further bloodshed stopped and peace restored in South Africa."

Consul General Piers of the Orange Free State said good-by to the envoys this afternoon. He will not accompany them to Washington.

## THE BOER COMMISSIONERS.

The President to Receive Them as Visitors to This Country.

The coming of the Boer envoys was discussed at the Cabinet meeting today. It was agreed that the President should receive the visitors tomorrow on their arrival at the White House, as a party of Boer gentlemen deserving of courteous consideration, but their reception will not be of a diplomatic character and Mr. McKinley will not recognize them as ambassadors.

An agreement was reached that the United States would not consider a formal plea of the Boers for intervention and would not intervene or mediate in any way. To do otherwise, it was agreed, it might involve the United States in war with Great Britain.

The commissioners and committee will reach Washington tonight at 8.20 o'clock, via the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The local committee to receive the envoys which includes members of Congress and citizens of the District of Columbia, have arranged to meet the train on its arrival. Forty carriages will be in waiting to drive the party to the Arlington Hotel, where rooms have been reserved for them during their stay in Washington.

## Little Money for Big Claim.

A WALKESBARE, Pa., May 18.—Henry Mosser, of Hazelton, who claimed \$30,000 damages from the Lehigh Traction Company, for collecting his fare twice and then "brow" him from a car, was given a verdict for \$15 by the jury in the case this morning.

## Up-to-Date Burglars Rode Wheels.

ANSONIA, Pa., May 18.—Burglars who looted the postoffice at Leontona of \$150 in cash and stamps, missed \$1,500 in another safe belonging to Postmaster Shant. The burglars rode into town on bicycles, and left them behind when they decamped.

## CHESAPEAKE BEACH—ON THE WAY.

Always cool. Excursion trains leave daily, 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. Last train leaves daily, 6 p. m. Take Columbia car to depot.

62-20 No. 1 Shingles, etc., only \$6.00 per 1,000. No 1 guaranteed by F. Libbey & Co.

## THE CUBAN POSTAL FRAUDS.

### Administration Said to Be Anxious to Punish the Perpetrators.

Officials of the Administration are amazed at the extent of the Cuban postal frauds and as the evidence accumulates it is said to strengthen the position of the President and the members of the Cabinet that everything possible shall be done to bring to trial every man implicated either directly or indirectly in the frauds. It is certain that the suspension of Director of Posts Rathbone will be permanent. Assistant Postmaster General Bristol goes to Cuba with full authority as Mr. Rathbone's superior to relieve him from duty. He carries with him full power to dismiss Mr. Rathbone from the postal service and officials here may therefore not expect to see him again. It is believed that Director Rathbone is at all connected with any of the irregularities, but he is being suspended on a right to examine the full investigation of all his vouchers by the military authorities of Cuba. When the postal service was established Director Rathbone was the only official in Cuba not subordinate to the Military Governor except when he had to draw from the Governor sufficient funds to make up the deficit of the postal service. He was a surplus of expenditures over the regular receipts.

A plan for this was agreed upon, the treatment of the island Director was given to Director Rathbone drawn upon the funds in the general treasury. These funds were largely made up from the customs receipts, and during the administration of General Brooke's administration in Cuba the warrants were issued without much complaint as to the concealment of the vouchers showing expenditures. When General Wood took office, he was at once told the position that as the customs revenues were being used in part to support the postal service, the military authorities had a right to examine the accounts of the postal service and to require Director Rathbone to submit his vouchers in support of his financial statements. These General Wood had difficulty in compelling the Director of the War Department regarding the matter. Director Rathbone did not, according to the officials, positively refuse to allow anyone to see the vouchers, but he was kept in the postoffice building in such a way as not to be accessible when the military officials desired to inspect them. It is said that whenever General Wood made any effort in the direction of examining these vouchers he was met with a quiet resistance which allowed the concealment of Director Rathbone that he was not under the authority of the War Department. This question came to Secretary Root's attention when he was in Havana, and after the receipt of the letter from the War Department a written protest against the continued opposition to an examination of these vouchers. The matter was referred to the War Department. It was informed that it may become necessary to have all the vouchers removed from the Postoffice Department in Havana to the War Department. The War Department was informed that the vouchers were sent to him for remark and the matter was pending when the discovery of Neely's alleged defalcation was made. It is said at the War Department that it was evident from the first discovery that Neely had accomplished. There had been inspection of the accounts of both Neely and the auditor. The latter was supposed to act as a check on Neely, this being the system in the postal service. The fact that the discovery was not made sooner is attributed to an alleged understanding between Neely and Reeves, a well-known member of the Cuban postal service. It is said that Neely had been over the Havana reports, but had nothing to confirm any suspicions he had discovered Neely's private letter to the auditor, in which he was convinced him that something was wrong and led to a closer inspection that brought forth evidence of fraud.

## THE CABINET MEETING.

The Cuban Postal Situation Discussed at Length.

The Neely case and the Cuban scandals took up much time at the Cabinet meeting today. Postmaster General Smith appeared armed with a portfolio from which he read copies of official correspondence bearing on the case. His most interesting announcement was that Auditor Reeves has confessed to frauds, and has returned \$1,000 of the funds which he had a part in stealing.

The Cabinet, on the recommendation of Secretary Gage, agreed to the immediate removal of the Neely case from the Federal bonds. They are the refunding 2 per cents issued to replace the old 4-2 per cents, and are repayable at the pleasure of the Government. The refunding will cut down the interest charges of the Government by \$500,000 annually. The increase in the surplus through the operation of this refunding will be \$1,000,000. It is expected that the immediate repayment of the bonds.

## GOING TO LOUISVILLE.

Maryland to Be Well Represented at the Confederate Reunion.

BALTIMORE, May 18.—The large number of persons already registered for transportation ensures a fine attendance from Maryland at the Confederate Reunion at Louisville, Ky., from May 30 to June 3. The Maryland contingent will leave by the Baltimore and Ohio Road on Thursday, May 29, and arrive in Louisville in time for the opening proceedings the next day.

The headquarters of the Maryland Division, Major General Andrew C. Tripp, commandant, will be at the corner of Seventh and Jefferson Streets, only a few minutes' ride from the building in which the sessions of the re-encampment will be held. The headquarters will be handsomely furnished and decorated at the expense of the committee of arrangements. It is expected that hundreds of former Marylanders and others will visit the headquarters, and a register will be provided for their signatures.

Dr. John J. Williams, late commander of James R. Herbert Camp, has been appointed an aide on the staff of General Tripp, with the rank of major.

Gen. John D. Gordon, of Georgia, Commander-in-Chief of the United Confederate Veterans' Association, believes that the Confederate Reunion will be by far the largest and most successful ever held.

"The central location of the city," says the general, "will bring thousands of Confederates to the gathering who have heretofore been unable to attend the annual meetings. From what I understand, no other city has ever made the preparations that Louisville is making to welcome the veterans. I am satisfied that not less than 25,000 will be present, and that many more, including families, kinsmen, and friends of the veterans, I think it safe to say that Louisville can expect to entertain 50,000 visitors."

## Nearly Drowned in a Tub.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., May 18.—Fifteen months old Willie Campbell, of 1816 Columbia avenue, was nearly drowned in a tub of water in a yard yesterday afternoon, and his life was saved by Policeman Scholey, of the Twenty-third district. Scholey found the child unconscious in the tub. He had fallen in. After several minutes' hard work the boy was brought to consciousness.

## Vlyn's Business College, 8th and K.

—Census Office Examination—\$5

New Laths for Plasterers only \$3.50. These are bright yellow and dry, at 6th and N. Y. Ave.

## THE MEMORIAL BRIDGE

### Secretary Root Sends to Congress a Report on the Design.

The Offering of William H. Burr, He Says, Meets All the Requirements and Should Be Adopted—The Cost to Be \$4,960,000—A Description of the Proposed Structure.

The Secretary of War today forwarded to the Senate a communication submitting a report on designs for the Memorial Bridge across the Potomac from Washington to Arlington. The report states that the design of William H. Burr, as first in the order of merit, meets all conditions required and should be adopted. The estimated cost of Mr. Burr's design is given at \$4,960,000. Secretary Root states in a letter accompanying the report that he concurs in the decision of the board and recommends that the Burr design be adopted by Congress.

The report states that "there were submitted for the consideration of the Board two designs each by Messrs. L. L. Buck, William R. Hutton, and George S. Morrison, and three designs by Mr. William H. Burr. After careful study the Board places the comparative merits of the designs as follows:

"No. 1, Design No. 2 of Mr. William H. Hutton.

"No. 2, Design No. 1 of Mr. L. L. Buck.

"No. 3, Design No. 1 of Mr. George S. Morrison.

"The board expresses the opinion that the general design of Mr. Burr, designated as the first in the order of merit, meets the conditions of the problem and should be adopted, subject to certain recommendations and modifications set forth in the report, as to width, slope of roadway, curve of under side of draw, towers, provision for tramcars, elevation of initial point, etc., and such other minor modifications as experience may suggest upon the undertaking of the work or during its progress."

After a history of the attempts made in the past to obtain a great bridge to span the space between the Naval Observatory and Arlington, the report tells of the efforts to organize the board and to get the best bridge architects to compete.

The accepted design is described as follows: "The bridge will consist of three designs are to be combined in the structure:

"This is a design for a double-deck bridge 50 feet wide at the roadway. Two sidewalks, each ten feet wide, and a roadway forty feet wide, are carried upon the upper deck, while a double-track street railway is provided for the lower deck. The total length of the open work of the bridge proper and approaches is about 3,440 feet.

"The 233-foot steel arches are circular (segmental), the springing line being 24 feet above mean low water, the rise 25 feet above the spring, and the radius of the intrados about 400 feet. The clear height under the crown of the arches is 26 feet. A clear headroom of about 8 feet 9 inches is provided under these arches for a width of 50 feet at the centre and about 36 feet 3 inches for a width of 100 feet.

"There are five 2-hinged, solid web steel arch ribs, the first being balanced by a pair of open steel construction in each span. These ribs and spandrel posts carry the floor beams and stringers, which in turn support the buckle-plate foundation for the asphalt roadway and the ties of the street railway of the lower deck.

"The drawspan is composed of 2 bascule arms supported on transoms, balanced by rear extensions and counterweights. The clear opening is about 187 feet, the clear span at low-water level 212 feet, and two more 233-foot steel arches.

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