

TWO CENTS.

SCRANTON, PA., MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 26, 1900.

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BOERS' POSITION NOW HOPELESS

British Guns Dominate Sloping Ascents from All Sides.

CRONJE WOULD SURRENDER

But Is Overborne by the Young Boers from the Transvaal—General Roberts Offers to Allow Women and Children to Pass Out from Boer Lines to Places of Safety, but the Offer Is Rejected—Every Sharpshooting Finds a Victim and the Boer Force Must Surrender or Be Annihilated.

Paardeberg, Orange Free State, Feb. 25.—General Cronje's position is more hopeless than ever. Our guns dominate the sloping ascents from the river on all sides and by the rush of the shrapnel on Wednesday night up the river bed the Boers lost 200 yards space in their cover.

Deserters say the British fire has been very deadly and affirms that General Cronje himself is willing to surrender, but is overborne by the young Boers from the Transvaal.

There are women and children with the Boer force. General Roberts proposed to let them pass out of danger, but this suggestion, as well as the offer of mediation, has been rejected.

The kopje carried by the British last Wednesday, when fifty prisoners were taken, is a most important strategic position. Its possession enables us to renege any Boer reinforcements from the eastward.

Paardeberg, Feb. 24.—Parties of Boers recently arrived from Natal attacked our outposts in force again yesterday. They lost a good many killed and wounded and nearly 100 prisoners, including a commandant and three field cornets.

Paardeberg, Feb. 24.—The Boer force is gradually closing in on General Cronje from all sides and making his position more impossible than ever.

During the course of last night the British artillery poured in several rounds. There was a terrible rain and thunder storm early in the evening.

The Canadians were heavily engaged in Sunday's fight, behaving most gallantly.

Prisoners at Cape Town. Cape Town, Saturday, Feb. 24.—Within the last few days two hundred prisoners have arrived here and preparations are being made to receive large numbers.

Scouts Compelled to Retire. Sterkstroom, Sunday, Feb. 25.—A reconnaissance yesterday in force under General Gatacre, with eight guns, found the Boers occupying a ridge three miles beyond Molino, in the Stormberg direction.

Ballon Discoveries. Paardeberg, Saturday, Feb. 24.—The British took eighty prisoners as a result of yesterday's engagement.

Cronje Had Good Cover. London, Feb. 25.—The Times publishes the following from Paardeberg dated Wednesday: "General Cronje's force have good cover from the British artillery fire and have considerable stores of provisions."

Kruger Urged to Sue for Peace. London, Feb. 25.—The Lourenco Marques correspondent of the Times says: "The feeling in official circles at Pretoria is all consternation. General Louis and President Steyn are both urging President Kruger to sue for peace. At Bloemfontein, General Cronje's position is regarded as hopeless."

Everybody admires the splendid stand of the burghers, but from a humanitarian point of view it is considered that further resistance on the part of General Cronje will be criminal.

Every shrapnel shell finds a victim, and unless a miracle occurs his force must be wiped out or captured. The former result is terrible to contemplate, but, although it would require a few days, it would be easy to accomplish.

Today Lord Roberts sent General Cronje an offer of a safe conduct for the women and children, together with a free pass to any point for them, and also an offer of doctors and medicine. Cronje's reply was a curt refusal, and desultory shelling was resumed.

Advance of Shrapnel. Shelling continued during the early part of last night. As soon as the last gun was fired the Shrapnel, who had been occupying the river bed since Sunday, rushed forward, seized an additional 200 yards of river ground and entrenched a fresh position before daybreak.

The exchange of positions had its amusing features in spite of the danger. The Gordons crawled on their stomachs to the trenches, and the Shrapnel crept out of there by zig-zagging over the Gordons.

The scene of the last five days' fighting is one of the prettiest spots in South Africa. The river, at the point where General Cronje is entrenched and fighting for life, resembles some parts of the Hudson river, the ground all around sloping towards the stream.

Prisoners Taken. General French has sent in seventy-five prisoners. A British patrol, eight miles to the west, discovered thirty Boers wandering away and captured them.

Today a German ambulance attached to the Boer force was allowed to traverse the British lines in front of Jacobabad.

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Very Severe Fighting Expected. London, Feb. 25.—The Times publishes the following dispatch from Colenso, dated Saturday: "The British are now within two miles of being in touch with Ladysmith; but the ground still to be covered is the hardest part and very severe fighting will be expected."

Captain Montmorency Killed. Sterkstroom, Feb. 25.—General Gatacre's force, which was engaged in the battle of the Tugela, has been defeated.

Artificial Coal From Peat is Being Made in Germany.

Chicago, Feb. 25.—Dr. A. R. Wright, of Buffalo, N. Y., is dead at St. Joseph's hospital in Chicago. He died here Thursday to consult Dr. Nicholas Senn about his illness.

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BIG STEAMSHIP GOES ASHORE

THE CALIFORNIAN WRECKED NEAR PORTLAND.

All Passengers Are Safe, Though Still on Board the Vessel—It Is Valued at \$3,000,000, and Cargo at \$300,000—The Passengers to Be Removed Today.

Portland, Me., Feb. 25.—The big Alaskan line steamship Californian, which left her dock at midnight, went ashore on Ram Island ledge, just outside of the harbor, a few minutes after her pilot left her this morning.

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The Californian was bound for Glasgow by way of Halifax. Captain Leisowald says the cabin is full of water, the fires are extinguished, there is a heavy sea and the passengers are perfectly safe.

Coal Shipments. Heaviest Tonnage in the History of Trade Expected at Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 25.—It is learned from an official of the Pittsburgh Coal company, the local combination, that lake shipments will commence much earlier this season than last, in fact arrangements have been perfected to begin shipments soon.

Both coal and iron men expect the heaviest tonnage in their history this year, with top-notch prices. The coal tonnage last year of the Pittsburgh district was 16,000,000 tons.

Keystone and Otto on the Breaker Rock at Boston Light.

Boston, Feb. 25.—The barges Keystone and Otto, of the Philadelphia and Reading company, while inward bound from Philadelphia for Boston with coal, ran ashore on Breaker rock, Boston light, this morning.

Prices Are Well Maintained, with Better Business.

Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 25.—The Ledger in its coal article tomorrow will say: "The anthracite coal trade is practically without feature. The season goes along with about the usual demand."

Condition of Mrs. Sartoris. Physicians State That No Cancer Has Existed.

New York, Feb. 25.—The following statement relative to the condition of Mrs. Grant Sartoris was given out today by the attending physicians:

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FIRE NEAR PARIS.

Two Million Francs Destroyed by the Flames.

Paris, Feb. 25.—As the result of a fire that broke out this morning at St. Ouen, a suburb of Paris, in a collection of shops and all stores, a series of explosions occurred, spreading the flames until a block of immense warehouses was involved in a huge conflagration.

A great concourse of spectators had assembled and had approached too near, when a sudden and unexpected series of explosions occurred, spreading the flames until a block of immense warehouses was involved in a huge conflagration.

The block of warehouses was almost surrounded by unoccupied ground, over which the burning alcohol spread when the building collapsed, resulting, also, in flames and considerable consternation throughout the district.

FOUGHT AS THEY RACED

Crews of Rival River Packets on the Ohio Engage in a Lively Row.

Parisburg, W. Va., Feb. 25.—The Ohio river packets Valley Belle and William Duffy rounded Neal's Island, four miles above here, at noon yesterday almost together.

When the Hawaiian bill is voted upon the Puerto Rican bill will be taken. Senator DeLoach on Tuesday will speak on the problems connected with the Philippine islands.

MEMELIK IN PACIFIC MOOD. No Intention of a Hostile Move Toward the Nile.

Marseilles, Feb. 25.—Herr Iig, King Menelik's chief counselor, arrived from Abyssinia today. He will pass a year in Europe, during which he intends to visit Premier Waldeck-Rousseau and M. Delcasse, minister of foreign affairs.

Anthracite Coal Trade. Prices Are Well Maintained, with Better Business.

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FORECAST OF THE WEEK IN CONGRESS

SEATING OF SENATOR QUAY WILL BE DISCUSSED.

Hawaiian Bill Remains the Unfinished Business, Subject to Removal at Any Time by the Quay Matter.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The time of the senate during the present week will be divided between the questions of the finances, the government policy towards the insular possessions and the seating of Senator Quay upon the nomination of Governor Stone of Pennsylvania.

The Hawaiian bill remains the unfinished business, subject to removal at any time by the Quay matter.

Senator Aldrich has given notice that he will make a speech in explanation of the currency bill agreement on Wednesday and that he will call it up the next day and then ask final action upon it.

When the Hawaiian bill is voted upon the Puerto Rican bill will be taken. Senator DeLoach on Tuesday will speak on the problems connected with the Philippine islands.

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THE NEWS THIS MORNING

Weather Indications Today: FAIR; NOT SO COLD.

- 1 General—General Cronje Still Holds Out. Five Persons Meet Death on the Lehigh Valley. Forecast of Week in Congress. Ocean Steamship Ashore Off the Maine Coast.

Philadelphia, Feb. 25.—A man registered at a Pennsylvania hotel as Hamilton H. Greyson died in that institution today from hemorrhages, and from letters found among his effects is supposed to have a remarkable career and a wide experience in various parts of the world.

Hamilton H. Greyson Had a Checkered Career.

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At his boarding house very little was known of him. He never spoke of his family, but is believed to have known Henry Herbert Greyson, and it is recommended him for the Victoria Cross for good work done as a hospital surgeon.

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Y. M. C. A. CONVENTION. Last Meeting Is Held at Williamsport.

Williamsport, Pa., Feb. 25.—The last meeting of the Young Men's Christian association state convention took place here tonight. The meetings of today began this morning at 9 o'clock, when the prayer meeting was held in the hall.

In the association hall the boys' meeting was held. The meeting was of such a nature that the young men instructed in the principles of the association and its work without finding it tiresome or disagreeable in any way.

FERRARO RESIGNED. The Italian Murderer Will Make No Trouble, It Is Thought.

New York, Feb. 25.—Everything is in readiness for the execution of Antonio Ferraro in the electric chair at Sing Sing tomorrow morning. The execution is set for the coming week and it is almost certain that it will take place before noon Monday.

Puerto Rican Bill. Washington, Feb. 25.—The efforts to unite the Republicans in the Puerto Rican bill have failed and at midnight, after prolonged session, it was stated that matters were substantially settled.

Mules for South Africa. Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 25.—Four hundred mules were shipped today for New Orleans for use by the British in South Africa.

Canal Commission Well. San Juan, Nicaragua, via Galveston, Feb. 25.—The United States canal commission, after having conferred for several days with President Schlay, left today for Panama, via Colima. All the members are well.

Weather Forecast. Washington, Feb. 25.—Forecast for Monday and Tuesday: East—era Pennsylvania—Fair and not so cold Monday; Tuesday—warmer, with probably rain or snow; dimming; insular westerly winds Monday.

DISASTER ON THE VALLEY

Train Strikes a Carriage Killing Five Occupants.

Buffalo, Feb. 25.—A special to the Courier from Geneva, N. Y., says: Shortly after midnight Saturday night the midnight express on the Lehigh Valley railroad struck a carriage containing seven persons at the Tuttle crossing, about twenty-five miles east from Rochester, instantly killing five of the occupants, fatally injuring another and badly bruising the other. All were members of a family. The dead: Mrs. Amy Smith, 45 years of age; Bert Smith, 25; Miss Miranda Smith, 23; Glee Smith, 14; Catherine Smith, 8. The injured: Porter Smith, husband of Mrs. Smith, and father of the other victims; Gardner Smith, 21 years of age.

MEMBERS OF ONE FAMILY

A Vehicle Containing Seven Members of the Smith Family in a Wagon Attempted to Cross the Lehigh Valley Tracks at Tuttle's Crossing and Were Struck by a Locomotive—All Are Killed or Injured.

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STREET CAR JUMPED. Went Ten Feet in the Air and Rolled Down the Bank.

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 25.—A street car jumped the track at Oakland cemetery today by striking an obstruction which had evidently been placed across the track. The car jumped fully ten feet into the air and rolled fifteen feet down an embankment. The twelve passengers on the car were more or less injured. Those sustaining serious injuries are: Motorman George Maddox; Herschel Delaperry, policeman; Eugene Coker, policeman; D. Coogler and E. W. Wallace.

PEACE DEMONSTRATION. But It Came Very Near Resulting in War in Vienna.

Vienna, Feb. 25.—A peace demonstration, organized by the Peace Association of the World, was held here today, and was largely attended. Meanwhile a rather disorderly socialist demonstration was in progress against the reactionary measure recently passed by one of the provincial diets.

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