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BOERS HEMMED IN

Cronje Makes Bitter Resistance After Failure to Escape.

WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH.

His Request For Armistice to Bury the Dead Is Refused.

HEAVY LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES.

General Kelly-Kenny Orders an Advance Across the Open to Capture Two Drifts Boers Still Busy Shelling Ladysmith. Garrison in Good Spirits.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—General Cronje is seemingly making his last stand. He is dying hard, hemmed in by British infantry and with shells from 60 guns falling into his camp. On the third day of the fight the Boer chief asked for an armistice of 24 hours to bury his dead. "Fight to a finish or surrender unconditionally," was Lord Kitchener's reply. General Cronje sent back word that his request for a truce had been misunderstood and that his determination then, as before, was to fight to the death.

The battle went on. This was the situation of General Cronje Tuesday evening, as sketched in the scanty telegrams that have emerged from the semi-silence of South Africa.

Officially, Lord Roberts writes that he has scattered the advance commandoes of the relief columns that were trying to reach General Cronje. It was regarded as singular that Lord Roberts, wiring Wednesday, should not mention the appeal for an armistice on the previous day, and also that the war office should withhold good news if it has any. Without trying to reconcile even the scanty materials at hand, it seems that General Cronje is in a bad, and even a desperate, situation, and that the British are pressing the advantage. While the attack on General Cronje proceeds there is a race for concentration between the Boers and the British.

The engagement with General Cronje's 5,000 to 8,000 entrenched men is likely to become an incident in a battle between the masses. The separated fractions of the Boer power are rapidly drawing together to attack Lord Roberts.

Will General Cronje be able to hold out until the Boer masses appear, or if he does, will they then be able to succor him? The British are facing the Boers on ground where the arms, tactics and training of the British are expected to give them the advantage.

General Buller, according to a dispatch from Chieveley, dated Wednesday, finds the Boers in positions north of the Tugela largely reinforced. This seems strange. The war office for the first time has given out an official compilation of the British losses. The total is 11,208 to Feb. 18. This does not include, therefore, Lord Roberts' recent loss nor the Wiltshire prisoners.

The Press Association learns that the British losses at Koodoosrand were 700. Three thousand fresh troops will embark for South Africa today. The relative position of the combatants is likened to chess players, one of whom from time to time adds pieces to the board, while any loss to the adversary is irreplaceable.

CRONJE MAKES HARD FIGHT.

Kelly-Kenny's Forces Caught in the Open and Losses Are Heavy.

PAARDEBERG, Feb. 23.—One of the costliest actions of the war occurred at Paardeberg Sunday. General Kelly-Kenny, in his pursuit of General Cronje, caught his rear guard at Elip drift and followed the burghers to the Boers' laager.

The drift action began at daybreak, the mounted infantry driving the Boer rear guard up the river toward the main body, while another body of mounted infantry maneuvered on the right front and flank of the Boers. The British main body advanced to outflank the Boers' laager on the north bank of the river. General Kelly-Kenny, having seized two drifts, found the Boers strongly inclosed and ordered an attack, with the Highland brigade on the left and General Knox's brigade on the center and right, while General Smith-Dorrien's brigade crossed the river and advanced along the north bank. On both the north and south banks the ground is level and the advance across this was deadly and the British losses were heavy. The battle was an exact replica of the Modder river. The soldiers were under fire all day and all the fighting had no definite result, as the Boers' laager was well barricaded and they remained there. The British guns shelled the laager vigorously and the Boers consented to a loss of over 500 men.

SHELL BOER LAAGER.

Artillery Fire of British Creates Havoc Among the Federals.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—The Daily News has the following from Modder River, dated afternoon, Feb. 21: "The Boer forces under General Cronje are estimated at 8,000 men. At 12 o'clock he asked an armistice of 24 hours, which was refused. Later he 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. The bombardment was then reopened and our lyddite shells set fire to the Boer wagons. We continued shelling the laager through the night and in the morning we resumed with Maxim and rifles, principally from the north side. On Sunday there was much waste of life, when the same result can be obtained without it. During Monday night seven Boers attempted to break through our lines, but they were captured and their leader was killed. Four were carrying letters. It is believed that there was one other who got through.

"Other prisoners say General Cronje marched from Magersfontein here without outspanning, a distance of 33 miles. Had he succeeded in escaping it would have been one of the finest performances in the annals of war. The Campaigns made a gallant charge at the laager, but were driven back with loss. General MacDonald and General Knox are slightly wounded.

STOPS REINFORCEMENTS.

General Roberts Devotes His Time to Preventing Aid Reaching Cronje.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—The war office has received from Lord Roberts the following message, which was delayed in transmission, dated Paardeberg, Wednesday, Feb. 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 50 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 Ninth Lancers and Lieutenant Houston of the artillery, and four men, all slightly wounded. Methuen reports from Kimberley that supplies of food and forage are being pushed on as fast as possible. There will be enough coal to start the DeBeers mines in 10 days. By this means great misery will be alleviated. Hospital arrangements there are reported perfect. He hopes Prieska and the adjoining country will soon be settled."

Boers Shelling Ladysmith.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—The Morning Post publishes a dispatch from Ladysmith, dated Feb. 19, which says that the bombardment continues with unusual persistence and activity from Bulwara and the surrounding heights, spall damage being done to the garrison and the garrison's morale is somewhat depressed. The garrison is in good spirits and the garrison's morale is somewhat depressed.

PORTO RICO DEBATE.

Discussion on Whether Insular Continued

The debate on whether Porto Rico should be continued as an insular possession was continued today in the Senate. The discussion was led by Senator McCall of Massachusetts, who argued in favor of continued insular status. He pointed out the economic and administrative difficulties of annexation and the benefits of continued insular status. Senator McCall also spoke against the bill and Parker (N. J.) in support of it. The debate was continued at a night session.

KANSAS CITY CHOSEN.

Milwaukee Loses the Democratic Convention Race.

MEET ON INDEPENDENCE DAY.

July 4 Is the Date Fixed by the National Committee For the Nomination of a Candidate For President—Call For the Meeting Is Issued.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The next national Democratic convention will be held at Kansas City July 4. This was the decision of the Democratic national committee, which met at the Hotel Raleigh yesterday to fix the time and place of holding the convention. Milwaukee was the only city which competed for the honor of entertaining the convention and the poor showing she made when the vote was taken—the result being Kansas City, 40; Milwaukee 9—caused general surprise. The claims of the rival cities as to hotel accommodations, railroad and hotel facilities were presented in open session by representatives of each city, and subsequently in executive session, Governor W. J. Stone on behalf of Kansas City and National Committeeman E. O. Wall on behalf of Milwaukee, explaining the financial inducements which the city he represented was willing to make. Each offered the committee \$50,000, but in addition Kansas City was willing to furnish hotel accommodations for the members of the committee and the hall with decorations and music free. Milwaukee's strongest argument was the political effect which the holding of the convention in that city would have upon 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 at least two speakers that Bryan would be nominated and that the Chicago platform would be reaffirmed. Opposition to trusts, expansion and imperialism, together with every mention of Bryan and the Chicago platform aroused enthusiasm, but during the open session there was no allusion to the issue of free silver. Three dates for holding the convention were proposed, May 9 by Townsend of Oregon, June 14 by Tillman of South Carolina and July 4 by McGraw of West Virginia. A speech by ex-Senator Gorman in favor of holding to precedent and naming a date later than that for the convention of the party in power had considerable influence in causing Independence day to be chosen.

After the committee had selected the "Gate City" of the west the Kansas City boomers held a jollification meeting in their rooms at the Raleigh. Ex-Governor Stone addressed the gathering, predicting that those who attended the convention would depart with praises upon their lips for the hospitality they had received and that the nominee of the convention would be the victor at the polls in November.

The national committee issued the following call: "The national Democratic committee, having met in the city of Washington, on the 22d day of February, 1900, has appointed Wednesday, the fourth day of July, as the time, and chosen the city of Kansas City, Mo., as the place for holding the national Democratic convention. Each state is entitled to double the number of its senators and representatives in the congress of the United States, and each territory, Alaska, Indian Territory and the District of Columbia shall have seven delegates. All Democratic, conservative, reform citizens of the United States, irrespective of past political associations and differences, who can unite with us in the effort for pure, economic and constitutional government, and who favor the republic and oppose the empire, are cordially invited to join us in sending delegates to the convention."

Members of the First Nebraska Given a Military Burial at Beatrice.

BEATRICE, Neb., Feb. 23.—A triple funeral of three First Nebraska soldiers who died in the Philippines and whose bodies were recently returned to the United States, was held here yesterday. Their names were Frank M. Kenny and George E. Kelly of Kearney Co. and George W. Kelly of Kearney Co. The bodies were returned by the steamer, and were interred in the cemetery here.

TRIPLE SOLDIERS' FUNERAL.

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CHESS DIES FROM NEGLECT.

Coroner's Jury Uncerth as to Cause of Death.

FOUR DODGE, Ia., Feb. 23.—The body of Michael Chess, ex-husband of the county coroner yesterday, discloses evidence of frightful treatment by his sister and her husband previous to his death. They secured \$10,000 worth of his property. The county attorney and grand jury are investigating the case, which promises to be the most sensational in northern Iowa in many years. The lungs of Chess were found to be in such a state of congestion, due to pneumonia, as would readily cause death. His stomach was in an inflamed condition, owing to improper food. His feet were frozen and some of his toes were frozen and several of a crusty character, the result of the exposure to the weather. It was such a case as to make the victim, in the opinion of the coroner, a victim of neglect.

CROW RELEASED ON BAIL.

Probably Case Against Him Will Be Dropped—Hearing Set for Monday.

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—Pat Crow, who was arrested two weeks ago, suspected of being one of the men who held up a Northwestern train at tower W, Oct. 13, has been released on bail and the case against him will probably be dismissed. Special Agent Riley of the Northwestern said he was confident Crow was not connected with the robbery. Police Justice Ludwig at Geneva, where the prisoner was confined, allowed Crow's attorney to sign his bond for \$10,000. The preliminary hearing is set for next Monday morning. Riley said that Crow's arrest was caused by the statement of a man who told Captain Ludwig and Inspector Hunt of the Chicago police department that Crow approached him sometime before the robbery and asked him to enter the plot. Since then Riley has found that Crow was at work in the South Omaha packing houses at the time of the robbery.

FINISH THEIR LABORS.

Buttermakers Elect Officers For the Current Year.

HASKELL IS CHOSEN PRESIDENT. St. Paul Confident of Securing the Next Convention—Final Award of Premiums. Parade the Big Event of the Day—Sale of Prize Butter. LINCOLN, Feb. 23.—The three leading features of the buttermakers' meeting yesterday were the parade, final award of prizes and sale of prize butter by auction. Every state delegation participated in the parade, headed by Illinois, holding the place of honor as winner of the prize flag. There was lively bidding for the 705 tubs of butter, which went to a Chicago house for \$5,000, the proceeds to go to the Buttermakers' association. Final markings were announced in the prize contests. The results follow: Separator Class—First, H. T. Stoudergard, Litchfield, Minn., score, 98; prize, a gold medal and \$100 in cash. Second, Marten Mortenson, Willow Creek, Ia.; score, 93½; prize, silver medal and \$50 in cash. Gathered Cream Class—First, M. M. Magnusson, Bee, Minn.; score, 94; prize, solid gold medal. Second, R. A. Carpenter, York, Neb.; score, 93; prize, silver medal. State Delegation Competition—Iowa, 191 entries, average, 89.75; Minnesota, 19 entries, average, 89.17; Wisconsin, 72 entries, average, 87.60; Illinois, 59 entries, average, 86.93; Kansas, 45 entries, average, 86.67; Nebraska, 51 entries, average, 86.67; South Dakota, 13 entries, average, 86.86. The award officers were elected: President, George Haskell, Lincoln; vice president, L. G. Miller, South Dakota; secretary, E. S. Litchfield, Illinois. The program of the next meeting will be held at the executive committee, which is practically decided in favor of St. Paul.

DEWEY AT WHEELING.

West Virginia City Pays Tribute to the Admiral in Spite of Bad Weather.

WHEELING, W. Va., Feb. 23.—Wheeling's ovation to Admiral Dewey was enthusiastic, although weather conditions were rather unfavorable. The speaking and other exercises took place in one of the large halls, at which time the sword subscribed for by the citizens of Wheeling was presented to Lieutenant Adm. Dewey by Admiral Dewey and the orations incident to the dedication of the tablet commemorating the siege of Fort Henry, or the last battle of the revolution, were delivered. Wheeling's enthusiasm was evidently too much for the admiral. He is reported to have said: "No more invitations for me, gentlemen. I can't stand another day like this." He was jostled to and from the crowd when entering and leaving the Carroll club auditorium, his toes trampled on and his uniform soiled. This overdoing of the thing is said to have caused the admiral to decline to attend the Sons of the Revolution banquet last night, an invitation to which he accepted last November. To Conclude Big Cattle Deal. FOUR WORREN, Feb. 23.—George B. Loving will leave Saturday for New York via Kansas City and Chicago to conclude the big cattle syndicate deal. The results of expert appraisers show that 73 companies have given options on their properties, which include 20,000,000 acres. The average price put on the land was \$1.90 per acre. The cattle number 900,000 head and were appraised at \$21.37 per head. The total value of all the properties comprehended in the syndicate is \$40,000,000. Mr. Loving also has options on 30 cottonseed oil mills in the state. Their purpose is to supply the cattle with oil cake for food.

STERN BROS.

Going out of Business Sale!

Is the sensation of the season. As the first of March approaches we feel compelled to make still greater reductions in prices for we positively must sell every article in our stock to save time and expense incurred by moving the same. These are some of the items still remaining on hand and in order to dispose of them

WE'LL MAKE THE FOLLOWING PRICES

- Men's Suits, former price \$5, now \$2.85.
- Men's suits in black and blue, former price \$6.50, now \$3.89.
- Suits, former prices \$9, \$10.00 and \$12.00 now \$6.48.
- All our suits that formerly sold for \$10, \$12, \$14 and \$15, now \$8.50.
- Boys' Long Pants Suits, former price \$4.50 to close at \$2.50.
- Boys' Long Pants Suits, former prices \$5, \$6, \$7, and \$8, to close at \$3.98.
- Irish Frieze Ulsters, former value \$10, to close at \$5.48.
- All-wool Beaver Dress Overcoats, former price 10 90, now \$5.65.
- Men's 50 cent overshirt for 29c.
- Men's 60 cent overshirt for 39c.
- Men's 1.00 and 1.25 Laundered Dress Shirts for 50c.
- Men's 25 cent suspenders for 12c.
- Boys' and Children's fleece lined bicycle stocking worth 25 cents for 14c.
- 50 cent fleece lined underwear for 27c.
- 75 cent fleeced lined underwear for 39c.
- 85 cent wool underwear for 48c.
- 75 cent ladies' underwear for 39c.
- Men's and Boy's 50 cent caps for 29c.
- Boys' 50 cent Caps for 23c.
- 1.25 dress gloves and mittens for 69c.
- 35 cent mittens for 19c.

The remainder of our stock consisting of Staple and Fancy Prints, Table Linens, Dry Goods, etc., at wholesale prices.

STERN BROS.

SATINE SKIRTS

Plain and Fancy Colors. Qualities are new and dependable. Prices not any more than they should be, and much less than usually asked for the equal. Prices always the lowest.

J. MILLER & CO.