

BOERS RETREAT IN NATAL

Buller's Advance on Dundee Reported as Successful.

News of the Movement So Meagre That No Accurate Estimate Can Be Made—Late Despatch States That Burglars Have Evacuated Helpmaker—General Dundonald Said to Be Pursuing Them to Bleskoplaagte—An Attempt to Secure the Passes—Nothing Definite Concerning the Relief of Mafeking.

LONDON, May 15.—While General Buller is apparently halting at Kroonstad to repair the railway and bring up his transport, the chief interest in the South African campaign once more centres in Natal. There is as yet no official news of General Buller's move, which began Thursday, and, according to several correspondents, was admirably carried out and completely successful.

Reports are meagre and do not enable a reliable estimate to be made of the strength of the Boers in the Biggarsberg range. Apparently, however, a determined stand by a concentrated force was not intended, and the comparatively slight opposition to the British hitherto reported indicates that the fighting was a rear-guard defense, covering the Boer retreat, which some reports say began early last week.

The latest despatch received is from Kemp's Farm, having been sent from there at 6:15 Monday. It says that the Boers have evacuated Helpmaker and that General Dundonald is pursuing them to Bleskoplaagte, seven miles from Dundee, where they were making a stand at the time the despatch was sent. It is assumed here that the movement aims, after clearing the Biggarsberg, to secure Van Reenen's and the other passes in the Drakensberg, thus enabling a junction with General Buller.

There is little news from other places. The British operations in the Free State east of the railway are not reported.

A despatch sent from Kroonstad Sunday represents the Harrismith Boer commands as retiring from Bethlehem and others from Vrede and Frankfort, all concentrating at Heilbron. Boer foraging parties have lately been reported west of Kroonstad. It is now stated that they have withdrawn across the Vaal River to oppose General Buller.

The eager expectation for news of the relief of Mafeking has not yet been gratified. A despatch from Cape Town asserts that it is believed that the relieving force arrived at Mafeking Sunday, but the slowness of communication by way of Bulawayo precludes the receipt of news before Wednesday.

The latest direct news from the besieged town comes by way of Pretoria to the effect that the Boers attacked the place Saturday morning with a heavy rifle and artillery fire. The Kaffir location was in flames within an hour and was totally destroyed.

AN ATTACK ON CROKER.

London Paper Accuses Him of Aiding Boer Envoys.

LONDON, May 15.—Apropos of the visit of the Boer peace delegates to New York and their proposed reception by the city authorities, the "Daily Express" this morning makes an onslaught on Mr. Croker and Tammany Hall for inspiring and encouraging the enemies of Great Britain. It says that Mr. Croker is running the delegates for all they are worth for his own political objects. He evidently knows that there are sufficient pro-Boer voters in New York to make it worth while to play up to them irrespective of truth or political justice. It adds: "Records of Tammany are already black enough without the addition of this new infamy. What makes the action particularly infamous now is the fact that Mr. Croker claims the hospitality of an English country gentleman, yet he is aiding and abetting the worst of England's enemies. Mr. Croker's position is practically on all fours with that of the Duke of Orleans."

The paper points out that the Duke of Orleans paid the penalty of his office by being socially banned. It suggests that Mr. Croker, having reasons for spending a little time as possible in the United States take an Italian villa near the Duke of Orleans, whose company, it says, he will probably find congenial.

RHODES OFF FOR BEIRA.

Schreiner Ministry to Be Maintained Until His Return.

CAPE TOWN, May 14.—3:10 p. m.—Mr. Cecil Rhodes, who arrived here a short time ago, from England, has started for Beira, Portuguese East Africa. It will therefore be impossible for him to be present at the opening of the Colonial Parliament, and it is likely that his absence will cause some of the more prominent leaders of the Progressive party have determined not to attempt to overthrow the Schreiner Ministry at the coming session, but to wait for the new registration of voters.

CASUALTIES AT THE ZAND.

Losses of the Canadians From Wounds and Fever.

LONDON, May 14.—The War Office has issued a statement showing that among the casualties at Zand River on May 10 were the following: Privates F. G. W. Floyd, killed; G. W. Leonard, dangerously wounded; A. McLean, severely wounded; E. Armstrong, slightly wounded; A. E. Zong and H. Linton died of malarial fever; Canadian Captain on May 1 and 2 respectively. All the foregoing belonged to the Canadian Infantry.

PEACE MISSION CONDEMNED.

Americans at the Cape to Protest to Washington.

CAPE TOWN, May 14.—The Americans here, many of whom are from the Rand, have organized a meeting to condemn the Boer mission to the United States. They will cable a resolution to Washington opposing American intervention, and requesting Webster Davis' resignation.

A French Warship at Colon.

COLON, Colombia, May 14.—The French warship Suchet has arrived here from Martinique. There are no American warships at any of the ports of the Isthmus.

Call at 1224 F St. for Kretzol.

Latest Quotations daily on Lumber and Mill work. Call first on Frank Libbey & Co.

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS.

Roberts Reports His Correspondence With President Kruger.

LONDON, May 14.—The War Office has received the following despatch from Lord Roberts.

Kroonstad, May 13.—Replying to your telegram of May 10: On March 12 I reported to President Kruger that I had heard that prisoners from our Colonial forces were being treated as criminals and confined in the Pretoria jail; that enteric fever was rife among them, and that medical attention and comforts were all insufficient. I also stated that the republican prisoners of war, foreigners and burghers, were treated alike.

On April 29 President Kruger replied that no difference had been made between Colonial and other prisoners. Only a small number of persons, supposed to be spies, and others who had committed breaches of martial law or tried to escape, had been imprisoned in the jail, but they had been kept apart from misdemeanants and treated the same as other prisoners of war.

Enteric fever, according to President Kruger, was very prevalent among the civil population as well as the prisoners, and every possible means had been taken for its prevention and cure. It was also stated that others outside of the postoffice feloniously engaged in disposing of the stolen stamps.

MAASDAM FAILS TO ARRIVE.

Discussions Among Members of the Reception Committee.

NEW YORK, May 14.—The Maasdam, with the Boer envoys on board, did not arrive today, and the programme of reception has been moved on one day. For a time the meeting of the citizens' reception committee at the Hotel Manhattan tonight had the aspect of a ruction between the Irish and the Dutch.

KRUGER'S DEATH PROPHESIED.

The Boer President Consults a Youthful Soothsayer.

LONDON, May 15.—The "Times" correspondent at Lourenco Marques says that President Kruger has been consulting a youthful Dutch seer, who prophesied the death of the Boer president on June 14 and the President's death three months later. The President and the burghers are fully convinced that the predictions are accurate.

LOSS FALLS ON BRITISH.

Result of the Portuguese Order Barring War Supplies.

PRETORIA, May 15.—The "Volksstem" asserts that the Portuguese decision to declare provisions, blankets, and clothing for the Transvaal imported by way of Lourenco Marques contraband of war will find its first victims in the British prisoners east of the Orange River under the threat of war. The demand was not complied with, but a fresh ultimatum on April 14 induced the Belgian officer at one station to withdraw, after which the Germans burned the station.

A CLASH IN CONGO.

German Forces Reported to Have Seized Belgian Territory.

LONDON, May 15.—The "Telegraph" publishes advice from Uvira, north of Tanganyika, to the effect that on April 29 a German force of 1,000 men and fifty officers forcibly seized 2,000 square miles of Congo territory. They sent an ultimatum at the end of February, demanding the immediate withdrawal of the Congo State stations east of the Ruhez River under threat of war. The demand was not complied with, but a fresh ultimatum on April 14 induced the Belgian officer at one station to withdraw, after which the Germans burned the station.

COUNTRESS' TALE DOUBTED.

The Paris Abduction Case Receives Little Credence.

PARIS, May 14.—The story told by the Countess de Martel, "Gyp," the noted writer, about an attempt to abduct her, does not receive much credence here. It is known that she is a nervous, excitable temperament. On a former occasion she told the public a similar yarn about a personal attack, but she was unable to substantiate her story.

CHOLERA RAVAGES IN INDIA.

The Horrors of the Plague Added to Famine.

LONDON, May 14.—The victory of India reports that the number of famine sufferers receiving relief in Bombay and elsewhere has declined. This is probably due to the cholera, which has broken up many of the relief camps, enormously increasing the difficulties of the famine officers. Otherwise the situation is unaltered.

ATTACKED BY NATIVES.

Indian Police Have a Fight Near Visnagapatam.

LONDON, May 14.—A despatch to the Central News from Bombay says that while a party of police were searching for the murderers of two constables at Visnagapatam, they were attacked by a number of natives, who were headed by a fakir. A serious fight ensued, and the police fired on the natives, killing eleven and wounding sixteen.

BLAME PLACED ON ALGER.

Inclination to Shift Responsibility for the Postal Frauds.

NEW YORK, May 15.—(4 a. m.)—The "Herald" publishes its story under date of Washington, May 11: "Following the publication of Inspector General Breckinridge's recommendations early last year that my inspectors be permitted to inspect Cuban accounts there has come a disposition in certain quarters to transfer to the shoulders of General Alger all the responsibility possible. He is blamed first for the appointment of Director Rathbone and of the postal auditor; and, secondly, because he ignored General Breckinridge's first called recommendation permitting the auditor to continue alone the inspection of postal accounts."

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MORE FRAUDS UNEARTHED

Cuban Postal Irregularities Greater Than Anticipated.

Postmaster Thompson, of the Havana Local Office, in Custody With Two Clerks in the Stamp Department—Others to Be Arrested—Rathbone Nominally in Charge.

HAVANA, May 13.—Today's developments in the postoffice scandal about a wider spread of irregularities than was at first anticipated. In consequence, Postmaster E. P. Thompson, of the Havana local office, has been suspended and is practically under arrest. He is not imprisoned, but is guarded by Secret Service officers.

Edward Moya and Gorge Mascano, Cuban clerks in the stamp department, have been arrested for complicity in the frauds. They are alleged to have been concerned in the scheme to get rid of stolen stamps. It is said they were regularly employed by Neely's operations and shared the proceeds with him. It is also said that others outside of the postoffice feloniously engaged in disposing of the stolen stamps.

The evidence points to some civilian clerks in the military establishment being implicated, and their arrest is expected. It is also expected that several postmasters in the provinces will be taken into custody, as the evidence that is being gathered shows that Neely's schemes could not have been carried out without guilty knowledge on the part of these suspects.

Thus far, several persons have been arrested, including Neely. Others in the postoffice department are expected to be relieved before long, even if they are not arrested. One man who knows more about the investigation than almost anyone else said today that if all the employees of the department were suspended who ought to be there would not be enough left to distribute the mails.

Major Rathbone is still nominally head of the department. He holds conferences with Governor-General Wood, but beyond what General Wood tells him he knows nothing of what is going on.

General Wood is doing all the probing with energy and fairness. Surprise has been expressed that Major Rathbone has been left nominally in control, and it is anticipated here that orders from Washington relieving him are liable to come at any time. He refuses to talk for publication, saying that his position will not permit him to do so. He said today that he was sure a lawyer, if he had retained one, would not permit him to make a statement.

THE NEELY REQUISITION.

His Attorney States That He Will Take an Appeal.

NEW YORK, May 14.—United States District Attorney Burnett received from Washington today the requisition of General Wood for the extradition of Charles F. Neely, who is accused of having defrauded the revenues while financial agent of posts in Cuba. John D. Lindsay, attorney for Neely, had an order from Attorney General Griggs to examine the papers and did so. Mr. Lindsay said that he would want a hearing before the Governor in the matter of extradition, but that he would not make an arrangement for a hearing in this city before the Governor goes back to Albany.

Both Sides Disappointed.

Kentuckians Expected a Decision in the gubernatorial Contest.

FRANKFORT, Ky., May 14.—The failure of the Supreme Court to hand down a decision in the Governor's contest case today was a great disappointment to both the Taylor and the Beckham governments. The Taylor authorities here were confident of a decision, and so strong were their hopes that they had already begun to make arrangements in advance. The Taylor soldiers, who have been on constant duty guarding the buildings since January and have become worn and tired, were disappointed when the news came that another week's waiting. The Beckham government and adherents, if anything, were more confident of the success they expected from the decision of the Supreme Court. They had been prepared to celebrate. Every precaution had been taken to prevent a clash between the soldiers. The Taylor adherents expected to evacuate the State buildings as soon as the Beckham soldiers were withdrawn, and were unfavorable to Taylor. If favorable to Beckham they expected to turn over the State buildings at once.

MARYLAND BRYAN MEN.

Will Fight to the End for Instructed Delegates.

BALTIMORE, May 14.—At a meeting of the Democratic State Central Committee this afternoon it was decided that Bryan's name shall not appear on the delegate tickets to be voted in the local primaries. The Maryland Democratic Association, made up of silver men, has requested permission to use the emblem's name on their tickets, their idea being to fight the regular organization, which wants to send uninstructed delegates. The committee, however, refused to grant the request, and without precedent and contrary to party usage. They claim it would precipitate a conflict which might injure the ticket at the general election, and for this reason they refuse to permit the innovation. The silver association's president stated that if the Bryan people were not given fair play they proposed to appeal to the State convention, and in case satisfaction was denied by that body, to carry the matter to the National Convention. A compromise will probably be arranged by the regular organization giving the Bryanites representation on the different tickets, but the delegates to the National Convention will not be instructed.

Taylor to Stay in Indiana.

Will Remain Until Supreme Court Decides the Case.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 14.—W. S. Taylor, of Kentucky, arrived here early this morning and later expressed his determination to remain here until the United States Supreme Court had passed on the question involved in the gubernatorial controversy. He is an ardent admirer of Bryan, and he was ill at ease owing to the uncertainty which existed regarding his right to the Kentucky governorship. Asked if he would return to Kentucky, he said: "I have not decided against him. He is a good man, and I would not wish to see him in the State."

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New York Bryanites Believe That Towne Will Resign.

They State, However, That the Chance Are Good for the Selection of a Western Candidate for Vice-President—The Platform to Be Adopted at the State Convention.

NEW YORK, May 14.—The Chicago platform Democrats who are opposed to the regular organization in this State declared today that they did not believe the Kansas City Convention would nominate Towne of Minnesota for Vice President. Mr. Towne was nominated by the Populists at Sioux Falls last week after the Populist leaders who were in the confidence of Mr. Bryan knew his wishes as to what should be done by the convention. The Chicago platform Democrats of this State believe that Mr. Towne will resign when he finds that he is not to get the regular Democratic nomination, and will allow his place to be taken by some person to be selected by the Democrats.

Neely Losing His Nerve.

The News of Rich's Confession Deepens His Sorrows.

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Bristow Going to Havana.

His Assignment Construed as a Suspension for Rathbone.

Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow has been directed to proceed to Cuba tomorrow and assume complete charge of the postal agents of the island. His instructions are as comprehensive as possible. He will not only supervise the examination of the Cuban postoffices and postal officials, but he will direct all the affairs of the postoffice in Havana, superintend the transportation and delivery of mails throughout the island and become personally responsible for every expense account submitted to the military authorities for approval.

Mr. Bristow is expected to undertake this assignment, Director General Rathbone is, in fact, deposed as chief of the Cuban postal service. Whether the President will suspend Mr. Rathbone is not known. Mr. Bristow's assignment was decided upon by the Postmaster General yesterday and approved by an informal Cabinet session held at the White House.

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BUTLER'S OBJECT GAINED.

May Resign as Chairman of the Populist National Committee.

LINCOLN, Neb., May 14.—Vice Chairman Edmondson, of the Populist National Committee, is authority for the statement that Senator Butler, the national chairman, will shortly resign from that position, and that he (Edmondson) will succeed him. Last winter Butler said he would not run for chairman again because his Senatorial campaign would take all of his time. Later, at Sioux Falls, he said that while he was not a candidate he would like to have the position, as it would help his candidacy for re-election to the Senate. When he made his speech in advocacy of the nomination of a Vice Presidential candidate he succeeded in securing the prestige that he desired for use at home, and he no longer cares for the honor of managing the campaign.

There was considerable feeling among the followers of Mr. Edmondson over Senator Butler's change of front on the matter of his candidacy for chairman, and they regard his action in resigning as certain to produce better results. The main headquarters will be retained here till November and special attention paid to securing complete lists in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Michigan, Kentucky, Nebraska, and Kansas.

The St. Louis Strike.

Wire Cutters and Street Railroad Guards in a Pitched Battle.

ST. LOUIS, May 14.—This has been a day of conferences over the street car tie-up. Late this evening it was given out that an agreement had been reached whereby a settlement of the troubles on the Suburban system was reached and the cars would be operated as usual tomorrow. With the Transit line, however, the deadlock is unbroken, and there is no prospect of a peaceful settlement. Business men, taxpayers, employes, and officers of the company were in conference all afternoon, but failed to agree on any one of the points in issue.

Off for Cape Nome.

Prospectors Started in the Knap for the Gold Fields.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 14.—The Cape Nome rush is now on and before the end of the week several thousand prospectors will have sailed from this port. Today one of the biggest crowds ever seen on the water front witnessed the departure of the old steamer Senator with 200 gold seekers. She will take on about 250 more at Seattle. Tomorrow three vessels will leave.

Turned Rose on a Mob.

Conflict Over the Location of a Smallpox Hospital.

MCKEESPORT, Pa., May 14.—All day Sunday and Sunday night the police and firemen of Turtle Creek battled with the angry mob in that borough which had determined not to permit the location of a smallpox hospital in a schoolhouse in the town. At midnight, Sunday, Sheriff William McKinley and a posse of deputies arrived and beat back the mob. From that time until morning armed guards paced about the building and kept the crowd from coming within 100 feet of the building, and the mob