

# BOERS DRIVE IN THE BRITISH OUTPOSTS.

During Hard Fighting Near Colesberg Strenuous Efforts Are Made to Outflank the Imperial Troops—Considerable Losses Reported—Buller in Danger of Being Surrounded.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Rensburg, dated yesterday, says:

"There has been hard fighting for some days near Colesberg, the Boers making strenuous efforts to outflank the British left. The enemy occupies strong positions on Achtertang through Potfontein to a point five miles south of Jagersfontein.

"The fighting at the outpost camp has been very severe during the last few days. Yesterday the Boers attacked the position of the Worcesters, to the southeast of Colesberg. Fighting continued all day and after dark it was considered necessary to withdraw to Rensburg. Our losses are not yet known.

"On the left the West Australians, Wiltshires and Berkshires had hot fighting, but held their positions against long odds. The Boer losses were considerable.

"Owing to the growing difficulties experienced by convoys in reaching the camps, all the latter were vacated last night and the troops withdrew to Rensburg.

"The Boers are burning the farms of the loyalists, but the latter have contrived to get away with their stock."

LONDON, Feb. 14, 4:20 a. m.—The news of the day is the enforced retirement of the British from the Colesberg district under heavy Boer pressure and probably after Lord Roberts is apparently to push an army into the Free State the Boers make a counter-stroke in unknown but seemingly great force, not far from the vital line of railway connecting De Aar and Orange River.

Military observers do not regard this as more than a menace. Nevertheless the news produces an unpleasant impression here. General French had maneuvered the Boers out of Rensburg in December. On January 1 it was reported that he could take Colesberg in two days with reinforcements. These were sent, but the Boers were also reinforced. Since then the British lines have been extended east and west so that at the opening of this week they constitute a great horseshoe twenty-five miles in length. The lines were not continuous, but all the strong positions were held.

General French, when he joined General Roberts, took most of his cavalry. General Clements was left with the infantry to hold the Boers in check, but Commandant Delarey, with a double turning movement, has compelled the British to concentrate at Rensburg, besides threatening Roberts' communication.

The Boer mastery of the district has caused a spread of the insurrection, but this no doubt will be promptly suppressed, as large British forces are available not far away.

The indications as to General Buller's immediate intentions are contradictory. One informant, who has intimate relations with the War Office, predicts a movement within the next day or two. A number of correspondents who have been with General Buller have gone to Durban for a few days' rest, under the impression that nothing is to be done immediately.

The War Office has directed the Eighth Division of 10,900 men to prepare to go out.

## BRITISH TROOPS DRIVEN IN FROM THE OUTPOSTS

RENSBURG, Feb. 12 (evening).—The Boers have again driven in the British outposts on the western flank to-day, all outposts at Bastards Nek, Hobkirks Windmill and other points retiring to Magers Farm. There were several casualties, but details have not yet been received.

RENSBURG, Feb. 15.—Yesterday's retirement of the western outposts included the withdrawal from Coleskoop and all the surrounding posts. The Boers placed a 40-pounder at Bastards Nek, commanding the surrounding country, and successfully shelled the British positions. The Boers numbered some thousands and were five to one wherever fighting occurred.

The British are chafing under the necessity of a retreat from their posts, some of which they had held since the new year. The British now have a camp west of Rensburg. They safely brought off the guns from Coleskoop.

The Boers are actively pressing around Rensburg. The British force under Lieutenant Colonel Page, consisting of a section of artillery and 150 horses, which had reached Silingsfontein February 15, has been compelled to fall back on Rensburg owing to its eastern flank being threatened.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—A dispatch to the Evening News from Rensburg says severe fighting occurred during the British



AT THE TUGELA CROSSING BOER RIFLEMEN PICKING OFF THE BRITISH TROOPS AS THEY ADVANCE.



WITH GEN. BULLER ARTILLERY WHICH HAS BEEN OFF-LOADED AT CHEVELEYR STATION ABOUT TO START TO TAKE UP POSITION.



AT THE FRONT TUGELA RIVER FIELD MARSHAL LORD ROBERTS, CHIEF OF STAFF.

## EXPLANATIONS MADE IN THE COMMONS

LONDON, Feb. 13.—In the House of Commons to-day Thomas Hedderwick, Advanced Liberal for Wyeke district, gave notice of a resolution calling attention to the fact that the colonies are without representatives in the Imperial Parliament. The resolution was set down for a month hence, but it is not likely that time will be found then for discussion.

Under Secretary of State for the Foreign Office, the Hon. St. John Broderick, was asked whether the Government had received any communication from Germany modifying the declaration made in 1867 by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, to the effect that German's only policy was the maintenance of the Transvaal as an independent state, in accordance with the treaty of 1854. He replied that no communication had been received from the German Government relating to the convention of 1884, which he added, as a matter of fact, was terminated by the state of war.

The Under Secretary of State for the War Office, Mr. Wyndham, definitely set at rest all the stories of Government interference in the prerogatives of the com-

mander in chief. Replying to a question, Mr. Wyndham said the commanders in the field were selected by Lord Wolseley subject to the approval of the Secretary of State for War, and added that every selection put forward had been approved.

When debate on the army supplementary estimates was resumed Mr. Wyndham, during the course of a speech, again intimated that an attempt would be made to democratize the army, which, he said, he thought ought not to be closed to officers who did not enjoy an income of £150 to £500 a year. Mr. Wyndham also said that was a scandal and danger to the empire that young men could not enter the cavalry unless their fathers were able to give them £500 a year. The Under Secretary further announced that it was not intended to raise volunteers in Ireland.

## ENGLISHMAN SHOT FOR BEING A BOER SPY

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PARIS, Feb. 13.—The Temps' correspondent in Durban sends an account of the execution of an English lighthouse-keeper, who was a spy in the service of the Boers. One day while a troopship was passing the high promontory on which the lighthouse is situated an officer's attention was attracted by singular heliograph signals that were being made on the other side of the lighthouse. The keeper was watched and it was found that by the use of the ordinary heliograph code the keeper signaled each new arrival of troops, each movement in port and the number of men, cannons and horses disembarked to accomplices situated on a mountain some distance away. These messages were repeated from post to post and reached the Boer headquarters on the Tugela river in two or three days, and this has been going on for some time since the outbreak of the war.

He was paid £50 for each telegram, and before beginning his operations had received £300 on account, which was proved by an examination of his account at the Transvaal National Bank, which has a branch at Durban, and which paid him the money. He was a full-bred Englishman, 40 years old, and had been employed in the lighthouse for a long time. His wife and five children would not believe in his guilt and a painful scene took place when he was transferred on board a man-of-war, where he was shot.

## TWO GIRLS AIDED CHURCHILL'S ESCAPE

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BRUSSELS, Feb. 13.—According to private letters from Pretoria inquiry has revealed that, although Winston Churchill, for honorable motives, alleges that he escaped single handed, he was assisted by

two girls belonging to a well-known family in Pretoria, who will pay dearly for it.

It is also asserted that 2000 English soldiers who got astray during the Dundee retreat, going north instead of south, have arrived in Portuguese territory and been disarmed after wandering hungrily through Zululand.

Letters to several Brussels friends and the Petit Bleu state that there are now eight gold mines being worked by the Transvaal Government, including Robinson, Bonanza, Ferreira, Deep Rose, Deep Wenmer, Village Maid and Crown Reef. Others are about to be reopened. Boers are working them so well that they are yielding thousands of pounds more than heretofore. In the Simmer Jack mine was found a splendid ambulance carriage, presented to the company in view of the war by Cecil Rhodes. It has been sent to General Cronje at Magersfontein.

## RHODES TO BE HELD HOSTAGE FOR INDEMNITY

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The friends of Cecil Rhodes are becoming alarmed at his possible fate and have sent an emissary to see Dr. Leyds, the diplomatic agent of the Boers in Europe, in regard to the probable course the Boers would pursue in the event of his capture. Dr. Leyds assured the intermediaries that the Boers did not intend to kill Mr. Rhodes, but, he added, they would certainly hold him as a hostage until the indemnity for the Jameson raid was paid. In view of the developments since the raid the Boers have also decided to double the amount of the indemnity demanded, so Mr. Rhodes' friends will have to hand over £2,000,000 (\$10,000,000) before he is released.

It is also learned definitely that Dr. Jameson is still at Ladysmith, in spite of all conflicting reports. A semi-official paragraph is published in the Globe this afternoon saying Germany does not contemplate intervention. The German Government, it is added, does not consider itself concerned in the future status or in the existence of the Boer republics.

## WORK OF WOMEN FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED

LONDON, Feb. 13.—As the conviction grows in Great Britain that the war will be long the efforts for providing for the sick and wounded and the families of the soldiers at the front are redoubled. There is scarcely a woman in England, who, in addition to making articles of clothing for those in the field and in the hospitals, is not working for and contributing to some social fund.

Mrs. Arthur Paget's entertainment to-night brought in over £5000 for the families of the Household Troops, in which her husband is a colonel of the Scots Guards, the Mansion House fund exceeds £800,000, the Daily Telegraph's fund amounts to £100,000 and the Daily Mail's totals £77,000. These amounts cover only the larger London funds, and do not include numerous provincial funds of large

## BRITISH COMMISSIONERS MURDERED IN BURMAH

RANGOON, British Burmah, Feb. 13.—The British Commissioners Middle and Sutherland, who had been engaged in the demarcation of the Burmo-Chinese boundary, have been murdered in the Monghien district. Consul Litter was wounded, but escaped.

our fellow-countrymen, who, although absent from their native land, are mixed up heart and soul in its prosperity. At this moment, when we see volunteers from every quarter of the British empire linked in one common bond of sympathy and shoulder to shoulder with English troops, fighting for the freedom of the oppressed, will Englishmen, Scotchmen and Irishmen not unite with us and identify themselves with this same noble spirit by assisting us to alleviate the sufferings of those who are risking their lives in Africa? America has generously given and is still maintaining a hospital ship for our wounded soldiers. This munificence is deeply appreciated in our country. It is not to America that we now appeal. It is to those who cannot for various reasons fight at their country's call. All the bravest of Great Britain's soldiers will shortly be at the front. We would ask their absent comrades to prove by the liberality that they are mindful of the sufferings of those who fall bravely in keeping up the traditions of British soldiers.

## ELEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY SUITS FILED IN ONE DAY

Special Dispatch to The Call.  
S. J. ROSENTHAL, Feb. 13.—Eleven hundred and fifteen suits were filed in Justice Rosenthal's court to-day by depositors of the Insolvent Union Savings Bank against the stockholders of that institution. This batch of suits was brought by sixteen plaintiffs and nearly all of the stockholders are defendants. The actions are for pro rata liability on the bank accounts and range in amount from a few cents to \$50.

## DEPOSITORS OF THE UNION SAVINGS BANK OF SAN JOSE TAKE ACTION AGAINST STOCKHOLDERS

At the same time between 900 and 1000 demurrers to the same suits were also filed. There was a large array of legal talent present. In most cases jury trials were demanded, and the first of these, *Christ vs. Whitehouse*, was set for February 20. The court decided that the jury fees must be deposited each day in advance. If all cases go to a jury trial these cases, with nearly 200 more recently filed in the same court, will occupy Justice Rosenthal's time for almost a year.

## JACK THE HUGGER IS NEARLY BEATEN TO DEATH

Special Dispatch to The Call.  
BOISE, Idaho, Feb. 13.—Women passing along Boise's streets after dark have been frightened into hysterics of late by a "Jack the Hugger," whose habit it was to rush from dark recesses, give them a hug and then, if they resisted vigorously, to run away. To-day he was identified as Charles Markel.

## WOOD HAS SEIZED ZOUTPANS DRIFT

LONDON, Feb. 13.—A private telegram received here says that the force commanded by General Wood has moved up from the southward and seized Zoutpans Drift, which he now holds.

## BRITISH CASUALTIES AT POTGIETERS DRIFT

LONDON, Feb. 13.—A revised list of the British casualties at Potgieters Drift from February 5 to February 7 shows: Killed, 28; wounded, 119; missing, 5.

## STARVING OUT THE MAKEKING GARRISON

LONDON, Feb. 13.—An undated dispatch from Makekang, via Gaborone, February 2, says: Colonel Baden-Powell has received communication from Lord Roberts, promising that relief would be sent in a few weeks. The food will last. The garrison is as game as ever. The Boers

## AGNEW'S MANAGERS MEET

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE CALL.  
SAN JOSE, Feb. 13.—The managers of Agnew's Asylum to-night elected Isaac Upham president of the board and T. S. Montgomery was re-elected secretary. J. K. Wilson of San Francisco, who was recently appointed in place of Dr. J. H. Currow, whose term expired, was present and took his seat.

## EXAMINED ON MURDER CHARGE

MIDFORD, Ore., Feb. 13.—The preliminary examination of A. J. Hamilton, who shot Ed Armstrong here last Sunday, was held to-day before Justice of the Peace James Stewart. Hamilton was placed under \$1000 bonds to appear before the next Grand Jury.

The Uniao Portuguesa of this city received the following special cablegram yesterday, which substantiates the prediction made in The Call last Sunday:

LISBON, Feb. 13.—The King has signed a protocol of a secret offensive and defensive alliance with England, with the approval of the leaders of the militant parties of both countries.

amounts being raised to equip volunteers. The equipment of the Yeomanry Hospital has just left England for the Cape. The ladies at the head of this charity have now decided to raise funds to keep the hospital going for six months and have issued the following appeal to the British residents of the United States:

We are endeavoring to address an appeal to

**Saint Valentine's Day**

Centuries ago, during the Roman Empire, St. Valentine's day originated. Ever since when it has been observed, changing, however, a little from time to time.

But St. Valentine's is traditionally a day of choosing—a day in which to make selections of one kind or another.

At one time people only chose valentines on that day, but the present hurrying age looks more to practical things.

Some folks now choose clothes, and especially when by coincidence they can get an extreme value on that day.

Here is a suggestion to those who choose to choose to-day:

**all-wool blue serge suits**

**\$10**

They are single and double breasted sack suits, fashionably made from good material that will give long service.

Out-of-town orders filled—write us—ask anything you wish about the suits.

Mention that you would like our clothing catalogue No. 2.

**S.N. Wood & Co.**

718 Market St

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A Steamer Will Be Dispatched Every Fortnight Thereafter.

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FROM SEATTLE	S. S. "BERTHA" commencing April 25th AND MONTHLY THEREAFTER.
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