

ROBERTS LOST ABOUT TWO HUNDRED TROOPS

Casualties in the Latest Battle With the Boers More Numerous Than at First Reported.



WORKING UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

The Royal Engineers throwing a pontoon bridge across the Tugela River, at Potgieters Drift, under heavy fire from the Boer guns on Vaal Krantz.

LONDON, March 31.—The War Office has posted the following dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated at Bloemfontein, March 30, evening:

"Reports point to the enemy's leaving Brandfort and proceeding in a northerly direction. The casualties in yesterday's engagement were more numerous than at first reported. Officers killed, 2; wounded, 8. Rank and file killed, 19; wounded, 159; missing, 3."

LONDON, April 1, 4 a. m.—The War Office issued no further news to-night and the few dispatches received from the seat of war bear evidence of having been delayed by the censor. According to a special dispatch from Pretoria, dated yesterday, Lord Roberts has commenced his advance northward. The dispatch says there are daily skirmishes and that a big battle is imminent. This, however, may refer to the operations preceding the engagement at Kamek Siding, which has apparently cleared the way as well as secured an advantageous position whence the next operations may be conducted.

Truiker's division is now strongly occupying the Boer camp at Kamek Siding, with the way clear to Brandfort, which is reported already evacuated. Orders have been received at Cape Town for the eighth division to be disembarked and sent north immediately on its arrival here.

The Boer forces in the neighborhood of Paardberg are reported to be actively engaged in manœuvring and in attempting to capture British horses left on the field owing to their weak condition. Six hundred Barkley refugees sent back from Cape Town are stranded, the Kimberley military authorities refusing assistance to all of them to proceed.

Much Kaffir looting is reported at Ellidam. An active campaign is in progress upon the part of the loyalists of Cape Colony for the annexation of the republics and the punishment of the colonialists who served in the Boer army. Meetings in support of this policy have been held in many important centers under the auspices of the South African League.

The transportation of the prisoners to St. Helena is arousing the anger of the Boers, who threaten to retaliate by sending the British prisoners to Koomatipoort, reputed to be the worst fever den in South Africa.

BLUNDERS OF BRITISH LEADERS AT SPION KOP

NEW YORK, March 31.—Correspondence of the Associated Press from London,

WATCHING RUSSIAN ACTIVITY

Some Britons Believe War With Japan Is Very Near.

MIKADO, HOWEVER, IS NOT READY FOR FRAY

To What Extent England's Moral Assistance Can Be Given to Turkey Is a Question That Also Worries Salisbury.

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LONDON, March 31.—Russian activity has been the international factor of the week and diplomatic functionaries attached to the court of St. James are asking themselves: "What does it all mean and where will it end?"

The Russian Ambassador smiles blandly and assures his dear friends that it means "nothing, absolutely nothing," but just the same speculation is active. There are many men of fair standing and a tolerable knowledge of internal undercurrents who are willing to say that war between Russia and Japan has now come within measurable distance. Of these Henry Norman, who has just returned from a trip to Russia, is one. But the Associated Press learns that no such view is taken by the British Foreign Office, which during the recent troublous times has staked up the international situation with wonderful correctness.

The next few weeks may, perhaps, bring up a tremendous war scare, but the salient fact remains that Japan is not ready for hostilities. Alarming telegrams from the Far East may increase and multiply and Korea may seem to be on the verge of annexation by Russia, but the calm of Downing street is not likely to be disturbed.

Korean matters have been arranged by treaty and Lord Salisbury does not believe that Russia intends to break the treaties, though her relations with Japan may become strained to a serious point.

If all this rumpus in the Far East had been postponed for another year there is scarcely any doubt that war would be a serious probability, but those having any intimate knowledge of Japan's far-reaching naval projects and her recent state of incompleteness do not hesitate to say that Japan is not going to risk anything until her plans are matured.

Japanese naval maneuvers in the coming fall are to be carried out on an unprecedented scale and will partake more of the nature of a demonstration than of peaceful evolutions. Forty or more war vessels are expected to be present in Japanese waters. The moral effect of such an aggregation upon Far Eastern questions is causing no little comment.

As far as Great Britain is concerned, Russia's military, rather than naval activity, is chiefly interesting, though the press is not yet allowed to take up its cue in this matter. The Foreign Office, while only faintly interested in Korea, being practically sure that no serious trouble will result there, is devoting careful investigation to the warlike preparations occurring in South Russia.

There seems no longer to be any doubt that Turkey, for her tardiness to meet the Russian demands regarding railway concessions, is being menaced by her northern neighbor; and many signs point to the fact that Russia intends to settle herself in the northeast of Asia Minor, unless Turkey gives in. Already a quarter of a million of Russian troops are maintained on those borders, while the Black Sea squadron is ready for business at a moment's notice.

To what extent British moral assistance can be given to Turkey in withstanding the Russian demands is a question which at the present moment is occupying Lord Salisbury's attention to an even greater extent than the South African war. In view of the troubles of Great Britain in South Africa, it is more than probable that the British will not be able to do more than to demand that the Russian troops will be withdrawn.

The score ancient Russian troops concentrating in Afghanistan apparently arose from this movement in the direction of Turkey in Asia Minor, and Afghanistan has passed into the category of peaceful, uninteresting spheres.

With all these reports, to say nothing of continued rumors of Bulgaria's desire to throw off Turkey's suzerainty and become a vassal of the Czar, it is evident that while Russia is observing in the latter her promise to England not to interfere in South Africa, she is not idle in taking advantage of opportunities in every quarter of the globe. For the peace of the world, it is reassuring to remember that the fixed policy of Russia for years has been to take matters almost to the point of hostilities and then to settle diplomatically.

ROBERTS REPORTS THE DEATH OF COL. GOUGH

LONDON, March 31.—Lord Roberts reports the death at Norval's Post on Wednesday, March 28, of Colonel the Hon. George Hugh Gough, C. B.

Colonel Gough had been private secretary to the commander-in-chief of the British forces, Lord Wolseley, since 1887. He was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, July 25, 1832, and was the second son of the late second Viscount Gough. He joined the Foot Guards in 1851, passed through the staff college in 1881, commanded mounted infantry, Sudan campaign, 1884-85, and commanded the Fourteenth Hussars in 1891-92.

necessary than in any settled country. All the generals and staff officers collected around the Spion Kop. He had never even seen the hill he was to attack or heard its name, and no correct maps were at hand. During the few available minutes he made every effort to view the ground. But time did not allow, and he had to grope his way back to his own camp after dark. So pitch black was the night and so new was he to the place, that in that half mile he had lost himself completely and had great difficulty in getting home. But he was a brave man; he had received his orders and he allowed no doubt of success to cross his mind. To those who know the ground, it presented a gloomy prospect and threatened a terrible disaster. Worse even than the one which overwhelmed General Gattisore. The cry was always for more men, more men, until the hill was so overcrowded that every bullet and every shell produced destruction. At no time should more than 200 men, at the outside, have been allowed on the exposed ground on top of the hill. Probably a smaller number would have sufficed. The remainder should have been kept well hidden behind the slope. A greater blunder could not have been made by the most ignorant private in the army, but throughout this war we have never realized that men cannot be crowded together without ruining every chance of success.

After hours of delay engineers and working parties were at length employed and they soon leveled the banks, placed stones in the soft mud and dragged the wagons to dry land.

The preliminaries to the attack on Spion Kop, he says: Just before dark the officer commanding (the late General Woodgate) was informed that he had been selected to lead a night attack on Spion Kop. He had never even seen the hill he was to attack or heard its name, and no correct maps were at hand. During the few available minutes he made every effort to view the ground. But time did not allow, and he had to grope his way back to his own camp after dark. So pitch black was the night and so new was he to the place, that in that half mile he had lost himself completely and had great difficulty in getting home. But he was a brave man; he had received his orders and he allowed no doubt of success to cross his mind. To those who know the ground, it presented a gloomy prospect and threatened a terrible disaster. Worse even than the one which overwhelmed General Gattisore. The cry was always for more men, more men, until the hill was so overcrowded that every bullet and every shell produced destruction. At no time should more than 200 men, at the outside, have been allowed on the exposed ground on top of the hill. Probably a smaller number would have sufficed. The remainder should have been kept well hidden behind the slope. A greater blunder could not have been made by the most ignorant private in the army, but throughout this war we have never realized that men cannot be crowded together without ruining every chance of success.

STEYN'S ALLEGED ORDER TO SHOOT LOYAL BURGHERS

LONDON, March 31.—From Cape Town it is reported that President Steyn has gone to Pretoria, after, according to refugees, issuing an order that all British burghers refusing to join the Boer army shall be shot. The stories of refugees, however, are notoriously unreliable. The news from elsewhere is meager, the last reports from Natal indicating the speedy clashing of the armies.

BURGHERS FOUGHT WELL.

KROONSTAD, O. F. S., March 30.—General Smuts to-day engaged the British at Mafet Kop, south of Brandfort, and held them at bay for six hours. The burghers fought well. The casualties are unknown. The Free State Raad will assemble at Kroonstad on April 2.

VICTORIA READY FOR JOURNEY TO IRELAND

Elaborate Arrangements Include the Sending of a Vast Array of Pots and Pans to Dublin.



Latest Portrait of the Queen and Her Great-Grandchildren in the Direct Line.

(Taken at Ballater by R. Milne for the Sphere.)

The three pictures of her Majesty shown above with those of her great-grandchildren—Prince Edward of York, a prospective successor of the Queen; his brother, Prince Albert, and his little sister, Princess Victoria—are especially interesting at this time—the eve of the Queen's fourth visit to Ireland.

The upper picture on the left is from a portrait of the Queen about the time of her marriage in 1840. The one on the right shows her as she was at the time of her last visit to the Emerald Isle in August, 1892, on which occasion she was accompanied by the Prince Consort, who died some two years later. Her Majesty had made two previous visits to Ireland. The first in 1849, twelve years after she ascended the throne; the second four years later, in 1853, when she made a more extended stay. On each occasion her every appearance in public was greeted by the greatest enthusiasm on the part of the people. And the entire absence of anything of an unfriendly nature at once gave great pleasure to the young Queen, and reflected credit on the manhood and chivalry for which Ireland has always been famous.

LONDON, March 31.—The Life Guards, couriers, carriages, pots and pans and other royal paraphernalia have already gone to the Emerald Isle, which eagerly waits for Queen Victoria to follow. How Her Majesty will be received and the prospects of her doings in Dublin have quite overshadowed all other topics, even in a week which has been marked by the annual inter-varsity boat race, the resignation of the Duke of Norfolk as Postmaster General, the announcement of the Delagoa Bay Railroad award, and the rumors of possible war in the Far East. Great Britain's own war in South Africa has almost been forgotten, so uninteresting has been the progress of peace in the Orange Free State compared with the stirring accounts of battles which the British people had grown accustomed to read daily.

The Queen is said to be in excellent health and well able to bear the strain of the trip to Ireland. She commences her journey April 2 and sleeps on board the royal yacht Victoria and Albert, landing at Kingstown April 4. In anticipation of her Majesty's progress through the city the streets of Dublin are already gay with flags and decorations.

A curious feature of the preparations at the Viceregal Lodge, where the Queen will stay, are the pots and pans already referred to. Her Majesty is tremendously particular about her kitchen arrangements, and those at the Viceregal Lodge were found to be quite below the royal standard. Consequently no less than 300 copper fricandeau pans, eighty-four saucepans, fifty copper stock pots and many other varieties of cooking utensils have been sent to Dublin especially for the visit.

The Earl of Denbigh, who goes to Ireland as chief of the royal entourage and lord-in-waiting, holds three Irish titles and was formerly aid-de-camp to the Lord Lieutenant. However, though the Queen is said to be full of excitement and enthusiasm in regard to her approaching visit, she is not forgetful of South Africa. A story is going the rounds that the Queen remarked that she was aware many people imagined her anxiety about the war would cause her death. "I may die," added her Majesty, "but it will be from some other cause. I do not mean to let Mr. Kruger kill me."

VALOR OF RAW TROOPS IN TAKING THE KOPJES

BLOEMFONTEIN, March 31.—The Boer position yesterday was one of great natural strength. Only the turning movement of General French and Major Le Gallais, the latter commander of the mounted and infantry, on either flank insured the British success.

Major Le Gallais moved around the Boers' left and engaged them, first freely using his Vickers-Maxims and gradually forcing the Boers toward the center, where they made a good stand. Major Le Gallais was unable to move until late in the day, while General French moved early. The latter made a wide detour toward the rear of the Boers, but was unable to complete the movement before the Boers perceived this intention and abandoned the position. They retired in good order between General French and Major Le Gallais, where the main body of the Boers, with four guns, held an excellent position on the edge of a deep donga, whence they shelled General French.

DEMOCRATS MAY TRY TO ABDUCT FINLEY

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 31.—It is believed by prominent Republicans that Kentucky Democrats are here waiting a favorable opportunity to take Charles F. Finley, ex-Secretary of State of Kentucky, and carry him to Kentucky to be tried for complicity in the Goebel assassination. Finley is known to be in concealment here, living at the residence of the Sheriff, a part of the County Jail here. The Republicans say any such effort will be resisted, and if the two factions meet there will undoubtedly be bloodshed in this city.

Mercury Changes Hands.

SAN JOSE, March 31.—Announcement will be made to-morrow morning of a change in the ownership of the Daily Mercury. C. M. Wooster has sold his holdings to Alfred Holman and H. A. de Lacy has purchased the interest of W. H. Wright and S. P. Sanders. Their combined holdings aggregate 62 shares out of a total of 82 issued. There will be no change in the editorial organization. Mr. de Lacy will succeed Mr. Wooster in the business management.

Prisoners for St. Helena.

CAPE TOWN, March 31.—The first batch of prisoners started to-day for St. Helena.

KIPLING HONORS JOUBERT.

BLOEMFONTEIN, March 31.—General Lord Roberts has sent a telegram of condolence to President Kruger on the death of General Joubert. Rudyard Kipling has written a poem on Joubert's death, which appears in the Friend of the Free State.