

NEWS OF A BATTLE HELD BACK BY THE BRITISH PRESS CENSOR

General Gatacre Has Engagement With the Boers After the "Unfortunate Occurrence" at Reddersburg.

ROBERTS HAMPERED BY BOLD RAIDS



British Cavalry Capturing a Boer Wagon Train.

THE ABOVE PICTURE, TAKEN FROM THE SPHERE, SHOWS THE CAPTURE BY GENERAL FRENCH'S TROOPS OF A TRAIN OF SEVENTY-THREE WAGONS ON CRONJE'S RETREAT FROM MAGERSFONTEIN. A DAY OR TWO AFTER, IT WILL BE REMEMBERED, THE BOERS CAPTURED A TRAIN OF SEVENTY-EIGHT OF LORD ROBERTS' WAGONS AT WATERVAL DRIFT, ON THE REIT RIVER.

BLOEMFONTEIN, Wednesday, April 4.—General Gatacre had an engagement with the enemy at Reddersburg to-day. Details of the affair have not yet been received here.

LONDON, April 8, 5 a. m.—No news was issued by the War Office last night. None was received from the front, except that from Bloemfontein, dated April 4, relating to the engagement of General Gatacre at Reddersburg, which seems to have been held back by the censor. It will be remembered that Lord Roberts, in reporting the "unfortunate occurrence" at Reddersburg, said that General Gatacre had arrived there on the morning of April 4. Hence he may have succeeded in engaging the Boers later in the day. It is strange, however, that General Gatacre's subsequent movements have not been mentioned in Lord Roberts' other dispatches, the last of which was dated the evening of April 6.

It is reported from Ladysmith that the Boers are beginning to construe General Buller's inactivity as a sign of fear or inability to resume active operations. Hence they are showing much activity, particularly around Biggarsberg, and are said to be planning to outflank General Buller by an advance in force by way of Helpmankar. As the plan is known, it is not likely that the Boers will find Buller unprepared.

The Boers state that the Colesberg and Stormberg commandos, numbering 5000 men and ten guns, have reached Kroonstad. Speaking at an annexation meeting at Wynberg on April 6, ex-Premier Sir John Gordon Sprigg declared that he had been informed by a member of the Afrikanerbond, who had just returned from Pretoria, that the executives of the republics at the commencement of the war expected the active assistance of 45,000 colonials. He had learned also that documents existed incriminating a number of leading colonials in machinations with the government of the republics. Speaking at a large imperial demonstration at Newcastle-on-Tyne last night, G. W. McCartney, secretary to the admiralty, said that when the war was ended the settlement that the Government would feed to the continent upon itself to make good the active assistance of 45,000 colonials was received by the people of the country as adequate satisfaction for the expenditure of blood and treasure that has been made in the defense of the rights of British subjects.

DIFFICULTIES FOR ROBERTS TO OVERCOME

LONDON, April 8.—Spencer Wilkinson, reviewing the military situation in South Africa for the Associated Press, at midnight says: "The position in the Free State seems to be that the British cavalry and mounted infantry have moved up the heavy marches from Modder River Station to Kimberley and from Kimberley to Bloemfontein; that the lack of remounts, coupled with the exhaustion of the transport service, has compelled Lord Roberts to withhold himself to make good during the halt the Boers have recovered from their depression and have resumed the offensive. The action at Kaare Siding, following the move of General French to Sanna Post, has no doubt given extra strain to the mounted troops. The need of remounts has become urgent. Dispatches, however, that have been received lately indicate that a fresh supply of horses is beginning to arrive at Cape Town. Lord Roberts seems anxious, so far as he can,

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY FOR BOERS

WASHINGTON, April 7.—In the House to-day Richardson of Tennessee, the floor leader of the minority, asked unanimous consent for the consideration of the following resolution: "Resolved, That this House views with deep interest the heroic struggle of the republics of South Africa to maintain their independence, and that we hereby tender them our most profound sympathy in their unequal but gallant struggle." "That resolution should go to the Committee on Foreign Affairs," observed Payne of New York, the floor leader of the majority. "Did I understand the gentleman to object?" asked Richardson. "I did," replied Payne. Richardson made a privilege motion to adopt the resolution introduced by him calling upon the Secretary of War for information as to whether Charles G. Magoon, the law officer of the insular bureau, had ever furnished an opinion that the treaty with Spain extended the constitution over Porto Rico and the Philippines. The resolution had been referred to the Committee on Military Affairs,

BOERS AND RIFLES CAPTURED.

ALIWALNORTH, Cape Colony, April 6.—The colonial division at Wepener has captured five prisoners and four hundred rifles. The Royal Irish Rifles are falling back on Beestekraal from Rouxville. The Boers are reported to be moving east and west of Rouxville and a number of them are reported sixteen miles down the Orange River. A town guard is being formed here.

LATEST DISASTER COST 600 BRITONS

LONDON, April 7.—Lord Roberts reports to the War Office as follows: "BLOEMFONTEIN, Friday, April 4.—The casualties at Reddersburg were: Officers killed, Captain F. G. Cassen and Lieutenant C. R. Barclay, both of the Northumberland; wounded, two; captured, eight; non-commissioned officers and men killed, eight; wounded, thirty-three. The rest were captured. Our strength was 167 mounted infantry and 423 infantry. The enemy was said to be 3200, with five guns."

ASHANTI TRIBES IN ARMS.

ACCRA, British Gold Coast Colony, April 6.—The situation in Ashanti is unchanged. A Coomassie runner reports that all the Ashanti tribes are in arms, the King of Bekwai alone remaining loyal. It is believed that the Ashanti Golden Stool has been found and that the rising is due to the endeavor of the Governor of the colony, Sir Frederick Mitchell Hodgson, to take possession of it.

HIGHWAYMAN BAFFLED.

REDDING, April 7.—As A. F. Dobrowsky, a Redding jeweler, was returning home at an early hour this morning with his wife and sister-in-law from a dance in the town of Shasta a masked highwayman stepped out of the brush and displaying a gun demanded hands up. The reins were in the hands of Mrs. Dobrowsky, who, instead of obeying the command, lashed the already swiftly going horse to a more rapid pace and successfully balked the designs of the highwayman without injury resulting to any one. It is believed the attempted hold-up would have been successful had the party been traveling at a slower pace.

INJURED IN A RUNAWAY.

REDDING, April 7.—Mrs. N. W. Williams, wife of a Redding business man, met injuries in a runaway accident this afternoon from which she cannot recover. She was enjoying a ride with her mother when the horse she was driving became frightened and ran away. The buggy collided with a heavy wagon, throwing Mrs. Williams to the ground, fracturing her skull and otherwise injuring her. The older lady jumped before the collision and escaped serious injury. Mrs. Williams is a six months' bride. She has been a leader in social circles.

METHODIST CONFERENCE.

SANTA ROSA, April 7.—Much business of importance was transacted at the Methodist conference here to-day. Ukiah was selected as the next place of meeting, and a number of young men were licensed to preach.

SOCIETY SENORITAS IN A DUEL

Two Women of Mexico City Quarrel Over a Lover and Fight.

ONE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

After Encounter the Combatants Kiss and the Vanquished Releases Her Claim to the Man Who Caused the Fray.

CITY OF MEXICO, April 7.—Details of a duel in which the principals and seconds were women prominent in Mexican society have just come to light. One woman was so seriously wounded that a surgeon had to be called and this led to the arrest of the participants. The duel grew out of a love affair.

Rafael Riquelme went to a fashionable ball several nights ago, accompanied by Senorita Marta Duran, a belle of the city; Senorita Juana Luna, to whom Riquelme had been paying marked attention, also attended the ball, and she saw Senorita Duran in the company of Rafael. Her Mexican blood surged in a passion. She confronted Senorita Duran, and after a quarrel challenged her rival. The challenge was accepted and the next morning the two women and four seconds drove in two carriages to a vacant lot near the Roma outskirts of the city. The rivals stripped off their waists and the signal for the encounter was given.

The first round was bloodless. In the second round Senorita Duran was aggressive, while her opponent acted on the defensive. Senorita Duran's terrific thrusts began to tell upon her strength and then Senorita Luna, who had been waiting for her adversary to tire herself, took advantage of her weariness and made a savage lunge at her breast. She inflicted an ugly wound, but Senorita Duran again faced her and received a scratch on the cheek. In the third round Senorita Duran was weak from the loss of blood. Senorita Luna inflicted a wound on her sword arm. She dropped her weapon and the duel was over. The women kissed and the vanquished one in true chivalry fashion renounced Riquelme.

The seconds placed the wounded woman in a carriage and drove her home. Her condition became so serious that a physician was called in. Under the Mexican law no physician is permitted to treat a wounded person without an order from the authorities. The case was presented to the police inspector and an investigation brought out the facts. Senorita Duran was taken to Juarez Hospital and the other five persons were arrested and placed in solitary confinement at Belem.

HEAVIEST STORM IN YEARS.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., April 7.—The heaviest rain and electric storm in thirty-five years visited San Antonio and the entire Southwest last night, destroying all street lights, flooding cellars and overflowing San Pedro Creek and San Antonio River.

The only train into San Antonio to-day was on the International and Great Northern from Laredo. No trains have gone out. Railway bridges in all directions have been washed away. No telegraphic communication can be had west of Del Rio, on the Southern Pacific, and the damage beyond that point is not known. It will be many days before the trains can run to El Paso. In Rockport many houses were blown off their foundations. Shipping suffered most. Out of about thirty boats lying at anchor in front of the town, only three rode the storm, suffering no damage.

LOSS OF LIFE IN THE FLOODS.

WACO, Tex., April 7.—Reports of loss of life and damage caused by floods due to the incessant rains during the past three days continue to pour in from all directions, indicating a repetition of the disasters of last year. The loss of life to a great extent has already surpassed that of previous years. Both telegraphic and telephone service all over the State is completely prostrated and details from the flooded districts are very meager. All streams, including the Brazos and Colorado River, are overflowing the lowlands and rising very rapidly. The crops of cotton and corn are nearly submerged and will have to be replanted. Railway traffic is practically suspended on all railroads running into this city.

INSURGENTS CAPTURED.

CARNAVON, Cape Colony, April 6.—It is reported that 200 insurgents, who were not aware that Sir Charles Parsons had occupied Kenhardt, rode into that place and were captured by the British troops. The Canadian artillery has returned here from Van Wyck's Viei.

ARRIVAL OF MORE TROOPS.

CAPE TOWN, April 7.—The British transport Bavarian has arrived here with 2300 troops. During her passage she spoke the British transport Mount Lebanon, bound for this port, in a disabled condition. The Mount Lebanon, however, said her repairs could be effected at sea.

TEXAS TOWNS SWEEPED BY FLOOD, LEAVING DEATH AND RUIN IN ITS WAKE

Raging Torrents of the Colorado Increased in Fury by the Breaking of the Austin Reservoir Dam.

GREAT LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY



Flood Disaster at Austin, Tex.—Colorado River Dam Which Broke.

AUSTIN, Texas, April 8.—The increased volume of water which came down the river to-night undermined the power house at the dam at 1:30 this morning and it fell into the river, carrying with it \$300,000 worth of machinery.



Flood Disaster at Austin, Tex.—Colorado River Dam Which Broke.

AUSTIN, Texas, April 7.—This city is to-night in pitch darkness, with a raging river, a mile wide and swollen far beyond its capacity, bore too heavily upon an immense dam spanning the river here, breaking it and letting loose a reservoir of water thirty miles long, half a mile wide and sixty feet deep to aid in carrying destruction down the valleys of the Colorado River.

The great dam in the Colorado River gave way at noon to-day from the enormous pressure of water and debris and with a roar and crash swept the valleys below the city, wrecking the immense light and power plant and drowning eight workmen. Following is a list of the known dead, including those killed in the power house: FRANK KINCEY, FRANK KINNEY, WALTER FLOWER, WALTER JOHNSON, ALFRED JOHNSON, FRANK FITZGERALD, WALTER BLOSSMAN, JOSEPH NEWMAN, DICK MORRIS (colored), JOHN PROES, CHARLES BURCHARD. Six negroes. Last Wednesday night it began to rain very hard at this place, the storm extending north of here along the watersheds of the Colorado River. The precipitation continued until this morning, the downfall averaging six inches within an hour. All this vast quantity of water along the watersheds of the Colorado River rapidly swelled the current until at 8 o'clock this morning the river, which had been rising steadily since last evening, was a raging torrent, having risen forty feet within ten hours.

After daylight this morning it became evident that the situation was serious. The river began to rise so rapidly that it was evident that the immense dam and all the power houses and contents, costing one and a half million dollars, were in imminent danger. To add to the terror of the situation, small frame houses, trees and debris of every description began descending the river and piling up against the upper face of the dam. This weight was augmented every moment until by 10 o'clock there was a mass of debris lodged against the dam which threatened the safety of the structure. In addition millions of gallons of water, muddy from its long journey, was whirling and plunging to the sixty-foot fall, and it was evident that no wall could withstand the immense pressure. The crisis came shortly after 11 o'clock, when suddenly with a report like the roar of the ocean the great wedge twenty-five feet high, 500 feet wide and about eight feet thick rolled out of the center section of the dam down the face of the sixty feet fall, deep into the river below. This left a hanging gap in the very middle of the dam through which the debris and water fiercely poured, while the flood already raging was threatening everything in its path. The released water poured into the power house, catching eight employees at work there, drowning all of them. The breaking of the dam caused wild excitement in the city. The telegraph companies at once wired to places below here to look out for the great wave, and runners were dispatched on horses to notify those living in the valleys below the city. The telegraphic messages served as a timely warning to many, but the rushing waters outstripped the horsemen and many houses were picked up and swept away before the occupants could get together their valuables. Within a short time all the valleys to the south and west of Austin were filled to overflowing with water and the southern portion of the city tributary to the river was inundated. Large crowds collected on the river banks and several persons were swept into the river when the dam broke, but all were saved by boatmen. A crowd of white people numbering about thirty, living just below the dam in tents, were seen at their habitations just before the dam broke and have not been accounted for since. It is generally believed that all of them were swept away. One man, attempting to cross the roadway leading to the bridge across the river just as the big wave rolled down, was caught and he and his horse and buggy went down with the torrent and were heard of no more. A family of six negroes living in the valley south of the city are known to have been drowned. It is estimated that more than 100 houses have been destroyed and the loss of property will be great. The light and power plant costing one and a half million dollars. The breaking of the dam engulfed the old water company plant below the city and it is to-night lying fifteen feet under water, while the city is in darkness and without water. Reports from points below here are to the effect that the flood has been most disastrous. The surface of the river throughout the day has been dotted with small houses or fragments of houses and drowned animals, along with trees and debris, all of which bear testimony to the ravages of the flood in the mountain region above Austin. In losses here the International and Great Northern Railroad and the Austin and Northwestern Railroad, both entering this city, have suffered severely, the first named having a very serious wreck by reason of the floods this morning. The south-bound cannon ball train from St. Louis on the International and Great Northern was wrecked at McNeill, nine miles above here, as a result of a wash-out. The engine and cars plunged into a culvert, demolishing the engine, the mail, baggage car, two day coaches and one sleeper. The cars left the track and rolled over on their sides in four feet of water, but fortunately no lives were lost. There were any of the passengers badly hurt. This is attributable to the fact that there were not many on the train and it was running slowly at the time, owing to the bad track. The mail clerk, Ora Davis of San Antonio, was seriously bruised, and Engineer P. E. Mayham of San Antonio and Fireman C. M. Stanley were slightly injured. The Austin and Northwestern road operated no trains to-day, due to the fact that five of their bridges were washed away during the night.