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GENERAL FRENCH FAILS TO CUT OFF THE BOER RETREAT FROM KROONSTAD

British Cavalry Strikes Too Late at the Federal Troops and Supply Trains Trekking Toward the Borders of the Transvaal.

Correspondents With Roberts' Army Reiterate Tales of Strife and Jealousy in Patriot Ranks and Assert That the Backbone of Resistance Is Broken.

KROONSTAD, Orange Free State, Saturday, May 12.—The arrival of Lord Roberts was hailed with enthusiasm by all the British inhabitants. Three hundred Free Staters were anxious to surrender. The bridge to the south had not been destroyed, but the large bridge near the town had been demolished. The Irish brigade with the Federals yesterday burned the goods shed. According to the townspeople many of them were drunk.

The Boers are now trekking to the Vaal River, where they are entrenching. General French encamped northeast of the town and dispatched a force to cut the line. The project succeeded late at night, but unfortunately after the departure of the last train.

Although the troops had marched sixteen miles they were in excellent form on entering the town. Many arrests have been made, chiefly of those who had maligned the British. It was found that many persons have been deported from Ladybrand for ultra sympathy with the British. President Steyn has gone to Lindley, the new seat of the Free State Government. A number of the burghers are trekking homeward. The opposition in the Free State is practically over. All the prisoners in the hands of the British here agree that the quarrel between the Free Staters and the Transvaalers is so acute that the Transvaalers have decided to leave their allies, whom they accuse of cowardice and lact of patriotism.

Most of the Transvaal prisoners think that if they are defeated at the Vaal River the Boers will retreat to Pretoria, but there appears to be a growing distrust in the Transvaal Government. In a word, the backbone of the Boer resistance seems to have been broken. The burghers are fighting without their previous stubbornness. They seem ready to retreat on the slightest pretext. The prisoners, even the Transvaalers, appear glad to have been captured. They say they are sick of a war which can have only one end. Several have exclaimed, "We have lost our liberty, but why should we lose our lives?"

LONDON, May 14, 4 a. m.—"The war is practically over," says the Daily Chronicle's Kroonstad correspondent, and, in less definite terms, this is the view to be gathered from all the correspondents. They picture the Boers as utterly demoralized and disheartened by Lord Roberts' unexpectedly rapid advance and by his facile turning of the carefully prepared positions of the Boers. There was practically no fighting and there are no further details to give respecting the occupation of Kroonstad. The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says:

"The union jack was hoisted in the market place by Mrs. Lockhead, the American wife of a Scotchman. Most of the horses of the Boers are in a wretched condition, but President Kruger declares he will continue the war."

It appears that the Boers at Kroonstad had been reinforced by 3000 men from Natal last Friday and that altogether 10,000 with twenty guns trekked from Kroonstad on the approach of Lord Roberts. The Boers made an ineffectual stand at Boschrand and had elaborate entrenchments in front of Kroonstad, which offered great facilities for a rear guard action. Their only anxiety, however, appears to have been to get away safely with all their guns and convoys, which again they have successfuly accomplished. The few stores they were unable to carry away they burned.

President Steyn is represented as having been frantic with rage and as having kicked and cuffed the burghers after vainly imploring them to continue the fight.

Danger of Over-Confidence.

Lord Roberts, after a march which is regarded as worthy of being ranked with his famous march to Kandahar, has thus covered another stage of his campaign, a stage which although successful and without the mistakes and misfortunes that characterized the earlier stages, leaves the Boer forces quite intact, not having lost a gun and having lost very few men. Experience has taught the critics to be chary of accepting reports of Boer demoralization. The Times says:

"The signs point to military breakdown on the part of the Boers, but, after experiences of the past, we cannot accept the reports of demoralization without reserve. The game of war must be strictly played out to the end."

Lindley, the new Free State capital, is forty-five miles southeast of Kroonstad, half way to Bethlehem, and was probably selected as a convenient rendezvous for the commandos now retiring before General Brabant and General Rundle in the Thaba Nchu district. Brabant has occupied Hoepellok, half way on the road from Thaba Nchu to Ladybrand.

There is not a word of news regarding General Buller's movements or from the far western side. Nothing is known, therefore, of the Mafeking relief column.

All Residents Must Fight.

The Lourenzo Marques correspondent of the Times, telegraphing Sunday, says: "It is rumored that the Transvaal Raad, in secret session, has resolved to order all residents, irrespective of nationality, to assist in the defense of the republic, in accordance with the terms of the amended military laws. The Boers recognize that they are now in the last extremity and all sorts and conditions of men are being commandeered. The merchants here have protested against the stoppage of a consignment of clothing and corned beef, of which the latter was purchased in America. United States Consul Hollis, whose sympathies are notorious, is said to have remonstrated against what he called "interference with American trade."

The Standard publishes the following from Durban, dated Sunday: "There are persistent rumors here of heavy fighting in Natal. A Red Cross train left last night for the north."

HOW NEWS OF CRONJE'S CAPTURE WAS RECEIVED

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

LONDON, May 5.—The Daily News correspondent, A. G. Hales, who was taken prisoner by the Boers and returned by them to General Gatacre, sends his paper an account of how the Boers received the news of Cronje's surrender. He was at Burghersdorp when the news came through. He writes:

"When the news came the folks would not believe it. They would just as soon have believed that the sun could fall from the heavens and leave the earth in darkness as that Cronje, the iron-willed, tiger-hearted Cronje, could throw down his arms. Had the news come that he had made a mad rush at our guns and perished with all his men around him they might have believed it—believed it and wept, and even as they wept they would have sworn to avenge him. But they would not, they could not and they did not believe that he, the man in whom they had placed their faith, had surrendered with thousands of his men.

"But at last the truth became known. Some who had escaped from Cronje's laager brought in the fateful news and then the stolid looking fighting men broke down. They wept like boys. Great, rugged, bearded men dashed their rifles on the ground and spurned them with their boots whilst down their sun and wind tanned faces the tears poured steadily. Others took the news sadly with chins dropping on their chests, with hard, set faces, while with passionate pain too deep for words they stood leaning upon their rifles with hands hard gripped until one would think the tightened muscles would leave the impress of the straining fingers upon the cold steel. The blow had stunned them. Had Paul Kruger betrayed them to their foes for the sake of British gold, they would not have felt the shock as they felt this one man's surrender.

"If Cronje had loved his country half as well as his country loved him he would have marched right on to the point of a British bayonet on that morning so disastrous to the Boer arms, and have yielded up his life in order that the memory of his name might have remained as a watchword on the lips and in the hearts of his gallant yoeman soldiery. When he laid down his arms he launched a thunderbolt into the Boer camp which wrecked it forever."

CAPTURE OF KROONSTAD AS VIEWED IN BERLIN

BERLIN, May 13.—The occupation of Kroonstad by Lord Roberts without resistance has caused great surprise here. The military expert of the Lokal Anzeiger finds an explanation in the fact that many of the Boers have deserted. He says:

"Lord Roberts' advance was splendidly executed. It is worthy to be placed beside the Kandahar expedition. The situation is now changed so greatly in favor of the British that the fate of the Boers is settled."

President Steyn's movement eastward is interpreted as confirming the rumors of bickerings between the Transvaalers and the Free Staters.

KIPLING APPEALS FOR ANNEXATION OF THE REPUBLICS

LONDON, May 13.—Rudyard Kipling brought from Cape Town the appeal of a well-known Wesleyan minister to the president of the British Wesleyan conference in favor of the annexation of the two republics. To this appeal Mr. Kipling adds:

"If through any intellectual lasciviousness we in England prefer to tickle emotion by being generous once again at other people's expense when the settlement comes all this weary, bloody work will have to be done anew from the beginning, five or ten years back. I assume that you have full knowledge of the situation in South Africa, but I do not think you can realize how passionately and eagerly the loyalists look to England for a sign that the mother country will neither desert them nor betray them to the Dutch."

MOB IN POSSESSION OF PENNSYLVANIA TOWN

Objects to Project to Utilize an Abandoned School Building for a Pesthouse.

PITTSBURG, May 13.—A mob of 2000 men and boys has had possession of Turtle Creek, a small town eight miles east of here, all evening, and at midnight the Sheriff was called upon to aid the local officials. The trouble was precipitated by the Board of Health trying to take possession of an abandoned school building in the town for a pesthouse. The citizens objected to this, and when the board made preparation to remove six cases of smallpox to the building it was prevented by the mob. Special officers sworn in could do nothing and the volunteer fire department succeeded in dispersing the rioters by turning the hose on them. The crowd soon returned, however, and, cutting the hose, pelted the firemen with stones and beat them with clubs until the officers retreated. A number of the firemen were badly cut and bruised.

The mob then surrounded the schoolhouse, in which three of the members of the Health Board had sought refuge and barricaded themselves. The Sheriff and posse arrived at 1:30 Monday morning and commanded the crowd to disperse. The men withdrew some distance, but it is reported their numbers are being constantly augmented and it is feared trouble will be renewed later.

BODIES OF DEAD LIE FOR DAYS IN THE SUN

Fatalities so Numerous in Indian Famine Camps That Victims Cannot Be Buried.

LONDON, May 13.—The Bombay correspondent of the Times says: "The cholera contiues to rage in the famine camps. There have been 400 deaths in three days at Mandivoe. So numerous are the cases at Godra that it is impossible to collect the bodies, which lie for days in the sun. The people have fled and cannot be induced to return. A similar state of affairs prevails at Broach."

NEW YORK, May 13.—The Indian famine relief committee to-night issued an appeal, asserting that despite systematic aid furnished 6,000,000 people in India, at least 6,000,000 are starving. The appeal says that America ought to send at least a million dollars.

BILLIARD AND POOL TABLES IN CHURCH

Innovation Proposed by a Young Minister Who Objects to Present Methods of Worship.

TOLEDO, Ohio, May 13.—Rev. F. E. Patton, a young Christian minister of this city, preached from the stage of Burt's Opera-house to-night. He said:

"By the practice of the church more people are doomed to eternal perdition than were ever caused by the saloons or any other influence. Place no faith at all in your churches. Mark my words that there will be a reformation that will shake the religious world to its foundation. Isms and schisms will be parts of a broken parachute."

Rev. Mr. Patton will arrange for a church edifice and will have in the building billiard and pool tables.

READY TO ADJOURN.

Before End of Week the House Will Have Finished Its Work.

WASHINGTON, May 13.—The House this week will send to the Senate the last of the general supply bills—the general deficiency and the military academy appropriation bills—and will be ready for adjournment as soon as the Senate passes them and adjusts the differences between the two houses upon those already passed or pending in conference.

The Senate to-morrow will resume consideration of the naval appropriation bill and it is expected that the measure will be passed during the day.

BATTERY U, ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY, CAUGHT IN THE BOER TRAP AT KOORN SPRUIT ON MARCH 30.

From the Spear.

IT WAS IN THIS ACTION THAT THE BRITISH SUSTAINED THE SERIOUS LOSS OF A WHOLE BATTERY OF GUNS AND 350 MEN. THE DUKE OF TECK, WHO WAS IN COMMAND OF THE CONVOY, IS SAID TO HAVE HIED HIMSELF TO A PLACE OF SAFETY WITH GREAT PROMPTITUDE, LEAVING HIS MEN TO DO AS BEST THEY COULD. FORTUNATELY, OTHERS NOT SO HIGH IN RANK, STAYED AT THEIR POSTS AND PREVENTED A MORE SHAMEFUL DISASTER. THE ESCAPE OF THE DUKE FROM OFFICIAL CRITICISM, IN VIEW OF WHAT FELL TO THE LOT OF GENERAL GATACRE AND OTHERS, IS EXCITING MUCH COMMENT IN ENGLAND.

VAST GOLD FIELDS TO BE OPENED

Siberian Tract That Is Expected to Rival Nome District.

AMERICAN MINERS INVITED

Russian Expedition Will Sail From San Francisco in June to Investigate the Possibilities of the Region.

NEW YORK, May 13.—New gold fields rivaling in richness the deposits of Cape Nome will be opened to American miners if the expectations of the members of the Russian expedition which arrived last night on the Campania on its way to Northeastern Siberia are fulfilled. Vladimir Wonlarlarsky, a colonel of the Russian Imperial Guard, obtained the concession of the vast Siberian tract which the expedition is to examine. There were more than forty applicants for the grant, which had been sought with eagerness since the discovery of gold on the American side of the Bering Sea. By means of court influence, Wonlarlarsky carried off the prize. He formed a company in Russia, which planned the present expedition, headed by A. Bogdanovitch, the engineer. It is understood that a subsidiary company has been formed in England in connection with the section, but secrecy is maintained in regard to the English and American interests.

Miners who have visited the Siberian coast by stealth reported that it is practically the same as the Nome coast, consisting of a strip of beach, behind which lies a tundra or belt of gold-bearing sand, which had been thrown up by the action of the waves and frozen. Many companies have been formed to work dredges and pumps off the coast of Cape Nome in order to draw up the precious sand where it reaches the beach. It is expected that the operation of these appliances will be prevented by the beach miners, and that apparatus in which large capital has been invested will be idle unless new fields are opened to it. If the expedition to Siberia finds what it expects the company will invite the pumps and dredges to cross to the Siberian shore and operate there upon payment of a royalty.

Hooley, the English promoter, has nothing to do with the plan. George D. Roberts, who is a veteran California miner, will be a member of the exploring party. Mr. Roberts has made a study of gold deposits in sea sands and has a plan for extracting the gold from the frozen tundra. The expedition will sail from San Francisco on June 1, after the Russians have conferred with the Russian Minister at Washington. It will return about November 1, and expects to be able to make a complete report on the possibilities of the region.

Mr. Roberts said to-day that from information which he had received the deposit of gold on the Siberian coast promised to be the most valuable ever discovered. No attempt will be made to work in the tundra this year, but the party hopes to be able to make some contracts with American owners of pumps and dredges.

Status of the Plague.

SYDNEY, N. S. W., May 13.—The number of cases of bubonic plague officially reported to this date is 216. Of these seventy-three have proved fatal.

NATIONAL PLATFORM TO BE ADOPTED BY REPUBLICAN PARTY

Special Dispatch to The Call.

CALL HEADQUARTERS, WELLINGTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, May 13.—Prosperity at home and the expansion of American commerce abroad will be the keynotes of the Republican national platform. Conferences of party leaders are already discussing the planks to be included in the declaration of party faith and their exact conventions are being scanned and the best features of each are being noted for incorporation into the national platform.

Ohio's platform, which had the approval of President McKinley and all of the administration leaders, will be more closely followed than any other State platform, and Senator Foraker, who was chairman of the platform committee in St. Louis four years ago, is expected to preside over the same committee this year.

The platform of 1896 will be reaffirmed and the country will be congratulated on the restoration of prosperity resulting from the carrying out of the principles then declared for. There will be no shifting on the gold issue, as in 1896. The adoption of the gold standard will be put alongside of the Dingley tariff law as one of the foundations on which the increased prosperity of the country rests.

The course of the administration which freed Cuba and relieved Porto Rico and the Philippines from the yoke of Spain will be commended, and the platform will declare that the Republican party is willing to accept the results of the war and discharge the duties imposed by them. The progress already made toward giving Cubans a free and independent government will be pointed to with commendation and the government already established in Porto Rico will be approved. The party will be pledged to the pacification of the Philippines, the establishment of free schools in the islands for the elevation of the inhabitants to the American standard of intelligence and the institution of the greatest degree of self-government of which the Filipinos are capable.

The doctrine that Congress has plenary power to govern territory belonging to the United States, without restrictions imposed in States or where the constitution has been specifically extended by act of Congress, will be affirmed in the most positive manner.

The maintenance of the Monroe doctrine, a formal recognition of which was secured by the American delegates to The Hague conference, increase of the navy, construction of the Nicaraguan canal and the passage of a bill to subsidize American ships will be indorsed in the platform, and the repeal of the war revenue taxes, which are most burdensome, and the retention of which is not required by the necessities of the Government, will be declared one of the policies to be carried out in the next session of Congress.

The most difficult task of the platform committee will be to frame a plank dealing with the trusts. A middle course probably will be steered. That plank probably will be finally adopted which goes farthest in denunciation of trusts and combinations without being so extreme as to alarm conservative business interests.

CHANGED THE DIALS ON THE WATER METERS

Scheme by Which the City of Chicago Has Been Defrauded Out of Vast Sums.

CHICAGO, May 13.—A scheme by which the city of Chicago has been defrauded out of sums aggregating $200,000, according to Chief of Detectives Colleran, has been unearthed. Clarence M. Wolfe and George W. Piggott, employes of the water office in the City Hall, are under arrest. It is alleged that Wolfe and Piggott were caught in the act of changing the dial of a water meter in the Rainier Hotel.

The conspirators' scheme was to break the cap of a water meter wherever they chose and change the hands on the dial so as to cut down the record of water used. The alleged fraud was reported to the authorities by James G. Trayner, who said he was approached by a man who said he had "fixed" the meter of the Rainier Hotel, of which Trayner was manager, and wanted money. He told Trayner that a number of buildings were getting three times as much water as they were paying for. Wolfe and Piggott admit they had been practicing the fraud for two years. Other arrests are expected.

Die of Yellow Fever.

CITY OF MEXICO, May 13.—Two deaths from yellow fever are reported from the Tehauntepec Isthmus. F. J. Sorba, 40 years of age, an agricultural expert, died at Coatzacoalcos. He was a son of Don Bernado Sorba, proprietor of the Santa Ana ranch at Santa Ana, Cal. The other death was that of J. Simpson, an Englisman connected with the Vera Cruz and Pacific Railroad.

RATHBONE WILL BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE

Director General of Posts in Cuba Considered Incompetent to Fill the Position.

WASHINGTON, May 13.—The Post tomorrow will say: "An order will be issued to-day relieving from duty E. G. Rathbone, Director General of Posts in Cuba. He is held responsible for extravagance in the department and for the loose business methods in the conduct of postal affairs on the island, resulting in an embezzlement of funds estimated at $100,000. He is not charged with or suspected of any complicity in the frauds, but the Postmaster General and Secretary of War are convinced that his unfitness for the highly responsible position has been clearly established. A reorganization of the Department of Posts will follow."

HAVANA, May 13.—There are no fresh developments in connection with the postal frauds, but light will be thrown upon the whole situation as soon as it is possible to get C. F. W. Neely here for trial. The military authorities do not wish to disclose the evidence in their possession until the issues come before the courts. It is estimated that the brickyard in which Neely is interested is worth, with the machinery, $18,000, and it is said that his interest represents 80 per cent.

Death of a Jurist.

LOGANSPORT, Ind., May 13.—Judge Horace Biddle died to-night, aged 90. He was an eminent lawyer and literateur. He picked flaws in Professor Tyndall's work on "Sound" and made a reputation in music.

Musical Director Dead.

MUNICH, May 13.—Dr. Hermann Leier, court musical director, is dead.

DWELLING OF THE ANCIENT CRETAN KINGS

Find Made by Scientists Excavating on the Site of Cnossus.

PALACE OF HOMERIC ERA

Archives Contain a Series of Clay Tablets That May Throw Light Upon the Civilization of That Period.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

NEW YORK, May 13.—British scientists excavating on the site of Cnossus, ancient capital of Crete, have unearthed what is believed to be the palace of the Kings of Crete in the Mycenian age, about 1400 B. C. In the chambers of the palace were found a whole series of clay tablets, the palace archives, analogous to the Babylonian, but with indigenous Cretan script. Professor Arthur J. Evans, director of the Ashmolean Museum of Oxford, who had charge of the work of excavation, telegraphed to Professor Richardson news of the discovery, which is regarded as one of unusual importance.

The question of Mycenian writing and the actual plan and construction of the palace are regarded as settled. In a corridor was found a fresco representing a girl in Mycenian costume, holding a long vase. The colors are brilliant and the picture is said to surpass in grace of form anything known of the period. The tablets may establish characteristics of the civilization of the era sung in Homeric poetry.

GEORGIA MOB LYNCHES A NEGRO MURDERER

Avenges the Killing of a White Man on a Street Car in Augusta.

AUGUSTA, Ga., May 13.—Alec Whitney, aged 25, a society leader, was shot and killed on a street car here to-night by a negro in a quarrel over a seat. The negro, Gus Wilson, was taken off a Georgia Railroad passenger train later at Harlem, twenty-five miles from here, tonight by a mob and lynched. He was being taken to Atlanta for safe keeping.

Whitney and a friend were riding on the electric line car, when Wilson and another negro entered, one sitting down in Whitney's lap. Whitney slapped the negro, and a scuffle ensued, during which Wilson fired. The ball struck Whitney below the left eye, and he died within a few minutes.

Large crowds collected, and it was with difficulty that Wilson was landed in jail. There a special guard of twenty-five policemen guarded him till a start could be made for Atlanta. Wilson was secretly put aboard a train, but a number of citizens had boarded the train also, while others telephoned ahead. A crowd met the train and dispatched the negro quickly.

Rev. Rowland Hills in Jail.

OMAHA, May 13.—A special from Blair to the Bee says: Officer Mencke arrived there to-day with Rev. Rowland B. Hills, charged with bigamy, and placed his prisoner in jail. The English woman claiming to be his wife arrived at Blair two weeks ago. Mrs. Hills remained at Tacoma, Wash., with friends. The preliminary trial will be held Tuesday. Hills says he is willing to compromise the trouble and pay the expenses of clamant No. 1 back to England.