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CRONJE GETS AWAY

BRITISH DELAY IN STARTING PURSUIT GAVE HIM A CHANCE.

All the Other Movements of General Roberts Well Timed and Executed—Rear Attack on the British Near Jacobsdal Costs Them a Number of the Supply Wagons.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—It is now practically confirmed that General Cronje escaped. Every detail received, however, shows how admirably Lord Roberts' plans were laid and how well they succeeded. But for the unavoidable delay at Dekiels drift, which was almost impassable for wagons, the whole Boer force would have been surrounded. The delay of one day gave them their chance for a hasty retreat.

All the other movements of Lord Roberts were executed exactly to time. Apparently General Cronje is retreating with the main army and even if he escapes altogether he will probably lose all his baggage. There are still some things doubtful about the capture of the British convoy. According to a Daily Mail correspondent with the convoy division, which consisted of 200 wagons, each loaded with

Six Thousand Pounds of Rations

and forage and drawn by 16 oxen, it was quite unexpectedly attacked by a commando supposed to come from Colesberg. The escort, consisting of 80 of the Gordon Highlanders, 40 men of the army service corps and a few of Kitchener's horse, maintained a defense until the arrival of reinforcements, sustaining insignificant casualties. The Standard's correspondent at Jacobsdal, telegraphing Thursday, Feb. 15, says:

"An attack was made yesterday upon the rear guard of our main body by a force of 1,400 Boers, who were hurried up from Colesberg. They succeeded in capturing some of our wagons, but Lord Roberts did not delay his march to retake these. There were few casualties on our side."

DISPATCH FROM BULLER.

Tells of His Progress in the Latest Attempt to Relieve Ladysmith.

LONDON, Feb. 20.—The war office has received the following dispatch from General Buller:

"Chieveley Camp, Feb. 19.—I yesterday moved around the enemy's flank. The Queens, who had bivouacked on the northern slope of Cingola, crossed the Nek and, supported by the rest of the Second brigade under Hildyard, assaulted and took the southern end of Monte Christo.

"The Fourth brigade on the left or western slope and the Welsh Fusiliers, supported by the rest of the Sixth brigade, assaulted the eastern flank of the enemy's position, while the Second brigade cavalry on the extreme right, watched the eastern slopes of Monte Christo and drove back those of the enemy attempting to escape there from our artillery fire. Assaulted by heavy artillery fire, on their front and flank, and attacked on their flank and rear, the enemy made but slight resistance and, abandoning their strong position, were driven across the Tugela. I have taken several camps, a wagon load of ammunition, several wagons of stores and supplies and few prisoners.

"The weather has been intensely hot and the ground traversed was exceedingly difficult. But the energy and dash of the troops have been very pleasant to see. They have all done splendidly. The work of the irregular cavalry, the Queens, the Scots Fusiliers and the Rifle brigade was, perhaps, most noticeable, while the excellent practice of the artillery and naval guns and the steadiness of the gunners under, at times, very accurate fire, was remarkable. The accurate fire of the naval guns from Chievely was of great assistance.

"Our casualties are not, I think, many."

JUST A LONDON RUMOR.

Capture of Cronje and His Army in Circulation at the Clubs.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—Rumors have been in circulation at the clubs and elsewhere in London that General Cronje, with an army of 7,000, has been captured.

KELLY-KENNY'S HAUL.

Seventy-eight Wagons of Boer Stores and Ammunition Secured.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—A dispatch to the war office from Lord Roberts says that General Kelly-Kenny's brigade Friday captured 78 wagons of stores and ammunition belonging to General Cronje.

Promotion For French.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—The queen has promoted General French to be major general. French, heretofore, has only ranked as a colonel in the army, with the local rank of lieutenant general. Lieutenant Colonel Kekewich has been promoted colonel for services in the defense of Kimberley.

Not One of the Twenty Escaped.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—A dispatch from Naauwpoort to The Times, describing the retreat from Arundel, draws attention to a division of 20 men from the Victoria mounted rifles who were caught in a trap and died to a man, fighting to the last.

Lord Methuen at Kimberley.

LONDON, Feb. 20.—The Cape Town correspondent of The Daily News, telegraphing Sunday, says: "Lord Methuen's force has arrived at Kimberley, having got through from Magersfontein without fighting."

Bound for Delagoa Bay.

PORT ELIZABETH, Feb. 19.—The British steamer Sabine, from New York Jan. 4 with a miscellaneous cargo, has been seized by the British gunboat Trush and brought to Delagoa bay on suspicion of having on board articles contraband of war.

HIS SILENCE BROKEN

EX-CONSUL MACRUM TELLS WHY HE LEFT PRETORIA.

His Official Letters and Dispatches Were Tampered With by the British Censor and He Desired to Report in Person. Says Secretary Hay Wired Him the Desired Permission for Leave of Absence.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Charles E. Macrum, formerly United States consul at Pretoria, has given out a signed statement regarding his reasons for leaving the Transvaal capital. The statement begins as follows:

"The situation in Pretoria was such that, first, I could not remain there while my government at home was apparently in the dark as to the actual conditions in South Africa; second, that as a man and an American I could not remain in Pretoria sacrificing my self-respect while the government at home continued to leave me in the position of a British consul and not an American consul.

Mr. Macrum then tells of his attempt to compel Americans to remain neutral, but that in spite of his efforts they were continually going to the front as burghers. Even the American vice consul resigned his position and took up arms for the Boers.

His Mail Tampered With.

Regarding the difficulty of sending and receiving mail and dispatches Mr. Macrum says:

"It was over four weeks from the time the war opened before I received a single mail or dispatch from my goverment or a single private letter. The mail for the Transvaal had all been stopped at Cape Town by order of the high commissioner. When this mail was formally forwarded to me, after Captain Stowe, the consul general at Cape Town, had secured its release I had the humiliation, as an American representative, of sitting in my office and looking upon envelopes of the United States, officially stamped, sealed with a sticker notifying me that the letters had been opened at Durban. I looked up the international law and failed to find that any military power has the right to exercise its judgment of examining the dispatches of a neutral government to its representative. This interruption continued all the time I remained in Pretoria.

Requests Leave of Absence.

"The misrepresentations which had been going on before the war and after it opened were of such a serious nature and would require such detailed explanation that on the 6th day of November I filed a cable to the department in code, stating that I wished leave of absence in order to visit the States. To this I received a reply advising me that my presence at Pretoria was important to public interests. I again wired the department on Nov. 8 and 11, but to these dispatches I received no reply. On Nov. 14 I again wired the department stating that I could not leave without permission; that I would forfeit my post if the reasons which I would make to the department did not prove satisfactory. This cable was retained by the censor until Dec. 2, when I had advices that it had just been forwarded. To this I received a reply reiterating the refusal to grant leave of absence.

Agrees to Stick to His Post.

"Upon the receipt of this reply, which was on Dec. 15, I immediately wrote to the department accepting the refusal to grant me leave of absence and stating that in that matter I would abide by the decision of the department and that I was unable to convey a definite account of the conditions there by mail. Several days later I received a message saying, 'You may come home,' signed Hay."

Mr. Macrum then tells of his departure from Pretoria under the impression that he was still consul and of his arrival at Washington on Feb. 5, when he was informed that Secretary Hay's son had been officially appointed to succeed him. He had expected to make his report and be returned to Pretoria. Continuing, he says:

"Instead of this I found that Secretary Hay did not see fit to await my personal report and has been a silent or conniving partner to the discrediting reports of my official action.

Not Aware of "the Secret Alliance."

"I wish to state here that when I accepted my post I knew nothing of a secret alliance between the United States and England and I had seen nothing in the consular instructions that made an American consul subject to the whims and caprices of an English military censor in Durban.

"There is not one soul who can point to a single official act of mine which departed from the strictest neutrality. My confidential dispatches to the department contained information which will show my sympathy for the republic, but which time will prove to be unbiased as to actual facts.

"My acts as a public official are all recorded at the department. My acts now as a private man can in no way involve the public service and I simply make this statement in my own defense."

STICKS TO HIS STORY.

Ex-Consul Macrum Will Furnish Evidence of Its Truthfulness.

PITTSBURG, Feb. 19.—Charles F. Macrum, former United States consul at Pretoria, left for Washington at 10 o'clock on the Baltimore and Ohio road. Before leaving he said:

"I do not withdraw a word of my charges against the British officials in South Africa. If I am called upon I am prepared at any time to testify to them and furnish evidence of their truthfulness."

Mr. Macrum is evidently delighted over the effect of his statement made public last week. He says he is not going to Washington on any special mission, but wants to be on the ground to give his testimony should it be desired.

NEWS CONDENSATIONS.

Wednesday, Feb. 14.

CONGRESS—Senate; Throughout session the financial bill was under discussion. After 2 o'clock debate proceeded under the 10-minute rule. Test vote showed good majority for bill on final vote. House: Legislative appropriation bill taken up for consideration.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt has been elected president of the Woman's Suffrage association.

Mr. Frick, in his suit against Mr. Carnegie, says that Carnegie's profits last year amounted to $21,000,000.

Congressman Chickering of New York was killed by either falling or jumping from a window of the Grand Central hotel at New York city.

The board of directors of the Kansas state penitentiary has decided to hereafter sell the entire output of binding twine of the Kansas penitentiary direct to farmers. Implement dealers wanted the whole output.

Thursday, Feb. 15.

CONGRESS—Senate: Financial measure under debate for several weeks, passed by a vote of 46 to 29. About a fourth of the items in the measure were disposed of.

A combination of sheet steel mills has been formed with a capitalization of $52,000,000.

The Independent Brotherhood Building Trades Council, upon which Chicago contractors had relied to furnish men to take places of those locked out, declines to assist in crushing the older organization.

Great Britain has suffered from one of the severest blizzards in its history. Many persons have been frozen to death and traffic has been almost entirely blocked. London streets have been in awful condition.

The Republican state central committee has decided to call a state convention to be held in Milwaukee on April 25. At this convention delegates at large to the Republican national convention at Philadelphia will be chosen.

Friday, Feb. 16.

CONGRESS—Senate: Hawaiian government bill taken up. Philippine discussion continued. House: Annual striking out of appropriation for civil service commission occurred. Considerable debate on civil service in general.

British troops have evacuated Rensberg and retired to Arundel.

Tom Sharkey has accepted Bob Fitzsimmons' challenge for a meeting.

The British government's military scheme has been adopted in the house of commons, 239 to 34.

The second anniversary of the destruction of the Maine in Havana harbor was appropriately observed in Havana.

The sound money bill was passed by the senate, 46 to 28. The free silver amendment offered by Mr. Jones, the Democratic leader, was defeated, 47 to 28.

Saturday, Feb. 17.

CONGRESS—House: Executive, legislative and judicial appropriation bill passed. The civil service appropriation, stricken out in committee of the whole, was restored—77 to 123. Senate not in session.

General Otis again reports that conditions in the Philippines are improving.

Three Massachusetts volunteers are reported to have been tortured to death by Filipino insurgents.

The League of American Wheelmen has voted to relinquish control of racing and abolish the amateur clause of membership.

The Central Passenger association lines have agreed to give a rate of 1 cent a mile for the G. A. R. encampment in Chicago.

Justice Hunt of the Montana supreme court gave sensational testimony before the Clark investigation committee. He said he was approached with a $100,000 proposition.

Monday, Feb. 19.

Congress is expected to adjourn early in June.

Another vessel loaded with American goods has been seized at Delagoa Bay.

The railroad president's compact is said to be in danger of speedy collapse.

The transport Indiana is scheduled to sail on next Saturday, with freight for Manila.

The stock of the Pittsburg Plate Glass company, Minneapolis, was damaged $135,000 by fire.

The national buttermakers' convention opened Monday at Lincoln., Neb. St. Paul is after the next convention.

The appropriation for the civil service commission, killed by the house in committee of the whole, was restored on a record vote.

Senator Clark of Montana has testified before the senate investigating committee. He says he subscribed over $100,000 to the campaign fund, but denies that he was guilty of bribery.

Tuesday, Feb. 20.

CONGRESS—Senate: Hawaiian bill under discussion. House: Porto Rican tariff bill taken up.

A British army order invites the reservists to rejoin the colors for a year for home defense and offers £22 bounty to those who do so.

Chairman Hull of the house committee on military affairs has introduced a bill prepared by the war department authorities to improve the efficiency of the army. It practically reorganizes the army.

The president has signed the proclamation making public the Samoan treaty. The proclamation is in the usual form, save for the section relative to the exchange of ratifications, and recites the treaty in extenso.

Leander J. McCormick, member of the famous harvester machinery firm, and founder of the Leander McCormick observatory of the University of Virginia, died of pneumonia at the Virginia hotel, Chicago, Monday.

NEWS IN MINNESOTA

A case of smallpox has been discovered at St. James.

Charles F. Mahler, one of St. Paul's pioneer dry goods merchants, is dead.

Mankato business men have declared in favor of free trade with Porto Rico.

The high court of Independent Foresters is in session this week in St. Paul.

The Eastern Minnesota has filed an amendment increasing its capital stock by $3,500,000.

Judge Vest of Minneapolis, who was spending the winter months at Los Angeles, is dead.

Fire at Staples destroyed the City hotel and general store house and barns of John Gellespie.

A co-operative brotherhood has been organized in Minnesota and a colony will be established.

The deputy examiners report that the shortage of Treasurer Bongard of Carver county is $6,544.

The state supreme court, reversing itself, has declared the mill-and-a-half school tax law valid.

Public Examiner Pope has called for a report of the state banks upon the close of business Feb. 10.

The stock of the Pittsburg Plate Glass company in Minneapolis was damaged $135,000 by fire Saturday night.

P. A. Egan, at the St. Paul athletic club tournament, broke the state record for standing hop-step-and-jump.

An order has been issued establishing a postoffice at Padua, Stearns county, with William Murphy postmaster.

The Minnesota Retail Grocers and the General Merchants' association conventions are in session at Winona this week.

Unless some unforeseen accident occurs the Mankato and New Ulm road will be put in operation early in April.

The comptroller of the currency has issued a certificate authorizing the First National bank of Slayton to begin business.

George F. Gifford has been elected purchasing agent for the institute for defectives, and A. F. Parshall accounting officer.

Commissioners of Ramsey county will try the effect of supplementary proceedings to collect delinquent personal property taxes.

William Grace, one of the pioneer residents of St. Paul, is dead. Mr. Grace was 72 years old. He was born in Kilkenny, Ireland, and came to St. Paul in 1854.

The Huntting Elevator company of McGregor, Ia., will remove its general offices to Minneapolis. The company operates 80 elevators on three divisions of the Milwakee road.

The state Y. M. C. A. convention at Winona, closed Sunday evening, after a very interesting four days session. Nearly a thousand persons attended the closing exercises.

The bodies of Herbert L. Keeler of the Thirteenth Minnesota, and of Harry R. Keogh, a member of Company E of the First South Dakota volunteers, who was killed in the Philippines, have arrived at St. Paul. Both were given military burial.

The state railroad commission has filed a decision upon the request of the citizens of Ronneby to have the Great Northern erect a depot at that place. The road is instructed to comply with the wishes of the people. The depot is to be in readiness for occupancy by June 15.

The potato warehouse of the Harris Produce company at Harris, has been totally destroyed by fire. The fire started from a stove. It is supposed about six carloads, or 4,000 bushels, of potatoes were burned. The loss is total, as there is no insurance on either building or stock.

The Minnesota Editorial association in session at Minneapolis elected the following officers: President, C. S. Mitchell, Alexandria; vice president, W. R. Edwards, Tracy; secretary, Charles P. Stine, St. Paul; treasurer, David Ramaley, St. Paul; executive committee, Frank Meyst, C. C. Whitney, H. P. Hall.

The proceeds of the state university military tournament to be held March 17 will be devoted to the establishment of a fund to be used to help needy students through the university. The idea has always been a favorite one with President Northrop, and when the fund is once started, there is no doubt that it will receive many contributions.

The United States supreme court has issued a mandate affirming a decision of the Minnesota supreme court in the case of John Smithson against the Wisconsin Central railway. This action was brought in the Ramsey county district court, the plaintiff suing the railway company for damages for the loss of a leg, and recovering a verdict of $12,000.

Powers of the board of abatement are defined and very much abridged by Judge Kelly's decision given in district court at St. Paul, refusing to strike off the taxes on money loaned in this state by the London and Northwest American Mortgage company, limited. The case will go to the supreme court and will determine the law of abatement of taxes. The board had "abated" taxes assessed but the abatement was vetoed by the state auditor. The decision sustained the auditor.

Reports from railroads to the state auditor for taxation show steady increase. The Northern Pacific's income in Minnesota last year was $6,409,332; the year before it was $5,943,709. The tax is $190,400, an increase of $14,000 from the preceding year. The Soo line reports Minnesota earnings of $1,626,270, against $1,445,223, on which the tax is $48,788, an increase of $5,400. The Green Bay and Western's Minnesota earnings were $1,928, tax, $57.84, and the Dubuque and Sioux City earned in the state, $10,331, tax, $309, an increase of one-fourth.

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