

OUTCOME IS IN DOUBT

Only Hints of What the Boer Reply to Chamberlain May Be Like.

SITUATION SEEMS TO BE CRITICAL.

Remark by a Boer Apparently Indicating a Readiness to Fight at the "Drop of the Hat"—Africans Outside of the Transvaal Pleading with Kruger to Concede the British Demands—Foreign Office at London Awake All Night.

London, Sept. 15.—The Times' New Castle, Natal, special says: "There is nothing to confirm the reports that the Boers will concede Chamberlain's demands. On the contrary, it is stated that 3,000 men will be despatched to the border immediately after the Transvaal's reply is sent. Everything points to the prospect of an early conflict." Advice from Capetown today tend to confirm this pessimistic view. News that a strong force of Boers has been stationed one hour from Ramathlabama, commanding the Pretoria and Johannesburg roads, created great indignation at Capetown.

Pretoria, Sept. 15.—The executive is still considering the final reply to Great Britain. All commanders have been asked to send immediate returns of all Burgers available for military service.

Pretoria, Sept. 15.—The discussion of the first draft of the reply to the British note ended last evening. President Kruger having left at 4 o'clock and not having returned, it is understood that the government will draw up the reply in its final form this morning and immediately submit the same to the volksraad. The reply will be in terms strongly influenced by the Orange Free State, and among other features the maintenance of the convention of 1884 will be strongly asserted. The situation last evening was not considered so favorable as it was during yesterday's forenoon.

Belligerent Remark of a Boer.

London, Sept. 15.—The Pretoria correspondent of The Daily Chronicle says that when Conyngham Greene, the British diplomatic agent, suggested forty-eight hours as the period within which the reply of the South African Republic was expected, the Transvaal representative replied: "If your suggestion is serious, the reply will be ready in forty-eight minutes." President Kruger's intimates, according to The Daily Chronicle, are pessimistic regarding the situation.

Foreign Office Awake All Night.

London, Sept. 15.—While the staff of the foreign office maintained continuous communication last night with Chamberlain at Birmingham it was not believed that the result of the debate in the volksraad would be received before today. Dispatches from Cape Town, dated midnight, attach great importance to an article in The Oudland, the organ of the Afrikaner bond, which urges the Transvaal government to renew its offer regarding a conference, declaring that there is no reason why the Transvaal should not accept a conference, and calling attention to the fact that the word "suzerainty" is not mentioned by Chamberlain, and that, therefore, there is nothing to indicate an obligation on the part of either government to abandon its views on the subject.

They Are Pleading with Kruger.

This article is understood to be the outcome of a meeting of the Afrikaner caucus held to discuss the Chamberlain note, and it is understood that the argument has been fortified by strong messages to Pretoria, urging the volksraad to force the suzerainty objection and to concede the British proposals. There is every reason to believe that Hofmeyr, the Afrikaner leader, has wired President Kruger to the same effect and similar representations have been telegraphed from the Orange Free State.

THE FEELING AT PETTORIA.

Indication That Kruger's Reply Will Again Be Indefinite.

London, Sept. 15.—The Pretoria correspondent of The Times says: "It is very doubtful whether an unqualified acceptance of Great Britain's demands will be given." The Paris correspondent of The Times, says that M. Del-

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