

ENGLISH TROOPS MOVING FORWARD

General French Crosses the Modder River and Captures Three Boer Laagers.

A BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE

Owing to the Rapidity of His Movements, but Little Opposition Is Encountered—General Gordon Captures Two More Supply Camps—Many Men Are Prostrated by Heat and Exhaustion—Dust Storm Raging—Fight at Rensburg.

London, Feb. 14.—11.35 p. m.—The war office has issued the following further message from Lord Roberts, received this evening:

"Dekker's drift, Feb. 14, 8.10 a. m. General French left this point at 11.30 yesterday morning with three brigades of cavalry, horse artillery and mounted infantry, including several colonial contingents, in order to seize a crossing of the Modder, distant about twenty-five miles. He reports by dispatch, dated 5.30 p. m., that he had forced a passage at Clin drift and occupied the hills north of the river, capturing three of the enemy's laagers, with their supplies, while General Gordon, of the Fifteenth Hussars, with his brigade, who had made a feint at Ronsvalle drift, four miles west, has seized it and another drift between that and Clin drift, together with two more laagers.

"General French's performance is brilliant, considering the excessive heat and a blinding dust storm which raged during the latter part of the day.

"Owing to the rapidity of his movements, General French met but slight opposition, and his losses were small. Lieutenant Johnson, of the Iniskilling Dragoons, is the only officer reported severely wounded.

"Four officers and fifty-three men had to be sent last evening in the routine ox wagons to the railway, prostrated by heat and exhaustion.

"The Sixth Division was last night on the north bank of the Riet, at Waterfall drift, and is moving to support the cavalry. The Seventh division is here, and will go on this afternoon."

Fight at Rensburg. Rensburg, Feb. 14 (Tuesday).—Before dawn yesterday the enemy opened an attack upon Slingersfontein, assaulting with musketry the hills on the northeast held by three companies of the Worcester under Captain Hovel.

The artillery attack began at sunrise. The Boers approached in great numbers, and estimated at seven to ten. The British, under good cover, sustained the attack throughout the day.

Meanwhile two big guns on the west opened upon the British at daylight and fired for half an hour, when a British howitzer silenced them with Lydite, the British artillery firing with precision.

Then another Boer gun, to the north, opened on the Royal Irish rifles, but rather ineffectually, as the rifles had good cover.

The shelling continued all day; and last evening the Boers brought up a 40-pounder in order to bombard the camp from a hill to the north. The attempt was plainly visible, as the gun could be seen being drawn up by oxen. With the Boers surrounding the British in overwhelming numbers, and having artillery, it then became evident that it would be impossible to retain Slingersfontein, which the British evacuated under cover of darkness, falling back upon Rensburg.

The British casualties were lighter than might have been expected in the circumstances.

BRITISH PROGRESS.

Soldiers of the Queen's First Boer Frontier for the First Time. London, Feb. 15.—4.30 a. m.—The British army, for the first time since the war began, is inside the Boer frontier. Lord Roberts, with at least 40,000 infantry, 5,000 cavalry and 150 guns, has turned the Matersfontein lines, before which the British forces have been encamped for ten weeks, and with half of his corps he is already operating on Free State territory. A battle has not yet been fought, but large tactical advantages have been gained. The relief of Kimberley is within measurable reach and the way to Bloemfontein is appreciably easier.

The dispatches of Lord Roberts sketch three days' work. The forward movement began on Saturday, when Colonel Hannay set out with a brigade of mounted infantry for Ramah, on the

ALL IN FAVOR OF THE NEW RAILROAD

THE DELAWARE VALLEY AND KINGSTON CASE.

Reliable Witnesses Before the New York Commission Demonstrate the Need of the Proposed Line. Property Along Closed Delaware and Hudson Canal Said to Have Depreciated Greatly—Villages Wounded in Population—Witness Who Was Sure of His Facts.

New York, Feb. 14.—The state railroad commission today continued the hearing on the application of the Delaware Valley and Kingston railway for permission to construct a railroad along the line of the old Delaware and Hudson canal from Lackawaxen to Kingston tidewater. The session was held at the Fifth Avenue hotel. The application is opposed by a dozen railroads, whose counsel contend that there are sufficient transportation facilities in the section—Ulster and Sullivan counties—and that the road can satisfy no public demand. Frank Platt, of Tracy, Boscawen, Platt, former secretary of the Ulster and Sullivan counties, and that the road can satisfy no public demand. Frank Platt, of Tracy, Boscawen, Platt, former secretary of the Ulster and Sullivan counties, and that the road can satisfy no public demand.

Thomas G. Shearman and John A. Garver, for the applicant company, have put witnesses on the stand who testified that since the abandonment of the canal communities along its route have declined to build their former sites, that property had depreciated from 50 to 90 per cent., and that only the construction of the proposed railroad would revive the former property, and afford an outlet for the bluestone quarries, lumber camps and millstone deposits awaiting development. Individual coal miners from the Scranton anthracite region have testified to the inability or unwillingness of the Erie, Pennsylvania and Ontario and Western railroads to handle all the coal they can produce. They told the railroad commission that if better facilities were provided there would be a larger output and a consequent decrease in the price to the consumer. E. L. Fuller, president of the Individual Coal Operators' association, says that his association had guaranteed to the Delaware Valley and Kingston road, when completed, 2,000,000 tons of coal as freight annually.

Mr. Decker's Testimony.

James D. Decker, of Pond Eddy, testified in the assembly from Sullivan county and once sheriff, testified today regarding the reduction in assessment on the canal property and the consequent increase of taxation to the citizens at large.

"Do you know why that reduction was made?" asked Mr. Platt, in cross-examination. "Why the property owned by the Delaware and Hudson canal depreciated more than \$500,000, when it became the property of Mr. Samuel Cockkendall?"

"I know Mr. Cockkendall," replied Mr. Decker, who, being seventy-six years old and very deaf, had not caught the question properly. As Mr. Cockkendall is believed to rule with an iron hand the destinies of the canal in Sullivan county, Mr. Platt said the answer was singularly appropriate and that he would not press it further. Everybody laughed. Mr. Cockkendall as heartily as anyone else.

E. P. Reeling, a merchant of Port Jervis, was called next. He told of his loss of trade since the through business of the canal was abandoned, and was about to tell of a popular sentiment in his section when Mr. Platt objected.

"What is the good of wasting time and cluttering the record. We are willing to concede that all Lumberville and Highlands would like a railroad to bear a share of the tolls now that the canal is closed."

"We are not talking of Lumberville," interrupted Mr. Garver.

"The commissioner believes," said Colonel Cole, the chairman, "that they are likely to be influenced by a knowledge of the public sentiment."

"We will concede," replied Mr. Platt, "that every community along the canal would like a railroad in place of the canal."

"We accept that concession," said Mr. Garver.

Replying to Mr. Platt, Mr. Reeling said he believed the monthly pay roll for the Erie railroad at Port Jervis to be nearly \$100,000. Mr. Garver objected, and the commissioners sustained the objection, when Mr. Platt asked the witness if a conversion of the Erie's freight to the new road would not compel the laying off of a large number of the Erie railroad employees.

ANTI-TRUST MEN ARE QUARRELSOME

PROCEEDINGS MARKED BY A BIG ROW YESTERDAY.

The Climax Reached When Joe Parker, a Middle-of-the-Road Man, Surprised the Convention with a Resolution Which Was Objected to by the Friends of W. J. Bryan. Score of Delegates Attempt to Speak—The Chairman Becomes Confused and Adjourns the Convention.

Chicago, Feb. 14.—Stormy scenes characterized the sessions of the national anti-trust conference preceding the final adjournment tonight. The climax came when Delegate Joseph Parker, a middle-of-the-road man, surprised the conference with a resolution pledging the members not to vote for a candidate that does not stand for government ownership and the principle of direct legislation. The Democratic leaders interpreted this as an attack upon W. J. Bryan and were on their feet in an instant to block the movement. A score of delegates took the floor and all tried to talk at the same time.

"You must not stifle free speech here," was shouted.

"Everybody must be heard," was the warning that came from a delegate in the gallery.

Chairman Monnett was in doubt as to who to call next. He called for ten minutes, and then Chairman Monnett used the gavel and temporarily adjourned the convention. Another whirl of excitement took place after the reading of the report of the committee on resolutions, when Delegate Quinn, of Illinois, offered an amendment to the declaration of principles calling for the repeal of all laws sustaining the right of citizens to private property with a view to giving every citizen a free home.

Thunder of Disapproval. Finally, he declared the report of the committee adopted and the ruling caused a thunder of disapproval. Delegate Quinn, during the uproar, appealed from the decision of the chair and his motion was seconded. The vote was put and Chairman Monnett was sustained by a large majority.

A strong attempt was made at the conference today to offset the partisan effect of the resolutions adopted yesterday, denouncing the pending currency bill. Frank S. Monnett, permanent chairman, made a speech, in which he declared that the movement for public ownership of public utilities was carried on by the Republican party as well as by the Democratic party.

"In the Republican northwest," said he, "five per cent. of the public utilities are owned by the public, whereas in many southern Democratic states less than five are so owned."

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 14.—When informed that Judge Taft had refused jurisdiction, Governor Taylor gave to the Associated Press the following statement:

The decision of Judge Taft today holding that he has no jurisdiction in the case of minor state officers does not affect the merits of the case. He does not determine that the petitioners had no merits in their cases, but only that his court could not take jurisdiction and right the wrong. If he had held that he had jurisdiction, the state legislature, of course, would have had to pass an act to give the petitioners their rights.

Andrew Breaks the Record. Defendant in the Suit for Millions Is Playing Golf.

Fernandina, Fla., Feb. 14.—Mr. Andrew Carnegie, who is visiting his winter-in-law Mrs. Luck Carnegie at Dunsmuir on Cumberland island, spent the day on the island. Late this evening he telephoned Colonel Page, manager of the estate, from a lodge house several miles away. Mr. Carnegie was informed by Colonel Page that several newspaper men were desirous of having an explanation from him on the Frick suit, but his reply was:

"Say to the correspondents that I am playing golf and that I broke my golf record yesterday."

Military Stores Inspected. Harrisburg, Feb. 14.—Adjutant General Corbin and the general officers of the National Guard of Pennsylvania inspected the state arsenal and military stores today in this city.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING

Weather Indications Today: INCREASING CLOUDINESS.

- 1 General—English Army Crosses the Modder River. Ex-Consul Macrum's Reasons for Coming Home. Day's Work of the National Lawmakers.
2 General—Anti-Trust Deliberations.
3 General—Northeastern Pennsylvania, Financial and Commercial.
4 Local Court Proceedings. Referee Van Wormer's Opinion in a Bankruptcy Case.
5 Editorial. News and Comment.
6 Local—Lackawanna Bar's Request Presented to Governor Stueder. Appeal for the West Side Stadium. Rev. M. F. Flinn Installed.
7 Local—West Scranton and Suburban.
8 Round About the County.
9 Local—Live Industrial News. Dunmore Borough News.

BILL TO REDUCE THE WAR TAX

Beer, Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes and Teas to be Affected—Expenditures of the Government Are Decreasing—Puerto Rican Tariff Bill Will Go Over Until Monday—Spirited Debate in the Senate.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Representative Levy (N. Y.) has introduced a bill amending the war tariff act by reducing the tax on beer from 32 to 31; fixing the duty on tobacco at six cents per pound; cigars and cigarettes, 35 per 1,000; repealing the tax on teas, and reducing the stamp taxes. Mr. Levy says as to his bill:

"The treasury department reports that the surplus from revenues of the government will amount to between \$20,000,000 and \$40,000,000 this year. The report of the commissioner of internal revenue for 1899 shows that the estimated revenues from the special war tax (\$100,000,000) was exceeded by over \$2,500,000. The daily expenditures of the government are decreasing and will continue to decrease, now that the war with Spain is over. The need of the \$100,000,000 proposed to be raised by the war tax will no longer exist. It is the aim of this bill to reduce taxation by internal revenue by at least \$50,000,000 or \$65,000,000, and the object which it seeks to accomplish is the restoration of this amount to the pockets of the people, who will put it in business circulation."

It was the intention of the Republican leaders of the house to call up the Puerto Rican tariff bill tomorrow, but there was such a demand for time to discuss various questions during the general debate upon the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, which was called up today, that Mr. Payne gave notice that he would allow the Puerto Rican bill to go over until Monday.

The debate upon the legislative bill today strayed far from the bill, touching the question of government deposits in National banks, reckless expenditures for pensions, and finally drifting into the question of election methods in Missouri. Mr. Barthold (Mo.) raised the latter question by attacking the Nesbitt law and provoked a long reply from Mr. Beveridge (Mo.), who in turn aroused Mr. Pearce (Mo.), some very caustic things were said on both sides.

In the Senate. Throughout its session today the senate had the financial bill under discussion. After 2 o'clock the debate proceeded on the amendments to the bill, at times became spirited and interesting.

Late in the afternoon a test vote, indicating approximately the majority on the passage of the bill, was taken. Mr. Chandler (Iowa) offered an amendment to authorize the president to appoint commissioners to an international bimetallic conference that might be called, and it was defeated by a vote of 45 to 25.

The Chandler proposition out of the way, the remaining speeches that had been prepared as could be read in the time that was left.

The conference tonight adjourned sine die.

JACOBS' EFFECTS SOLD. Placed Under the Hammer at Lancaster.

Lancaster, Pa., Feb. 14.—The last of the effects of William M. Jacobs, the leader in the great Jacobs-Kendig-Taylor-Iredell counterfeiting case, were sold this afternoon at public sale by Deputy United States Marshal Thomas Marple, under an order of the United States court. The articles offered were twenty bunching machines and 20 suction tables, used in Jacobs' tobacco business. The bunching machines were sold to W. L. Lyman, representing the John R. Williams company, of New York; the tables to George Miller, of Montgomery county, an uncle of Jacobs, the total realized being \$1,315.

Prior to the sale, counsel for John R. Williams company gave notice that the machines belonged to that company and were used by Jacobs under contracts that had expired; that the machines are subject to patents and the obligation to pay royalties; and that the purchasers would be enjoined by law from using them.

MINE INSPECTOR'S REPORT. Notwithstanding Strikes, 1899 Was a Prosperous Year.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Feb. 14.—Mine Inspector Williams, of the Fourth inspector district, has completed his report for 1899. The year was a prosperous one. Notwithstanding the many strikes in the district, the number of days worked was 25.34 in excess of 1898. With the increase in the output and working days the number of fatal accidents is but six greater than in 1898, and there is a decrease in the number of non-fatal accidents, which is ninety less than in the previous year.

MACRUM'S SECRET OUT

The Ex-Consul Explains His Course in the Transvaal.

He Comes Home to Enlighten the Secretary of State of the True Condition of Affairs in the Transvaal and Finds That His Official Title Has Been Conferred Upon Another—Not Allowed to Unburden His Mind at the Department in Washington, the ex-Consul Makes a Statement Through the Press—Intimates That He is the Unsuspecting Victim of a Secret Alliance Between Great Britain and the United States.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Charles E. Macrum, former United States consul at Pretoria, who left Pretoria for the United States at the middle of December after cable correspondence with the state department and the reason for whose sudden departure from the Transvaal has been more or less of a mystery, gave out a signed statement tonight.

In the statement which is quite lengthy and detailed Mr. Macrum says that shortly after the war broke out that he desired to return home and inform his government of the exact conditions and that he called for authority to resign his office as he was sacrificing his own self-respect and that of the people of Pretoria by remaining there as a British consul and not an American consul, although he adds, there was not a single request made of him through the department of state looking to his own official cablegrams to the state department at Washington were detained many days.

For this reason he desired to hasten to Washington and acquaint his government of this interference by the British and to enlighten the secretary of state as to the condition of affairs. In pursuance of orders received he issued a statement received from the state department that Americans must remain neutral. In the face of this Americans were continually going to the front and taking up arms in the cause of the Boers.

Many of these were citizens of the United States. Even his vice consul, Mr. Van Ameringen, closed up his business, took the oath of allegiance to the republic and went to the front as a burgher.

Tampered with His Mail. Continuing Mr. Macrum says: It was over four weeks from the time the war opened before I received a single mail despatch from my government or a personal letter. The mail for the Transvaal had all been stopped at Cape Town by order of the high commissioner. When this message was forwarded to me after Colonel Stowe, the United States consul general at Cape Town, had secured its release, I had the humiliation as the result of the action of the government of sitting in my office in Pretoria and looking upon envelopes bearing the official seal of the American government, which were opened by a stoker, notifying me that the contents had been read by a British censor at Durban. Hooked up international law, but failed to find any where one military power can use its own discretion as to forwarding official dispatches of a neutral government to its representative in a belligerent country.

He then tells of his cable correspondence with the state department, which has been heretofore published, in which he asked leave to return home, and suggested the selection of a Mr. Atterbury, an American, to occupy his office until his return, and finally of the arrival at Pretoria on December 14, of Mr. Hollis, the American consul at Delagoa bay, to take charge of the office, and the receipt of a cablegram from Secretary Hay, saying: "You may come home."

He left Pretoria on December 16, he says, and on arriving at Washington, February 5, was officially informed by Assistant Secretary of State Hill that Secretary Hay's son had been appointed in his place and was then on his way to Pretoria.

Out in the Cold. Says Mr. Macrum, in conclusion: Instead of this I find that Secretary Hay, whether acting upon the reports in the newspapers, or upon advice from the British government, or some other motive, I do not know, saw fit not to wait until I could present my reasons in person and has been silent or conveying partner to discrediting reports of my official acts. I come home to find an attempt has been made to tear down my personal reputation. I wish to state right here that when I accepted my post as consul I knew nothing of any secret alliance between America and Great Britain, and that I had seen nothing in the regulations which made the consul of the American republic subject to the whim of 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 against those which have come from the department, secretly and officially.

Meeting of Trainmen. Pittsburgh, Feb. 14.—Prominent officials of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen have been holding a secret conference in this city for several days and all attempts to learn the objects of the meeting have been fruitless.

COAL SCARCE IN EUROPE. Large Margin of Profit Now Offered American Exporters.

Washington, Feb. 14.—The complaints of scarcity of coal in Europe are becoming more acute and widespread. The representatives of the state department in all of the great manufacturing countries of the continent have already transmitted accounts of the industrial distress that has resulted from the heavy increase of price of coal in England and now Ambassador Draper at Rome thinks the situation in Italy is worthy the attention of coal mining enterprises in the United States.

His communication on this subject is published in the consular reports being compiled by the bureau of foreign commerce, state department, and, in brief points to the fact that a large margin of profit is now offered to American coal exporters.

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WEATHER FORECAST. Washington, Feb. 14.—Forecast for Thursday and Friday: For eastern Pennsylvania, increasing cloudiness Thursday; rain or snow and colder Friday; winds shift to fresh easterly.