

BRITISH ASTOUNDED THE BOERS.

ON TO BLOOMFONTEIN.

Only Fifty British Casualties in Relieving Kimberley—Boers Reported Very Strong at Koffyfontein.

A dispatch from British headquarters on Modder river, dated Sunday, February 18, says:

"Our sudden appearance seems to have astounded the enemy and thrown them into a panic. All their positions were hurriedly evacuated and the big guns at Magersfontein and Kimberley were left behind.

"Gen. Cronje moved his transport, consisting of hundreds of wagons, along a bank of kopjes north of the Modder river, near Koffyfontein. It goes past our mounted infantry, but owing to weariness, had to stop. Thereupon our artillery opened fire upon it. The main body of the Boer force kept up a running fire the whole day, vainly trying to escape.

"Each time their advance guard sought to move off, our mounted infantry galloped round and checked them. We never attempted to stop their main movement, contenting ourselves with trying to check them.

"Their position at Koffyfontein is said to be very strong. They entertain a wholesome dread of 10,000 cavalry moving more quickly than they do themselves. We hope to be in Bloemfontein shortly."

"At dawn on Friday the Boers were observed moving wagons along the kopjes toward Koffyfontein. Our mounted infantry was sent out from Klip drift, but was driven back, and the enemy's wagons passed.

"Gen. Knops's Twelfth brigade, however, quickly attacked the enemy's main body, and severe fighting went on all day, over a line which was very extended. The enemy, making a desperate attempt, finally escaped, owing to the mounted infantry suffering from the trying flanking movement. Our force has now been reinforced."

"Gen. Cronje's army of 10,000 men with a thousand wagons is in full retreat toward Bloemfontein, hotly pursued by Gen. Kelly-Kenny. It will probably be a rear guard fight all the way to Bloemfontein. Our cavalry has already returned from Kimberley to join in the pursuit."

"The London war office announces that General French reached Kimberley Thursday evening. Lord Roberts' message follows: 'Jacobsdal, Feb. 16.—French with a force of artillery, cavalry and mounted infantry reached Kimberley this evening.'

"The war office makes public another dispatch from Roberts, saying: 'Jacobsdal, Feb. 16.—The following from General French was received this morning: 'I have completely dispersed the enemy from the southern side of Kimberley from Alexanderfontein to Oliphantsfontein and am now going to occupy their ground. Have captured the enemy's larger and store depot supplies and supplies of ammunition. Casualties about 20 of all ranks wounded. Kimberley cheerful and well.'

"I have good reason to believe the Magersfontein trenches have been abandoned and that the Boers are endeavoring to escape. General French is scouring the country north of Kimberley. One of General Kelly-Kenny's brigades of infantry is in pursuit of a large Boer convoy moving toward Bloemfontein."

"Gen. Cronje, with a start of a day or two, is seemingly in full retreat from Gen. Roberts, moving northward. Gen. French, with the cavalry, simply stayed over night in Kimberley, and then pushed on to get in touch with the retiring enemy. Military opinion is that Roberts will not push far after the Boers immediately, because of the transport problems and the need of rest for the troops. He has to feed 70,000 persons in his army, and the whole Kimberley population. Roberts has wrought a genuine preliminary success and the impression is that he has done enough for the present."

"Correspondence from Pretoria gives an extraordinary account of 2,000 British soldiers, who, it is said, arrived toward the end of December last during the retreat from Dundee at the River Maputa, the boundary between Swaziland and Portuguese territory.

"According to the narrative they had lost their way and wandered for weeks in Zululand, arriving shoeless, in rags and dying of hunger. These soldiers, the correspondent says, were thought to have been shut up with Sir George White in Ladysmith."

"A dispatch, dated February 15, says: The British army for the first time since the war began is inside the Boer frontier. Gen. Roberts, with at least 40,000 infantry, 7,000 cavalry and 150 guns, has turned the Magersfontein lines, and with half of his corps is operating on Free State territory. The relief of Kimberley is within reach and the way to Bloemfontein is clear."

"Charles E. Brewster, captain of a militia company at Bath, S. D., was killed by a bullet from a gun of one of his men while he was putting them through the firing manual."

"Jefferson Medical college sophomores and freshmen in Philadelphia indulged in the luxury of a flag 'rush' Thursday night. With the aid of the juniors, the lower classmen were victorious. Several participants are in the hospital."

"Edward Galer, the cadet on the steamer St. Louis, who was arrested at Southampton, England, for stealing notes valued at \$4,100, has been released, as the British authorities had no jurisdiction over an American ship."

"The Ways and Means committee of the House has agreed to report a bill abolishing what are known as the brewing trade six and eighth barrels making quarter barrels, the smallest packages of this character authorized by law."

"The Massachusetts G. A. R. asked the Ancient Order of Hibernians to not parade on Memorial day, on the ground that such action would detract from the sacredness of the day."

"Queen Victoria has summoned to Osborne for special honor a 15-year-old bugler of the First Royal Dublin Fusiliers, who was first to cross the Tugela river in the first battle there."

"Seventy-four Republicans and 63 Democratic members of the Lackawanna County Bar have petitioned Governor Stone to appoint John F. Kelly, Democrat, to the vacancy on the bench."

LATEST NEWS NOTES.

From New Orleans Sunday 1,550 mules sailed for British South Africa. The survey of the boundary line between Idaho and Montana has been completed.

Major John B. Hall, of Paola, Kan., committed suicide because his son's life is despaired of.

France will send troops and a cruiser to the island of Martinique, where a race war is on.

The flood in Montpellier, Vt., is the worst in 30 years, \$150,000 damage having already resulted.

Dr. Leyds, the European representative of the Transvaal, will have an audience with the Pope.

A cold wave is doing considerable damage in the Texas coast country to truck farming and fruit.

Armour & Co., of Chicago, will be made a corporation within a few days, with a capital of \$20,000,000.

A corps of English yeomanry composed entirely of men of good social position has started for the front.

Indian maharajahs and English officials started a famine fund for India, raising \$250,000 at the first meeting.

The fifth annual convention of the State Association of School Directors met Wednesday in Harrisburg, Pa.

Bartlett Tripp, of North Dakota, is regarded as certain of appointment as one of the Philippine Commissioners.

William McGuire, of Fairhope, O., is dead from a supposed attack of hydrophobia, resulting from the bite of a dog.

The exchange of ratifications of the Samoan treaty took place Friday simultaneously in Washington, London and Berlin.

New York City has 206 veterans of the Mexican war, 7 of the Indian war and 13,000 of the Civil War on the pension rolls.

Eight persons were injured, one fatally, in four fires that occurred in different parts of the residence district of Chicago.

The Boston and Maine Railroad is tied up by floods, and through traffic for points north of Clinton, Mass., has been suspended.

A serious storm has interrupted communication with England, Italy, Spain and part of Germany. A number of deaths are reported.

The puddling department of the American Steel Hoop works at Sharon, Pa., has closed down indefinitely. The entire mill is now idle.

G. W. Purcell, of the Miners' National Executive Board, was arrested at Jellico, Tenn., Friday, charged with "unlawful assemblage."

John Hentes and Nels Linden were killed and J. L. Beardsley probably fatally injured by an explosion of compressed air at Topeka, Kas.

The Senate committee on Foreign Relations has authorized a favorable report on the bill to incorporate the American National Red Cross.

The steamship Tiger, carrying a cargo of 6,000 bales of cotton and 2,800 tons of phosphate rock, cleared at New Orleans Sunday for Kobe, Japan.

Secretary Root has determined to continue the policy begun by General Leonard Wood of reducing the force of United States troops in Cuba.

The St. Charles College, at Grand CotEAU, La., together with a large and valuable library, was destroyed by fire Sunday, causing a loss of \$50,000.

Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, one of the oldest Methodist church buildings in Chicago, was almost totally destroyed by fire. Loss \$100,000.

Subscriptions to the fund for the perpetuation of the Dewey arch in marble have reached \$764,327, and the committee has assurances of \$50,000 more.

The Democrats of the Kentucky Legislature, who have been in Louisville, have adjourned to meet again in Frankfort with the Republican members.

Suit has been begun in the federal courts of Chattanooga by the Hanover National bank of New York to test the constitutionality of the national bankruptcy law.

Puerto Rican merchants declare Congressional action is essential to the interests of the island, as under the Foraker bill, the duty on sugar and tobacco is prohibitive.

The government steatship Nero, during its recent survey for a trans-Pacific cable, broke the record for deep sea soundings. One sounding near Guam island marked 5,200 fathoms, only a trifle short of six statute miles.

The New York General Committee of the Transvaal war relief fund has raised \$12,900, which will be forwarded to London to be applied to the Lord Mayor's fund.

The plantations of La Cocotte and Champigny, at Martinique, have been freed by the negro rioters. The situation is growing worse. France will send a cruiser.

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RELIGIOUS ENTHUSIASM RAN HIGH.

PAID FOR PRAYING.

Large Basket Factory in Maryland Closed Down by Reason of Big Revival Services.

Owing to the results of a revival which is being held at the Sharpstown, Md., Methodist church a large basket factory had to close down Friday. Soon after 8 o'clock in the morning about 30 young women employed in the factory became enthused with religious fervor and began to sing, pray and shout.

The men at work in another department were attracted to the scene. The proprietor of the factory, who is a prominent Methodist, was called. He made no effort to control the girls, but told them to shout and rejoice and he would pay them as much for this as for working.

News of the unexpected demonstration spread and so many persons visited the factory that the work was brought completely to a standstill. Probably 500 persons visited the scene. Without stopping for food or rest the services were continued until late in the afternoon, when the people went to their homes completely exhausted. A number of conversions were made.

A LOVER'S REVENGE.

Shot and Killed His Sweetheart's Father When Refused Admittance to the House.

Leslie Eastburn, aged 21, shot Jasper Sutton, an aged citizen of Bloomfield, Iowa, Sunday, three bullets penetrating Sutton's abdomen, and causing almost instant death. Eastburn called at Sutton's home to take Sutton's 18-year-old daughter Alice to church. The father met Eastburn at the door, and ordered him away.

An altercation ensued, and Sutton followed Eastburn to the road. Finally weapons were drawn by both men. Eastburn fired first, the older man falling before he could raise his weapon.

Eastburn gave himself up, going into Sutton's home and consoling the daughter until an officer arrived. The shooting caused much excitement, many people who were en route to church having witnessed the duel.

SEAT OF WAR A PARADISE.

The Country Being Reconquered From Maya Indians a Marvelous One.

Gen. Bravos' force of government troops has driven back the Maya Indians in Mexico, and taken possession of several important towns that were occupied by the rebels during the week. The country occupied by the Mayas is little known to the outside world. Its natural riches are great. An army officer with Gen. Bravos' troops writes as follows of the country: "All this vast territory, which is now being reconquered, contains fabulous wealth and an exuberant fertility of soil, which can raise everything in the way of agriculture. Its forests are extensive and have all the valuable woods. The whole country is well watered. There is an abundance of game, and singing birds, many with splendid plumage, are everywhere. Deer and mountain turkeys are here by the thousands. The Yucatecos, living in Belize, are only waiting to see the war ended and then they will rush for these splendid fields."

Gloomy Picture of Marriages.

Prof. William Graham Sumner has begged the dean of Yale University to help him find out which one of the 300 seniors who heard his lecture on "Marriage" Saturday caused reports of it to be sent to the newspapers. He wishes to have this student expelled. After showing the difficulty of defining closely just what marriage is the professor said:

"Only 10 per cent. of married couples find that they have realized their ideals. The other 90 per cent. are unhappy. The novelist takes his hero and heroine to the altar, and there leaves them—to fight it out. Love and romance fade out of married life with the sound of wedding bells. Weddings really amount to little more than show and fuss, and the old-fashioned system of a civil instead of a religious ceremony should be established."

BUBONIC PLAGUE IN MANILA.

Forty-Two Genuine Cases Have Been Discovered—Half Being in Chinese Quarter.

Out of a total of 51 cases of suspected bubonic plague reported, 42 proved genuine and 32 deaths resulted, half of them being Chinamen. There were 12 cases during the past week, mostly within the walled city, and 100 inspectors, under the superintendence of a health officer, Major Edie, are enforcing the sanitary regulations.

Thirty of the inspectors are Chinamen who have been furnished by the Chinese merchants. The health department census shows the population of Manila is about 190,000, including 31,000 Chinese.

No. of Kentucky Judge Dead.

Judge Richard A. Buckner, of Lexington, one of the most noted lawyers of the Kentucky bar, died Saturday night, aged 87 years. He was an intense Union man during the civil war, and did much to keep Kentucky from seceding. He was Commonwealth's attorney, circuit judge and was defeated for Congress in 1863. He was one of the commissioners to form the Kentucky code in 1862, and was speaker of the Kentucky House of Representatives in 1861.

AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

General Wood, commanding at Havana, has reported to the adjutant general the death by suicide at Havana, January 21, of Private Martin Erickson, of the hospital corps.

The President has renewed his effort to reward Generals Shafter and Corbin for what he considers their fine work in the Spanish war. At his instance Chairman Hull, of the committee on Military Affairs, Saturday introduced a bill to make each a major general.

NICARAGUA CANAL FEASIBLE.

The House Commerce Committee Recommends That the Government Shall Build the Waterway.

Chairman Hepburn, of the House Commerce committee, has submitted the committee's favorable report on the bill which he introduced for the construction of the Nicaragua canal. It says that if the bill is carried out the United States will in six or eight years own a waterway between the oceans that it can defend and use in the interest of its navy and merchant marine. The enterprise is entirely practicable and the latest estimate of cost \$145,000,000, provides for the largest ships. The committee believes that the rights claimed by persons of concessions from Costa Rica and Nicaragua have either lapsed or are of small value, and that the government should deal directly with Nicaragua and Costa Rica, leaving them to adjust all questions growing out of such concessions. As to the limitations of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty with Great Britain, the report says: "No one can read that article without concluding that the Nicaragua canal contemplated was an undertaking early to be completed through the kindly aid of the two governments. Great Britain has allowed years to elapse without any movement on her part to carry out the provisions of that article. It has been a dead letter from the day the treaty was signed to the present moment."

Islands North of Luzon Seized.

It is reported that the United States gunboat Princeton visited the Tatanas and Calagan Islands, which were omitted from the Paris treaty of peace, being north of 20 degrees of latitude, raised American flags and appointed native governors. It is said that the Princeton found the Japanese flag flying on Bayat Island and refrained from landing there, pending orders, but the report is not confirmed. The natives on the other islands occupied willingly substituted the American for the insurgent officials, and took the oath of allegiance. The natives of Samar and Leyte are returning to their towns and the normal conditions are being resumed.

Reports from native sources, which are not confirmed, say Gen. Pio del Pilar, the insurgent commander, died of fever recently.

Chinese Pirates Active.

According to news brought by the steamship Coptic pirates are causing much trouble in Chinese waters. The Government seems powerless to stop their depredations. During the early part of last month the crew of a steam launch from the gunboat Tweed, stationed near Chuton Shang, China, had a lively fight with the pirates who are known in the Orient as the "Order of the Red Flag." Several pirates were killed and a number wounded. One British blue jacket was shot through the chest. Other fights have been reported near Canton, and merchant vessel boats have been held up and robbed.

Fatal Hike and Seck.

Plumbers working in an unoccupied house in New York City found in a closet the decomposed bodies of two boys. They were identified by their parents as Martin Loeffler, aged 9 years, and Charles Byrnes, aged 11 years. They had been missing since August 3 last, when they left their homes nearby saying they were going to pick apples.

DOG FUNERALS DENOUNCED.

Bishop in Paris Creates an Uproar by Attacking a Society Fud.

There is a curious little scandal in the fashionable world of Paris. It appears that some time since a company started a cemetery for dogs, so that an animal which had been a friend for years should not be thrown in dust. Certain fashionable ladies, however, carried the idea further, and when their dogs died issued funeral cards. The funeral services were held in drawing rooms.

A day or two since a dog funeral card sent out by a titled lady reached a Bishop, who took it upon himself to send a stinging reproof for the travesty on Christian service. The Bishop was told the thing was general. Thereupon he wrote in a religious publication a tirade against the lack of decent feeling on the part of modern society women, and the whole thing has created quite a little sensation.

Asleep on Sentry Duty.

The Minister of Militia at Ottawa, Ont., has received a report from Colonel Otter, commanding the Canadian contingent in South Africa, giving details of the court-martial of three members of the Royal Canadian Regiment at Modder river, for having been asleep while on sentry duty, and who, it has been reported, were sentenced to death.

Soldiers Go Crazy in Manila.

Eleven insane soldiers have been sent from San Francisco to the Government Hospital at Washington, D. C., and it is probable that about 30 more will go East during the week. During the last three months nearly 250 demented soldiers have been sent across the continent, and it is said that over 200 more will soon arrive here from Manila. In nearly all cases the men are violently insane.

Cuba More Than Self-Supporting.

In response to a resolution of the Senate the Secretary of War sent to the Senate a statement, showing the receipts and disbursements of public funds in Cuba for 1899. Receipts amount to \$16,346,015, of which \$15,011,080 were from customs. Expenditures amounted to \$1,085,805. Barracks and quarters, \$1,259,930; sanitation, \$3,052,282; rural police and administration, \$1,445,467; public works, \$700,126; municipalities, \$1,230,403.

BUSINESS CONTINUES ACTIVE.

REVIEW OF TRADE. Increased Foreign Demand for Iron and Steel. Rise in Wheat and Corn Prices.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s "Weekly Review of Trade" reports the following: "Business continues larger than ever at this season in amount of payments, and on the whole as large as ever in retail deliveries, though new transactions do not yet give assurance that it will hold at the same rate. Important branches of business are hindered by labor troubles, of which the building trade strike at Chicago affects the greatest number of contracts for industrial products and the labor and wages of the greatest number of men. The rise in wheat brings out larger Western receipts in two weeks, 5,444,202 bushels, against 6,236,166 last year, but Atlantic exports, flour included, in the same weeks, have been only 3,645,408 bushels, against 6,192,407 last year. That the suit of Mr. Frick against the Carnegie Company may affect the control of many iron works is evident. Prices of pig have not changed, though considerable sales, including some for export, are reported. The excess of supply over demand which appeared in January is increased by the starting of a new furnace with a capacity of 600 tons daily. A sale is reported of 15,000,000 pounds Calumet & Hecla copper to consumers of the Naugatuck Valley at 16 cents. Wool sales at three Eastern markets have been only 12,134,459 pounds in two weeks, against 12,305,300 last year. The interior still believes in a further advance, but buying of wool on sheep's backs has stopped, and the manufacturer has made it clear that the mills hold large stocks to fill recent orders. Failures for two weeks have been \$5,357,170; manufacturing \$2,386,263; and trading, \$2,569,609. Failures for the week have been 218 in the United States and 42 in Canada."

Wheat, including flour shipments for the week, aggregate 3,844,069 bushels, against 2,962,557 bushels last week, 2,454,771 bushels in the corresponding week of 1899, 3,812,744 bushels in 1898, 2,120,896 bushels in 1897 and 3,149,012 bushels in 1896. Since July 1 this season the exports of wheat aggregate 126,846,391 bushels, against 159,652,910 bushels last year and 157,482,381 bushels in 1897-98.

Corn exports for the week aggregate 3,490,335 bushels, against 3,430,999 bushels last week, 1,506,845 bushels in this week a year ago, 2,050,575 bushels in 1898, 6,411,420 bushels in 1897 and 2,025,029 bushels in 1896. Since July 1 this season, corn exports aggregate 136,092,109 bushels, against 105,840,121 bushels during the same period a year ago and 110,563,246 bushels in 1897-98.

EXPORTS INCREASING.

Statement of the Government for January is Encouraging.

The monthly statement of the imports and exports shows that during January, 1900, the figures were as follows: Merchandise: Imports, \$75,826,075, of which \$34,046,280 was free of duty. The gain over January, 1899, was about \$17,500,000; exports, \$117,620,930, gain over January, 1899, about \$2,000,000. Gold: Imports, \$1,988,272, decrease, \$4,000,000; exports, \$5,601,200, increase, \$830,000. Silver: Imports, \$2,130,335, decrease, \$1,000,000; exports, \$4,599,109, decrease, \$781,000.

During the last seven months there was an increase in the importation of merchandise as compared with the corresponding period in 1899 of \$19,459,524; an increase in the exportation of merchandise of \$50,534,973; a decrease of \$42,023,711 in the importation of gold; an increase in exportation of gold of \$1,793,164; a decrease in the importation of silver of \$820,644, and a decrease of \$3,638,925 in the exportation of silver.

GREAT BRITAIN'S BLIZZARD.

People Frozen to Death, Wires Down, Trains Snowbound.

The effects of the blizzard which started Tuesday are felt throughout Great Britain. Trains are snowed up in all directions, street car lines are blocked and telegraph and telephone wires are down, delaying communication in all parts. There have been a great number of accidents due to falling chimneys and roof slates and similar causes. Mail vans and people traveling by foot in country districts are reported missing and several persons have been found frozen to death in exposed places.

Bondsman Dropped Dead.

Frank G. Simmons, postmaster at Seward, Neb., was arrested and taken to Lincoln Friday evening, charged with a shortage of \$3,800. Simmons, who has long been prominent in state politics, admitted his shortage. David Figgard, one of Simmons' bondsmen, when informed of the shortage and asked to take charge of the office, dropped dead.

Destitution in Puerto Rico.

Iglesias and Eduardo Conde, Puerto Rican labor leaders, have issued an appeal to this government on behalf of the workmen of Puerto Rico. They declare that the working class of their island have been reduced by reason of the war, the hurricane and the action of this government since the storm, to a condition of extreme destitution.

They add that unless action is taken soon riots will occur throughout the island, as the poor are desperate from their sufferings.

Molieux Sentenced.

Roland B. Molieux, of New York, was Friday sentenced to die in Sing Sing prison during the week of March 26, for the murder of Mrs. Katherine J. Adams. He made a statement asserting that he had not been fairly convicted and that "yellow journalism" had put a price upon his head.

Winery of Two Lepers.

Dr. J. E. Engstrom has returned to Grand Forks, N. D., from Walsh county, where he went to investigate the condition of two lepers. He found them confined in a sod hovel, with but one door and one window. A Norwegian, aged 50, and a Swede, aged 57, the elder in the last stages of leprosy, blind and helpless, with his flesh literally dropping from his bones; the younger still able to wait on his companion. The elder man has a wife and five children, who live on his farm, a short distance away. The younger is unmarried.

Puerto Rican Coffee.

The interesting statement was made Tuesday by the War Department that the total exports of coffee from the island of Puerto Rico from the date of American occupation to November 30, 1899, was \$3,243,025 pounds, valued at \$6,130,955.

France received 21,501,470 pounds, Spain 8,102,606, Italy 5,227,557, the United States 2,608,642. The annual average exports of coffee during 1887-1891 was 40,349,000 pounds, valued at \$4,945,000.

CABLE FLASHES.

The British steamer Moissei went down in the Caspian sea during a gale Saturday, and her crew of 23 were drowned.

It is persistently rumored that Germany and Russia have both offered mediation between England and the South African republics.

MACRUM EXPLAINS.

His Official Mail Was Tampered With by British Censor at Durban, and Cable Dispatches Delayed.

Charles M. Macrum, former United States Consul at Pretoria, has given out a signed statement in which he explains his actions. Claims that he had the humiliation, as the representation of the United States, of sitting in the office in Pretoria and looking upon envelopes bearing the official seal of the American government opened and officially sealed with a sticker, notifying him that the contents had been read by the censor at Durban, also that his cable dispatches were delayed. States that he desired a leave of absence in order to inform the government of valuable facts, but finds upon his arrival that the state department had discredited him, and comes home to find an attempt has been made to tear down his 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 whims and caprice of an English military censor at Durban. I came to America with a motive of which I am not ashamed.

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 as against those which have come from the department, secretly and officially.

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