

BRITISH PROMISE AN EARLY SPURT.

BOERS RETREATING.

Are Not Expected to Retire to Roberts' March South of Kroonstad—Their Army Said to Have Dwindled to 26,000 Men.

"There are interesting developments afoot," as stated in a dispatch from Thaba N'Chu, is about the most important news in the advices from South Africa. A dispatch from Bloemfontein, dated Saturday, says: "Reports have been received that the Boers are retreating to the north of Ladybrand. Their horses are exhausted and they were themselves disappointed over their failure to capture Col. Dalgety's position. The British cavalry who were pursuing the fugitive commandoes are returning to Bloemfontein."

"The Boers have taken every advantage of the mountainous nature of the country which marks the line of their retreat to Ladybrand. The task of driving them is difficult and it is doubtful whether they can be reduced to submission in a district so favorable to their tactics."

"A cavalry reconnaissance 25 miles northeast encountered 400 Boers. The British drove them out of a kopje north of Karcie. Our outposts are still harassed by moving commandoes. In an outpost affair on Thursday several Boers were killed. The enemy will certainly make an stand at Kroonstad, where they have constructed miles of trenches."

Another Bloemfontein correspondent sends a story that he has discovered the Boer forces, which in December were 60,000, have dwindled to 26,000, having lost 8,000 in killed and wounded and 5,500 captured. The others are not accounted for, but have probably returned to their farms. He says the Boers are short of weapons, wheat and smokeless powder, but that they have plenty of other stores and of rifle ammunition. They are not likely, however, to offer serious resistance, as they possess no positions this side of Pretoria by the British army. It is promised that Gen. Roberts will advance on Pretoria as soon as he has the necessary remounts for his cavalry.

Later telegrams say: It is now apparent that the chances of Lord Roberts catching the retreating Boers in a net are very slender. The Boers have everywhere retired at the first pressure of the British advance, and the hope that Gen. Rundle would be able to induce them to remain at DeWetsdorp until they had been forced to fight or surrender has been disappointing.

No attempt was made to pursue the commandoes retreating from Wepener. Everything now depends upon the progress of Gen. French's cavalry brigades, but they are entering a very difficult, hilly and practically unknown country.

It is asserted that the Boers are collecting enormous quantities of provisions at depots in the Lydenburg district, with a view to a final stand in the mountains. The districts around Johannesburg and Pretoria are being extensively entrenched. Beggibie's foundry at Johannesburg is turning out 700 shells a day.

The Boers now can only escape, without risking an encounter, northward to Ladybrand, and the chance of a successful outcome of the plans of Roberts depends on whether the British troops can reach Thaba N'Chu and Lydenburg before the retreating commandoes from De Wets Dorp and Wepener.

CARTER GOES TO PRISON.

Former United States Engineer Will Serve His Term at Fort Leavenworth.

Ex-Captain Oberlin M. Carter, once of the United States engineers, who has been a prisoner on Governors Island for seven months, lacking five days, Wednesday started in charge of a military escort for the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. It was the seventh hundred and eleventh day after his conviction by a court-martial for entering into a conspiracy with contractors doing government work in Charleston harbor to rob the United States by procuring the payment of two fraudulent checks in July, 1897, one for \$230,740.00 and the other for \$345,000.

He will be put at some sort of "hard labor" when he arrives at the prison. It will probably be clerical work, or he may be set to making mail bags for Uncle Sam. Captain Carter will serve about three years and seven months.

Filipinos Active Near Manila.

The insurgents continue to operate close to Manila. A casco loaded with 70 barrels of beer was captured in the bay north of the city, while en route to the canteen at Malolos. Two cascos on the Pasig river, ten miles from the city, were attacked by 50 insurgents and looted. The insurgents secured \$312, besides provisions and clothing.

Insurgent funds amounting to \$100,000 were captured at the home of Col. Timio at Victoria. His daughter claimed that the money was hers, but in the same box were tell-tale receipts from insurgent officers. Father Gregorio Tabar has entered a claim for \$300,000 for the destruction of Paco church. Sanitary inspectors discovered that natives were exhuming the carcasses of Caribos and selling the meat.

Pingree With the Democrats.

Go. Pingree asserted in an interview at Detroit, Mich., that the hope of the people in this year's general elections is the Democratic party. The governor has always hitherto been an independent republican. Speaking of the increasing power of trusts, Gov. Pingree said: "There is no use in hoping that the republican party will do anything with them."

Are you preparing to announce your withdrawal from the Republican party?" the governor was asked. "There is no announcement about it, only say what I have said all the while. I haven't heard me say anything about the Democrats for some time. I believe that the hope of the people is the Democratic party this fall."

A Fatal Explosion.

Two men and one girl were burned in an explosion of powder in the board room of one Michalowitz, at Larni, Pa., Tuesday night. Three of the men were so badly injured that they

LATEST NEWS NOTES.

Fire in sweatshops on Pelham street, New York, did \$60,000 damage.

Forest fires have done a great amount of damage to timber lands in Pike county, Pa.

Herman Erb, Jr., former mayor of Appleton, Wis., committed suicide in that city Sunday.

United States Consul General Mason at Berlin is preparing an official report of the German trusts.

While intoxicated, William Edmunds, of Chicago, on Sunday, shot his wife and himself. Both will die.

President and Mrs. McKinley returned to Washington Friday morning after their trip to Canton, O.

Eight men blew open the safes of the Massachusetts bank at Strasburg, Va., and got away with \$5,000.

In a quarrel in court at Paris, Tex., Lawyer E. P. Scott stabbed and badly wounded Justice J. J. Hooks.

Antonio Louisa murdered his wife in New York, and James McCauley cut the throat of his wife in Brooklyn.

Judge Bischoff, in New York, granted Rita Stokes a divorce from W. E. D. Stokes with \$12,000 yearly alimony.

At Watsela, Ill., Saturday night, Bert Underhill fatally shot Miss Anna Davis, aged 17, and then shot and killed himself.

Former Secretary to the President, John Addison Porter, is seriously ill in New York as the result of a surgical operation.

Journymen plumbers to the number of 250 are on strike in Chicago, being the latest move against the Chicago contractors.

Over 30,000 persons marched in the May day parade of the Socialist labor party and Central Federated union in New York.

Canton, O., is planning a great Fourth of July, inviting all celebrities in sight, including the President and Admiral Dewey.

The flood situation in Texas is much improved, but there is still a great deal of suffering among the poorer people of the inundated districts.

A lone highwayman held up an Iron Mountain train in White county, Ark., Friday morning and robbed the passengers of money and valuables.

At Newark, N. J., Sunday morning, Edward Morley, aged 40, after attempting to murder his wife, cut his throat with a razor and died in an hour.

Six masked men tried to break into the safe in the First National bank of Elizabeth, Pa., having first bound and gagged James Jordan, the janitor.

Editor W. T. Stead, in a review of the Paris exposition, said it represents the focal point of all the thought and progress of the nineteenth century.

The first steamer left Seattle Monday for Cape Nome, and will be followed by 24 during May with 5,388 passengers and \$2,552,000 worth of freight.

A shamrock craze has been started in England by the queen's recent visit to Ireland, and it is even proposed to attire the new Irish guards regiment in kilts.

An attempt was made by Senator Pettigrew to have his resolution expressing sympathy for the Boers considered by the Senate, but a quorum did not vote.

While fighting fire in a field on their farm, near Lawton, Mich., Friday afternoon, Mrs. William Birch was burned to death and her husband severely injured.

A thousand people were present at the county jail at Dover, Del., Saturday, to witness the whippings of nine culprits, all colored, who had been sentenced for petit larceny.

The North American Turquoise Syndicate, with a capital of \$1,000,000, has been organized in Jersey City, N. J.; it seeks to control the turquoise industry of the United States.

At Hot Springs, Ark., Adolph Spitzel, a well-known sporting man, was found lying in the street with his head crushed in, and died shortly after, and it is supposed he was murdered.

The amount of bonds so far exchanged at the treasury for the new 2 per cents is \$25,101,850, of which \$43,162,750 were from individuals and institutions other than National banks.

Both England and the Boers are fast weariung of the war, the former believing the terrible cost can never be repaid. An Italian officer with the Broes writes that the ammunition supply is fast failing.

The three men under arrest on the charge of dynamiting the Welland canal locks were arraigned for a preliminary hearing Wednesday and will be tried at the Assize court at Welland, May 22.

The board of business agents of the Building Trades Council of Chicago has adopted a resolution asking the 20,000 union men of the city and their families to have nothing to do with the Dewey celebration.

Near Colombo, Wis., Friday afternoon, the dead bodies of Levi Myhill and wife were found lying in the road with bullet wounds in them, and it is supposed to be a case of murder and suicide by the man.

A flood relief expedition found 40 families, mostly colored, in a starving condition in various places of refuge in Rankin county, Mississippi. Some had not tasted food for three days. On one islet were 40 persons.

A report to the biennial council of the National Association of Colonial Dames, in session at Washington, shows they spent \$60,000 in relieving the wants of soldiers and sailors during the Spanish war.

In the New York supreme court the State Trust Company filed a suit for the foreclosure of a mortgage of \$3,000,000 against the Harper publishing firm.

Over a thousand Japanese coolies, bound for the United States under alleged contracts, are in quarantine at Victoria, B. C., and an additional 600 arrived Wednesday.

Secretary Gage Tuesday sent to the Senate a statement that the revenue collected under the war taxes from June 13, 1898, to March 31, 1900, was \$183,405,302.

Rev. Ingram W. Irvine, who had been convicted of conduct unbecoming a minister while rector of a church at Huntingdon, Pa., was deposed by Right Rev. Ethelbert Talbot, bishop of the Central Pennsylvania diocese.

A PARIS EXPOSITION CATASTROPHE.

BRIDGE COLLAPSES.

Injuring Forty and Killing Nine—The Structure Had Been Condemned—Feared That Other Buildings Are Insecure.

Nine persons were killed and nine injured Sunday by the fall of a bridge on the Avenue de Suffren, which-forms the northern boundary of the Paris exposition grounds. There was an immense throng in the neighborhood, as the fine weather had drawn the largest attendance of any day since the exposition opened.

The bridge, which was constructed of wood with a stucco facade and with a plaster tower at each end, had been condemned Sunday morning as unsafe by the exhibition authorities. The people were not allowed to go upon the structure, and in this way a disaster more terrible than occurred was prevented.

A crowd was passing along the avenue and some 100 or more persons were walking beneath the bridge when an ominous crash was heard. Before those underneath could turn aside the structure fell with a fearful crash, burying nearly 50. A shout of horror rose from the spectators, mingled with the cries of the victims. For a moment nothing could be distinguished but a cloud of dust and plaster. A scene of the greatest excitement and confusion followed, but only for a few seconds. Almost immediately the crowd attacked the debris in an effort to release those lying beneath.

The victims first recovered were mostly only injured, the dead being found later beneath the center of the structure. Messengers were dispatched to bring firemen and sappers with their equipments and the first body was found after a quarter hour's frantic labor.

As a result of the accident, M. Lepine, prefect of police, has ordered the closing of several side shows, the structural arrangements of which are considered dangerous.

INTO A VAT OF BOILING SODA.

Terrible Death of a Pole at the Pennsylvania Salt Works.

John Motewski, a Pole, met with a fearful death at the works of the Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company at Natrona, Pa., Sunday morning. The man was working near the kettles when he tripped over a loose brick and fell headfirst into a vat of boiling caustic soda. The men around rushed to his assistance and dragged him out of the scalding liquid.

Motewski's condition was terrible. His eyes were almost burned out and he was totally blind. Some of the fluid got into his mouth and he was unable to speak. All he could do was to moan feebly. His hair and mustache were scalded off and the whole upper part of his body was fearfully burned. For 7 hours he suffered intense agony and then he died.

EXPECTS TROUBLE ON DEWEY DAY.

Chicago Strikers May Attempt Violence During the Big Parade.

The labor situation in Chicago is becoming desperate and genuine fear is entertained that trouble may culminate on Dewey day by a riot on account of the non-union grand stand the erection of which has angered the strikers. Seats have been placed on sale at \$1 each, but few have been taken because people are afraid that the strikers may cut the supports or blow it up.

The strike of 1899-1900 has been the bloodiest Chicago has ever seen. Four men have been killed practically outright and more than 100 wounded since November last, the greatest part of the casualties having occurred since February of this year, when the lockout of the men in the building trades formally began. During the last week 35 men have been beaten and one killed.

An Immense Oil Strike.

One of the greatest oil strikes in forty years' history of Pennsylvania oil fields has been made at Gaines' well No. 3, of the Blossburg Oil Company, was completed Tuesday afternoon, and flowed 100 barrels per hour the first twelve hours. The second well owned by the same company produced 900 barrels the first 24 hours, when oil was struck a few weeks ago.

Hill Reveals a Secret.

At the Jefferson dinner given by the Syracuse, N. Y., Democracy Tuesday night, ex-Senator David B. Hill came out in favor of the election of senators by popular vote and revealed a secret concerning that question in the Democratic National convention of 1896. He said:

"A plank favoring an amendment to the constitution providing for the election of United States senators by the people was in the original draft of the Chicago platform, but was stricken out by the sub-committee on resolutions, against my earnest protest. There is now every reasonable prospect that such wise action may be had that it can be truthfully said at the conclusion of the coming convention at Kansas City that 'the stone which the builders refused is become the head of the corner.'"

Many Mexicans Homeless.

Telegraphic advices received state that Panuco, Mexico, the most important trading post on the river of that name, was totally destroyed by fire. Two thousand people are homeless. The majority of them are coming to Tampico for shelter. The property loss has not been ascertained, but it doubtless will be large.

Nebraska Storm Sweep.

A storm of wind and hail did much damage in a limited area in the western part of Nebraska Friday evening. The wind wrecked some small buildings, and hailstones of unusual size killed young stock, and ruined wheat and gardens. In the southeastern part of the State there was much damage. Between Wahoo and Cedar Bluffs a tornado wrecked the farm house of Thomas Rochford and Mr. Settee, and tore out buildings to pieces. Mr. Rochford was severely injured by a flying plank.

ONTARIO'S BIG FIRE.

The Ottawa Calamity Caused a Loss of \$17,000,000—Seven Lives Lost—Four Square Miles Burned.

Over five square miles of territory burned over more than 2,000 buildings destroyed; seven lives lost; 7,000 men, women and children homeless, and a property loss of \$17,000,000, insured for about half its value, are the results of the fire which swept Ottawa and Hull, Ont., Thursday and Friday. Although under control for many hours, the flames were not entirely extinguished until about noon Friday.

All of Hull's principal buildings, with the exception of the Catholic Church, are things of the past. The buildings and land in the place are valued at \$2,700,000, and of this amount over \$1,000,000 may be put down as a loss. Then in stocks, fixtures, equipments, household effects and wearing apparel there is a loss of nearly \$3,000,000. The vast piles of lumber which went up in smoke may be reckoned at \$2,000,000 more.

The fire area was viewed by hundreds of people. One of the most remarkable things about the sad scene was that no half-burned buildings or smoldering logs anywhere. Everything that the fire touched was burned to ashes.

A relief committee has been formed by the citizens and this, together with the Catholic archbishops of Ottawa and Montreal, will make an appeal for relief to the country. The most serious problem that confronts Hull is that of work. The majority of the householders who were burned out are poor and have large families. It is not expected there will be employment for a considerable period and the way in which many of the poor are going to live in the meantime is doubtful.

The estimates on the damage wrought by fire prove to have been under rather than over the mark. A careful survey of the field gives the following results: Dead, 7; homeless, 15,000; buildings burned, 3,000; hands out of work, 5,000; value of property destroyed, \$15,000,000.

All the title deeds in the registry office at Hull were destroyed, and this will complicate matters greatly.

Will Make Lumber Scarce.

Lewis A. Hill, president of the Export Lumber Company, of New York, Boston and Ottawa, which had \$1,000,000 worth of its lumber burned in the Ottawa fire, said:

"The destruction of white pine lumber at Ottawa, which is reported as amounting from 150 to 200 million feet, together with the loss of mill capacity of between 200 and 250 million feet per annum, will have a greater effect upon the white pine and spruce lumber markets than it would have had at any other period within 10 years. Not only does it take out of the market for the next 12 months over 400,000,000 feet of lumber, principally white pine, but it does this when the demand was increasing altogether out of proportion to the available supply. The lumber destroyed had been practically all sold, and contracts had been made for the full 1000 cuttings of the products of the mills that have been burned."

SPANISH SWINDLER ARRESTED.

One of a Band of Ingenious Swindlers Taken in by the Police.

United States Consul Horace Washington, at Valencia, Spain, reports to the State department the arrest by the civil authorities there of one of the members of a complete organization which has been engaged from Valencia, Cartagena and Barcelona for the past eight years in a wholesome swindling game directed against persons in the United States.

The swindlers send notices to United States citizens to the effect that a prisoner dying in the "Castle Fort," a penal station in Valencia, has left a large fortune to the United States citizens subject to his undertaking to care for an orphan child left by the deceased.

Mr. Washington says the scheme has been practiced by his definite knowledge in 12 different States, and many persons in the United States have been put to the expense of a fruitless journey to Valencia, while others have been inveigled into forwarding considerable sums of money. He says that, owing to the light penalties imposed by Spanish law for attempts at swindling, and the great difficulty in obtaining evidence to convict the perpetrators of the swindle, it is futile to regard the scheme as suppressed.

SETTLEMENT REACHED.

Turkey May Need Some Time, but Will Settle Mission Claims.

It can be stated on authority that the negotiations respecting the American missionary claims are progressing in the most satisfactory manner, in the view of the government.

The department has received from Mr. Griscom, the United States charge, a cablegram announcing that the porte has undertaken to meet all of the engagements made with the United States minister respecting the payment of the claims set up on account of the destruction of the American missionary property in Turkey.

It is not stated when the payments will be made and it is surmised that, owing to the many obligations of greater magnitude pressing upon the porte, some time may yet elapse before the money is actually in hand.

TERSE TELEGRAMS.

The treasury department has ordered a special agent to the Pacific coast to investigate the influx of Japanese coolies.

At Clay Center, Kan., the Populist State convention elected a solid Bryan delegation to the Sioux Falls National convention.

The Tennessee Third Congressional district convention endorsed Pension Commissioner Evans for McKinley's running mate.

The trustees of Franklin and Marshall College have closed a contract for the erection of a science building on the college campus to cost almost \$50,000.

It is said at Niagara Falls that the men arrested for attempting to blow up the Thorold lock of the Welland canal were drunk and were trying to dynamite fish.

TORNADO CAUSES DAMAGE IN TEXAS.

MANY LIVES LOST.

Several Counties Suffer From the Great Storm. Heaviest Rainfall in Fifteen Years. Crops Are Ruined.

An electric storm, accompanied by rain in torrents, fell at Waco, Tex., Friday, flooding half of the city and doing great damage to property. The bodies of two known and one unknown dead have been recovered and three other persons are known to have perished.

The business streets were converted into rivers. Such a flood was never before seen here. The rain resembled a succession of cloudbursts. Waco creek, on the south side of the city, and Barton's branch, on the north side, poured their surplus water toward the center of the city and formed a sea in the business district. At present the exact number of persons drowned cannot be ascertained.

The storm commenced at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and the water fell in vast sheets, one cloudburst following the other, the water courses rising above the divides and uniting into a foaming and raging sea. The people in the portion of the city suffering most fled from their houses. The firemen and police and hundreds of citizens rushed to their rescue, but the water was too swift for them, and at least six persons lost their lives by drowning in less than five minutes.

The main Bosque and its tributaries are overflowing a large district and ruining valuable crops. The Brazos river is ten feet above the danger mark, and is still rising. The property loss in Waco will be fully \$50,000.

As the city is divided into sections by the high water, and communications cut off between the various divisions, a complete list of the dead at this hour cannot be given. An organized relief movement is already under way.

Telegrams from Blum, Tex., says a tornado passed through the eastern part of that place at noon Friday, destroying several residences and a two-story school building. Fortunately but two people were seriously hurt. About 15 others were slightly hurt. The storm started about three miles south of town and was nearly 200 yards wide. The grain crop and fruit trees are broken and stripped of fruit.

BOERS NOT WELCOME.

Commissioners Not to be Received at Any Continental Capital.

The Vienna correspondent of the London Times says: "The Boer peace commissioners will not be received either at Vienna, Berlin, St. Petersburg or Rome. It is well that the United States should know how the mission has fared in Europe and the temper of Europe toward the United States."

"The widespread hostility to the United States which is constantly manifested on the continent is a factor to be reckoned with, as the United States will doubtless discover at the next renewal of commercial treaties."

The correspondent goes on at great length to argue that "the latent feeling of hostility toward the United States, though not of a serious character, is yet strong enough to make an opportunity of putting a spoke in America's wheel very welcome," and he adds that "on this account America will probably realize the desirability of maintaining a good understanding with England."

Sympathy for Aguinaldo.

On May 24, Queen Victoria's birthday, the Windsor, Ont., board of education will send two delegates to Manila with a resolution of sympathy from 2,500 school children for Aguinaldo, the leader of the Filipinos. This action is in offset of the course taken by the Philadelphia school children, who have sent representatives to Paul Kruger with a resolution of sympathy. The resolution, in addition to sympathy, will show "admiration for the brave stand the Filipinos have taken against the unjust war waged against them by the Americans."

Arrangements for the message and dispatch of the delegates were completed by the school board last night.

"We'll show the Yankees," said the secretary of the board, Alexander Black, "that two countries can play the sympathy game."

MYERS AS A PROPHET.

Ohio Man Declares Bryan Would Not be Sealed if Elected by a Million.

Allen O. Myers, of Ohio, responding to a toast at the banquet of the Sunflower League, following William J. Bryan, created a mild sensation at Wichita, Kan.

Mr. Myers said the country was "fast racing to destruction." Then, suddenly turning toward Mr. Bryan, the speaker exclaimed: "You may be elected, sir, by a million majority, but they will not permit you to take the Presidential chair. Look at the fate of William Goebel. Men whose pastime is bribery find in murder an amusement. Ohio was bought in 1896, the country was bought; it will be bought again in 1900, and Mark Hanna's reward for it is a seat in the United States Senate."

"The masses of the country will continue to permit the encroachments on the classes," concluded Mr. Myers, "until finally too late for a restoration of rights by the ballot. Then the sword and gun, violence, revolution—a new order of things."

Ohio to Honor Heroes.

The Ohio battlefield commission appointed by Gov. Nash, of Ohio, have started on their way to the battlefield of Shiloh, and while there are to study the locations on that famous battlefield of the various Ohio organizations. That State proposes to expend \$50,000 in the work of marking the places where her heroes fought on that bloody field. The commission is made up of Senator J. M. Mitchell, of Port Clinton; R. B. Brown, Zanesville; T. J. Lindsay, Washington Court House; N. R. Parke, Ada; Milton Turner, Cambridge, and J. S. Laughlin, Xenia.

METHODS ASSAILED.

A Disclosure That Startled the Lower House and Caused an Appropriation to be Stricken Out of Postal Bill.

The House, by a vote of 87 to 59, knocked out the whole item for pneumatic mail tube service from the postal appropriation bill. The postoffice committee had recommended an increase of the appropriation from \$225,000 to \$725,000, but Mr. Moody, Republican, Massachusetts, made a vigorous attack on the service. He said that duty compelled him to speak of the scandal uncovered by the postal commission, of which he was a member. He declared that former Second Assistant Postmaster General Neilson, under whom the first experiments in the pneumatic tube service were made, when he retired accepted from the company \$1,000 in cash and \$10,000 in stock for his services here during the succeeding year. What that service could be Mr. Moody could not imagine. These facts, he said, had been brought out by the commission. John E. Millholland, of New York, he said, was the president of the tube company.

Mr. Moody's next statement startled the House. The tube service, he said, had been constructed by contractors who took their pay in stocks and bonds. The only asset of the company was its contract with the government. "I regret to say," continued Mr. Moody, "that one of the principal holders of these stocks and bonds was a member of the committee on appropriations."

Mr. Moody refused to give the name, but added that a block of stock had been sent as a New Year's gift to a near relative of another member of Congress, but the dishonoring gift had been returned to the sender by the next mail.

BOERS BOUND TO BE BEATEN.

Opinion of a French Engineer Who Had Charge of Transvaal Artillery.

Captain Leon, the French engineer who had charge of the Boer artillery and engineers and who was shot in the head during the siege of Kimberley, arrived at Marseilles Tuesday. His head is still bandaged and the sight of the left eye is lost. In the course of an interview he described the Boers as splendid artillerymen. He said they never had more than from 36,000 to 40,000 men under arms, and of these they had lost only 6,000, of whom only 600 had been killed.

"In my opinion," said Captain Leon, "unless the Boers win an important victory near Bloemfontein they must be beaten in the end, and although Pretoria could withstand a long siege, because it still possesses cannon and emplacements for those temporarily withdrawn, I believe the plan of the Boers is to take refuge in the mountainous region to the north, which is practically inaccessible, rather than to defend Pretoria at the risk of a heavy loss of life and the exposure of the population to the fire of the British."

"Even when Great Britain declares the Transvaal annexed, the Boers will never yield, and an army of 150,000 will be needed to occupy the country."

Speaking with reference to the climate of South Africa, Captain Leon said the season was now approaching when horse sickness ceased, and that the British would therefore not suffer much longer on this account.

The death of Gen. De Villebois-Mareuil was, in Captain Leon's opinion, a very great loss to the Boers. Louis Botha, the new commander-in-chief, he characterized as a "capable and daring general, upon whom the Boers could reckon considerably."

When his opinion of the British generals was asked, he replied: "They are absolutely worthless. Their incompetence surpasses all belief. The errors they have committed are enormous and incomprehensible."

SIoux ARE DISCONTENTED.

They Allege Their Rations Have Been Cut and Money Due is Unpaid.

There is great uneasiness and bitterness of feeling among the Sioux Indians in North Dakota over the policy of the Indian Bureau.

They claim that suddenly and without explanation their rations have been cut in half, and the money from the sale of hides and the annual interest money has not been paid them. They hold this to be directly in violation of the treaty.

Letters are being received by Sioux here from the Pine Ridge Sioux urging that if peaceable means fail secure treaty rights there is nothing left but to fight for them. Agent Birgenheimer has seen some of these inflammatory letters.

Hard Battles With Indians.

General