

FIFTIETH YEAR.

## BRITISH AND BOER IN TERRIFIC COMBAT

Costliest Engagement of the War—Fighting Continues for Days—Cronje Holds His Position—Botha Defeated.

Heavy Work in South Africa—Battle Began at Daybreak Sunday—Boer Rear Guard Flanked—Attempt on the Main Laager—Repetition of Modder River—Boers Hold the Fort—Their Loss Placed at 800 Men—British Losses Heavy, But no Figures Given—Shelling Continues Three Days, Over Fifty Guns Pouring Lead Into Boer Camp—Roberts Refrains from Assault—Turns to General Botha's Reinforcements and Defeats and Scatters Them.

[Afternoon Dispatches.]  
Orange Free State, Feb. 20, via Modder River. One of the costliest engagements of the war occurred at Paardeberg, Feb. 18th. Gen. Buller, in pursuit of Gen. Cronje, drove his rear guard at Klip Drift, and the main body of the Boers at Rooiemoed.

The Boer main body advanced to flank the Boers' laager on the bank of the river. Gen. Kelly-Kenny having received two driftings found the Boers' laager and ordered an attack on the Highland brigade on the left and Gen. Knox's brigade on the right, while Gen. Smith's brigade crossed the river and moved along the north bank.

Both sides lost heavily. The north and south banks beyond level and the advance guard was deadly and the British were heavy. The battle was an annihilation of the Modder River. The Boers were under fire all day, and the fighting had no definite result. The Boers' laager was well barricaded and they remained therein. The British guns shelled the laager and the Boers confessed to the loss of 800 men. The shelling was resumed Sunday when Gen. Cronje asked for an armistice.

Gen. Botha Beaten Back.  
London, Feb. 22, 3:37 p. m.—A special dispatch from Paardeberg, dated Thursday, February 21, says: "Commander Botha has been attacking to relieve Gen. Cronje. There was severe fighting. Gen. Botha's army was scattered with heavy losses. The war office has received from Lord Roberts the following message which was delayed in transmission, Paardeberg, Wednesday, Feb. 21: 'REBELS REPORT VICTORY.'

Tuesday afternoon I was satisfied that a reconnaissance in force of the Boers' position that I could not afford to without very heavy losses, but was most anxious to avoid. Accordingly I decided to bombard him with artillery and turn my attention to the Boers' reinforcements as they arrived in detail, which they have already started doing. The result was most satisfactory. The Boers were driven off in all directions, losing many killed and wounded, and many prisoners, who say they arrived from Ladysmith two days ago by train. They also say it was our art-

illery fire which caused them to abandon the kopje they were occupying. Our loss was two officers, Captain Campbell, of the ninth lancers, and Lieut. Houston of the artillery and four men, all slightly wounded.

**CRONJE HOLDS HIS OWN.**  
Paardeberg, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 6:30 p. m.—A Boer kopje has been captured with fifty prisoners. Gen. Cronje's position is unchanged.

New York, Feb. 22—Arrived: Ems, Genoa.

**BRITISH CASUALTIES.**  
Gen. Buller reports that his casualties Monday, February 18, were: Killed, Captain Thurnham of the royal fusiliers, Wounded—Two officers and fourteen men.

**HURRY ORDERS FOR ARTILLERY.**  
London, Feb. 22—Artillery officers received hurry orders today to proceed to South Africa with 50 1-pound Maxim-Nordenfild guns.

All the war office's information is said to point to Gen. Cronje's escape being impossible, and it is now generally taken for granted that Lord Roberts has him surrounded.

All the critics of the afternoon newspapers were rushing reinforcements to Lord Roberts so that he may be able to risk much in endeavoring to inflict a decisive defeat before the Boer forces gathering from every quarter strengthen Gen. Cronje's threatened force.

**BULLER CRITICISED.**  
Gen. Buller's apparent tardiness and failure to prevent the Boers from slipping round to assist Gen. Cronje creates no little comment.

The relief of Ladysmith is now taken to be a matter of course, and as likely to be announced before the end of the week, but it is quite within the probabilities that severe fighting will occur previous to the relief, while the detachments to be sent by Gen. Buller to reinforce Lord Roberts, subsequent to the relief, are likely to meet with strenuous resistance. In the passes of the Drakenberg, in which fairly powerful burgher forces remain.

**JOUBERT'S NERVES UNSTRUNG.**  
Boer reports say Gen. Joubert's nerves are unstrung and that he no longer exercises the chief command.

A dispatch from Sterks Spruit, dated Feb. 21, says the prominent rebels in this district intend to surrender and the Stormberg rebels will shortly lay down their arms.

There have been many eulogistic references to the speeches of Laurier and other Canadians on the subject of the losses of the Canadians in South Africa, concerning which, curiously enough, there is not a single word, official or otherwise, known or published here, except that two officers were wounded.

The Globe says: "The spirit in which a brave strong nation should meet trial is admirably illustrated by the temper displayed by Canada. The war, if it has done nothing else, has killed political bitterness and more party strife in all the colonies. The contrast between Ottawa and Westminster is painful and humiliating."

In the house of lords today replying to the question of the Boers' position, the noble lord said: "The Boers' position is unchanged."

**QUAY CASE TOMORROW.**  
Notice that it will be called before the Senate.

Washington, Feb. 22.—Several weeks ago Senator Foraker, the senior senator from Ohio, was selected to read Washington's farewell address today. It was a notable compliment to him that when the Senate convened today all of the public and private galleries were crowded and scores of people stood in the corridors unable to gain admission. Mr. Foraker's reading was a fine bit of elocution and he was congratulated by many of his colleagues.

Mr. Penrose called the attention of senators to the announcement he had made yesterday concerning the calling up of the resolution involving the right of Matthew S. Quay to a seat in the Senate as a member from Pennsylvania. He said that while he would prefer to have the case considered immediately, he had been informed that a number of senators desired to be present when it was called up, and as their request was entirely reasonable, he would not oppose a motion to adjourn at this time, but he gave notice that he would call up the Quay case tomorrow at the conclusion of the morning business.

At 1:05 p. m. the Senate adjourned.



SIX GENERALS OF DIVISION WHO ARE CONDUCTING FIELD MARSHAL ROBERTS' CAMPAIGN NEAR KIMBERLEY.

Lieutenant General Lord Methuen is the First. Lieutenant General J. D. P. French has the cavalry division, which is the Fourth. The Third division is under Lieutenant General Sir W. F. Gatacre. Major General Thomas Kelly-Kenny commands the Sixth division. Major General C. B. Tucker has the Seventh division, and Major General Sir H. E. Colville is in command of the Ninth division.

to a question on the subject Lord Salisbury declared the government had no engagement whatever with any power in respect to the course to be taken in the ultimate settlement with the Boer republics. No power, he said, had asked or suggested entering into any such arrangement.

Lord Salisbury also said he knew nothing of Gen. Cronje's proposed armistice.

**LOSS OF 172 MEN.**  
An additional list of casualties sustained by the British troops during the retreat from Rensberg, Feb. 16, shows that fourteen men were killed, that 138 members of Wiltshire and Worcester-shire regiments are missing, the latter fact confirming the Boer reports that a number of prisoners had been captured by them.

**STEUNENBERG PROTESTS.**  
Demands Representation When Idaho State Officials are Attacked.

**Riots Investigation Develops Considerable Feeling in Committee—Trouble Foreboded.**

Washington, Feb. 22.—When the investigation of the Idaho labor troubles was resumed today the House committee on military affairs, Chairman Hull stated that Gov. Steunenberg of Idaho who is attending the investigation, had protested against the line of procedure, which impugned the State officials. Mr. Hull said the governor held that the testimony in effect placed the State officials on trial, and if that were the case they were entitled to be present and be represented by counsel. The chairman called on Gov. Steunenberg to make his own statement. Representatives Lentz and Hay of the committee energetically opposed this procedure and the governor's statement was deferred.

Considerable feeling developed among the members as the inquiry proceeded. Mr. Lentz sought to introduce an affidavit seeking to show that intimidation of a miner had been resorted to by the governor of Idaho, in order to gain personal ends. The committee refused to admit the affidavit. Mr. Lentz then gave notice that he would, at the proper time, move that the affiant, A. S. Balch, be called as a witness.

The chairman stated that it would be necessary hereafter to hold sessions during the afternoon while the House was in session and that he would request permission to do so.

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## MISSING WITNESSES WILL RETURN SOON

Nana Witbeck and Emma Mathison are Expected Back from Chicago in a Few Days to Testify in Benbrook Case.

The General Impression Is That a Jury Will Be Secured by Saturday Night and That the Taking of Testimony Will Commence on Monday Morning—Two Full Weeks May be Occupied in the Examination of Witnesses and in Arguments—Jurors in This Case Will Not Be Allowed to Separate—Lines Which the Prosecution and Defense Will Follow—The Six Jurors So Far Selected to Try the Case—More of Benbrook's Relatives Coming.

According to the best information obtainable today, Nana Witbeck and Emma Mathison, the missing witnesses in the Benbrook murder case, will be here in ample time to testify for the prosecution.

These girls, it will be remembered, were dining with Albert C. Morris in a private room at the Merchants' Cafe at the time of the tragedy. They testified at the preliminary hearing and a few months later quietly dropped out of sight. Just as soon as the attorneys for the State learned of this, an inquiry was commenced, and John Witbeck, father of one of the girls, came to the front with the statement that he had furnished the girls money for an eastern trip, as they desired to avoid the notoriety of testifying. A little later Col. Theodore Bruback's name was connected with the flight of these witnesses, and it developed that he had furnished the money which Witbeck gave the girls.

The State's attorneys were considerably annoyed by the absence of the witnesses, whose testimony was desired. Complaints were made against both Witbeck and Bruback, charging them with attempting to defeat the ends of justice. As a result, probably, of this vigorous action on the part of the prosecution the return of the girls seems assured. A letter was received from Miss Witbeck a few days ago, stating that they were going to visit her married sister in Chicago, and would then come to Salt Lake. Since then they have been communicated with, furnished return tickets and made to understand the necessity for their return.

As the taking of testimony can hardly begin before Monday next and the prosecution will be several days in presenting its case, there is plenty of time for them to get here as soon as needed. Their arrival will, of course, be a relief to Mr. Witbeck and Col. Bruback.

**THE JURY.**  
Tomorrow morning the work of securing a jury will be resumed and it is not expected that the twelve men can be secured before Saturday night, although that is only a guess. When court adjourned last evening, four additional jurors had been examined and practically passed for cause. They are William McMillen, Daniel F. Elton, A. L. Simondi and Samuel Allen, Jr. Out of this quartet, one juror may be secured, which will leave two full days to obtain the number required.

Up to date the State has used up eight challenges, leaving it seven, while the defense has used seven, leaving it eight.

The six men now sworn to try the case have many points in common. They are all comparatively young men or at least not beyond the middle age, all are married, or have been, and with one exception, they all reside in the county.

Enos J. Jacklin of Mill Creek is a farmer. Walter Colton is a teamster, and William Gerrard is a sheep raiser. Frank N. Shelton is doubtless the best known man so far accepted. He is a native of Vermont, but came here from

**PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE.**  
The case of the State has been pretty well developed already, and it will follow the lines of the preliminary hearing and the trial will be heard with much interest. All that can be fairly surmised regarding the defendant's statement is that it will elaborate the claim of self-defense, upon which alone, apparently, his attorneys will base their claim for an acquittal.

**OTHER RELATIVES COMING.**  
So far, Benbrook has been attended in court by his wife, two brothers, a sister, brother-in-law, and niece. It is understood that one, and perhaps two, more brothers will come on to attend the trial.

supplied with food, and a quantity of provisions were left behind. It is expected further resistance will be half-hearted, and the Ladysmith will be reached in a few days.

**BRITISH DEFEAT CHINESE.**  
Seventy Mongolians Killed in Battle on the Border.

Rangoon, British Burma, Feb. 22.—A British official attached to the boundary commission named Hertz, while touring in the Burmah-Chinese frontier, with an escort, has engaged and routed two considerable forces of hostile Chinese from Mirkaw Pa, killing the leader of the Chinamen and seventy Chinese.

**Labor Leader Acquitted.**  
Williamsburg, Ky., Feb. 22.—Organizer George W. Purcell of the United Mine Workers, has been acquitted of the charge of leading a riot. Purcell, accompanied by 200 others, went to the Proctor mines to organize a union. He was met at the edge of the company's land and forbidden entrance. Purcell came on against the orders of the superintendent and organized a lodge, but was not disorderly. The jury after being out a few minutes returned a verdict of not guilty.

**COLLISION ON THE U. P.**  
Two Engineers, a Fireman and a Brakeman Hurt.

[SPECIAL TO THE "NEWS"]  
Cheyenne, Wyo., Feb. 22.—Engineers Brown and Snow, Brakeman Winnie, and a fireman whose name has not been learned, were injured in a head on collision between a freight train and a light engine at Little Rock, between Rawlins and Green River, on the Union Pacific, this morning.

How badly the men are hurt cannot be learned at this time.

**GEN. BULLER'S STEADY PROGRESS.**  
Relief Column is Pushing On Toward Ladysmith.

**RESISTANCE HALF-HEARTED.**  
British Loss is Light—Capture a Flag, Gen. Botha's Handkerchief, and Quantities of Food.

[Afternoon Dispatches.]  
Chieveley Camp, Wednesday, Feb. 21.—The steady progress of the relief column is uninterrupted. The Boers Tuesday were forced from their last position south of the Tugela resulting in the evacuation of Colenso, which was promptly recaptured by the Dublin fusiliers and Thorneycroft horse. A Transvaal flag was captured, as was a handkerchief inscribed with Gen. Botha's name. This is treasured as a great trophy.

The Boers heavily shelled Hlangwana hill and Colenso on Wednesday, February 21, and the British advanced infantry was subjected to a severe musketry fire, but they had excellent cover and the casualties were few.

The Boers had the railroad running from Colenso to Bulwer. The British continue to discover large quantities of ammunition. The Boers are well



WASHINGTON AS HE LOOKED AT VALLEY FORGE.

George Washington was born Feb. 22, 1732, just 168 years ago. This picture of Washington is from a painting by Charles W. Peale and was painted during the memorable winter at Valley Forge. Philadelphia is the fortunate possessor of the original.