BOERS HOLDING THEIR OWN.

At All Points They Maintain Their Ground Against British.

ADVANCE NEAR CHIEVELEY

Joubert May Attack—Boers Turn British Flank at Rensberg—More Troops Wanted.

Durban, Feb. 11.—It is rumored here that General Joubert is marching with a column of 6,000 men to outflank General Buller.

London, Feb. 12.—Spencer Wilkinson, in the Morning Post today, dwells upon the evidence of the unexpected activity and probable number of Boers near Olivesberg, where they are not enclosed, but only half surrounded on the south. He points out that the Boer positions cover a front of twenty miles, and implies that there must be several thousand of the enemy on the ground.

He expresses the hope that the rumor from Durban that a Boer force is advancing in the hope of outflanking General Buller is correct, for he considers that General Joubert would thus expose himself to just the sort of a blow it is so difficult to deliver against the fortified positions north of the Tugela.

NO RELIEF FOR LADYSMITH.

London, Feb. 12, 4:40 a. m.—The latest dispatches from the front, showing the real reasons for General Buller's retirement and his intention to try again, quite destroy the comforting and ingenious theory that the movement was an elaborate feint to facilitate the main advance of Lord Roberts, a theory which obtained acceptance largely because of Mr. Balfour's misleading statement to parliament. These seemingly useless reticences and prevarications on the part of the government and the war office are beginning to be criticised severely.

No word has yet issued from the war office regarding General Buller's latest attempt, although the correspondents are allowed to telegraph with a fair amount of freedom, and thus far only a partial list of casualties has been published. The dating of messages from Frere camp may indicate that General Buller has withdrawn all his forces there.

The London newspapers, having become accustomed to checks, maintain a hopeful tone, but the situation is much more threatening than it seemed to be a week ago. Proofs of the territorial strength and mobility of the Boer artillery, together with the rumor that General Joubert is taking the initiative with the object of cutting General Buller's communications, are in no way reassuring. Even the most sanguine persons begin to see that it is quite useless to expect the relief of Ladysmith while it is clear that, if it be possible for Buller to reach Ladysmith is equally impossible for the army, exhausted by sickness and privations, to cut a way out.

Reports of the Boer advance through Natal are disquieting. If they should be able to strike at Greytown, General Buller would be compelled to turn his attention to the eastern side of Natal.

There is no confirmation of the report of a sortie from Ladysmith. The latest dispatch from there, dated on Wednesday last, reports that all was quiet then, and that instructions had been issued to beware of the possible approach of Boers in the guise of a British relief force.

The Pietermaritzburg correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing yesterday, says: "The Boers have occupied Blogg's farm, south of the Tugela, which is under an hour's ride from Chieveley, and have turned the homestead into a hospital.

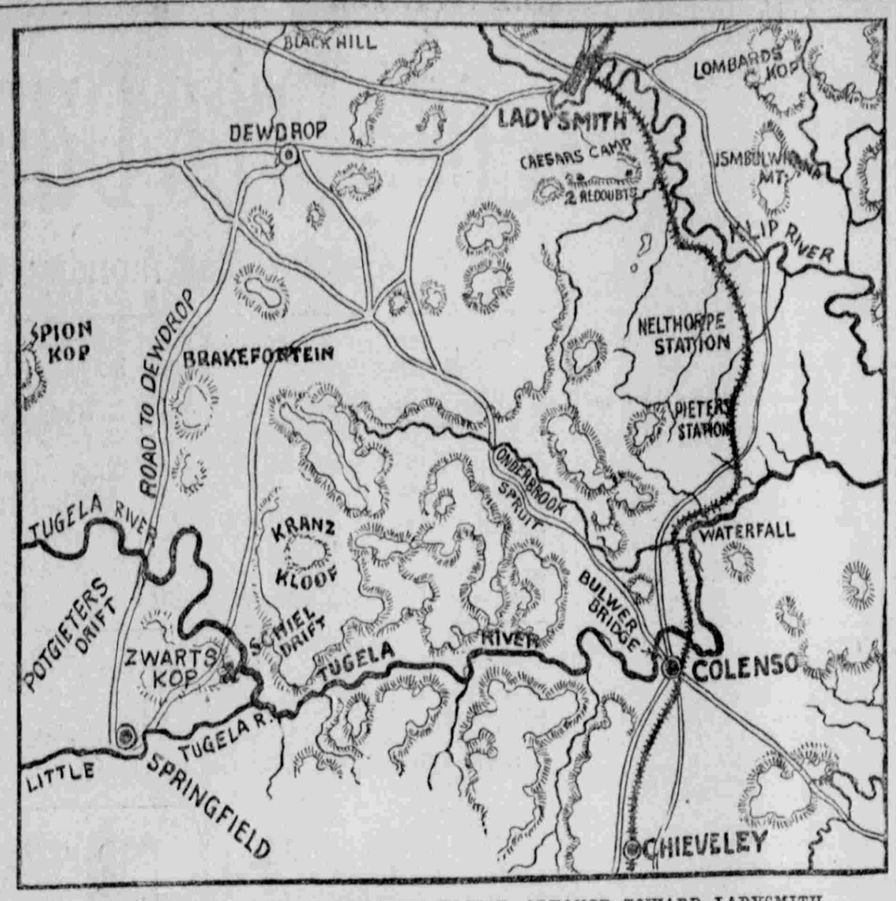
"On the farm are hills commanding both ridges over the Tugela as well as Forts Wylie and Molyneux, and from which a view of Bulwana and Ladysmith is obtainable.

"There is much apprehension here regarding the Boer movement and the authorities are on the alert."

The Daily Mail publishes the following dispatch from Sydney, N. S. W.:

"The news of Gen. Buller's reverse has caused a great sensation here. Cardinal Moran, in a remarkable speech, has advocated conscription in Australia in view of the possible complications. He thinks that it may soon become necessary to defend Australia, and therefore regrets the departure of the local troops."

Today sees the beginning of the fifth month of the war. Charles Williams, the military expert, says: "After all this interval our fine big army, instead of being free to maneuver in the field, is tied by the left leg to Kimberley



MAP SHOWING GENERAL BULLER'S LATEST ADVANCE TOWARD LADYSMITH.

in order to please Cecil Rhodes, and by the right leg to Ladysmith in order to please Joseph Chamberlain. Yet, neither town has the very smallest military value."

MORE TROOPS.

Although the British will soon have 200,000 men in South Africa, the Daily Mail and other papers are still asking for more troops.

The stoppage of shipments of gold and diamonds resulted in exports from Cape Colony last month valued at £251,182, as against £2,312,114 in January of last year.

The Morning Leader's expert says: "Gen. Buller felt that it would be useless to presevere in his attempt to relieve Ladysmith, which would have cost more loss than the number of men remaining in Ladysmith.

"We hear now of two attempts to turn Gen. Buller himself, one by a small Boer column marching through Zululand and another with 6,000 men in Natal under the redoubtable Joubert himself.

"It is quite possible that Gen. Buller was held on the Upper Tugela as much by the ruggedness of nature, as by the enemy's artillery. He may be so weak on the Lower Tugela as to leave his right flank, and his communications with the sea open to a strong attack.

"But he must make the best of his forces. All the reinforcements within reach for a fortnight to come are earmarked for an attempt to force a passage of the Orange river, which we have got at a point where it is of little use to us save for the relief of Kimberley."

The expert notes with alarm the appearance of enteric fever in Gen. Gatacre's and other camps. He says Lord Kitchener has not got to the front yet, and that Lord Roberts is not likely to order a general advance until his chief of staff arrives.

Winston Churchill's dispatch from Frere camp, Sunday noon, sent with Gen. Buller's approval, in which he warns the British people that there may be heavy loss and possibly disappointment from Buller's fourth attack, says, describing the last fight:

"A Maxim-Vickers gun abandoned by the Boers in a donga was about to fall into British hands when that notorious ruffian, the fearless Viljoen himself, brought back a team of horses and escaped with the gun, threading his way between the red flashes and black clouds of lyddite shells which the British artillery concentrated on him. It was a splendid feat of arms."

"During the night Gen. Hildyard fortified himself continually with much skill, building traverses and headcover. Consequently, though exposed to a terrible shell fire all of the night, he only lost forty-one men. In twelve minutes sixty-three shells exploded on the hill and 240 were counted in two hours, besides smaller shells from Maxim-Vickers guns, which were innumerable.

"Prince Christian Victor, aide de camp to Gen. Hildyard, was knocked down by the concussion of a 100-pound shell bursting on a rock by which he was sitting. The prince behaved throughout with extreme composure.

"The Boers admit heavy losses, but declare an unfaltering determination to resist to the uttermost.

"The fifth month of the war opens with the Boers apparently about to take the offensive, with their armies apparently intact, and well supplied with ammunition, and according to Winston Churchill, foreigners and war material pour into the Transvaal through Delagoa Bay."

AN IMPERIAL CRISIS.

New York, Feb. 12.—The Tribune's London correspondent writes. The astounding collapse of the upper Tugela campaign and the continuance of the impasse at Modder river and on the southern frontier of the Orange Free State have brought the English people to the verge of an imperial crisis unparalleled since Yorktown. That is an ominous word, which the leading English journal was the first to use and it has been taken up with one accord by the press. Sir George White's garrison, like Lord Cornwallis's army, is hopelessly beleaguered, and its fate seems to be sealed unles it can break way to the Tugela at the point of the bayonets; and the Kimberley garrison is in an equally precarious condition.

The magnitude of the British military preparations has not intimidated the two little Dutch republics. If Ladysmith be their Yorktown, with the full force of the analogies, they are in the way of winning it and bringing their war of independence to a close, and there is no hostile fleet to be fought at sea by another Rodney, who may break the force of disaster on land by restoring the prestige of the British navy.

The soldiers have done their work with splendid fortitude and gallantry, and the administrative departments have supported them with untiring energy and amazing resources of organization. The generals have failed, and the military staff, which has been responsible for the conduct of the war, has broken down and brought reproach upon the nation.

TACTICAL BLUNDERS.

If their advice was not heeded in June and July, when the mobilization of the army corps was urged by Lord Wolseley, they were allowed a free hand from the opening of the way in October and have themselves to blame if they have been outmaneuvered and outgeneralled by Dutch commanders who had never studied the art of war, but had gone from their cattle breeding farms to the battlefields among the kopjes. With their breasts covered with decorations won in conflicts with semi-civilized or barbarous races, and their self esteem inflated with the valnglorious assumption that they were the only European soldiers with continuous experience in the science of modern warefare, British generals have conducted the campaign in South Africa as though it were a series of sham fights on Salisbury plain, regulated by drill book and the formulas of peace training.

At the opening of the war there was nothing like an intelligible or reasonable plan of military defense. There were between 15,000 and 20,000 regulars and local levies scattered along the western and northern frontiers of Cape Colony and in Northern Natal. Military defense required concentration of these forces at one or two points until reinforcements could arrive. In Cape Colony there was no attempt to choose defensible positions or to collect the forces, and in Natal an unsanitary station, Ladysmith, was held in force because it was the Aldershot of South Africa, and a portion of the garrison was diverted to Glencoe for the protection of a coal mine. The headquarters staff may not have been responsible for the first lines of colonial defense, but it must be held accountable for the strategic blunder of shutting up Sir George White's garrison in Ladysmith instead of directing him to retreat, fighting at the Tugela, and then at the Modder river, and keeping open his communications with the sea. If this had been done, he would have received reinforcements by the middle of November, and the siege and fall of Ladysmith would have been avoided.

PARADE GENERALSHIP.

Sir Redvers Buller left England with his plan of campaign clearly outlined. His army corps was to march through the Free State and Sir George White was to hold the enemy in check by remaining quiet in Ladysmith. Lord Wolseley during the first month of the war had one comment to repeat to his friends, and that was: "White has only to stay still and wait for Buller to begin his march." These were Aldershot conceptions based upon peace training, without reference to the realities of military defense and actual warfare with the Boers. Sir Redvers Buller abandoned his plan of campaign when he reached South Africa, substituted a march to Modder river for the Bloemfontein-Pretoria parade, and after dragging the bulk of the army corps and Warren's division into Natal, put 2,000 men out of action in two unsuccessful attempts for the relief of Ladysmith.

Lord Methuen's attack upon Magersfontein, in which the Highland brigade advanced in column formation, was planned as a sham fight would have been on Salisbury plain, without thought of an actual hostile force anywhere in the field.

Col. Long's recklessness in carrying his guns beyond the reach of his supporting infantry was a sham battle maneuver which would have brought upon him a reprimand even at Aldershot. There have been feint attacks, reconnoissances in force, column formations and drill book tactics from the beginning to the end of the campaign, and the generals have never seemed to realize that they were not maneuvering in Salisbury plain, but were leading men under fire in battle with the Boers.

NOT LIKE GRANT AND LEE.

It is impossible for Americans who remember the training of their own Civil war to think of soldiers like Grant and Lee attacking strongly intrenched positions and conducting turning movements after the manner of of Lord Methuen and Gen. Buller. They would not have fought three battles without scouting or reconnoissance, as Lord Methuen did, and then have flung their army against a strong position like Magersfontein in a frontal attack where the resistance was greatest, without an attempt at maneuvering; and if defeated they would not have remained idle in camp for weeks waiting for reinforcements which were not in reserve. They would not have retreated from Colenso or Spion Kop after a single futile attack, but would have dug their way up to the enemy's positions, making closer maps day by day, and gradually enveloping them and rendering them untenable.

The British staff has allowed the Dutch to do all the maneuvering and all the digging and to choose every battlefield and defensive position, and when there is an impasse it orders the troops back to camp to play football and cricket until there are reinforcements for another frontal attack. It is Aldershot generalship that has brought reproach on England and created a crisis in the fortunes of the empire.

WILL TAKE 100,000 MEN.

London, Feb. 12.—Winston Churchill sends from Frere Camp to the Morning Post a long review of the situation. He says:

"Gen. Buller always thought it impossible to hold the triangle of Natal north of the Tugela, but the initial mistake was make owing to the miscalculations of the Boer strength, and the fact that millions' worth of stores had been collected at Ladysmith. From the first he regarded the relief of Ladysmith as a forlorn hope. He did not feel justified in ordering a subordinate to perform such a doubtful task.

"The absence of good maps has cost much blood. An attempt to thrust the enemy back from Brakfontein or Doornkloof would have cost 3,000 men, and since, at least, two brigades must keep the door open behind us, too few would have remained to force the way to Ladysmith. Moreover, General Buller remembers his army is the only army for the defense of the rest of Natal. Therefore, he decided to withdraw and try elsewhere.

"Another fierce attempt will be made to force the Tugela. Great Britain must realize the ugly fact that the relief of Ladysmith would strain an army of 50,000, and that 100,000 men would not be too strong. The country, therefore, must be prepared for a heavy loss, and perhaps, for disappointment.

"Remembering that considerations of honor, more than policy, demand ceaseless effort to relieve Ladysmith, the whole army, despite disappointments and retreat, regards General Buller with sympathy and trust, such as are seldom seen even in fortunate circumstances.

"The security of southern Natal is our important consideration. The necessity of obtaining control of Delagoa Bay is very apparent. The ingress of foreigners and war material is ceaseless. Surely, a settlement with Portugal would be only a question of money."

ROBERTS AT MODDER RIVER.

Modder River, Feb. 10.—Lord Roberts is here. Upon appearing before the troops on Friday he was enthusiastically cheered. He visited the camp of the Highland brigade this morning, and complimented General Macdonald and his men on the steady conduct at Koodoosberg Drift.

Apparently the Boers have brought all their big guns from Mafeking to shell Kimberley.

Our naval guns shelled Magersfontein today, but the Boer guns were silent. It is supposed that the enemy have withdrawn their artillery. They are blowing up the permanent way beyond Moron siding.

The Boers still man their trenches, but their numbers are apparently reduced. The bulk of their force has gone to Kimberley or toward our flank.

The Highlanders returned last night. Before retiring they found the bodies of twelve Boers. They believe the losses of the enemy were heavier than those of the British, because it is known that in addition to the dead Boers found, several had been buried.

London, Feb. 11.—The fact that Lord Roberts arrived at Modder river Friday seems to show that he has been on a round of inspection of the chief commands and that the main advance is not so near as has been supposed.

Startling intelligence comes from Kimberley in the Cape newspapers just received by mail in London. It appears that since Jan. 8 the rations at Kimberley have been for the most part horseflesh, so repugnant to women and children that many refuse to eat. It also appears that the death rate has been heavy and that the privations of the garrison have been increasing steadily.

This news is startling because the censor has not allowed it to be cabled. Possibly such conditions explain the presence of Lord Roberts at Modder river and the apparent preparations for an advance from that point.

The mention in the dispatches of Lord Roberts to the war office yesterday of General Clements as commanding at Rensberg is interpreted to show that General French, with his cavalry, has gone to join Lord Roberts, and that considerable changes in the distribution of troops in that district have occurred. The unexpected strength and activity of the Boers at Rensberg, where they are rather pressing the British than being pressed by them, causes anxiety.

London, Feb. 11, Midnight.—The war office has just issued the following dispatch, dated today, from the general commanding at Capetown.

"Clements reports from Rensberg that on Friday, Feb. 9, the Boers tried to turn his right flank but were beaten off. Position maintained. Casualties small.

"Kimberley reports that the Boer fighting force was apparently increased on Wednesday, Feb. 7. Next day the Boers commenced the construction of trenches to the east, nearly parallel to the Glacis and 400 yards from the Premier mine.

"A native reported that he accompanied some Boers who left Mafeking for Kimberley, carrying with them a six-inch gun and a quick-firing field gun. The former opened fire on Kimberley. Otherwise the situation is unchanged."

BOERS TURN BRITISH FLANK.

Rensberg, Saturday, Feb. 11.—The Boers outflanked the British yesterday. A considerable force of the enemy was threatening the British communications between Rensberg and Slingersfontein, twelve miles away, and, during a reconnoissance by some Inniskilliens and twenty Australians from Slingersfontein, the Boers were discovered attempting to get a gun in position to shell the British camp.

The Australians, having come into very close contact with the enemy, took cover under a hill about 9,000 yards from the camp. Thereupon the Boers took up a position with a view of preventing their retirement. Some burghers got within 200 yards of the Australians and called upon them to surrender. They replied by fixing bayonets and shouting defiance.

Sergt. Edwards and two men made a dash and, galloping under a hot fire, passed a number of hills held by Boers, and took word that the Australians were safe and confident of holding the enemy at bay and of getting out after dark, which eventually they did.

The Inniskilliens prevented the enemy getting their guns in position. The Australians lost one man killed and three wounded.

The convoys have been successfully gotten to Slingersfontein today, the British escorts having had several brushes with parties of from twenty to thirty Boers infesting the region. Lieut. Col. Page, with a section of artillery and 150 horses, got one large convoy through by shelling the enemy out of the road. The Boers also outflanked us on the west, placed a gun in position at Bastard's Nek and fired on one of our outposts, driving off 1,000 sheep.

In Wednesday's brush two correspondents, Mr. Hales of the London Daily News and Mr. Lambie of the Melbourne Age fell behind. Mr. Hales, who was slightly wounded, was captured by the Boers and Mr. Lambie was killed. The British took two prisoners.

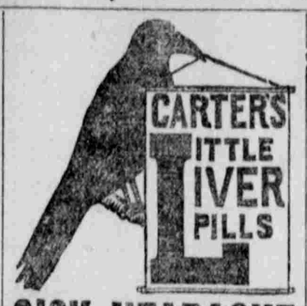
London, Feb. 11.—A dispatch from Capetown says: "Lord Roberts has authorized the formation of a squadron of 100 picked Irishmen for special duties. Sir John Henry de Villiers, chief justice of Cape Colony, will sail for England next Wednesday. Every available truck on the western system of railways has been secured by the military authorities."

Frere camp reported all quiet there yesterday. The British troops are resting and the Boers are inactive.

Rensburg reports that a picket of five Victorian rifles, and holding a post for some hours yesterday, were forced to retire, the Boers getting on a hill and firing down upon them. Three were slightly wounded, one is missing, and one escaped unhurt.

Out of a patrol from Tjofontein, under Capt. Hamilton, composed of eight Tasmanians and eight of Gen. French's scouts, only two Tasmanians and three scouts returned. The others were captured by the Boers.

The stoppage of shipments of gold and diamonds resulted in exports from Cape Colony last month valued at £251,182, as against £2,312,114 in January of last year.



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TEXANS LYNCH A MURDERER.

Irishman Swung to a Telephone Pole at Port Arthur.

WAS ACQUITTED BY A JURY

Mob Caught Him After Returning from Court—Citizens Deplore, but Do Not Condemn Lynching.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 11.—A Times special from Port Arthur, Tex., says: James Sweeny (white) was lynched at 1 o'clock this morning. Sweeny was a cotton screwman foreman, and had killed Charles Crumback, a fellow-laborer, by jamming a bayonet through his neck.

The crime was committed on the afternoon of February 1st in a room with no witnesses present, and is said to have resulted from a saloon fight that took place a few hours previous.

Monday Sweeny was indicted for murder in the first degree. He was placed on trial at Beaumont, Tex., Friday, and last night the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

As soon as he was released Sweeny returned to Port Arthur, arriving here at 12:30 this morning. Word had been telegraphed ahead that he was coming, and a mob met him at the depot, marched him up town and strung him up to a telephone pole without ceremony.

In the first attempt the rope broke. The second attempt was made successful by tying Sweeny's legs so his feet could not touch the ground and drawing the rope taut. Their work accomplished, the mob, which was made up of Port Arthur citizens, dispersed quietly.

Sheriff Langham of Beaumont was notified of the mob's work and immediately started for Port Arthur. He returned to Beaumont tonight with "Jack" Martin, a boss stevedore, and a fellow-workman of Crumback's in custody. Martin is believed to have been a ring-leader in the lynching.

Port Arthur is the southern terminus of the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf railroad. The town was built up with the advent a few years ago of that railroad, and most of its citizens are Northern people.

The citizens deplore the lynching, but none of them appear to condemn it.

National Republican Headquarters

Chicago, Feb. 11.—Comptroller C. G. Dawes, who was in the city today on his way to Peoria, said there was little doubt that the national Republican headquarters would be established in Chicago.

"The sentiment of the national committee seems to favor the selection of Chicago," said he. "It is probable the same course followed four years ago will be adopted, that of making Chicago the principal or working headquarters of the committee and maintaining another headquarters in the East at New York. Undoubtedly the experience of four years ago here was of such a satisfactory character that the committee feels disposed to try it again."

Trans-Persian Railway.

London, Feb. 12.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "The construction of the Trans-Persian railway has been absolutely decided upon. The line will be 1,300 miles long and will cost 150,000,000 roubles (Turkestan). The Viedmosti says the route will be from Dshulfa, by way of Tabrees, Hamadan, Ispahan and Kerman, to Bander Abbas."

NEW POLICY OF DEFENSE.

China Will Resist Foreign Aggression on Territory.

Decrees Issued by Empress Dowager—Officials Warned to be Watchful.

New York, Feb. 12.—A special to the Herald from Washington says:

Decrees issued by the empress dowager of China, which have just reached the state department, show that a new policy of defense against foreign territorial aggrandizement has been adopted by the Pekin government.

These decrees further show that, though it was not generally known here, the relations between China and France several months ago were so strained that the empress dowager apprehended hostilities with the latter power.

Those acquainted with Chinese affairs are disposed to regard the decrees as significant of the belief of the empress and her advisers that China is sufficiently prepared to resist by force of arms all further aggressions of foreign powers upon Chinese territory, and that her future policy will be in line with this view.

In fact, one decree goes to the extent of empowering officials to declare war upon any foreign power attempting to seize territory belonging to the jurisdiction under their control.

Issued by the Tsung Li Yamen, in compliance with the empress's instruction, the first decree was communication to the viceroys and governors of the maritime and Yangtse provinces. It reads:

"As the Italians have not had their ambitions gratified in respect to the cession of San Mun Bay to them it is apprehended that they may try to find opportunity for seizing other portions of our coast.

"Moreover, the arbitrary and aggressive actions of the French at Kuang Chou, where they are stirring up disturbances in order to obtain further pretexts for demanding concessions from the imperial government, may lead to actual hostilities between China and France.

"It behooves us, therefore, to exercise the utmost vigilance and watchfulness to guard against sudden aggression and to be always prepared to resist an enemy. Your excellency is therefore urged to enjoin all this upon the generals and commanders of troops garrisoning important points within your jurisdiction and not only this but to be prepared also to give aid to your brother viceroys and governors, whose territories adjoin your own."

Gen. Chang was in command of the Taku Tao forts when the German fleet seized Kiao Chou Bay and was beheaded for his action in surrendering them to the invaders.

Wants Damages from Mexico.

Wichita, Kan., Feb. 11.—Mrs. Edward Turner of this city has taken the initial steps toward presenting a claim against the Republic of Mexico for damages for the death of her husband. Turner was until three years ago a railroad engineer here. He went to the Mexican Central railroad, and being in a wreck in which three Mexicans were killed, was imprisoned at Orizaba. He could not get a hearing. It is alleged, and was transferred from Orizaba to Vera Cruz some time ago, on account of ill-health, and there died the 28th of last month. Mrs. Turner's letters from her husband are said to contain evidence that he received very cruel treatment at the hands of the Mexican officials.

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WOUNDED BRITISH AND BOER SOLDIERS HOLDING AN IMPROMPTU PICNIC ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

A wounded British soldier states that when he fell during a recent fight he found himself beside a wounded Boer, who, speaking perfect English, said, "Would you like something to drink?" "Certainly," said Tommy Atkins. "What have you got?" For answer the Boer produced a bottle of port, and each took a drink. Tommy Atkins, not to be outdone in politeness, asked the Boer if he would like something to eat, and, to the Dutchman's delight, produced a loaf of bread. "My goodness!" cried the stricken Boer. "I have not tasted bread for a fortnight." And then the two wounded foes lay side by side and lunched upon bread and port until they were removed by stretcher bearers.

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