

ERITISH DEFEAT REINFORCE-MENTS.

Paardeberg, Saturday, Feb. 24 .- Yes. erday there was a most interesting ser-er of fights along the British front, ne thousand Boers, commanded by descal Dewet, who were known to be operating in the immediate front, at any dawn yesterday determined to atbreak through the British the and ald Gen. Cronje. A body of the hundred Boers moved toward the stableft and cantered in the direction a kopje with the object of occupying

Unfortunately for the Boers, hower, the kopie was held by a company feet the kopie was held by a company f Scottish borderers, who opened a buy fire. The Boers galloped off, but poved again towards another British position with exactly the same result. They then made a third attempt to weapy another position, but the border.

BRITISH WIN AGAIN.

The third repulse thoroughly disconarted the Boers, who galloped away in panic. Later, perceiving another the Boers moved quickly toward a Janic. This kopje was occupied, but the erers, not to be beaten, raced the hers for the position and won, occu-ging the kopje and driving off the A portion of the latter ultimisy ocupied a kopje flanked partialfor the borderers and facing another A vigorlighted by the Yorkshires. my and accurately, and succeeded in soing the Boer fire. Meanwhile Buffs were ordered to reinforce the whires in case the Boers should be The British attack worked rend to the right of the kopje held him Yorkshires, where the seventh aney being placed at a farm near the mist of the borderers' position. A sprous shelling accompanied by a wish fusilade, completely silenced the bers. A company of Yorkshires were satto clear out the Boers, but the atmpt falled, the Boers opening a heavy in and the British having no cover. EGHTY BOERS SURRENDER. The British then again opened. bary rifle fire which again silenced the hers. The Boers made several atimpts to run but the maxims opened thom effectually and checked The Buffs now worked carefully ild cautiously around and got within Byards of the Boers. Eighty Boers mrendered, but many, it appears, esthat the position is less desperate than has been supposed or that he has been able to dig an absolutely safe place for them.

A dispatch to the Morning Post from Kimberley, dated Friday, says: "G Cronje is reported to have plenty "Gen provisions but to be running short of ammunition. Mr. Rhodes is extremely

hopeful that the war has reached its concluding stage." DELAY IS GAIN.

itary

says:

Spencer Wilkinson, reviewing the mil-ary situation in the Morning Post, ays: "The probabilities are that the Boers have not been able to collect a large force to attack Lord Roberts. Gen. Cronje's surrender may occur at any moment. But the Boer commander knows what he is doing. He is not sac rificing lives for nothing. Every day he can hold out means the delay of a saw many dead. 'A deserter who came into camp to

day in Lord Roberts's advance and the gain of a day for the beslegers of Ladysmith. Therefore, Lord Roberts is acting rightly in tightening his grip in order to hasten the removal of Gen. Cronje's force, and Gen. Buller's steady advance is the best help that can be given Lord Roberts."

The Times publishes the following from Paardeberg, dated Wednesday, February 21st: "Gen. Cronje's forces have good cover from the British artillery fire and have considerable stores of provisions.

A dispatch from Paardeberg, Orange Free State, dated Feb. 23, says: "Gen. Cronje's position is more hopeless than ever. The British are gradually close ing in on all sides. Our guns dominate sloping ascents from the river on the all sides, and by the rush of the Shropshires on Wednesday night up the river bed, the Boers lost 200 yards' space in Last night, Thursday, their cover. there was a terrible rain and thunderstorm. 'Deserters say the British fire has been very deadly and affirm that Gen. Cronje himself is willing to surrender, but is overborne by the young Boers from the Transvaal. "There are women and children with the Boer force. Gen. Roberts proposed to let them pass out of danger, but this as well as the proffer of suggestion. medical aid, has been rejected. "The kopje captured by the British last Wednesday, when fifty prisoners were taken, is a most important strate-gical position. Its possession should enable us to repulse any Boer reinforcements from the eastward." FOURTH DAY'S TERRIFIC BATTLE. A correspondent at Paardeberg, O. F. S., telegraphing on Wednesday last, says: "The fourth day of Gen. Cronje's fine defense opened in startling fashie Soon after dawn a most terrific rattle of rifle fire broke out, wakening the



a couple of reins to the body, which is thus dragged off by two horsemen at full gallop. "There were several pour parleurs today on the subject of a short armistice

It seems that Gen, Cronje is willing to surrender, but that the young Transvaalers refuse. The other beleaguered Boers are anxious to give up. A Brit-ish doctor who visited the Boer lines to see the wounded, found the trenches along the river full of wounded and

night says that yesterday's bombardment was appalling in its effects, espe-cially in the case of the howitzer batteries enfilading the river. The position today is practically the same. The Boers are strengthening their entrenchments around the laager, but the case is hopeless. The capture of the kopje today has given the British a splendid

position, and will prevent a Boer re-lieving force reaching Cronje. "Everybody admires the splendid stand of the burghers, but from a humanitarian point of view, it is con-sidered that further resistance on the part of Gen. Cronje will be criminal. Every shrapnel shell finds a victim, and unless a miracle occurs, his force must be wiped out or captured. The former result is terrible to contemplate. but although it would require a few days, it would be easy to accomplish. "Today Lord Roberts sent Gen. Cronje an offer of a safe conduct for women and children, together with the a free pass to any point for them, and also an offer of doctors and medicine Cronje's reply was a curt rerusal, and desultory shelling was resumed. MUST CRAWL TO EXCHANGE. "Artillery shelling continued during the early part of last night. As soon as the last gun was fired, the Shropshires, who had been occupying the river bed since Sunday, rushed forward, shires, seized an additional 200 yards of near ground and entrenched a fresh position before daybreak. At dawn Gen, Cronje found himself docked that amount of The Shropshires had done exspace. cellent work since Sunday, and they were relieved by the Gordons today. The exchange of positions had fts amusing features, in spite of the danger. The Gordons crawled on their stomachs to the trenches and Shrop-shires crept out of these by actually reaching over the Gordons. "The scene of the last few days" fighting is one of the prettiest spots in South Africa. The river at the point where Gen. Cronje is ensconced and fighting for life resembles some parts of the Hudson river, the ground all around sloping toward the stream. All the highlands are covered by British artillery. Cronje is faced in the front and rear from both banks by the British, while Gen. French's horse, fas away on the banks, prevents a sudden inrush of Boers. "During the artillery firing last evening, the mules of the eighty-second battery, which had remained hitched to the carriages, soddenly stampeded and galloped off en masse, but today the wagons, with one exception, were recovered. "Gen. French has sent in seventyfive prisoners. A British patrol, eight miles to the west, discovered thirty Boers wandering away and corraled Boers wandering away and corrace them. Already this force has captured 460 of the enemy, while many dead Boers have been seen. The Boer pris-oners are all depressed at the present course of the war, and they comment bitterly upon Gen. Cronje's persistence, which they call murder. "Today a German ambulance at-tached to the Boer forces was allowed to traverse the British lines in front of Jacobsdal. Quantities of cattle, sheep and trek oxen have been captured while wandering from the Boer laager.

BULLER IS CLOSE TO LADYSMITH.

But He Will Have to Fight the Two .Miles Intervening.

HEAVY LOSS AT MOLTENO.

British Beaten Back-Great Anxlety at Capetown -Many Boer Prisoners-Detroit's Pro-Boers.

[Early Dispatches.]

London, Feb. 26 .- The Times publishes the following dispatch from Colenso, dated Saturday:

indertook the task notwithstanding it compelled him to face the Dervishes alone. He was the heir of Viscount Frankfort de Montmorency and was the fourth heir to a peerage who has failen in the course of the campaign. The Standard has the following from Capetown, dated Saturday: The Boer force occupying Prieska consists of 120 rebels led by Free Staters. A proclamation has been read annexing the Prieska district to the Free State and all loyal British have been given eight days to quit the place. I am assured by refugees from Prieska that unless troops are speedily sent there the whole northewestern district will rise." The campaign is now approaching a most interesting phase. In about a fortnight the congress of the Afri-kanderbund will meet and it is rumored that Mr. Hofmeyer will then propose peace terms on the basis of the resulting absolute in the republics retaining absolute in-dependence, but offering to disarm. If If these terms are rejected it is understood that a manifesto will be boldly ssued to the Dutch throughout South Africa, calling upon them to throw off their allegiance to Great Britain.

Probably these rumors are exag-gerated, but there is no doubt that the treatest anxiety prevails in Capetown egarding coming events. A Capetown dispatch says: "With-

in the last few days 200 prisoners have arrived here and preparations are being made to receive large numbers. "Fifty officers and men have been dispatched to Walfisch Bay, where it

that in his first battle there that officer

attempted to cross by two drifts in plain view of the enemy, with absolutely no preliminary attempt to reconnoiter, and that apparently Gen. Buller believed he had only a small force to encounter and would have not diffi-

culty in brushing it aside. Failure to make proper reconnois-sance, he gives also as the cause of the disasters sustained by the British at Magersfontein and Stormberg Magersfontein Gen. Wauchope vanced at night with his brigade At adin quater column, to capture a position. No attempt at flanking was made. The men moved forward four deep, stumbling over obstructions, when suddenly a searchlight was turned upon them and they became the target for the enemy's rifles and guns, which deci-

mated their ranks. Official information as to the operations of the British since the pursuit of Gen. Cronje has not been received by the war department, but officers of the service are satisfied the disasters which have overtaken the British have taught them a lesson, which they are applying in their present operations. Captain Slocum is probably with the troops which have surrounded General Cronie, leaving Gen. Buller's operations to be reported upon by officers in whom

he can place confidence. Great regret is expressed by the department that the British declined to four officers to witness the permit

The State South African operations, as desired,

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Safety Deposit Boxes for Rent.

Most of the prisoners had just arwed from Ladysmith. They ained of the bad generalship of their ader. Nearly every man carried ex-posive bullets and five British were wunded with these missiles. I have ounded with these missiles. es the bullets of which one Boer carfed fifts

There is no longer the slightest doubt hat the Boers are gradually discard-ing all rules of civilized warfare. The ter day they poured the contents of a Vickers-Maxim gun into an ambu-inte, which happened, however, to be mpty, some three hundred yards away on the nearest troops.

The war balloon is doing excellent service. Early this morning it arose to a great height and discovered in the bed the river four wagons which conained ammunition. These were explodel by the British shells an hour afterwirds. The balloon observer also disavered a number of horses concealed har by and these also received attenton from the British shrapnel. The Gordons are now incorporated in the highland brigade, making four the highland brigade, making four

litted regiments. The highland light Mantry who are not kilted and are a fac hody of men are going to join Gen. Smith-Dorrien's regiment.

CONSTERNATION IN PRETORIA.

London, Feb. 26, 4:35 a. m.-the ourenzo Marques correspondent of the mes says:

The feeling in official circles at Prethe borders on consternation. Gen. ah urging President Kruger to sue for

"At Bloemfontein Gen, Cronje's posit is regarded as hopeless." Wrhaps never before in Perhaps never the \$78e

of the present campaign such crowds visited the Times remarked today: "The "The with of news is somewhat trying at e when a considerable success serally regarded as imminent." Two spatches from Lord Roberts were Was ade public by the war office yesteray. They follow:

LORD ROBERTS REPORTS.

Paardeberg, Feb. 24, 12:20 p. m.-Parties of Boers recently arrived from Natal attacked our outposts in force resterday. They lost a good many med and wounded, and nearly 100 fine field cornets. Our casualties were Our casualties were bu officers wounded, nine men killed, isenty-five men wounded, two men bising. On the 21st and 22nd one offor and thirteen men were wounded. Six men were wounded yesterday by ow-nosed Mauser bullets. bried cases slit with four slits, making the projectile of the most expanwe and explosive nature possible. A wounded Boer brought to our hospital pesterday had sixty of these bullets in During the advance to and at Kim-

being the casualties were: Officers, two killed, thriteen wounded; men, four killed, wrenty-eight wounded." The of-form casualties had previously been reported Log hoberts has sent the following

additional advices to the war office: "Paardeberg, Saturday, Feb. 24.-Methuen reports that Barkley West

sleeping camp. It was the heaviest fire during the war, and all awaited with foreboding the news of its effect. soon developed that the Gloucesters and Essexs had lost their way and had blvouacked, in error, close to the Boer laager on the north side of the river. As soon as they were perceived by the enemy, the latter fusiladed. Wonderful

the British casualties were to tell, practically none. "There was desultory firing all day long on both the north and south banks, Gen. Knox's brigade holding and pushing forward the line south of the river, while Gen. Smith-Dorrien, on the north side, worked toward laager. Meanwhile Gen. French ad-vanced in a far easterly direction near a kopje held by a strong force of Cronje's men, reinforced by a Lady-

smith contingent. At the same time Gen. Broadwood's brigade, with a bat-tery of horse artillery, took up positions to the left and rear of the same kopie. "The front of the hill was thoroughly searched by artillery fire. Suddenly the Boers bolted from every side, toward Gen. French. who headed toward the drift, shelling vigorously. A great number escaped, but many were killed by shrapnel and about forty were cap-

"As soon as the kopie was evacuated. this correspondent visited it. The position was found to be wonderfully strong naturally, and to form the real key to the position in the case of de-fense against Boer reinforcements advancing from the east.

BAD FOR THE BOERS. "Our first engagement with the Lady-



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AFTER THE BANKERS.

St. Louis Creditors Want Arrest of Men Who Lost Their Money.

St. Louis, Feb. 24 .- On application of a committee representing 500 creditors warrants were issued today for the arrest of the following officers of the defunct Mullanphy Savings bank: J. H. Rottman, president; Louis G. Kammerer, cashier; Henry Kiages, Conrad Kellersman, Charles Schumacher, Jos.

Marks, Casper Gestring and Frederick Bolte, directors. It is alleged in the warrant that the crime of grand larceny was committed by these bank officers in having accepted and sanctioned the reception of de-posits aggregating \$16,214 after they had knowledge of the fact that the bank was in an insolvent condition.

British Steamship Wrecked. London, Feb. 24 .- The British steamship Bath City, Capt. St. John, Feb. 9, from New York for Bristol, struck the

north end of Lundy Isle in the British channel today. She backed off and im-mediately sank in deep water. The master, three officers and ten of the crew reached Lundy Roads in a life boat. The other life boat with the remainder

of the crew is also believed to be safe. Count Boni at Home.

Paris, Feb. 24 .- Count Boni de Castel. lane, who with Countess de Castellane, left New York Feb. 15th on the steamer LaGascogne, appeared in the cham-ber of deputies this afternoon.

The British are now within miles of being in touch with Ladying landed smith, but the ground still to be covered is the hardest part and very severe

fighting must be expected." A dispatch from Colenso, Natal, dated Saturday, says: "The Boers, who had been reinforced, made a stand on Thursday at Groebler's Kloof, and on a range of hills running east. They had been forced from all their positions on the right. Gen. Lyttleton's division on Thursday advanced under cover of the kopjes. The Boers fired a Creusot and a 'Long Tom.' The British artillery was well sheltered in action at daybreak and until late in the afternoon, when a heavy rifle fire on both sides developed.

"The British infantry had advanced a mile and a half, and a continuous a mile and a nan, that after dark. The fire was kept up until after dark. The Baars stuck to their position. The Boers stuck to their position. The British artillery fire was irregular. A saivos were sent toward the thickly wooded spots and ravines from which the Boer fire was heaviest. The Boers sent shells into the headquarters baggage, close to the hospital, but no material damage was done. Wynne was slightly wounded. Gen.

BOER POSITION IS WEAK.

"The Boer positions are not consid-Groebler's Kloof. The hills eastward are not so high and carnot be in-trenched so well as the mountains which the British have taken.

"The Somersels were the first across the pontoons on Wednesday, They were subjected to a heavy fire for five hours in an isolated position. It was the first time they had been under fire, and they behaved excellently.

"Early on Friday a severe rifle fire was resumed on the right and front. from the positions held over night, by both sides. The British naval guns howitzers, mountain and field batteries shelled the Boer trenches incessantly The Boers replied with two heavy guns, some of their shells bursting ove th hospital. As a result the British wounded were removed.

"During the afternoon the fifth bri-gade, the Inniskillens and Dublins eading, began to advance up the hills. In spite of the constant shelling the Boers stood up in their trenches aim ing deliberately down the hills, Th infantry advance was further covered by parties on the right and left firing volleys. It was slow, the British taking advantage of every bit of natural cover. The Boers on the crests of the hills, as well as from the trenches part of the way down, poured lead along the advancing line. At dark the British infantry had reached within a fev hundred yards of the first line of Boer trenches.

"Everything goes to show that Gen Buller's advance is most stubbornly contested, and most cautiously carried It is hoped that he will soon be out. in a position where Gen. White will be able to assist him materially."

BRITISH LOSE HEAVILY.

Advices from Sterkstroem, Sunday, says: "A reconnoissance yesterday in force under Gen. Gatacre, with eight found the Boers occupying guns, ridge three miles by ond Molteno, in the Stormberg direction. "Montmorency's scouts charged the

Boers, who crept round the scouts' flank, pouring in a deadly fire. The scouts were finally compelled to retire, having lost heavily. Fourteen are missing. Captain Montmorency was killed.

"The reconnoissance was valuable, and would have been most satisfactory had it not been for the unfortunate disaster to the scouts. Their loss was four killed and many wounded and

missing." Capt. Montmorency was a noted man in the British army and a wearer of the Victoria cross. He was the son of Maj.-Gen. Viscount Frankfort and be-longed to the twenty-third lancers. He gained the Victoria cross at Omdurman where he served under Gen. Kitchener, Lieut, Grenfell had been killed and the British earnesily de-sired to recover the body., At great personal risk Capt. Montmorency prevent a lynching.

is reported that Boer munitions are be-

"It is said that about 50 per cent of the first five squadrons of Brabant's horse have taken their discharges, having completed their engagement for three months. Various reasons are given.

BOERS IN DETROIT.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 25 .- Michigan leaders of the pro-Boer movement are arranging to call a conference in De troit of those active in the cause in the various States for the purpose of consolidating the movement in the hope that such united effort may be influential in preparing the way for mediation and arbitration of the Brit-ish-Boer differences.

The originator of this movement, Sybant Wesselius of Grand Rapids, was one of the speakers at a mass meeting held this afternoon, at which 3,500 people cheered the pro-Boer sentiments expressed. The following resolutions were adopted:

'Resolved, That we hereby extend deep and heartfelt sympathy to the in-habitants of the South African Repuband Orange Free State in their brave struggle to maintain the rights of man, to preserve and protect their homes and property and the guaranteed and God-given right of self-govern-

"Resolved, That while we recognize the wisdom of the time-honored policy of the United States against alliances with foreign nations or intervening in their affairs, we respectfully request the President, in accordance with precedent and the behest of a common humanity to offer the friendly me-diation of this Republic to both the combatants to the end that the bloody hostilities may cease and the integrity of the republics preserved, that liberty may not perish and that real civilization and humanity may thereby be promoted."

BAD FINANCES OF VENEZUELA.

Fees of Ex-President Harrison in Arbitration Case Not Yet Paid.

New York, Feb. 26 .- Reports received

at the state department at Washington, indicate that Venezuela is financially not in a very satisfactory condition. The government, while seemingly well established, though a revolutionary par-

ty is still endeavoring to overthrow it, does not deem it expedient to raise revenue through excessive taxation, and its treasury is consequently not very flourishing. Besides, the country has been pretty severely shaken by the revolution through which it has just passed, and apprehension is felt that the counter revolution will gather strength and thus further delay a revival of business. Officials of the administration have

not yet been advised that Venezuela has paid the expenses of its representation on and before the Venezuelan ar-bitration tribunal, which rendered its award some months ago. It is known that former President Harrison, who It is known was leading counsel for Venezuela, received a part of his fee before he went to Paris, but the authorities have not en advised that he received the re-ainder. If the claim is not paid, no mainder. doubt is expressed by the officials that Venezuela will regard the debt as one which should be promptly met, and will, as soon as its finances improve, take measures to settle it.

Killed at a Dance.

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 25 .- Near Pound Gap a free fight in which one person was killed and several injured occurred during a dance at the home of Bill Mullins, a moonshiner. Pistols and knives were used. John Newberry was shot and died within two hours. Ed Newberry, his brother, was fatally wounded, and Lucella, the eighteen-year-old daughter of Mullins, was stabbed three times with a dirk and cannot recover. Mrs. Mullins was se-verely bruised, and a man named Keller was shot in the knee. Mullins has been taken to the jail at Clintwood, where he is under a heavy guard to

for it would then be possible to distribute them among the operating forces. Captain Carl Reichmann, Seven. teenth infantry, is now on his way to Pretoria, and will join the Boer troops as the representative of the American army.

SALMON PACKERS' COMBINE.

Purpose is to Control Prices and Reduce Expenses.

San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 26.-The Chronicle says that the principals of a new salmon phckers' combine on Puget Sound have held several meetings in this city and arrangements have practically been completed to launch the project next April. George T. Myers, the biggest packer in the Sound country and president of the Puget Sound Salmon Packers' association; Harwood B. Morgan, B. A. Seaborg, another heavy packer, and several othe cannery men from the Sound are said to have been in conference. Mr. Myers has admitted that the new combine had succeeded last year in combining the canners on the Columbia River so as to control the price of canned salmon. "The object of the combine," said Mr. Myers, "is to control the price of the Puget Sound pack, as well as to reduce the running expenses of our canneries. When Mr. McGovern went to New York a few days ago he carried with him op-tions on Seaborg's cannery at Fair Haven, the Aancortes Packing company's and Rosarie Packing company's plants at Anacortes and that of Geo. T. Myers & Co., at Seattle. The prices range all the way from \$60,000 to \$320,000 and the four are the biggest couverns on the Sound. Four other packers have agreed to enter the combine when all is ready, so that the thing is practically done. The Puget Sound pack amounts to

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