

CRONJE'S COURAGE IS MAGNIFICENT

Britons Praise His Determined Fight—Rumors of British Success—Boer Reports of Fighting—Buller's Progress.

[Early Dispatches.] London, Feb. 24, 4:15 a. m.—Mr. Buller announced in the house of commons at half-past 12 this morning that...

MAGNIFICENT COURAGE. Englishmen feel something like pride in Cronje's "even as a foe," says the Daily News. "In a position covering a square mile, hemmed in on all sides, circled with a chain of fire from Maxim and howitzer, played on by deadly light, his hastily-bullied...

BOERS ARE IN DOUBT. The Lourenco Marques correspondent of the Daily News telegraphing Tuesday that the Boers are in a state of doubt and anxiety regarding events in the Free State. We hear that the telegraph wires between Gen. Cronje and Bloemfontein have been severed...

RUMORS OF SUCCESS. Durban, Feb. 23.—Evening.—The rumor gains credence that Ladysmith has been relieved. It is also reported that Gen. Cronje has surrendered 5,000 men, and that Gen. Kitchener has been slightly wounded in the left arm.

A TRAGEDY OF 1888. It is Recalled by the Death of Millionaire Snell's Widow. Chicago, Feb. 24.—Mrs. Henrietta Snell, widow of Amos J. Snell, the millionaire whose murder has been a mystery for twelve years, died early today. She was stricken three days ago with heart disease.

SAVE A 100-POUNDER. The Daily Chronicle has the following dispatch from Kimberley, dated February 23: "Cavalry patrols that went north to capture the Boer 100-pounder..."

BOERS REPORT FIGHTING. The following official war bulletin was issued at Pretoria on Wednesday: "A report was received this morning of a fight between the Boers and the British near the west of Colesberg. At Petrusburg a gunnery firing commenced at 11 a. m. The Boers were expected today. Several telegrams yesterday from the frontiers that all was quiet except several cannon shots and small skirmishes. Yesterday evening the British stormed the federal positions as far as the river, but were driven back."

WHAT BULLER IS DOING. A dispatch from Chieveley dated Thursday, February 22nd, to the Daily Chronicle says: "At dawn on Tuesday we found that the Boers had vacated all their positions south of the Tugela and were in positions among the high hills midway between Ladysmith and the river and making a determined stand. Two creuset guns were in action. All the British and naval guns and all other heavy guns were brought to bear upon the new positions. We believe that this show of Boer strength was only intended to cover a retreat. Yesterday (Wednesday) the Boers were retiring all day. Gen. Buller continued to harass them, compelling them to give way."

ON SUNDAY there was a heavy fight. The British prepared to lay siege to the Boer laager with fighting generals. We were surrounded by 2,500 British, five miles from the chief laager. At night we cut our way through with the loss of seven dead and sixteen wounded. The loss to the British was heavy. Yesterday we cut our way through to reach Dewet, who was in the neighborhood. Fifty-three prisoners formerly taken have been forwarded. "It is reported that the British were continually attacking Koodoosrand yesterday with infantry and lancers, but that they were driven back. "Lord Methuen arrived at Kimberley yesterday. He will act as administrator of the Kimberley district, extending southward to Orange river. Col. Kekewich will remain in command of the local forces. The issue of siege soup has been decided. There are sixty-four Boer prisoners there."

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FIGHTING AN UNSEEN FOE



English troops crossing a new ford on the Tugela, and presenting at the same time a magnificent target for Boer marksmen, who concealed behind rocks and shrubbery picked off the men at ease until they are thoroughly demoralized. It is this sort of warfare that has checked Sir Redvers Buller at each of his attempts to raise the siege at Ladysmith.

SPAIN CANNOT HAVE THEM

Islands of the Philippine Group Will Not be Returned. Gen. Shafter Coming West. Chicago, Feb. 24.—Major General Wm. R. Shafter left late last night for San Francisco. He spent the entire day up to train time in his room at the auditorium suffering from a heavy cold. He had intended to visit his brother in Sycamore, Ill., but when Dr. Raymon, army surgeon for the department of the lakes, advised him against venturing out he telegraphed his brother to come to Chicago. It was rumored at first that the general was suffering from an attack of pneumonia. When seen last night shortly before his departure he said: "This is only a cold which I contracted in sleeping on my way to Chicago. I was suffering from a pain in my left side, but I feel much better now. With the exception of causing me to abandon the trip to Sycamore, my indisposition did not interfere with any of my plans, as I intended not to leave for San Francisco until tonight."

NAVY DEPARTMENT PRODUCES EVIDENCE THAT ELIXA SIBITU AND CAGAYAN BELONGING TO THE UNITED STATES.

Chicago, Feb. 24.—A special to the Record from Washington says: The American flag will not come down on Sibitu island or on Cagayan island. Spain has been demanding that these islands be returned to it. The department was ready to make the return and so was the state department up to today. The navy department was, however, unwilling to surrender anything it had taken, and has made its title good to the islands. The state department will inform Spain that the islands are the property of the United States and will hold them. Sibitu is east of Borneo and Cagayan is west of Mindoro about 200 miles. Sibitu is situated to the United States by the discovery today of an old treaty between Spain, Great Britain and Germany, which specifically says that Borneo's holding shall not extend farther than three miles from the coast of Borneo. Sibitu is on the opposite side of the channel separating Borneo from the Sulu archipelago. As to Cagayan island, the records show that it was at one time used as a penal colony by Spain and the latter is therefore stopped from denying that.

MURDER OVER A SQUAW.

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 24.—The steamer Humboldt arriving from Skagway last night brings news of the murder of William Blair by Charles E. Hill, on Pelly river February 1. The men were partners and quarreled over a squaw. Both are from this state. Hill gave himself up to the mounted police.

BULLER FAILS TO DRIVE BACK THE BOERS.



British artillery preparing to retreat in the face of the enemy after the second attempt to force the Boers from the Tugela had fallen through. The horses, which have been kept in comparative safety, have just been brought under the galling fire of the Dutch sharpshooters. Throughout the South African war the English gunners have been compelled to expose themselves constantly when in action and their efficiency has suffered in consequence of their heavy losses.

BIG GAME OF THE PRESENT WAR.

England's Increased Expenditure—Cronje's Artillery Escapes—His Last Chance—Size of His Army.

[Early Dispatches.] London, Feb. 24.—The naval estimates for 1900-1901 total £27,522,600, an increase of £28,100, providing for an increase of 220 officers and 4,000 men for new ships. It is proposed to build two new battleships, six first-class cruisers, a second-class cruiser, two twin-screw sloops, two gunboats and two torpedo boats. Negotiations are in progress for the formation of a naval reserve in Canada, the difficulty created by the requirement of six months' training on a man-of-war being one of the conditions of service in the United Kingdom, which, it is thought, will be overcome.

There will be under construction in 1900 seventeen battleships, twenty armored cruisers, a third-class cruiser, eight sloops, two gunboats, four torpedo boats and twenty-one torpedo-boat destroyers.

CRONJE'S SPLENDID FIGHT. New York, Feb. 24.—According to advices from London to the New York papers there are rumors abroad that Ladysmith and Mafeking have been relieved and it is again reported that Cronje has surrendered. The war office, however, has not confirmed any of these stories. There is much excitement in the streets about the war office and the newspaper offices and the rumors of British victories are received with more credence than heretofore. The splendid fight of Cronje has excited warm admiration in London, but the belief is general that his struggle is hopeless. It is believed in London by many war experts that Cronje is playing a desperate game of shrewd Boer tactics. So far no report contains any mention of the capture of Boer big guns.

CRONJE'S SPLITTING FIGHT. It is said that Cronje started all the guns from their places, with orders to get them across the Vaal as soon as he learned that Lord Roberts was in command at Modder river with reinforcements, and moved himself, with all the mounted Boers, as soon as he heard of General French's movement in his rear. Observers in London think he went as far as he could, then picked a position and determined to sit tight, until assured that their artillery had escaped.

ONLY A REAR GUARD. The reinforcements Lord Roberts reports having scattered so easily are said to have been the Boer rear guard and artillery train, which was covering the movement to the north and east. There are no reports of any artillery fire in response to the British attack at Koodoosrand. Cronje's plan appears to be to hold all the British possible about his camp till certain his artillery's retreat is assured. The proposed armistice would have gained twenty-four hours for the retreat of the guns, while the agreement would only have covered the fighting force engaged at that point. Boer sympathizers think Cronje will hold fast until the last moment, and that then the order will be given "every man for himself," with instructions to rally at a point north where the artillery will be safe in a new position. It is insisted that this plan was followed about Ladysmith, the guns being slowly and safely removed to defend the Transvaal passes, while a mobile force was left in the trenches to prevent sudden attack by the British.

BUYING TORPEDOES.

U. S. Navy Places a Contract for \$120,000 Worth. New York, Feb. 24.—Rear Admiral O'Neil, chief of the ordnance bureau, has placed a contract with E. W. Bliss & Co., of Brooklyn, for thirty whitehead torpedoes, for which the government will pay \$126,000. These torpedoes are needed for the battleships of the Maine class, which have been equipped with underwater discharge torpedoes. The torpedoes which Bliss & Co. will supply to the government will embody the most advanced features and, it is expected, will have a range much greater than that of the torpedoes of the Maine class. Each battleship of the Maine class has two torpedo tubes so that the contract just placed will enable the issue of five torpedoes to each vessel. It is proposed by the department to equip the battleships of the New Jersey class and the armored cruisers of the Georgia class with underwater discharge torpedo tubes. Sixty torpedoes will be required for those vessels and will be contracted for after the construction of the ships is begun.

BUSINESS IN HAVANA.

Falling Off This Year, Compared With Last—Crops Fair. New York, Feb. 24.—Dun's Review publishes a special dispatch from Havana giving the current business situation there. The dispatch says: Business for 1900 is much smaller than for the same period last season, the principal cause probably being the lack of confidence, not only abroad but also at home, where extreme conservatism prevails and a disposition to hoard is noted. Considerable money was put into circulation the first half of 1899 by the purchase of local railroad and other securities by foreign syndicates, whereas no financial deals of consequence have been consummated in Cuba for some months past. Considerable complaints are heard against the Foraker amendment, which prohibits the granting of new franchises for new enterprises. At the time of the Spanish evacuation merchandise stocks were very much depleted, necessitating heavy purchases abroad to supply demands here and in the interior. The expected revival of business has not been realized, and both jobbers and retailers find themselves with very heavy stocks, far in excess of their needs. Tobacco and lumber are the only lines reporting any activity. In the latter branch prices are firm with good demand. Provisions and hardware show a little more life than dry goods and shoes. Some improvement is expected when the winter and tobacco crops begin to move actively next month. The acreage in sugar is considerably larger than last season, but the crop has been greatly affected by drought, owing to which November crop estimates of 440,000 tons have by exports been reduced to about 375,000. The crop of 1898-99 was 525,000 tons, and that of 1891, the largest in the history of the island, 1,054,000 tons. The tobacco crop has had an exceptionally favorable season, and gives promise of being one of the largest Cuba has ever produced, the quality being better than for years past. Expert estimates place the crop at 250,000 bales of which 100,000 are from the Vuelta Abajo district. Money is easy at six per cent with little demand.

MR. H. WATERHOUSE DEAD.

New York, Feb. 24.—Henry Waterhouse, Jr., a merchant and planter of Honolulu, died of pneumonia last night at the Fifth avenue hotel. Mr. Waterhouse and his wife were enroute to Europe on their wedding tour. They arrived here during the snow and rainstorm of last week and Mr. Waterhouse caught a cold which developed into pneumonia.

CRONJE'S SITUATION.

New York, Feb. 24.—Philip L. Wesels, a prominent merchant of Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, has returned to this city. He is a brother of C. H. Wesels, chairman of the war council of the Orange Free State. Two of his brothers are members of the Volksraad. In an interview last night Mr. Wesels explained the objective point in Cronje's retreat and why he avoided fighting as he fell back. Commandant Cronje was in camp near Magersfontein and Mr. Wesels yesterday, when Gen. French started to relieve Kimberley, I believe the Boers fell back because they feared they would be surrounded. They were menaced by an army of 55,000 men and sixty pieces of the finest modern artillery. HAD ONLY 10,000 MEN. "At no time did Cronje have more than 15,000 men. With this number he checked the British at Belmont, Gras Pan, and beat 25,000 of them at Modder River and Magersfontein. The English had forty pieces of artillery. Cronje had ten guns and of these only seven were modern. "Cronje's supplies were running low. He knew that reinforcements could not reach him where he was, and he must effect a junction with other Boer forces. So he did not oppose French, but started to retreat. I think that he wished to join forces with Commandant Grobler, who is at Ficksburg. As nearly as I can determine, he was cut off by the British force which Lord Roberts rushed down from Jacobdal to Paardeberg. "In his retreat Cronje was compelled to march across a country comparatively open. There are few kopjes, but the topographical conditions are not favorable to Boer warfare. BOER OBJECTIVE POINT. "When Cronje was cut off by the British he started eastward along the Modder river. I think that then Koodoosrand was his objective point. "As nearly as I can determine from the dispatches Cronje is now a few miles west of the Koodoosrand. His position is not a very good one. It is possible that he has reached the Koodoosrand, and if this is true he is in no danger from the British army. "It may be that Cronje is surrounded and may be forced to surrender. But it will be a fight to the death. We do not fight hand to hand battles. We only shoot, shoot, shoot. But so long as Cronje can shoot he will. "If he should be forced to surrender it will be a calamity, but it will not end the war. We will never stop fighting until Pretoria is taken and then we will never be subdued, although we may be subjugated."

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