THE DESERET EVENING NEWS. 91016

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1900, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

FIGHTING AN UNSEEN FOR

NUMBER 83

FIFTIETH YEAR **CRONJE'S COURACE IS MAGNIFICENT**

Britons Praise His Determined Fight-Ru= mors of British Success-Boer Reports of Fighting-Buller's Progress.

[Early Dispatches.]

Lendon, Feb. 24, 4:15 a. m .- Mr. Balhur announced in the house of compens at half-past 12 this morning that to farther news regarding Gen. Cronje ad been received by the government, He had sent to the war office during he hour, and he asserted that nothing

ad come to hand there. Gen. Cronje, therefore, is presumably sil unbeaten. No other construction is placed upon the three days' silence d Lord Roberts. Yet no one sees how is humanly possible, judging from the descriptions of his situation wednesday morning, for him to resist to long. Great Britain does not with-bid admiration for the valor of a losing this signifies such odds. had come to hand there.

MAGNIFICENT COURAGE.

Englishmen feel something like pride "Englishmen feel something like pride "Englishmen feel something like pride a Craje even as a foe," says the paly News. "In a position covering aly a square mile, hemmed in on all olds, circled with a chain of fire from rise. Maxim and howitzer, played on by deadly lyddite, bursting in its own of deadly lyddite, bursting in its own is a magnificent courage." Gen. Cronje's wife is described by the priorers as urging him to surrender in order to save the lives of his men, but be would not.

rifer to save the lives of his men, but be would not. Mr. Spencer Wilkinson in the Morn-ing Post says: "From Boer dispatches remust infer that Gen. Dewet has rathered a considerable force of scat-tered Boers at Petrusburg, about fifteen miles southeast of Koodoosrand, with a tiew of relieving Gen. Cronje. "It is probable that a battle is also rading in Natal. Any way there is no real for alarm. It is quite possible that after the fight Lord Roberts may be engaged in pursuing the Boers, which would take him away from the thisgraph line.

telegraph line. Possibly a big fight is proceeding. Lord Roberts may be fighting from 1000 to 15,000 Boers. This would ac-nont for the long silence, as all ex-

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 Tugeia and were in positions among the high hills midway between Ladysmith and the river and making a determined stand. Two creusot guns were in

action. "All the British and naval guns and all other heavy guns were brought to bear upon the new positions. We be-lleve that this show of Boer strength was only intended to cover a retreat. Yesterday (Wednesday) the Boers were retring all day. Gen. Buller continued to harass them, compelling them to give way."

way." Ladysmith had not been relieved when the latest news left Natal two days ago. The Boers had then retired half way between Ladysmith and Col-enso. If only 6,000 went to the Free State, as both the Boer and the British accounts assert, the 12,000 who are left may purpose to maintain the siege and to resist Gen. Buller within contracted lines, although the impression at Gen. Buller's headquarters is that the Boers are merely covering a retreat.

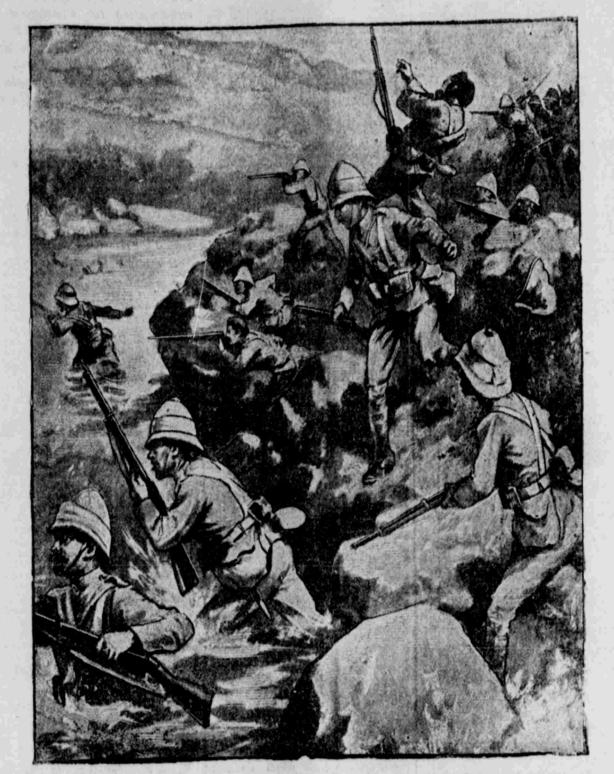
Buller's headquarters is that the boots are merely covering a retreat. A dispatch to the Dally Telegraph from Pletermaritzburg, dated Thurs-day, says: "Fighting is proceeding in the vicinity of Pleters this morning. Gen. Buller's advance is being opposed by both big guns and rifle fire."

WATCHING FOR RELIEF.

WATCHING FOR RELIEF. The Daily Chronicle has the follow-ing dispatch from Ladysmith, dated Saturday, February 17th: "All day men gather on the convent hill and try to see Gen. Builer's shells burst-ing in the distance. The slege has been inexpressibly tedious for the last fort-night. Boer camps have entirely dis-appeared from the old positions within the last few days and large parties with wagons are trekking westward. It is assumed that the Free Staters are going to resist the advance of Lord Roberts.

Roberts. "We estimate that about 6.000 have gone. Near the foot of Bulwana the Boers have been constructing a work

Boers have been constructing a work near the river, possibly a dam. We can see a figure like an old lady in a red petiticoat directing operations." The Daily Telegraph has the follow-ing dispatch from Chieveley, dated Wednesday, February 21st: "It is re-ported that Gen. White sortied from Ladysmith vasterday, and contined a ported that Gen. White sortied from Ladysmith yesterday and captured a number of Boer wagons. There is heavy firing in the direction of Lady-smith, either on the part of Sir George White or of the Boers."



English troops crossing a new ford on the Tugela, and presenting at the same time a magnimeent 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.

thes, fired through the folding parlor SPAIN CANNOT HAVE THEM it was used as a part of the Philippine ors. The men threw open the doors

BIC CAME 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 £928,100, providing for an increase of 220 officers and 4,020 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 afloat that Ladysmith and Mafeking have been relieved and it is again reported that Cronje has surrendered.

The war office, however, has not con-firmed any of these stories. There is much excitement in the streets about the war office and the newspaper offi-ces and the rumors of British victories are received with more credence than heretofore.

The splendid fight of Cronje has ex-cited 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 men-tion of the capture of Boer big guns. Of all the artillery about Magersfontein and Kimberley, only one disabled 12-pounder was found when the British occupied the ground.

GOT HIS ARTILLERY AWAY.

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 rein-Chicago, Feb. 24 .- Major General Wm. forcements, and moved himself, with all the mounted Boers, as soon as he R. Shafter left late last night for San Francisco. He spent the entire day up learned of General French's movement in his rear. Observers in London think he went as far as he could, then picked a po-sition and determined to sit tight, until assured that their artillery had escaped. ONLY A REAR GUARD.

explained the objective point in Cronje's retreat and why he avoided fighting as he fell back. Commandant Cronje was in camp

near Magersfontein," said Mr. Wessels yesterday, "when Gen. French started to relieve Kimberley, I believe the Boers fell back because they feared they would be surrounded. They were men-aced 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 10,000 men. With this number he checked the British at Belmout, 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 start-ed to retreat. I think that he wished to join forces with Commandant Grobler, who is at Fauresmith. As nearly as I can determine, he was cut off by the British force which Lord Roberts rushed down from Jacobsdai to Paar-Jachese desberg.

"In this retreat Cronje was compelled to march across a country compara-tively open. There are a few kopies, 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 Koo-

Modder river, I think that then Koo-doorsrand 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 Koo-doosrand, 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 fight he will. "If he should be forced to surrender

"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 we will never be subdued, although we may be subjugated."

whence has proved that the battles supy some days. The Boers are exarts at digging cover and Cronje, in siesperation, may have risked a sor-is the night."

BOERS ARE IN DOUBT.

The Lourenzo Marques correspondent d'ue Daily News; telegraphing Tuea-ia; says: "We are in a state of doubt al anxiety regarding events in the Pre State. We hear that the tele-meb wires between Gan. Cronie and gaph wires between Gen. Cronje and Somfontein have been severed and the news from the front is conflicting. "It is a symptom of the present trend d wants that storekeepers in the Free State have wired here, stopping the for-varding of goods. I learn that the Transvaal government has £5,000,000 in bellen at Pretoria and is coining 35,000 evereigns a month." The Daily Telegraph's correspondent

Kimberley, in a dispatch dated ursday, says: "I have had a chat Thursday, says: vith Mr. Cecil Rhodes, who declares that not half enough has been made d the splendid gallantry of the mountel troops, mostly local men, in the nu-merous engagements fought during the investment. Many of the men, he tells me, had never used the bayonet before and did not know how to fix one Yet, in storming the Boer redoubts on November 25th and 28th, they rallantly charged up the ridges, hold-ing the rifie in one hand and the bayohet in the other."

SAVE A 100-POUNDER.

The Daily Chronicle has the following dispatch from Kimberley, dated Feb-mary fist: "Cavalry patrols that went forth to capture the Boer 100-pounder report that the weapon has been taken through Riverton station, drawn by thirty-two oxen. The British cavalry by that they saw Boer parties, but they did not go beyond Riverton for fear of being cut off. They learned, however, that the Transvaalers were teing concentrated on the border to the

"A party of Boers fired into the British camp. ish camp. Fifty thousand pounds of ammunition was captured at Magers-

Ceell Rhodes will leave for England shortly.

W. E. Chapman, with thirty men, bed out for weeks against the Boers at Ottokopje mine, until relieved from Kimberley.

BOERS REPORT FIGHTING.

The following official war bulletin vat issued at Pretoria on Wednesday: A report was received this morning of cannon fire west of Colesberg. At Petrusburg cannon firing commenced "A big fight was expected today.

evel telegraphed yesterday from everal cannon shots and small skir-zishes. Yesterday evening the British formed the federal positions as far as chauser, but were driven back.

"A message from Cronje is to the fact that his loss yesterday was four-in dead and wounded. Dewet's loss

Commander Fronoman reports that tom February 15th to February 20th he was almost surrounded by the Brit-ah at the Modder river, when with a small number of men he broke through

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 alles 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. Yes-ieday terday we cut our way through to teach Dewel, who was in the neighborto aken have been forwarded.

It is reported that the British were timially attacking Koodoosrand yestiday with infantry and lancers, but

hat they were driven back." Lord Methuen arrived at Kimberley tor of Methuen arrived at Kultuberta-tor of Kimberley district, extending southward to Orange river. Col. Keke-with will wich will remain in command of the local forces. The issue of siege soup ceased Thursday. There are sixty-four Bor prisoners there are sixty-four Boer prisoners there.

WHAT BULLER IS DOING.

A dispatch from Chleveley dated

RUMORS OF SUCCESS.

Durban, Feb. 23 .- Evening .- The ru-mor gains credence that Ladysmith has been relieved.

It is also reported that Gen. Cronje has surrendered \$,000 men, and that Gen. Kitchener has been slightly wounded in the left arm.

Seventeen hundred Boers have been killed or wounded, the latter, it is reported, including Gen. Cronje. Crowds throng the streets, singing and ported, cheering because of supposed victories.

A TRAGEDY OF 1888.

It is Recalled by the Death of Mil-Honaire 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. Mrs. Snell was nearly 70 years of age and had lived since her husband's trag-ic death in the house in which he was murdered.

The killing of Mr. Snell took place on the night of Feb. 8, 1888. Two bullets of different caliber were fired into his body. Amos J. Snell's wealth was his body. Amos J. Snell's wealth was principally in real estate. The base-ment front room of his residence was his office. The night he was slain the safe in the basement had been opened and the papers scattered about. The robbers ascended to the parlor and broke open a desk. Snell heard them and going down stairs in his night

doors. and shot him as he stood in the hallway.

A reward of \$50,000 was offered for the arrest of the murderers. Suspicion turned upon William B. Tascott, a young man of the vicinity. He was followed to Milwaukee,but the trail was lost, to be taken up at Minneapolis two days later, and there he disappeared. During the next five years no less than 2,000 suspects were arrested, and almost every country on the globe contributed its prisoner, supposed to be Tascott, but

the real Tascott was never found. Gen. McNulta's Funeral Train.

Chicago, Feb 24.-The remains of Gen. John McNulta, which left Washington yesterday in charge of Comptroller

Chas. G. Dawes, arrived in Chlcago this morning. The funeral train was met at the Grand Crossing station by an es-cort from U. S. Grant Post G. A. R., of which the deceased was a member and the naval veteran reserve association. A committee of personal friends also met the remains, which were immedi-ately conveyed to the family residence, 5112 East End Avenue. Public funeral services will be held

at the First Regiment armory Tuesday morning and the burial will take place in Bloomington, Ills., Gen. McNulta's former home. After the public funeral services the remains will be taken to Bloomington, where services will be held at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, where the body will be laid to rest in the fam-

ily lot. On Monday the body will lie in state in the Fort armory from 10 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon. At a meeting of intimate friends of

the deceased held in Judge Grosscup's office a committee was appointed to ar-range suitable escorts from the various organizations with which Gen. McNulta was identified.

Islands of the Philippine Group Will Not be Returned.

Navy Department Produces Evidence that Fixes Sibitu and Cayagan as 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 war 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 was saved to the United States by the discovery today of an old treaty between Spain, Great Britain and Ger-many, 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 is therefore stopped from denying that | up to the mounted police,

to train time in his room at the auditorium suffering from a heavy cold. He had intended to visit his brother in Sycamore, Ills., 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 con-

Gen. Shafter Coming West.

tracted in sleeping on my way to Chica-go. I was suffering from a pain in my go, I was suffering from a better now, left side, but I feel much better now. With the exception of causing me to With the exception of causing indisabandon 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."

Cattle for Cuba.

Chicago, Feb. 24 .- A special to the Record from Chihuahua, Mexico, says: American cattle buyers have contracted for 30,000 head of beef cattle in this State for shipment to Cuba. They are to be shipped in lots of 1,000 head a week, the first shipment having been made.

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 part-ners and quarreled over a squaw. Both are from this State. Hill gave himself

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.

ports 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 instruc-tions to rally at a point north where the artillery wil be safe in a new posi-

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.

BOERS' LAST CHANCE.

All the military writers agree that Cronje's only chance lies in a power-ful diversion in his favor by Dutch reinforcements drawn from Natal, Colesberg and Stormberg. Three Brit-ian brigades were in action on Sunday and Monday, with another of French's

cavalry in reserve. If twenty thousand burghers from Natal and ten thousand more from the southern frontier could be suddenly concentrated against Cronje's besiegers, his deliverance might be effected, or, at least the issue of the tragic struggle at Koodoosrand would be left in doubt. Gen. Roberts would have two brigades of the seventh division available as a reserve against this concentration, and possibly another from the first division, although he has a line of communica-tion to be guarded for twenty-five or thirty miles from Modder river station. From 35,000 to 40,000 men could be massed by Lord Roberts in an emergency about Koodoosrand. There is no evidence yet that Dutch concentra-tion has taken place in that quarter

Pretoria reports stated that 6,000 Boers have gone from Natal into the Free State. This estimate may not be included in the Free State forces re-tiring westward by Harrismith and Bethlehem.

DUTCH RETIRE FROM COLESBERG.

The Dutch forces have disappeared from the Colesberg and Stormberg dis-tricts where the British columns, thin as they are, can now advance cautious-ly toward the Orange river. But the strength of the reinforcements available for Cronje's assistance from that quarter is conjectural. Well informed men in close touch with the war office agree that the best thing that can happen for the British side is the concentration of the entire Dutch army at Koodoosrand, since that policy will enable Gen. Rob-erts to deliver a crushing blow with his own forces heavily massed a short dis-tance from their rallway base. Otherwise, they say, Cronje's surrender will be followed by a tedious campaign through the enemy's country with long lines of communication to be maintained.

CRONJE'S SITUATION.

New York, Feb. 24 .- Philip L. Wessels, a prominent merchant of Bloem-fontein, Orange Free State, has arrived in this city. He is a brother of C. H. Wessels, 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. Wessels pneumonia.

BUYING TORPEDOES.

U. S. Navy Places a Contract for \$126,000 Worth.

New York, Feb. 24.-Rear Admiral O'Niel, 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. The reinforcements Lord Roberts re-

These torpedoes are needed for the battleships of the Maine class, which have been equipped with underwater discharge torpedo tubes. The torpedoes which Bilss & Co, will supply to the government will embody the most ad-vanced features and, it is expected, will have been which Bilss the top that

have a range much greater than that of the torpedoes now in service. 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 situa-

tion 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 complaint is heard against the Foraker amendment, which prohibits the granting of new franchises for new enter-

prises At the time of the Spanish evacuation merchandise stocks were very much depurchases pleted, necessitating heavy abroad to supply demands here and in the interior. The expected revival of business has not been realized, and both jobbers and retailers find thomselves 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 sugar 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 \$75,000. The crop of 1838-99 was \$25,000 tons, and that of 1894, the largest in the history of the island, 1,-054,000 tons.

The tobacco crop has had an ex-ceptionally favorable season, and gives promise of being one of the largest Cu-ba has ever produced, the quality be-ing better than for years past. Expert Expert estimates place the crop at 220,000 bales of which 100,000 are from the Vuelta Abajo district. Money is easy at six per cent with but 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 rain-storm of last week and Mr. Waterhouse

on a large scale.

penal colony by Spain and the latter

