

BOERS WILL NOT, AND THEY WILL

Rumors That They Refuse to Fight
Longer are Contradicted.

REFUSE OF THE BRITISH.

Boers Claim to Have Taken Three
Cannon Before Lord Roberts
Retire Kruger Cheers Burghers.

[Early Dispatches.]

Poplar Grove, Thursday, March 8.—President Kruger, who at present is in the rear, yesterday tried to stop the retreating Boers, who refused to fight.

The Bloemfontein police tried to stop the retreat of the Free Staters, but they declared that they were not willing to fight any longer, and they blamed President Kruger.

REPULSED THE BRITISH.

Pretoria, Tuesday, March 6 (via Lourenço Marques, March 8).—It is officially stated here that on Sunday last there was heavy fighting at Dorobach; that the British were repulsed with great loss and that the federals captured three cannon.

Gosholm, March 7.—Lord Roberts' command today again thoroughly surprised, outwitted and outmaneuvered the Boers, who fled almost without firing a shot. The plan of battle was as follows:

General Colville's division extended along the north bank; General Tucker held the center reserve and the Kaiser's brigade had the center advanced. General Killy's division was ordered to make a flank movement on the Boers' left, following General French, who was instructed to move southeast until opposite the Boer flank and then swing around the rear.

FOILED BY THE BOERS.

Every movement was admirably executed and entirely successful. The Boers were surprised, as was evident from the state of the deserted camps. Twice the British cavalry was almost in a position to charge, but they admitted they were foiled by the maneuvering of the Boers.

When last seen General French was pursuing the enemy vigorously. He was between them and Bloemfontein, about eleven miles from the right wing, against a high mountain occupied by the Transvaal troops, who were now being, in consequence of the flight of the Free Staters south of the river. It is a surprise at present to give the Boers credit, it is estimated that they lost 14,000, all of whom are now in flight.

NINTH LANCERS REPULSED.

In the course of the operations the ninth lancers attempted to get close to the Boers' right with the object of cutting off the Boers' retreat. The Boers came out in force and the lancers were repulsed. A battery was then sent forward to hold the enemy in check while the Grahamstown volunteers and a company of mounted infantry supported by another battery, engaged the Boers on their right flank.

The Boers fired shells, falling short, however, and they made a stubborn defense on the kopje on their right, engaging the battery and killing eighteen of the battery horses. The mounted infantry repulsed the Boers and the battery then took a position and repulsed them from their laager in the distance.

The Boers held a strong position on the north bank of the river, but the fight from the southern bank compelled them to retreat. They showed great skill in retreating, and they were supported by a bold front while the rest of the force was busy in the rear.

Gen. French's division consisted of two brigades of cavalry, two mounted infantry and seven horse batteries. The Boers were repulsed in the distance.

MADE SAFE RETREAT.

London, March 8, 4:15 a.m.—The Boers appear to have made no stand whatever, except that while in retreat they tried to capture prisoners, the Boers probably got away with their arms, force, Gen. French is still following them and keeping between them and Bloemfontein.

The evacuation of the northern districts of Cape Colony is now nearly complete. The British are in possession of the railroad crossings.

The military critics comment on the retreating news from Mafeking. Col. Buller's retreat is in grave need of outside help. Otherwise he would not allow the correspondents to send out information respecting the distress of the garrison.

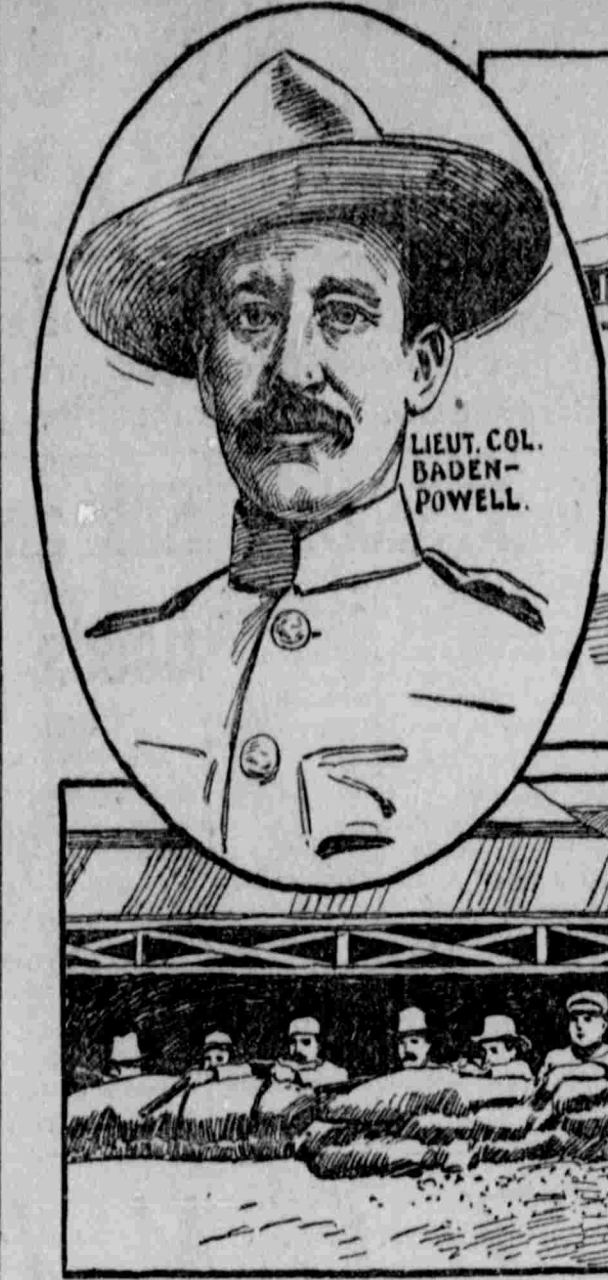
A reinforcement of some of the higher commands is taking place. Gen. Buller is to go to Stormberg to take supreme command of Gen. Gatacre's division and the tenth division, now in process of evacuation, will be under the immediate command of Gen. Hunter, Sir George White's chief of staff.

PEACE RUMORS.

The Daily News makes the following editorial announcement: "It was rumored in London yesterday, and we have some reason for believing the rumor to be correct, that the two republics made informal and unofficial overtures of peace on the preceding day."

"Unfortunately, the conditions suggested were of such a character as to preclude the possibility of leading to any result. Terms which might have been gladly accepted before the war, in order to avert it, are impossible after the war, with all the sacrifices it has entailed."

The Standard publishes the following dispatch from Poplar Grove, dated March 7: "The movements of the Boers were somewhat too rapid for the supporting infantry, and as a result the Boer position was turned before the main body could strike effectively. The Boers fell back precipitantly, extending to the southeast, they checked the advance of the British cavalry with a heavy rifle fire at 800 yards range. Accordingly, Gen. French moved forward and outflanked them again, but the Boers repeated their tactics."



EFFECT OF BOER SHELL



COLONEL BADEN-POWELL AND THE LONG SIEGE OF MAFKING.

The pluckiest band of Britishers in Africa are doubtless Colonel Baden-Powell's troops and civilians who have held the Boers at bay at Mafeking. This little place is about 700 miles north of Cape Town and was the first Boer stronghold attacked by the Boers.

KRUGER CHEERS BURGHERS.

Pretoria, March 8.—A special dispatch from Bloemfontein says that President Kruger addressing a crowd of people said: "Although God is testing our people, my personal opinion is that the limit of the test is nearly reached. If the people are sustained by faith in the time of adversity, God will soon again turn the tide in our favor. If we have strong faith in God He will surely deliver us. The God of deliverance of the old time is the same God now."

The speech of the venerable president brought tears to the eyes of men and women alike. The Free State's Volksraad (national assembly) was then sung.

The visit of President Kruger has done much good and has cheered the despondents. President Kruger more recently has been visiting the commandos south of Bloemfontein. Fighting is proceeding at Mafeking. All the outside forts except one have been taken by the Boers. Much satisfaction is expressed at the courtesies extended to General Cronje by the British.

Secretary of State Reitz has issued war bulletins in which after saying the government has no official tidings of the surrender of General Cronje, he must accept it as a fact, however, painful he adds:

"The government remains assured that the surrender will not discourage the burghers in their defense of their independence and standing as a nation."

The struggle thus far has shown that the Boers are not contented themselves as an independent people. This reverse will not stagger us. In the struggle for our cherished rights, our belief remains that whatever happens, our fight will continue.

"On the invasion of the Free State by a large force of the enemy and other circumstances it became necessary to take up other positions, hence the burghers in Natal have retreated to Biggarsburg. All the commandos have reached there safely, except a few who retired in the direction of Van Rensselaer's pass. Thus Lady-smith and Kimberley are no more beleaguered. In retreating the enemy was after time driven back so that our laagers were not cut off. In these fights a few men were killed or wounded and the enemy lost heavily."

In spite of all reports, the spirit of the fighting men as to the outcome remains unchanged. Among the commandos in Natal the burghers are full of courage. General De Wet now commands all the commandos at the Modder river."

NAVAL BRIGADE CHEERED.

Durban, March 8.—The naval brigade from Lady-smith arrived today in command of Captain Lamberton. They numbered about 200 and were enthusiastically received. The railway station was lined with men from H. M. S. Terrible, and the meeting of comrades caused many touching scenes. When the gunners who played such an important part in the defense of Lady-smith marched down the streets, led by the band and flags of the Terrible and carrying

Prescott, Ariz., March 8.—Parties who arrived in Prescott today from the Tonto Basin country state that another war is threatened there similar to that of 1887 and 1888, when forty people were killed in what was known as the Tewksbury-Graham feud.

While not to exceed half a dozen men of those engaged in that feud are alive today, the causes which brought it about still exist, and new men seem willing to fight on the same old lines. The trouble is between the cattlemen and the sheepmen. Large herds of sheep from northern Arizona are driven south for the winter, returning to their northern grazing grounds again in the spring, and one of the routes is via Tonto Basin, which is usually well watered, and abounds in game.

The drought of the past year has caused a shortage of both, and cattlemen served notice on the sheepmen that on account of the conditions they would not be permitted to return north by this route this spring. The latter sent back word that they were going through Tonto Basin if they had to fight their way.

The advance guard of the returning flocks were met by the cattlemen and turned back and scattered. Several cases of arms and ammunition are known to have been shipped into the section recently, and open threats have also been made by the interested parties to shoot each other on sight.

STARTING NATIONAL BANKS.

Erroneous Ideas of Being Able to Do it with Insignificant Capital.

New York, March 9.—A special to the Times from Washington says: The Controller of the Currency Davies is overwhelmed with assertions and inquiries touching the operation of the currency bill about to become a law. All sorts of notions are entertained by those who have undertaken to interpret it, and recently the controller's attention was directed to a press report published in several papers to this effect: It is estimated that anyone with \$3,000 capital can start a national bank under the new system. All that is required is \$25,000 in 2 per cent government bonds, which could be secured at ruling rates for \$28,750. These, representing the capital of the bank, could be sent to Wash-

ington and circulation for the full amount of the capital immediately taken out. The organizer of the bank then has only \$3,750 tied up in the enterprise, but could take deposits in the regular way.

"That report has gained so much publicity," said Controller Davies, "that it seems to me it ought to be corrected as soon as possible. The report is fallacious. The new law regarding circulation would not make it easier to drive the authorities into allowing the bank to do business with no capital. While it is true that the organizers of a national bank can secure in circulation the par of the bonds deposited by them as security therefor, less five per cent redemption fund, if this currency was used to pay off the cost of the bonds it could not, of course, be used as capital for the bank."

"Where money has been borrowed to purchase the bonds deposited as security for circulation, the bank notes issued against them might be used to pay a portion of the debt. But this operation does not affect or lessen the necessity of the bank having \$25,000 in unimpaired cash capital, irrespective of the currency and bond transaction. The assumption is that the \$25,000 received from the government, upon the deposit of the amount of the bonds as security, could be used both to pay the debt incurred in the purchase of the bonds as well as for the working capital of the bank in addition, which is, of course, impossible."

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THE IRISH LEADER.

Mr. Redmond's Complimentary Reference to Queen Victoria.

London, March 8.—In the house of commons today Mr. John Redmond, the Irish nationalist leader, declared the Irish people had received with gratification the announcement that her majesty had directed that the shamrock be worn by the Irish regiments on St. Patrick's day, adding that the Irish people would welcome this graceful recognition of the valor of the Irish race wherever exhibited and would treat with respect the venerable sovereign to whom the shamrock was well known that on that occasion no attempt would be made to give the visit any party significance and that their chivalrous hospitality would not be demanded for national rights, which they would continue to press until conceded. Mr. Redmond was loudly cheered, both on rising and on taking his seat.

SERIOUS ARIZONA FEUD.

Cattlemen and Sheepmen Likely to Engage in Bloody War.

Cattlemen Have Begun Quarrel Arises Over the Drought This Season in Tonto Basin.

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Member of Cabinet Clears Up a Wide Apprehension Concerning the Puerto Rican Tariff Bill.

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Washington, March 8.—A member of the cabinet tonight gave out the following authoritative statement: "There has been a wide misapprehension of the Puerto Rican tariff bill, of the attitude of the President, of the action of Congress and of their relations to each other. The criticism and the concern which have come from some well-meaning quarters are due almost entirely to a misunderstanding of the real facts."

"The attempt to represent that there has been a disagreement between the President and Congress is wholly unfounded. There has been no essential difference between them. Both have sought the same object. The recommendation of the President and the House bill in their purpose and effect amount to the same thing. As a consequence each rightly sustains the other."

"The President, in his annual message of December 4th, urged that the customs duties on trade between Puerto Rico and the United States be removed. Imports from Puerto Rico in the United States have been and are now paying the Dingley rates. The President felt that Puerto Rico should be relieved of this burden. He urged that it should be removed, not as a matter of legal right, but of liberal and humane public policy."

"His argument indicated his reasons and suggested his view as to the question of constitutional obligation. Puerto Rico, severed from Spain, had lost her markets and gained none in their place. She had been devastated by hurricane and left destitute. Humanity dictated every effort to lift her up and give her a new market. This was the President's plan, and what need of such a plan if the Constitution of itself carried free trade to Puerto Rico? In that case free trade goes to her, whether or not."

"What the President proposed was that the United States should offer the largest and most generous measure of help to the distressed and suffering island, and he has never wavered a single instant in the object he sought. Had his suggestion been adopted and followed by all in the cabinet and in the cabinet, it would have been well. But, when the time came for action in Congress two tendencies were seen. On the one hand, a necessary and inevitable business and agricultural interests that, while not objecting or little objecting to free trade with Puerto Rico, feared that free trade with Puerto Rico would be made a precedent for free trade with the Philippines. They felt there should be a distinct assertion and exercise of the power to impose duties, however small, as an assurance that this power was reserved for other cases."

"On the other hand, what the President proposed as a worthy act of national generosity and liberal policy was seized by political opponents and aimed at a necessary and inevitable measure of inherent constitutional right. They insisted that the Constitution by its own force extends to Puerto Rico and all the island possessions and spreads all its provisions over them, including uniform taxation. They were eager to commit a Republican Congress to the adoption of a free trade with Puerto Rico, not as a measure of generous expediency, but because they felt that the whole amount of duties on goods coming from Puerto Rico shall be paid back to Puerto Rico for the benefit of the island. Thus it fully harmonizes with the object at which the President aimed, of relieving the people of Puerto Rico, and when it was crowned by the President's special message, promptly carried out by the House, providing not only that the duties hereafter collected, but that those heretofore collected to the amount of \$2,000,000 should be appropriated to be expended wholly in Puerto Rico for her development and improvement, absolutely no ground was left for any pretense that the policy of the President and Congress was in the slightest degree harsh and oppressive."

"Nobody can understandably object to the 15 per cent duty, all paid back to Puerto Rico, on the ground that it is unfair and hard toward Puerto Rico. He can understandably object on the claim that there is no power to levy any duty at all, and such a claim would leave the President and Congress powerless and helpless in the Philippines as well as in Puerto Rico."

"Between a 15 per cent duty as provided by the congressional bill, every cent of which is to be returned to Puerto Rico, that is not also getting all collected at the other end, and the renewal of customs duties as suggested by the President for humanity's sake, there is absolutely no difference whatever in practical results. In both everything is for humanity. Congress was aiming at the same results, and the President rightfully accepts the act of Congress. The representation that each was not in accord with the other disregards every essential element in the case."

"But between a 15 per cent duty and free trade as a constitutional right going necessarily and instantly wherever new lands may be required there is a world-wide difference between reserving full discretionary power to deal with the new possessions, as their varying interests and ours may require, and leaving no discretionary power in Congress whatever. And this is the real issue which has been forced by the attitude of the minority in Congress."

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