

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April 1860.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June 1866

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BRITISH CAPTURE BLOEMFONTEIN.

Free State Capital Surrendered Tuesday Morning.

London, March 14—It is officially announced that Lord Roberts has occupied Bloemfontein and that the British flag is flying from the top of the capital.

London, March 14—The following is the text of Lord Roberts' dispatch to the war office announcing his occupation of Bloemfontein.

Bloemfontein, Tuesday, March 13 8 p. m.—By the help of God and by the bravery of her majesty's soldiers, the troops under my command have taken possession of Bloemfontein. The British flag now flies over the presidency, evacuated last evening by Mr. Steyn, late president of the Orange Free State. Mr. Frazer, member of the late executive government, the mayor, the secretary of the late government, the landrost and other officials met me two miles from the town and presented me with the keys of the public office. The enemy have withdrawn from the neighborhood and all seems quiet. The inhabitants of Bloemfontein gave the troops a cordial welcome.

The above dispatch, though dated Tuesday, was not received at the war office until 7:30 p. m. Wednesday. It was made public a few minutes before 9 o'clock. The delay is attributed to the field telegraphs not being connected with Bloemfontein on Tuesday evening. Extra papers are already out on the streets, and the night crowds of London are singing patriotic songs and engaging in patriotic demonstrations.

Lord Roberts' dispatch caused a feeling of great relief. The absence of news eagerly looked for had provoked some apprehension during the earlier part of the day that the British had met with a check before Bloemfontein, and anxious inquiries were made at the war office and in the lobbies of parliament.

Cape Town, March 14.—A great popular demonstration took place here on the receipt of the news that Bloemfontein had been occupied by the British. All the church bells were rung and a procession headed by the Union Jack went to the government house, where Sir Alfred Milner made his acknowledgments.

The demonstrators sang "God Save the Queen" and then paraded through the principal streets, cheering and singing patriotic songs.

London, March 14—A dispatch to The Daily Chronicle from Bloemfontein, dated Tuesday evening, March 13, says: "Bloemfontein surrendered at 10 today. It was occupied at noon. President Steyn with a majority of the fighting burghers has fled northward."

Gen. French was within five miles of the place at 5 o'clock Monday afternoon. He sent a summons into the town, threatening to bombard unless it surrendered by 5 p. m. Tuesday. A white flag was hoisted Tuesday morning and a deputations of the town Council, with Mayor Kinnear (?) came out to meet Lord Roberts at Spita Kop five miles south of the town, making a formal surrender of the place.

Lord Roberts made a state entry at noon. He received a tremendous ovation. After visiting the public buildings he went to the official residence of the president, followed by a cheering crowd, who waved the British flag and sang the British national anthem. They were in a condition of frenzied excitement.

On Monday afternoon, previous to the surrender, there had been a little sniping and shelling, but the enemy then retired.

Lord Roberts has his headquarters at the president's house and many of the British wounded are in the building. The railway is not injured.

was repaired. Only two Boers were wounded. The second assault was made on the hills to the left of our position. These hills were of great strategic importance. A protesting this, I and 300 men defouled the position from 9 in the morning until sundown. The burghers fought like heroes and three times repulsed masses of the British who kept relieving tired men. Every attempt to storm was defeated. At sundown there were not 50 yards between us. The British line heavily. No accurate returns of our loss are available."

BOERS HOLD PAPERS

Lady Smith, March 14—The Boers have been located in several strong positions near the junction of the Driekopsberg and the Biggarsberg ranges. They have heavy guns in position on Pongweni Kop at Hlathakula, and in the Impati mountains as well as at Gibson's Farm, near Oordlynsburg pass. Gen. Hunter, now commands the division. The Boer men and horses of the relief column are completely worn out and are now in the pink of condition. The reconstruction of the railway from Lady Smith to Dundee is progressing rapidly.

WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH.

N. Y. L., March 14—A dispatch from President Kruger to the Evening Journal dated Pretoria, March 13 8 p. m. via Berlin, says: "The burghers will only cease fighting with death. Our forces are returning in good order to our line of defense on our own soil. The Naval campaign was longer in our favor than we expected. The British will never reach Portia. The burghers, Steyn, Jaber and myself as well as all the others are united. There are no differences. God help us."

TO THE BITTER END.

Pretoria, March 12 via Lorenzo Marques, March 13—Lord Salisbury's reply to President Kruger and Steyn causes bitter disappointment, and State Secretary Reitz says it means that the war will have to be fought to the bitter end.

GREAT TRIBUTE TO THE IRISH.

Sydney, N. S. W., March 14.—The government has proclaimed St. Patrick's day as a public holiday as a tribute to the bravery of the Irish soldiers in South Africa.

WHAT THE BOERS SAY

London, March 15—The Daily Mail has the following dispatch from Pretoria dated March 12: "Lord Salisbury's reply has been received and a Boer refutation of the British contention is under consideration. It will deny that any annexation has been made and it will declare that the occupation of British territory was purely strategic. It will express the determination of the two republics to fight to the finish."

RUSSIA'S PLEDGE

Berlin, March 14—The weekly reviewer of the Kreuz Zeitung, who is a well known professor and entertains close relations with Count von Buelow, asserts today that Emperor Nicholas, at the beginning of the war in South Africa, gave a formal pledge that Russia would not take advantage of England's complications for a further Asiatic advance. The Kreuz Zeitung declares that this information is authentic.

In high political circles here no surprise was felt at Lord Salisbury's reply to the Kruger Steyn proposals. It is not believed that the war will last much longer. A leading foreign office official said today that there would be no further talk about intervention.

The papers this evening generally express sympathy with the fate of the Boers, but take it for granted that the contest will soon be over.

Destruction of Johannesburg by Boers Not Considered Likely.

London, March 16, 5 a. m.—Events are moving in the South African campaign in the speedy and satisfactory manner, from both the military and political points of view. It could hardly have been expected by the most sanguine Englishmen that they would take a turn so favorable.

It appears that when Maj Weston cut the railway north of Bloemfontein he thereby intercepted Gen. Joubert, who far from having retired from the campaign, was then coming southward with 3,000 men, presumably to superintend the defense. A short defense works three miles long had been prepared outside the town.

It is understood that Mr. F. A. M. V. Smith and other leaders are quite prepared to accept the position of a self-governing British colony.

The cheers which greeted the reading to parliament yesterday of correspondence with the United States are repeated throughout the country. The speech of Mr. D. G. Bruce has increased this satisfaction, and taken with the general belief that Emperor Nicholas is personally averse to any intervention, these incidents spread the idea that there will be no further serious attempt to interfere from any quarter.

Mr. Montagu White's threats in an American newspaper that the Boers will go to the Johannesburg and resist to the ground if necessary, is not taken very seriously.

Mr. Chamberlain's statement that President Kruger has already been warned as to the consequences of such conduct is regarded as showing that efficient precautions have been taken. The Times suggests that the burghers should be warned that their farms will be razed as a guarantee against any damage to British property but no serious apprehensions are entertained of such conduct as Mr. White is said to have foreshadowed. J. B. Robinson, the millionaire mine owner, says he does not think the Boers would be so foolish.

By the time Lord Roberts reaches the Vaal river he will command some 30,000 men, while Gen. Buller will have 40,000. From the military point of view the odds now stand three to one in his favor.

President Sends to Senate Recent Communications in regard to Obtaining Peace in Africa.

Washington, March 15—In response to a resolution the president today sent to the senate the correspondence relating to the requests for mediation in South Africa.

The first document is a dispatch from Pretoria dated March 15, which states:

"Am officially requested by the governments of the republics to urge your intervention with a view to cessation of hostilities; similar request made to the representatives of European powers. Answer confirm receipt."

"American Consul"

Mr. Hay responded: "Your telegram asking offices of us to bring about cessation of hostilities has been made subject of friendly communication to British government with expression of president's earnest hope for peace."

Secretary Hay telegraphed Mr. White, secretary of the American embassy at London:

"By way of friendly good offices, you will inform British minister for foreign affairs that I am today in receipt of a telegram from the United States consul at Pretoria representing that the governments of the two African republics request president's intervention with a view to cessation of hostilities and that a similar request is made to the representatives of European powers. In communicating this request I am directed by the president to express his earnest hope that a way to bring about peace may be found and to say that he would be glad to aid in a friendly manner to promote so happy a result."

"Hay"

Mr. White replied to Mr. Hay under date of March 13:

"I communicated yesterday to the under secretary for foreign affairs, having been unable to see Lord Salisbury, the contents of your telegram dated 10th instant; today I have had an interview with his lordship, who requested me to thank the president for the friendly interest shown by him and added that her majesty's government cannot accept the intervention of any other power."

"White"

Mr. Hay telegraphed the consul at Pretoria under date of March 14 the following:

"Your communication of request of republics for intervention of president to cause cessation of hostilities was at once conveyed to British government with expression president's gratification could he aid to promote peace. Our embassy London replies that Lord Salisbury thanks president for friendly interest shown and adds her majesty's government cannot accept the intervention of any power."

The president's message is simply one of transmittal.

Bloemfontein in Railroad Communication With Cape Town.

London, March 17 4:20 a. m.—With the railway communication to the Cape intact, Lord Roberts will in a very few days be in a position to begin the advance on Pretoria. His deep political intuition, combined with his bold strategy is having the result desired in the southern sections of the

Orange Free State, which is rapidly calmed down. Making is now the only point for anxiety, and as it is known that a force has left Kimberley, its relief may be announced before many days pass. The efficiency of the relieving is heightened by the fact that it is partly composed of regulars.

In the lobbies of parliament last evening it was rumored that Lord Roberts is about to issue a proclamation announcing that the former system of government in the Orange Free State is abolished and promising Free States to immediately surrender due consideration.

It is understood that all the continental powers, with one exception unacceptably refused to intervene. The exception is Russia, whose reply was couched in less firm language, although, like the others, she declined to interfere. It is said that the pipe was also appealed to, but that he declined to do anything beyond writing a letter to the queen, appealing to her to stop the further effusion of blood. Dr. Leyds' fight with Kog Loopold were quite futile.

The possibility of the destruction of Johannesburg is still discussed here, but it is believed that the French and German shareholders would offer a strong protest.

The latest advices respecting the surrender of Bloemfontein show that the approach of the British caused a stampede. Thirteen trains, each composed of 40 cars, and all crammed with Boers, hurried northward just before the line was cut. Mr. Steyn would have been compelled to surrender, but he preceded that he was going to visit one of the outposts, and at midnight took a carriage which was waiting for him outside the town and thus escaped. The Boers got the bulk of their wagons and military stores away.

FREE STATERS SURRENDERING

London, March 16.—Lord Roberts has sent the following dispatch to the war office:

"Bloemfontein, Friday, March 16—Gen. Clements crossed the Orange river yesterday. Repairs to the railway bridge at Norval's Pont have commenced, and it will shortly be ready for traffic. Gen. Pole-Carew telegraphs his arrival at Springfontein, so that Bloemfontein is practically in rail communication with Cape Town. My proclamation is already having an excellent effect. Several hundred burghers have expressed their intention to surrender their arms and return to their occupations.

"The resident commissioner of Basutoland reports that 800 Boers lately arrived from Bloemfontein and that a further contingent from Aliwal North was only waiting to know the terms of my proclamation to surrender. They had refused to attend a council at Koonstadt, to which President Steyn had summoned them."

RIVER BETWEEN THEM.

J. Mestown, Cape Colony, March 15—There was much enthusiasm at Aliwal North when Gen. Buller's troops occupied the place. Commandant Oliver, the Boer commander, apologized for the action of the Boers during the last days of the occupation, saying he could not control his men.

The British are now entrenched on the Orange Free State side of the Orange river, with the Boers holding an advantageous hill in front of them. Gen. Buller is greatly hampered owing to the lack of artillery, having only two 15 pounders.

London, March 16—It was officially announced today that the British casualties at Bloemfontein March 13, were 62 men killed and 321 wounded.

KRUGER ANNEXED ORANGE FREE STATE.

Bethlehem, O. F. S., March 15, Thursday—Gen. Gatara on arriving here found that all the Boers had fled. The town was nearly deserted, the Dutch having trekked on hearing of the occupation of Bloemfontein.

It is believed that the Boers retired in the direction of DeWet's dorp. The telegraph is open to Springfontein.

It is understood that President Kruger two days ago annexed the Orange Free State to the South African republic.

BOERS SAID TO BE GOING HOME

London, March 17—The Daily Mail has the following dispatch from Lorenzo Marques, dated Friday, March 16:

"Exceeding in proceeding on the Vaal river at Vereeniging. "Late arrivals from Pretoria say that the Boers themselves now admit that their cause is hopeless. Gen. Louis Meyer refuses to fight again and he has returned to his farm. Gen. Senekela's burghers have also returned and the burghers are going home by hundreds."

Secretary Reitz Replies

In Refutation of Lord Salisbury's Statements. The Boer Side.

Pretoria, Wednesday, March 14—State Secretary Reitz's refutation of Lord Salisbury's arguments in the reply to the Bloemfontein note was issued today. Mr. Reitz says: "The British government, after the Bloemfontein conference, endeavored to enforce by threats certain changes in the internal government of the Transvaal republic contrary to the London convention. They also imported troops in great numbers and broke off negotiations with a threat to take their own means to remove the grievances of their subjects."

"After waiting a fortnight, while an army corps was prepared and the reserves were being called out by the British, President Steyn asked the reason of these proceedings. Sir Alfred Milner refused to reply."

Meanwhile Mr. Chamberlain, in his speeches, showed the world that England had decided on war. Accordingly the British government a demand for the withdrawal of these troops as otherwise it would accept the presence of the troops as a declaration of war. This was not necessarily intended as a message of war."

Concerning the armaments Mr. Reitz says: "These were bought openly in England and in Europe, and the high commissioner boasted full knowledge of them at the Bloemfontein conference and also full descriptions of these armaments were found among the officers' papers at Dundee."

"Both the army and the ultimatum were protective measures, subsequent to the raid and to the discovery through concealed cables, that British cabinet ministers were implicated in the attempt to filch away the independence of the two republics. Now all doubt is removed by Lord Salisbury's telegram. The burghers must fight for the national existence, trusting that God will defend the right."

London, March 16—The Pretoria correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing Wednesday, says: "Mr. Reitz's statement has been published throughout the republic, but will not be forwarded to Lord Salisbury."

"Conversations I have had with the highest state officers show that the republic was prepared to grant substantial reforms and concessions, until the receipt of Lord Salisbury's telegram. As one of the highest statesmen remarked: 'Better half an egg than none, but better none than a rotten egg.'"

Taken to Frankfort

Frankfort, Ky., March 16—Secretary of State Powers, Capt. John D. Davis, W. A. Culton and Harland Whittaker, the four prisoners who are held as alleged accessories to the assassination of Gov. Goebel, were brought here from Louisville today, in charge of Sheriff Sater and deputies. A special detail of police and deputy sheriff met them at the train and they were marched to the jail through the streets, which were lined with people, who anticipated their coming. There was no disorder, and the prisoners greeted their friends pleasantly as they went to jail.

The prisoners were arraigned before County Judge Moore at 11 o'clock and after some argument before the attorney H. Z. Lip was released on \$10,000 bond. Judge Moore set the examining trials for Monday. A continuance of two days may be asked.

South Carolina Cottonots.

Columbia, March 13—The farmers in several counties have, by resolution, boycotted the fertilizer trust but the sale of fertilizers this year is nearly one half more than last year. The inference is that the acreage of cotton has probably been increased proportionately.

Hard freezes have injured small grain, of which there was an increased acreage. Farmers, inspired by prevailing prices are turning back to cotton. All available land will be planted.

The income from the 25 cents per ton tax on fertilizers for the present year, to date is but \$7,348 short of the income for all of last year. The total number of tons sold last year was 261,460, while this year's sales are estimated at 391,675 tons, nearly a half more.

TEMPORARY TRUCE IN KENTUCKY.

Adjutant Generals of Contending Leaders Have Conference.

Frankfort, Ky., March 13—The legislature of Kentucky adjourned sine die today, a conference between Adj. Gen. Collier and Castleman being held at which an understanding was reached.

Gov. Taylor will continue to act as governor. Gov. Beckham will make no move toward securing possession of the State buildings until after the court of appeals has decided the disputed governorship.

The legislature appropriated \$100,000 for the use of Gov. Beckham in reorganizing the State militia.

Among the more conservative element in each party the opinion prevails that the worst is over and that when the court of appeals renders its decision the danger of civil war in the commonwealth, which has been terribly imminent will have passed away entirely. To the Democratic leaders with a full understanding of the situation only one cloud appears on the political horizon. That is Gov. Taylor's future course.

Gov. Taylor himself will not outline his plan of action, beyond the statement which he made to the Associated Press correspondent today that he "would continue to act as governor." Republicans in Gov. Taylor's confidence, however, say that he will remain in Frankfort in the discharge of his duties until the court of last resort passes upon the question at issue. Then, if the decision is against him he will step out at once and turn over the State buildings to Governor Beckham. The Republicans will make every effort to carry the dispute into the federal courts in case the decision of the Kentucky court of appeals is against them, but failing in this they will consider the question settled, still believing a great wrong has been done them.

The Democratic leaders assert that they will cheerfully abide by the decision of the court of appeals. But should the decision be in their favor they will insist on the occupancy of the State buildings peacefully if possible, but forcibly if necessary, as it was expressed today.

Matters in Kentucky.

Frankfort, March 14—The departure of the legislature from the State capital today has given the city a more quiet appearance than it has had at any time in the last two months. No new warrants in connection with the Goebel assassination were issued. Gabriel Taul, the Breckinridge County suspect, was arraigned before Judge Moore, but was dismissed, there not being sufficient evidence against him to even hold him as witness.

CASE OF POWERS AND DAVIS.

Lexington, Ky., March 14—When the Powers and Davis cases were called today the city attorney moved that they be transferred to Franklin County. The attorney for the prisoners objected, holding that, as this court has no official opinion that the crime was committed in that county, they could not be transferred until this court was officially apprised of that fact, and also that the prisoners had a right to be present in court when the case was called for that purpose. The judge took the same view and intimated that he will demand the presence of the prisoners in this court or have the arresting officers indicted.

Washington, March 13—In diplomatic circles here an unpleasant suggestion has been thrown out to the effect that The Hague conference has resulted in complete failure, and that even the limited program agreed upon is never to be perfected. The basis for this view is the fact that up to this moment no notice has been received that a single one of the Powers represented in the conference has ratified the three conventions prepared there. The treaties themselves require such ratification. Only one of the three treaties has been ratified by the United States senate, and even in that case the formalities have not been carried to completion.

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