

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"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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THE WAR IN AFRICA.

BULLER SEVERELY CRITICISED.

London, April 18, 4 a. m.—The government has chosen this as the moment to publish a dispatch from Lord Roberts pronouncing censure upon Sir Redvers Buller and Sir Charles Warren, two of his most important subordinate commanders. This dispatch, written Feb 13th, has been in the hands of the war office for five weeks. Why it is published now, in the middle of the campaign, is not understood, unless it was expected that Gen Buller and Gen Warren will ask to be relieved of their commands. The severe criticism of their capacity must tend to undermine the confidence of the troops in their leadership.

Lord Roberts' dispatch with the enclosures are the great features of the London press this morning.

Whether the government has any special purpose or not in publishing the dispatch the way in which it has been received, will make it more difficult to retain the censured commanders in active service.

Lord Roberts' long wait and the Boer activity have seriously disturbed public equanimity. He is still 300 miles from Pretoria. No one doubts the ultimate success of British arms, but behind the British army that crushes the Boer armies an army of occupation will have to be installed. From various sources come hints that more men than are already provided will have to be sent out.

Lord Roberts indicates that at least 10,000 men are advancing to cut off the Boers, who are investing Wepener.

As there are reports from the Basuto border that firing has been heard in the direction of the hills toward Dewet's camp, it is possible Gen Chermiside's advanced troops are already in contact with the Boers.

Lord Roberts wires that he is expected to clear the southeastern section of the Free State, east of the railway, and then to swing round to the north and to turn one after another the positions held by the Boers north of Bloemfontein.

Gen Buller's prohibition of all press telegrams in Natal until further notice is taken to indicate that a movement is about to be taken there.

ROBERTS' ARMY ABOUT TO BEGIN MARCH ON PRETORIA

London, April 17.—At last Lord Roberts seems to be on the eve of making his main advance toward Pretoria. Unless all the unusually reliable sources of information and all the indications smuggled past the censor are at fault the British army within a few days will be marching northward. After many premature and unfounded reports which have purported to tell this move, there is naturally, even in the best informed quarters, considerable hesitancy in definitely settling upon the day Lord Roberts is likely to leave Bloemfontein, but there is a settled impression that it will occur either at the end of this week or at the beginning of next. The long, weary wait in the Free State capital has apparently effected a much needed rehabilitation, though it is probable Lord Roberts would still have further delayed his advance had not the Boer activity forced him to put his forces in such positions that unless they quickly proceed northward the strategic advantage will be lost.

Buller and Warren Must go.

London, April 19.—4 10 A. M.—Heavy rains impede the movement of the British columns. The blockade at Wepener continues, although relief is near. Large quantities of stores are being moved southward from Bloemfontein, which is a reversal of the course of freight for the last six weeks. These shipments are made necessary by the operations in the southeast of the Free State.

There are two thousand sick in the field hospitals, most of the cases being of dysentery and enteric fever. With the exception of these facts, the embargo upon war intelligence is almost complete. The special correspondents send trivialities or statements which obscure rather than explain the situation, in their efforts to prepare matter that will pass the

Here and there a phrase indicates an expectancy that large things are about to happen.

What is to be done with Sir Redvers Buller and Sir Charles Warren occupies everybody's attention. The papers continue to comment earnestly upon Lord Roberts' censure of these commanders. They ask if more errors are not likely to occur, to gether with fruitless waste of life, in the event that men who have been declared incompetent by their superiors, continue to command 40,000 troops. It is now generally accepted that the government had a purpose in the publication of Lord Roberts' dispatch, and that the recall of Gen Buller and Gen Warren probably has been decided upon.

According to Boer reports there is a steady flow of foreign volunteers to the Transvaal. Heretofore these adventurers have been attached to the various commandoes. Now, it is said they are to be formed into a special legion, with Continental officers, and there is a rumor that the command will be given to a distinguished French soldier, lately retired, who is now in the Transvaal or is nearing the end of the journey thither. Presumably the officer referred to in this report is Gen De Negrier, former member of the French supreme council of war, who was removed from the active lists last July by the Marquis De Gallifet as a disciplinary measure during the excitement arising from the court-martial.

London, April 19.—According to a dispatch to the Daily Mail from Lourenzo Marques nearly half the members of the Chicago ambulance corps, when offered Mausers on their arrival at Pretoria, tore off their Red Cross badges. Adelbert S. Hay, United States consul, notified the Transvaal Government that he must report the circumstance to Washington.

HEAVY LOSSES AT WEPENER.

Maseru, April 17.—Col Dalgety's casualties since he has been besieged at Wepener have been 20 killed and 100 wounded. The Boer losses are reported to have been considerably heavier.

After the night attack on April 12 the dead were left on the field, where they still lie unburied.

There is a conflict of opinion among the leaders. Some want to attack again, while others refuse to do so. Desultory cannon firing and "sniping" continue.

The Caledon is rising, which alarms the Boers, who are now on both sides of the river and might be cut off if the stream was to become flooded.

Five Boer guns are believed to be disabled.

London, April 19.—The Lourenzo Marques correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing Wednesday, says: "Two hundred and fifty Boers started today from Waterval Oeder, marching through the Zoutpaansberg district, to intercept Gen Carrington's force."

BOERS HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY

Pretoria, April 18.—As soon as the Berne award in the Delagoa Bay Railway arbitration was published the Transvaal Government offered to lend Portugal the amount she was condemned to pay, \$5,000,000, which, however, was courteously declined, the statement being made that the money was already provided.

The Government is receiving many memorials from burghers on the subject of sending the Boer prisoners to St Helena and will formally protest to Great Britain on the subject.

Secretary of State Reitz says the Transvaal Government is not taking any resolution regarding the destruction of the mines.

TEN DAYS OF RAIN PUT A STOP TO FIGHTING

London, April 20, 4:15 a. m.—A deluge of rain lasting ten days has brought the operations in South Africa and part of the Free State almost to a standstill. The creeks have become roaring rivers and the roads are streams of mud.

A singular message dated Bloemfontein, April 19, 10 55 a. m., and beginning "via press censor, Bloemfontein" reports an exchange of shots in the direction of Dewet's camp, where the Boers are said to be concentrating "after their withdrawal from Wepener."

There is nothing else to indicate that the investment of Wepener has been abandoned by the Boers. Notwithstanding the rain, however, the British have made some progress, as Dewet's camp has been occupied by them, presumably by the advance of Gen Rundle's division. Dewet's camp is about 24 miles from Wepener.

An obscure message from Allwal North, dated April 19, says that Gen Brabant has arrived there but whether

he returned alone or with his troops is not clear.

Boer reports from Allwal North aver that from 8,000 to 10,000 Boers are at Wepener.

Extended reports of the Bloemfontein concert for the benefit of widows and orphans have been called. Notices than seven separate accounts have been published in London today.

The concert, the weather and the bare statement that Lord Roberts is about to move are about the only things that the censor has allowed to pass, and the war correspondent who announces that Lord Roberts is ready to move does not specify the direction in which he is going.

Gen Hunter, from Natal, commanding the newly formed division, arrived at Bloemfontein yesterday (Thursday) and left immediately after conferring with Lord Roberts. To what point he proceeded is not mentioned but it is understood that he will operate west of Bloemfontein.

Boers Contemplate Destroying Johannesburg Mines.

London, April 19, 2:10 p. m.—The arrival of Gen. Carrington at Beira, Portuguese East Africa, and the reiteration of the report that the Boers intend blowing up the Johannesburg mines are the only items of news that mark today's war cables. Weeks must elapse before Gen. Carrington will be able to concentrate his force on the borders of the Transvaal or approach Mafeking. According to a rumor in circulation at Lourenzo Marques, a Boer force has been sent to intercept Gen Carrington, but it is not thought to be of sufficient strength to cause anxiety.

The Natal Mercury is responsible for the renewed fears concerning the mines, printing accounts from newly arrived refugees saying elaborate preparations for the destruction of all the Johannesburg shafts have been carried on under the supervision of the State mining engineer, who is alleged to have requisitioned all the copper wire in the town for the purpose of making connections.

The Bloemfontein dispatches remain full of trivial details, but are absolutely silent as to the future.

According to a dispatch from Ladysmith, dated today, the Boers are much disconcerted by the present condition of affairs. Their fortifications and forces, numbering about 15,000 men, are spread over ridges in contemplation of a British advance through the Waschbank valley, north of Ladysmith, which has not been occupied. The Boer patrols are very active and are constantly laying traps.

A proclamation issued at Cape Town today allows trading between Colony and the occupied portions of the Orange Free State to be resumed.

Two Germans who recently arrived at Cape Town have been sentenced to a year's imprisonment for having suspicious possession of 100 rifles and 600 cordite cartridges.

London, April 21, 4:20 a. m.—Gen Chermiside and Gen Randle are moving over the sodden roads. Rain was still falling when they went into camp Thursday afternoon 18 miles west of Dewet's camp. They hold the railway and the southern frontier of the Free State with 20,000.

How many are going with the generals who will engage the Boers at Wepener is not mentioned in the latest dispatch from Oorlogspost, where the British bivouacked Wednesday night. The field telegraph ends there. On Thursday the Boers still had Col Dalgety closely penned.

The government's reason for publishing Lord Roberts' Spion Kop dispatches was explained last evening at Hull by Mr Walter Hume Long, president of the board of agriculture, who said that the country was entitled to receive the information the government could give.

"The government is told," continued Mr Long, "that, having published the dispatches, it is bound to deal immediately with the general's affected, but, in following such a course, the government might have to dismiss every general the moment he made a mistake. Had such a policy been pursued in the past, many most glorious deeds would not have been performed."

"The government used its discretion in publishing the dispatches. From the beginning of the campaign her majesty's ministers have not swerved from the rule of leaving the conduct of the operations to the discretion and judgment of the commander in chief."

Gen White, if not required in South Africa, will go as governor of Gibraltar toward the end of May.

NEWS FROM BOER SOURCES

Pretoria, April 20.—Maj Gen Schalkbarger has been gazetted vice-president, in succession of the late Gen Joubert and Louis Botha has been gazetted acting commandant general, succeeding Gen Joubert in command of the Transvaal forces.

Cape Town, April 20.—At a meeting of the volksraad of the Orange

Free State at Kronstad today, President Staysn denounced Lord Roberts' proclamation as "treachery," and declared that as Great Britain's object "was their destruction, their last hope was to appeal to the civilized powers to intervene."

Brandfort, O. F. S., April 19.—Gen Delarey has returned from a reconnaissance in force east of the railroad to the Modder river. He reports that he met only a few scouts, but that he saw British fortifications on all the hills.

NEXT MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.

London, April 20, 1 50 p. m.—The report of the fighting at Karee Siding, six miles north of Glenn, may be the first news of the progress of the British advance on Pretoria. But even if this were only an unimportant skirmish there are many other indications that Lord Roberts is either starting or has already started for the northern goal. A dispatch from Cape Town under today's date, says: "The censor shop restrictions have been greatly increased owing to the movements of the troops." All the dispatches bear traces of the strenuous efforts of the correspondents to give their papers an inkling of what is afoot.

Ex-Convicts Not Exempt.

In response to a letter from County Supervisor Owens of Richland county, Attorney General Bellinger has prepared the following:

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 17th inst has just been received, in which you refer to the question recently asked the governor as to the "liability of ex-convicts to road duty." The provision as to the working of the public roads is purely a statutory one and the subject, as far as the same relates to "persons liable to such duty," is covered by section 4 of the acts of 1900, page 289, which provides: "That all male persons able to perform the labor herein required between the ages of 18 and 55 years (here follows certain exceptions as to certain counties and the ages specified, and also except ministers of the gospel in actual charge of a congregation, and persons permanently disabled in the military service of this State and persons who served in the late war between the States, and persons actually employed in the quarantine service of the State), shall be required annually to perform or cause to be performed labor on the highways under the direction of the overseer of the said district in which he shall reside, as follows," etc. It seems clear from the above, which is exhaustive, that ex-convicts are not exempt from the performance of road duty. The question of citizenship does not arise, in my opinion, in this connection.

Louisiana Goes Democratic.

New Orleans, April 17.—The election today in Louisiana for members of the legislature and a full State ticket resulted in a Democratic landslide. The ticket, headed by Auditor Heard, swept the State from one end to the other, and the legislature is overwhelmingly Democratic.

The vote was unusually light, owing to the excessive rainfall. Today's was the first election held under the new legislation law disfranchising the negro, and the battle at the polls was fought almost exclusively by the whites. Three tickets were in the field—the Democratic ticket, headed by W. W. Heard, the present State auditor; the regular Republicans, headed by E. S. Reams, a New Orleans grocer, and a fusion embracing sugar planters, independent Democrats and Populists, headed by Don Caffery, Jr., son of Senator Caffery.

The State Medical Association

Charleston, April 20.—The South Carolina Medical Association which has been in session in Charleston for several days adjourned last night after a pleasant and profitable meeting which was largely attended. Florence was selected for the place of the next annual meeting. The following officers were elected:

President—Dr George R. Dean, Spartanburg.

First Vice President—Dr E. F. Darby, Sumter.

Second Vice President—Dr F. H. Me-Loed, Florence.

Third Vice President—Dr R. R. Hanahan, Fairfield.

Corresponding Secretary—Dr A. J. Buzit, Charleston.

Treasurer—Dr B. E. Baker, Charleston.

Committee on Publication—Dr W. P. Porcher, Dr A. J. Buist, Dr T. P. Whaley.

Committee on Ethics—Dr O. B. Mayer, Dr T. Grange Simons, Dr W. H. Nardin.

Committee on finance and committee on necrology both re-elected.

State Board of Examiners—First Congressional district, Dr R. L. Drodie, Charleston; 2d Congressional district, Dr H. H. Wymar, Aiken; 3d Congressional district, Dr R. A. Bratton, Yorkville.

Flood in Alabama and Mississippi.

Meridian Cut off From all Rail Communication. Passengers Tied up in Woods.

Meridian, Miss., April 17.—This city is cut off from the outside world except by telegraph. All trains are marked annulled for an indefinite period. The Atlanta and Vicksburg passenger due here at 12 30 p. m. yesterday has been waterbound 12 miles from the city for 30 hours. The damage to the Atlanta and Vicksburg, Alabama Great Southern, Mobile and Ohio and New Orleans and Northeastern railroads will reach \$50,000. In attacks and trestles swept away. This city and section have suffered incalculable loss. Twenty-five per cent of all fertilizer on farming lands throughout the State is a total loss and all truck plantations in a radius of ten miles are submerged. Three fatalities have been reported, the victims being negroes who lost their lives in an endeavor to save cattle. The rain has ceased.

THE WARRIOR RIVER RISE

Tuscaloosa, Ala., April 17.—This city is completely shut out from communication with the outside world except by telegraph. No trains on either the Mobile and Ohio or Alabama Great Southern have reached here since yesterday. There are washouts on both roads and the tracks are under water. The Warrior river is over 65 feet high.

Northport is almost entirely submerged. The River Hill road leading to the bridge has been washed away until there is an abyss nearly 50 feet wide reaching the front of some of the cottages and there is danger of the road caving in entirely.

Two houses floated down the river this morning and several people were rescued from the roofs of others. The river is over four feet higher than ever known before and still rising.

Much anxiety is felt about the planters along the river banks.

NEARLY 7 INCHES OF RAIN.

Birmingham, Ala., April 17.—A rain fall of almost seven inches in 24 hours has wrought much damage to railroad, mining and farming interests.

The movement of trains on almost every railroad entering the city has been seriously interfered with, and the suburban street railway has more or less trouble.

Several mines in the district have been flooded, and it is feared that some of the furnaces will be compelled to bank their fires.

The Southern and Alabama Great Southern railroads in the western part of the State have been severely damaged, the track of both roads being reported washed up for distances of from two to five miles.

Farmers have also suffered from the storm.

Hundreds of Travelers Tied up at Different Points on Railroads.

Jackson, Miss., April 19.—A special from McComb City states that 700 passengers brought in by the Illinois Central are tied up at that place waiting for the first train out for New Orleans.

The officials are unable say when they will get a train through, as over nine miles of track has disappeared beneath the water just below Catawba. Further south swamps and lowlands are rapidly filling up with backwater, which threatens to submerge the tracks.

Pearl river has advanced eight inches since noon and continues to rise at a rapid rate. Farmers' houses and negro cabins in the lowland between here and Pearsons station are in imminent danger, and if the overflow continues to spread at the present rate they will have to move out. The water is threatening tonight.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER

ABSOLUTELY PURE

Makes the food more delicious and wholesome

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

Meridian, Miss., April 19.—It will be three and possibly four days before the Northeastern, the Alabama Great Southern, the Southern and the Alabama and Vicksburg railroads and the Mobile and Ohio can resume business through this section. The washouts were more disastrous than the officials anticipated. A million dollars, it is believed, will not cover the damages to these roads from floods and suspension of business. A gentleman reached this city today from a waterbound Mobile and Ohio passenger train at Quitman, have ridden through the country. He reports the passengers faring well, through the hospitality of the Quitman citizens and the efforts of the road. The train has been at a standstill, surrounded by water, three days and three nights. A heavy rain is falling tonight.

Mobile, Ala., April 19.—Rain has fallen in a steady downpour all day, and it is reported to be general throughout this portion of the south. The railroads are having great trouble. The loss is great.

Property of All Kinds Damaged Beyond Estimate and Loss of Life Probable.

Memphis, Tenn., April 20.—A special to the commercial-appeal from New Orleans says:

The flood which commenced the early part of the week has already caused, at a conservative estimate, fully \$2,000,000 loss in central and southern Mississippi, to say nothing of the damages by the railroads. The extent of the losses have not yet been fully realized and it may be some days yet before an accurate total can be reached for mail communication has been totally cut off between these localities which have suffered most and the outside world and telegraph lines suffered greatly so that the news is just now beginning to arrive by wire. In Louisiana too, the damage done by the unprecedented rains was general but in this State they are more inferential than positive. A special from Columbia, Miss., which was received late tonight fixed the loss in that little town and its immediate vicinity at \$500,000.

Many farm houses were carried away by the mad waters, the occupants barely escaping with their lives and the number of cattle drowned was great. A great many gins and mill houses were washed away and many sawmills saw their lumber piles melted away as if by magic. Nearly every bridge around Columbia was swept down stream. Pearl river is now higher than it has been known for many years. Miles and miles of the New Orleans and Northeastern track are still under water. Honey Island, the rendezvous of the noted train robber, Burch, is under 20 feet of water and the island, which has for years been one of the natural game preserves of the south, is now devoid of wild animals. Hundreds of deer were drowned and the hills near the banks of the Pearl river are now the temporary abiding places of all manner of four footed life. The log booms in the neighborhood of Pearl-rington were all carried away and the loss sustained in this direction alone amounts to thousands of dollars.

Distressing news comes Hickory, Miss., a small town on this road which is now completely surrounded by water and inundated in many localities. Hundreds of hogs and cattle near this point were drowned and miles of fencing have been washed away. The latest advices from the town of Enterprise state that the losses there have been great and much destitution prevails. Half a score of towns are completely cut off from the outside world as they have been since the early part of the week. From Chunkey river swamps, near Enterprise, comes the news of a heavy loss of life.

The Illinois Central road is crippled badly. The New Orleans and Northeastern, and the Yazoo and Mississippi valley are as yet unable to move trains and the M. & O is also a heavy sufferer.

Washington, April 19.—Senator Gallinger, chairman of the senate committee on pensions, today introduced a bill in the senate granting a pension of \$50 a month to Gen. Longstreet. The bill gives the general's service as that of major in the Eighth U. S. Infantry during the Mexican war and makes no reference to his connection with the Confederacy.