

Where Boer Leaders Signed Peace Treaty



The following letter descriptive of the Boer delegates—their appearance, mode of life, and views on peace—has come from a special correspondent in Pretoria:

As a matter of fact, from first to last, while Schalk Burger, the vice president, and the rest of the Transvaal government, with the exception of Reitz, were in favor of peace on any or no terms, and Louis Botha shared their views, Steyn, De Wet and Delarey were for demanding impossible conditions. Of that, however, anon. The first protocol set out: That whereas Great Britain was responsible for the war, etc., and by force of arms, etc., they were willing to sue for peace on the understanding that their rights should be restored to them at the expiration of a fixed period, etc. All that was brushed aside and the delegates after a while, with some dispute among themselves, settled down to draft less objectionable terms. But Brer Boer is a quaint compound, suspicious, and slow to move in any approved common sense direction. Like nearly all primitive peoples, he has no fear of asking too much, but a constant dread of seeking too little. He goes on the principle that arrangements and concessions are the outcome of entirely low, selfish motives on the part of the other side.

The delegates evinced little surprise during their railway journey at the evidences of the resumption of industrial pursuits in all directions, as if there was neither war nor unrest in the country. In conversation they betrayed no special interest upon any topic except in the matter of politics, home and foreign. Officers and civilians who in kindness tried to engage them in a chat found it dull work and gave up the attempt. On the railway journeys they read little, passing the time for the most part in smoking, talking to each other, and drinking.

Poor Mr. Steyn was more down on his luck than any of the others on the way to Pretoria. He was nervous and out of sorts, and as he stepped out of the train his hat fell off more than once. But his eyesight is very bad—worse than I thought it. There is something more seriously wrong than an ordinary cold and inflammation. A local medical man was called in and is prescribing for him. Within a few minutes of their arrival each party was conveyed to a temporary residence.

Sentries were placed at the gateways of their abode. The soldiers in question were drawn from the escort or guard of honor. It was conceded that the Boers could see whomsoever they wished, or go where they wished, in company of an officer. The only understanding was that the delegates, unless by express consent, should not discuss politics or the war with their visitors. Scores of female relatives and a few of the sterner sex could be seen walking about daily in the garden or lounging upon the verandas and balconies chatting with the Boer leaders. Delarey had visits from his daughter, who resides with her husband in Pretoria, as well as from old burgher friends. Doubt and suspicion clouded the Boer general's mind as they did those of his colleagues, destroying frankness and easy intercourse.

And yet Delarey and the others were anxious to know what the true situation of affairs was, what chance there was for assistance from abroad, and how much the English would con-

cede them. He said they would insist that their flag, the "Vierkleur," should be retained. He spoke of their recent successes, in particular his own over Von Donop's convoy, and the capture of Lord Methuen. "I took on the latter occasion over 857 of Lord Methuen's column prisoners, including wounded," he observed. "Why, I could hold out in the Western Transvaal for two years more," added the Boer general, who, I fear, suffering from that sad complaint, a "swelled head." But to a man who has lived upon the veld among a very homely, untraveled people such boastfulness is, under the circumstances, surely pardonable. Delarey is a man among and over his Boer compatriots. He is honest and downright in his dealings, and was so before the war—a Boer whose word was his bond. He fought hotly declared that if he further he would fight, as in the past, as an honorable foe, and would do nothing to forfeit the good name of himself and his burghers. Lord Kitchener, who surely is a diplomatist as well as a soldier—and he has had varied experience in both capacities, at least in Egypt—received the delegates at his residence.

The Transvaalers, with but one or two isolated exceptions, were for immediate cessation of hostilities, even to leaving the Free States to themselves. In the end I believe it has come to this—they are to have the dubious honor of being the last to come in and to give up the further useless, wanton spilling of human blood. Steyn, who is, I fear, breaking up physically, voted for continuing the struggle, but his influence counts for little beside that of the pugnacious, plump, swart, saturnine Christian De Wet, who is the real burgher master of the Free State. Delarey's was practically the only bellicose voice raised for war to the bitter end from the Transvaal. Mr. Reitz, the state secretary, need not be too seriously considered. But let this justice be done to Gen. Delarey, who deserves the meed of honest men's praise; he said: "If the commandoes or burghers accept the English flag I will abide by their verdict and come in, for I have done my duty. If not, I will die in the field, fighting for the old government and the old flag." At last the voices of the burgher women—or, at least, a majority of them—are now for peace, and that has not been without its influence for settlement in the deliberations.

To get to the back of any man's mind is not usually an easy task. It is almost an impossible one when the stolid, taciturn, self-sufficient Boer is the subject of the operation. I would not be dealing fairly by you and your readers if I did not state that there are those among the Boers now demanding settlement and peace who seek to and would use these means to conspire for the abrogation of all the conditions that they are to say so anxious to sign. But the sense of fairness, the pride of keeping their plighted word, will, I believe, weigh with the vast majority, and the "peace" will be a lasting peace if the terms do not assign away the victor's manifest rights. Better, in mercy's name, to "fight to a finish" than tolerate such a settlement, for bitterness and contention carried into civil life are more deadly to nationhood than war in the field between men. The future danger, if not guarded against, will come from the former evil element in South Africa, intriguing

foreigners, who were mostly Hollanders. Brer Boer, left to himself, readily strikes up fast and lifelong friendships with a European.

To give a succinct account of the conduct of the negotiations is difficult but not impossible. The customary embargo was laid upon our cabling news. Even letters, mark you, are not yet out of the censor's list, and for the claim of the press to be informed of all matters of public importance that is an extravagant dream. The statement of the Boer case and claims was reduced to writing more than once. Constant communication was maintained as to the course of proceedings between Pretoria and London. Finally, when the proposals were drafted into something like conditions that could really be entertained, the text was wired to the Colonial Secretary. Thereafter came back in answer on Thursday, I think, the British Government's irrefragable minimum. Lord Milner had several days previously received a very long message in cipher, setting out the home authorities' view and instructions. The negotiations were nearly broken off more than once, but the departing Boers delayed departing, and started to talk matters over afresh with each other.

There was a second meeting on Thursday and one more on Friday, (yesterday), the date of their actual return to the commandoes. Nothing is ever lost to a Boer for want of asking. In the beginning of the palaver the delegates "opened their mouths" monstrosity wide. There was a declaration that England had unjustly provoked and made war upon the republics; that the struggle was an unequal one, and they wished for peace. They were able to continue the war for some time, but to stop further effusion of blood they would cease hostilities provided that within a year civil government was restored to the two states. They stipulated that, pending that and the withdrawal of the troops, they should be represented by an actual majority of at least four out of seven upon any administrative council formed to conduct the government of the country, that their flags should be retained, and at the end of five years the British forces should be entirely withdrawn from the Transvaal and Orange Free States, and these two countries should be recognized as independent republics.

In that "purgatory" period there should be no disfranchisement of burghers, and the Boer officials should have control of the reins of government; and, further, they would agree to amend the franchise law, as formerly asked for by England, and would allow British subjects to vote, and also permit the use of the two languages. There was to be a general amnesty for all who had borne arms, including Cape rebels. It was tolerantly pointed out by Lord Kitchener that such demands were unreasonable, intolerable, impossible. The process of cutting down seemed wearily slow, but bit by bit they lumbered from stage to stage, as it was seen that otherwise they would have to go back to their commandoes without any message. Ultimately the matter was put in a manner from which there was no trimming possible by the British Government setting forth the terms they would concede and not go beyond. These were substantially the same conditions as were offered over one year ago to Louis Botha and the commandoes at Middleburg.



FLAG DAY PROCLAMATION.
Governor Calls for Observance of Anniversary on June 14.
LINCOLN, Neb., June 9.—Governor Savage issued the following proclamation, designating June 14 as Flag day:

In accordance with a precedent set by me one year ago, and in pursuance of a custom that is becoming established among the states of the union, I, Ezra P. Savage, governor of the state of Nebraska, do hereby proclaim Saturday, June 14, 1902, Flag day, and I do respectfully recommend that the day be observed by all patriotic citizens in such manner as shall in their judgment best promote the object to be attained.

The foregoing date is the 125th anniversary of the birth of our national emblem. Let this and each succeeding anniversary be a natal day, a day for patriotic exercises and good cheer on the part of all.

We'll may we look upon our flag with respect and reverence. It is a symbol of freedom, of peace, of justice. It represents more power, more charity, more Christianity, more patriotism, more chivalry and more of the nobler instincts of mankind than the flag of any other nation. It is stained by no national dishonor; it bears no mark of broken faith. Whether in the smoke of battle or in the sunshine of peace, whether at home or abroad, it is on a mission of mercy and enlightenment always. It is honored and respected throughout the world because it is the embodiment of virtue and because it is a guaranty of good faith everywhere and at all times.

Patriotic exercises of the character contemplated are intended to bring the American people, particularly those of the rising generation, in closer sympathy and to a clearer understanding of the real significance of the emblem of the nation. It is not so much that they shall reverence their mute symbol of sovereignty as that they shall have a clear understanding of what it represents. To this end I earnestly request that the day be observed in a proper manner by the children of the public schools and by patriotic citizens generally.

Brought Back to Life.
TECUMSEH, Neb., June 9.—Noah Elliott's two sons, Harry and Ray, aged 14 and 10 years respectively, went swimming in a pond on their father's farm near here. They jumped into the water head foremost where it was beyond their depth and Ray got securely stuck in the mud at the bottom and was unable to relieve himself. His brother ran to a nearby field and got his father and when the boy was extricated his body had been under the water fully fifteen minutes. Work of resuscitation was immediately begun and a physician summoned. There was apparently no life in the boy, but at the end of an hour's work some little evidence of life appeared and at the end of five hours the boy had so far recovered as to be able to speak. He is doing well and will probably fully recover.

Adjudged Insane.
WEST POINT, Neb., June 9.—Edgar Allen, living about four miles north of Wisner, in this county, was brought before the board of insanity commissioners today and adjudged insane. Mr. Allen is a young man, 23 years of age, and has a good education. He was a student at the State university at the time of the first symptoms of insanity and it is believed that overstudy is the cause of it.

Nine Inches of Rain.
BEATRICE, Neb., June 9.—A cloud-burst north of here at 4 o'clock yesterday resulted in a rainfall of nine inches in three hours and eleven inches by 10 o'clock last evening. The precipitation is the record for this state for over twenty years. Clouds blown up by a stirring south wind centered in the vicinity of Cortland, twenty miles north of here, where the cloud burst at 4 o'clock.

Drowned in Irrigation Ditch.
BURWELL, Neb., June 9.—Laren, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Hahn, was drowned in the irrigation ditch here. He was wading in the ditch and stepped into a deep hole and sank to the bottom.

Beatrice Chautauqua to Meet.
BEATRICE, Neb., June 9.—The fourteenth annual session of the Beatrice Chautauqua assembly opens in this city June 20.

Big Corn Shipment for Elkhorn.
ELKHORN, Neb., June 9.—H. A. Nolte, who owns an elevator here, shipped a trainload of corn consisting of twenty-three cars, or 30,000 bushels to St. Louis. This is the largest shipment ever made from this town.

Farmer's Eye Blown Out.
EUSTIS, Neb., June 9.—The gun with which Gustave Wedegartner was hunting cats exploded, blowing out one of his eyes and mutilating his face.

OLD COMMANDER STEPS OUT AND NEW ONE ISSUES HIS FIRST ORDER.
LINCOLN, Neb., June 7.—The following orders have been issued from the headquarters of the Grand Army of the Republic:

1. Comrade Calvin L. Steele, having been elected commander of the Department of Nebraska, Grand Army of the Republic, for the ensuing year, and upon his installation my official relations with that office terminate, I therefore most earnestly bespeak for my successor that same loyal and cordial support that has been accorded to me during my term.

2. I desire at this time to express my appreciation to the officers of this department for their loyal and excellent services rendered me during the last year. Whatever success that may have attended my administration is loyally due to the faithful work of my able assistants, for which I extend my sincere thanks.

3. My official and personal staff are hereby discharged from further duty. By command of R. S. WILCOX, Department Commander.

Official:
MART HOWE, A. A. G.
General Order No. 1.—I. Having been elected commander of the Department of Nebraska, Grand Army of the Republic, at the twenty-sixth annual encampment held at Omaha on the 22d and 23d inst., I hereby assume the duties of this important office with a profound regard for its responsibility, and I hereby take this occasion to thank my comrades for the high honor conferred and earnestly solicit their continuous loyal support that has been given by my predecessor during the last year.

2. Headquarters are hereby continued at Lincoln, Neb.

3. The following appointments are made: Mart Howe, Lincoln, assistant adjutant general; I. N. Thompson, Fairbury, assistant quartermaster general; Jacob Fawcett, Omaha, judge advocate general; W. D. Pruitt, Arapahoe, inspector general.

Senior aide and chief of staff, Captain Joseph Teeter, Lincoln.

Further appointments will be announced in future orders.

4. All matter pertaining to the adjutant general's office will be addressed to Mart Howe, A. A. G., Lincoln, Neb.

That of a personal character to the commander, Calvin F. Steele, Fairbury, Neb. By command of CALVIN F. STEELE, Department Commander.

FRANKLIN ALMOST BURNED UP.
Fire Sweeps Away Over Half Business Part of Town.
FRANKLIN, Neb., June 7.—A most disastrous fire occurred here. Two entire blocks, consisting of fourteen business houses, with most of the stocks of goods, are a total loss.

The origin of the fire was in the Peterson meat market, starting in the basement. When discovered, about 10:30 p. m., it was a very small blaze, but the smoke was so dense it was impossible to save the building.

In less than thirty minutes five buildings were a mass of flames. This was on the east side of Main street at the south end and a heavy wind was blowing from the south. Every indication was that the entire business portion would be burned. The wind changed to the east and soon buildings on the opposite side of the street were on fire and the only thing now to be done was to save the north half section of the business portion. Fully 500 people were on the ground and everybody was helping in every way possible. The Fager furniture building, which was iron-covered, checked the flames.

A Life Sentence.
ALLIANCE, Neb., June 7.—The jury in the murder case against August Jahnke, charged with the murder of Mike Slerk on April 18, after being out one week, brought in a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree and imposed a life sentence.

Hand Crushed in Feed Grinder.
NORTH LOUP, Neb., June 7.—A young woman named Palo, living south of here, while assisting at a feed grinder, got her hand caught in the machine and crushed so badly it had to be amputated.

Court House Bonds Defeated.
COLUMBUS, Neb., June 7.—Returns from all but two townships on the special election to vote bonds for a \$65,000 court house give 620 for and 1,547 against.

He Smoked as He Died.
LINCOLN, Neb., June 7.—Hugo Breglein, German, a butcher by occupation, was found dead in his bed at his home a mile west of Lincoln. The body lay upon its back, the whole top of the head having been blown off by a gunshot. An empty rifle was tightly grasped in his right hand; from his mouth protruded a pipe. The walls and ceiling of his room were bespattered with blood and particles of shredded flesh.

THE LIVE STOCK MARKET.
Latest Quotations from South Omaha and Kansas City.

SOUTH OMAHA.
CATTLE.—There was not a heavy run of cattle at this point, but there was a large supply in Chicago. Packers here started in from the beginning to pound the market and as a result it was late before the bulk of the offerings was disposed of. Beef steers again made up the big end of the receipts and the market was very slow and weak. Packers seemed to have the idea that they have been paying too much for their cattle here as compared with Chicago, and they made an attempt to get this market down in line. The cow market did not show so much change. The good dry lot cows sold without much trouble at what looked to be steady prices, but on the grassy stuff the market was slow and weak. Packers did not seem to want that kind of cattle and will only buy it at their own prices. Good fat bulls did not show much change. Feeder bulls, however, were very slow and such kinds are considerably lower than they were a week ago. Veal calves and stags were about steady. There were very few stocks and feeders on sale and anything desirable seemed to command steady prices. Common kinds, though, were neglected, the same as usual.

HOGS.—There was another liberal supply of hogs. The market opened active and strong to be higher than yesterday's average. Sellers cut loose as rapidly as possible and the bulk of the hogs were sold in good season. Along toward the last end, however, the market weakened and the close was very slow and weak. The bulk of the good weight hogs sold from \$7.25 to \$7.35 and as high as \$7.40 was paid, which makes a new top for the market for the year. The medium weight hogs sold mostly from \$7.15 to \$7.25 and the lighter lugs went from \$7.15 down.

SHEEP.—There were only just a few cars of sheep on the market, the bulk of the offerings being consigned direct to local packers. The few bunches that did sell brought just about steady prices as compared with yesterday. A bunch of native woolled lambs sold at \$5.65 and some clipped lambs sold at \$5.25. There were hardly any good sheep offered to make a test of the market. It was evident from the way buyers acted, though, that good stuff would have sold without much trouble.

KANSAS CITY.
CATTLE.—Market steady to weak; a bunch of choice export and dressed steers sold for \$7.60 which is the highest price by the ever paid on this market; choice export and dressed beef steers, \$7.25; fair to good, \$4.75; stockers and feeders, \$3.25; western fed steers, \$4.95; Texas and Indian steers, \$2.95; native hogs, \$3.95; native cows, \$2.50; native heifers, \$3.95; canners, \$2.95; bulls, \$2.75; calves, \$2.75.

HOGS.—Market steady to strong; top, \$7.45; bulk of sales, \$7.00; heavy, \$7.30; mixed packers, \$7.15; light, \$6.50; porkers, \$6.75; pigs, \$6.25.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Market steady; native lambs, \$5.00; western lambs, \$5.00; native wethers, \$3.25; western wethers, \$4.00; fed ewes, \$4.50; Texas clipped yearlings, \$3.50; Texas clipped sheep, \$4.25; stockers and feeders, \$2.50.

ERUPTION IS NOT DANGEROUS.
Stream of Hot Air Issues from Cracks in the Mountains.
ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., June 7.—Dr. C. L. Herrick, from the New Mexico university and one of the most eminent geologists in the west, after carefully examining the supposed volcano crater, fifteen miles from Gallup, gives a description of the locality and says:

"Here there is a fold and fault, which is interesting because of the metamorphism which is going on. From the cracks in the sandstone overlying the lignite there issues a constant stream of heated air, sulphurous oxide and vapor. The solfatara action may be attributed to the slow oxidation of shales in the presence of water. From this point eastward is a series of cracks that have been filled with iron and lime, serving still more to show that along this fold and break water at one time ascended."

CRONJE IS VERY RETICENT.
He and Other Officers Will Be Glad to Get Back Home.
HAMILTON, Bermuda, June 7.—The Boer officers who have been living in the prison camps on the islands near here have been allowed their liberty on parole. Several of them came ashore here today and were interviewed.

Generals Cronje, Wessels, Botha and others were very reticent, but they said they were glad the war was over and would be delighted to get back to their homes.

It is understood that the rank and file of the Boers will be allowed ashore in batches of ten. The officers have been invited to an "at home" at Government house tomorrow.

Purchase Valuable Coal Mine.
DES MOINES, Ia., June 7.—George W. Seever, general solicitor for the Iowa Central Railroad company at Oskaloosa, has purchased the valuable Hocking coal mine in Monroe county. The price paid was \$550,000.

War Office Congratulates Kitchener.
LONDON, June 7.—The war office has cabled congratulations to Lord Kitchener on the energy, skill and patience with which he conducted the long campaign in South Africa, and has asked him to communicate to the troops the government's profound sense of their spirit of endurance, bravery and discipline, and also of their humanity, shown throughout the trying period. Lord Kitchener replied with thanks.