THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871. OMAHA, WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 28, 1900—TWELVE PAGES. SINGLE COPY FIVE CENTS.

BIG HIT BY DOLLIVER

Iowa Orator Eloquent in Defense of the Porto Rico Bill.

STIRS COLLEAGUES AND THE PUBLIC

Cheers, Applause and Laughter from the Floor and Galleries.

SHAFTS OF SARCASM STRIKE BRYAN

Desperate Straits of Democracy Exemplified by Course of Its Leader.

SEEKING VOTES AT SOLDIERS' FUNERALS

Passage of the Modified Porto Rico Bill Expected by a Narrow Majority—Debate Ends in a Blaze of Glory.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The general debate on the Porto Rico tariff bill closed today in a blaze of glory. The galleries were banked to the doors and every seat was occupied when the rival champions of both sides, Dolliver of Iowa and Bailey of Texas, made the closing argument. Each spoke for an hour and a half.

The speech of Bailey, devoted as it was almost exclusively to the legal phases of the controversy, while it was profound and impressive, did not arouse the unbounded enthusiasm which swept galleries and floors while Dolliver was speaking. The Iowan was at his best and his wit, eloquence and sarcasm in turn drew salvos of applause from his republican associates.

Before these closing speeches Cannon of Illinois, one of the veterans on the republican side, made an especially effective speech in support of the bill. Carmack of Tennessee, Clayton of Alabama, Kleberg of Texas and Pearce and De Armond of Missouri also made speeches in opposition to the bill.

The republican managers are now confident that with the modifications agreed upon at the conference last night the bill will command a narrow majority in the final vote tomorrow.

"This bill," said Dolliver, "is merely a temporary measure to provide revenue for Porto Rico. Yet it has been magnified in this debate until it has been made to include the whole of the territory acquired by us by the treaty of Paris. The president recommended that congress abolish all duties on Porto Rican goods, that the inhabitants of the stricken island might rebuild their fallen fortunes and regenerate their shattered industries. Despite the abuse heaped by the press upon this bill, I am prepared to show that it will do exactly what the president recommended should be done. (Applause.)

Trusts Want Free Trade.

"It was declared that this bill was in behalf of the sugar traffic, when the fact is the sugar trust wants free trade. The same was true of the tobacco trust. The syndicates had piled up the wharves in San Juan awaiting their rich harvest when free trade came and their representatives hung about the halls of congress seeking to advance a free trade bill."

He said there was little to be feared from "the scribes and Pharisees of the constitution" in their declarations before "the supreme court of the imagination."

Free trade with Porto Rico could introduce no element of alarm into the American market place, but this cry had done the republican party, at least, a great service, for it had put a stop to the unscrupulous agitation that was filling the United States with fear that in taking possession of vast tropical areas the United States was helpless to deal with them except on such terms of political equity or commercial equity as the constitution prescribes for the people of the United States.

"If," he said, "the constitution of the United States establishes free trade between Manila and San Francisco, as it does between Maryland and Virginia, then the fact that we have got into a new competition is only the least trouble that is before us. We are in that case disarmed at once in the momentous demand which this nation has made for equal rights in the commerce of Asia. I violate no secret of this government when I say that today there is pending in the State department the most elaborate commercial negotiation ever attempted in the history of our diplomacy, based on a pledge made by our commissioners at Paris that whatever we did in the Pacific we would maintain an open door for the commerce of the world. And I want to ask republicans and these democrats from the great cotton belt of the south who are looking forward to the opportunities that are wrapped up in the commerce in the Pacific ocean, in time to come, with what countenance we can stand before the cabinets of Europe, protesting against the occupation of the ports of China to the prejudice of American trade, when we ourselves, from our headquarters on the border, being carried away by our own constitution, have deliberately drawn a commercial dead line about the Philippine islands for the permanent exclusion of everybody else. The open door of Asia through which the enlightened community of American business north and south looks forward to opportunities not even yet explored to opportunities that shall broaden with the centuries, is the real question that is on trial here. We are in the Philippine islands under circumstances known and read of all men.

Bryan and the Paris Treaty.

"I am not going to stand here a minute to defend the treaty of Paris. I do not intend to go into any detail about it happened to be agreed upon. I will say to both sides of this house that when the world knows, as it will soon know, every line in the history of that transaction by the publication of the whole archives of the negotiation, every American will perceive that the president of the United States ended our war with Spain on the same high level on which the American people began it and will be able to invoke on every part of his performance the gracious favor of Almighty God and the considerate judgment of mankind. (Applause on the republican side.)

"No man should have voted for the appropriation to carry that treaty into force who had not taken the manful resolution to shoulder the infinite responsibility which it laid upon his country."

He denounced in scathing terms a man who would seize a miserable opportunity to harass the government for political purposes. Yet such a man, leaving his uniform in Florida, had hastened to Washington to rally his supporters for the ratification of the treaty in order that he might subsequently turn it to political account. In the heat and dust of the coming campaign, he said, the moral characteristics of such a man would not escape the attention of the American people.

Mr. Bryan had advised not that we should abandon the archipelago, in which there

(Continued on Second Page.)

AGUINALDO'S PINOS STILL HOLD OUT

Lambert W. R.

Insurgent Officers Think Pacification Can Be Accomplished Before Rainy Season.

(Copyright, 1900, by Press Publishing Co.)

HONG KONG, Feb. 27.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—According to authentic advices received here the American officers in the field unite in saying that the pacification of the insurgents in the Philippines will be impossible before the rainy season sets in. The officers fix the time for the ending of the insurrection at from two to six years. Reports of American casualties and of prisoners taken by the insurgents in their attacks upon American patrols and provision trains are said to be suppressed by General Otis as far as possible. Aguinaldo's wife is kept under close guard as a prisoner in Manila, but all the captured insurgent officers have been liberated.

Mgr. Chapelle and General Otis disagree radically over the course to be pursued with the Spanish friars. Chapelle has ordered them to remain here and is definitely committed to the policy of their ultimate return to their parishes. To this plan General Otis is strongly opposed and so the matter stands at a deadlock pending a decision from Washington. General Rose refused to allow the Manila papers to announce the coming of Civil Commissioner Denby. The condition of General Otis' health is such that his doctors think he must soon break down.

Three Suicides in Otis' List.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The War department received today from General Otis this list of deaths:

MANILA, Feb. 27.—Deaths: Accidental, November 7, William E. Brace, Company H, Thirty-fourth infantry, explosion of gun cotton; suicide, February 23, George N. Knox, Company D, Sixth artillery; February 2, John C. Hudson, Company C, Twenty-third infantry; December 29, Herman Rogers, Company I, Thirty-ninth infantry; at Rio San Juan, variola, February 23, Ernest W. Schoonmaker, Company E, Fourth cavalry; Leroy Watkins, corporal, Company F, Twenty-fourth infantry; January 26, Henry W. Couch, Company C, Thirty-third infantry; February 19, Luther M. Rauss, Company M, Thirty-second infantry; January 12, Frank M. Halliday, Company F, Thirty-fourth infantry; January 22, E. L. Deming, corporal, Company G, Thirty-fourth infantry; January 21, Walter S. Hemphill, Company I, thirty-first infantry; February 5, Leonidas F. Walker, corporal, Company E, Thirty-fourth infantry; fever, malaria, February 18, Warren Coyle, Company I, Fourth cavalry; February 7, Edwin S. Larkin, Company D, Sixteenth infantry; February 20, De Witt C. Hyatt, Company K, Forty-first infantry; February 5, Richard Richards, Company E, Thirty-fourth infantry; typhoid, January 16, Fred Armstrong, Company E, Twenty-fifth infantry; February 16, Charles F. Fair, Company F, Fortieth infantry; February 23, George E. Williams, Company H, —— infantry; February 22, Elmer F. Price, Company F, Fourth cavalry; February 19, John S. Ney, Company H, Ninth infantry; Feb. 2, John W. Payge, Company E, Thirty-fourth infantry; dysentery, February 7, Henry J. McDole, Company D, Thirteenth infantry; February 15, William G. Samuels, Company F, Twelfth infantry; February 20, William F. Spilker, sergeant, Company B, Thirty-fourth infantry; Clarence A. Thompson, Company H, Thirty-fourth infantry; pneumonia, February 15, Stephen Hall, corporal, Company D, Ninth infantry; February 20, Everett T. Carr, Company G, Forty-third infantry; nephritis, January 25, John Loeffler, Company F, Third cavalry; February 15, Lewis W. Ellis, Company I, Thirty-second infantry; appendicitis, February 7, Fred M. Dubley, Company L, Fourth infantry; cancer, February 19, Renney Humphreys, Company A, Thirty-ninth infantry; February 22, Richard T. Frank, Company C, Third infantry; rubeola, January 1, Fred D. Day, Thirty-fourth infantry; organic heart disease, February 3, Henry Bacon, Company H, Twenty-fourth infantry; cerebro spinal meningitis, February 6, Bert W. Hayden, Company H, Thirty-fourth infantry.

EMPEROR'S PLAY IS HISSED

Kaiser William, Displeased, Retires Before the Storm of Disapproval.

BERLIN, Feb. 27.—The first presentation tonight of "Der Eisensahn" ("The Iron Tooth") at the Royal theater was a notable event, socially and artistically. All the tickets had been sold nine days ago and the house was packed.

Emperor William appeared during the second act and sat almost unobserved and quite alone in the royal orchestra box, screened by the drapery from observation.

After the first act there was complete silence. After the second and third there was rather vigorous applause, but from the parquet, where the critics and literary people sat, and from the second and third galleries there came a piercing storm of hisses.

The emperor, whose collaboration with Captain Lauf in the play is well known, was highly displeased. Captain Lauf took a cup of tea with his majesty after the third act, having twice answered calls from the boxes and elsewhere and having come before the curtain as pale as a ghost. Then he, with the emperor, left the theater, which caused a sensation.

Neither the empress nor the imperial princes attended, quite contrary to the previous arrangement.

The public verdict of the play is that it is verbose, although containing fine dramatic passages and too palpably glorifies the Hohenzollern hero, who put down the Berlin rebellion in 1447.

The acting was excellent throughout, especially that of Herr Mattkowsky, as Frederick of Hohenzollern, and of Fraulein Poppe.

The end of the carnival was celebrated by many balls. There was a great carnival ball at the Philharmonic tonight. Lent will be observed more strictly than usual, owing to the death of the mother of the empress.

Anti-Foreign Attitude Grows.

PEKIN, Feb. 27.—The anti-foreign attitude of the government grows more pronounced daily and is regarded as extremely menacing to foreign enterprise. Never in the last forty years has the central government been so intensely anti-foreign. Several Chinese have been impeached and imprisoned because they have insisted in obtaining concessions for foreigners.

Wire to Heart of Africa.

MOMBASSA, Feb. 27.—The Uganda railway telegraph line reached the Nile at Ripon Falls February 18, and was carried across the river next day, thus establishing telegraphic communication between London and the sources of the Nile.

Fishermen Lost in Gale.

ABERDEEN, Feb. 27.—Five Aberdeen trawlers which started for the fishing grounds before the recent gales have not returned, and all hope of their safety has been abandoned. Their crews number about seventy men and boys.

HONOLULU PLAGUE REPORT

Correspondent Mentions Three New Cases Discovered After Twelve Days of Health.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 27.—The steamer Australia arrived from Honolulu today. The Associated Press correspondent at Honolulu, writing under date of February 20, says:

"After twelve days passing without a sign of the plague, three cases were discovered yesterday and all ended fatally. The victims were two Chinese males and a woman—half Chinese and half Hawaiian.

"It is almost certain that one of the victims came to his death through eating infected food from a Chinese store."

STRIKERS STOP BUSINESS

Sugar Mills Will Be Compelled to Shut Down Before Long.

HAVANA, Feb. 27.—The strikers at Cienfuegos are still out, and as a consequence all business there is paralyzed. The owners of sugar estates say they will be compelled to shut down in a few days unless something is done. The quartermaster's department has discharged fifteen employes who would not handle supplies, fearing bodily harm from the strikers if they did so. The railroad is also blocked. The cars are on the sidings and, therefore, there are no cars obtainable for outgoing shipments. The mayor and other officials of the city are said to be encouraging the strikers. Twenty-five men under the quartermaster's orders are unloading a Spanish steamer. Troops are held in readiness in case of trouble arising from the strike.

A meeting has been held at Cienfuegos for the purpose of objecting to the appointment of Monsignor Sbarretti, the new bishop of Havana.

The yellow fever patients left at Cienfuegos by the United States training ship Lancaster are all recovering.

Civil Governor Gomez will go to Cienfuegos today and will immediately depose Mayor Frias, the chief of police and the chief sanitary officer for the part they have taken in inciting the strikers. Orders have been given to the troops to provide the most absolute protection for those persons desiring to work, which, so far, has not been the case. This is owing to the fact of the entire police force assisting the cause of the strikers, in some cases, it is alleged, even preventing men from attempting to go to work. Persons who have recently arrived here from Cienfuegos say the situation there is serious.

Governor General Wood has ordered that steps be taken immediately to purify the official atmosphere at Cienfuegos.

General Wood presided this afternoon at an important meeting of the cabinet. The Cienfuegos strike occupied a large portion of the time, and it was decided that Mayor Frias should be ordered to Havana to explain his active connection in favor of disorder. He will not return to Cienfuegos, but another mayor will be appointed, Senor Frias reverting to his former position as a professor in the University of Havana.

While the meeting of the cabinet was in progress Civil Governor Gomez telegraphed them that the strike had been declared off shortly after arriving at Cienfuegos, on the advice of Mayor Frias.

MILLION-DOLLAR FIRE LOSS

Retail District of Newark, N. J., Almost Wiped Out—Several People Are Missing.

NEWARK, N. J., Feb. 27.—The greatest fire Newark, N. J., ever experienced swept through the retail dry goods district tonight, destroying a score or more of buildings. The loss is estimated at over $1,000,000. Several lives may have been lost and a number of persons were badly burned.

The principal losses are:

W. V. Snyder & Co., department store, $500,000 on stock; buildings, which have several owners, $275,000; J. M. Mantz, L. Bernestein and L. S. Paut & Co., $15,000 each. A number of firms are losers to the extent of from $5,000 to $10,000 each and the scores of smaller losers will bring the amount of losses up to more than $1,000,000, it is estimated.

Four firemen were buried under a wall at the rear of Snyder's, which fell with a terrific crash. Captain Walter Harrison and Fireman Thomas Burns were taken out unconscious and may be fatally injured. The other two firemen were severely injured. Although a number of people were believed to be in the Snyder store when the fire broke out no bodies have been found. There are several persons unaccounted for, and it is not known whether they escaped or were burned to death.

CHICAGO, Feb. 27.—One woman lost her life and four persons were injured in a fire that destroyed an apartment house at 325-327 Wells street tonight. The firemen made several heroic rescues during the progress of the blaze.

Miss Kate Englan, a dressmaker, 19 years of age, was overcome by smoke and rescued by firemen. She died at a hospital.

TWO GOVERNMENTS, NO MONEY

Ludicrous Situation at Frankfort, Where Banks Await a Decision of Some Court.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 27.—Two state governments, completely officered and each claiming to be the regular and legal officials, are in Frankfort today and will remain, each claiming the right to administer the affairs of state until the question is adjudicated in the courts. The most ludicrous thing about the contests came into the situation today. As anticipated the banks refused to recognize either of the contending factions and as a result both are without money and the state funds are as securely tied up as they could be. Legislators, county as well as state officials and all kinds of contractors with the state will have to wait until somebody is authorized by a decision of the court to pay them and the state will have to wait on what is due it until the courts say who is authorized to receive it. The democratic state officers have opened offices in the State hotel. The charitable and penal state institutions are among the sufferers.

BRYAN FOLLOWERS ARE SPLIT

Probability of a Contesting Delegation from Maryland—"Regulars" Against "Chicago Platformers."

BALTIMORE, Feb. 27.—A convention of "Chicago platform democrats" will be held in this city tomorrow for the purpose of choosing delegates to the Kansas City convention. The "Chicago platformers" comprise a wing of the Bryanites in this city and state who were dissatisfied with the manner the silver democrats conducted affairs political. There have been no regularly elected delegates to the convention and the gathering tomorrow will probably be in the nature of a conference.

The "regular" Bryanites announce that they will go into the democratic primaries and contest for a delegation instructed for their candidate. The democratic convention has not yet set the date for the primaries.

EMBEZZLER FOUND IN KANSAS

Charles Ingersoll, Wanted in New York, is Captured Just Before Leaving for Peru.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 27.—A Star special from Iola, Kan., says: Charles Ingersoll, ex-treasurer of Thompkins county, New York, wanted on a charge of embezzling county funds, was arrested here today. He had lived at a local hotel for five weeks past under the name of McClary. When arrested Ingersoll made no effort to escape, admitted his identity and handed the arresting sheriff $250, all the money he had. Ingersoll is said to have arranged to meet his son here tomorrow and to have planned to go to Peru, South America. The son is believed to be enroute from the east. A reward of $2,000 had been offered for Ingersoll's capture.

JOY IS NOT SUPREME

Rejoicing Over Cronje's Surrender is Not Without Its Seamy Side.

DAMPER PLACED ON RISING ENTHUSIASM

Insignificant Number of Men and but Few Guns Are Captured.

BIG GUNS TAKEN AWAY TO SAFE PLACE

Entire Boer Army is Believed to Be Massing for Another Stand.

BULLER IS HAVING A HARD TIME OF IT

Relief of Ladysmith is Still in the Future Tense—Experts Take Rather a Gloomy View of the Situation.

(Copyright, 1900, by Press Publishing Co.)

LONDON, Feb. 27.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—It is no exaggeration to say that if the numbers had been reversed and 4,000 British had defeated and captured 40,000 Boers at Paardeberg the popular manifestations of delight could not have been more extravagant than they were in London today. Strangers shook hands with each other in streets and cars, flags were hoisted and wherever crowds gathered popular joy found effusive expression. The coincidence of Cronje's surrender coming on the Majuba anniversary accentuated the impression on the public mind that this victory, following a long succession of defeats and reverses, was cleverly arranged by Roberts by refusing overtures from Cronje on Monday morning.

This jubilation is not echoed among responsible politicians in Parliament, where the announcement that Cronje had made his magnificent stand with only 4,000 men served as effectual damper on rising enthusiasm. The insignificant number of men and the small caliber of Boer guns captured also show that Cronje had secured the safety of his heavy ordnance and it is feared it is now being placed in position on the Vaal river at Johannesburg and Pretoria, where the next great fights in this branch of the campaign are anticipated to take place.

Moreover, considerable apprehension was created tonight by the report that bad news had been received from Buller, pointing to his having once more found himself in an impossible position and had been compelled to make another retirement. Under Secretary Wyndham stated that no such information had been received at the War office, but public confidence in Buller is so shaken that this assurance did not allay general apprehension.

As to the general effect of General Cronje's surrender on the attitude of the federals and the duration of the war, there is no real belief here that it will prove a serious factor in that direction. Cronje, who has hitherto been regarded by the Boers as invincible is doubtless a great individual loss, which may for a time have a disheartening effect, but even apart from Joubert, in Schalkburger, Lucas Meyer and Olliver Delarey, the Boers have three generals who have displayed military qualities quite as high as Cronje's in this war by the same tactics. The sacrifice of Cronje without a herculean effort to get him away is regarded as a sign of weakness, but the military experts agree that such an attempt would have been quixotic and even if successful might still have jeopardized the whole future of the Boer plan of campaign.

Boers Concentrating.

The Boers, it is now said, are concentrating at Asvogelkop, according to the latest advices, about fifteen miles from Bloemfontein, with the railway behind to take them to the next position on the Vaal river.

It is thought quite likely that the Free Staters may be anxious for peace, but Kruger has a powerful argument against surrender in the forthcoming meeting of the Afrikander bund March 8. This meeting is viewed with alarm by the Rhodesian press of Capetown who are shrieking for its suppression. But Milner is afraid to adopt that recourse, as it would be equivalent to confessing that a majority of the British subjects of Cape Colony were antagonistic to his policy. The Afrikander bund, it is expected, will adopt strong resolutions denunciatory of the war and will demand the recall of Milner as a necessary preliminary to any serious peace movement. It is rumored indeed that the bund leaders are disposed to adopt an appeal to the American people to induce Washington to propose mediation. It is universally recognized here that the United States is the only power that can interpose with effect and without exciting British susceptibilities, and is at the same time the power best entitled to take that step. In fact, the sole hope of stopping this inglorious war before the heroic Boers are decimated as a preparation for total deprivation of their liberty and independence, rests on the action of the Washington government.

Cronje himself will be kept at Capetown and though in private conversation the jingoes make no secret of their desire for revenge on him for his alleged uncivilized conduct at the siege of Pochefstroom, twenty years ago, still his life is safe. If he was merciless at Pochefstroom he afterward spared the lives of the Jameson raiders, fully forfeited to him, whom he so easily routed and defeated with a numerically inferior force at Krugersdorp. The sublime heroism of Cronje's stand cannot be denied. Indeed, it is fully recognized on all sides here and it is thought he may, after a time, be utilized by Lord Roberts, who is a clever diplomatist, as a soldier in opening up informally negotiations for peace if some signal success attends the British arms.

Expert Opinions.

The Leader expert says: "Four thousand Boers and five thirteen-pound guns. On our side three and a half divisions and an enormous daily increasing mass of heavy artillery. Yet the Boers kept up the contest for over a week after Kelly-Kenny's division caught them and French headed off their line of retreat. They had got away and saved all their heavy artillery. Whither they have gone does not yet appear. Those are the heavy guns which used to make Methuen grind his teeth in impotence. And what now? Why, on to Bloemfontein, of course! One-third of the prisoners are Free Staters, which will not induce confidence. French may be able to spare some mounted troops for the relief of Mafeking. It would not be surprising if word had already gone to Snyman to concentrate back on Pretoria or rather the Klarksdorf and Pochefstroom districts, for Baden-Powell and Plumer joined can threaten the Rand and the capital on the rear. I take it for granted that French and the greater part of his cavalry are on the way to Bloemfontein. We cannot imagine anything so suicidal as the Boers making a stand at the Free State capital.

"Ladysmith is not yet relieved, and the latest news last night was very far from what we could wish. The very latest is

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—
Probably Snow; Variable Winds.

Temperature at Omaha yesterday:

Hour.	Deg.	Hour.	Deg.
5 a. m.	17	1 p. m.	22
6 a. m.	16	2 p. m.	22
7 a. m.	16	3 p. m.	23
8 a. m.	16	4 p. m.	22
9 a. m.	18	5 p. m.	23
10 a. m.	19	6 p. m.	24
11 a. m.	20	7 p. m.	24
12 m.	22	8 p. m.	24
		9 p. m.	23

that the Boers, far from retiring, have been reinforced and are actually attempting to outflank us. The very brevity is the startling character of this news, and compels credit and leaves us very uneasy. It is likely enough that if the enemy has got his big guns away he has sent back to the front the men who were engaged in removing them. If Joubert, before going away, can deliver what an American general would call the kick of a mule, he will not only get away easily but will give us some trouble before he clears the passes."

The Post expert says: "The surrender of Cronje is the first complete victory of the British in the campaign. We do not yet know the size of the force that has been destroyed. Roberts announces he has 4,000 prisoners and six guns. The number of prisoners will include the wounded Boers, but not the dead. At the time of the battle at Magersfontein Cronje's force was estimated at not less than 12,000. Half the force and most of the guns, including the larger ones, must have been sent away before his own retreat. On a moderate estimate, one-tenth of the Boer army has been taken out of account. The next step must have for its object the inducement of the Boer army to leave Ladysmith, and a long battle will thus be lost, as White and Buller will be able to join hands. With the news of Roberts' success came the announcement that Buller would yesterday deal a strong attack, and the news must be the raising of the siege of Ladysmith."

Associated Press Advices.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—4:30 a. m.—From John O'Groats to the Lands End there has been cheering today for the queen and a universal singing of the national anthem. This, with mutual congratulations, is the Briton's way of celebrating the most cheerful day of the war.

Already he is taking stock of the situation and measuring the future. There is no disposition to overestimate the success. The government entertains no illusion. As announced in the House of Commons, 10,000 additional troops will immediately go out, and the effective force will be kept near 200,000. Lord Roberts has done more than to capture 4,000 Boers and a few guns. He is within striking distance of one of the Boer capitals and is master of a large district of the Free State. He has given a shock to Boer confidence and immeasurably restored the spirit of his own troops. In capturing Cronje he has taken a leader whose presence alone was forth thousands to the Boer cause.

The best opinion here is that the Transvaalers are certain to continue the fight with undiminished valor, but it is not so certain about the Free Staters.

Lord Roberts has not allowed the corps of descriptive writers with him to supplement his plain narrative as yet and there are some points in doubt. It is not clear whether the 4,600 prisoners include those taken in small parties before the capitulation. What has become of the rest of the Boers who held the Magersfontein lines and where are the big guns? The smallness of Cronje's force causes some wonderment.

The morning papers, without exception, comment on the achievement of the Boer leader and his men in holding off for ten days a force from six to eight times as large as their own. British opinion is far more generous in victory than in defeat.

Sir Redvers Buller is having a hard time in Natal. It is evident now after a fortnight's fighting that he was misled when he wired that there was only a weak rearguard between him and Ladysmith. Apparently some of the hardest fighting of the war took place at the end of last week, as an armistice was agreed upon to allow attendance on the wounded and burial of the dead. Both sides must have lost heavily.

At any moment, however, news may come of General Buller's success. Friday will begin the fourth month of the siege of the garrison, which is seemingly in a position where it is unable to do anything to help General Buller.

MAGNITUDE OF BULLER'S TASK

How His Troops Were Driven Back Twice Last Week—Armistice to Bury Dead.

COLENSO, Feb. 27.—In the attempt of the Inniskillings Friday to rush the Boer position on Pieter's hill the Boer fire was so terrible when the infantry emerged from the cover of the trees that every man in the leading half of the company fell wounded. The advance line of the British reached a donga in front of the first Boer trench which was not apparent until they were actually in it. The Boers retired to the crest and then returned on either flank of the Inniskillings, enfilading the captured donga with a terrible cross-fire.

Finding it impossible to cross or to hold the position, the British fell back and entrenched themselves half way up the hill. The Boers maintained a heavy fire. In the course of the night the Dublin Fusileers and the Connaughts arriving to support the Inniskillings, another determined effort was made to take the Boer positions. This also failed. A heavy fire continued throughout the night.

The Inniskillings lost fourteen out of seventeen officers killed and wounded and about 250 noncommissioned officers and men killed and wounded.

General Lyttleton's brigade relieved General Hart's brigade in the morning, and the artillery duel was continued Sunday, though no great damage was done.

Today an armistice was agreed upon to enable both sides to collect their dead and wounded.

The Boers admit having had very heavy losses, but they scout the idea that the British will compel them to raise the siege of Ladysmith.

A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Pietermaritzburg, dated Sunday, describes at length "the enormous difficulties of General Buller's task," and says:

The real advance began last Wednesday. The stupendous nature of the task was only understood when being on the spot one was able to realize what it means to hurl infantry at positions aligned in every direction with carefully prepared trenches, and with breastworks defended by practically invisible riflemen armed with the most deadly rapid-firing weapons and aided by quick-firing guns, which put all but our cannon of the largest caliber into the shade.

Cars to Move Troops.

(Copyright, 1900, by Press Publishing Co.)

LOURENZO MARQUEZ, Feb. 25.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Railway cars cannot be procured for business, all being used to move troops to the Transvaal and the Free State. Two hundred troops of all nationalities arrived on the Admiral and all got away to Pretoria.

CRONJE NOW A PRISONER

Boer General with Four Thousand Men Surrenders to General Roberts.

GIVES IN ONLY AFTER DESPERATE RESISTANCE

Twenty-Nine Officers and Seven Guns Are Captured by the British.

LARGE PORTION OF THE BOER ARMY ESCAPES

First Reverse for the Boer Arms Occurs on the Anniversary of the Majuba Hill Affair—Prisoners to Be Formed Into Commandos and Sent for Safe Keeping to Capetown—British Have Words of Praise for Their Brave Enemy.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—The War office has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

"PAARDEBERG, Feb. 27.—7:45 a. m.—General Cronje and all of his force capitulated unconditionally at daylight and are now prisoners in my camp. The strength of his force will be communicated later. I hope that her majesty's government will consider this event satisfactory, occurring, as it does, on the anniversary of Majuba."

LONDON, Feb. 27.—Lord Roberts has notified the War office that the number of Boer prisoners approximates 4,000, of which about 1,150 are citizens of the Orange Free State. The remainder are citizens of the Transvaal.

Twenty-nine Transvaal officers were captured and eighteen Free State officers were made prisoners. The officers captured besides General Piet Cronje include the following well known commanders: Chief Commandant M. J. Wolverans, a member of the Volksraad; Field Cornet Frus, a Scandinavian; Major Albrecht, the famous German artilleryman; Major von DeWitz, the distinguished German officer, the two latter being the officers who are responsible for most of the splendid engineering works of the Boers since the commencement of the war.

The guns captured from the Transvaal forces were three seventy-five-centimeter Krupps, nine one-pounders and one Maxim gun. From the Free Staters the British captured one seventy-five-centimeter Krupp and one Maxim gun.

STORY OF BOERS' SURRENDER

Lord Roberts Gives a Detailed Account of His Success in South Africa.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—The War office has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

"PAARDEBERG, 11 o'clock Tuesday Morning—From information furnished daily to me by the Intelligence department, it became apparent that General Cronje's force was becoming more depressed and that the discontent of the troops and the discord among the leaders were rapidly increasing. This feeling was doubtless accentuated by the disappointment caused when the Boer reinforcements which tried to relieve General Cronje were defeated by our troops on February 23.

"I resolved, therefore, to bring pressure to bear upon the enemy. Each night the trenches were pushed forward toward the enemy's laager so as to gradually contract his position, and at the same time I bombarded it heavily with artillery, which was yesterday materially aided by the arrival of four 6-inch howitzers which I had ordered up from De Aar. In carrying out these measures a captive balloon gave great assistance by keeping us informed of the dispositions and movements of the enemy. At 3 a. m. today a most dashing advance was made by the Canadian regiment and some engineers, supported by the First Gordon Highlanders and Second Shropshires, resulting in our gaining a point some 600 yards nearer the enemy and within about eighty yards of his trenches, where our men entrenched themselves and maintained their positions till morning, a gallant deed worthy of our colonial comrades and which, I am glad to say, was attended by comparatively slight loss.

"This apparently clinched matters, for at daylight today a letter signed by General Cronje, in which he stated that he surrendered unconditionally, was brought to our outposts under a flag of truce.

"In my reply I told General Cronje he must present himself at my camp and that his forces must come out of their laager after laying down their arms. By 7 a. m. I received General Cronje and dispatched a telegram to you announcing the fact. In the course of conversation he asked for kind treatment at our hands and also that his wife, grandson, private secretary, adjutant and servants might accompany him wherever he might be sent. I reassured him and told him his request would be complied with. I informed him that a general officer would be sent with him to Captown, to insure his being treated with proper respect enroute. He will start this afternoon under charge of Major General Prettyman, who will hand him over to the general commanding at Capetown.

"The prisoners, who number about 3,000, will be formed into commandos under our own officers. They will also leave here today, reaching the Modder river tomorrow, when they will be railed to Capetown in detachments."

The above dispatch was read in both the House of Lords and the House of Commons today. The reference to the Canadians evoked immense and prolonged cheering.

Mr. A. J. Balfour, the government leader in the House of Commons, said he had no information relative to the Boer guns.

Lord Curzon Lauds Roberts.

CALCUTTA, Feb. 27.—Lord Curzon, the viceroy, at a dinner given this evening at Government house, said: "I propose, on this great occasion, to break the ordinary rule. I ask you to drink the health of that brave soldier and former Indian commander-in-chief, who, on the anniversary of Majuba, has wiped out that stain, and gained a notable, yes, a glorious victory."

BRITISH PRAISE THE BOERS

Stop Long Enough in Jubilation to Comment on Courage of Opponents.

LONDON, Feb. 27.—"Majuba avenged," "Cronje surrenders," "Great British victory." These are the expressions being shouted all over London today, yet there are few outward signs of the natural joy that Lord Roberts' dispatch has really caused. The capitulation of General Cronje had been looked upon as almost a certainty for a week past, and now that it has come enthusiasm finds itself discounted by the anticipation.

The magnitude of the success of "Little Bob" is almost overlooked in the face of the fact that it synchronized with the anniversary of Majuba hill and wiped out a dishonor of nineteen years' standing. While the afternoon papers all comment upon this happy coincidence, they do not forget the splendid bravery of the enemy.

The St. James Gazette says: "The splendid courage of the Boers has not been able to withstand any longer the bombardment which few modern soldiers could have sustained for so many hours as they have days. The influence of the surrender not only upon the situation at Ladysmith, but on the whole conduct of the war, will be immense. If the news of the relief of Ladysmith only reaches England, and it is quite possible this may be the case, the cup of national happiness would be full."

The Globe, under the heading, "Majuba Avenged," says: "We shal not jump at the conclusion that the war is over, but that a victory has been gained which brings the end well in sight. General Cronje no doubt succeeded in delaying Lord Roberts' entrance into Bloemfontein, but the delay is all he has been able to accomplish."

The Westminster Gazette, which is inclined to be pro-Boer, says: "Admiration for the desperate valor of General Cronje is mingled with anger at the necessity imposed upon us of purchasing victory at this cost. Let us remember Paardeberg if we like, but forget Majuba and have done with the whole train of misleading associations and mischievous ideas which gathered around that unhappy memory."

Further details of the dramatic surrender of General Cronje at Paardeberg are eagerly awaited. The Boer commander's forces are variously estimated at 4,000 to 8,000. Speculation is rife as to how soon Lord Roberts will be able to press on to Bloemfontein, but before he enters the capital of the Free State he will undoubtedly have to overcome a powerful force and take strong entrenchments.

The news of General Cronje's surrender was received with unbounded satisfaction at Windsor. The queen immediately telegraphed her congratulations to Lord Roberts and the troops.

There was a much more outward display of rejoicing in the provinces than in London. The Glasgow and Liverpool Stock exchanges were greatly excited. The members sang "God Save the Queen" repeatedly and cheered for "Little Bobs." Flags were liberally displayed on the municipal and public buildings in all the large towns.

Windsor was very jubilant at the news, which the queen disseminated immediately after it reached her, and the inhabitants