

FIFTY MILES ONWARD

Roberts' Force Has Advanced Over Half a Hundred Miles North.

BURGER ARMY RETIRES OUT OF REACH

But Little Opposition and That from Irish-American Brigade.

REPORT THAT THE IRISH LOST SEVERELY

Mounted Infantry Has Picketed Its Horses on the Vet's Banks.

SUCCESS FOR MAKING BROUGHT NEAR

Hunter Crosses the Vaal at Windhoek—Latest Advances Do Not Cheer London as Did Cronje's Capture.

LONDON, May 5.—(4 p. m.)—The War office last evening issued the following from Lord Roberts, dated Brandfort, Friday, May 4:

"The mounted infantry has gone on to the Vet river. The rest of the force will march there tomorrow. The railway has been repaired to this point.

"Hunter reports very satisfactory news—that the passage of the Vaal has been carried at Windhoek without opposition."

Lord Roberts reports to the War office as follows, under date of Bloemfontein, May 3: "We occupied Brandfort today without much opposition and without, I hope, many casualties. The first brigade of mounted infantry covered the left flank of the Fourteenth brigade of the Seventh division and the right flank was supported by the Fifteenth brigade. Polo-Carew's division advanced directly on Brandfort. The Boer army, which was under command of Delarey, retired in a northerly direction."

"The mounted infantry, with Lord Roberts, among which are the Canadians, has picketed its horses on the banks of the Vet river, eighteen miles north of Brandfort. The head of Lord Roberts' column has advanced thus, in two days, fifty-two miles north of Bloemfontein."

Little power was spent. The British work was hard marching, the Boers retiring out of the reach of the British shells. The correspondents supplement Lord Roberts' plain statement with a few details.

As General Hutton, with the first mounted infantry brigade, drew near Brandfort he saw a khaki-clad body of troops ahead of him. He was surprised, but thought they must be the British. Soon, however, they opened fire on the British, which replied heavily. They were the Irish-American brigade of Lourenzo Marques, and it is reported that the Irish lost severely."

Kitchener and Roberts There.

The Boer flag was flying over Brandfort as the British entered the town. Several British wounded were found in the hospital. The Boer position was the keys of the public building to Captain Ross.

Lord Kitchener arrived at Brandfort at noon and Lord Roberts at dusk. General French's cavalry is sweeping the country northward. The expectation is the infantry advance will be continued toward Kimberley and possibly not there, if Lord Roberts' taken and no hot pursuit was undertaken, the news has cheered London. Nevertheless it has not been received with the fine rapture that attended Lord Roberts' first successes.

General Hunter's crossing the Vaal at Windhoek brings the relief of Mafeking, 125 miles beyond, almost within a calculable interval. It is now regarded as quite possible that Mafeking may be succored before the queen's birthday.

Figuring on the Next Move.

The Boer army, which was at Brandfort, commanded by General Delarey, is presently retreating on Winburg, which will possibly be the next immediate objective of the British. Brandfort, thirty-five miles nearer the Transvaal capital, is now Lord Roberts' headquarters.

What particularly gratifies the British public is the report that the army of Lord Roberts in the Orange Free State has recovered its mobility and is again capable of undertaking the general advance, so long retarded. It is hardly expected the Boers will make much of a stand at Kroonstad, and possibly not there, if Lord Roberts' succeeds in capturing Winburg, thus interposing between the main federal army and the Boer force in the neighborhood of Thaba N'Chu and Houtek, in which case the latter would be forced to move further to the eastward, in which direction their mobility would probably enable them to reach the Bethlehem and Harlanth lines of safety. The only opposition which the British encountered at Brandfort seems to have come from the Irish-American command.

The central British army is now in line with the extreme left at Boshof, under Lord Methuen, and the extreme right at Elandsdagg under General Buller, so that the movements of these wings in co-operation with the main army may shortly be expected.

Wepener is to be garrisoned with a strong force from General Chermide's division, commanded by Lord Castletown.

Henry E. Lucy, writing in the Daily News says he has ascertained that Sir Alfred Milner's letter against women visiting South Africa was written as the result of an intimation from Queen Victoria.

British Occupy Smithfield.

ALIWAL NORTH, Cape Colony, May 4.—Smithfield was occupied yesterday by General Buller's brigade. Out of the 150 Boers in the town twenty-five were captured and the rest decamped.

Ladybrand was recently full of Boer wounded, who have now been removed to Ficksburg.

WARRENTON, Cape Colony, May 4.—A British six-inch wire gun opened unexpectedly on the Boer laager yesterday at a distance of seven and a half miles, throwing 100-pound shells with wonderful accuracy and causing a hasty retreat of the burghers. The bombardment continued today at all points by howitzers and field guns supported by two companies of the Munster regiment, the Boers being driven from shelter and their guns being put out of action.

Boer Forces Are Retiring.

THABA N'CHU, May 3.—The Boers have evacuated Thaba N'Chu hill and are believed to be still tracking, though one gun has shelled the camp intermittently. Scouts report that some of the Boers retired toward Wepener. They believe the Boers evacuated the position during the night, tracking northward in three directions.

General French left today. General Buller is in command here. It is expected that General Buller will effect a junction at any moment.

REGARD SPION KOP NEWS

Secretary of War's Reasons for Publication of Dispatches.

LONDON, May 4.—In the House of Lords today the earl of Portsmouth, liberal unionist, called attention to the publishing of Spion kop dispatches, which, he said, had aroused a depth and strength of feeling difficult to exaggerate.

The secretary of state for war, the marquis of Lansdowne, in defending the publication of the dispatches, said it was the only course open to the government. Proceeding, he quoted the queen's regulations relating to the publication of such documents and pointed out three cases in the Afghan war in which censorious dispatches were published, adding that in those cases other employment was found for the generals.

Regarding Spion kop, the secretary claimed the government might have published nothing but the fact that the battle cost 1,600 casualties, and if the papers had been withheld the reputations of the generals would have been damaged more than by their publication.

The secretary of state for war did not desire to give himself of any responsibility, but if he had published the dispatches he would have been held responsible for the damage done by their publication.

Lord Roberts would have been guilty of great indiscretion and disloyalty to him. He denied that he had suggested that garbled documents should be substituted and claimed that what he had suggested was perfectly honorable and harmless. Lord Roberts showed conclusively that he had not withdrawn his confidence in General Buller.

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CHURCHMEN IN WARM DEBATE

Amusement and Other Questions Stir Up Vigorous Controversies.

COMMITTEES TO REPORT ON SCM. OF TH. M.

Iowa Delegate Makes the Bishops Indignant by Asking that Their Fees Be Limited—Epworth League Growing.

CHICAGO, May 4.—At today's session of the Methodist conference the hours were lightened by some vivacious as well as vigorous debate. Dr. Henry Brown of the Columbia river conference, brought the amusement question to the front early in the day by offering a resolution which was held to show that the conference by proper action should show the world that the church had not changed front on that question. He asked for further action by those in favor of greater liberality in this matter.

The train bearing Emperor Francis Joseph arrived promptly on time. The greetings between the two emperors were most cordial, the monarchs embracing and kissing each other on both cheeks. The Austrian emperor was accompanied by the Prussian Foot Guards and across his breast was a broad orange ribbon with the Prussian order of the Black Eagle.

The absence of Prince Hohenzollern, the imperial chancellor, and the presence of Emperor Franz Joseph were much commented on.

One carriage contained Count Gulechowski, the Austrian minister of foreign affairs, and Count von Szelegy Marich, the Austrian ambassador in Germany. In the picturesque costume of a Hungarian magnate. At the triumphal arch the procession halted and Mayor Kirchner delivered a speech of welcome, in which he referred to Emperor Francis Joseph as the newly created German emperor, and as the venerable prince of peace who has ceaselessly, zealously and successfully striven to preserve to the nations of the world the blessings of peace.

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