

ITS EYE ON PRETORIA

England Calmly Waiting for a Word from Lord Roberts.

DUTCH CAPITAL WILL NOT RESIST

Boer Leaders Said to Have Recovered from Late Panic.

WAR COUNCIL NOW THE GOVERNMENT

Burgbers Believe that Their Pretoria May Be Defended.

KRUGER IS MOVING MYSTERIOUSLY

General Buller Establishes Communication with General Brabant and the Two Commanders Are Expected to Join Forces.

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LONDON, June 4.—A m. official intelligence regarding what is transpiring outside Pretoria there is little or nothing today.

By piecing together items from various correspondents it would seem that Lord Roberts' immediate army is all employed north of Johannesburg, except one brigade, which is at Johannesburg, and that six columns are converging on Pretoria.

Beyond Johannesburg the Boers are assembling to oppose General Buller. Colonel Mahon effected a junction with Hunter on Thursday at Mariboga.

An undated news agency message from Pretoria, via Lourenco Marques, June 4, says: "Pretoria is now invested by the British."

No resistance will be offered. The city will be surrendered by the Boer commander as soon as a formal demand is made.

This message purports to come in cipher. President Kruger commands the telegraph eastward from Pretoria and telegraphic news from Pretoria to Lourenco Marques has ceased, but the messages continue to pass and from the railway. The latest to arrive at Lourenco Marques bring news that the Boer capital down to a late hour Friday night.

At that time according to these sources information, the military force which had recovered from the panic and had determined to defend the town.

Full of strange bugbears. One message, which is dated June 1, says: "Pretoria is full of strange bugbears, but most of the commandos are laagered outside. A great war council of generals has just concluded its deliberations. The decision is to the future military course has not been made known. Louis Botha and De la Rey are in the council."

Another dispatch brought to Lourenco Marques by messenger and dated at Pretoria Friday at midnight, says: "The war council assumes the powers of the government. The members have not met. The capital may still be successfully defended. One commander declared: 'With the help of God the hour will still come when Great Britain will acknowledge the independence of the two republics. A tremendous change will yet come. The Boers have not yet decided. De la Rey would be defended to the utmost, adding: 'There is every chance that we will yet beat the enemy out of the country.'"

President Kruger is somewhere to the eastward, but is in constant war communication with the leaders here. There is, however, a deep feeling of anger against him on account of what is now called his unnecessary flight and because he had the officials took all the gold and left their subordinates unpaid. The latest phase of public opinion is a marvelous revival of courage."

From Lourenco Marques comes a dispatch dated June 4, saying: "It is known that some great British movement is in progress outside of Pretoria. The mysterious movements of President Kruger's secretary and physician, particularly their visit to the Dutch war ship Friedland, which is in the harbor here, have aroused suspicions that important persons are expected."

The news from the minor theaters of hostilities here, which is being reported by the Boer columns are in danger of being surrounded by the British forces at Ficksburg, Senekal and Lyndley. General Buller, instead of throwing himself against the Boers in the hands of the British, moved toward Ficksburg and established communication with General Brabant. The Boers marched parallel with Rundle, intending to seize a strong position on the Ficksburg road, but General Buller got there first. The 1,500 men were in the hands of the Boers are now reported to be going elsewhere."

Fight Was a Hard One. The correspondents with General Buller continue to point out the hardness of the fight of last Tuesday, but they believe that it will be the last real resistance. Colonel Lloyd was three weeks wounded. Colonel Haynes while aiding Colonel Lloyd was hit in the hand, which was resting near the Colonel's head. General Buller's gun threw a shell or two toward the Boer positions in front of him occasionally.

General Buller's column is marching unopposed into the Transvaal by the latter.

A new phase of the Anglo-Dutch conflict is opening in Cape Colony. The leaders of the Afrikaner bond propose it is asserted, to block business in the Cape Parliament until the British government acts on the resolutions adopted by the secret committee at Graf Reinet, declaring that the chief immediate cause of the war was the unwarranted and intolerable interference of the ministry in London in the internal affairs of the South African republic.

BOERS CAPTURING PATROLS

Several Small Parties of Brabant's Brigade Cut Off and Surrendered.

MASERU, Basutoiland, Friday, June 1.—General Brabant's Horse have been the subjects of several attacks at the hands of the Boers. Lieutenant Buntle, with twenty men while searching a farm house in the Ficksburg district, were captured. Two of the men were wounded. Lieutenant Lees and two men were captured while counter-marching. Another patrol of the Border Horse numbering twenty men, while pursuing a small party of Boers, were surrounded and captured.

Count Gleichen sent thirteen men of the Provincial Horse under Lieutenant Bowker with a flag of truce to demand the surrender of that place. The Boers captured the entire party and after robbing the men of all but their clothing, sent them to Urede, whence some of them managed to escape. Most of those who succeeded in eluding their guards, however, were recaptured.

STOLE \$17,000 A MONTH

Neely Appears to Have Pocketed One-Half Receipts—Shortage Was Discovered a Year Ago.

HAVANA, June 4.—Aiding Director of Posts, postal funds required as to the amount of postal taxes taken by C. F. W. Neely in 1899, and ascertained that he was \$17,000 short of his monthly average was about \$17,000. Apparently he pocketed one-half of the receipts, taking the other half for himself.

This morning the examination of C. F. W. Neely, former director of posts, was continued. It lasted more than four hours. The most startling fact developed was that on May 26 of last year Mr. Rathbone ordered Special Agents Leatherer and Sullivan to examine the accounts. They found a shortage, but it was not thought that anything had gone wrong. They reported, however, that there was no check upon the bureau of finance and they recommended that certain blank forms be made, which would answer the purpose, such as all postmasters use when making a monthly report. Mr. Rathbone's chief agent, informed the examination and he was told by Mr. Rathbone, the latter approved it and sent it to Auditor Reeves, who initiated and forwarded it to Neely. After he had initiated it, instead of putting the scheme into operation, he quietly pocketed it and it did not see the light until May 15 of this year, when the plan was put into effect. Mr. Rathbone says he is almost sure that the extent of the steal will amount to between \$50,000 and \$100,000, but that this will not touch the item of surcharge statements, which is \$411,000.

As to how many of these were burned and how many sold, it is impossible to obtain definite information. As many have been traced it is known positively that all were not destroyed, but if Neely sold say 500 or 1,000 worth of this year, which Mr. Rathbone thinks to find them scattered all over the world.

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BOXERS CONTINUE TO MURDER

Appalling Report from Minister Conger at Peking.

CHINESE GOVERNMENT IS HELPLESS

Charles T. Pitkin, an American Missionary at Pan Ting Fu, Is Reported as Safe and Well by United States Minister.

WASHINGTON, June 4.—The following cablegram has been received from Minister Conger at Peking:

"PEKING, June 4.—Outside of Peking the murders and persecutions by the Boers seem to be on the increase. The Pao Ting Fu railway is temporarily abandoned. Work on the Peking & Hankow line is stopped. All foreigners have fled. The Chinese government seems either unwilling or unable to suppress the trouble. The Boers show no energy in attacking the 'BOXER'."

Grave as these advices are, they have not induced the State department to vary the line of action it has laid down. The naval force of the United States near Peking, now represented by one vessel, the Newark, has not been strengthened, but if occasion should arise Admiral Kempf might be reinforced to almost any extent likely to be needed in the course of three or four days, from the numerous American fleet still at Manila and vicinity. Owing to the peculiar character of the Chinese coast naval vessels of formidable type are unable to approach the various provinces in China, and especially are these 'Boxer-affiliated' communities inaccessible to naval vessels. The State department does not contemplate the use of United States troops, and it would be difficult to spare any force now operating in the Philippines even if it were found expedient to employ the military arm. So far as the time being, the United States is confined to Peking and Tien Tsin must represent the defensive power of the United States, for it is distinctly stated that these marines are employed simply in the protection of the United States legation and consulates and for the assistance of such American citizens who may be in jeopardy. It is possible that the State department in assuming this attitude is influenced by a desire to set an example to some of the other powers, whose actions are not believed to be entirely justified.

Some slight encouragement as to the conditions prevailing at the end of the Peking railroad, where the engineers have been beset, was conveyed indirectly by a cablegram received at the State department this afternoon. The department is confident that the Peking & Hankow railway is in jeopardy. It is possible that the State department in assuming this attitude is influenced by a desire to set an example to some of the other powers, whose actions are not believed to be entirely justified.

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