

Asheville Daily Gazette.

VOL V: NO. 15

ASHEVILLE, N. C., SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 25 1900.

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CRONJE STILL HOLDING OUT

the Only Credible Advice Indicate Battle is Still in Progress.
First Authentic Report of the Beginning of the Dire Struggle.
Important Information as to Boer Army Plans
Retrograde Movement to a Second Line of Defenses.

A THIRD LINE ALSO PLANNED—EUROPE VIEWS THE DEFENSIVE FIGHT OF CRONJE AS A SPARTAN SACRIFICE.

(Special Despatches from Laffan News Bureau to the Gazette. Copyrighted by New York Sun.)

New York, Feb. 24.—The Laffan Bureau correspondent with General Roberts sends the following:
"Paardeburg, Feb. 20 via Modder River, Feb. 23.—The convergence of the British forces at this point resulted in the surrounding of Cronje's army on all sides. The Sixth division, under General Kelly-Kenny, while hastening to the northwest occupied a hill to the east of Cronje's laager. Cronje, so the Boers say, expected reinforcements under Commandant Andries at this point. He mistook the men of the Sixth division for Andries' commando and allowed them to occupy a slope of the ridge without opposition. The Boer position was thus: Cronje was to go south and Snyman and Fourie to the north. The Sixth division occupied a position to the southeast, and General French arrived on the 18th in time to complete the enclosure of the Boers. But it was the Ninth division, especially the Highland brigade, that had the hardest fighting. They arrived at midnight on the 17th in time to see the Boer pickets signaling the whereabouts of Cronje's army to the expected reinforcements. The British saw the intervening rockets and knew the enemy was near, but could not decide whether it was Boer reinforcements that were giving the answering signals. The Ninth division rested for a few hours east of the Boer position. At dawn the Ninth division advanced and their mounted infantry soon encountered the Boer snipers who were sheltered in the trees that covered the banks of the river. Shooting increased until 8 o'clock when the men of the Ninth saw that a great battle was raging. Early in the forenoon the Boers placed a Hotchkiss gun on the southern bank of the river and used it with deadly effect over the ground on which the Ninth had to cross. General MacDonald dismounted and sounded the advance. He was wounded in the foot while directing the Highland Brigade. During the advance the Seaforth Highlanders lost heavily. Seaforth's and the Duke of Cornwall's light infantry, belonging to another brigade of the Ninth, drove the Boers from cover which they had taken around a drift and bayoneted several of them who had been shooting from the trees. Then they forced the river and held the northwest side while the Canadians held the reserve.

It was at this point during a charge that the Cornwall regiment lost their colonel and adjutant and had 96 casualties. The mounted infantry suffered severely while attacking the Boer laager from the north.
The Sixth division, holding the position on the east, got into an engagement before noon with a strong force of Boers which was trying to escape to the south bank of the river. The West Riding regiment the Duke of Wellington's

ton's) repelled this attempt at the point of the bayonet, but suffered considerably. Meanwhile the British shelled the Boer laager, which was soon burning in many places.
French's cavalry dashed in from a northern kopje in the afternoon and began sending in deadly volleys. Crowds of Boers were driven from the river banks and when darkness came on Cronje was surrounded. The Boer prisoners declare he lost 900 men in the day's fighting.
On Monday the shelling of the Boer laager was resumed. There were very few infantry engagements and the Boers were driven into the Dongas and bushes around their laager. Some indomitable Boer snipers on the river banks fought to the very last. The endurance of the Boers is simply regarded as marvelous. Hundreds of them still cling to the river banks.
On the 19th Cronje signalled "Surrender." This was immediately hoisted around the various British commands, and there was great cheering and throwing of helmets in the air; but when Cronje was invited to come personally and surrender to Kitchener he refused and stated, it is reported, that he wanted to make certain conditions. Roberts replied that he would only accept absolute surrender.
PIERCE FIGHTING IN NATAL.
From Laffan's Correspondent with Buller, Colenso Camp, Feb. 24.—Colenso township railway station on the south side of the Tugela, Fort Wylie and the country there at the south extending about two miles north has been occupied by the British. The British are meeting strong opposition to further advance, the Boers having at least three guns in position on high hills directly in front of the English. There was heavy shelling on both sides all day Thursday. The British infantry advanced at midday but met a heavy fire from the Boer intrenchments. From the heights the Laffan correspondent saw the Boers clambering up the side of a kopje where British infantry were stationed with a view of enveloping them. An infantry battle ensued, which was continued until dark. Even then it did not cease, and though the night was pitch dark the fighting was continued until 10 o'clock and volleying was kept up intermittently all night. The battle continues today. The British artillery is now shelling Grobiers Kloof, while the infantry is fighting in the foothills.
An examination of the former camp ground of the Boers shows the burghers must have made a hasty flight. Food and ammunition was found scattered in all directions. A number of sporting and explosive soft-nosed bullet were also found. An electric plant and dynamo with apparatus of a search light were among the things left. The Boer trenches had been bomb proof shelters but were untenable when the British occupied Hlangwya hill.

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that Cronje has forced his way through the British lines near Paardeburg.
PLAN OF BOER STRATEGY
London, Feb. 25.—The Laffan office here has received information of interest regarding the Boer situation and plans from official and other sources in Pretoria. These are to the effect that the Boers realized even in the midst of their mid-December successes that they could not hold their advantageous positions and therefore planned to withdraw to a second line of defence. This movement is now in progress. They have also planned a third line of defences. The news comes direct from Pretoria that the past week's developments have not shaken the Boers' confidence. The British plan of campaign is fully anticipated and counter moves are being diligently executed.

THE SABINE RELEASED.
End of the Incident of the Vessel's Seizure by English Warship.
Washington, Feb. 24.—Ambassador Choate cabled the state department from London today that the steamer Sabine from New York had been released at Port Elizabeth and had proceeded on her way. This action is apparently an acknowledgement of the contention of the United States that the seizure of the Sabine was an unnecessary interference of American trade. The release of the steamer is regarded in official circles as ending the incident. The government will not press England for a definition of principle as to the right of a British warship to make the seizure.

FRANCE ACQUIESCES
In the Terms of the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty.
Washington, Feb. 24.—In conversation with the state department today between Secretary Hay and the French ambassador the latter informed Hay that France assented to the terms of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty concerning the neutralization of the Nicaragua canal. France is the last European nation to express satisfaction with the treaty.

NEW CATHOLIC BISHOP ARRIVES IN HAVANA
Cubans Celebrate Anniversary of Outbreak of Last Revolution.
Havana, Feb. 24.—Mgr. Sharetta, the new Roman Catholic bishop, arrived in Havana this morning. There was no demonstration. He was escorted by a deputation of clergymen to the Temple chapel, where he solemnized mass and preached a non-political sermon. He refused to be interviewed.

PRaise OF BOERS IN EUROPE.
London, Feb. 24.—Cronje and his Spartan army still hold out in that terrible valley of death on the Modder river. Their numbers have been sadly reduced. None know how many survive of that brave eight thousand, who chose death rather than surrender at the hands of their relentless enemy. All Europe looks in mingled horror and admiration at the magnificent but heartrending tragedy.

Already a mighty voice of protest is heard from one end of the country to the other. French, Germans and Russians unite in the cry, "These men deserve to be free. England shall not crush such a nation of heroes, and England herself is agast at the spectacle. She suddenly realizes that she will have no friend left on earth, least of all in America, if she permits the deliberate slaughter of these 8,000 helpless patriots. No Boer victory, however great, could so damage the British cause in the eyes of mankind as the completion of this wholesale slaughter with lyddite shells.
Some realization of this fact has reached Roberts and Kitchener, for the bombardment at the last accounts had slackened, and the green fumes of lyddite no longer stifled the survivors, if survivors there be.
WILL ENGLAND TURN TO AMERICA?

A new problem confronts England. The problem is so humiliating that nowhere can be found its like. What shall be done with an enemy that carries out to the bitterest and most literal end the motto, "Independence or death?" Alexander or Caesar, with cold-blooded stoicism, might put all of them relentlessly to the sword. England, the boasted champion of liberty, cannot. She dare not. She is defeated, hopelessly, completely defeated in her scheme of conquest in Africa, so long as the spirit which prompted Cronje's army to choose almost certain death at Paardeburg continues to animate the Boer nation.
Few Englishmen have yet realized this truth, but it will soon come home to them, and when it does—when this most stupendous dilemma of the age stares them in the face—they will turn alone, among the nations of the earth for a suggestion, or for advice, to America. What word will come from over the sea? Much depends on that message.
BOER REPORT OF REPULSES.
Pretoria, Feb. 24.—A despatch from the Boer head laager at Ladysmith states that the British crossed the Tugela river on the 23d and made an attack on Ermelo and Milleburg commands, but after heavy fighting the British were compelled to retreat. They renewed the attack next morning but were again driven back with heavy loss.
MAY BE TRUE AND MAY NOT.
Berlin, May 24.—Reports have been received from Brussels that news has reached the Boer headquarters there

MORE SUITS FILED IN KENTUCKY
The Contest Cases Likely to be Passed Upon by the Courts Within the Next Ten Days.
Frankfort, Feb. 24.—Ex-Governor Bradley, chief counsel for Governor Taylor, said today that if the contest cases are pushed in good faith, as expected them to be, that the circuit court and court of appeals would pass on them within the next ten days.
Louisville, Feb. 24.—Another turn was taken in the Taylor-Marshall and Beckham-Carter controversy today, by the filing of a petition of counter claim by Beckham and Senator Carter, and by the filing of another suit for injunction against Taylor and Marshall. In answer to the injunction suit of Taylor against Beckham and in answer to the injunction suit of Marshall against Carter, both claiming to be president pro tem of the senate, Beckham and Carter deny that Taylor is lawful governor of Kentucky and Marshall is lawful lieutenant governor. They set up a counter claim that Beckham is legally lieutenant governor and therefore qualified to act as governor since the death of Goebel, and they assert that Carter only has the right to preside over the senate. Beckham and Carter today filed other suits against Taylor and Marshall similar to suits filed in the Frankfort circuit court about two weeks ago, in which they pray for permanent injunctions against Taylor and Marshall. By agreement between the attorneys on both sides the suits are to be consolidated, and will come to trial before Judge Field next Tuesday.

MINSTRELS TUESDAY.
A Performance Which Will be Worthily of Everyone's Patronage.
Another rehearsal of the members of the local minstrel troupe was held last evening at Miss Carrie Reynolds' parlour on Spruce street, and the enthusiasm which has been so characteristic of all the rehearsals and work of the members and the promoters, was even more manifest last evening. The performance will be given Tuesday evening, and a parade will be given on the streets Tuesday afternoon by the stars. Seats are on sale at the Paragon and they are being rapidly taken. The boxes will also be on sale tomorrow. The proceeds go to the Flower Mission and will be devoted to the good work they are carrying on in the city.

MEETING OF STOCKMEN.
There will be a meeting of the cattle and stockmen of Buncombe county in the office of Mr. J. K. Chambers, county tax collector, in the court house, at Asheville at 12 o'clock Monday, the 26th day of February.
The state veterinarian, Dr. Cooper Currier, and also Dr. Steadman, the federal inspector of quarantine work against Texas fever, will both be present and give a talk upon the latest features of this work, and will be ready to receive any opinions or complaints from this county.
It is earnestly requested that everyone interested in this will, therefore, attend, that this meeting may end in the formation of a permanent organization.
Signed by J. K. Chambers, H. Chambers, Mark Reed, Charles R. Whitaker and G. F. Weston.

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PORTO RICAN TARIFF TALK
Likelihood that Bill Will be Amended, Limiting its Operations.
Republicans to Confer on the Measure in New York.
Hawaiian Bill Starts Tillman Talking in the Senate.
Says his State Has Done its Best to Keep the Negro from Voting.
WANTS TO APPLY THE SOUTH CAROLINA SUFFRAGE LAWS TO HAWAII—QUAY CASE TO COME UP IN THE SENATE TOMORROW.
Washington, Feb. 24.—Interest in the debate on the Porto Rican tariff law in the house today was subordinate among the members to the discussion of the prospects of a conference of republicans to be held in New York to consider the features of the measure. Several propositions looking to a modification of the bill were under consideration in the course of the day, out of which came a settled impression that the managers of the bill would consent to an amendment limiting its operation to the brief period of one or two years, with an understanding that this would bring to its support enough of the opposing republicans to insure its passage. The principal speeches of the day were those of Mr. Tawney, in support of the bill, and Mr. Powers, in opposition to it. Other speakers were Messrs. Clayton, Tompkins, Frouard and Thayer against and Mr. Eddy in its favor.
Mr. Clayton of Alabama was the first speaker, presenting a legal argument. He maintained that the United States military forces held Porto Rico at the time the treaty was signed and that it had become a part of the United States as much as the territory of Arizona.
Mr. Tawney of Minnesota, a member of the ways and means committee, enveloped the debate by a severe arraignment of Mr. Littlefield of Maine, for his speech of yesterday, attacking the bill and its promoters.
"What reason is there," exclaimed Mr. Tawney, "for the unusual and unprecedented course of the gentleman from Maine, compelling him to leave the ranks of the republican party and join the ranks of the democrats? Why is it he exhibits a want of decent courtesy to those who oppose the pending bill, and the distinguished gentlemen on the floor? Can it be the spruce lumber interests of Maine, who will have to pay on their produce entering Porto Rico 50 cents per thousand feet? Is it the people of Maine who raise their voice against this? No, it is the lumber barons of Maine, the oppressors of the people, against whom the gentleman declaims so fiercely."
Mr. Littlefield listened to the speech, but made no answer.
Mr. Tawney then directed his attention to the merits of the bill.
A resolution giving to the president the authority to determine upon a fiscal policy as a part of the general authority which the executive branch is now exercising, is favored by some members.
Such a resolution has been introduced by Mr. Weeks of Michigan. It is favorably considered by a number of those who oppose the pending bill, and efforts are under way to have this or a like plan accepted as a compromise.
Mr. Penrose of Pennsylvania, gave notice in the senate that he would call up the Quay case Monday.

IN THE SENATE.
Washington, Feb. 24.—Consideration of the bill providing a territorial form of government for Hawaii absorbed most of today's session of the senate. During its consideration Mr. Tillman took occasion to answer Wolcott's reference, during the debate on the bill a few days ago, to the disparity between the population of South Carolina and the votes cast. He quoted statistics from Massachusetts.
(Continued on fifth page.)

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