

Asheville Daily Gazette.

Weather Forecast—FAIR.

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State Library

ASHEVILLE, N. C., TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 15, 1900.

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BOERS FLEE AT BIGGARSBERG

Buller Gains a Victory and Dundee Will be Occupied.

Cavalry Broke the Boer's Center.

Rest of Command Dispersed Without Waiting for Attack.

Four Hundred Burghers Give Up at Kroonstad.

ROBERTS REPORTS THAT THE CASUALTIES IN THE CAVALRY DIVISION MAY 10 WERE HEAVIER THAN HE REPORTED—ORDER OF THE RAAD IN SECRET SESSION.

London, May 15.—While Lord Roberts is apparently halting at Kroonstad to repair the railway and bring up his transports the chief interest in the South African campaign centers in Natal. There is as yet no official news of General Buller's move, which began Thursday, and, according to several correspondents, was admirably carried out and completely successful.

The comparatively slight opposition to the British indicates that the fighting was a rear guard defense, covering the Boer retreat. The latest despatch is from Kemp's Farm, dated Monday evening. It says the Boers have evacuated Helpmaker and that Dundonald is pursuing them to Blesklooflaagte, seven miles from Dundee, where they were making a stand at the time the despatch was sent. It is said here that the movement aims, after clearing Biggarsberg, to secure Van Reenan's and other passes in Drakensberg, thus enabling a junction with Lord Roberts.

There is little news from other places. A despatch sent Sunday from Kroonstad represents the Harrismith Boer commandos as retiring from Bethlehem and others from Vrede and Fanfont, all concentrating at Helleron.

SUCCESS OF BULLER.

London, May 14.—A despatch received from Ptermaritzburg, Natal, today brings the first intimation of a success attained by General Buller in northern Natal. It says: "General Buller's official telegram notifying of his success at Biggarsberg, received here an hour ago, has given keen satisfaction. It is confidently anticipated that Dundee will be occupied by the British today. Residents of the northern country are delighted, as the forcing of Biggarsberg means that they will speedily be enabled to return to their homes."

All experts agree that to all appearances the Free States have severed military alliance with the Transvaal, though scattered bodies will possibly hold out here and there. At the same time a despatch from Cape Town, dated today, says that a proclamation will be published this week annexing the Orange Free State. It is also said that General Botha, commander of the Boer forces, threatens to resign if any preparations are made for wanton destruction of property.

The correspondent of the Reuter Telegram company at Cape Town says the American residents are taking steps to repudiate the statements of Webster Davis, former United States assistant secretary of the interior, who recently visited South Africa.

News from Mafeking is expected speedily. The war office is reported to have expressed the opinion that news of the raising of the siege is expected Wednesday.

Another despatch, dated Stonehill Farm, 8:20 this morning, says: "After four days' march eastward at the foot of Biggarsberg ridges in the direction of Helpmaker, which was occupied by the federals, the second brigade Sunday made an attack. General Dundonald's cavalry broke the Boer's center and Bethune's horse advanced on their extreme right. In the direction of Pomeroy, a small party of burghers occupied a ridge overlooking Helpmaker, but they did not wait for the assault."

CAVALRY CASUALTIES.

London, May 14.—The war office has received the following from Lord Roberts:

"Kroonstad, May 13.—There were more casualties in the cavalry division

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May 10 than reported by me. I have been unable to get an exact account of what occurred, as the commanding officer, Captain Elsworth, was killed, and two officers were wounded at the same time and have been sent to the rear.

BURGHERS GIVE UP ARMS.

Kroonstad, May 12.—President Steyn has gone to Kellbron, not Lindley. He has declared the former the new capital. Four hundred burghers have given up their arms here and in this neighborhood. Although the bridge across the Valsch has been destroyed, a good deviation exists where the road ran before the bridge was constructed.

200,000 BRITISH AGAINST 20,000 BOERS

And Burghers Cause Seems Hopeless—Roberts' Plans Unknown.

New York, May 14.—A despatch from London says: General Roberts has an army of 200,000 for guarding his communications and operating on a front virtually 200 miles wide, from Fourteen Streams to Biggarsberg. Against this army the Boers have 20,000 burghers in the Transvaal and Natal and President Steyn has perhaps 5,000 burghers under arms in the Bethlehem district. The Dutch have fought bravely and made a wonderful defence but the day of miracles has passed. There was sharp skirmishing on Friday on the road to Kroonstad and Gordon's cavalry brigade acted with gallantry in the final onset. The town was formally surrendered by the landrost, after the Transvaal burghers had removed the bulk of their own stores, blown up a bridge, wrecked the railway station and done other damage. There were groups of British sympathizers in the streets when General Roberts entered the town at the head of his troops and the scenes enacted at Bloemfontein under similar conditions were repeated. The troops halted yesterday after their long march, the two columns, which had been forty miles apart at the outset, having been massed at Kroonstad. This town will now be converted into an advanced base of supplies for operations in the Transvaal. While General Botha, with the Transvaal burghers, has retired to the Vaal river, President Steyn, with the remnant of the Free State army, is making a feeble stand in the northeastern corner. Hellbron has been abandoned because it lies on the line of General Roberts' march, but Lindley, on the Vaal north of Ficksburg, is held by a small Dutch force as a temporary capital, with Bethlehem and Harrismith as places of refuge. Olivier's commandos have been operating against Rundle's division from Mequatling's Nek, from which the line of retreat leads through Ficksburg to Bethlehem. General Brabant's scouts reported Saturday that the Boers were moving north. What remains of the Free State force could be easily dispersed, if General Hilliard's division were sent from Natal over the mountains to Harrismith, but General Rundle's division, with cavalry, seems entirely competent to deal with it without assistance. General Roberts' plan of campaign, unless all signs fail, will not include operations on a large scale against Bethlehem and the scattered Free State commandos on the eastern flank. He will make a fresh start for the Vaal, after a brief halt, and carry the bulk of his army into the Transvaal, leaving Steyn's burghers at liberty to retain control of a small section of the country around Bethlehem, where they will gradually disperse under pressure, from Rundle.

GOVERNOR TAYLOR

IN INDIANAPOLIS

Will Remain Until Decision in His Case is Given.

Indianapolis, May 14.—Governor Taylor, of Kentucky, arrived here today and said he intended to remain here until the supreme court has passed on the contest case. If the court decides against him, he will not return to Kentucky at all. Governor Mount will not honor a requisition for his arrest. The supreme court of the United States adjourned today for a week, so the decision will not be given for that length of time, at least.

FOR LADIES—UP-TO-DATE.

I carry a fine line of imported and domestic walking and golf skirts. We sell you the cloth in patterns by the yard or take your measure and make to your order. At I. W. Glasser's, 18 South Main street.

Wood's seeds at Grant's.

Wood's Lawn Grass at Grant's.

Peerless Corn Solvent 25c. at Grant's.

Try Grant's Tonic. 75c. Grant's.

Best Vanilla Extract at Grant's.

Best Lemon Extract at Grant's.

Best Orange Extract at Grant's.

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Baldwin Headache Cure 25c. Grant's.

Grant's Liver Pills, 50 for 25c.

Peerless Corn Salve, 10c. Grant's.

Grant's Talcum Powder, 10c. Grant's.

Grant's Dandruff Cure, 75c. Grant's.

Grant's Hair Tonic, 50c. Grant's.

Grant's Poison Oak Cure, 25c. Grant's.

Grant's Lavender Shampoo, 25c.

HOW IT WORKS IN LOUISIANA

Fictitious Vote in Ring-Ruled Towns and Suffrage Destroyed in Country.

Political Freedom and Interest Paralyzed.

In One Ward of 2,051 Citizens But Seven Votes Were Cast.

One Man Elected to Two Offices by a Single Vote.

A RETURN TO THE SYSTEM OF FEUDALISM IN A STATE BELONGING TO A REPUBLIC—RESULT VERY UNFAVORABLE TO WHITE FAMILIES.

Special Despatch to the New York Sun.

New Orleans, May 11.—Some of the delayed returns coming in from the recent state election in Louisiana give strange evidence of the influence of the new constitution in cutting down the vote. It is told in the history of Switzerland that at the time the old Swiss confederacy was overthrown by Napoleon, the restrictions placed on the suffrage of the canton of Berne were such as to reduce the number of electors to 217, who did all the voting for a population of 300,000. That a somewhat similar condition prevails in some parts of Louisiana today the election returns clearly indicate, and the votes by which officers were elected are almost ludicrous.

In the parish of Assumption, for instance, there were only seven votes in the Third ward, yet these seven votes were sufficient to elect three officers, a police juror or county commissioner, a justice of the peace and a constable. Four voters served as election commissioners. This accounts for every voter in the ward—four of them were behind the ballot box and the other three were candidates before it and were elected.

In Concordia parish, the vote in the first four wards was: First, 10; Second, 10; Third, 13; Fourth, 7; total for four wards, or half the parish, 40. These voters elected twelve officers, and twenty persons, or half the voting population, were needed to man the boxes. In the Second ward not a vote was cast for police juror, a most important office and one greatly sought after, for the police jury has complete control of the government, finances, assessments, etc., of the parish.

The Seventh ward of Caldwell did even better. Columbus Payne was elected justice of the peace of the ward by the votes of two. Fortunately for him he had no serious opposition, or his majority might have been small. The constable, George Williams, was not quite as popular and received only a single vote, but as there was no opposition that one vote is sufficient to elect, and Mr. Williams' name figures among those of the successful candidates. At the Australian ballot prevails in Louisiana, it is impossible to know whether the solitary vote that elected Williams was his own. If it were it is evidence that the candidate for justice, Mr. Payne, did not vote fair and return the compliment by voting for Williams.

In the parish of East Carroll the total vote cast was 167. These voters elected a full parochial ticket, including sheriff, coroners, members of the legislature and clerks of court, besides the local officers. Some twenty polls were necessary for the polling of these voters. A fair sample of the vote is seen in the First ward, where two polling places were located. There were elected two justices of the peace, two constables and one police juror. Five officers in all, and 12 votes were cast. The result will figure as follows: Election officers, 8; local officers, elected, 5; total, 13; votes cast, 12. The Third ward of the parish also cast 12 votes, but the Second ran the total up to the high figure of 13.

Small as the vote in East Carroll was, it was larger than that of Madison, where only 151 votes were polled

to elect a full set of parish or county as well as local officials. The First ward elected two justices, two constables and one police juror, a total of five officers, with 12 votes cast. The other wards voted as follows: Second, 18; Third, 15; Fifth, 20; Sixth, 16; Seventh, 13. Each of these wards elected three or more officers and had from four to twelve election commissioners. On an average there was one parish or local officer elected to less than every five votes cast in Madison. These two parishes, East Carroll and Madison, constitute a judicial district. The district judge, F. K. Ransdell, received a total of 281 votes, and the district attorney, Mr. D. M. Evans, 313.

The contest in the Third ward of Morehouse must have been exciting. There were four votes cast, and three candidates. L. Ballard was triumphantly elected justice of the peace by a vote of three, but the candidates for constables were not so fortunate. Joseph Cox received two votes and Philip Highlemer two, making it a tie, and requiring a new election so as to allow the four votes of the ward to decide between Cox and Highlemer. In the next ward, the Fourth, W. M. Taylor was luckier. He received only one vote, it is true (probably his own), but as there was no opposition the one vote was sufficient to elect him constable of the justice court.

Even closer was the contest in the Ninth ward of Franklin parish, where the result would be worth investigation as an election curiosity. One vote was cast, but it was sufficient to elect W. M. Kincaid justice of the peace. Mr. Kincaid seems to have been the only candidate, if not the only voter, of the ward, for he was not only elected justice of the peace, but also police juror of his ward. There should have been elected a constable to execute the mandates of Justice Kincaid, but there seems to have been no candidate for the office and no vote cast for it. Mr. Kincaid evidently thought it would be ill-advised to elect himself constable as well as justice of the peace and police juror, and refrained from voting for himself for the lesser office. Indeed it is difficult to see how he could have acted simultaneously as justice and constable, declaring the law and executing it. There was no vote for constable cast in the Ninth ward of Franklin and the office is still vacant.

Nor is it to be imagined that these small votes are due to lack of population. The Third ward in Assumption parish, which cast 7 votes, has a population of 2,051. The Fourth ward of Concordia, which cast 7 votes, has 1,053 inhabitants. The Seventh ward of Caldwell, which cast two votes, has 506 inhabitants, and the Ninth ward of Franklin, with a single solitary vote, has a population of 639, while the Fourth ward of Morehouse, which also cast a single vote for constable, has 1,384 inhabitants and ordinarily would have cast 450 votes.

These figures will give some idea of the effect of the new suffrage clause on the vote. As the representation is based on population, not votes, the result is very unfavorable to the white families. Thus Madison, with 151 votes, has the same representation in the legislature (two members) as Calcasieu, which cast 2,870 votes; and as the constitution requires that the representation in all party conventions shall be based on population, Madison with its 151 votes has nearly the same representation in the democratic convention as Calcasieu. The provisions give the few whites in the negro parishes, far out of proportion to their number. As a matter of fact, in these parishes there are just enough white men to hold elections, fill the party and serve as delegates to the party convention. Every white man is a politician. There is seldom any opposition candidates at the elections; indeed, there are scarcely enough voters in some of the wards to allow of political opposition.

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Grant's Munge Cure, 50c. Grant's.

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FAVORABLE ON CANAL BILL

The Senate Committee on Inter Oceanic Canals Orders This.

Armor Plate Amendment Passed by Senate.

Secretary Ordered to Build Factory if Price is Too High.

The Naval Appropriation Bill Was Then Passed.

THE HOUSE PASSES GENERAL DEFICIENCY BILL AND THE SENATE BILL CONSTITUTING DURHAM A PORT OF DELIVERY. BUTLER MAKES EFFORT TO GET LIFE SAVING STATION FOR THIS STATE.

Washington, May 14.—The senate today resumed consideration of the naval appropriation bill and by a vote of 32 to 19 adopted the committee amendment relating to armor plate. It provides for the payment of \$545 per ton for three ships and \$445 per ton for others. If the armor cannot be obtained at the latter price the secretary of the navy is directed to build an armor plate factory.

Washington, May 14.—The senate committee on inter-oceanic canals today ordered a favorable report on the Nicaragua canal bill as it passed the house.

There were only five members of the committee present at today's meeting. A motion was made to report the bill and without debate the vote was taken, Senators Morgan, McBride, Harris and Turner voting in the affirmative and Senator Hanna in the negative.

The senate after disposing of the armor plate question, passed the naval appropriation bill. An amendment was agreed to authorizing the removal of the Port Royal station to a point near Charleston after the vain effort of North Carolina in the hope that Wilmington would thereby be chosen.

IN THE HOUSE.

The house took up the general deficiency bill, carrying a total of \$3,839,021, and after a brisk debate it was passed. The senate bill constituting Durham, N. C., a port of delivery, was also passed.

DREYFUS ARRIVES AT HOME IN PARIS

Government Wants Him to Leave—Demonstration Feared.

New York, May 14.—Captain Alfred Dreyfus left Geneva last evening and arrived with his wife in Paris this morning, says a Paris dispatch. The government is much worried by this journey, which was quite unlooked for, and will take measures to have him leave as soon as possible, owing to its fear of demonstrations.

COLE CONVICTED

Boston, May 14.—In the United States court here today Charles H. Cole, formerly president of the now defunct Globe National bank, who plead guilty on several counts of an indictment, charging him with misappropriation of funds of the institution, was sentenced to serve eight years in Greenfield jail.

The odorless refrigerator is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction and is sold—only—by Mrs. L. A. Johnson, 43 Patton ave.

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