

WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Interesting Particulars of the Struggle Between Great Britain and the Boers.

LORD ROBERTS IS A STATESMAN.

HE COMBINES MILITARY GENIUS WITH POLITICAL TACT.

Lord Roberts' masterly transformation of the situation in South Africa is nothing less than a marvel of military genius. Without interfering with Gen. Buller's campaign of the distribution of forces, he adapted himself to conditions as he found them, and organized success out of failure. By his massing of reinforcements at the point where Cronje's army could be crushed the entire Dutch plan of campaign east, west and south was upset and the prestige of British arms and generalship was restored.

Lord Roberts has also displayed the highest qualities of conservative statesmanship; he has rallied the colonial forces by removing causes of jealousy, has stimulated loyalty by fair treatment of the Cape Dutch, has reassured the burghers of the Free State by a similarly tactful proclamation, has inspired a comprehensive spirit of Imperialism by his messages to Canada and Australia, and has even found time for the gracious compliment to Germany on the excellence of the ambulance work at Jacobsdal.

While the great field marshal has renewed the British campaign with terrible energy, as the fifty guns raking the river bottom at Koodoosberg bear witness, he has shown himself to be a champion of pacification and reconstruction in South Africa, and has made himself almost a necessary candidate for the office of High Commissioner at the close of the war. Lord Roberts' political services to the Unionist Government certainly entitle him to any reward that may be in sight.

All disputatious talk has ceased about the neglect of colonial assistance and incapacity in arming the troops with guns of defective range. There is no longer any chatter about the reconstruction of the Ministry and the recall of Lord Rosebery to public life as Prime Minister under a new coalition. Even the dispirited black press is changing color, and is showing signs of cheerful contentment. The confidence of the country in the Government is restored.

Lord Roberts' military genius has cleared the air. The trend of German opinion has been changed, and the Emperor now receives credit for his astuteness in displaying friendship for England at an early period of the war. European intervention in South Africa is no longer within the range of political probabilities.

PLANNED ON THE VOYAGE.

HOW ROBERTS AND KITCHENER THOUGHT OUT THE CAMPAIGN.

The conditions under which the new campaign was planned in South Africa by Gen. Roberts and Gen. Kitchener on the voyage to the Cape are described in a letter from an officer on Gen. Kelly-Kenny's staff. This officer had anticipated seeing something of the two famous generals on the ship, but was disappointed. Gen. Roberts appeared on the deck at 6 o'clock every morning and walked up and down briskly for two hours. Promptly at 8 o'clock he turned to his chief of staff with an abrupt call. Gen. Kitchener alert in response, "Here, sir," was always on hand, and the conqueror of Kandahar and the conqueror of Omdurman would disappear from the deck and not be seen again until the next morning at the same early hour.

A large cabin had been reserved for Gen. Roberts' use, and there he remained busy day after day with his chief of staff until midnight, with no interruption except at short intervals for meals, and no visitors, unless members of his staff were summoned. A short stroll on deck at midnight capped the day's work, and the two generals then turned in.

This order was followed day after day until the ship anchored at Cape Town, and the campaign, which had been thoroughly discussed and thought out in detail, was opened.

WHAT KIMBERLEY SUFFERED.

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF A CORRESPONDENT IN CAPE TOWN.

Extracts from the diary of the Reuter correspondent at Kimberley give an insight into the trials of the garrison. They are, in brief, as follows:

Jan. 11—Scurvy attacks the natives alarmingly. They are dying fast. The anti-scorbutics are exhausted. Vine cuttings are being tried in lieu of green food.

Jan. 12—Typhoid is very prevalent. Neglect to boil the water is the probable cause.

Jan. 13—Fifty typhoids in the hospital.

Jan. 16—The military authorities have commandeered all the foodstuffs and other stores. Leave has been granted to the inhabitants to shoot small birds for food.

Jan. 17—The mules slaughtered are pronounced superior to horseflesh.

Jan. 24—Five hundred shells poured into the town, at hazard, the hospital, scurvy "pound" and residences receiving the attention properly due the defenders of the earthworks.

Jan. 25—A small family shell-proof shelter has been dug in nearly every garden.

Feb. 11—Twenty-five hundred women and children were lowered into the mines throughout the night. The men are also selecting places of safety.

Feb. 15—All the morning there was a heavy cross fire, the British occupying Alexandersfontein. The hundred-pounder and shrapnel are bursting over Kimberley. Every one is lying low. The shops and banks were closed at 2 this afternoon. There was a kaleidoscopic change. Helio signals were observed announcing Gen. French's approach. Clouds of dust from the rapid advance of the cavalry were then seen, and almost simultaneously the enemy was observed limbering up and fleeing eastwards.

CRONJE'S TREACHERY AFTER THE BATTLE OF MAJUBA.

That Cronje should have been refused the armistice for which he asked on Monday after the first day's stand in his hastily-formed laager is not altogether surprising. Irrespective of the military necessity compelling the British commander-in-chief to finish his task completely at the earliest possible moment, General Cronje's past record in truce negotiations has been such as to render Lord Roberts wary. When in 1881 an armistice had been actually arranged between Kruger, Joubert, and Sir Evelyn Wood after Majuba, Cronje, in defiance of the usages of civilized warfare, withheld the news from the garrison of Potchefstroom and continued the siege until Colonel Winslow was obliged to surrender in order to save the lives of the wounded and the women and children refugees. When the incident became known after the terms of peace had been settled, the Transvaal Government was required by Sir Evelyn Wood

to allow a British force to march up from Natal and reoccupy Potchefstroom as a formal acknowledgement of Cronje's treachery.

In the case of the Jameson raiders he laid himself open to mistrust by failing to abide strictly to the terms of the surrender under which Dr. Jameson's men gave up their arms. Cronje gave a distinct promise to spare the lives of those who surrendered, but this promise was set aside, and the question of sparing the lives of the prisoners was afterwards used as a lever by President Kruger in the subsequent negotiations.

RIFLE SHOOTING AT A BALOON.

With regard to the effects of gunshots upon a balloon the following experiments were made. A shot was fired from a Lebel rifle at a balloon at an altitude of 500 feet. It only penetrated the fabric below the equator, and no appreciable results ensued. After this, many shots were fired, several penetrating the balloon and passing out near the upper valve. After a lapse of six hours the balloon descended quietly to the ground, by reason of the loss of gas through the bullet holes. But it appeared that, whatever the number of shots, the loss of gas was never sufficient to cause the balloon to fall rapidly.—Pall Mall Gazette.

DR. LEYDS' OPINION.

The Paris Echo prints an interview with Dr. Leyds, the diplomatic agent of the Transvaal, who emphatically asserted that the defeat of Commandant Cronje will not affect the issue of the war. Dr. Leyds is still full of confidence in the justice of the Boer cause, and in the valour of the soldiers of the Republics.

He declared that the seat of war would be changed, in view of the arrival of British reinforcements, and added that he was convinced that the British were not yet at the end of their astonishment.

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BACKACHE?

If you have Backache you have Kidney Disease. If you neglect Backache it will develop into something worse—Bright's Disease or Diabetes. There is no use rubbing and doctoring your back. Cure the kidneys. There is only one kidney medicine but it cures Backache every time—

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The Annual Meeting of the shareholders of the Charlottetown Condensed Milk Co. will be held in the Board of Trade Room Masonic Temple Building, Charlottetown on Wednesday the seventh day of March 1900 at the hour of 3 p. m. Dated at Charlottetown this 24 day Feb. 1900.

E. R. BROW Secretary.

The Ch'town Steam Navigation Company (Limited)

Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the above Company will be held at their office corner of Great George and Lower Water Streets, Charlottetown, on Wednesday the seventh day of March next at the hour of eleven o'clock a. m.

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The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Plans and Specifications can be seen at the office of C. B. CHAPPELL, Architect.

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