

FIRST EDITION.

CRONJE'S ARMY IN DESPERATE STRAITS

Kitchener Will Not Allow An Armistice.

SAYS CRONJE MUST SURRENDER OR FIGHT IT OUT.

The Details of the Previous Fighting

SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE EXAMINER.

CRONJE'S POSITION.

PAARBERG DRIFT, Orange Free State, Feb. 23.—General Cronje's magnificent night march from Magersfontein now appears likely to end in disaster.

The main body of the Boers is enclosed in a terrible death trap.

The enemy are hiding in the bed of the Modder, surrounded by the British artillery and enclosed on the east and west by the British infantry. Sunday witnessed a gallant stand on the part of the retreating foe.

ROBERTS' TERMS.

CARLETON, Feb. 22.—In reply to Gen. Cronje's request for an armistice of twenty-four hours to bury his dead, Lord Roberts told the Boer commander that he must fight to a finish or surrender unconditionally.

General Cronje's condition is reported hopeless. The British have occupied Barkly west.

DETAILS OF THE BATTLE.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—The Daily News has the following despatch from Modder river, dated Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 21st:

"The Boer forces under Cronje are estimated at 8,000 men. At 12 o'clock he asked for an armistice of 24 hours which was refused. Later he said that he would surrender.

Lord Kitchener sent him a reply telling him to come into camp. Cronje refused to do this saying that there had been a misunderstanding and that he would fight to the death.

The bombardment was then resumed and our Lyddite shells set fire to the Boer wagons.

We continued shelling the laager through the night and in the morning we resumed with maxims and rifles, principally from the north side. Cronje under difficult conditions managed to hold his own.

On Saturday night, the British Mounted Infantry came into touch with Cronje's rear guard, driving it back upon the main body.

On Sunday morning action was renewed. But the Boers had entrenched the river during the night and prevented a further advance of the mounted infantry in this direction.

Meanwhile the Highland Brigade, consisting of the Seaforth, Black Watch and Argyles advanced from the south bank, and Essex, Welch and Yorkshires formed a long line on the left which rested on the river, the extreme right being the Welsh.

The whole line was ordered to envelope the Boers who lined the other bank of the river.

The firing soon became heavy the Boers holding a splendid position covering the left of the Highland Brigade which advanced partly up the river bed and partly in the open while the rest of the brigade with

other regiments swung around in front of the Highland brigade on level coverless ground exposed to a terrible fire which obliged the men to lie upon the ground as they did for the remainder of the day.

This action began at half-past seven in the morning and through the dreadful heat and terrible thunder storm our men hung on the position answering the Boer fire and shooting steadily.

In the meantime the rest of the infantry completed the enveloping movement, the Welsh Regiment having succeeded in seizing the drift, thus closing the Boers who had fought throughout with splendid courage.

General Cronje's laager full of carts ammunition and stores could be plainly seen near the north bank.

General Smith Dorrin collected a large body of men including the Canadians, and crossed the river by Paardeberg drift advancing towards the laager which was being vigorously shelled.

This force made a gallant attempt to charge into the laager, but failed.

Before seizing the western drifts, the Boers occupied a kopje on the south bank, running down to the river.

Their force is out in two.

The Boers hold the kopje and have one Vickers Maxim and probably one or two other guns.

Towards evening, the battery on the south side opened in co-operation with the battery on the north side.

A wonderful sight followed. The shells fell with amazing precision along the river and opposite the laager which was shelled thoroughly damaging everything it contained.

One shell set on fire a small ammunition wagon which burned nearly all day. Many other wagons were set on fire and the glare was visible at a considerable distance far into the night.

The infantry also maintained a terrible fire which was answered vigorously.

The scene toward nightfall was terribly picturesque, with blazing wagons, roaring artillery and cracking rifle fire.

A PRETORIA DESPATCH.

PRETORIA, Feb. 22.—General Buller has again been repulsed at the Tugela after heavy fighting.

A MISTAKE.

HALIFAX, Feb. 23.—A despatch was received from London today announcing that 18 Canadians had been killed in Tuesday's fighting. This is a mistake. The despatch should have read Sunday.

Agents Wanted.

Wanted—Agents and subscribers in the Maritime Provinces for the Montreal Star at special rate \$1.00 per annum. Circulation "Daily" 56,000 "Weekly" 111,000. Correspondent in South Africa. Wm. M. Campbell, agent, 114 St James Street, St. John, N. B. Feb. 23rd pd.

J. T. L.

When Britannia saw no hope but war,
To scathe the Transvaal sons,
Our Souris bay grasped quick the sword,
And soldier suit put on.

Although no adept with the sword,
Or skilled in marksmen fame,
Yet well we knew our boy would serve
Britannia without shame.

Today we find him on the field,
A field of crimson gore,
Where cannon from their fiery throats,
A hail of lead do pour.

Firm as the rocks that bide the waves
Step in their wild career,
He onward moves to victory led
Our Souris volunteer.

Long may he live to bear the brunt
Of battle, side by side
With the champions of Britannia's cause
For which so many have died.

But should his grave in Transvaal be,
His memory we'll hold dear,
For more valiant lad this Isle; nor
seen

Than the Souris volunteer. J. M.
Gowan Brae, Feb. 22nd, 1900.

A Novel by Churchill

LONDON, Feb. 22.—Winston's Churchill's first novel, "Savrola" was published this week. The young war correspondent has depicted the political intrigue and revolution in the imaginary republic of Laurania, throwing in lots of fighting epigrams and political maxims, the latter evidently gathered from his experience in England. The book was mainly written in 1897.

Russia's Designs.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—The Daily Chronicle, in a rather alarmist editorial today regarding Russian designs on the Afghan frontier, after reciting what is known of the position of affairs there, says:

"Both parties in Parliament have repeatedly asserted that the very next step—that to Herat—means war. There is no doubt that Russia could take Herat tomorrow if she liked. England would need a month to reach the same objective. The only barrier between Russia and her prey is a moral one."

The Daily Chronicle then pictures India's means of defence, concluding that Russia would probably not attempt to seize India.

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left and are selling them at a big discount, come quick and get your choice.

CARTERS

BOOKSTORE

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.

By order,

L. W. HALES,
Secretary.

Feb. 22nd 1900

We Wish Our Customers —ONE AND ALL—

A Happy and Prosperous New

We also desire to thank the n f their very liberal patronage during th past year, making it the most successful year we have yet had.

That our efforts to please has been appreciated, is evident from our rapid increase in business.

We will strive to merit still further your continued patronage.

W. N. TANTON
JEWELER

Treat George Street, doors from Grafton St.....

FOR SALE

The building on the corner of Great George and Water Streets, as it now stands. Building to be off the present site not later than the 20th March. If not sold by the 1st March it will be offered at public auction on that day. Apply at Hotel Davies.

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of ours is great value. We have other splendid values to offer you. Look over our stock—Large discounts on Soaps, Hair Brushes, etc., this month.

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