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BOERS ARE DRIVEN OFF

Forces From Natal Make Disastrous Attack on Roberts' Outposts.

THEY SUFFER HEAVY LOSSES

MANY KILLED AND WOUNDED AND 100 PRISONERS TAKEN.

Six British Hit With Explosive Bullets—Sixty Found on One of the Boers—Buller Fighting Hard Toward Ladysmith—Two Miles Within Touch of General White—Part of Gen. Gatacre's Force Repulsed With Considerable Loss.

London, Feb. 25—3:15 p. m.—The war office publishes the following despatch from Lord Roberts: "Paardeberg, Feb. 24—12:20 p. m.—Parties of Boers recently arrived from Natal attacked our outposts in force again yesterday. They lost a good many killed and wounded and nearly one hundred prisoners, including a commandant and three field cornets. Our casualties were four officers wounded, nine men killed, twenty-three men wounded and two men missing. On the 21st and 22d one officer and thirteen men were wounded. Six men were wounded today by hollow-nosed Mauser bullets. The nickel case is slit with four slits, making the projectile of the most explosive and explosive nature possible. A wounded Boer brought to our hospital yesterday had sixty of these bullets in his pockets. During the advance to and at Kimberley the casualties were: Officers, two killed and thirteen wounded; men, four killed and seventy-eight wounded."

Paardeberg, Orange Free state, Friday, Feb. 23.—The British are gradually closing in upon General Cronje from all sides and making his position more impossible than ever. During the course of last night the British artillery poured in several rounds. There was a terrible rain and thunder storm early in the evening. The Canadians were heavily engaged in Sunday's fight, behaving most gallantly.

General Cronje's position is more hopeless than ever. Our guns dominate the sloping ascents from the river on all sides, and by the rush of the Shropshires on Wednesday night up the river bank the Boers lost two hundred yards space in their cover. Deserters say the British fire has been very deadly, and affirm that General Cronje himself is willing to surrender. The other beleaguered Boers are anxious to give up. A British doctor, who visited the Boer lines to see the wounded, found the trenches along the river full of wounded and saw many dead.

An Appalling Bombardment. A deserter who came into camp last night says that yesterday's bombardment was appalling in its effects, especially in the case of the howitzer batteries enfilading the river. The position today is practically the same. The Boers are strengthening their entrenchments around the laager, but the case is hopeless. The capture of the kopje today has given the British a splendid position and will prevent a Boer relieving force reaching Cronje. Everybody admires the splendid stand of the burghers, but from a military point of view it is considered that further resistance on the part of General Cronje will be criminal. Every shrapnel shell finds a victim and unless a miracle occurs his force must be wiped out or captured.

Paardeberg, Orange Free State, Saturday, Feb. 24.—The British took eighty prisoners as the result of yesterday's engagement. A balloon ascended and discovered several new works, which the British guns shelled today.

PROGRESS OF THE FIGHTING.

Closing in On the Boers—French Has Taken 400 Prisoners in All.

Paardeberg, Thursday, Feb. 22.—Artillery shelling continued during the early part of last night. As soon as the last gun was fired the Shropshires, who had been occupying the river bed since Sunday, rushed forward, seized an additional two hundred yards of their ground and entrenched a fresh position before daybreak. At dawn General Cronje found himself docketed that amount of space. The Shropshires had done excellent work under the muzzle fire since Sunday until they were relieved by the Gordons today.

Gordons Replace Shropshires.

The exchange of positions had its amusing features in spite of the danger. The Gordons crawled on their stomachs to the trenches and the Shropshires crept out of these by reaching over the Gordons. The scene of the last five days' fighting is one of the prettiest spots in South Africa. The river at the point where General Cronje is encamped, and fighting for life resembles some parts of the Hudson river, the ground all around sloping toward the stream. All the highlands are covered by British artillery. Cronje is faced in the front and rear from both banks by the British, while General French's Horse is far away on the flanks. During the night the British firing in front of the British line of the Eighty-second battery, which had remained hitched to the carriage, suddenly stamped and galloped off en masse, but today the wagons, with one exception, were recovered.

French Takes Prisoners.

General French has sent in seventy-five prisoners. A British patrol, eight miles to the west, discovered thirty Boers wandering away and captured them. Altogether this force has already captured 469 of the enemy, while many dead Boers have been seen. The Boer prisoners are all depressed at the present course of the war and they comment bitterly upon General Cronje's persistence, which they call "murder." Today a German ambulance attached to the Boer forces was allowed to traverse the British lines in front of Jacobabad. Quantities of cattle, sheep and trek oxen have been captured while wandering from the Boer laager.

EARLIER DETAILS OF FIGHTING.

Cronje Willing to Surrender but Young Transvaalers Are Not. Paardeberg, Orange Free State, Wednesday, Feb. 21.—The fourth day of General Cronje's fine defense opened in startling fashion. Soon after dawn a most terrific rattle of rifle fire broke out, waking the sleeping camp. It was the heaviest firing during the war and all awaited with forebodings the news of its effect. It soon developed that the Gloucesters and Essexes has lost their way and had bivouacked in terror close to the Boer laager on the north side of the river. As soon as they were perceived by the enemy the latter rushed. Wonderful to tell, the British casualties were practically none.

Capture of a Kopje.

There was desultory firing all day long on both the north and south banks. General Knox's brigade holding and pushing forward the line south of the river, while General Smith-Dorrien on the north side worked toward the laager. Meanwhile General French advanced in a far easterly direction near a kopje held by a strong force of Cronje's men, reinforced by a Ladysmith contingent. At the same time General Broadwood's brigade, with a battery of horse artillery, took up positions on the left and rear of the same kopje. The front of the hill was thoroughly searched by a raking fire. Suddenly the Boers bolted from every side toward General French, who headed towards the drift, shelling vigorously. A great number escaped, but many were killed by shrapnel and about four hundred were captured.

Defeat of Reinforcements.

As soon as the kopje was evacuated this correspondent visited it. The position was found to be wonderfully strong naturally, and to form the real key to the position in the case of defense against Boer reinforcements advancing from the east. Our first contact with the Ladysmith Boers was singularly unfortunate for them. A great deal of forage, provisions and equipment was captured, and the kopje was freer but dotted with blood, showing that many wounded had been removed. The Boer method of removing their dead is to tie a couple of reins to the body, which is thus dragged off by two horsemen at full gallop.

Cronje Willing to Surrender.

There were several pourparlers today on the subject of a short armistice. It seems that General Cronje is willing to surrender, but that the young Transvaalers refuse. The other beleaguered Boers are anxious to give up. A British doctor, who visited the Boer lines to see the wounded, found the trenches along the river full of wounded and saw many dead.

An Appalling Bombardment.

A deserter who came into camp last night says that yesterday's bombardment was appalling in its effects, especially in the case of the howitzer batteries enfilading the river. The position today is practically the same. The Boers are strengthening their entrenchments around the laager, but the case is hopeless. The capture of the kopje today has given the British a splendid position and will prevent a Boer relieving force reaching Cronje. Everybody admires the splendid stand of the burghers, but from a military point of view it is considered that further resistance on the part of General Cronje will be criminal. Every shrapnel shell finds a victim and unless a miracle occurs his force must be wiped out or captured.

CRONJE HAS GOOD COVER.

Also Plenty of Provisions—Ammunition Said to be Short. London, Feb. 25.—The Times publishes the following from Paardeberg dated Wednesday, February 21: "General Cronje's force have good cover from the British artillery fire and have considerable stores of provisions." A despatch to the Morning Post from Kimberley, dated Friday, says: "General Cronje is reported to have plenty of provisions, but to be running short of ammunition. Mr. Rhodes is extremely hopeful that the war has reached its concluding stage."

The Lorenzo Marquez Correspondent.

The Lorenzo Marquez correspondent of the Times writes from Pretoria in official circles at Pretoria borders on consternation. General Lunis Botha and President Steyn are both urging President Kruger to sue for peace. At Bloemfontein General Cronje's position is regarded as hopeless."

COL. MONTMORENCY KILLED.

Commander of the Famous Body of Scouts of His Name. Sterkfontein, Feb. 25.—General Gatacre has issued a divisional order announcing the killing at Schoemans Farm yesterday of Captain Montmorency, commander of the Scouts, with whom Lieutenant Colonel F. H. Hosker of the Third Middlesex Volunteer Infantry.

Gatacre's Troops Repulsed.

Sterkfontein, Sunday, Feb. 25.—A reconnaissance yesterday in force under General Gatacre with eight guns found the Boers occupying a ridge three miles beyond Molteno in the Stormberg direction. Montmorency's scouts charged the Boers, who crept round the scouts' flank, pouring in a deadly fire. The scouts were finally compelled to retire, having lost heavily. Fourteen are missing. Captain Montmorency was killed. The reconnaissance was valuable and would have been most satisfactory had it not been for the unfortunate disaster to the scouts, with whom Lieutenant Colonel Hosker happened to be. Their loss was four killed and many wounded and missing.

FAIL TO REACH AGREEMENT

REPUBLICANS STILL DIVIDED ON PORTO RICO BILL.

Prolonged Conferences Yesterday Leave the Matter Far from Settlement—Opponents Suggest Placing the Whole Matter in the Hands of the President—This Objected To. Washington, Feb. 25.—The effort to unite the republicans of the house on a Porto Rico bill have failed and at midnight, after prolonged conferences, it was stated that matters were substantially where they were yesterday. Other efforts at harmony may be made tomorrow. A long conference was held to-night at the residence of Representative McCall of Massachusetts, between the committee appointed at the republican conference last night representing the republicans in favor of the pending Porto Rico tariff bill and a committee agreed upon today by these republicans who are opposed to the measure. The latter committee was made up of Messrs. Powers of Vermont, Crumpacker of Indiana, Lorimer of Illinois, McCall of Massachusetts and Littlefield of Maine.

It was suggested by opponents of the pending bill that the whole matter be left in the hands of the president with the understanding that Puerto Rico should have free trade with the United States, but this was objected to and nothing came of it. The financial committee suggested that the original bill introduced by Mr. Hayne providing for free trade be substituted on the floor of the house for the committee bill, but this likewise failed to receive favorable consideration by the advocates of the pending measure. Considerable talk was indulged in over the proposition made by the committee bill advocates to fix a time limit during which the tariff of 25 per cent. against the imports of Puerto Rico shall remain effective, the time varying from two years to an indefinite period, but the opposition indicated their opposition to any tariff, no matter how short the time of its imposition may be. Mr. Bowers of Vermont, one of the opponents of the bill as it stands, however, was favorable to its passage with a time limit, but his associates would not concur in this. With a view to meeting some of the objections to the bill its advocates suggested a change in its title, which would indicate that it was intended as an emergency measure for the purpose of raising revenue, but this also found no favor with the opposition, who reiterated their hostility to the bill on principle.

HAID FIGHTING IN NATAL.

Boers Make Stand at Grobler's Kloof—British Pushing Back. Colenso, Natal, Saturday, Feb. 21.—The Boers, who had been reinforced, made a stand on Thursday at Grobler's Kloof, and on a range of hills running east. They had been forced from all their positions on the right. General Lyttonell's division, on Thursday, advanced under cover of the kopjes. The Boers fired a Creusot and a "Long Tom." The British artillery was well sheltered in the action at daybreak and until late in the afternoon, when a heavy rifle fire on both sides developed. The British infantry had advanced a mile and a half and a continuous fire was kept up until after dark. The Boers stuck to their positions. The British artillery fire was irregular. A few salvos were sent toward the thickly wooded spot and ravines from which the Boer fire was heaviest. The Boers sent shells into the headquarters magazine, close to the hospital, but no material damage was done. General Wynne was slightly wounded.

The Boer Positions are Not Considered Strong.

The Boer positions are not considered strong, with the exception of Grobler's Kloof. The hills eastward are not so high and cannot be entrenched so well as the mountains which the British have taken. The Somersets were the first across the pontoons on Wednesday. They were subjected to a heavy fire for five hours in an isolated position. It was the first time they had been under fire and they behaved excellently.

Early on Friday a severe rifle fire

was resumed on the right and front, from the positions held over night by both sides. The British naval guns, Howitzer, mountain and field batteries shelled the Boer trenches incessantly. The Boers replied with two heavy guns, some of their shells bursting over the hospital. As a result the British wounded were removed. During the afternoon the Fifth brigade, the Inniskillings and Dublin leading began to advance up the hill in spite of the constant shelling the Boers stood up in their trenches aiming deliberately down the hills. The infantry advance was covered by parties on the right and left firing volleys. It was slow, the British taking advantage of every bit of natural cover. The Boers on the crests of the hills, as well as from the trenches part of the way down, poured lead along the advancing line. At dark the British infantry had reached within a few hundred yards of the first line of Boer trenches.

Very Near to Ladysmith.

London, Feb. 25.—The Times publishes the following despatch from Colenso, dated Saturday: "The British are now within two miles of being in touch with Ladysmith, but the ground still to be covered is the hardest part and very severe fighting must be expected."

LONDON REVIEW OF SITUATION.

Belief That Roberts Has Good Reason for Not Mentioning Cronje.

London, Feb. 26—4:35 a. m.—Perhaps never before in the course of the present campaign had such crowds visited the war office as went there yesterday. As the Times remarks today: "The dearth

of news is somewhat trying at a time when a considerable success was generally regarded as imminent." No diminution of confidence in Lord Roberts is felt, however, and the public is ready to believe that he has good reasons for not mentioning General Cronje in the official dispatches. Probably he is in no hurry to end a situation which is daily bringing small parties of Boers in a vain endeavor to reinforce General Cronje. These he can deal with in detail.

Lord Roberts has already captured over five hundred Boers, and at this rate he will soon have quite a respectable array of prisoners to hold as hostages for the three thousand British already in Pretoria. General Cronje's refusal to accept the offer of Lord Roberts regarding the women and children indicates either that the position is less desperate than has been supposed or that he has been able to dig an absolutely safe place for them.

Everything goes to show that General Buller's advance is most stubbornly contested and most cautiously carried out. It is hoped that he will soon be in a position where General White will be able to assist him materially. The campaign is now approaching a most interesting phase. In about a fortnight the congress of the Afrikaander bond will meet and it is rumored that Mr. Hertzog will then propose peace terms on the basis of the republics retaining absolute independence, but offering to disarm. If these terms are rejected, it is understood that a manifesto will be jointly issued to the Dutch throughout South Africa, calling upon them to throw off their allegiance to Great Britain. Probably these rumors are exaggerated, but there is no doubt that the greatest anxiety prevails in Cape Town regarding coming events.

Germany, through the semi-official Berliner Post reiterates that all reports of German intervention are quite unwarranted. Captain Raymond Harvey de Montgomery, who was killed in General Gatacre's reconnaissance Saturday, was the heir of Viscount Frankfort de Montgomery and was the fourth heir to a peerage who has fallen in the course of the campaign.

OCCUPATION OF BARKLY WEST

Reported by Roberts—The Country Gradually Settling Down. London, Feb. 25.—Lord Roberts has sent the following additional advice to the war office: "Paardeberg, Saturday afternoon, Feb. 24.—Methuen reports that Barkly West was occupied by our troops on February 22. The loyal inhabitants played great enthusiasm. The country west of the railway from Cape Town to Kimberley is gradually settling down. A detachment has started from De Aar for Bristown; and Douglas and Priska will shortly be visited by our troops. Methuen's account of the admirable manner in which the Kimberley hospital is managed made one desire to see and some of our sick and wounded there."

BOERS NORTH OF KIMBERLEY.

In Strength at Fourteen Streams—Destroy Van Riebeeck Bridge. Kimberley, Friday, Feb. 23.—It is reported that the Boers were in strength at Fourteen Streams, to the north, on Wednesday, having two guns and many wagons. They had destroyed the bridge over the Vaal river.

THE COLD WAVE.

Weather to Moderate from the Mississippi to the Atlantic Today. Washington, Feb. 25.—Weather conditions and general forecast: The cold wave which extended over the Atlantic coast district Saturday night and Sunday is temperate west of the Alleghenies. This cold wave carried the line of zero temperature south of the Ohio river and was attended by freezing temperature and heavy frost Sunday morning to southern Georgia.

The low barometer area was central this evening over the lower St. Lawrence valley with lowest barometric pressure 28.76 inches at Father Point. This depression has caused high westerly winds on the south Atlantic coast and severe westerly gales from Hatteras northward. Fair weather prevails generally east of the Rockies, although snow is reported in as far east as the lake regions and the states of the Mississippi Valley.

During Monday the temperature will moderate from the Mississippi Valley to the Atlantic coast. Snow flurries are likely to occur in the Ohio valley and the western lake region and increasing cloudiness and rain is indicated for the southwestern states. In the west and northwest the weather will be more or less cloudy and warmer. The weather will continue to moderate over the eastern districts Tuesday and conditions are likely to have rain or snow in the middle north Atlantic states, the Ohio valley and the lake regions, and rain in the southern states.

During Tuesday the winds will continue high from the west on the North Atlantic coast and will diminish and become light on the middle Atlantic coast. Along the South Atlantic coast westerly winds will become variable and shift to easterly. Storm signals are displayed on the Atlantic coast from Delaware Breakwater to Eastport and messages have been sent to west gulf states.

Hartford Woman Dies in Church.

Hartford, Feb. 25.—Elizabeth W. Robertson, who was quite prominent in Hartford's colored circles, died suddenly while attending services at the Talbot Street Congregational church. She was taken with a fainting spell and died soon after being brought into the chapel.

Meriden Man Dies Suddenly.

Meriden, Conn., Feb. 25.—Henry L. Puffer, a well known religious worker and for a short time secretary of the local Y. M. C. A., died suddenly at his home on North Second street to-night upon his return from church. He was forty-two years of age and married.

A SPANISH OFFICER'S VIEW

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ON THE FIGHT OFF SANTIAGO.

Intention to Ram the Brooklyn Frustrated by Schley's Frequent Discharge of "Loop"—The Oregon in the "Dead Angle" Most of the Time—Credit Given the Iowa for Disabling the Maria Teresa. Washington, Feb. 25.—The bureau of naval intelligence has issued a fresh volume of its "war-note series" and probably the last of them, which will bear on the battle of Santiago harbor. The present publication is a translation from the Spanish of Captain Victor N. Concas y Palau, formerly commander of the cruiser Infanta Maria Teresa and chief of staff of Admiral Cervera in the battle of July 3. Like a number of previous articles from officers of the Spanish squadron bearing on the same subject, Captain Concas devoted considerable space to the lack of naval preparation in Spain prior to the war and also to condemning the political party in Spain which was responsible for offering up the crippled squadron as a sacrifice on the altar of an historic ideal. All this has been covered more fully in Admiral Cervera's published defense.

The vital section of the narrative begins with the exodus of the devoted squadron from Santiago harbor. Captain Concas says in accordance with previous instructions the Teresa was headed toward the Brooklyn, hoping to ram her. This was frustrated by the Brooklyn's frequently discharged "loop" to starboard, which Concas says "brought the Teresa and the Iowa between her and the Teresa." A foot note inserted in the narrative at this point reads: "The turn was made to starboard, though it would seem reasonable for it to have been made to port." There is nothing in the bureau's publication to indicate whether this foot note is by Captain Concas or not.

Continuing his story, Captain Concas tells of the successive sinking of the Teresa and the other vessels of the squadron. He dwells strongly on a point which he declares all other critics have overlooked, namely, that owing to the narrow and tortuous channel past the Moro, the Spanish vessels had to come out so far apart that they were each attacked by the combined force of the American squadron and destroyed in detail, making it practically a series of combats, each time a single ship against a squadron. He calls attention also to the probability that the American estimate of three per cent. hits-out of the shots aimed at Cervera's fleet is too low. He says the most horrible mortality in every case was in the upper works, where the shots left no marks except those wiped out by fire. He says six per cent. of the hits would be too high.

In defense of the Spanish gunnery the writer says that Cervera's ships fought either bow or stern or nearly throughout the battle. This reduced the number of guns they could bring to bear. He points out that the Brooklyn, which was the only vessel keeping up a parallel broadside fight, for any length of time, was struck forty-one times. As she was under fire only of the Vizcaya, the Teresa and for a short time of the best guns of the Colon, Captain Concas says the Spaniards gave very good proof of their ability as marksmen. He credits the Iowa with landing the two twelve and thirteen inch shells, which burst the Teresa's main steam pipe and put her out of action when her commander thought she had a fair chance to escape. These shots, he says, have been claimed both by the Oregon and the Indiana, but he adduces considerable evidence that they came from the Iowa.

Another peculiar incident brought out in the narrative, and a striking example of Yankee luck, was that the Oregon in her pursuit of the Colon retained unconsciously in the "dead angle" between the only guns on the Colon powerful enough to reach her. The Colon, it will be remembered, did not have her big thirty-two guns, and in the long stern chase the Oregon happened always to keep just in the spot where the upper deck guns could not be trained on her and the Colon could not fire without heaving to and losing valuable time.

The author indignantly denies that the Colon was wrecked by her crew after she had been surrendered. He says she was run ashore and her sea-valves opened before her flag was hauled down. Regarding this incident, the writer says: "The Christobal Colon was less fortunate than any of the others for, although going at a speed of thirteen knots, she ran ashore on sand, and if Admiral Sampson, with a more seamanlike spirit, had ordered the divers to close the valves, he could most certainly have saved the cruiser, but with feverish impatience he towed her off with his own flagship, the New York. Hardly had the ship been floated when she began to list, at which moment, with great dexterity, he pushed the Colon back again with the ram of his ship toward the sandy shoals, but it was too late and turning over, that noble cruiser went to the bottom of the sea forever. The few Americans and Spaniards who were still on board hastily saved themselves."

Speaking of the nature of the wounds inflicted by modern naval shell-fire Captain Concas declares them more horrible than can be described. A boat-swain of the Teresa had fourteen wounds. None of the men injured at all escaped with less than two. Many he says were blown into unrecognizable fragments. Captain Larrea of the Oquendo was killed, his executive officer, Lola, cut it two with a shell, the third officer Matos and the three lieutenants next in rank all killed, beside 121 men of the crew. The total mortality in the fleet reached the awful

figure of 22 per cent. of the men engaged.

In closing the account of the battle the author says: "We could never complete this chapter if we were to relate the innumerable acts of courage, but I cannot do less than to mention one which I saw with my own eyes. The Marie Teresa had already been abandoned, the flames mounting up to the height of the funnels, and projectiles exploding on all sides, and when everybody thought that no living soul was left on the ship, suddenly a man appeared there calling for help. Instantly Jose Casado cried, 'I will not let that man die,' and threw himself into the water. He climbed up the blood stained sides of the ship, seized the man, carried him down on his shoulders and swimming with him to the shore laid his burden on the beach. It was hardly possible to believe that that shapeless form was a man with fourteen wounds, who must have been left aboard as dead."

A CHURCH DESTROYED.

First Congregational of Leicester, Mass.—Fire Caused by Lightning. Leicester, Mass., Feb. 25.—At an early hour this morning lightning struck the copper-sheathed steeple of the First Congregational church, causing a fire which completely destroyed the building. At one time the fire threatened to consume the large factory of the American Card Cotton company, but the firemen managed to prevent the flames from spreading. The local engine company were unable to summon aid from surrounding towns for a long time because the electric storm had rendered useless all the wires. After much delay an engine and hose company was procured from Spencer. The total loss to the church is estimated at \$30,000, to the card company \$350. The church was one of the largest edifices of its kind in the state. It was built in 1855 and was the first contract ever undertaken by the firm of Norcross Bros. Five thousand dollars was spent in repairing last summer. The building is covered by insurance to the extent of \$20,000.

TRAIN STRIKES A CARRIAGE.

Five Persons Instantly Killed and One Other Fatally Injured. Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 25.—A Geneva special to the Buffalo Courier says: "Shortly after midnight Saturday, the midnight express on the Lehigh Valley struck a carriage containing seven persons at Tuttle's Crossing, about twenty-five miles east from Rochester. Instantly killing five of the occupants, fatally injuring another and badly bruising the other. All were members of a family and had been spending the evening at the house of friends at Tuttle's Corner crossing. The dead: Mrs. Amy Smith, forty-eight years old; Bert Smith, twenty-five years old; Miss Miranda Smith, twenty-four years old; Catherine Smith, fourteen years old; Catherine Smith, eight years old. The injured: Peter Smith, husband of Mrs. Smith and father of the other victims; Gardner Smith, twenty-one years old."

MRS. SARTORIS TESTER.

Operation Shows No Evidence That Cancer Has Ever Existed. New York, Feb. 25.—The following statement relative to the condition of Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris, daughter of General Grant, was given out today by the attending physicians: "Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris is now convalescing from an operation and will be about in a few days. On account of public statements that after the operation an examination proved that there is no evidence that cancer has ever existed. (Signed) "E. J. Keyes, "W. G. Wylie."

FOUND DEAD IN NEWTOWN.

Michael Hough Misses His Way and Expires on the Road. Newtown, Feb. 25.—Michael Hough, aged thirty-one and unmarried, son of the late Michael Hough, who was a prominent citizen of Newtown, was found dead this morning near the residence of Mrs. Patrick Scanlon, Walnut Tree hill. It is supposed that he was returning home from a visit to Sandy Hook, missed his way and fell where he was found dead. Local Medical Examiner Dr. E. M. Smith, who was called to pronounce death due from exposure.

Coal Barges Ashore.

Boston, Feb. 25.—Barges Keystone and Otto of the Philadelphia & Reading company's line while inward bound from Philadelphia for Boston with coal, in tow of tug Gettysburg, ran ashore on Brewer Rock, Boston light, this morning, and the Keystone will probably be a total loss with her cargo of 1500 tons of coal. The Otto can probably be saved.

Professor Phelps Still Improving.

A report was about last night that Hon. E. J. Phelps had suffered a relapse and was again in a most critical condition. At 1:30 this morning, however, Professor Phelps' attending physician, Dr. Samuel D. Gilbert, said that the report was untrue and that Professor Phelps had not suffered a relapse. He continues to improve slowly.

Derby Hall-Player Dead.

Derby, Feb. 25.—Thomas O'Dell, aged twenty-eight, a member of the Derby baseball team up to last year, died at his home on Hawkins street today, after a brief illness. He was also a well known fireman, being foreman of Storm Engine company No. 2. He leaves a widow and one child.

Father of Capt. Cook Dead.

Northampton, Mass., Feb. 25.—General B. E. Cook, father of Captain Cook, who commanded the Brooklyn during the Cuban blockade, in the late war, died at his home here today. He was one of Northampton's best known and oldest citizens.

OCEAN LINER ON A LEDGE

SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO THE ALLAN STEAMSHIP CALIFORNIAN.

Goes Ashore Just Outside Portland, Me., Harbor—Her Condition Last Night Uncertain but Hopes Are High That She Will Be Saved—The Weather Rough but Moderating—Passengers Remain Aboard. Portland, Me., Feb. 25.—The big Allan Line steamship Californian, which left her dock at midnight, went ashore on Ram Island ledge, just outside of the harbor, a few minutes after her pilot left here this morning. All the passengers are safe, although still aboard. The condition of the vessel to-night is uncertain. Most of the local seafaring men are of the opinion that the rocks have penetrated the bottom of the vessel in several places, which they doubt very much if she can be saved. The master of the Californian is Captain John France, one of the oldest and most capable employes of the line. There are six cabin, five intermediate and ten steerage passengers beside a crew of seventy-five men. The cabin passengers are Mr. and Mrs. Hutton, Montreal; Mr. and Mrs. D. Wilson, Toronto; Miss Bailey, Ottawa and Mr. Brownell, Esquimaut, B. C. It is impossible to secure the names of the others as there are only two lists, one on board the ship and the other in the mails for Montreal.

The Californian was, in charge of Pilot Edward L. Parsons, and at the time he left her the wind was blowing hard from the southeast and was accompanied at the time by heavy rain. Pilot Parsons left the ship on reaching the bell buoy off Cushings Island Point, after he gave the officers of the ship the correct course. Ten minutes later the Californian was hard and fast aground on Ram Island ledge. This is a reef which runs out from Ram Island and the ship had gone several points off her course when she struck.

As soon as she struck bombs were fired, rockets set up and colored lights burned. The rockets were observed by the patrolmen at the Cape Elizabeth life saving station, but on account of the severe gale and high sea they were unable to row across in their boat and render the steamer any assistance. One of the sentinels at Fort Williams, which is directly opposite where the steamer went ashore, telephoned the affair to the city. Soon after a boat from the Californian commanded by the second officer arrived, having rowed in from Ram Island. Captain Barclay, the shore captain of the Allan line, and Mr. Walwright, the general manager, were immediately notified. Captain Barclay chartered the ocean tug Edmonson to get to the grounded steamer and render any assistance possible. Such a heavy sea was encountered that the tug was compelled to come to anchor fully a half mile from the steamer. This forenoon the life saving boat from the Cape Elizabeth life savers, seven miles away, launched a boat and put off for the steamer, intending to transfer the passengers desired to be transferred, but on seeing the manner in which the life boat pitched and rolled they decided not to leave the ship.

The ship is laying under the lee of Ram Island on the ledge and although the waves are breaking with great force the long ledge acts as a breaker and protects the ship. The wind is now blowing strongly from the westward and the sea is rapidly subsiding. The passengers will probably be taken off to-morrow morning without danger and if the sea is smooth the work of removing the cargo will commence. The local officials feel confident that the ship can be floated. They will wreck the ship themselves. To-night there is a westerly wind and the conditions are favorable. This is the third trip the Californian has made this season from this port. She was bound to Glasgow by way of Halifax. She arrived in Portland the latter part of last week. Her cargo is about 3,000 tons and was valued at \$500,000. The vessel was launched at Glasgow in 1891 and is valued at \$5,000,000.

BRANDY DROPS.

Their Sale to Waterbury School Children Caused Controversy. Waterbury, Feb. 25.—The agitation which has been conducted here for several days against the sale of so-called brandy drops to school children, has been so marked that the board of health at its regular meeting to-morrow will discuss the question of their sale. Prosecuting Agent Pierce has given his opinion that the sale cannot be affected by the enforcement of the statutes relating to the sale of intoxicating liquors without a license. It is surmised that the board will consider the article under the food adulteration law and possibly prevent the sale by that means.

Great Pigeon Shot Dead.

New York, Feb. 25.—George Work, club man, pigeon shot and man of the world, died today at Davos-Platz, Switzerland, from consumption. His two sisters, Mrs. Burke-Roche and Mrs. Cooper-Hewitt, were with him when he died. Mr. Work held the amateur record, having killed ninety-eight out of one hundred birds in a match against Brewer, a professional.

Barge Founders—Five Drowned.

Providence, Feb. 25.—A tragedy happened off Narragansett Pier shortly after 1 o'clock this morning when the barge General Wiley foundered during a southeast gale. Captain Harold and four little children were drowned in spite of all attempts to save them.

United States Canal Commission.

San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua, via Galveston, Tex., Feb. 25.—The United States canal commission, after having conferred for several days with President Zelaya left to-day for Panama, via Corinto. All the members are well.