

Lieut.-Colonel Thorneycroft to the command of the summit. I accordingly had heliographed: "With the approval of the Commander-in-Chief, I place Lieut.-Colonel Thorneycroft in command of the summit, with the local rank of Brigadier-General."

For some hours after this message I could get no information from the summit. It appears that the signallers and their apparatus were destroyed by the heavy fire.

I repeatedly asked for Colonel Thorneycroft to state his view of the situation. At 1.20 p.m. I heliographed to ascertain whether Colonel Thorneycroft had assumed command, and at the same time asked General Coke to give me his views on the situation on Spion Kop. Still getting no reply, I asked whether General Coke was there, and subsequently received his view of the situation. He stated that, unless the Artillery could silence the enemy's guns, the men on the summit could not stand another complete day's shelling, and that the situation was extremely critical.

At 6.30 p.m. I asked if he could keep two battalions on the summit, removing the remainder out of reach of shells, also whether two battalions would suffice to hold the summit; this was in accordance with a telegram on the subject sent me by the Commander-in-Chief. Later in the evening I made arrangements to send two (Naval) 12-prs. and the Mountain Battery, Royal Artillery, to the summit, together with half company Royal Engineers (and working parties, two reliefs of 600 men each), to strengthen the entrenchments and provide shell covers for the men. I may here mention that the 17th Company, Royal Engineers, proceeded at the same time as General Woodgate's force, and were employed until daylight upon the entrenchments, then upon road making and water supply.

Sandbags were sent up early on the 24th instant.

While Colonel Sim was, with this party, ascending the hill, he met Colonel Thorneycroft descending, having evacuated the position.

I wish to bring to notice that I heard from all but one expression of the admirable conduct and bravery shown by Officers and men suffering under a withering Artillery fire on the summit of the slopes, and also of those who, with so much endurance, persisted in carrying up water and food and ammunition to the troops during this day.

During the day a Staff Officer of the Headquarters Staff was present on the summit, and reported direct to the Commander-in-Chief.

At sunset I considered that the position could be held next day, provided that guns could be mounted and effective shelter provided. Both of these conditions were about to be fulfilled, as already mentioned.

In the absence of General Coke, whom I ordered to come to report in person as to the situation, the evacuation took place under orders, given upon his own responsibility, by Lieut.-Colonel Thorneycroft. This occurred in the face of the vigorous protests of General Coke's Brigade-Major, the Officer Commanding the Middlesex Regiment, and others.

It is a matter for the Commander-in-Chief to decide whether there should be an investigation into the question of the unauthorized evacuation of Spion Kop.

CHARLES WARREN,
Lieut.-General.

Lord Chamberlain's Office, St. James's Palace,
April 16, 1900.

NOTICE is hereby given, that The Queen's Birthday will be celebrated in London alone on Wednesday, the 23rd May next, and at all other Stations, Naval and Military, on Thursday, the 24th May next.

Downing Street, April 14, 1900.

THE Queen has been pleased to approve of the appointment of Solomon Christoffel Obeyesekera and Semasinha Navaratna Wanninayaka Hulgalla, Esqrs., to be Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council of the Island of Ceylon.

(F. & H. 6087.)

Board of Trade (Fisheries and Harbour Department), London, April 17, 1900.

THE Board of Trade have received, through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the following copy of a Telegram from Her Majesty's Representative at Constantinople, viz. :—
Télégramme-circulaire aux Offices de Santé de la frontière turco-persane en date du 21/3 Avril, 1900.

Par décision du Conseil Supérieur de Santé l'accès de la frontière ottomane comprise entre Revendouz et Hanéguine est interdit, sauf par les trois points de Revendouz, Pendjovine et Hanéguine où les voyageurs seront soumis à une visite médicale rigoureuse. Ceux parmi ces voyageurs présentant des symptômes de maladie suspecte ne seront pas recus en territoire ottoman.

L'Inspecteur Général,
Dr. COZZONIS.

(F. & H. 6187.)

Board of Trade (Fisheries and Harbour Department), London, April 17, 1900.

THE Board of Trade have received, through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Representative at Trieste, enclosing the following copy of a Notice respecting quarantine, viz. :—

Translation of Circular No. 4070 of the Imperial and Royal Marine Board at Trieste, to all Imperial and Royal Offices and Officers and Subordinate Port and Sanitary Offices and Officers.

In consideration of the present sanitary conditions at Alexandria and Oporto, the Ministries of the Interior, of Commerce and of Finance, in union with the Royal Hungarian Government, have issued a decree, dated March 29, 1900, abolishing the prohibition of importation and transit of certain specified goods and objects arriving from Egypt and Portugal, issued by decrees of June 6, 1899 (B.L.J. No. 99), and August 31, 1899 (B.L.J. No. 170), and published in Government Circulars of June 7, 1899, No. 6513, and of September 2, 1899, No. 10259.

This decree comes into force the day of its publication.

This is issued for information and guidance.

Trieste, March 31, 1900.

The President,
BECHER.

(F. & H. 6191.)

Board of Trade (Fisheries and Harbour Department), London, April 17, 1900.

THE Board of Trade have received, through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Representative at Montevideo, intimating that quarantine on arrivals from Paraguay has been removed, vessels