

PROGRAMME OF
GARRISON SPORTS
THE MAFEKING MAIL

ISSUED DAILY.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 148

Wednesday, May 23rd, 1900.

We are sorry that we are compelled to reduce the size of the Slips. No more of the other size is obtainable. We have wired to Bulawayo and hope to get a supply from that town of the size we started upon last November. In the meantime we must ask our subscribers to continue to us that indulgence which so materially encouraged us during the Siege.

THE
Mafeking Mail.

WEDNESDAY, 23RD MAY, 1900

RAILWAY COMMUNICATION
RESTORED.

Last night, at a quarter to eight, the first train from the North arrived, having aboard, sixteen mail bags, and two hundred bags of mealies. The expeditious repairing of the line reflects great credit upon Captain More and his staff, for there was an enormous lot of work to be done. At 9 miles the big dynamite hole, where our trucks exploded, was quite four feet deep and about one hundred and forty feet long, Oaklands culvert was found to be destroyed, the piers having been blown up with dynamite, and the girders carried away on to the veldt. Beyond that there were, in one place, no less than forty-eight consecutive pairs of rails carried out for a considerable distance and damaged. Evidently oxen, or horses, had been employed to remove them, and they were scattered in various directions all over the place. At another point there were twelve pairs displaced, and at numerous spots four, or two, pairs had been removed and damaged. The dynamiter in many

places had acted like a novice, as instead of placing the charge at the junction of two rails, and damaging both with one explosion, he had stuck it under the middle of a rail, with the result that the metal was merely bent. At Ramathlabama bank the rails were torn up and thrown aside on to the lower ground. Lieutenant Walmisley was in charge of the escort party and the armoured train, but no sight of the Boers was obtained. The junction with the party from the North was effected by 3 o'clock in the afternoon amid much cheering and engine whistling. The line is now made good right through to Bulawayo and heliographic communication is established with Signal Hill, commanding the country for fifteen or twenty miles North and West. The Mafeking men were immediately most hospitably entertained by the repairing party from the North who were under the charge of Lieutenant Wallis, Southern Rhodesia Volunteers. All the Railway employes distinguished themselves by their energetic work; highly commendable when their late privations are taken into consideration.

MEMS.

The Reverend Mr. Peart left on Saturday last, with not much apparent preparation for the journey beyond a stout heart. We wish him every good wish and believe his career, whatever direction it runs, will be a successful one.

Major Baillie drove off in Mr. B. B. Weil's cart about 10-15 on Sunday morning. The Major started his journey laughing, with the chuckle, quite a feature of the Siege, bubbling out as usual. Mr. Keeley, Inspector Marsh and Dr. W. F. Davies also and Major Anderson went to

bring the wounded from Maritzani, he returned last evening with them (22) making the Hospital quite full again. Town Councillor H. H. Bradley also started South on Sunday morning. Major Sam Weil, who arrived with the Relief Column, remains here.

Nobody ever takes notice of what is said by the South African Review, but lest anyone happening to get hold of a copy and, not knowing its unreliableness, believes the statement that Mr. Connolly, who proved so useful here in ordnance matters, was previously employed at the Transvaal Arsenal, Pretoria, we would like to contradict it point blank. Mr. Connolly worked only for Tarrey & Company, Engineers, Johannesburg, before he came to Mafeking.

The Thanksgiving Services at the Church of England on Sunday were well attended. In the evening there was no room for many who came; the aisles were filled, as was the porch, while a number went away unable to find either seat or standing room. The Rev Mr Weekes gave an excellent discourse of praise and thanksgiving, wisely refraining from gratifying those who like to hear politics from the pulpit. The text selected was that joyful outburst commencing the 107th psalm: "O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy." The collections were devoted to a New Church Building Fund. The accommodation of the present structure having for some considerable time past been found inadequate to meet the requirements of the rapidly increasing residential population. It is hoped that the number of people who were unable to find seats, will return thanks in a practical way, by sending their offertories to the Standard Bank, to the credit of this account.

The time for the Sports to commence to-morrow has been altered from 1 o'clock to 2 o'clock; an additional prize has been set down for the 100 Yards Flat Race, and item No. 8 has been changed from Greasy Pole to Bolster Fight on Pole.

The Post Office re-opened to-day. The clearing up after six months shell-fire and replacing instruments, &c., entails an enormous amount of work upon a reduced staff, several of them being still on duty at the outposts. The office will be open daily (Sunday excepted) from 9 till 1 and 2 till 4 (not 5 o'clock as stated in yesterday's advertisement). An addition to the plant was made by the capture of a "Siemens Improved" in the Molopo Laager. In addition to which a considerable quantity of wire was found. This will prove useful in restoring communication, which is now being pushed rapidly on. Ten miles of wire has to be repaired between here and the present end of the line at Ootsi.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor Mafeking Mail.

SIR,—The native population have most certainly benefitted to the greatest extent by the Boer retreat, but we poor mortals are still on our old sixpence, in the way of rations. We hear of large captures of meal, flour and mealies and other food-stuffs by the Government, but have, up to the present, not participated in any increased ration. We should be all most grateful if only 2 ozs. of mealie meal per adult were served out daily, even if only for a day or two, it would be a relief and change from the sour, and sometimes bitter, sowens, which, by the same token, are having an injurious effect upon some persons.

I am,

RATION.

[All in good time, but surely you are mistaken about "injurious effect." As a matter of fact nothing could be more wholesome.—Ed.]

Creditors of

H. C. Thompson, Formerly Public School Master, are requested to send particulars of their claims to "Thompson," this office.

B.P.

(From the "GLOBE," 17—11—99.)

With his hands in his pockets, *a pipe in his mouth, and the gleam of a smile in his eye,
The Colonel holds Cronje at bay, and blows rings, at the fizzygig shells as they fly,
And the words that he sends to the people at home, are as very near blunt as they're few,
For he's reading the proofs of a book, and a siege is, a bore when one's something to do.

But to quiet the fears of the folk overseas—all the wives and the sisters who care—
He mentions he's holding his own and admits, that he's just got a little to spare.
Of the bother of being bombarded all day, he complains rather much, for he tells
That he doesn't mind burying dogs, but he's sick, of dodging ubiquitous shells.

In a drama the soldier with back to the wall, is tremendous, dramatic, sublime,
A cricket-cap isn't the helm he affects, and he, don't smoke a pipe all the time,
But a hero's a hero whatever his fads in fallals and rhetoric be,
And the great British Public have recognised one, in the best of brave fellows—B.P.

* B.P. never smokes.

Souvenir of the Siege.

BOOK of Photographs containing Photos of all Corps, Units, Forts, Ruins through shell fire, etc.

Orders now being booked, or for Single Photos.

D. TAYLOR,

Photographer.

Market Square,
Mafeking.

WANTED

FURNISHED apartment, with or without attendance.—Apply, stating terms, F., "Mail" Office.

FURNISHED ROOM wanted by an Officer.—Apply W.R.C., "Mail" Office,

W. R. COBRINGTON,

Capt. I.L.H.

PROGRAMME OF GARRISON SPORTS

TO BE HELD ON THE

Recreation Ground,

— ON —

MAY 24th, 1900, QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY,

AT 2 P.M.

Under the patronage of
Colonel R. S. S. Baden-Powell,
Commanding Frontier Force.

VICE PATRONS:

Colonel Mahon, D.S.O.; Lieutenant Colonel Hore; Major Goold-Adam, C.B., C.M.G.

COMMITTEE:

Starter: Lt.-Col. C. O. Hore.
Judges: Col. Mahon, Lieut.-Col. Walford.
Referee: Maj. H. J. Goold-Adams, C.B., C.M.G.
Timekeeper: Capt. B. W. Cowan.
Secretary: Capt. S. W. J. Shorefield.

Lady Sarah Wilson has kindly consented to distribute the prizes.

PROGRAMME:

- 1—Tug-of-War.—Teams of 8 each from men who took part in the Sieges of Kimberley, Ladysmith, and Mafeking. Prize £4.
- 2—100 Yards Flat Race. Prizes £1 10/-, £1 and 10/-.
- 3—Tent Pegging, by sections. Prize £4.
- 4—Lloyd Lindsay (mounted) at Bottles. Teams of four. Prize £4.
- 5—V.C. Race. Prizes £2 and £1.
- 6—Sack Race, for Natives. Prizes 10/-, 5/- and 2/6.
- 7—Wrestling on Horseback (teams of 8). Prize £4.
- 8—Bolster Fight on Pole. Prizes £1 & 10/-.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

ST. ANTHONY'S MAFKING.

To-morrow, Ascension Thursday, Holiday and Obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m. NO EVENING SERVICE.

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