

THE MAFEKING MAIL

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No. 30

Monday, December 11th, 1899.

The Mafeking Mail

MONDAY, 11TH DECEMBER, 1899.

NOTICE

I would ask any old Carthusians who may be in Mafeking to communicate with me with a view to holding a Carthusian Dinner to-morrow, Founder's Day.

R. S. S. BADEN-POWELL,
Colonel.

Mafeking, 11 Dec., 1899.

WAR AGAINST WOMEN & CHILDREN.

In another column, by the courtesy of the Colonel Commanding, we are enabled to print a letter addressed to the Boer General now in charge outside Mafeking, and we think it will prove of great public interest. It is evident that whatever the intentions of the Transvaal Government, at the outbreak of hostilities, respecting their international obligations and notwithstanding the declarations in the more intelligent portion of a not particularly high standard press, of the desire to carry on their unscientific operations with due regard to those principles approved and adopted by all civilized countries and subscribed to by themselves at the Convention of Geneva, they have been unable to control the horde they have called out on this buccaneering expedition or the leaders are not sufficiently advanced to understand and appreciate the guiding principles which govern the treatment of an enemy by higher and more cultivated races. To capture a lady and keep her in discomfort and what would have become absolute peril when our force advances, till one of their males kept in prison in default of bail, was released in exchange, does not apparently strike them as incongruous with their late arrogation of equality amongst civilized powers. Even the wife and children of the ganger who came in last week, met with no consideration from the Boers. Certainly they spared their lives, the children were not killed, but they were driven from their home with but four blankets and one pillow amongst an ailing woman with four young children. Certainly the reckoning will be a long one.

A LETTER TO THE BOERS.

Mafeking, 8th Dec., 1899.

To General J. P. Snyman,
near Mafeking.

SIR,—I beg to thank you for having handed over Lady Sarah Wilson in exchange for the convict P. Viljoen.

At the same time, I beg to point out that I have only consented to the exchange under protest, as being contrary to the custom of civilized warfare.

In treating this lady as a prisoner of war, as well as in various other acts, you have in the present campaign, altered the usual conditions of war. This is a very serious matter; and I do not know whether it has the sanction of General Joubert or not, but I warn you of the consequences.

The war was at first, and would remain, as far as Her Majesty's troops are concerned, a war between one Government and another; but you are making it one of people against people in which women are considered as belligerents. I warn you that the consequence of this may shortly be very serious to your own people, and you yourself will be to blame for anything that may happen.

Regarding your complaint as to your being attacked by Natives, I beg to refer you to my letter dated 14th November, addressed to your predecessor, General Cronje. In this letter I went out of my way, as one white man to another, to warn you that the Natives are becoming extremely incensed at your stealing their cattle, and the wanton burning of their Kraals; they argued that the war lay only between our two Nations, and that the quarrel had nothing to do with themselves, and they had remained neutral in consequence, excepting in the case of the Mafeking Baralongs, who had to defend their homes in consequence of your unjustifiable invasion. Nevertheless you thought fit to carry on cattle thefts and raids against them, and you are now beginning to feel the consequences; and, as I told you, I could not be responsible. And I fear from what I have just heard by wireless telegraph that the Natives are contemplating further operations should your Forces continue to remain within or on the borders of their territories. Before the commencement of the war the High Commissioner issued stringent orders to all Natives that they were to remain quiet and not to take up Arms unless their territory were invaded, (in which case, of course, they had a perfect right to defend themselves).

Linchwe—of whom you complain—remained neutral until you brought a force into his principal town and looted his traders' stores, and were making preparations for shelling his stadt on the 26th ultimo. Having obtained accurate information of these intentions of yours and, warned by what had happened to the Natives near Mafeking, he attacked your laager on the 24th in order to save his town from being shelled and consequent loss of life amongst his women and children. In this I consider he was quite justified, and you have no one but yourself to blame in the matter.

While on the subject of Natives please do not suppose that I am ignorant of what you have been doing with regard to seeking the assistance of armed natives, nor of the use of the Natives by you in the destruction of the railway line south of Mafeking. However, having done my duty in briefly giving you warning on these points, I do not propose to further discuss them by letter.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
R. S. S. BADEN POWELL, Col.

Mafeking Garrison.

GENERAL ORDERS.

MAFEKING, DECEMBER 9TH, 1899.

Staff Duties.—During the temporary indisposition of Major Lord Edward Cecil the duties of Chief Staff Officer will be performed by Major F. W. Panzera.

Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet on Monday, the 11th instant, in the Court House, at 10-15 a.m. Presiding Officer: Major Goold-Adams, Member, C. G. H. Bell, Esq., C.C. & R.M. Mr. William Forsyth is appointed Clerk to the above Court and will be responsible that all copies of convictions will be sent to the proper people.

Proceedings of Summary Court of Jurisdiction.—The original copies of proceedings of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction should be returned to the Headquarter Office. In future certified extracts will be furnished to C.O.'s and others concerned.

Visiting Justice.—The Visiting Justice to the Mafeking Gaol for the ensuing week will be Major Goold-Adams.

Defence Works.—All requisitions regarding labour and repairs in connection with defence works and buildings occupied under the Military Authorities should be addressed to the Base Commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel C.B. Vyvyan; Office: Market Square.

Requisitions for Labour.—Requisitions for working parties, whether for the current night, or the following day, should reach the Base Commandant,

either in writing, or by telephone, not later than 4-30 p.m., otherwise it may not be possible to furnish the labour required.

Straying of Live Stock.—Attention is again directed to General Order No. 3, of the 30th October, 1899. Any animals found outside the Zareba on the eastern front will be confiscated and such animals will be sent to Captain Ryan, D.A.A.G., to be used as he may direct.

By order,
F. W. PANZERA, Major,
Acting C.S.O.

MAFEKING, DECEMBER 10TH, 1899.

Tools.—Officers commanding units and sections of defence, etc., should return, as soon as possible, all tools (except the proportion mentioned below) to the Base Commandant: 2 picks and 4 shovels will be retained at each work for ordinary repairs and maintenance, and 6 picks and 12 at the Headquarters of the Protectorate Regiment. The tools thus retained should be marked: "taken on charge," and accounted for in the usual way.

Appointment.—Raymond Girdwood, Esq., late Captain 3rd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, is appointed an Acting A.S.C. Officer, with local and temporary rank of Captain, to date from the 10th instant.

Assessment Damages.—All persons are required to file, without further delay, any claims they may wish to prefer for damage done to their property in order that a total approximate estimate may be arrived at of the damage done by the enemy's shell fire, in and around the vicinity of Mafeking. Claims for any damage done during the week should be filed as they occur. Owners sending in one or more claims must number them consecutively in respect of each erf.

By order,
F. W. PANZERA, Major,
Acting C.S.O.

LATEST NEWS.

By the courtesy of the Colonel Commanding we are enabled to print the following:—

The following items of news were received to-day from Natives:

The Boers are aware that troops are on the way up to Mafeking, and they believe them to be under command of Dr. Jameson.

They are very annoyed at what they call the Baralong treachery on the 26th October.

It may be remembered that the enemy advanced to attack the western position and the Native stadt. They say that, relying on the Baralongs in the Stadt to be friendly, they advanced in that direction to attract our attention while they made a real attack further west and northward. But to their surprise a heavy fire was opened upon them from the stadt, which caused

great havoc amongst their front line,—as they express it: "Every man in advance received a bullet on the face, chest, or stomach"—and they fell back dismayed. They had not reckoned on finding some of the Protectorate Regiment there.

They say there was a big fight at the end of last moon between Kimberley and the Vaal River, in which the British lost 500 killed and the Boers 1,000.

All the Boers south of Mafeking are moving their cattle northward to Rooi Grond as they say the English troops are advancing.

The three Natives who brought this news also brought 14 head of Cattle which they had lifted from the Boers

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