

LYDENBURG DISTRICT.

INTER-TRIBAL FIGHTING.

In Lydenburg District there has been fighting between Sikukuni and Malukutu. When the old Chief Sikukuni died, Geluk administered the affairs of the tribe during the minority of young Sikukuni, the present Chief.

During the winter of 1900 Kgolani, son of Geluk, quarrelled with Sikukuni (who is his cousin) and fled to Malukutu a neighbouring Chief (also Sikukuni's cousin) for protection. Malukutu afforded him sanctuary, and thereby incurred the enmity of Sikukuni. In the fighting that ensued 60 men of Sikukuni's and 15 of Malukutu's tribes were killed. Chief Sikukuni sent a message to the Commander in Chief giving his version of the causes of dispute, and Malukutu did likewise. Messages were returned in the following sense: "The Government of His Majesty the King desires to see the Natives live in peace with one another, and will extend its authority and protection over all Native tribes in the Transvaal. It cannot yet judge of the rights of present questions, but in the meantime the Chiefs are enjoined to do all in their power to prevent bloodshed and to keep the peace between their people, and those of the other Chiefs in the District in which they are resident".

This message had a good effect, and no further disturbances took place. On the 30th. of July last the Military Governor replying to a message from Sikukuni said: "In a short time there will be established a Department of Native Administration under Sir Godfrey Lagden K.C.M.G. ("Ramabanta") whose name must be well

known to you as that of the Administrator of Basutoland. Your secretary Asaph was before me on the 22nd. instant and I informed him as above. I am very pleased to hear that you have obeyed the orders of the Government by keeping your people quiet".

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