

THE MAFEKING MAIL

SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 105

Saturday, March 31st, 1900.

170th Day of Siege

The Mafeking Mail.

SATURDAY, 31ST MARCH, 1900.

"COMPENSATION."

The following letter was sent by the Joint Committee in accordance with the decision arrived at, at the meeting last Saturday:—

Town Office, Mafeking,
March 27th, 1900.

SIR,—A meeting of the Mafeking Town Council and Chamber of Commerce was held on Saturday evening last to consider the question of damage and losses sustained by the inhabitants of Mafeking, as a result of the Siege. At this meeting we, the undersigned, were appointed a Joint Committee of the two bodies referred to, to communicate with you upon the matter of compensation.

We therefore respectfully beg to point out that the town has been besieged for a period of 166 days, during which time about 1,400 94-pounders and several thousands of smaller shells have been thrown into the town by the enemy, causing great destruction of property and considerable loss of life.

During the whole of such time business has been practically suspended. The inhabitants enrolled themselves as a Town Guard and served under the Imperial authorities, submitting themselves to military discipline and have throughout borne arms, and in every way assisted in the defence of the town.

In the early part of the Siege an Assessment Committee was appointed by you to assess damage, and many claims have already been submitted to and considered by them. The townspeople have every confidence that compensation for their losses and damages

will be fairly and equitably arrived at, and paid by the Imperial Authorities, but they are anxious to receive from you an express assurance to this effect. We would also respectfully urge upon you the desirability of an early consideration and adjustment of claims; and would point out that unless the matter is dealt with promptly, the sufferings of the inhabitants occasioned by their hardships and losses, will be considerably aggravated.

With regard to damaged properties, many people will be unable to repair or build until compensation has been awarded, and any delay would consequently result in further loss because of exposure to weather, absence of rent, cessation of business, &c. An official intimation to the effect that compensation would be awarded would be a sufficient guarantee for the raising of the necessary loans.

We think it necessary to remind you that there are a number of refugees from the Transvaal and surrounding districts, who have, with the inhabitants, borne arms, and whose properties have been destroyed and who have otherwise suffered. As these people are in many cases almost destitute we would, on their account, also venture to urge upon you the necessity of dealing with this matter at an early date.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

F. WHITELEY, Mayor.

H. H. BRADLEY, } Town
H. G. EARLY, } Councillors.

H. MARTIN, } Members of
B. B. WEIL, } Chamber of
Commerce.

To Col. R. S. S. Baden-Powell,
Officer Comdg. Her Majesty's
Forces in Mafeking.

Mafeking, 27th March, 1900.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of to-day, requesting that the claims of the inhabitants of Mafeking to compensation for damages through shell fire, etc., may receive consideration with as little delay as possible.

I am happy to forward the same with full recommendation to the favourable consideration of the Authorities (copy of which is enclosed for your perusal).

I may add that I had already written to the Military Secretary to H. E. the High Commissioner to pave the way for the subject being considered; and, in order to hasten matters, I had also sent, to-day, enclosed telegram to Lord Roberts.

So that I trust a favourable reply may be received at an early date.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully.

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

To Joint Committee of the Mafeking Town Councillors and Chamber of Commerce, Mafeking.

Mafeking, March 27th, 1900.

To the Chief Staff Officer to
H. E. the Commander in Chief,
South Africa,

MY LORD,—I have the honour to forward herewith a request from the inhabitants of Mafeking that compensation may be granted to them for loss and damage sustained by them through shell fire, during the siege.

The townspeople of this place have taken up arms in its defence and have shown the fullest loyalty and devotion to duty; they have submitted themselves uncomplainingly to the restrictions of Martial

Law, and have undergone the hardships and dangers incidental to a close siege of six months in a manner beyond praise.

All have suffered losses, many of them are almost ruined.

From the first commencement of the siege I have had careful account kept and the amount of damage assessed by a Committee, in order to assist any compensation Committee that may hereafter be detailed to sit.

If assurance could officially be given that compensation will be hereafter granted, it would be a sufficient guarantee to enable people to raise loans and to proceed forthwith to repair damages and to make an immediate start with business and trade.

I venture therefore strongly to recommend the application to the favourable consideration of H. E. the Commander in Chief.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your most obedient servant,
Sgd. R. S. S. BADEN POWELL,
Colonel Commanding,
Frontier Force.

Mafeking Garrison.

GENERAL ORDERS

By Colonel R. S. S. Baden Powell, Commanding Frontier Force.

MAFEKING, 31ST MARCH, 1900.

Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet on Monday, the 2nd April, at the Court House, at 10-15 a.m., for the examination of such prisoners as may be brought before it. President: H. H. Major Goold-Adams, C.B., C.M.G. Member: Lieut.-Colonel C. O. Hore.

Visiting Justice.—The Visiting Justice to the Mafeking Gaol for the ensuing week will be C. G. H. Bell, Esq., C.C. & R.M.

Establishments.—The establishment of the Mafeking Cadet Corps is hereby increased to 16 Privates instead of 14.

Colonial Contingent.—Sergt. Matthews, C.P. D. 2, is attached for duty to the Colonial Contingent from the 26th March inclusive, with Extra Duty Pay from Imperial Funds, at the rate of 4/- per diem.

Preservation of Game: Mafeking Commonage.—It is hereby notified that the regulations respecting the preservation of game on the Mafeking Commonage imposed by Cape Government Notice are to be strictly observed whilst this country is under Martial Law.

Medical Comforts.—Medical Comforts issued from the Victoria Hospital cannot be obtained after the hour of 1 p.m. daily.

Bread Ration.—The issue of "A. S. Biscuits" will be made on Monday and Tuesday next, the 2nd and 3rd April.

Matches.—As only a limited stock of Matches now remain on hand, Commanders of Corps and Units will note that, on application being made to the A.S.C., Isaac's Store, two lamps will be furnished to each Fort (together with two bottles of paraffine which can be kept burning for the purpose of lighting anything required.

By order,
E. H. CECIL, Major,
Chief Staff Officer



"Austral" Lodge.

No. 2534, E.C.

BRO. REV. W. H. WEEKES, W.M.

AN Emergency meeting will be held on SUNDAY EVENING at 8.30 p.m. in the Masonic Hall.

Working 2nd and 3rd Degrees.

Visiting B.B. are cordially invited.

Game Preservation Society.

THE Meeting of the above announced for to-night at 8.30 is postponed until the present troubles are over.

THE

SIEGE HAIRDRESSING & SHAVING SALOON.

I, the Undersigned, beg to announce to my numerous Customers that I have opened my business in Main Street, opposite Mr. Riesle's Bar, and I trust to be favoured with your kind patronage, and I can assure the Customers that they will be served now as in the past, with Neatness, Cleanliness and Civility.

V. T. MANIE,

The well-known Practical Hairdresser.
Mafeking, 28th March, 1900.

Siege Auction Sale.

THE Undersigned, duly instructed, will sell by Public Auction, on

Sunday Next, at 9-30 a.m.,

THE EFFECTS OF THE LATE

SERGT.-MAJOR UPTON, B.S.A.P.

TROOPER ARMSTRONG, "

" KNOX "

" MARTIN "

Among which are a good Saddle (by Souter) Shot Guns in case, 380 Revolver with Cartridges, and two Cameras.

Also 1 18-carat English Lever Gold Watch, New and Second-hand Clothing, etc., etc.

Aldred & Ross,

Government Auctioneers and
Sworn Appraisers.

BRICKS FOR SALE.

ABOUT 60,000 Best Stock Bricks.—Apply to J. R. Algie.

SIEGE ESSAY COMPETITION.

By A. L. CHIDDY.

The Siege of Mafeking commenced on Saturday, 14th October, 1899. On this day the first fight took place between the Armoured Train, under the command of Capt. Williams, B.S.A.P., and a commando of Boers under Commandants Cronje and Botha. The fight turned out successful for the Armoured Train, which was assisted by a detachment of D Squadron Protectorate Regiment, under Capt. Fitzelarence; three of whom were killed and eight wounded. The next day, Sunday, was very quiet, no demonstration being made on either side, and it was agreed between Colonel Baden-Powell and Commandant Cronje to keep all Sundays quiet (namely, not to fight). This truce gave the women and children a chance to come up into the town from the laager, which was formed round Mr. Rowland's house to the West of the town and near the Native Stadt. On Monday, the 16th, the first shelling took place from Signal Hill, to the North of the town. The gun used by the Boers, which was a 2.5 in. breech-loader, did very little damage: Riesle's Hotel was hit once. After this occurred, dug-outs were constructed all over the town. These are holes dug in the ground, with roofs made of rails and galvanised iron, the whole being covered over with a thick layer of earth. A small entrance is left so that you can get in and out. After finding that they could not take Mafeking with a 7-pounder, the Boers brought a 6 in. B.L. Le Creusot gun from Pretoria. This gun has done enormous damage to property, and up to now has killed many whites and Natives. In the town we have six different bodies of men, viz., Protectorate Regiment, B.S.A. Police, Cape Police, Bechuanaland Rifles, Railway Division, and Town Guard. The last consists of townsmen, who were served out with rifles and bandoliers just before the war started. The Protectorate Regiment was raised some time before the war, from recruits enlisted at Capetown, East London, and other places. The Cape Government was averse to forming this corps on their own territory, so the recruits were sent on to Ramathlabama, in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, 16 miles North of Mafeking. The B.S.A. and Cape Police have headquarters at Mafeking, which accounts for them being here, and the Bechuanaland Rifles is the local Volunteer force. It was largely increased at the commencement of the war by refugees from the Transvaal. The B.S.A.P. are used to garrison Cannon Kopje, a small hill South of the town. At the end of October the Boers made an attempt to storm the Kopje, but they were repulsed with heavy loss. Later on, the enemy made an attempt to enter the Native Stadt, but met with such a warm reception that they have not tried again. News of the progress of the war in other parts is brought in by Native runners, who are well paid if they succeed in passing the Boer lines. During the week days the Boers are continually sniping into town, which makes it very unpleasant to walk about the streets.

(Will be continued in next Slip.)

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