

THE MAFEKING MAIL

SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 81

Tuesday, February 27th, 1900.

138th Day of Siege.

The Mafeking Mail.

TUESDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

Majuba Day, February, 27th, the date that has to bear the entire weight of those enormous laurels we have heard Boer press and pulpit so garishly extol for nearly two decades, and bragged of wherever Boers congregate, whether in market place or their dung-floored and flea-haunted family mansions, has passed without their valor prompting them to make one last effort to take Mafeking. The Boer's day is over. The Lion is old, perhaps fat and slow, and the length it had to stretch was great, but it has reached it, and the pressure of its pads, which was light and velvety till the Baboon tried to wriggle from under it, is now squeezing his life out and the claws are beginning to hurt him. From day to day henceforth disintegration will progress and any morning we awaken to find ourselves free and with an opportunity to strike back—then may Providence still be kind and nerve the British to give such a blow as will for ever stamp out all desire to rebel at the Supremacy of the only power entitled to rule South Africa.

Although there is in the news received yesterday no confirmatory information concerning the position of Ladysmith, on the other hand there is nothing actually contradictory to the indemonstrable conclusion we arrived at three weeks ago, i.e., that Ladysmith was relieved early in the last week of January. This belief we still adhere to as the only published information opposed to it is the sneer, in the truthful *Standard and Diggers* of the 26th January, that if Buller wanted to relieve Ladysmith he did not seem in a hurry about starting.

Unless the class from which the City of London Volunteers are recruited is changed since we were young (a period of time quite sufficient to admit of enormous alterations we are loth to admit) terrible will be the hardships they will suffer. That they will conduct themselves courageously in the field there is no question because they come of the right old stock, but, apart from the wretchedness caused by no ballet to see, no music hall at which to listen, and to stare, what will the poor Johannies do when they fail to find a toilet club? and what, what will happen if the commissariat omit to provide tooth-picks.

MEMS.

We understand on reliable authority that the Boer trenches round Mafeking are manned mostly by Natives. Snyman has been obliged to send a number of his burghers to reinforce those opposed to Colonel Plumer, and we believe a certain number have been sent South.

From Native sources it is gathered that during the fighting round Kimberley the Free State Boers lost heavily. This may account for the rumour we heard a few days ago from the same source that the Free State Government sent to Pretoria

stating they would have to make terms with the British if the Transvaal did not reinforce their commandos.

The Chief Bathoen is alive to the fact that several of his people are pinned up in Mafeking. He has accordingly strengthened certain posts in the neighbourhood of the Border ready to receive them whenever they may feel disposed to break through the Boer cordon, which is at present a weak one.

The outlook from our point of view has considerably brightened, and in two or three weeks' time there is no doubt the position of the garrison will be greatly altered for the better. The general spirit of the defenders is hopeful and cheery, while that outside our lines is gradually assuming a despondency and weak-hearted form which indicates the state of their minds as regards the future.

LATEST NEWS.

By the courtesy of the Colonel Commanding we are enabled to publish the following official

INFORMATION.

A man was sent to Saane's to get us some news, and besides the following items, he corroborates the statement of four men who arrived yesterday from the same place.

Botha came from the North during last week and asked Snyman for men to fight Plumer. Snyman went up there with a lot of men and guns. There are now only a few Boers at McMullin's with ninety Natives, and at Kromdraai there are also a few, with thirty Natives.

There has been an order from Pretoria calling all the Dutch forces on the Eastern Borders to Pretoria, and opinion is equally divided as to whether or not they should obey this order.

Pobe, a Rietfontein Native, who had been with Cronje's Commandoes at De Aar, Modder River, etc., came home during last week and reported that there had been a heavy fight near Kimberley, where all of the Dutch forces were scattered and driven towards the Free State Border. After the bridge at Modder River had been repaired and the line constructed till very close to Kimberley, some Boers went behind the English and destroyed it. Some troops from behind came up and surrounded these Boers and killed nearly all of them. After this another fight took place and Cronje was shot through the shoulders. The troops began to arrive in Kimberley the second week in February and the line is being re-constructed North of Kimberley.

Balerileng came from Potchefstroom and gave corroborative information gleaned from the Boers there, who says that 6,000 of their men were killed near Kimberley and many more in Natal. They speak fearfully of the guns used by the English. He also heard from a German Missionary at Polfontein that the English force is now pressing towards Pretoria from all round.

All the Dutch women and children have been taken away from near the place.

Mafeking Garrison.

GENERAL ORDERS

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

MAFEKING, 27TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet on Wednesday, the 28th February, at the Court House, at 10-15 a.m., for the examination of such prisoners as may be brought before it. President: Lieut.-Col. C. B. Vyvyan. Member: Major F. W. Panzera.

Office Hours (D.A.A.G.b.).—Persons having general business with the D.A.A.G.b., without appointment, are requested to note that Captain Ryan cannot be seen, except between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

Dog Licences.—With reference to General Order No. 6, of the 20th instant, it is notified that dogs, the property of persons serving in a military or official capacity under the Imperial Government or Bechuanaland Protectorate Administration and actually residing and kennelling their dogs within the limits of the Imperial Reserve, commonly known as the "Military Reserve," Mafeking, are exempted from payment of dog licences. Every person keeping a dog must, however, have it duly registered and obtain a ticket for it, but, under the abovementioned exemption, such tickets will be issued free.

Sacks (Commissariat Yard).—Any persons given the use of sacks for removal of forage, etc., should return them, as soon as possible, to the Commissariat Yard. Those persons who do not so return them will be charged with their value, as sacks to replace them has to be bought.

Sale of Extras.—It is notified that, pending receipt of more definite information regarding the probable further duration of the Siege, no sales of extras can be permitted from the 1st of March inclusive until further orders.

By order,

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

NOTICE.

In re the Estate of the late JAMES DALL.

ALL persons having claims against the above Estate are requested to forward same as soon as possible to Mr. H. G. Early, who is acting for me under a Power of Attorney.

All accounts owing to the same Estate must be paid to him immediately at Early Bros.' store.

CATHERINE H. DALL,

Executrix.

Mafeking, Feby. 27th, 1900

Printed and Published by
Townshend & Son, Market Square, Mafeking.
Editor and Manager: G. N. H. Whales.

Collection no: A2706

Collection: MAFIKENG MAIL, Special Siege Slip, 1899-1900

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- A2706

Document Title:- MAFIKENG MAIL, Special Siege Slip

Document Date:- 1899-1900