

# THE MAFEKING MAIL

## SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 103

Thursday, March 29th, 1900.

168th Day of Siege

### The Mafeking Mail.

THURSDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1900.

#### THE COLONEL ON "GROUSING."

Stewing and News "Burking."

##### NOTICE.

I hear that again wiseacres are busy in town, informing people as to what I am doing and what I am leaving undone. As their deductions are somewhat inaccurate I wish to state that the condition of affairs is in no way altered since my last general notice, which stated we must be prepared to remain besieged up to the middle of May, but I do not therefore mean to assert that we *are* going to remain besieged all that time. Indeed I hope that we may be free within the next fortnight or three weeks, but it would be folly on our part not to be prepared against possible unforeseen delays. Had we not been thus prepared in the first instance we should all have been prisoners in Pretoria by the beginning of January, and the Boers would have now been enjoying the use of our property in Mafeking.

I am, I suppose, the most anxious of anybody in Mafeking to see a Relief Column here and the siege at an end; all that can be done for our relief, from both North and South, is being done, but the moves of troops in the face of the enemy must necessarily be slow, and we have to sit in patience until they develop.

As regards the smallness of our rations, we could, of course, live well on full rations for a week or two and then give in to the "women slaughterers" and let them take their vengeance on the town,

whereas by limiting our amount of daily food we can make certain of outlasting all their efforts against us. The present ration, properly utilised, is a fairly full one as compared with those issued in other sieges—in fact I and my staff have, during the past few days, been living on a far smaller ration without any kind of extras to improve it—and we still live.

There are, by the way, two hints I should like to give for making small rations go further—hints derived from personal experience of previous hungry times—and these are:—

1. To lump your rations together as much as possible for cooking, and not every man to have his little amount cooked separately.

2. To make the whole into a big thick stew, from which, even three quarter lbs. of ingredients per man, three good meals can be got per day.

It is just possible that we may have to take 2 ozs. off the bread stuffs, but otherwise our supplies will last well over the period indicated. It has been objected that we are feeding horses on oats, but the oats so used are a lot (of Colonial oats) that have been found quite useless for making flour from for human consumption.

I am told that I keep back news from the public. This is not in accordance with facts, for I make a point of publishing all news of general interest as soon as possible after receipt, first by telephone, then by notices posted about, and lastly through Mr. Whales, in the *Mafeking Mail Slips*; I have no object whatever in keeping news back. Occasionally, of course, items of military information have to be kept quiet because, as we all know, their publication in Mafeking means their transmission

within a few hours, to the enemy's camp.

Although it may have been somewhat out of my province, I have been writing to the High Commissioner as strongly as I could put them, the claims which the citizens and refugees have for consideration in the matter of compensation, pressing for very early settlement on some more satisfactory basis than was the case on a former occasion. And there is no doubt that the good part they have borne in the defence of the place will add great force to their claims.

I have no feeling of doubt whatever that the large majority of the townspeople have sufficient confidence in me to know that I am working, as far as possible, for their good, but there are always busybodies in every assemblage to cavil at whatever is done, and I should like just to remind these gentlemen of the order issued early in the siege about "grousing."

I am always, not only willing, but anxious to personally hear any reasonable complaints or suggestions, and those who have them to make, need only bring their grievances to me to get what redress is in my power, but veiled hints and growlings cannot be permitted; at such times as these they are apt to put people "on edge" and to alarm the ladies, and for these reasons they must be suppressed. "Grousing" is generally the outcome of funk on the part of the individual who grouses, and I hope that every right-minded man who hears any of it will shut it up with an appropriate remark, or the toe of his boot. Cavillers should keep quiet until the siege is over and then they are welcome to write or talk until they are blue in the face.

By these remarks I do not wish



for one instant to suggest that this "grousing" is widespread. On the contrary the patience and loyal obedience of the main body of the inhabitants under the restrictions of Martial Law, form one of the conspicuous features of the siege. But there are a few individual grumblers—most of whom are known to me (as they will find when their claims for compensation come up for adjudication)—and it is these gentlemen that I desire to warn to keep quiet as otherwise I shall have to take more stringent steps against them, but I should be ashamed if the fame of Mafeking and its heroic defence should be marred by any whisper among envious outsiders, that there was any want of harmony or unity of purpose among us.

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

### THE SIEGE EXHIBITION.

#### PRIZE WINNERS.

Class 1, first prize £5, presented by Colonel Baden-Powell was taken by Mr J. Hoffman for a model of Ellitson's Kraal Redan, while the second prize, £2 2s, presented by Major Panzera, went to Sergeant White for a well finished model of a Maxim gun and shield. By a remarkable coincidence both these prize winners are ex-First City of London Riflemen, and met for the first time at the Exhibition.

A supplementary prize was awarded to Mr Clucas for a Crossbolt to throw a Dynamite arrow.

Judges: Major Panzera, Captain More and Lieutenant Gemmell.

Class 2, prize of £5, presented by Messrs Wirsing Bros., was awarded to Mr L. Coghlan for a Clock-stand, constructed from the base of a ninety-four pounder, the driving band ornamentally encircling the face of the clock, with a 1 lb Maxim shell on either side and Mauser bullets tastefully decorating the whole.

Judges: Colonel Baden-Powell, Major Gould-Adams and F. Whiteley, Esq.

Class 3, for the best Fancy Work, produced a splendid assortment of all kinds of beautiful things comprising no less than 47 articles of graceful design and exquisite work. The first prize of £5, presented by Mr De Kock, went to Miss Campbell. The second, £2 2s, presented by Lieut-Col. C. B. Vyvyan, to the Sisters of Mercy, in each case for Tea-covers, and a supplementary prize of £1 is, presented by Rev. Weekes, was awarded to Mrs J. R. More.

Class 4, for Irish Lace, was a successful show of 23 exhibits, the prize of £5, also by Mr De Kock, going to the Sisters of Mercy.

Mesdames Hayes, Riesle, Werner and Miss Cowan were judges in these two classes.

Class 5, Siege Photographs. A most interesting collection, which we hope will adorn the walls of the new Town Hall. 1st prize, £5, presented by Mr Riesle, was awarded to Mr Taylor, the second prize of £2 10s going to the Rev. Mr Weekes. The judges being Messrs Eady, Ross and Tighe.

Class 6, Musical Composition. There were but two pieces submitted, and Mr Turbridge not having complied with the conditions laid down, the prize £5, presented by the *Mafeking Mail*, was awarded to Mrs Cook for a Waltz. The Committee giving a special prize of £2 10s to Mr Turbridge, Bandmaster of the Local Volunteers, for a stirring March.

The judges in this class were Captain Singleton and Mr Hampson.

Class 7, Essay: for girls under fifteen; no entries.

Class 8, prize of £2 2s, presented by Major Gould-Adams for the best Siege Essay, was taken by A. L. Chiddy. His production, printed in another column, being marked by the Commissioners "An excellent Essay for a lad under 15."

The judges were Father Ogle and Messrs Stent and Whales.

Class 9, a prize of £2 2s, presented by Mr Clucas for the best Dressed Doll, was awarded to Mrs G. M. Gates for a kharki suited trooper. Mrs Hayes' exhibit being highly commended. The judges were the Mother Superior and Mesdames Riesle and Werner.

Class 10, prize of £5, presented by Mr Whiteley for the best painting, was taken by Colonel Baden-Powell, the humour of whose sketches "Find the Policeman," "Making Disparaging Remarks &c.," "The Market Square when the bell rings," "Siege Fed," &c., was much appreciated by the visitors.

In this class was also exhibited a carefully executed oil painting by Mrs Gemmell, "John Bull on the 100th day of the Siege."

Judges: Mrs Nicholas, Miss Friend and Captain Goodyear.

Class 11, prize of £2 2s, presented by Mr Friend for the Best Original Poem or Song, was awarded to Mr Coxwell.

Judges: Lady Sarah Wilson, Colonel Baden-Powell, and Rev Weekes.

Class 12, prize of £5, presented by Mr Weil for the Best Siege Anecdote, brought forth but a poor collection. The award went to Mr Forsyth for the Anecdote, printed elsewhere.

Judges: Lieut Minchin, and Messrs Friend and Peart.

Class 13, prize £5, presented by Lady Sarah Wilson for the Best Lady's Hat, awarded to Mrs Talbot, and a second prize by the same donor of £2 2s, to Miss Whales, while Miss Wyatt showed a tasteful creation in superior style.

Judges: Mrs Hayes, Miss Cowan, and Mr Bell.

Colonel Baden-Powell, in a few well-chosen words, opened the Exhibition and gracefully complimented the ladies and gentlemen who so successfully arranged everything, and the Mafeking Orchestral

Society played during the afternoon: Haydn's Symphony in C, Selections from "Martha," and "The Caliph of Bagdad"

## Mafeking Garrison.

### GENERAL ORDERS

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

MAFEKING, 29TH MARCH, 1900.

*Registration for Employment.*—Officers commanding Corps or Units are to submit, without delay, the names of any Officers, N.C.O.'s or men serving under their command who are desirous of having their names registered for employment in any Imperial Police Forces which may be raised in the Transvaal or Free State, subject to the terms and conditions of service being agreeable to them then published. Forms are in course of preparation and will be issued as soon as possible to those concerned.

*Court of Summary Jurisdiction.*—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet to-morrow, the 30th instant, at the Court House, at 10-15 a.m., for the examination of such prisoners as may be brought before it. President: Major Lord Edward Cecil, D.S.O.; Member: C. G. H. Bell Esq., C.C. & R.M.

*Casualty Returns.*—Lieut. Moncrieffe, A.D.C., having resumed duty, Casualty Returns are to be addressed to that officer as usual.

*Oat Porridge.*—"Sowen" (a kind of porridge made from Oats, and used in Scotland) can be purchased in small quantities from Lippmann's Yard. Purchasers must be provided with cash, and must have receptacles with them in which to remove their porridge.

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

### 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.

### Game Preservation Society.

A MEETING of the above Society, for urgent business, is convened by the President at the Court House, Saturday evening, at 8.30.

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