

THE MAFEKING MAIL

SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 108

Tuesday, April 3rd, 1900.

173rd Day of Siege

The Mafeking Mail.

TUESDAY, 3RD APRIL, 1900.

LATEST NEWS.

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

"It is reported that Gen. Carrington is to enter Rhodesia via Beira with 5,000 mounted men. Horses have been bought in Hungary, the idea being to prevent possible meeting northwards of Boers who will not live under British rule, when the Transvaal is taken over. This force is proposed to have a proportion of Imperial officers to be disposed at Salisbury, Victoria, Gwelo, Bulawayo and Palapye. Force to be raised to be raised in the Colonies. Meanwhile officers have arrived from Uganda.

Foreign complications are expected as the Market has hardly risen at all, even after the relief of Ladysmith. The Russians are mobilising in the East and are desirous of grabbing another Port in China.

Vicksbury Maxim Co. have been ordered by us to keep on making guns until further orders. Very large orders have also been placed with the firm of Armstrong.

A party of Native scouts who returned yesterday reported an advanced column at Vryburg, the main body being at Taungs and repairing the railway as they advance.

The following account of the engagement which took place on Saturday has been received from Col. Plumer:

"I was out yesterday with mounted troops between Ramathlabama and Mafeking, and became

engaged with the enemy about 3 p.m., when about 6 miles from Mafeking. The Boers came out from Mafeking in considerable force. After holding out for about half an hour on the ground, the Boers began to work round both our flanks, and we then returned gradually on Ramathlabama and subsequently on our base camp. The action lasted till 6 p.m., the Boers pressing us closely as far as Ramathlabama. The retirement was well carried out, the Squadrons falling back in succession in good order under very heavy fire: B Squadron, under Major Bird was particularly noticeable.

Killed: Officers, Capt. F. Crewe, S.E.V., Lieut. F. Milligan, Rhodesian Regiment. Missing and known to be severely (I am afraid dangerously) wounded: Captain McLaren, 18th Hussars; wounded slightly: Self, Rolt, and Weston Jarvis. N.C.O.'s and men killed, 7; wounded, 26; missing, 11. Ambulance is out now with search party for missing men.

Poor McLaren was hit first in the knee and was being brought all right when he was hit again—this time, I am told, in the chest. The man who was with him is missing too. I am writing this under difficulties, as I was wounded in the right arm, but it is nothing serious.

Capt. McLaren is now in Hospital at McMullen's Laager. News received to-day that he is progressing favourably, and all the other wounded are doing well."

Foreign complications may probably arise, particularly if such a prolific germ were developed as our use of, and perhaps, later, enforced protection to, Delagoa Bay, but we fail to

see that the Stock Market not having risen on receipt of intelligence of Ladysmith's relief, is any indication of those complications being expected. The Market could hardly rise more because there was no further margin left it to rise. It will be remembered that all through our reverses, the Market, although low, was not so depressed as might have been expected and that as far back as January we had word of its increasing firmness. The news of reaction on the Market, which regularly follows any rise, would probably have reached us the form of "an awful slump" or some such scaring description, but if a drop were prevented by the announcement of Ladysmith's relief, we may be sure that the Home Market has the buoyancy of thorough belief and conviction of final success and that not so long deferred.

"The enemy received an alarm about 1 o'clock in consequence of which a commando of about 400 of them moved off Northwards with three guns and several waggons.

In order to divert some of their force we made a hurried turn out and a demonstration from the Western defence as if to attack Fort "Standard & Diggers." The ruse was completely successful and drew a large party of Boers and two guns out against. Our show being carried out at a distance we had no casualties, but the enemy were not so lucky as their ambulance was seen at work after the mock battle was over."

We are indebted to Major Godley for the following interesting items:

Col. French, (temporary Major General, who has commanded the

cavalry so brilliantly during the campaign), has been promoted Major General.

The first contingent of Imperial Yeomanry arrived on Feb. 21st at Capetown, and 1,000 of them have proceeded to Kimberley. Gen. Brabazon is to command all the Yeomanry in South Africa, with Col. Babington as his A.A.G., and Lord Henry Bentinck (Lord Charles' brother) as his A.D.C.

A telegram of March 14th from Lorenzo Marques says that the Boers in the neighbourhood of Bloemfontein have wheeled in a westerly direction and are now heading to the North-west in a scattered line. Fighting going on, results unknown. It is believed, unless overtaken, the enemy will not make a stand on the South side of the Vaal, but our efforts to overtake them and cut them off are apparently proceeding successfully.

On March 11th, before the occupation of Bloemfontein, by our troops on March 13th, Col. Broadwood's cavalry came up with a lot of Boers at Driefontein and then waited till Kelly-Kenny's division joined him. Hard fighting followed, the cavalry turned the position and the Boers retired in the night. 40 prisoners were taken and a number of Boer dead were left on the field.

500 women and children died in Ladysmith during the siege.

Dr. Jameson had typhoid fever there.

The reason for the fight at Spion's Kop was that, by occupying it, Gen. Buller was enabled to send 250 wagon loads of provisions into Ladysmith. Having done so he had no further use of Spion's Kop and withdrew from it.

The heaviest of the seven days' continuous fighting which led to the relief of Ladysmith was on Sunday Feb. 25th between Pieters and Grobler's Kloof. The latter place was attacked by the Connaught Rangers, 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers and Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers. The last named regiment charged with the bayonet and in 10 minutes had 410 men put out of action out of 600 men engaged. The casualties in the three regiments numbered 800.

On Monday 26th, there was an armistice asked for by the Boers to bury the dead.

On the 27th Gen. Barton with the 6th Brigade and 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers crept down the river, to a new crossing—discovered and pontoon thrown across by Col. Sandbach R.E.—and by climbing a very steep hill assaulted and captured Pieter's Hill, and turned the enemy's flank. The rest of Gen. Warren's division then assailed the enemy's main position which was magnificently carried by the South Lancashire Regiment just before sunset, and the Boers were immediately in full retreat.

On the 28th Lord Dundonald marched into Ladysmith with the Imperial Light Horse and other Natal Colonial troops, they having been specially selected for this compliment by General Buller, to mark his high appreciation of the gallant part they had taken in the fighting in Natal.

BRITISH CASUALTIES

All over Africa up to February 1st are:—

Died of disease: 393; Missing: 2,765; Wounded: 4,966; Killed: 1,537.

Mafeking Garrison.

GENERAL ORDERS

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

MAFEKING, 2ND APRIL, 1900.

It is with great regret that the Colonel Commanding has to announce the death yesterday, in the Boers' Hospital, of Capt. Crewe, Rhodesian Regiment. He died of wounds received in action on the 31st ultimo. This officer was, in the Matabele War, 1896, recommended for the Victoria Cross for gallantry in action. At our request his body has been handed over to us for interment.

Colonel Plumer has not as yet collected supplies sufficient for us, but he writes that in the meantime his force are anxious for the Mafeking Garrison to understand that they are ready to advance to our assistance at any time, should we desire it. I have replied that the Garrison of Mafeking very highly appreciates the good feeling and all the good work and hardships which the officers and men of the Northern Column have gone through in our behalf.

Brickfields: Command.—Insp. Browne, Cape Police D 2, having sufficiently recovered to return to duty, resumes command of the Brickfields from this date inclusive, vice Insp. Marsh, Cape Police D 1, who returns to the South-eastern Defences.

Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet on Wednesday, the 4th instant, 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.

Chief Paymaster: Office Hours, etc.—The Chief Paymaster's office will be closed at 1 p.m. daily after this date. All persons having unpaid accounts against the Government are requested to present their claims as soon as possible.

Military Funerals: Arrangements for.—All arrangements in connection with funerals will be carried out by Lieut. McKenzie, Transport Officer, and all communications on the subject should be addressed to him. The report of any deaths, in Hospital or elsewhere, will be sent direct to Lieutenant McKenzie, Headquarter Office, as early as possible.

Stamps or Notes: Photographs of, etc.—Persons are warned that they render themselves liable to heavy punishment should they be convicted of forging by copying, reproducing, or imitating by photography, or any other means, any Note or Stamp, or surcharge thereon, whether for purposes of passing or not, which may have been, or which may be brought out by the authority of the Colonel Commanding the Forces.

Gaol Constables.—The Civil Commissioner is hereby authorised to enroll four additional Native Gaol Constables at the rate of 1/6 each per diem pay, and rations.

Fencing Removed by Government.—Persons at present holding acknowledgments from the Imperial Authorities to replace fencings removed for purposes of firewood, are requested to communicate with Capt. Ryan. Also any persons who have not received such acknowledgment and require same are requested to make application. The following information is required in respect to this matter: No. of Erf or Erven and the length and breadth of the area which was originally enclosed by the fencing removed.

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

H. C. BRADFIELD

Is now in regular attendance at his Store to serve his customers and receive settlement of accounts.

BRICKS FOR SALE.

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

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