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COMMANDANT SCHUTT

BARRETT STATION

11 NOVEMBER 1904

BARRETT 461

(Photo No 7.)

23

discretion beyond all praise. Matters of an essentially political nature were adjudicated upon by a special "Begeerings Commissie van Rust en Orde" - Government Commission of Peace and Order - to which were appointed Messrs van der Merwe, Mining Commissioner, and van den Berg, First Criminal Law-Drost and Dr F. E. Y. Krause, First Public Prosecutor; than whom a better selection it would have been difficult, if not impossible to make; the officials named being extremely popular with persons of all nationalities including the few hundreds of British remaining in Johannesburg under permits. Subsequently Mr Schutte resigned his position as Commandant in order to go to the front, and was succeeded by Dr Krause, who was in charge of Johannesburg on the arrival of Lord Roberts at the end of May and surrendered the town to him, under instructions from General Buller.

[One of the first and most important steps taken for the preservation of order was the formation of Special Police corps - to replace the ordinary town police and defectives, who were all, at different times,

commandeered for service at the front. The town and suburbs were divided into a number of wards under the control of sub-commissions of three leading townsmen, to whom was entrusted the enrolment of volunteers, the distribution of such arms as were available, and the general administration of ordinary police routine. The substitution of the regular police force by the "Special Police" was effected with a smoothness and absence of confusion which was as remarkable as creditable.

[For the really excellent organisation which the new police force ultimately attained to, special credit is due to townsmen ^{to all concerned in the work.} Dietzsch, commandant van Diggelen, who succeeded him and captain Rothkrug, ^{the latter of} who worked indefatigably in improving the organisation and increasing the efficiency of the "Specials". very indifferent material out of which he had to form his "Special Police" force.

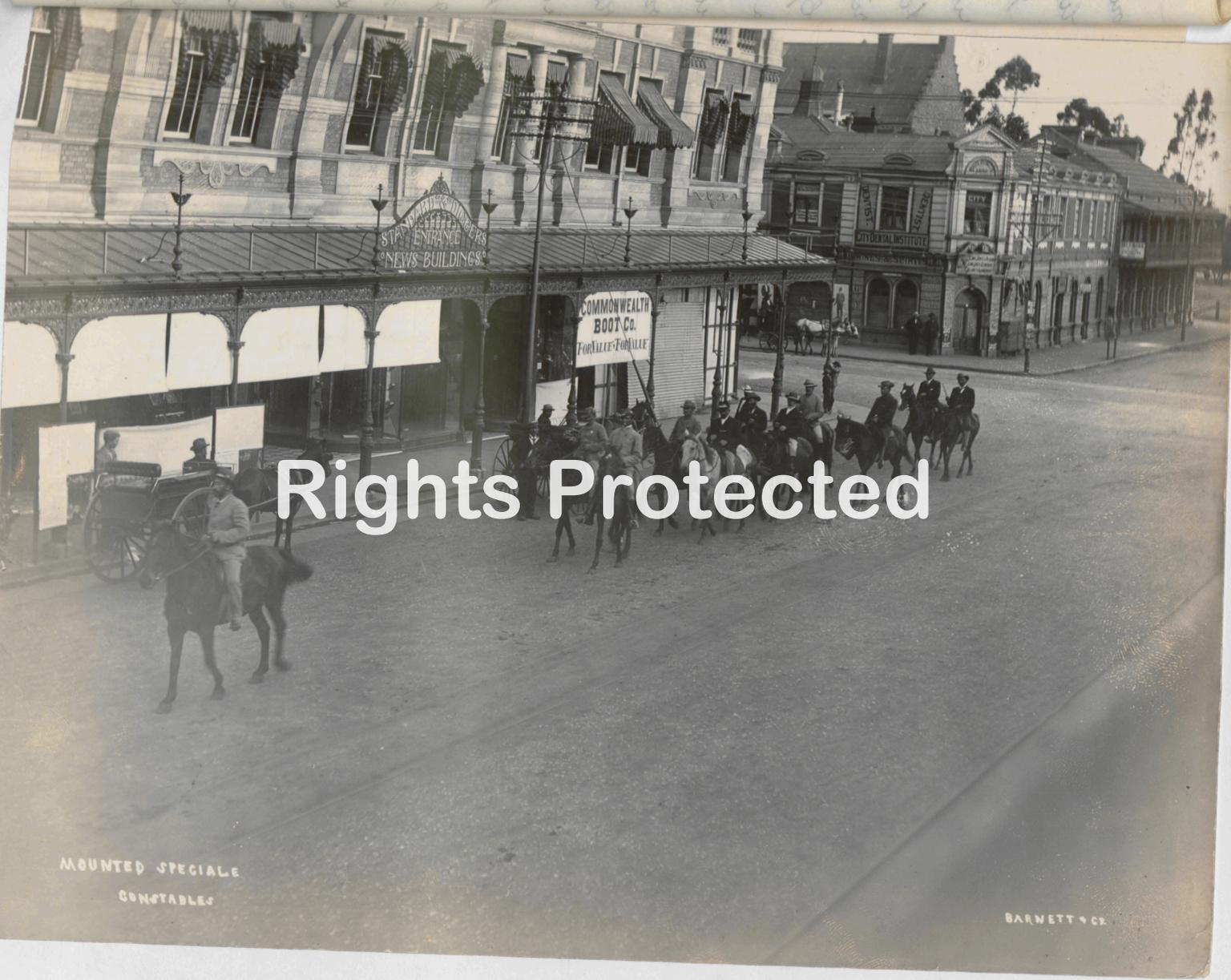
[A separate corps of police was organised to take charge and protect the mines. For this purpose, the principal mining companies contributed a large sum of money; sufficient in fact, to pay the men at the rate of 2 10/- per day and officers at proportionately higher rates. This resulted in by far the best material

amongst the essentially unemployed being recruited into the "Chinese Police" force; duty in the town police being compulsory but unpaid.

[In this ~~connexion~~ ^{connexion} and as ~~an~~ an instance of the extremely scrupulous manner in which the Government acted towards the British riflemen remaining in Johannesburg during the war, may be mentioned the fact that they were the only persons who were exempt from this special police duty. Not even when their services were volunteered would the Government accept them, so careful were they that not the least cause should be given for saying that they took advantage of the presence of the Britishers in the country under the latter condition, to exact service from them. And this, notwithstanding the fact that by far the greater portion of property to be protected belonged to British subjects, mostly absentees.

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So far, then, from the Government imposing upon the Britishers any advantage of them in any way, this punctilious observance of their international obligations and courtesies created the almost anomalous position that British subjects were really the most favored people in Johannesburg, since they were entirely exempt from police duty or any other municipal service, whilst men of every other nationality



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-burglar and hitman alike - were compelled to serve; and the property of men who were actually fighting against the Republic in the field was being protected by men of other nationalities - in some cases, at least, under compulsion. Truly, an almost-Gilbertian situation.

[That the officers of the special police and the men under them well performed the duties for which they were appointed was sufficiently proved by the almost entire absence of serious crime in Johannesburg during the whole of the time they had control of the town. Certainly, the exodus included a very large number of undesirable characters, as well as the more ~~conspicuous~~ ^{remaining} members of the community, but there were sufficient of the former class, ^{remaining} to render police duty anything but a ~~pleasant~~ ^{sure cure}; especially when the chances and facilities for looting represented by the large number of deserted but fully-furnished houses ^{are} taken into consideration.

[Looting there was, it is true, and plenty of it, but under the exceptional circumstances prevailing, there might have been many crimes of a far more serious nature than looting; and the difficulty of entirely ^{preventing that offence} ~~stopping~~ will be best appreciated by those who know the great extent of Johannesburg and its sprawling suburbs, and the small number of men available

for police duty. And as far as possible looting was sternly repressed by the authorities. A commanding officer who stood sentinel by while a Chinaman's store was looted of its contents ^{was} severely punished in November by the special court and other minor cases were similarly dealt with.

[Nor were the restrictions placed upon the inhabitants of the town at all harshly enforced. Take, for instance, the order against being out after nine at night. Personally I frequently remained out later than that hour without a permit. Yet I was very seldom challenged by the "Specials" and only on one occasion was ~~detained~~ taken to the District Office. Even then, on giving an explanation to the officer in charge of my presence on the streets at that late hour - it was about eleven o'clock - I was at once released and allowed to proceed home. Further, only ~~once~~ ^{on one occasion} was I asked for my residential certificate, and never once was called upon to produce my permit as a British subject, although it was within the province of any policeman I passed to demand to see them; and I believe that my experience was by no means exceptional. That the "Specials" were, however, equally zealous and impartial in the discharge of their duties may be



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SPEUR POLITIE DEPARTMENT
DETECTIVE DEPARTMENT

DETECTIVE FORCE FOR THE FRONT

BARNETT 410

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of governing Johannesburg and maintaining order in the town during the war; the result of their efforts being that there was probably no more orderly, less drunken, or safer place of residence in South Africa than was Johannesburg during that time of stress and turmoil.

[One of the first amongst the Government bodies to have their men commandeered for the front was the Detective Department, and a principal cause of temporary excitement at the commencement of the war was the ^{passage} ~~processions~~ of various bodies through the streets, from their places of assembly to the railway station to enjoin for the seat of war. The majority of the men in the group opposite were in the command of General Koch, which came to grief at Delandlaagte in the early days of the war, and which also contained many men from the Post and Telegraph Offices, the Law Courts officials, and ^{men from} other Government Departments of Johannesburg and Pretoria.

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Chapter III

The Fire Brigades - immunity from fires - relief organised - prisoners discharged - formation of Witlauer corps - manufacture of ammunition - first news of the war - "commandeering" - tramways horses - gold - other goods - morality of commandeering - were commandeered from - amount of commandeering - the Consul and his horses - organisation and work of Intelligence Department.

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