

THE MAFEKING MAIL

SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 35

Wednesday, December 20th, 1899.

The Mafeking Mail.

WEDNESDAY, 20th DECEMBER, 1899.

Mafeking Garrison.

GENERAL ORDERS.

MAFEKING, 18th DECEMBER, 1899.

Useful work by Capt. Sandford's Gun.—An excellent shot was fired from the 7-pounder under Captain Sandford from Major Godley's position on Saturday, and great credit is due to Trooper Langton, B.S.A.P., who laid the gun. Just after 6.30 p.m. a number of Boers were seen on the parapet, and a round of shrapnel was fired at them; it landed with excellent effect amongst them, bursting close up to the parapet. The result was that they shifted their work to a new position, thereby relieving the west end of the Stadt and the Women's Laager from the continual sniping to which they had been subjected.

Assessment Damages.—Certain difficulties have arisen in connection with the assessment of damages owing to occupiers of houses, who only claim for furniture within the house, not clearly stating whether they are the owners of the house itself in which the damage occurred. Claims for furniture, which must be given in detail, are therefore invariably to be rendered on separate forms to claims for house property.

Pay—Special Duty.—First-class Private and Acting Corporal Abrahams, C.P. D. 2, will receive Imperial pay as local Chief Constable for the Stadt, at the rate of 4s. per diem in addition to his Cape Police pay.

Temporary Appointment.—Mr. Young, Railway Division, a Medical Student, is appointed to act as a Special Assistant to take charge of Native cases, etc., at the Railway Bridge Dressing Station, under the P.M.O. He will receive pay at the rate of 15s. per diem, from this date inclusive, during the absence from duty of Hospital Sergeant Dowling, Protectorate Regiment, who was performing the duty until he met with an accident.

Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet to-morrow, the 19th instant, 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.

By order,

F. W. PANZERA, Major,
Acting C.S.O.

MAFEKING, 19th DECEMBER, 1899.

Court Martial.—A Field General Court Martial will assemble on Thursday next, the 21st instant, at such time and place the President may appoint, for the trial of the prisoner named in the margin, and of such other prisoners as may be brought before it.

No. 21, Trooper D. P. Cassidy, "B" Squadron, Protectorate Regiment.

PRESIDENT: Captain Gordon Wilson, Royal Horse Guards.

MEMBERS: Captain Lord C. Bentinck, Protectorate Regiment; Lieutenant Daniel, B.S.A.P.

The prisoner will be duly warned and all witnesses ordered to attend. The Protectorate Regiment will provide an orderly for the Court. Proceedings to be forwarded to the Chief Staff Officer.

Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet to-morrow, the 20th instant, at the Court House, at 10.45 a.m., for the examination of such prisoners as may be brought before it. President: Lieut.-Col. C. B. Vyvyan; Member: C. G. H. Bell, Esq., C.C. & R.M.

Special Allowance to Gaoler.—With reference to General Order No. 2 of 15th instant, the special allowance to Mr. Heale will date from 13th October instead of from "1st November" as therein stated.

By order,

F. W. PANZERA, Major,
Acting C.S.O.

THE PRETORIA PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

It is amusing to read how the Transvaal Government, in its recognised organ, the "S. & D. News," tried to explain, even as early as November 8th, why it had taken so long to capture unfortified Mafeking. They say:

"The temptation to go on is, therefore, great; but the will of General Joubert is supreme, and General Joubert is for the present content that Ladysmith should be laid low, and the Boer camp be pitched for the time being on the banks of the Tugela. To his way of thinking the great thing—and this will be rendered possible and practicable when Ladysmith and Mafeking have fallen and their prisoners are safely quartered at Pretoria—is to release men enough to check the Buller contingent before it makes the easier plains of the Free State, from which quarter the enemy's advance may be looked for at any moment."

"The fall of Ladysmith and Mafeking is regarded only as a matter of hours. These centres being reduced, and the position of the British in Natal being permanently weakened, nearly the whole strength of the Republican forces can go out to meet General Buller, can be hurled against any advance he may meditate or have in his mind's eye."

It is evident that at first the gravest surprise and later savage disappointment had taken possession of them on finding their plan of campaign, arranged for, and depending on, Ladysmith being made its Eastern and Mafeking its Western base, had tumbled to pieces like a house of cards; through their unanticipated reverse on the Natal side, and the still more unexpected rebuff here. Reading between the lines it is easy to discern that they relied upon taking these two places as an essential preliminary to successful resistance of General Buller's forces on the South. It

is also evident, to the everlasting shame of the party, that the Bond Ministry intended to betray Mafeking into the hands of the Boers. Believing it was to be left unprotected and unarmed, the Pretoria organizers never dreamt of having any more difficulty with regard to this town than they did with regard to Vryburg. That part of their plan having been defeated by the Imperial Government sending Baden-Powell here, the remainder of their raid scheme collapsed, and they have now to face as a stern reality the phantom they employed to frighten the Boers into aggression, i.e., an invasion of their territory, for which they are not effectually prepared. A hasty scramble of all the force to be spared, from outside here and other places, to take up any position of vantage reachable in front of Buller's advance, has doubtless been all that their now demoralised commandoes could accomplish; with what result we have yet, and daily hope, to learn. The difference made by the defence of Mafeking to the comparative relationship to-day of the respective sides must be enormous. Had the garrison fallen, the delay and neglect of the home authorities for the past two years would have cost many more hundreds of lives, and hundreds of thousands of pounds, than it will now. Bulawayo says Mafeking has saved her; no doubt it has saved the whole situation, east, a fact which we hope will be duly recognized, and recompensed, later on.

In the "Standard and Diggers' News" of November 23rd, 1899, there is an account of the departure from Johannesburg of Dr. Krause, who was going to the Ladysmith front. We give a portion of the account in the exact words: "Elaborate arrangements had been made to give Dr. Krause the 'send-off' he so richly deserves. In the immediate vicinity of the station were assembled a musical corps consisting of an Italian harpist, a French cornet, and a German flautist, who were instructed to strike up the 'Volkslied' and the Free State Anthem at a given moment. But the best laid schemes and the most elaborate arrangements of mice and men 'gang aft agley.' Just as Mr. Van Gelder (also of the Peace and Order Commission) was about to marshal that patriotic band stationed at a wing, the news came that (owing to the breakdown of one of the trucks which was to carry Dr. Krause's field delicacies to the various commandoes) the popular doctor's departure would be delayed until 7.45 this morning."

[The "patriotic" band, consisting of an Italian harpist, a French cornet, and a German flautist, playing a Dutch tune at the instigation of a Hottentot Dutch Mulatto as a send-off to a German doctor leading rebels to fight in a British Colony is about as funny as anything we have seen in the "S. & D. News" columns.]

Mr. John Visser, of the Postmaster-General's Department, has returned from Mafeking, having lost three fingers of his left hand by a gun accident.

Lord Mayor's Banquet.
Important Speeches.
Lord Salisbury on the War.
"The Unfortunate Convention."

London, 9th ("Mercury" Special).—Speaking at the Lord Mayor's banquet Lord Wolseley announced that orders had been issued for the mobilization of another division. The War Office was prepared, if necessary, to mobilize another Army Corps.

Had they taken measures sooner to increase their forces, they would have precipitated the ultimatum.

War was due to the unfortunate Convention, which permitted a hostile community unlimited right to accumulate war munitions against them.

He ridiculed the suggestions of foreign intervention. They would allow no interference.

When the conflict was ended, the Government would be guided by Colonial traditions, and the confederation of equity and justice would restore that good government and security so sorely needed in the interests of peace and civilisation.

They would consult their interests and duties, when victorious, and special justice for all races was undoubted.

From the
"STANDARD & DIGGERS' NEWS"
November 23rd.

Referring to the Boers' conduct during this campaign, in a sub-leader this paper says, "the seal of civilization has adorned their every act."

Pretoria, 7th.—Special Correspondent says regarding Dundee:—"The Mauser fusillades starting at a range of 1,500 and 1,600 yards had a demoralising effect on the British troops who, in nearly all cases, retreated after being submitted to heavy fire for a little time."

"The British forces are beginning to learn that, in comparison with Boer tactics, their movements are snail-like."

[Our forces certainly are not equal to the Boers in sprinting, the latter always get a good start directly the first report of a gun is heard and are more than a mile away before there is any chance of "submitting them to a heavy fire for a little time." It was certainly a surprise to many in Mafeking to see how rapidly the unwieldy Boers can run directly a shot is fired.]

Sir Charles Warren.

London, November 14th (Reuter).—Sir Charles Warren is to command a new division, of which Colonel Woodgate, of London fame, and Colonel Ceke are Brigadiers.

SIR REDVERS BULLER.

With the large part of Natal in the hands of the Afrikanders, the Northern part of Cape Colony disaffected, and the Free State a virgin Republican fastness, to say nothing of doomed Kimberley and Mafeking, he may well be appalled at the magnitude of the business before him. And this time Sir Redvers Buller is not fighting Kafirs. He is pitted against the finest body of irregular cavalry in the world, against a host of patriotic sharpshooters, who will defend their liberty and their homes to the last drop of their blood, rather than yield to the tyrant's yoke, will "die in the last ditch." We do not envy Sir Redvers Buller's feelings as he

surveys the obstacles to the consummation of his orders. We fancy that Pretoria and Johannesburg now look rather distant objectives to his operations.

Colonial Traitors

Give a Flag to the Boers.

Bloemfontein, Nov. 22 (Special).—Commandant du Plooy, of Bethulie, has been presented by the ladies of Burghersdorp with a beautiful flag, on which is neatly embroidered: "In the name of God."

Are glad when we lose.

Lourenço Marques, November 7th.—The news of the surrender of Lieutenant-Colonel Carleton's force at Modderspruit was received at Capetown with consternation.

Some Cape papers, however, add that the information was hailed with satisfaction in certain quarters.

Hold aloof from

Welcoming Buller.

When General Buller landed at Capetown, amidst a scene of unparalleled enthusiasm, he was received by the representatives of the Governor but no member of the Ministry was present and the Government Buildings were not decorated.

Coal Famine at Cape.

South-Easters in Evidence.

Lourenço Marques, 21st (Special).—Owing to the quantity of coal required for transports there is a coal famine at Capetown.

South-easters interfere with the docking of transport.

The Various Funds.

London, 9th ("Mercury") Special.—The Refugee Fund amounts to £161,000; the War Fund to £160,000, and the "Telegraph" Fund to 565,371 shillings.

Siege Train Ordered.

London, 9th ("Mercury" Special).—Official orders were issued yesterday for the immediate mobilization of a siege train to shell Pretoria.

The Power of the Boers.

London, 9th ("Cape Times" Special).—Lord Wolseley, speaking last night, said they had found the Boers much more powerful and numerous than they had expected.

[That is because he did not read the "Mafeking Mail" attentively.]

Delays in Transport.

London, 9th ("Cape Times" Special).—Tempestuous weather delays transport, and the Admiralty warned the public that the newspapers' estimates of the dates of arrival were too sanguine.

Another Infantry Division.

London, 8th ("Mercury" Special).—The "Daily News" learns from an official

source that arrangements are being made to despatch a further infantry division, 11,000 strong, immediately the first transports return.

B.P.'s Pyrotechnics mystified them.

Rietfontein, Nov. 7th, 6.30 am. ("Volksstem" Special).—This morning at half-past four the fight began, and is still raging with great severity. We have never seen such a fight here before. The English appear to have ventured upon an attack upon our horses, and to have first fired upon them. Many of the horses are coming into camp. As soon as the fight began all the mounted men who were still in the camp were called out to reinforce the burghers.

Fortunately 25 extra men were sent with each Field-cornetcy to the fort. From sunrise until now the cannon have not ceased firing.

On Sunday night bright lights were seen in the town to the right and left. We also saw a bonfire. Opinions are divided over these lights and their significance.

Lourenço Marques, November 7th.—"Ons Land" of November 2nd says that the Special Bond Congress announced for November 7th has been abandoned. The circular announcing this says "All that is possible has been done for peace without result. Now we wait a suitable opportunity to hold out the olive branch."

The name of Mr. Gustave Halle, of the "Transvaal Critic," has, after investigation, not been found upon the burgher rolls of the Sister Republic. He has been escorted over the border.—Mr. Leopold Hess (a German subject) and Mr. Allcock (an American subject), who make up the "Transvaal Critic" staff, have also been invited to take their passports.

LOCAL DEFENCES

THE Base Commandant requests that all claims not already submitted against the "Local Defences Account" may be furnished forthwith to the Chief Paymaster for adjustment.

Where claims have been already submitted any additional accounts should be sent in to the Chief Paymaster weekly, being made up to and for Saturday in each week.

All accounts should be supported by the Original Orders for goods supplied, as Vouchers.

Delay in furnishing these claims may cause much trouble and confusion hereafter and it is therefore important that they may be sent in at once as requested.

C. B. VYVYAN, Lieut.-Col.,

Base Commandant.

14th December, 1899.

NOTICE.

A Christmas Tree and Tea for the Children of Mafeking.

Under the patronage of Colonel Baden-Powell and Officers of Garrison.

The following Ladies and Gentlemen have also kindly offered to assist:—Lady Sarah Wilson, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. More, Mrs. Riesle, Mrs. Winter, Mrs. Bradley, Ladies of the Hospital and Con-

vent; His Worship the Mayor, Rev. H. W. Weekes, Mr. B. Weil, Rev. Father Ogle, Rev. M. Peart.

The above will take place at the Masonic Hall on Sunday, December 24th, from 4 p.m. till 6 p.m. Lady Sarah Wilson has kindly offered to present each child with a toy, and Mr. Weil, with his usual generosity, will provide the tea.

All children between the ages of THREE and THIRTEEN are invited, and parents desirous of sending their children are requested to forward immediately their names, stating age and sex. In the case of the Women's Laager, to the Rev. W. H. Weekes, Railway Division to Captain More, and Refugee Laager to Major Godley. This invitation is extended to children of Dutch as well as English parentage, and all will be equally welcome.

Owing to the limited space in the Masonic Hall, it is regretted that the children's parents cannot be included in the invitation; but the children will be well looked after by the committee.

Arrangements will be made for fetching the children and conveying them home again.

Captain Cowan and officers of the Bechuanaland Rifles have kindly consented to their band playing.

JUST TO HAND.

DIARIES for 1900.

A large Assortment.

ALDRED & ROSS.

Market Square.

CHRISTMAS 1899

DIXON & CO. Beg to announce to the Belegued Inhabitants of Mafeking, that they have still a good General Assortment of Drapery Provisions etc.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

LARGE SELECTION OF DOLLS.

Von Erkoms Prize Medal Transvaal Tobacco.

Christmas price 2s. per lb.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

G. LIPPMANN.

Market Square.

Wishes it known that he has still on hand a large stock of

Kharki Jackets,

All sizes and shapes,
At very low prices.

A big assortment of,

Soft Shirts,

Flannel Trousers, Boots etc.

G. Lippmann is always on the premises to attend to customers.

N.B. Plenty of Transvaal Tobacco and General Groceries.

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

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DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- A2706

Document Title:- MAFIKENG MAIL, Special Siege Slip

Document Date:- 1899-1900