

THE MAFEKING MAIL

SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 98

Friday, March 23rd, 1900.

162nd Day of Siege

The Mafeking Mail.

FRIDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1900.

THE ATTACK AT GABERONES.

(From the Bulawayo Chronicle.)

On the night before the attack two hundred men were told off to go forward in two columns, their orders being to use the bayonet only. The march was made in dead silence, and at about 4 a.m. the men deployed into line and moved forward. When we were within a few yards of the top of the kopje, the enemy commenced firing, and with a wild cheer we rushed forward. The firing was tremendously heavy and the top of the kopje was covered with wire entanglements, trees, thorn bushes, and stone schanzes, pits, etc., while the hill itself, with its huge boulders, was one of the hardest we have climbed. By this time the moon was down and it was pitch dark. Three dynamite mines were exploded, and the Dutch kept on firing at point blank range, with case shot, into friend and foe alike. We gained the top of the kopje, went through their position without firing a shot, and then, after a slight pause, down the other side. The darkness was intense, it being impossible to see more than a few yards. The Boers were cute enough to keep still, as we passed through and over them, lying quietly among the rocks, and then getting up and firing into our backs. We marched back to camp by a circuitous route, our casualties being five killed and twenty-four wounded, three of whom died. The enemy, imagining we had retired the way we came, kept up

a heavy fire in that direction, whereas only about thirty men who were in reserve and did not go up the kopje, retired that way. The loss of the enemy is not known; but it is estimated to be more than ours.

The *Argus* says: "The military authorities are determined to avail themselves of all the Colonial assistance that may offer. The Commander-in-chief, recognising the services rendered by the Colonial troops, authorised the formation of a division. Col. Brabant, M.L.A., C.M.G., was given the local and temporary rank of Brigadier General, and is in command. Brabant's horse, with several other irregular corps and mounted contingents from the infantry volunteer regiments, will form the first portion of this force, and its first object will be to drive the enemy out of the Colony." It has been decided to raise a further 1,500 mounted irregulars. Recruiting stations will be open in all parts of the Colony, and it is proposed to elect the officers from Colonial gentlemen, or those with Colonial experience.

CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

PRESIDENTS KRUGER AND STEYN
AND LORD ROBERTS.

The Boers' letter says: "That British troops are contrary to the usage of civilized warfare, blowing up and burning farms, and devastating, making unprotected women and children homeless and starving. This happens not only in places where barbarians are encouraged by British officers, but even in Cape Colony and this State, where white brigands come out for the theatre of war, with the evident intention of carrying on general devastation, without any reason recognised by the customs of war, and without furthering

operations. We wish to protest against such acts."

Lord Roberts' reply says: "I acknowledge Your Honours telegram charging British troops with the destruction of property contrary to the recognised usages of war, and with brigandage and devastation. These charges are made in vague general terms, no specific cases being mentioned or evidence given. I have seen such charges made before in the press, but in no case, that has come under my notice, have they been substantiated.

"Most stringent instructions have been issued to British troops to respect private property as far as compatible with the conduct of military operations. All wanton destruction or injury to peaceful inhabitants is contrary to British practice and tradition, and will, if necessary, be rigorously repressed by me.

"I regret Your Honours should have seen fit to repeat untrue statements that barbarians have been encouraged by British officers to commit depredations. In the only case in which a raid has been perpetrated by Native subjects of the Queen, the act was contrary to the instructions of the British officers nearest the spot, and entirely disconcerted his operations.

"The women and children taken prisoners by Natives was restored to their homes by the agency of the British officer before mentioned.

"I regret to say that it is the Republican forces which have in some cases been guilty of carrying on war in a manner not in accordance with civilized usage. I refer especially to the expulsion of loyal subjects of Her Majesty from their homes in the invaded districts of this Colony, because they refused to be commandeered by the invaders.

"It is barbarous to attempt to force men to take a side against their own sovereign and country by threat of spoliation and expulsion. Many women and children have had to leave their homes owing to such compulsion, and many of those who were formerly in comfortable circumstances are now living on charity.

"That war should inflict hardships and injury on peaceful inhabitants is inevitable, but it is desired by Her Majesty's Government, and it is my intention, that this war shall be conducted with as little injury as possible to peaceful inhabitants and to private property, and I hope Your Honours will exercise your authority to ensure it being conducted in a similar spirit on your side."

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor *Mafeking Mail*.

Mafeking, March 22nd, 1900.

SIR,—What have I ever done to you to cause you to do your best, in which you have succeeded wonderfully, especially in these times when liquor is scarce, to have my place inundated with callers clamouring to see me, to congratulate me, and with anxious eyes and longing mouths waiting for me to open a bottle or two of the good old wine to drink to the health of the newly born son. I would not mind if the news were correct, but as such is not the case, I will feel obliged if you will kindly insert in your next issue asking the informant to call on Mr. B. Weil, when he will be received with open arms and closed fists.

Yours faithfully,

B. WEIL.

[Apparently our jubilation was too previous. We cannot understand how we could have been so misinformed except upon the hypothesis that "coming events cast their shadows before them."—ED.]

W.T.H.—Thanks for the kind offer you make on back of the M.S.S. We feel sure the "copy" is high-class, but would be much better able to judge if we saw it type written.

Mafeking Garrison.

GENERAL ORDERS

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

MAFEKING, 23RD MARCH, 1900.

Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet on Saturday, the 24th March, 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.

Assessment Committee.—The Assessment Committee will meet on Sunday, the 25th instant, at Dixon's Hotel at 10 a.m. Owners attending at the above place and hour will be informed about what time the Committee will arrive at their respective houses.

Pay.—The pay of Mr. H. P. Dennison, Chief Clerk to the D.A.A.G.(B), is increased from 12/- to 15/- per diem. Such increase to date from 15th inst. inclusive.

By order,

E. H. CECIL, Major,
Chief Staff Officer

A SIEGE EXHIBITION

WILL BE HELD AT THE

MASONIC HALL,

— ON —

SUNDAY, MARCH 25th 1900,

COMMITTEE :

Col. Baden-Powell; Major H. J. Goold-Adams, C.B., C.M.G.; C. G. H. Bell, Esq., C.C. & R.M.; Capt. J. R. More; F. Whiteley, Esq. (Mayor).

MANAGING DIRECTOR : J. W. De Kock, Esq.

HON. SECRETARY : J. R. Algie, Esq.

CLASS.

1. Prize, £5, presented by Col. Baden-Powell, for the Best Model of any locally manufactured Siege Weapon or Armament, or of any Fort or Redan.

Second Prize, £2 2s., presented by Major F. W. Panzera.

2. Prize, £5, presented by Messrs. Wirsing Bros., for the Quaintest or Most Original Curio, ornamental or useful, constructed of any shells or bullets which have been fired into the town by the enemy during the Siege.

3. Prize, £5, for the best piece of Fancy Work made during the Siege.

4. Prize, £5, for the best piece of Lace worked during the Siege.

5. Prize, £5, presented by G. Rieste, Esq., for the best collection of not less than Forty Siege Photos.

And a Second Prize of £2 10s.

6. Prize, £5, presented by the *Mafeking Mail*, for the best Musical Composition, either Waltz or March. To be written for Piano only, or for Orchestra. The successful composition to be known as the "Mafeking Siege Waltz, or March."

7. Prize, £2 2s., presented by Major H. J. Goold-Adams, for the best Essay on Siege Life. Open to girls under the age of 15.

8. Prize, £2 2s., presented by Major H. J. Goold-Adams, for the best Essay on Siege Life. Open to boys under the age of 15.

With reference to Prizes 7 and 8, all competitors must present themselves for examination at the Masonic Hall, on March 25th inst., at 9 a.m., for the purpose of writing their Essay. They will be allowed until noon to complete their work in the presence of a Commissioner, who will be in attendance and who will supply the necessary writing materials.

9. Prize, £2 2s., presented by C. W. Clucas, Esq., for the best Dressed Doll.

10. Prize, £5, presented by F. Whiteley, Esq., for the best Painting (oil or water colour), or Pen and Ink Sketch, portraying any scene, incident, or character, connected with the Siege.

11. Prize, £2 2s., presented by A. H. Friend, Esq., for the best original Poem or Song. Competing poems or songs must be recited or sung (as the case may be) by the competitors (or any person appointed by them) on the afternoon of the Exhibition.

12. Prize, £5, presented by B. B. Weil, Esq., for the best Siege Anecdote, of not more than 500 words.

13. Prize, £5, presented by Lady Sarah Wilson, for the best Trimmed Lady's Hat. The hat and material to have been purchased in Mafeking during the Siege. The unsuccessful hats to be sold by auction after Exhibition, if so desired.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

1. The Committee, in due course, will arrange and appoint Judges for each class. No competitor will be allowed to judge in any class in which they may enter.

2. All exhibits may be marked "For Sale."

3. All exhibits must be handed in to the Committee or their Nominee, at the Masonic Hall, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., on the morning of the Exhibition.

4. All entries free.

5. In no class will prize be given unless at least two entries are received.

The Exhibition will open at 3 p.m.

Admission 1s. Competition Free.

During the afternoon the *Mafeking Amateur Orchestral Society* will play selections.

I. COHEN,

London Tailor, Mafeking,

WISHES to acquaint the Public of Mafeking and District that he has no connection with any other Tailor in Mafeking. He is still acting as Cutter himself personally, the same as he has been doing for the last 4 years, never having depended on workmen for the cutting, and intends to continue doing in the future as he has done in the past.

Aldred & Ross' Usual Sunday SIEGE SALE.

The above, duly instructed, will sell :

Effects of the late Capt. Hon. D. H. Marsham,

" " " E. G. Parslow,

" " " Trooper Webb, C.P.

Also 18-carat Gold Watch; 2 Double-barrelled Shot Guns; Bicycles; Second-hand Clothing; Double Set Male Harness; Underclothing; Boots; Shoes, etc., etc.

No Reserve. 9-30 A.M.