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Mafeking, November 20th, 1899.

The Mafeking Mail.

MAFEKING, 20TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

REUTER'S AGENCY.

LONDON, October 11th.—The Lord Mayor of London opened a Relief Fund in aid of distressed refugees from the Transvaal. Large sums of money were already contributed.

We learn, since that no less than £120,000 was subscribed at the Mansion House in a day or two.

Lord Roseberry has written a letter in which he states that the ultimatum closed up the ranks of the nation and stops all party politics.

The Second Brigade, 1st Division, of the Army Corps under the command of General Hildyard, will embark for South Africa on the 20th. It consists of the Second Devonshires, West Yorkshire, East Surrey, West Surrey.

LONDON, October 12th.—Mr. Balfour, speaking at Dundee, said war had been forced upon Great Britain, not by men fighting for freedom but by an oligarchy who feared its hour of domination was nearing an end. The choice of the British Government lay between insisting on equality for the white races, or Great Britain losing her claim to be a nation.

Mr. Asquith, speaking at Dundee, upheld the right of the Government to intervene on behalf of British subjects. As a paramount power it was impossible for Great Britain to shirk the issue raised by the Transvaal's ill-inspired despatch.

The Czarewitch Stakes was won by Scintillant, Excildoune second and Mitchad third.

LONDON, October 17th (Reuter).—The opposition in both Houses, while deploring war with the South African Republic, agreed that the extraordinary ultimatum left the Government no option and promised hearty support.

Lord Salisbury, referring to the future, declared that we must insist upon Great Britain being the sovereign and paramount power in South Africa and that the white races should be placed on an equality. An amendment to the Address was defeated by 322 to 54.

A "Diamond Fields Advertiser," dated October 28th, arrived here on Tuesday last. We did not get hold of it till to-day but hasten now to re-print some extracts.

"On break of dawn on Thursday morning (12th October) 500 picked men of the Rustenburg and Marico

commandos detached from General Cronje's main body broke camp and swiftly sped away for the frontier." [We may believe this as we have seen them more than once "swiftly sped" towards the frontier].

GRAND SUCCESS OF THE BOERS AT RAMATHLABAMA.

"The men of the Bechuanaland Border Police (2), a contractor, and two gangers were surrounded by our Burghers" [this was the Marico contingent which consisted of 850], "surrendered and are now prisoners of war."

WE HOPE THIS IS TRUE.

"Intelligence has reached Capetown to the effect that 370 Boers wounded in the fighting outside Mafeking have been removed to the Johannesburg hospital for treatment."

A man who left that town on Monday, the 16th October, said that preparations were being made for the reception of 450 wounded outside Mafeking. [Well, they'll want it].

OUR PREVARICATING SHELL-DODGER CAN'T COMPETE WITH THE BOERS.

This is how the Transvaal dispatch writer lets himself go:—

"Our ranks were reinforced by the Marico contingent which had *sacked the British camp at Ramathlabama.*" Higher up in the same dispatch we read: "The flying vanguard crossed the border at two spots, the Marico contingent under 'General' Snyman, near Ramathlabama, and the Rustenburg detachment, under 'General' De la Rey at Rooigrond. Our forces once in the enemy's country immediately set to work to demolish his line of communication." [Safe work this; none of the Mafeking garrison near].

"The Marico commando also met with no resistance at Ramathlabama."

THIS IS WHAT THEY TELL ABOUT THE DYNAMITE TRUCKS.

"Whilst General De la Rey's commando was completing the destruction of the railway line, an engine with two trucks was espied steaming from Mafeking with the supposed intention of anticipating our forces in devastating the permanent way. It had reached

a siding seven miles north of the town, when the burghers charged out of cover and opened a well-directed fire at 300 yards range. The driver of the engine, perceiving his peril, uncoupled the locomotive from the trucks, and, switching off on to the down line, emerged unscathed through a hail of bullets, and returned at a furious rate to Mafeking.

The deserted trucks, left at a standstill, were riddled with shot. They contained dynamite, and a terrible explosion took place. The wagons were blown to pieces, but although many of the burghers were within range of the falling debris, no casualties occurred. The railway line was also destroyed for a considerable distance.

AND THIS ABOUT LIEUTENANT NESBITT'S TRAIN.

"We were unmolested until late in the evening, when shortly after 11 o'clock an armoured train, consisting of a locomotive and two wagons, containing a detachment of Col. Baden-Powell's Mafeking column, was seen by our advanced line of patrols approaching the derailed spot. The troops in the train opened a desultory fire, but their practice, despite the moonlight night, was reckless and ineffective. The train was driven over in the track, and ploughed its way into the veld, coming to a complete standstill. The British troops maintained an irregular fusillade through the night.

The encounter recommenced at day-break, but the British, after having nine men seriously wounded, ceased firing and surrendered, a captain and 31 men being taken prisoners. There were no casualties on our side.

The burghers, who had been under arms and in the saddle for over 24 hours, after a brief respite for breakfast resumed their advance on Mafeking, destroying the railway line on march.

[If it were 31 men, that number included some civilians, British, from the Marico district, who had taken refuge in the train and were unarmed. The Captain they refer to is, of course, Nesbitt, who had about a dozen men with him and 850 against him.

ISN'T HE A WICKED OLD—?

A proclamation issued on the 17th October by General Joubert to the inhabitants of Natal and Cape Colony, says "the Government and people of Republic have been forced into war by evil-disposed capitalists and war-like British Ministers, and they must now stand and fight in the true interests of their independence, and for the welfare and interests of the whole of South Africa and its people, irrespective of place or origin."

"We fight for our existence as a nation, and we are bound to risk our lives and give our blood therefore.

We will, however, carry on this war forced upon us according to civilised and humane usages and under the guidance of an all-directing God."

HONORS FOR CRONJE.

Natives report that Commandant Cronje is withdrawn from Mafeking and goes to assist on the Natal border. We congratulate the Commandant on his advancement from the charge of such a trifling undertaking as the capture of Mafeking to take part in meeting British troops. Promotion which his success here makes him deservedly entitled to.

The Bulawayo Town Council decided to dispatch the following wires:—

Hirschler, Deputy Mayor, Bulawayo, to Colonel Baden-Powell, Mafeking.

"On behalf of myself and Town Council and inhabitants of Bulawayo I beg to convey to you and troops under your command our great admiration and pride at the magnificent and gallant defence of Mafeking, and our fervent wishes for continued success."

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

Hirschler, Deputy Mayor, Bulawayo, to Mayor, Mafeking.

"The Town Council and people of Bulawayo greatly admire the gallantry and stout-heartedness of the inhabitants of Mafeking, and rejoice in its successful defence. Mafeking deserves well of the Empire and Queen."

LADYSMITH ENGAGEMENT.

A cablegram dated 11th November, says Twenty "Thousand Boers invested Ladysmith from 30th October to 3rd of November. The British forces there amount to 10,000. On the 30th a big fight took place in which a small column of 800 men, under Col. Carleton, was sent to attack a ridge held by the enemy, which they successfully did on their way back the mules carrying their ammunition and guns stampeded and broke away. The force was attacked but held on to its position till their supply of ammunition was expended and they were then captured by the Boers. This loss has been magnified by the Boers into two thousand. The remainder of the fight was a success for us. The Naval Brigade joined in with their big guns, which, after a duel with the enemy's big gun, called by our own men "Long Tom," completely knocked it out as well as several other guns. On the 2nd the Cavalry and Field Artillery were engaged under General French, and on the 3rd the Cavalry under Colonel Brocklehurst caught the Boers in the open. The Boers hoisted the white flag, but when our troops came near, fired volleys at them. The Lancers, Dragoons and Hussars charged, without waiting for orders, followed by others with the bayonet. They got in and caused great slaughter. Native eye-witnesses say they went through the Boers like water, wiping them all out, the Dutchmen howling for mercy. The following day three regiments of Cavalry were sent after a column of the enemy, who were moving towards

Colenso. They got in with cold steel and cut them up.

The enemy is reported to have lost 1,246 killed and large number of prisoners. Ladysmith is reported crammed with prisoners.

Bremersdorp has been burned to the ground and looted, which looks as though the Swazies have taken arms against the Boers.

A strongly fortified British camp has been established at De Aar, under General Wood. General Gatacre, with the 3rd Division of the Field Army Corps, has landed at East London.

Naval Brigade, with 20 guns, landed at Durban on the 8th instant.

FIGHTING AT COLENZO.

"There was an engagement at Colenso, also resulting to our advantage. No details to hand yet."

DURBAN, Nov. 4th.—Communication by wire and rail with Ladysmith has been cut off, and General White's force is isolated, the Boers closely investing. He is, however, entirely safe. Our force commanding the railway bridge over the Tugeli River at Colenso is likely to have, therefore to retire to Eastcourt.

Five thousand Imperial troops are due to arrive here (Durban) about the 12th November, which will relieve the strain.

Dr. Jim is shut up in Ladysmith.

Mr. Rhodes is dittoed in Kimberley. To relieve Kimberley and the North five thousand Imperial troops (equal to 10,000 Boers) were sent and were due to arrive during the first week in November, say 3rd or 4th inst., so Kimberley is alright now. Our turn is coming. Altogether we are getting on very nicely all round.

Further from the "Bulawayo Chronicle" of November 10th, we learn:—It appears to be certain that a large force will be concentrated in the north of the Colony and to relieve Kimberley and Mafeking, and an advance in force will be made into the Free State. When this takes place the position of the Boers opposite Ladysmith will be most precarious as they must of necessity then withdraw part of their force from before a continually reinforced enemy, thereby putting themselves in danger of an entire rout.

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