

# THE MAFEKING MAIL

## SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

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No. 62

Tuesday, January 30th, 1900.

110th Day of Siege.

### The Mafeking Mail.

TUESDAY, 30TH JANUARY, 1900.

## LATEST NEWS.

### KIMBERLEY.

Kimberley base of the relief column was established on the Orange River the second week in Nov. After a small engagement Lord Methuen, with 10,000 British troops, advanced on Belmont, and after a severe fight drove the enemy from two successive positions and they retired on Graspan. On 25th November Lord Methuen again forced them from their position and some ammunition fell into his hands, which he destroyed. The Boers retreated to the North of Modder River where, having blown up the bridge, they entrenched themselves. On November 27th Lord Methuen reconnoitred. On 28th he fought a battle for 17 hours; during night of 28th the Boers evacuated their position and Methuen crossing, occupied the trenches lately held by the enemy. He spent ten days in recuperating his forces and mending the bridge. Meantime the Boers cut the railway to the South and menaced wire of communication, but with no very serious result. On 10th Lord Methuen shelled the Boers at Magersfontein, 7 miles nearer to Kimberley. Before dawn Lord Methuen sent the Yorkshire L. I. in the N.E. direction along the right bank of Modder River, on the left, while he advanced the Highland Brigade under Colonel Wauchope. In the centre was the Guards Brigade, somewhat to the rear of the Highlanders. The enemy permitted Wauchope to advance to within 300 yards of their position when they opened a hot fire. The Black Watch, still in quarter column, were almost annihilated. From one battalion nineteen officers were wounded, killed or missing. Four battalions fell back into a hollow, their retreat covered by the Gordons. The batteries of artillery massed between the Highlanders and Gordons, and poured a terrible fire into the enemy and saved the situation. Cronje, on seeing that our right centre was being weakened by the withdrawal of supports for the left, made a vigorous attack, but the Guards, extending to the right, checked his advance. G. Battery as Corps Artillery galloped up and supported the Guards, while two batteries, which had been shelling the Boers' right, changed to action—right and shelled Cronje's advancing troops. By night fall the Boers succeeded in bringing up their heavy guns, and on December 12th Lord Methuen fell back into his original position on Modder River. The enemy shelled our retiring troops, but the retreat was carried out steadily. On the 17th January they were still on the Modder River

The garrison of Kimberley, during the latter days of November, succeeded in opening up signalling communication with Lord Methuen.

On January 8th Lord Methuen reported at 7-30 this morning that the enemy fired

two segment shells on our fort at right, hitting the parapet but touching no one. One of our 4.7 Naval guns put six shots into their gun's position and silenced it. It is reported that we did considerable damage, Jacobsdal being now filled with wounded. The enemy is stated to be removing their guns.

A discovery of incriminating documents has been made at Douglas and Sunnyside, affecting not only the rebels of the district but discloses the names of many in the Colony who have given offers of support to the Colony.

At Orange River the hospitals are almost empty, the serious cases have been transferred to Wynberg. About £200 worth of Red Cross comforts have been received from the people of Cradock.

General French has been successful in all his contests with the Boers. He is now moving Transvaal-wards from a point North of Colesberg.

### COLESBERG.

General French, who left Ladysmith after the battle of Elandslaagte, took command of the Cavalry in Cape Colony, advanced on Naauwpoort with a force consisting of the 11th Hussars, 6th Dragoon Guards, Enniskillen Dragoons, New Zealand Contingent, New South Wales Contingent, some Mounted Infantry, and some Horse Artillery, succeeded in driving the enemy out of Naauwpoort and Arundel and established a camp there. The Boers were in great force in a position North of Arundel and had destroyed the line. On December 11th General French attacked them and drove them out of Taiboschlaagte and Rensburg, and by the beginning of the New Year had succeeded in surrounding Colesberg, while some of his force were actually occupying Norvals Pont on the frontier of the Orange Free State, on the Orange River.

On Saturday, January 6th, the Suffolk were marched at midnight to the top of a hill by Colonel Watson. He assembled the officers at daybreak and was addressing the men when the enemy fired a volley at thirty paces, killing the Colonel, the Adjutant, and two other officers. The Suffolks were scarcely able to fire a shot. They tried to retire the picquet, which was 1,000 yards away, but the Boers had crept behind and entirely surrounded them. Our loss was 23 killed, 107 missing and 20 wounded. On Sunday the 7th we shelled the Boer laagers and stopped their progress on the Wagon Road. A reconnaissance was made on Monday, December 8th, and the enemy discovered in force at Achterang, with two guns.

### NORTH.

While the fighting was going on, (on October 14th), the Boers tied to a gun carriage one of our railway sub-gangers P. Prins, of 174 Cottage (who fell into their hands a prisoner on Friday, the 13th October). Another sub-ganger, Carver, is said to have taken a gun and fought for the Boers. Murphey, also taken prisoner, was asked to do the same, but refused.

The railway North is repaired as far as the bridge over the Melsimasane River. The Boers blew up both abutments of that bridge with dynamite, and a week ago the Boers were laagered on the Nek between Ramoutsa and Crocodile Pools. They had a nine-pounder Krupp, which we strongly suspect was an acquaintance of our, she had been away for a trip, and according to accounts, came back to Mafeking last night.

Early in November the Boers shot one of our Basuto Policemen and placed his body across the rails, this side of Gaberones.

We regret to record the death of Mr. James A. McMullen, the owner of the farm near which the Boers big gun it placed. He has been under the doctor's hands for some little while and occasionally complained of a pain. To-day, after mid-day meal, he mentioned it again; a few minutes afterwards he was no more. His age is 38, he leaves a wife and five children. He was a member of the local Masonic Lodge and greatly respected.

### FOOTBALL.

#### GARRISON v. CAPE POLICE.

The friendly encounter yesterday, (the Rev. Mr. Peart informs us it was not a challenge thrown out by the C.P. but their response to his suggestion for a game) resulted in a win for the Garrison of four goals to nil. Some of the C.P. cracks were indisposed, which no doubt weakened their play, but there is no fault to be found with the general character of the game, for it was excellent on both sides. In the first half the play was pretty even, the C.P. seeming to have an advantage as they kept the ball in the Garrison territory for a considerable time, Daniel being called upon more than once to "fist out." No score was registered when half time came, but in the second portion of the game there was quite a change, the Garrison having it pretty well their own way in spite of a plucky resistance. It would be invidious to criticise individual play as both sides worked so well to uphold the honour of their respective teams. Mr. Bulleid officiated as referee to the satisfaction of all.

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