

# THE MAFEKING MAIL

## Special Siege Slip.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 131

Monday, April 30th, 1900. 200th Day of Siege

### THE Mafeking Mail.

MONDAY, 30TH APRIL, 1900

#### From Native Sources.

There are no Boers between Delport's Hope, near the junction of Harts River, and Barkly to Kimberley.

The whole of that part is alive with British Troops.

After Bloemfontein surrendered some scattered parties of Boers re-combined and attacked the British.

Our troops, returning via Barkly, met a large party of Boers just above Delport's Hope. It was said they were Germans from Damaraland but it has since been ascertained that they were Prieska Boers. Young Cronje, regardless of his frequent death, went out to meet them between Kuruman and Langberg.

They had a laager at Spitzkop, another at Newlands, and yet another at Witfontein in Griqualand West.

Their "camp talk" was then (a month ago) that they are going to destroy the Vaal River Bridge at Barkly, but, there were three strong English camps about the town. The troops are on both sides of the river at Barkly and at Fourteen Streams. At the latter place they are constructing a temporary bridge. They have finished the railway bridge but they require the temporary bridge for the use of some engines that travel without rails and bring food for the men and also fresh rails to replace the line where the old rails had been taken away.

There are no Boers between Barkly and Fourteen Streams. Their main body is at Christiana and there is a strong force of British Troops on the other side of the river at Christiana.

There is a Dutch laager at Pudumo which the natives about Taungs say is a nuisance to them, and we have probably caused "the nuisance" to be removed before now.

There is also a small laager at Maritzani.

The messengers say that they heard at Taungs told them that Kroonstad had been taken by the English and Paul Kruger and Steyn had tramped to Pretoria.

#### COUNT THEM


Some natives told them the Landdrost was leaving Vryburg for the Transvaal.

#### The Railway Division Concert.

Our report of the Concert on Sunday, the 22nd, was crowded out, day after day all through last week, but the concert was a grand success, not only as an entertainment but also financially, no less than £22 8s. 6d. being the surplus handed over to the Sports and Prizes Fund by Sergt.-Major Layton, who is to be congratulated, alike upon the excellence of the company he secured and the liberal manner in which the public responded. The audience laughed till everyone's sides ached, at the funniness of Lionel Brough, and Mr. Personally-conducted Cook on the journey from Mafeking to Mayfair, while the remainder of the programme was warmly appreciated throughout.

#### MEMS.

A Mother wishes to express her grateful appreciation of the kind-heartedness of Sergeant-Major Jollie, Sergeant P. Stewart and Mr. Van Eyssen in giving up their rations of sugar to her children.

General French telegraphs to the Colonel, from Bloemfontein 30th March (under supposition that Mafeking had been relieved by Colonel Plumer) "Your magnificent defence is the feature of the campaign."

Letters posted here about the middle of December reached London at the end of February. Two and half months on the road. This might

account for the many disappointments experienced through non receipt of communications from home.

The promoters of the concert on Sunday before last, paraded a sandwich boy, whose board's announcement included the following. "A large consignment of London Stars arrived by Special Runner."

Great preparations are being made all over the country to celebrate Mafeking Day. It has been arranged at Cape Town that the day, following that on which the news of our relief is received, shall be observed as a public holiday. Some of the Dutch are much upset about it, and are anxious to know from Mr Schreiner what steps he will take to protect their lives and property on the occasion.

The following letter has been sent by the Colonel Commanding to the Mother Superior at the Convent:—

Mafeking,  
30th April, 1900.

DEAR MOTHER TERESA,

At the request of Mr. B. Weil I have great pleasure in handing to you the enclosed £98 15s., the proceeds of a raffle got up for the benefit of the Sisters of Mercy.

The mere money does not in any way represent adequately the lasting gratitude of the community towards yourself and the Sisters for the valuable, self devoting services you have rendered to the sick and wounded in Hospital, nor our sympathy for your losses and troubles incident to the Siege.

Believe me,  
Yours very truly,  
R. S. S. BADEN-POWELL.

A public meeting, convened by the Mayor, was held at Beaconsfield, on March 24th, at which resolutions were passed:—Supporting the Home Government, in their South African policy; Expressing gratification at the brilliant decisive successes already obtained by Her Majesty's Generals and the heroic British and Colonial forces; and one of congratulations to the Relief Column which raised the siege of Beaconsfield and Kimberley, but the following was without doubt the most important resolution of the evening:

"That this meeting entirely approves the firm and dignified reply of Lord

Salisbury to the untruthful statements and inadmissible proposals of the two Presidents, and further sincerely declares its honest opinion, based upon an intimate knowledge of the past and present situation, that it is imperative, both in Imperial and Colonial interests alike, that the Republics should cease to exist and the territories be annexed to the British Empire."

In supporting the resolution, one of the speakers strongly stigmatised the audacity of the Republics in daring to dictate terms of peace the moment they began to get the worst of the fighting, and he laid the whole of this trouble to the door of the Afrikaner Bond, the suppression or extinction of which he deemed imperative. He specially insisted on stern retribution being meted out to the rebels. He said there was an uneasy suspicion in the public mind that these men were to be treated with a mistaken leniency.

We should like to see Mafeking's public expression of opinion upon these subjects; on which she has as much right to be heard as any town in South Africa.

## THE DISTURBANCES AT SCARBOROUGH.

The disturbances at Scarborough, which were referred to in the House of Commons one evening, originated in the visit to that town of Mr. Cronwright Schreiner. Some sympathisers had been invited to welcome him at the café of Messrs. John Rowntree & Sons, but when he arrived he had to seek admittance by the back door, accompanied by Mr. Joshua Rowntree, ex-M.P. for Scarborough, one of his chief supporters. In front of the building was an angry crowd, and before the night was out the front door of the café was wrecked. At about half-past nine Mr. Schreiner, accompanied by Mr. Joshua Rowntree and others, left the building by a side entrance. A portion of the crowd detected this, and followed, hooting and pushing. Threats were freely used, and to save themselves Messrs. Schreiner and Rowntree sought shelter in a neighbouring hotel. Eventually Mr. Rowntree emerged hatless, and was pushed violently against the railings and assaulted. The police were powerless, and it was not until the military had been called out and the Riot Act read that the crowd dispersed, singing "Soldiers of the Queen," and cheering lustily. In addition to the damage done to the café of Messrs. John Rowntree & Sons, and their extensive grocery establishment a few doors away, the windows of Messrs. W. Rowntree & Son's drapery shop, one of the leading establishments of its kind in the North of England, and of four of the private residences of the Rowntrees, were smashed.

## How Kimberley was Deserted.

BY THE CAPE GOVERNMENT.

The following is a summary of the correspondence between the Mayor of Kimberley and Mr. Schriener *re* the defence of the town:—

The Mayor telegraphed on the 12th of June, 1899, pointing out the unrest, hoped hostilities would be averted, and earnestly pointed out the defenceless condition of the town and surroundings. Beyond 500 Volunteers indifferently armed, especially in artillery, there were no available arms and ammunition for the defence of the town. In the event of war they had a large body of natives, who would probably become a very great source of danger. He understood there were stored at Kingwilliamstown ammunition and battery and artillery and rifles, originally intended for Kimberley. At this critical juncture he made the suggestion of the imperative necessity of their being forwarded at the earliest moment. The desire of the inhabitants was simply to protect themselves and their property.

Mr. Schriener replied on the same date: Without discussing the assumption that dangerously strained relations exist between the Imperial Government and the Transvaal, I wish to assure you without delay that no reason whatever exists for apprehension that Kimberley or any other part of this Colony either is, or in any contemplated event will be, in any danger of attack. I am officially informed that representatives of the South African League proposed to the Civil Commissioner of Kimberley the fear of invasion from the Free State or the Transvaal. Such fears are absolutely groundless. It would be wrong on my part to give color or countenance to them; by the present giving direction to the movement of arms and ammunition. You may rely upon the Government not to do anything that affects the interests and safety of the people of the Colony.

The Mayor of Kimberley to the Premier on the following day:—

Thanks are expressed for the reassuring telegram, and the promise of the Government, but he again emphasises the unsatisfactory nature of the position, in view of the enormous value of property there, and the very inadequate means of self defence. The despatch of arms and ammunition from Kingwilliamstown could not be construed as giving color or countenance to any alarmist rumours in view of the fact that the munitions were originally intended for Kimberley, and would practically amount to a late delivery of them. Such a step would, on the contrary, allay unrest and insecurity.

Reply of the Premier of the same date: Sorry cannot consider your views and meet your wishes.

Time went on and nothing was done by the Government. The Mayor

made further representations to the Premier and Governor.

The Premier's reply again begged the question. This letter is dated 29th August and stated that the Government was fully alive to the importance of the defence of Kimberley in case needs should arise, and that there was no occasion for unnecessary alarm.

The reply of the Governor was much more satisfactory but nothing was done at the instance of the Cape Government.

## F.A.M.P. & C.M.R. PHOTOGRAPH.

Proof is now ready, can be seen, and orders may be booked at D. Taylor's, Market Sq.

## A Dear little Chick.

A fowl was raffled for Thirty Shillings in the Railway Camp. This beats reports from Ladysmith, although our raffled case of whisky fetched but £107 10s. against their £147, but there were five times as many people in that besiegement.

## ACROSTIC.

No. 2.

This question men ask one another,  
Thinking of friend, or son, or brother.

1. This gallant "sapper" all will know,  
One of our leaders 'gainst the foe.
2. Many a quiet, peaceful light  
Mourns for some dear one slain in fight.
3. The Empire's heart is this with pride  
To see her sons from far and wide  
In common cause fight side by side.
4. We've met with some reverses  
heretofore,  
But trust that these for us are  
now in store.

FOUND,—A LOCKET with a portrait. Apply W. H. M., "Mail Office."

## Scotchmen's Photograph.

IT is proposed to have a photograph taken of all Scotchmen in the Garrison on Sunday, May 6th, at 8 a.m., at the Railway Workshops. Please roll up with bandolier and rifle.

Remember that  
Platnauer's Siege Lottery  
Drawing takes place  
On Monday, May 7th,  
instead of to-night.

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