

THE MAFEKING MAIL

SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No 85

Monday, March 5th, 1900.

144th Day of Siege

The Mafeking Mail.

MONDAY, 5TH MARCH, 1900.

"LABBY" FLABBY.

We learn that shortly before the intelligence last received was sent from London, Mr. Labouchere called a Mass Meeting at Northampton to protest against the continuance of this war, which he terms an iniquitous war. In this Mr. Labouchere is inconsistent. He publicly announced his intention and the intention of the extreme section of tub-thumping objectionists he collaborates with, to wave internal differences and present an united front to the common foe. Now the foe for which he had such sympathy is getting the chastising he so well merits. Mr. Labouchere cries: "Let him alone! When I said I would stand quiet I did not know you could hit so hard." However, it is very comforting to know that his constituents are true whatever their representative may be, for they manifested their disapproval of his proceedings by preventing the meeting, wrecking the platform, and send Labby home on a stretcher where we hope he will remain at least till the Transvaal matter is settled beyond all possibility of his exercising baneful influence upon it.

ARABIAN NIGHT'S TALE.

A boy was captured this morning near Major Godley's post and forwarded into town. He told a nice little tale. We are always disposed to receive the tales told by captured Natives coming from the Boer lines as deserving consideration, if not credence. The following reads too much like what we have heard before to be entitled to the latter, but in favour of it having some semblance to truth there exists the fact that, notwithstanding the boy being threatened with extreme punishment of the law if his statements turned out to be untrue, he still persisted in his asseveration as follows:—

"I got a pass from the Magistrate on Saturday last to go to Kayna, and after crossing the Boer lines I thought I was safe when suddenly they fired on me. I lay flat and they came up to me and took me prisoner. They were eight Boers and ten Bahurutshes. They took me to the laager where I was told, to return to Mafeking. They sent me back yesterday afternoon, escorted by three men. There was great activity in that (Western Laager) laager all yesterday. The Boers were packing up their things and the Natives told me that the Boers are preparing to leave. I myself saw them disarming the Natives and telling them Snyman would come to dismiss them in the morning. Their rifles were packed up in five wagons and they told me all of them are going to leave. They are going to camp at the border in tents; from there they will send all the wagons back to the farms. I saw them cooking a quantity of meat and bread and packing it in the wagons. They say that heavy battles have been fought about Modder River, Riet River, Kimberley, and in the Free State, in all of which the Boers got fearful beating and were scattered about. They spoke nothing about either

Cronje, Natal, or of Colonel Plumer. From what I could see they are really to start to-day."

Of course there is the possibility that he was stuffed to order, by the Boers, and this may be one of those ape-ish little tricks they have learned from their maternal ancestors, the Hottentots, but whether true or not to-day it is merely a matter of a little while and it will be true, so we might as well accept it now as a week or two hence.

LATEST NEWS.

News received by runners to-day confirms the information that Kimberley was relieved early in February.

On the 11th February, Generals Kelly-Kenny and Tucker were reported to have Cronje and 8,000 Boers "in a tight place with escape impossible."

No fresh news from Natal except that Sir Redvers Buller is successfully moving forward.

On the 27th Feb. the Boers evacuated their position at Crocodile Pools before Colonel Plumer, and he is now repairing the line down to Ramoutsa.

Yesterday the Boers here apparently became alarmed at a small empty trench we had run out in the Brickfields as if to cut off their main work there. They brought the big gun round and shelled our outworks and pushed a counter trench day and night until they reached the end of ours—where they are no better off than they were before. Just as they were about to resume shelling in the afternoon and their Artillery Officer was sighting the gun, one of our sharpshooters knocked him over. His fall has caused a great stir in the Boer camp.

The gun did not attempt to fire any more, and has apparently been withdrawn from her position on the S.E. heights.

Mafeking Garrison.

GENERAL ORDERS

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

With reference to the Order of the 28th Feb., pointing to men getting wounded owing to not availing themselves to cover, it was not intended to convey any reproach to Corporal Warren and Private Warren, and Private Elkington, who were unfortunately wounded in the Brickfields on Tuesday, but rather to warn men against carelessness in the matter of exposing themselves. It is a habit which creeps in periodically until checked by some unfortunate accident, such as that which has deprived Private Elkington of his eyesight and Her Majesty's Service of a fine and plucky soldier.

Visiting Justice.—The Visiting Justice to the Mafeking Gaol for the ensuing week will be Lieut.-Colonel Hore.

MAFEKING, 5TH MARCH, 1900.

Southern Outposts.—Lieutenant-Colonel Walford, B.S.A.P., is appointed to command the Southern Outposts; his district will include all the defences lying to the East of the Railway line, and to the South of the Molopo River.

Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet to-morrow, Tuesday, the 6th March, at the Court House, at 10-15 a.m., for the examination of such prisoners as may be brought before it. President: Major Lord Edward Cecil, D.S.O.; Member: C. G. H. Bell Esq., C.C. & H.M.

By order,
E. H. CECIL, Major,
Chief Staff Officer.

FIRST CITY OF LONDON RIFLES.

Sergt. White, D Squadron, an ex-London Rifleman, would like to have the names of any members of that Corps now in the garrison. Letters may be left at the office of the *Mafeking Mail*.

THE LAST CONCERT.

The Amount Handed Over from last Sunday's Concert to the Sports and Prizes Fund was Twelve Pounds Fifteen Shillings, not Ten Pounds Fifteen as printed in Thursday's slip.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CORPL. C.P. 1.—No, 1900 is not a leap year, the last year of a century although fourth after a leap year is an exception. If your birthday was a 29th of February you must wait eight years this time, for the good wishes and presents which more fortunate folks receive annually.

NOTICE.

THE public are warned that attempts are being made to pass

Unsigned 2s. Coupons.

The 3/-, 2/- and 1/- Coupons issued are all numbered and must bear my signature, and the impress of the Bechuanaland Protectorate embossed stamp.

H. GREENER, Capt.,
Chief Paymaster.

NOTICE.

STALLION DONKEY, found outside the lines on Saturday morning, now in my possession; anyone laying claim to the same should apply by Thursday next to this office. If not claimed, will be sold by Auction on Sunday following.

GOOLD-ADAMS,
Town Commandant.

DIED at the Victoria Hospital, Mafeking, on Monday, March 5th, 1900, (from the effects of a shell wound received in the Brickfields on March 3rd) WILLIAM ASHTON TAYLOR, Sergeant-Major Colonial Contingent. Aged 42 years and 5 months.

The funeral will leave the Hospital this evening at 7. The attendance of all the friends of the deceased is kindly requested.

W. A. TAYLOR, Jr.

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