

# THE MAFEKING MAIL

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No. 16

Mafeking, November 22nd, 1899.

## NOTICE.

We have so many applications for Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of the Siege slips, which are out of print, that we would like to reprint them. Before doing so it will be necessary to make sure that the proprietors will not lose by the work. We therefore ask everybody who wishes for copies to kindly send their orders in at once, directly we have sufficient applications to warrant proceeding, we will put them in hand.

The Mafeking Mail.

MAFEKING, 22ND NOVEMBER, 1899.

## VRYBURG.

The *D.F.A.* correspondent says of Vryburg:— Three Boer commandoes entered Vryburg on Monday morning, hoisted the Transvaal flag, and issued a proclamation that Bechuanaland formed part of the South African Republic. It is now rumoured that the Transvaalers have been recalled from Vryburg, which will be garrisoned by local Boers. The Central Hotel and Club have been looted, also a few private residences belonging to English people.

The proclamation making Bechuanaland Transvaal territory is regarded as a clever move on the part of the Boers to encourage Colonial Boers to join the Republic without incurring any risk of charges of treason should the ultimate result go against them.

A counter proclamation is urgently required, warning the population that Bechuanaland is still British territory, and that Transvaal proclamations have no force in the Colony.

## JOHANNESBURG.

The *Midland News* (three weeks ago) said of Johannesburg:— Our informants stated that they believe there was some truth in the report of numbers of Boers having been wounded. Any way, all the wounded patients had been removed from the hospital, and all the beds had been commandeered for the use of the Government. The patients had been removed to private houses, and where desired, the nurses have been allowed to go with them. Some of the patients preferred to come down by the refugee train.

So far there has been no riot or disorder at Johannesburg.

Practically all the mines have closed down, and even pumping has been

abandoned, the pumpers who had decided to remain having had their permits withdrawn. This will mean great delay in re-starting of the mines, as in some cases it will be months before hauling can re-commence.

## HOW TAUNGS WAS "TAKEN."

*From the D.F.A.*

We have ascertained some further particulars with reference to the arrival of the Boers at Taungs, and the evacuation of the railway station by the officials. It appears that after about half-past 1 a.m. on Sunday it was discovered that something was the matter with the telegraph wires. The wires from Fourteen Streams to Taungs Station, and Taungs Station to Taungs, were all right, but the others were apparently cut. Prior to this the members of the Cape Police stationed at Taungs Railway Station and village had been ordered to retire on Fourteen Streams. The Stationmaster (Mr. Rugen) and the telegraphist (Mr. Muller) did not see the advisability of going to the police, and waited on at the station, sleeping on Sunday evening on the veld, across the Dry Harts River. On the Monday morning they received information that two armed and mounted Boers had visited the station about 10 p.m. the previous day, making urgent enquiries for the Stationmaster. The latter went back to the station, in company with others, about 10 o'clock on Monday morning. From the information which they then acquired, they became persuaded of the advisability of coming in to Kimberley, and bringing in any railway property of value. After procuring a wagon, which they had some difficulty in doing, owing to the dislike of the native proprietor to risk the loss of his vehicle and oxen, the party left Taungs about 4 p.m. on Monday, learning, after they had crossed the river, that the Boers were already in Taungs, and on their way to the station. Needless to say, the party did not go back to look into this, but made the best of their way to Kimberley. They were not interfered with, and the journey was devoid of incident, save that near Phokwani two armed Boers were seen, besides a number of Colonial Boers at other points, who treated the travellers to all sorts of stories as to what was going on. Mr. C. R. Chalmers, the R.M. of Taungs, left the village on the following day. The Boers had then arrived in large numbers, and had taken up their quarters around the village and station, taking possession of the

police barracks, Magistrate's Court, the *gaol*, and other places, and hoisting their flag on the Court-house spire. They were very anxious to see the local officials, the Magistrate and Station-master, &c., in order to get hold of the keys of the various buildings. We understand that not much removable property is left at the railway station, save a couple of hundred bags of grain belonging to a firm in the district.

### DISMAY AMONG THE BOERS.

*From the D.F.A.*

A refugee, who had just arrived from Klipdam, states that the Boers there were at first informed that Cronje had gained a great victory at Mafeking, but, on learning the real facts, the greatest consternation prevailed. Several Transvaalers said that the English were fighting very differently to what they did in 1881, and frankly admitted that their side had got a severe drubbing, estimating the number of Boers killed at 96.

### SUMMARY COURT OF JURISDICTION.

TUESDAY, NOV. 21st, 1899.

*Before Major Goold-Adams and C.G.H. Bell, Esq., C.C. & R.M.*

John Vos, who was brought up on remand, was sentenced to 10 days' hard labour for stealing ten shillings from a native.

Jim Mbalo was found not guilty of being a spy, but was sentenced to two dozen lashes for endeavouring to go outside the lines, and was promised that if he did it again he would be shot.

*Before Major Lord E. Cecil and Major Goold-Adams.*

William Walker, claiming to be a Scotchman but preferring to express himself in Dutch, was brought up on a charge of treason, but in the absence of a properly qualified Dutch interpreter, was remanded.

TO-DAY, WEDNESDAY, 22ND.

*Before Major Lord E. Cecil and C.G.H. Bell, Esq., C.C. & R.M.*

Van Rhyn and Venter, two specimens of that kind of the neat and tidy highly intelligent Boer, which makes us love the very name, were charged with being suspected spies. The Mayor, F. Whiteley, Esq., said these two men lived at the women's laager camp. One morning they were seen coming from the direction of the Boers' laager with a native, their movements being suspicious they were questioned. One man said the native was his boy, but the boy could not show where he slept the preceding night. An interpreter was sent for and through him the boy said he had been working for some time in Mafeking, for one Silas Melimo. As it happened to be Silas Melimo who was interpreting and the boy, on being asked, said he did not recognise him, it was safely concluded that jail was the best place for the romancing native, as well as for the two "Noble Boers" who were remanded for seven days.

David Muller, also charged with being a suspected spy, said he wasn't guilty. Gaoler Heale said he was brought to his protective establishment on the 11th of last month in a condition which showed he had drunk "not wisely but too well." In this condition he communicated the fact that he had merely come over the Transvaal border to see what the Englishmen were doing here. Asked where he came from, said from the Boer laager, but when the following morning found him sobered up he repudiated the over night's story as romance and said he had come to look for lost cattle only. Davids own statement before the Court was that he came from the Vryburg district with some bullocks to sell. He lost some of them in the district of Maritzani and arrived here about 2 o'clock (presumably to look for Maritzani straying bullocks) and was arrested about 4 o'clock (which shows our officials didn't lose much time). Remanded for seven days.

John Elmes was charged with frightening women at the laager and using seditious language. While waiting outside the staff office at Dixon's Hotel the Head Gaoler proved that Elmes told him it was his intention to take his horse and get away across the lines. He said he knew the Boers and knew they would let him through. Prisoner, in his statement, denied having any wish to go through to the Boers. He was in medical practice in Zeerust. His friends advised him to leave the district till the troubles were over, so he came to Mafeking for protection, to be under the British flag. He has no sympathy with the Boers in this matter and didn't use seditious language with intention, his sympathies being the other way round. He might have said something which has been misconstrued. Remanded two days.

### POETS CORNER.

#### THE BOUNCING B.

A bold one at brag is the tall talking Boer,  
But his courage and talk aren't akin,  
He can threaten and bully, go looting a store,  
Can sjambok a native, and grin.

He told very big, how he'd cleverly shoot  
The Englishmen, clean through the head,  
But he don't risk his carcas and even loved  
loot  
Won't tempt him from cover to tread.

No being in whose breast is found mauliness'  
glow,  
Would fire on the helpless, the women and  
sick,  
But this contemptible half-breed has done it,  
we know,  
While misusing the white flag is frequent  
his trick,

They're not all alike, there're exceptions we  
grant,  
But alas! such are only a few;  
The bulk are despicable cowards who aren't  
Fit to live, extermination's their due.

Let us pray the "Brave Boer" o'er whom  
Miss Schriener cants  
Will soon be within reach of our men,  
And learn that the "Providence" Paul  
Kruger rants  
In justice will help our side then.

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