

THE MAFEKING MAIL

Special Siege Slip.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 116

Thursday, April 12th, 1900.

182nd Day of Siege

THE Mafeking Mail.

THURSDAY, 12TH APRIL, 1900.

SIX MONTHS' SIEGE.

Half a year's beleaguement was not precisely what we anticipated when that "measure of folly," the historic ultimatum, was issued by Oom Paul; of the swollen-head. Nor do we suppose that Cronje had the faintest idea of the task before him when, undertaking command on this border, he arranged for our town to be the base of his operations; our forage to feed his horses; and our whisky to give his ragged rascals courage. In fact everything connected with the siege, that our limited range permitted to be visible, was a succession of surprises. The opening attack, after being watched for during a month, was, at the last, in its suddenness, a surprise. The first fight was a surprise—especially the result of it; and our complete isolation for so many weeks was a surprise, as well as an eye-opener to many, not only civilians; while certainly not one of the least surprises, was the discovery of such enormous stores of foodstuffs. Nobody, not even excepting the defence authorities themselves, we feel sure, suspected the extent of stores subsequently brought to light. Fortunately for us they existed, and now, at the end of six months, it is a surprise to find that we have pulled through without any severe deprivation, and have still enough to last another half dozen weeks, if necessary, which God and B.P. forbid.

MEMS.

Yesterday afternoon the playful Boers thought they would have some fun, as an offset to their exertions of the morning, so they started ring and peg, hop-scotch, and other sylvan amusements. To increase their enjoyment three rounds from our Hotchkiss dropped right amongst them. The Boers tumbled over one another in their eagerness to take cover and not a head was visible again that evening. We sent them three pounds of metal, they returned three hundred pounds, dropping it fortunately, in the veld.

WARNING.—To-morrow, Good Friday, hawkers of Hot Cross Buns will not be allowed to ring bells to announce their wares.

Mr. H. A. Bradley, writing from Gwelo to his brother here, under date of March 30th, winds up his letter thus:—"Remember me to all friends and tell them that we are anxiously awaiting to hear of the relief of Mafeking, as Methuen is expected to relieve you at any moment now. I have got a large flag staff erected awaiting the news of your relief, when I mean to celebrate the occasion with a banquet, and only wish I could do the same in Mafeking.

Simultaneous demonstrations throughout the whole of South Africa in favour of annexation of the two Republics are being held. Sir Gordon Sprigg, as chairman of the Vigilance Committee, at Cape Town, has written to the Mayors inviting their co-operation in securing the incorporation of the two Republics with the British Empire.

THE QUEEN'S PERSONAL MESSAGE TO THE COLONEL.

The following wire has been received by the Colonel Commanding from Her Majesty the Queen:—

V.R.I. Col. Baden-Powell.

London, 1st April.—I continue watching with confidence and admiration the patient and resolute defence which is so gallantly maintained under your ever resourceful command.

Capetown, March 23rd.—An influential meeting of clergymen, convened by the Mayor of Capetown, was held in the Town House. It was decided by the meeting to hold simultaneous thanksgiving services on receipt of the news of the relief of Mafeking.

London, March 23.—In the House of Commons Mr. A. J. Balfour said that the initiative of the providing of Mafeking with stores and provisions were due to Lord Edward Cecil and not to Messrs. Weil.

Replying to a suggestion to present Colonel Baden-Powell with some mark of gratitude and esteem from the people of Matabeleland, the *Bulawayo Chronicle* says: "We are but dimly aware what we owe to the gallant defence of Mafeking."

Capetown, March 27.—All the Peninsular papers are full of schemes for the celebration of the relief of Mafeking and the elaboration of the many programmes will make the affair one before which the rejoicing on the relief of Ladysmith will be comparatively insignificant.

MAFEKING GARRISON.

GENERAL ORDERS

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

MAFEKING, 12TH APRIL, 1900.

The enemy, after shelling the place heavily yesterday, made an advance against Fort Abrams, evidently supposing that the garrisons had evacuated it under the shell fire to which it had been subjected. But the defenders—under Corpl. Webb, C.P. D. 2,—had stuck to their post, and reserving their fire till the enemy came within range, they then put in some telling volleys, which knocked over five Boers. The remainder then retired. The steadiness of the garrisons of the S.W. forts during their heavy shelling is to be highly commended, and especially their reserving their fire till the enemy gave a good target within effective range.

Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet on Friday, the 13th April, at the Court House, at 10-15 a.m., for the examination of such prisoners as may be brought before it. President: Lord Edward Cecil, D.S.O.; Member: C. G. H. Bell Esq., C.C. & R.M.

Passes through Outposts.—No one is authorized to sign passes for persons to proceed beyond the outpost lines except the C.S.O. or Mr. Bell, or for natives belonging to the Stadt—Lokoko. All passes must be taken from persons authorized to pass through the lines before they are allowed to proceed by the outposts.

Imperial N.C.O.'s Frontier Force. General Order No. 6, of the 27th Jan., 1900, is hereby cancelled and the following substituted:—

In view of the expenses to which the Imperial N.C.O.'s attached to the Frontier Forces have subjected during the campaign, the Colonel Commanding authorizes the grant of an allowance of 2/6 per diem to each N.C.O. from the 13th October, 1899, inclusive.

It is to be clearly understood that this allowance is in no sense pay, nor is it in lieu of pay, but is hereby granted for the causes stated above.

Pay.—Mr. J. Turnbull, Assistant Issuer, Victoria Hospital, is granted pay at the rate of 7/6 per diem to date from the 16th March, 1900, inclusive.

Mr. Mahony, Issuer, Victoria Hospital, is granted an increase on present rate of pay of 2/6 per diem from the 18th January, 1900, inclusive.

Extra Duty Pay.—Extra Duty Pay at the rate of 1/- per diem to each N.C.O. and man of the Colonial Contingent has been authorized from the date following that on which the payment of sniping pay ceased.

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

(From the *Cape Times*.)

MR. ALF. HELLAWELL,

OUR WAR CORRESPONDENT
AT MAFEKING.

HIS EXCITING ESCAPE AND
SUBSEQUENT CAPTURE.

Continued from yesterday's Slip.

The two brothers of the pen were well looked after during their stay in Vryburg, which lasted until 27th November. They had their own meals sent in by friends, as well as books and tobacco, and the police were considerate, as was also Mr. Ashford, the Justice of the Peace, representing the Boers. The treatment appeared especially good when contrasted with what they received on arrival at Pretoria.

Early on Monday, the 27th, they started in a cart, guarded by two policemen, for Pretoria, the boy "Mackenzie" following behind on a hired horse, Hellawell's horse being kept by the Boers. There was nothing against Mackenzie, who was informed he could have his liberty, but he preferred to stick to his "baas," and is now in Pretoria gaol.

IN PRETORIA.

The journey was to Klerksdorp by cart—three days—thence by rail to Pretoria, and was uneventful. On arrival at the capital the natives were thrown into the common prison, receiving the treatment of untried criminals—just like convicts, in fact, except that they had no work to do, did not wear prison clothes, and did not have such good food as the convicts. After about two weeks our correspondent was, in response to a letter to the State Attorney removed from the prison, where he had become very popular with the other inmates, and is now with the military prisoners at the race course, where the treatment is good, and where he is in the best of health, and in as good spirits as can be expected in one who, as his Cape friends well know, finds his keenest enjoyment in liberty and open-air sport.

Ex-Naval's Photograph.

It is proposed to take a photograph of all the ex-Naval officers and men in the garrison.

Those wishing to be included should send their names to MR. MOORE, Commercial Hotel, who will let them know time and place.

THE C.M.R. PHOTO

On Sunday morning next will be taken at 7-30, at Railway Machine Shops:

GEO. S. WHITE,
Sergt. Prot. Regt.

NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that no further orders of any description will be issued on Mr. Weil.

C. M. RYAN, Capt.,
D.A.A.G.B.

Mafeking, 12th April, 1900.

Blankets & Rugs (Several
Hundreds)

GOLD WEATHER APPROACHING,

"NON-SIEGE PRICES: 5/-, 8/-, 10/-"

EARLY Bros., Molopo Road,
INSPECTION INVITED.

RAFFLE

For a case of **USHERS BLACK BOTTLE,**
21 Years Old, **EXTRA SPECIAL**
RESERVE WHISKY.

THE undersigned, having obtained the kind permission of the C.S.O., will raffle on account of B. Weil, Esq., one case of Whisky. Proceeds will be handed to the Mother Superior, for the benefit of herself and Sisters.

E. PLATNAUER,
Commission Agent.

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