

THE MAFEKING MAIL

SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

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No. 54

Monday, January 15th, 1900.

96th Day of Siege

The Mafeking Mail.

MONDAY, 15TH JANUARY, 1900.

LATEST NEWS.

The last budget to hand does not contain very much news. In the Colonel's announcement below, mention is made of the details regarding movement of troops being kept secret. Such a precaution every one will no doubt perceive the wisdom of, so far as intended movements are concerned, but we wish our friends outside would endeavour to get us through some information as to what has been done. If Lord Roberts left England December 22nd, news of his arrival ought to have reached Bulawayo to-day. So probably our next mail will contain that item. The fact of troops having left India is of course good to know but we would be glad to have word that they were upon South African soil. It is high time that "enthusiasm in England is great"; we hope that more than enthusiasm exists; we hope that rage and the determination to make good, although so late, for past neglect has now taken possession of the British public mind. The mobilisation of 100,000 troops and their transport over 6,000 or 7,000 miles of land and sea is no soft job. It is a task never before attempted in the history of the world, therefore we do not expect lightning dispatch, but the raising of a corps of 1,400 men in London after such an important post as Mafeking has been besieged three months by hordes of land lollers—it were a libel on an industrious class to call them farmers—reads like irony.

By the courtesy of the Colonel Commanding we are enabled to print the following:—

All news of movements of troops is being kept so secret now that none of it has come to us to-day except that Lord Roberts left England 22nd December, 1899. Four Battalions and three Batteries have left India for South Africa. A corps of 1,400 Volunteers is being enrolled in London for service in South Africa.

General Gatacre is holding the key of the Drakenberg mountains, and a patrol of his had a very successful encounter with the enemy.

All well with Colonel Plumer's force. The Boers opposed to him are very tired of the war, and are very short of shells for their guns.

Enthusiasm in England is great, and large numbers of additional troops can be sent if desired.

VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT COMPETITION.

Yesterday the Entertainment Competition was concluded. The programmes of the B.S.A.P. and the Protectorate Regiment were similar to that of last week, but the Bechuanaland Rifles having so many of their troupe occupied in the

more important work of making shells with which to entertain the enemy, were not represented. The Protectorate out the Sketch they gave last Sunday, and its place was filled by some five songs and a recitation by Tpr. Cooper. The Cape Police, D. 2 Team, gave a different programme from that of the 7th inst. and executed it in a manner that delighted the audience. In fact the performance was such a good one that by special request they repeated it at the Recreation Ground, driving direct from Hidden Hollow for the purpose. The Band, composed of the following:—Piano and 1st Harmonica, Pte. A. W. Richards (conductor); 2nd Harmonica, Pte. McLean; Flute, Pte. Elkington; Banjo, Pte. McEwan; Mandoline, Pte. J. P. Murray; Auto-Harp, Corpl. H. M. B. Currie; Triangle, Pte. Hall; Tympanum, Pte. E. W. Coxwell, played about a dozen airs, winding up with "Auld Lang Syne" and "Rule Britannia." Mr. Richards is to be congratulated upon his successful training of, as well as the capital material composing, his band. It would be invidious to select any item where all were excellent, so we print the programme:—

1. Overture by Cape Police D. 2., Khaki Band.
2. The Lance Exercise ... Squad C.P. 2.
3. Comic Song, "They're coming on again," Pte. Hampton.
4. Sword Swinging, ... Pte. Hall.
5. Comic Song, "The finest flow of language ever heard," Pte. Coxwell.
6. The Hottentot Dance, Corpl. Currie.

Mafeking Garrison.

GENERAL ORDERS.

MAFEKING, 15TH JANUARY, 1900.

Disposition of the Enemy's Force.—The enemy have moved the big gun from its position on the South-eastern heights to a safer one East of the Race Course. The credit for making them evacuate their position is due to those N.C.O.'s and men who, under Inspector Marsh's orders, have occupied the advanced S.E. trenches and brought so effective a fire to bear upon the gun. To this result the good work done by the Nordenfeldt, under Low and Mulholland, greatly contributed, and also, particularly, the sharpshooting of the B.S.A. Police and "Bechuanaland Rifles," in the advanced positions gained by Corporal Cook. Our Artillery, under Major Panzera, had also shewn them in one day's bombardment how unsafe their position was if at any time our guns chose to shell it again. The enemy have now had to leave their chosen position and take up one less advantageous to themselves, and opens up to us much ground to the South.

Variety Concert Competition.—This competition was adjudged by the Committee to have been won by the troupe of the Cape Police, whose performance was on all hands agreed to be a first rate one. At the same time the thanks of the community are due also to the other

troupes who, though unsuccessful in taking the prize, nevertheless afforded great entertainment by their clever performance.

Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet to-morrow, Tuesday, the 16th instant, 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. & R.M.

Witnesses: Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—In case of persons being charged with an offence and brought before the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, if the prosecutor fails to appear or to take measures to secure the attendance of witnesses the case will be dismissed.

Composite Forage.—In future a Composite Forage Ration, viv., 10 lbs. per horse per day, will be issued on receipt of 7-day requisitions, from the A.S.C. Depot, Isaac's Store. The wool bales containing the forage on its first issue must be returned the following day to the Depot, as only a very limited number exist for bagging the ration from time to time. O.C.'s of Corps and Units are required therefore to make their own arrangements for storing the Composite Forage. All persons drawing this Composite forage in small quantities or on payment, are required to provide their own sacks.

By order,

E. H. CECIL, Major
Chief Staff Officer.

100th DAY OF THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING.

To celebrate the 100th day of the Siege

A GRAND AGRICULTURAL AND PRODUCE SHOW

Will be held by permission of the
Colonel Commanding,

On Sunday, 21st January,
ON THE RECREATION GROUND.

President: H. H. Major Goold-Adams,
C.B., C.M.G.

Hon Secretary: Captain R. Girdword,
assisted by a local Committee and Judges.

Full particulars of prizes, etc., will be published in to-morrow's issue.

DIED at Kimberley, on December 2nd, 1899, suddenly, MR. T. J. MORE, Traffic Manager.

Meat Rations.

WITH reference to a Notice in the *Mafeking Mail*, dated 13th inst., re reducing the Fresh Meat Ration to $\frac{3}{4}$ lb., it is considered desirable not to reduce the Ration at present. It will therefore still be issued in the same proportion as hitherto.

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