

THE MAFEKING MAIL

SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 76

Wednesday, February 21st, 1900.

132nd Day of Siege.

The Mafeking Mail.

WEDNESDAY, 21st FEBRUARY, 1900.

LATEST NEWS.

In the wire to hand on Sunday morning, which came from Durban and bore date January 27th, we are told that Warren drove the Boers from Spion Kop and Southern Cross. We learned from the *S. and D. News* of the 26th that there had been fighting at Spion Kop on Monday, the 22nd, and that 210 British prisoners had been taken. It will be remembered that the number of prisoners was previously quoted at 2,000, but the same issue of this *George Washington Journal* of Johannesburg said that "2,000 was a mistranslation of a telegram, it should have been 200, as a matter of fact there are 210 which were taken to Pretoria on Wednesday, 24th." In connection with this item it is exceedingly funny, even though somewhat irritating, to notice how the United Order of Pessimists stick to any figures, even if shewn to be incorrectly quoted, nay, even when distinctly contradicted by the paper whose policy the contradiction tells against, it is remarkable, we say, how the U.O.P. adhere to a pretended belief of anything, however absurdly fallacious, if it tend to make our position appear worse than it is. This particular phase of lunacy evidenced itself yesterday when a respected townsman who claims some knowledge of locale in Natal, where the fighting is going on, was asked where Spion Kop is. His reply was: "Why, Spion Kop is the place where a few weeks ago a whole Brigade of British were cut up and 3,000 prisoners taken by the Boers." As he may have told many people in the garrison the same foolish yarn, and as the nerves of all are at such high tension, we think it well to mention that no such reverse is recorded. There was fighting at Spion Kop on Monday, 22nd of January, and according to the Boer official organ, we were victorious, although they said that they had 210 prisoners to take to Pretoria. But to return to our subjects, the only conclusion we can arrive at after comparison of dates and the various notes to hand, is that Buller crossed the Tugela on January 17th, on the right, but that Warren, on the left, did not get over the Tugela till, or about, the 24th. The Kimberley letter corroborates our calculation of a fortnight ago, when it says: "I thoroughly expect to hear Ladysmith is on the eve of relief, as yesterday (23rd) we learned by helio that Buller is in sight of the town"; and

the message from Durban said that Warren re-joined Buller on 27th, probably it was earlier as the message is dated 27th at Durban. We, therefore, still expect the next mail to tell us that Ladysmith is relieved, although in consonance with the Boer tactics of 80-81, they will redouble their efforts to endeavour to prevent us learning the good news, hoping, the fools, that we may repeat the Potchefstroom chapter of history and surrender when victorious. Do not flatter your little self with that idea Messrs. Snyman & Co. We hold to the end. Besides, you are no Cronje, and what he was unable to accomplish, it were ridiculous for you to attempt.

Mafeking Garrison.

GENERAL ORDERS

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

MAFEKING, 20TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

Appointment.—Mr. L. Schreiber is attached to the Staff of the Chief Paymaster, Mafeking, as Local Auditor, at the rate of 15s. per diem from this day's date inclusive.

Closing of Bars.—With reference to General Order No. 5, of the 19th instant, attention is called to General Order No. 1, of the 9th January, 1900, and Hotel and Bar Keepers are warned that on the next occasion of an offence of drunkenness arising out of the obtaining of drink by soldiers or others serving in any military capacity, at any Hotel or other Bar, such Hotel or other Bar will be permanently closed, and the stock of liquors liable to be confiscated.

Meat Stations.—It is notified for general information that the A.S.C. Butcher has been instructed to add 5 lbs. in every 50 lbs. of meat issued, thus allowing 10 per cent. to make up for waste in cutting up.

Scarcity of Wood.—As it has become necessary in the interests of the Garrison, to collect all wood for the purposes of cooking, etc., and to equally distribute the same; it is therefore notified that the Authorities may be obliged to cause the removal of palings, wood fences, etc., surrounding private property. The exigencies of the Siege may render it impossible in all cases to give previous notice to owners, and the latter are informed that any claim they may make for compensation for such removal of fences, etc., will be duly registered for consideration by the Imperial Authorities, as to the amount of compensation, if any, to which they may be entitled.

Dogs (Registration of).—With reference to General Order No. 5, of the 17th inst., the order should read as follows:—All Europeans owning any dogs of any age within the defences of Mafeking shall, within seven days from date hereof, register the same with the Town Clerk, and for each dog pay a licence fee of 10/-. The Town Clerk will attend at the office of the Resident Magistrate for the purpose of granting such licences between the hours of 11 a.m. and 12 noon daily, on and between Wednesday, the 21st instant, and

Tuesday, the 27th instant inclusive. The penalty for non-registration of any dog will be that the dog be immediately destroyed. Persons will be required to produce their licences when called upon by Policemen, Constables, or other Civil Officials, or by the Military Authorities.

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

FREEMASONRY.

On Sunday last an Emergency Meeting of the Austral Lodge, No. 2534, was held in the Masonic Temple. Although probably the circumstances under which the Lodge was held is unique in the history of modern Freemasonry, no signs of the Siege were observable; if we expect a shell hole at the top of the Eastern wall, through which the rain had washed the brick dust in long brown trickles, looking like tear stains, down the decorated plaster. Unfortunately, though unobtrusive, there are other signs of the malignant influences surrounding us to be found in the roll call. Not only has the grave closed over more than one member of the Lodge since the last meeting, which was held before the Siege, but from the ranks of office bearers. Bro. Upton, the S.W., has stopped, but in a manner which causes his brother masons and fellow soldiers to alternate their sobs with bursts of pride when dwelling upon their loss. Others who were absent we should happily have recorded their passing away rather than have the shameful remembrance that they have broken their oaths and become traitors to their Queen.

The following Members and Visitors were present:—

Chaplain the Rev. W. H. Weekes, W.M.; B.B. H.C. Singleton, Highland L. Infantry, St. John's and Paul's Lodge, A.S.W.; T. Aldred, J.W.; E. J. Ross, Treasurer; J.S. Park, Secretary; C. W. Clucas, S.D.; J. E. Jones, J.D.; J. Pennycook, D.C.; L. Schreiber, Organist; W. B. Orson, I.G.; G. Heal, Tyler; H. P. Dennison, P.M. B.B. E. J. Layton, W. C. Bland, D. J. Davies, Geo. Lippmann, A. Hillam, G. Fenham, J. Grant, R. Urry, H. S. Bernard, L. Beavis, E. R. Hunkin. Visito: B. Meyers, Athole, 591; E. S. Weymss, St. John's, Kilwinning, 6; A. H. Royal, Royal Alfred, 420; C. Ryan, A.S.C., Phoenix Lodge, 270; J. B. Dobie, W. W. Jones, Goode Trouw; A. Mackenzie, St. John's, Kilwinning 6; G. N. H. Whales, Polish National, 534; P. C. Cranswick, Londesborough, 734; W. Anderson, Stella, 3233; A. Day, British, 334; H. H. Head, Buffalo, 1824.

Mr. F. Vickery was initiated and some nominations received. It was decided to institute a jewel commemorating the event, and arrangements made for photographing the brothers present upon such an auspicious occasion.

Reuben,

TAILOR & HABITMAKER,

(Late Cutter with I. Cohen.)

MARKET SQUARE,

(NEXT DOOR TO MR. ELLITSON'S.)

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Collection no: A2706

Collection: MAFIKENG MAIL, Special Siege Slip, 1899-1900

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

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DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- A2706

Document Title:- MAFIKENG MAIL, Special Siege Slip

Document Date:- 1899-1900