

THE MAFEKING MAIL

SPECIAL SIEGE SLIP.

ISSUED DAILY, SHELLS PERMITTING.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 66

Tuesday, February 6th, 1900.

117th Day of Siege.

The Mafeking Mail.

TUESDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

LATEST NEWS.

Although runners arrived this morning with a batch of correspondence the news they brought was but a modicum. The one item we so much desire and with which we would have been thoroughly satisfied, even though not another word had come to hand, is the relief of Ladysmith. This is now the crux of the position, and the news of its being accomplished has not arrived. Ladysmith, in spite of the extraordinary endeavours during September and three weeks of October to pour goods in the place, could not have been well enough provided with foodstuffs to supply, comfortably, its large garrison for three months. It has now been cut off for fifteen weeks and the condition of the people it is to be feared must be desperate. In the matter of supply we were exceptionally fortunate, large stores having accumulated in the hands of the Railway Department through the difficulty merchants experienced working under the new Customs Bill. But Ladysmith had no chance of being blocked up with goods *en route* for the North. In fact there had already been great trouble in carrying the normal supplies on account of the large quantity of rolling stock retained by the rebel state and its co-conspirators, the Free State. Even if we take the lesser number, six thousand, which we believe to be more correct than ten thousand, as representing the troops shut in Ladysmith, there already must have been great difficulty in feeding such a garrison, and by the end of January its relief doubtless became a matter of urgent necessity. Ten days being the shortest time possible to get news here from Natal, except through native rumour, it is possible, in fact we trust it is so, that Ladysmith was relieved last week. Our last information was that General Buller began shelling the Boers on the North of the Upper Tugela on January 15th. Unless, therefore, he accomplished the task in six days, a feat he could not expect to perform, the news could not have reached us yet; a few days may bring us the welcome tidings. Much as we should like to see the Siege of Mafeking raised from a more important view, the success of the whole campaign, we certainly are more anxious to hear that Ladysmith and its troops are free. From one particular circumstance we may gather great hope. On comparison of dates we shall find that the sudden and vicious activity displayed by the Boers artillery here on at one or two periods has synchronised with a success for the British whether on the South, West or East. They, of course, are in complete communication with the whole country and get news from the other side of the Transvaal of events directly they happen, and last week's spiteful outburst was without doubt caused by some defeat suffered by them elsewhere. We give the official resume of news as published by the "Intelligence Department."

The news received through Boer sources, at first sight look very unpromising, namely

that General Buller's force met with another check in endeavouring to relieve Ladysmith on 24th January. But it does not appear as though General Buller's main force was engaged at all, and the Boers version cannot be accepted as altogether truthful and without exaggeration in their favour.

They allow to a drawn engagement with General French near Colesberg, which shows we are getting on well there.

No mention is made of Lord Methuen's column, which by this time is being largely augmented, and will probably make its move on to Kimberley within the next 10 days.

It is on the moves of this and General French's column that our welfare much depends and there is every reason to expect that, with the large reinforcements which must by this time have arrived, the situation will very soon greatly improve.

Runners arrived this morning, but no news from the South. Colonel Plumer is advancing slowly, and had an artillery duel on 31st January, neither side doing much damage.

Amongst the private letters brought in yesterday morning the following lithographed communication is exceedingly interesting:—

"Telegraphic Address: Almost, London. Mr. Jackson lends money in large amounts from £100 upon note, of hand, but no transactions are entertained for gentlemen under age.—Duke Street, St. James, S.W."

THE GARRISON BANK.

We are glad to learn that the opening of this aid to thrift has been very successful, proving that it has met a decided want. As previously announced the Bank will be open daily from 10 till 11 a.m. and also on Sundays from 9-30 till 12. From a notice in another column it will be seen that the Standard Bank will be open for the receipt of deposits every day from 9-30 a.m. till 12 noon. The business will be transacted in a commodious "dug-out" constructed at the side of the Bank building, probably the first and only banking arrangement of the kind attempted. The undertaking speaks well for the energy of its inceptors.

The Standard Bank.

The Standard Bank will be open daily to receive deposits from 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon from this date.

Mafeking Garrison.

GENERAL ORDERS

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

MAFEKING, 5TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

The Colonel Commanding wishes to express his appreciation of the coolness and steadiness with which Lieutenant Daniel and the men of No. 2 7-pounder gun fought their gun on Saturday last. They were exposed to an accurate fire for over an hour from the enemy's 94 pounder; the

high velocity Krupp, and the 1-pounder Maxim, the 94-pounder firing twenty-three shells all in very close proximity to our gun emplacement, which was continually being struck by splinters—fortunately without casualty among the men.

Appointments (Correction).—With reference to General Order No. 1 (b) of the 3rd February, 1900, the words "Town Commandant, Mafeking," should be substituted after "appointed" for those appearing in the original order.

Appointment: Headquarter Staff.—Maj. E. W. Panzera will in future, be styled D.A.A.G. (A) instead of Brigade Major. This is merely a change of title and will not effect the duties, which will be the same as before.

Court of Summary Jurisdiction.—The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will meet to-morrow, Tuesday, the 6th 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.

Passes.—From the 7th inst. inclusive all employers of Native labour will be required to take out a Pass for each Native employed by them. The Passes can be obtained between the hours of 10-30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Resident Magistrate's office, and that official will keep a register of all those issued. Passes will be shown when required by military or civil authorities and any Native found in the town without a Pass will be liable to be punished by the Court of Summary Jurisdiction.

Promotion: Cape Police D. 2.—Corpl. H. M. P. Currie to be Sergeant, pending confirmation by the proper authorities, in recognition of his good services while in command of "Currie's Post."

Correspondence.—With a view of preventing all unnecessary correspondence, the Colonel Commanding wishes that only matters of which it is necessary to keep a record should be the subject of official correspondence. All matters should be settled, as far as possible, by personal interview, telephone, or short unofficial notes.

Deceased Persons: Administration of Estate.—In all cases of decease of persons the death is to be at once reported to Mr. Grayson, at the Resident Magistrate's office, who will issue instructions as to the disposal of the estate, effects, etc., of the deceased.

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

HURRAH!!

Here is something Good.

F. FIRTH

Has still some hundreds of

Pianoforte Pieces and Songs
AT 4 COPIES FOR 1s.

ACCORDEONS

AT 16s., 17s. 6d., 20s., 30s., 32s. 6d.

MAFEKING MUSIC DEPOT.

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