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No. 18

Mafeking, November 24th, 1899.

The Mafeking Mail.

MAFEKING, 24TH NOVEMBER, 1899.

It is with deep regret we record the death on the 20th instant of the Marchioness of Salisbury. The mournful intelligence was brought here by a messenger from the Boer camp this morning.

We feel sure we represent the whole of Mafeking garrison in expressing most heartfelt sympathy in this his time of bereavement towards Lord Edward Cecil, whose kindly courtesy has endeared him to all in Mafeking.

SUMMARY COURT OF JURISDICTION.

THURSDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER, 1899.

*Before H.H. Major Goold-Adams, C.B.,
C.M.G., and Colonel C.B. Vyvyan.*

William Walker, employed at the jail, was brought up on remand, charged with treasonable conduct. The evidence was not considered by the Court sufficient to convict him of treasonable conduct, but he was found guilty of improper conduct. Dismissed the service, but to be detained in jail and under supervision for one month.

Jacobus Johannes Burger pleaded not guilty to being a suspected spy. Joseph Palmer's son told his father, who is a trooper in the Protectorate Regiment, that "he heard his aunty telling his mother that Jacobus Johannes, whose family wagon and that of witness were close together near the Women's Laager, had been in town getting information and was going to make it known to the Dutch."

Christopher Palmer, 13, son of last witness, knew prisoner, heard his aunty tell his mother that Mr. Burger finds out things in town and reports them to the Dutch. He did about the dynamite.

Cross-examined by Prisoner: I did not hear the prisoner himself say anything of the kind.

Mrs. Margaret Palmer, in good English, informed the Court that she didn't speak English, had seen prisoner on several occasions. "I know him to be a Burger. My sister told me about his taking information to the Boers, but I didn't take much notice of it. She mentioned his name and connected him with some dynamite affair. My sister was living close to the Burgers."

Alleta Sophia van Royne knew the prisoner. I never mentioned anyone's name but only asked my sister whether it was dynamite when I saw some boxes in the B.S.A. camp. Pressed upon the point, she could not explain why it entered her head, she had never mentioned dynamite to anyone before. Not even when the big explosion took place. Had spoken with no one but her sister upon the subject of dynamite, denied connecting Burger's name with dynamite when speaking to her.

Prisoner sworn, said "He had recently come here for his health. Was only staying here for a few days and meant going back to his farm in the Protectorate. Got here on the 9th of October and on the 17th I was arrested. That's all he had to say. Remanded till Saturday as also were two brothers of the accused, Carl Burger and Christian Burger, under arrest on a similar charge.

Michael Gould, charged with being drunk and striking an officer at Dixon's, which charge was dropped for the more grave one of attempting to cross the border and go beyond the military lines of Mafeking, pleaded not guilty and was remanded for enquiries to be made.

F. Brown, a trooper in the Protectorate Regiment, charged with selling a shell which was in his charge, pleaded not guilty.

Dirk Albertus Nolte, at present living in the Refugee Laager, said that prisoner came to him on Wednesday, the 15th, and wanted to buy a shell which had been picked up whole after having been fired by the Boers, for ten shillings. Witness would not sell it but lent it to prisoner, who told him he had a similar large shell in the stadt and wanted to photograph it, but he could not get it till the following Sunday. As the shell was not forthcoming witness applied for it and was surprised to learn from prisoner that the shell was not borrowed at all but had been taken away from witness for fear it should burst, which was certainly very thoughtful on the part of prisoner, but as the shell was subsequently discovered at the Gaelic Bar, where it had been sold to Mr. Gates for £3 5s., the active humanity prompting prisoner to remove the danger is not quite discernible.

J. Brennan, a trooper in the Protectorate Regiment, was present on the fifteenth and interpreted for prisoner, who speaks only English with a London accent, and the previous witness, who speaks but Dutch, and corroborated last witness's evidence. Mr.

Gates proved buying the shell of prisoner for £3 5s., who said he had other shells to sell.

Frederick William Stanton, also living in the Refugee Laager, likewise lent prisoner a shell "to photograph," but has not been able to get it back.

Prisoner made a statement on oath in which he alleged that Nolte gave him the shell, and he was to bring another one, which he could get from the trenches by the following Sunday, but when the Sunday came he was under arrest and could not fetch it. Remanded to produce the shell.

To-day John Henry Elmes was again brought up before H.H. Major Goold-Adams, C.B., C.M.G., and C. G. H. Bell, Esq., C.C. & R.M., and remanded to jail for fourteen days because, as the bench explained to him, "his conduct in general was such that they could not let him be at liberty. So he would be confined within the precincts of the jail," with permission to add to the rations allowed for prisoners, anything he chose to purchase.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Mafeking Mail:

Sir,—There are in this town to-day some who are comparatively strangers here although they, and in some cases their fathers also, have fought more than once for our dear old England. Amongst them are some who would fain help wipe out the year 1881 from the British Calendar. Such years as 1857 and 1881 are dates to be remembered; they are the making or breaking of nations. The siege of Mafeking is yet another link in the chain of our great nations forging, that nation on which the sun never sets. We are but a few to defend the town against overwhelming numbers of Boers. We are surrounded by guns, large and small, shelling us night and day, but shall hold our own to the end and show these boastful Boers what the English descendants are made of. Another date to be remembered is November 8th, 1899, the day the Boers shot a woman and shelled the Hospital, where the wounded lay, and the Women's Laager. Are we fighting savages and not supposed Christians. I am an old soldier and have been through Kafir wars, but I never saw worse from Kafirs than I have seen now from the Boers. They boast that one Boer is as good as ten Englishmen. Yes, so they are, at two things, psalm singing and running away. I always knew them to be cowards. Look back to them in 1878, at Koogas, when Major Nesbit was wounded, how they ran away and left seven of the Volunteers to carry him down the mountain. Again 130 of them, sent on patrol, came up with some Kafirs in the open plain, they turned back to camp saying they were too many to tackle. We Volunteers, 80 only, went out, captured the lot without a fight. Another time we had captured 300 head of cattle and sent two Boers to mind them. Two mounted Kafirs came up and took them away from the Boers. For-

tunately we happened and so re-took them. Well, Sir, here we are one to five of them, but they'll watch facing John Bull and those they call the "Verdomde Engelsch."

Yours truly,

W. J. Pitt.

November 23rd, 1899.

POETS CORNER.

THE "FLY" SPIDER.

[CONTRIBUTED.]

Will you come into my parlour, said the spider to the fly,
It's the trickiest little parlour that ever you'll espy;
The fly was very fly indeed, almost inclined to fly
And said I think I'll stay outside and wink the other eye.
I'll bring my little popguns just to make your parlour warm,
They'll keep us both quite well amused and do you little harm,
The spider thinks he's happened on the quaintest sort of fly
And fears until he sallies forth, that fly will never fly.

Railway Division Town Guard.

A PROMENADE CONCERT

will be held at the North End of the Railway Camp,

On Sunday Evening,

Beginning at 7-30 and ending at 9 p.m. sharp.

ADMISSION FREE.

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