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Monday, February 26th, 1900.

137th Day of Siege

The Mafeking Mail.

MONDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 1900.

LATEST NEWS.

Runners who came in this morning have not brought us the much desired news. In fact, practically no news of any kind has come. This is accounted for by a break-down of the wire between Salisbury and Beira. Probably the weightiness of the intelligence from Ladysmith proved too much for a lightly constructed line.

His Honour the Mayor received this morning from Her Majesty the Queen the following reply to his wire of January 30th. We print both telegram and reply:

From Whiteley,
Mayor, Mafeking,

To Her Majesty the Queen,
c/o Lord Salisbury,
London.

January 20th, 1900.

Mafeking, upon the 100th day of the Siege, sends loyal devotion to Your Majesty, and assurances of continued resolve to maintain Your Majesty's supremacy in this town.

V.R. Mayor of Mafeking.

Thanks for telegram. With me the whole nation watch with admiration and confidence your cheerful and determined defence.

By the courtesy of the Colonel Commanding we are enabled to publish the following official

INFORMATION.

News from the North to-day, dated the 20th February, is that Colonel Plumer is still occupying Crocodile Pools, facing the Boers, and is also occupying Kanya. He has already received his first instalment of reinforcements, and another was just starting from Salisbury. He is perfecting all arrangements for assisting us.

News from the South is very meagre, as the telegraph line between Beira and Salisbury is washed away, but report by runner from Beira says that Kimberley was relieved by General French (who has probably gone to Modder River in place of Lord Methuen, invalidated).

News from the Boer laager is that they have been told two or three times to come back to Pretoria, but they are now afraid to do so, as by so doing they would leave the Border open to us to invade the Marico, etc.

On Thursday and Friday last three guns with 150 men went away Northward under Snyman, and yesterday the men returned, apparently having left the guns somewhere North. From Lichtenburg it is reported that the English were re-constructing the railway North of Kimberley; some Boers endeavoured to cut them off, and were themselves surrounded and cut up.

In a fight between Scholtz Nek and Koodoosdam the Boers were defeated and scattered. They hoisted the white flag but the British took no notice of it. Cronje was shot through the shoulders.

MEMS.

Natives from Batwane state that a Dutch Missionary near Kanye has received a notice from his son to sell everything he has got, as the English have defeated the Boers.

Rumour at Beira says that Kimberley was relieved by General French on the 15th inst. The statement is generally discredited.

Generals Tucker and Nicholson have arrived in South Africa and take command of the Seventh and Eighth Divisions respectively.

Constable Turner is in Bulawayo Hospital and his condition gives rise to grave anxiety, but Sergt.-Major Harris is making good progress.

The following Wires are copied from the "Bulawayo Chronicle" of Jan. 22nd:—

Durban, January 13th.—According to an authorised statement in the *Advertiser*, our scouts found the Boers had evacuated all the strong positions near Colenso. It is believed that the enemy has retired towards Ladysmith.

East London, Jan. 16th.—The official list of the casualties of the Ladysmith fight is not obtainable in the Colony, although it has been sent to London.

Capetown, 16th.—The casualties amongst the Colonial troops at Ladysmith on January 16th were: Imperial Light Horse, killed 18; dangerously wounded, 1. Border Mounted Rifles killed, 4. Volunteers killed, 2; Imperial Light Horse casualties on January 6th were: Lieuts. Adams, Peakman, killed; Major Karri-Davis, Major Doveton, Lieut. Campbell, Surgeon Hornabrook and Capt. Smith, wounded.

January 15th.—The Boers were reported to have evacuated their positions at Magersfontein.

January 6th.—The entrenchments at Modder River are being strengthened. The Bridge has been repaired for traffic. All the drifts are impassable.

January 16th.—Lord Methuen is reported to have received spinal injuries.

January 16th.—The Boer loss at Stormberg is reported, by an escaped prisoner, to have been very heavy.

Colonel Eager has lost his leg. General French shelled the Boer camp near Colesberg on Saturday (13th Jan.) and captured five prisoners and a quantity of ammunition.

The Boers, from a strong position commanding Slingerfontein, took advantage of a dust-storm to shell our camp. The Artillery replied and the enemy was silenced and had to seek shelter.

Major Mackenzie has been promoted to the command of the Suffolks.

General Kelly Kenny and Staff landed at Port Elizabeth on Jan. 15th and went to De Aar immediately.

Lord Roberts is at Capetown.

Capetown, January 15th.—The *Gaiika* has brought the first instalment of the Queen's gift of chocolate to the troops.

January 16th.—The Sunnyside rebels have been brought before the Magistrate and remanded.

It is denied that the Schwalbe brought out Eloff.

Mr. Robert Mitchell, late sub-editor of the *Star*, has died at Ladysmith of enteric fever. He leaves a wife and several children.

London, January 13th.—Reuter learns that the Imperial Government has decided that foodstuffs in neutral vessels destined for neutral ports are not liable to seizure except the manifests show that the foodstuffs are intended for the enemy.

The Victorian Parliament has enthusiastically sanctioned the expense of a second contingent.

The Queensland Parliament has proposed to increase the Australian Contingent by five thousand men. New South Wales has acquiesced.

Werner Beit & Co. have subscribed £50,000 towards the expense of the outfit of the Imperial Yeomanry.

Mr. Balfour, speaking at Manchester, said the War Office realised that a vast mounted force was required, which would be provided before the war ended. They also recognised that guns, between Field and Garrison Artillery, should form part of the equipment.

14th.—The Legislative Council of Ceylon has voted the expenses connected with the equipment of a Mounted Contingent for service in South Africa, to be called the Lumsden Horse.

India will send another 500 Volunteers from Upper India. The corps is rapidly forming.

The Imperial Government has accepted Lord Strathson's offer to equip and maintain in the field 400 Mounted Canadians.

Mr. Balfour, speaking at Manchester, said the present crisis spelled consolidation, not dissolution, to the empire.

Two-thirds of the Behar Light Horse have volunteered for service in South Africa.

The Indian Native States have offered 1,260 horses for the war in South Africa.

The City of London Volunteers have sailed for South Africa in the *Briton*.

Several German warships have been ordered to Capetown from Delagoa, Germany allowing the right of search to England. The Emperor has stopped Krupp from dispatching shells to England.

Jan. 15th.—The Mansion House Fund exceeds half a million sterling.

The *Telegraph* Fund amounts to 2,000,000 shillings.

Twelve additional Batteries of Field Artillery leave England before the end of the month.

The *Umbosa* and the *Nile* left for the Cape on the 14th with 3,500 men.

The Castle and Union Liners have been withdrawn from the Delagoa trade.

The Imperial Parliament was summoned for January 30th.

Charters were 58s. in London on January 9th, and rising as the following quotations of the 12th will show:—

Rand Mines	..	£31	0	0
East Rand	...	5	5	0
Charters	...	3	1	0
De Beers	...	25	0	0

Not much chance for a "bear," war or no war.

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