

THE MAFEKING MAIL

ISSUED DAILY.

TERMS: ONE SHILLING PER WEEK, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

No. 149

Friday, May 25th, 1900.

THE Mafeking Mail.

FRIDAY, 25TH MAY, 1900.

QUEENS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS.

The day so long looked forward to, was one to be remembered by the whole of relieved Mafeking. Looking back to that Friday evening in February, when the announcement was made that we were asked to hold out till May 24th, it is with a shiver we recall the feelings it created. Not that we believe there was one breast in the garrison in which fear of the ultimate result was engendered, tho' the most casual thinker recognised that the hardest part of the struggle was yet to come, but another hole was taken up in the waistband, and with set teeth we embarked upon another spell of the tedious weeks, and—it is over. Yesterday Colonel Baden-Powell reviewed the troops, and a lump came in one's throat and a mist over the eyes as one by one the different units passed by. Old Friends and New Friends, alas the many figures missing from the former, those who held the forts and those who drove the enemy away, there they were a proud sight for Mafeking and a proud day for Colonel Baden-Powell who protected her.

At twelve o'clock the Royal Salute, and after luncheon almost everybody assembled at the the Railway Station to welcome the provision train. Fuel and Flour, Men and Material, the real relief had arrived and the starvation bogie vanished. Eight of the men of the Bechuanaland Rifles who were cut off: Bell, A. E. Clow, H. W. Clow, Funnell, Patterson Quayle Robins and Woodthorpe returned by this train. Mr. Bissett, the General Manager of the Rhodesian Railways, came thus early to arrange about the re-opening &c., and hearty were the welcomes and greetings exchanged, as sun browned men sprang from the train and gripped the hand of paler and thinner faced ones on the platform. The sports on the Recreation Ground suffered a little in the attendance of spectators so many being drawn off to the station, but

the show was a good one. The names of the winners we hope to have in time to print to-morrow. In the evening Colonel Baden-Powell invited to a banquet at Dixon's Hotel all the officers and others who were connected with the defence and relief of the town and the following were present:—Colonels: Mahon; F. Rhodes; Plumer, Y and L; and White, Greder. Gds.; Lieut. Colonels: C O Hore, S Staffs.; King, K M C; Nicholson, 7th Hussars; Peakman; Spreckley; and M B Vyvyan, Buffs. Majors: Anderson; Baden-Powell, Scots Gds.; Lt. Cecil, Greder. Gds.; Edwards, 5th Dragoons; Godley, Dub. Fus.; Gould-Adams; Hepworth; Hudon, Canadian Contingent; Killie, Queensland Contingent; Panzera; Pollock; Weil; Sir J. Willoughby. Captains: Prince Alexander of Teck; Carr, Scots Fus.; Cowan; Dunlop-Smith Vet. Dep.; DuPlat-Taylor; Greener, Chief Paymaster; Goodyear; McKenzie; More; Wilson R,H,G.; Inspector Browne; Lieut. W. B. Allen, N.S.W. Bushmen Contingent; Currie; C. M. Mackenzie; His Lordship Bishop Gaul of Mashonaland. Revs. Father Ogle and W. H. Weekes. Dr. W. Hayes; Messrs Bell, C,C. & R.M., Bissett, Rho. Railways; Vere Stent; G. N. H. Whales; F. Whiteley, Mayor.

The menu which was as follows was exceedingly well prepared and reflects the greatest credit upon Mr. Winter. Although the difficulties of our present condition must have been a serious obstacle in the way of properly dining a large number, there was no fault whatever to find with the manner in which the meal was placed upon the tables:

MENU.

Hors d'oeuvres.
Anchois Snyman.
Consommé Reine Victoria.
—
Entrees.
Tournedos Cronje.
Sauce Eloff.
Curry Baden-Powell à l'Indienne.
Riz Sec.
Poulet Sauté (volé) au Mahon.
—
Rotis.
Selle de Mouton Transvaal, Sauce Plumer.
Pauw.
—
Legumes.

Entremets.

Baba au Dop.

Boers on Toast.

—
Vins.

Scotch Whisky.

Eau Molopo, Sec.

Colonel Baden-Powell, in proposing "The Queen," said there was a feeling amongst Englishmen, the strength of which was not known to themselves and which exhibited itself only at its fullest upon occasions like the present and occurrences like those we have passed through. This feeling is shared also to the uttermost corners of our great Empire as has been exemplified by Australia and Canada whose representatives are with us to-night. In reference to this Oom Paul has done us good service—he flashed the red rag and at it the old Bull has rushed. He, Oom Paul, never reckoned on the matadores and picadores who were round about, all ready to join in the fray, and make common cause, over which our Queen sat watching. No further words were necessary for him to add, our feelings were expressed in the two words of his toast "The Queen."

Then went up such a shout as only Britishers can give and the toast was drunk with an enthusiasm that did credit to the Empire, in spite of siege diet.

The Colonel next proposed the health of Colonels Mahon and Plumer and the officers who assisted them in our relief. He made special reference to Colonels Edwards and King and Majors Huron and Nek, who came from Ladysmith all round the coast so expeditiously, to our assistance. He said he could not but mention also the names of Colonel Nicholson, who found food for us, he did not know how, Capt. Llewellyn, Capt. More and Lieutenant Wallis, who, with the armoured trains, took such a large share in our protection. In fact all concerned had acted as players in a regular game of football, everyone backing up the other, not with individual consideration, but playing so that the whole side won the game, and it was by this combination of effort that the game had been won.

Colonel Mahon, responding, thanked the Colonel and all present for the enthusiastic manner

in which they had received the kind remarks referring to both his and the Northern Column. He was sure it was a pleasure to him and his force to assist in the relief of a garrison that had made such a gallant defence as had the garrison of Mafeking, and he felt glad he was present with them on this occasion.

Colonel Plumer, in returning thanks on behalf of the Northern column, said he also was glad to be celebrating the Queen's birthday inside of Mafeking, instead of outside. Colonel Baden-Powell had made some remarks about the anxiety they had felt regarding the position of the defenders of this place and it would be easy to understand what a period of anxiety it had been for them. It might perhaps, have seemed a long time to those who were waiting here day after day, but he could assure them they were all the time "hucking up" their hardest to reach them. The special feature of the relief was the presence and the assistance of the Australians and Canadians. In the history of the war what would form one of the brightest pages, was the defence of Mafeking culminating in that fight of the 13th and the defeat of the Boers. It was that which actually effected the relief of Mafeking. When we arrived we found a half-hearted foe to meet. We shall look back the whole of our lives with the satisfaction that were connected with the Relief of Mafeking.

Mr. Whiteley, the Mayor of Mafeking, next rose to propose the health of Colonel Baden-Powell. He said he had no doubt that toast had been, and would be, proposed thousands of times in towns all over the world where the English language was spoken, but we propose it with a special zest, as it was due to him that we are here instead of being in Pretoria. It was to the example and spirit of the Colonel Commanding the stand Mafeking had made was due. It was a source of pride to all who had taken part in the defence that they had done it in connection with Colonel Baden-Powell, and although everywhere there was a feeling of great admiration for him, here there is a personal feeling and ever afterwards shall we have regard for Baden-Powell as connected with Mafeking. There is one thing he should like to mention and that had been noted by our enemies when they perused certain letters they captured. There were plenty of remarks about the scarcity of provisions and comments upon the class of food we were compelled to exist upon, but never a word of surrender, and that was the feeling of everybody here throughout the Siege, and had we on the present occasion been unrelieved instead of relieved and our condition been ever so hard there would have been no idea of surrender. He knew

that the future career of Col. Baden-Powell would be watched by every one here with great interest (he was sure it would be a successful career), and we shall always consider Mafeking has a special interest in Colonel Baden-Powell.

Then there was another outburst enough to shake the remains of Dixon's Hotel and do it as much damage as the Boers' ninety-four pounders did.

Colonel Baden-Powell thanked them all for the kind way in which they had drunk his health, and said the Mayor had made out a very good case for himself and the town. As for him (the Colonel) he merely sat tight and waited. That was his instructions, and a soldier's duty was to carry out his instructions, but there were many who had done the work who were not soldiers. It was the townspeople here who took up arms in defence of the place, yes, and many who fell in doing it, it was to them the credit was due. He knew that in a place like this there were varying shades of politics and differences of opinion upon numerous subjects, but when the defence of the town was necessary, all these differences were sunk and all pulled together; that was the grand cause of our success, the whole place was bent upon one thing—holding out to the bitter end, and great credit is due to those who encouraged the townspeople to act in the manner they did. Credit is also due to Lieut.-Colonel Vyvyan who not only built our defence works but raised and throughout took command, of the Town Guard, who all worked with him for the one end and aim. We must not forget to give credit also to the women and children whose courage and fortitude under the trying circumstances gave us courage and stimulated us. In this connection, to the Rev. Weekes, as well as to the Mayor, thanks are due, as they took special charge of them.

In response to numerous calls the Colonel Commanding rose and proposed the health of the Mayor of Bulawayo, whom we had to thank for the many kind messages of encouragement he had sent us.

The Hon. H. F. White, Mayor of Bulawayo, in reply, said he was not present in his capacity as Mayor of Bulawayo but only as a member of Col. Plumer's force, but he was glad of an opportunity to endorse the kind words Colonel Baden-Powell had used with reference to the Mayor and people of Mafeking. They all in Bulawayo admired the manner in which the garrison had held out. He was surprised to find the people in the condition of cheerfulness they were in, and he should inform his Council, on which there was a brother of the Mayor of Mafeking that he would live up to the standard set him here.

After a verse of Auld Lang Syne the company dispersed to witness a display of rockets in the Market Square, by Major Panzera.

Colonel Walford, Majors Bérangé and Jackson were unavoidably absent.

Transport Wanted,

FOR SERVICE, at the A.S.C., Isaacs' Yard. Mule or Donkey Wagons required for local work. Applications, stating terms to Lieut. McKenzie, B. T. O., Headquarter Office.

Souvenir of the Siege.

BOOK of Photographs containing Photos of all Corps, Units, Forts, Ruins through shell fire, etc.

Orders now being booked, or for Single Photos.

D. TAYLOR,
Photographer.

Market Square,
Mafeking.

Lost or Stolen.

FROM the B.S.A.P. Barrack Room, a Bridle and Martingale, Curled Snafflebit, from a box belonging to Trooper P. Parish, the property of the late Captain Hon. Marsbam.

E. PLATNAUER, Auctioneer, &c.

WILL sell to-morrow, Saturday, at 10 o'clock sharp, amongst other articles,

Stationery; A lot of Horns; Siege Stamps; A splendid collection of Ferns and Plants, etc., etc.

NO RESERVE.

Also a quantity of "Sparklets" and a £1 Siege Note.

Auction Notice.

THE undersigned, duly instructed, will sell by Public Auction,

To - morrow, Saturday,
AT 10 A.M.

A large assortment of goods, consisting of:

Bentwood Chairs, Bentwood Lounge, Stove (complete), Bake Pots, Hand Cart, 2 Sets Harness, Sewing Machines, Door Mats, Matchboxes, Candles, Meat Safe, Enamelware, Patent Till, Ladies and Childrens Clothing, Table Covers, Revolvers, Shells, &c.

No Reserve.

Also a 6-seated Spider.

Aldred & Ross,
Auctioneers and Sworn Appraisers.

Printed and published by
Townshend & Son, Market Sq., Mafeking.
Editor & Manager: G. N. H. Whales.

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