

DISGUISED.

HEREROS APPEAR.

IN THE VICINITY OF RUSTENBURG

Information reached this office last night from Rustenburg which, if true, certainly demands the attention of the authorities, and immediate action on their part.

The news is—and we have it on what can be considered very good authority—that five Hereros, evidently emissaries from the native army now engaged against the Germans in Damaraland, were suspected of being at Watfontein, near Saulspoor, in the district of Rustenburg, quite recently.

The movements of the men were so guarded that it was only by mere chance that their presence was known to anyone—the native's code of secrecy when he chooses being perhaps unrivalled.

The police were made acquainted with the news, but up to the present no captures have been made, the unwelcome visitors having sufficiently disguised themselves to elude identification.

We learn that the Hereros—and it was politic that they did not do so—did not visit the larger Kafir staadt at Saulspoor; and thereby possible suspicion as to who they were was averted.

Rowant, the brother of Linchwe, is the chief at Saulspoor, and it is well-known amongst the few white people in that district who know him, that, like his brother, he entertains a feeling of intense bitterness against the Government due to not having received compensation for some small service which he contends he rendered during the late war.

It is further stated—and this information is from an official source—that seven Hereros were recently captured by the police at Steenbokfontein. These natives were, it was stated, but with how much truth is not known, on their way to the Rand mines, and were from Damaraland.

The fact that a few straggling Hereros have made their appearance in the district has caused a certain amount of alarm, and we understand that the facts as stated above have been communicated to responsible quarters, but what has been done in the matter we are unable to say.

At present the complaint is made that the police protection is quite inadequate. As a fact, there are only two policemen at Saulspoor, and it is not too much to say that a troop would not be too many.

Apart from any possible rising—which we do not in the least fear, only giving a warning—there is ample scope for a smart body of policemen, who could put in good work in the way of checking stock thefts, which, we understand, are on the increase, and give that supervision and protection to the interests of the white man which is not only his privilege but his due.

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